

What is Cooperative Learning?

Cooperative Learning has been defined as small groups of learners working together as a team to solve a problem, complete a task or accomplish a common goal. The cooperative learning model requires student cooperation and interdependence in its task, goal and reward structures. The idea is that lessons are created in such a way that students must cooperate in order to achieve their learning objectives. Cooperative learning can impact on academic achievement, positively influence student self esteem and social skills, as well as being a vehicle to guide and shape student behaviour.



Why Cooperative Learning?

In considering the effects of cooperative learning on academic achievement, researchers have repeatedly examined cooperative versus competitive and individualistic learning. Research results indicate that cooperative learning experiences promote:

- Higher academic achievement
- Greater long term memory retention
- Positive student self esteem
- Social skills development
- Positive student behaviour
- Increased attendance

Any lesson in any curriculum for any age student can be structured cooperatively.

Application Form

Name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

I enclose payment of €60 for the Leaders Conference on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 - Athlone Springs Hotel

Please indicate any dietary requirement you may have: _____

Credit Card Details

Please specify card type: Laser / Visa / Mastercard / American Express

Name on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

CCV number: (3 digits on back of card) _____

Completed application form to be returned together with €60 conference fee to:

Second Level Support Service, Blackrock Education Centre, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Conference fee includes refreshments and lunch. Cheques made payable to Second Level Support Service. Enquiries to: Elaine 01-2365021
Email: slss@blackrockec.ie

Second Level Support Service The Cooperative Learning School/Faculty First Steps for Leaders



Conference

in association with

**Prof. David W. Johnson
& Prof. Roger T. Johnson,
Cooperative Learning Centre,
University of Minnesota.**

**TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2010
ATHLONE SPRINGS HOTEL, ATHLONE**



Conference Speakers & Workshop Facilitators

Professor David W. Johnson

David W. Johnson, Ed.D. is professor of educational psychology and co-director of the Cooperative Learning Center at the University of Minnesota, where he has held the Emma M. Birkmaier Professorship in Educational Leadership. David has authored more than 40 books and 400 research articles. He is past editor of the American Educational Research Journal and the recipient of numerous awards for outstanding research and teaching, and is currently listed in Marquis' *Who's Who in the World*.

For the past 35 years he has served as an international organisational consultant to schools and businesses in the areas of team-building, management training, conflict resolution, interpersonal and group skills training, and drug abuse prevention. He is a recognised authority on experiential learning and is a practicing psychotherapist.

Professor Roger T. Johnson

Roger T. Johnson, Ed.D., is a professor of curriculum and instruction and co director of the Cooperative Learning Center at the University of Minnesota. He has been a consultant to schools and educational bodies both nationally and internationally for many years.

He is the author and co-author of numerous research articles and books, and is an authority on inquiry teaching with special interest in Science education. He has served on many major educational task forces examining college policy, environmental quality, science, maths, elementary education and cooperative learning. He was a curriculum developer with the Educational Development Centre at Harvard University. He is the recipient of many national educational awards including awards for outstanding teaching and outstanding contribution to research and practice.

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning explores methods that empower students of all abilities and learning styles to make significant progress. Students work in small teams to enhance their own and each other's learning.

Conference Aims

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Explore the basic elements of the cooperative learning school/faculty.
- Identify the benefits to the educational community of implementing cooperative approaches
- Experience a range of effective cooperative strategies for educational leaders
- See evidence of cooperative learning in action in Irish classrooms and its role in enhancing the classroom experience for both student and teacher
- Consider how SLSS can support leaders in developing the cooperative school/faculty

The conference will provide relevant input and opportunities for active engagement in cooperative learning approaches.

Conference Programme

09.00 – 09.30 Registration/Tea & Coffee

09.30 – 10.00 Opening of Conference

Cooperative Learning in Irish Schools....the story so far

10.00 – 11.00 **Workshop 1** – *Exploring the Cooperative Learning School/Faculty*

11.00 – 11.30 Tea/Coffee

11.30 – 13.00 **Workshop 2** – *Effective cooperative strategies for leaders*

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **Workshop 3** – *The Cooperative Learning Classroom – Enhancing the Teaching and Learning Experience*

15.00 – 15.30 Cooperative Learning Classrooms – The Irish Experience

Planning to move forward – SLSS support available

15.30 – 16.00 Plenary, Discussion, Evaluation & Close