Weekend Course – Teaching Skills

This short course will introduce participants to a unique form of educational drama developed by Dr Carmel O’Sullivan called ‘Social Drama’.

It offers an experiential approach to personal and social skills education for children and young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This course will introduce participants to the major characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and discuss recent changes which have resulted in the removal of Asperger Syndrome (AS) as a separate diagnostic category under DSM5.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

This course will be of interest to a wide audience, but of particular relevance to drama, theatre and arts education staff working with children and young people with an ASD, those with an ASD, parents and teachers.

By the end of the course you will have:

- a deeper understanding of the role of ‘Social Drama’
- practical experience of a range of effective ‘Social Drama’ strategies which can be used in the personal, social and emotional education of children and young people with an ASD
- an understanding of how to plan ‘Social Drama’ episodes which will enhance and develop their students’ social interactions in school, local and family settings

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This is an open access course with no specific entry requirements

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The one-day course will explore the role of ‘Social Drama’ as an experiential, tailor-made approach to personal and social skills education for children and young people with an ASD. The approach advocated is an integrative one, which builds on young people's existing skills base and develops their areas of challenge through a fun, participative and creative arts based process.

This successful teaching and learning Social Drama approach has been developed with over 100 participants between the ages of 7 and 26 over the last 10 years as part of a collaborative research project between the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin and Aspire (The Asperger Syndrome Association of Ireland).

The course will consist of a short presentation, practical activities and a question and answer session.

**COURSE LEADER**

Dr Carmel O’Sullivan

Dr Carmel O’Sullivan is the Head of the School of Education and the Director of the Arts Education Research Group in Trinity College Dublin. She organises an international Summer School in Drama and Theatre in Education each year (M. Ed.), and is a founding member of ADEI (the Association for Drama in Education in Ireland).

Carmel is involved in several externally funded research projects. She is currently working on two research projects in the area of drama and Autism Spectrum Disorder: (i) ‘Bridging Two Worlds: an exploration of the use of social drama in the holistic education of young people with an ASD’; and (ii) ‘Towards the development of subtypes within the diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome’. Her other current research projects are based in the areas of drama for learning and arts education.

**PREPARING FOR YOUR COURSE**

You should dress in comfortable clothing, as some activities will be practical. You may also find it useful to bring along a notepad and pen to make notes during the course.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE**

All short courses can be booked online at [www.rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses](http://www.rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses). Please select the course you wish to book and follow the instructions to confirm and pay for your course online.

If you wish to speak to a member of the Short Courses team, please get in touch at:

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