

LETTER CIRCULAR - Institute for Education

Date: 24th February 2026

Ref: IfE18 /2026

From: Fiona Vassallo Medici – Senior Manager, Course Coordination & School Professional Development

To the attention of: Heads (College Network), Heads of Schools, Deputy Heads of State and Non-State, Assistant Directors, Education Officers, Heads of Department, Teachers, Guidance Teachers, Counsellors, Social Workers, Psychotherapists, Educational Psychologists and Sections

Subject: Seminar: Building Inclusive School Systems - Preventing Bullying through Psychosocial Support - 24th March 2026

Application Link: [Registration Form](#)

Deadline: 16th March 2026

The Institute for Education is organising a seminar titled, **Building Inclusive School Systems - Preventing Bullying through Psychosocial Support** on the **24th March 2026, 09:00-14:30 at the IfE Campus, Pembroke**. This is open to all professionals working with children.

The keynote speaker, **Professor Paul Downes**, Professor of Psychology of Education, Institute of Education, Dublin City University, explores how schools can move beyond reactive approaches to bullying by developing inclusive, prevention-oriented systems that place student wellbeing at the centre of educational practice. Grounded in international research and policy, the session will examine the structural, relational, and psychosocial dimensions that influence bullying behaviours and student engagement in school life.

Participants will gain insight into how strengthening collaborative psychosocial supports within school communities can play a critical role in preventing bullying and reducing the risk of early school leaving. The seminar will also address the importance of adopting multidimensional strategies that support both those who experience bullying and those who engage in such behaviours, promoting restorative, inclusive responses that foster belonging, participation, and positive relationships.

By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Understand the key principles underpinning inclusive school systems that contribute to the prevention of bullying
- Recognise the role of psychosocial supports in promoting student wellbeing and reducing early school leaving

- Identify the needs of both students who experience bullying and those who engage in bullying behaviours
- Apply multidimensional, inclusive strategies that foster safe, supportive, and relational school environments for all learners.

Interested applicants are kindly asked to submit an online application by following the link: [Registration Form](#) by 16th March 2026. **Due to limited space, only the first 60 applicants will be accepted.**

For more information, kindly contact Course Coordination and School Professional Development on ife.pd@ilearn.edu.mt or 25983621 / 25983656.

Thank you.

Fiona Vassallo Medici
Senior Manager
Course Coordination & School Professional Development