

2026



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Regional
College

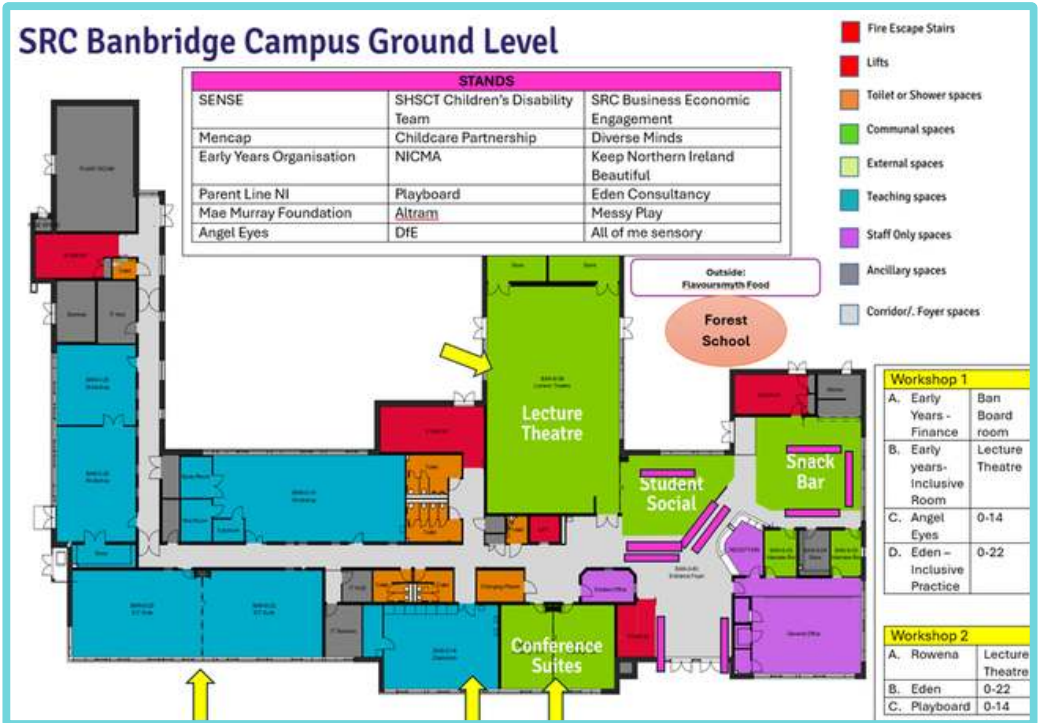
AGENDA



Time	Activity	Room
4.30pm	Registration, Light Supper and Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please report to the reception area Banbridge Campus to confirm attendance Take the opportunity to avail of the beautifully prepared Meal and Dessert from Bespoke Catering provided by the Flavoursmyth Network with other attendees and explore conference stands and information Proceed to Main Hall by 5.55pm 	Main Hall
6.00pm	Opening and Welcome – Mrs Lee Campbell, SRC CEO/Principal	Main Hall
6.05pm	Introduction -Emer Maguire, Conference Host	Main Hall
6.10pm	Northern Ireland Context – Children in NI. Chris Quinn, NI Commissioner for Children & Young People	Main Hall
6.35pm	Supporting Wellbeing - Rowena Hicks	Main Hall
	Break-Out Workshop Session 1	
	A: Navigating Funding Opportunities – Early Years the Organisation	Board room
7.10pm	B: The Inclusive Room in Early Years – Early Years the Organisation	Main Hall
	C: Supporting Visual Impairment – Angel Eyes	BAN-0-14
	D: When Inclusion Isn't Enough – Eden Consultancy	BAN-0-22
7.45pm	Short Break	
	Break-Out Workshop Session 2	
7.50pm	A. Staff Strategies Supporting Children with SEN/D – Rowena Hicks	Main Hall
	B: The Inclusive Room School Aged Children – Playboard	BAN-0-14
	C: When Inclusion Isn't Enough – Eden Consultancy	BAN-0-22
8:30pm	The is Me – Emer Maguire	Main Hall
8:50pm	Q&A and Close	Main Hall



EVENT MAP



WIFI ACCESS



Username: EVENT19

Wi-Fi (Wireless) access username: EVENT19@src.ac.uk

Password: Speaker8glf9eak

Connect to the Wi-Fi (Wireless) network SRC-Guest

Note: Accounts can take several minutes to complete setup before available for use

WELCOME

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for Southern Regional College's (SRC) 4th Annual Early Years and Education Conference, All Together Now.

SRC is committed to providing a supportive, innovative and ambitious learning environment that empowers students to achieve their full potential through high-quality education and training. The College offers a broad curriculum across Further Education, Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Professional Development.

As part of the Faculty of Health and Science (HESC), we are delighted to welcome you to this important event, which focuses on inclusion across the Early Years and Education sector. The conference reflects our shared commitment to collaboration, innovation and creating opportunities for every child, learner and practitioner to thrive.

Within HESC, we are passionate about excellence in Childcare, Early Years, Education and Playwork. Through dedicated staff, strong industry partnerships and learner-centred teaching, we equip learners with the skills and confidence to make a positive impact within their communities. Our strong links with employers and sector representatives ensure our curriculum remains current and responsive to industry needs.

We are also proud to support a range of impactful initiatives, including collaborative projects with Further Education colleges across Northern Ireland and sector-wide research in Early Years leadership and management.

We are delighted to welcome you this evening as we come together to share knowledge, inspire practice and strengthen our collective commitment to inclusion across the sector.

STANDS



Department
for Education



NICMA



PLAYBOARD NI
LEADING THE PLAY AGENDA



Children
in Northern
Ireland



Business & Economic
Engagement



Eden Consultancy



EMER MAGUIRE

HOST



Emer Maguire is one of Northern Ireland's brightest rising comedy stars, known for her unique blend of musical comedy, science communication and award-winning broadcasting.

An international award-winning science communicator, double Irish Radio Award-winning BBC presenter, and four-time TEDx speaker, Emer has sold out shows at the MAC, the Grand Opera House and the Edinburgh Fringe.



She is also a qualified Speech and Language Therapist and an experienced communication expert who has delivered workshops across universities, organisations and public audiences.

Energetic, witty and insightful, Emer brings a stand-out mix of humour, music and sharp communication to every event.



www.emermaguire.com



Belfast, Northern Ireland



emer@emermaguire.com





CHRIS QUINN

NI COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Chris has served as Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People since September 2023.

He brings long-standing experience in advocating for children and young people, with a strong focus on ensuring their rights and voices influence decision-making at local, regional and international levels.

His career began in the Star Neighbourhood Centre in North Belfast, followed by youth work across Belfast with the Bytes Project. From 2004–2008, he coordinated Belfast City Council's children and young people's initiatives and established its first Youth Council.

He then led the NI Youth Forum as Director for 15 years, guiding the organisation through major changes while supporting youth leadership. Chris lives with his wife and four sons, supports Manchester United, and enjoys running.



www.niccy.org



Northern Ireland



info@niccy.org



ROWENA HICKS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rowena Hicks has over 30 years of experience in education, supporting staff and students to recognise their strengths, believe in their value, and thrive. Beginning her career as a primary class teacher in Brixton, London with one of the most diverse classes imaginable, she quickly developed a passion for working with vulnerable children and those with additional needs.



Her journey has taken her from SENCO to Deputy Head, across the UK, Poland, and East Africa, working in mainstream, international, and missionary schools. Rowena holds a master's degree in Inclusion and is especially passionate about speaking to and coaching staff to build confidence, shift mindsets, and see their daily impact.

A mother of four, Rowena brings warmth, honesty, and humour to her work, and a deep belief that both children and adults flourish when they feel seen, supported, and valued. She is author of two books for those in education and has a podcast.



www.rowenhicks.com



WORKSHOPS

SESSION 1



Option A - Navigating Funding Opportunities (07:10PM - 07:45PM)

Early Years the Organisation, Childcare Partnership

Location: Boardroom

Early Years the Organisation is delivering an engaging workshop exploring a range of funding opportunities and offering practical guidance on completing application forms. Designed for those working in the voluntary and community sector, the session will help participants identify the key information needed to strengthen funding applications for their settings.

Option B - The Inclusive Room - Early Years (07:10PM - 07:45PM)

Early Years the Organisation, Childcare Partnership

Location: Main Hall

Derman-Sparks (2006) highlights the importance of self-awareness when supporting diversity in Early Years practice. This workshop will encourage participants to reflect on conscious and unconscious attitudes and how these can influence work with children and families.

Option C - Supporting Visual Impairment (07:50 PM- 08:30PM)

Angel Eyes NI – Supporting Children with Visual Impairment

Location: 0-14

Join Angel Eyes NI for a practical and informative workshop designed to help Early Years staff feel more confident supporting children with visual impairment. Learn about the services and support available for children and families, gain a better understanding of visual impairment in Early Years, and explore simple, effective strategies to help every child participate, learn and thrive.

Option D - When Inclusion isn't enough (07:50PM - 08:30PM)

Eden Consultancy - Rebecca McMaster

Location: 0-22

When inclusion isn't enough: A neuroaffirming approach to supporting autistic children in the early years. Exploring what true belonging feels like for autistic children, with practical, small changes that make a big difference.'

WORKSHOPS

SESSION 2



Option A - Staff Strategies Supporting Children with SEN/D

(07:50PM - 08:30PM)

Location: Main Hall

This interactive session explores sustainable, low-energy SEN strategies to help educators and students thrive. Participants will learn how their own nervous system influences student regulation, discover burnout-preventing support strategies, and gain practical tools such as the Window of Tolerance, energy accounting, and co-regulation techniques.

Option B - The Inclusive Room - School Aged Children (07:50PM - 08:30PM)

Location: 0-14

Early Years the Organisation, Childcare Partnership

Derman-Sparks (2006) highlights the importance of self-awareness when supporting diversity in Early Years practice. This workshop will encourage participants to reflect on conscious and unconscious attitudes and how these can influence work with children and families.

Option C - When inclusion isn't enough (07:50PM - 08:30PM)

Eden Consultancy - Rebecca McMaster

Location: 0-22

'When inclusion isn't enough: A neuroaffirming approach to supporting autistic children in the early years. Exploring what true belonging feels like for autistic children, with practical, small changes that make a big difference.'



SPONSORS

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all sponsors, partners and contributors who have supported this event. Your generosity, collaboration and continued commitment are greatly appreciated.



Food provided by
The FlavourSmyth

Coffee provided by
Quails Banbridge



EVALUATION FORM

We would appreciate if you could take a few moments to complete our evaluation form. Your feedback is extremely valuable and will help us continue to improve future events and learning opportunities.

Thank you for your support and participation.

EVALUATION FORM



SRC'S CHARITY PARTNER

SRC's Charity Partner for this year is [Alzheimer's Society NI](#)

Dementia is one of the greatest health and social challenges facing society today, with an estimated 900,000 people across the UK living with the condition. Many remain undiagnosed and are coping with the impact of dementia without the support they need. Through the dedication of supporters and communities, Alzheimer's Society NI is working to change this.

With your support, Alzheimer's Society NI can continue providing essential services to those affected by dementia, campaign for better support and accountability, and invest in pioneering research that will help improve the future for everyone living with the condition.

We would greatly appreciate any donation, no matter how small, to support our college charity. Please donate below if you are able to do so.

Southern Regional
College SRC's
JustGiving Page



DONATION LINK

NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

If you would like to register for our next conference - please click on the link.

[REGISTER FOR OUR
CONFERENCE 2027](#)



SRC Southern Regional College

Save the **DATE**

All You Need is Play

CONFERENCE

2027

 **TUESDAY**
18TH MAY

 *Banbridge Campus*

 **CAMPUS LOCATION**
Castlewellan Road
Banbridge
BT32 4AY

CONTACT DETAILS

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OUR TEAM

