



**lwethb**

*Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí*  
Longford and Westmeath  
Education and Training Board

# Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

---

**Principles of Teaching and  
Learning for Education and  
Training Services**

## LONGFORD AND WESTMEATH EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training (LWETB) is committed to placing learners at the centre of its activities and providing a quality education experience to all. The principles as set out in this document outline what leadership in teaching and learning looks like when a partnership approach between the educator (Teacher/Instructor/Tutor) and learner takes place.

LWETB Mission Statements states its dedication to providing 'dynamic, diverse and innovative education and training services'. This is supported by LWETB values - 'learner centred, celebrates inclusion, acts with integrity and leads with innovation'. In line with our Mission and Values, LWETB endeavours to meet the needs of all members of its community through innovative practice and proven education pedagogy which will enhance the learning experience for all learners. Staff within LWETB can expect to be supported in doing this work through their school leaders, Further Education and Training leaders, programme leaders, colleagues and the wider organisation as they progress in achieving these goals through their academic careers.

This document has been developed in line with Education Act, 1998, Education and Training Board Act 2013, Further Education and Training Board Act 2013, The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2020-2024, the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and desk research into what contributes to a positive learning environment for learners.

## LWETB - PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

- At LWETB, we view education as a personal journey and not a destination. We encourage learners to 'learn how to learn' and encourage participation in the learning process rather than a recipient of information. We encourage all members of the LWETB learning community to focus on process rather than just outcome and support learners to transfer their learning and skills to other areas of their lives.
- LWETB believes that learners are at the centre of everything we do. Conversation, feedback, collaboration and engagement is vital for strong learner outcomes and these key words should constantly be used when engaging with student learning process.
- LWETB staff will promote higher level thinking by creating opportunities for creativity both inside the classroom through academic learning and outside the classroom through informal learning opportunities.
- The Learner voice is encouraged, listened to and acted upon.
- LWETB requires staff to build strong quality relationships with learners which are underpinned by respect, care and compassion because this is considered central to positive learning outcomes for learners.
- LWETB educators look to the future recognising that learners are preparing for a world that is constantly changing. Learners will be supported to prepare for these changes as they progress through their journey with us and encouraging them to engage or continue in life-long learning.
- LWETB embraces the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers and LWETB Code of Conduct for Staff.

## WHY WE TEACH

The role of educators is to be transformative. We understand that learners are on their own personal journey. They may learn in different ways, want different things, embrace different personal goals or require help in developing personal goals. As education professionals we aim to support learners to gain the knowledge they need to reach their full potential. Through continued engagement and high quality feedback educators endeavour to promote critical thinking in their learners to enable them to further understand and critique the world around them.

## WHO WE TEACH

LWETB welcomes and embraces all learners. We accept all learners where they are at in their lives. We recognise their talents and skills. We listen to any issues they may be experiencing, or the potential they might exhibit so we can work with learners to ensure they overcome barriers and help them reach their chosen goals.

## WHAT WE TEACH

LWETB educational and training services offer programmes and skills delivered by staff who have a full understanding and mastery in their area of expertise. As educators we understand that we must keep up to date in research and share knowledge to ensure we remain contemporary in the delivery of programmes. This is achieved through constant upskilling of staff through formal and informal Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and using all means available to support strong outcomes for learners.

## OUR GOAL AS EDUCATORS AND HOW WE GAUGE OUR SUCCESS

LWETB and staff recognise the importance of reflective practice both for themselves and learners. Educators provide regular and high quality feedback to their peers and learners so they can learn from best practice and overcoming challenges. Staff embrace up to date pedagogies to support learning and use contemporary methodologies for assessing learning and gaining best results. LWETB also recognises that learners are preparing for a dynamic world that is constantly changing. Learners will be supported to prepare for these changes as they progress through their learning journey with us and are encouraged to engage in life-long learning to maximise their academic and work achievements.

## WHERE WE TEACH

We aim to innovative and not just confine our learning spaces to classrooms or workshop areas. We recognise that learning takes place in all sorts of environments and we are open to exploring all places that could be more conducive to the learning process. Staff are encouraged and upskilled to use new technologies to support learning – Teams, Moodle, virtual field trips and outdoor learning spaces.

## HOW WE TEACH

As educators, LWETB recognise different learning needs and styles. Technology is embraced and staff avail of on-going CPD in this area and keep updated on any new developments. They are also aware of the difficulties and dangers that this new cyber world presents for learners and endeavour to support learners to deal with those dangers. Options such as blended learning and on-line learning are now widely used. Other innovations to facilitate the learning process include e.g. flipped classrooms.

## HELP AND SUPPORTING STAFF

LWETB aims to support staff by providing training, learning and development opportunities across a broad spectrum of areas in line with the mission of the organisation. LWETB endeavours to support the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to support staff in their role as educators and leaders. This is achieved in multiple ways including CPD delivered within the organisation; CPD delivered outside the organisation; observation of others performing their work, mentoring, coaching and reflective practice. CPD is also provided to ancillary staff to help them to support schools and Further Education and Training Centres to operate efficiently for learners and staff.

## BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LWETB is committed to the ongoing improvement of buildings, facilities and infrastructure which ensures equity of access to quality teaching and learning spaces for all members of LWETB's learning community. LWETB demonstrates the value it places on its staff and learners by investing in and improving its buildings, facilities and infrastructure.