Name: Stella Long, PhD student

Supervisor: Dr Michael Shevlin

Research Focus: My research is focusing on an evaluation of the knowledge and skills required by learning support/resource teachers to teach mathematics to pupils with special educational needs. The impact of the CPD on classroom practices will also be evaluated. The LS/RTs are participants in the Graduate Diploma in SEN in a college of education.

Abstract: The ability to be numerate has been identified as a critical life skill enabling full inclusion in society. However, current research states that attainment levels in mathematics are of concern. The provision of CPD in SEN to teachers is an essential part of the process to raise standards. The proposed research focuses specifically on the mathematics component of a programme of CPD in SEN for learning support/resource teachers. An in-depth evaluation of the specific approaches to teaching and learning mathematics to pupils with SEN acquired by the course participants and the ensuing impact on classroom practices will be undertaken.