

Learner Voice in Adult Education: The Importance of Authentic and Meaningful Engagement

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In this Section:

OAONTAS

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AONTAS

National Adult Learning Organisation in Ireland (Celebrating 50 years in 2019)



Advocates on behalf of 400 members nationwide

- National Coordinator European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL)
- Engaged in Erasmus+ KA1, KA2, KA3, and the European EaSI Programme



AONTAS advocates and lobbies for the development of a quality service for adult learners; promotes the value and benefits of adult learning and builds organisational capacity.





Working with adult educators and learners both nationally and internationally



The Irish Policy Context





- Learning for Life: White Paper on Adult Education (2000)
- Further Education and Training Strategy 2014 2019
- National Skills Strategy 2025
- Action Plan for Education 2019



Empowering through Learning - New Statement of Strategy 2019 - 2021



Irish Further Education Strategy

Responding to the 'need's of the learner' by

"Systematically benchmarking learner's views and satisfaction with their FET programme"

(SOLAS, 2014, p.137)

Upskilling Pathways Recommendation in Ireland

Steering Group led by Department of Education and Skills

- AONTAS Submission: target groups:
 - Learners with lower educational attainment and employment
 - Lone parents
 - Travellers
 - Migrants
 - People with disabilities



Learner Voice Theory

"The 'new wave of learner voice in the 1990's has largely shaped the modern day concept of learner voice processes" (Dowdall et al., 2019; Fielding, 2010)

"Fielding's vision (is) of the reimagined school and classroom as a more egalitarian and democratic space."

Classroom space



"Radical reconstruction of the teacher-student relationship"

Institutional and policy realm

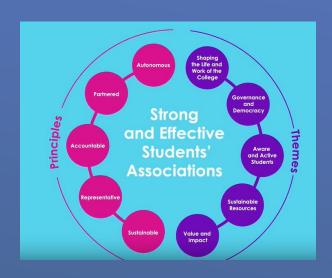






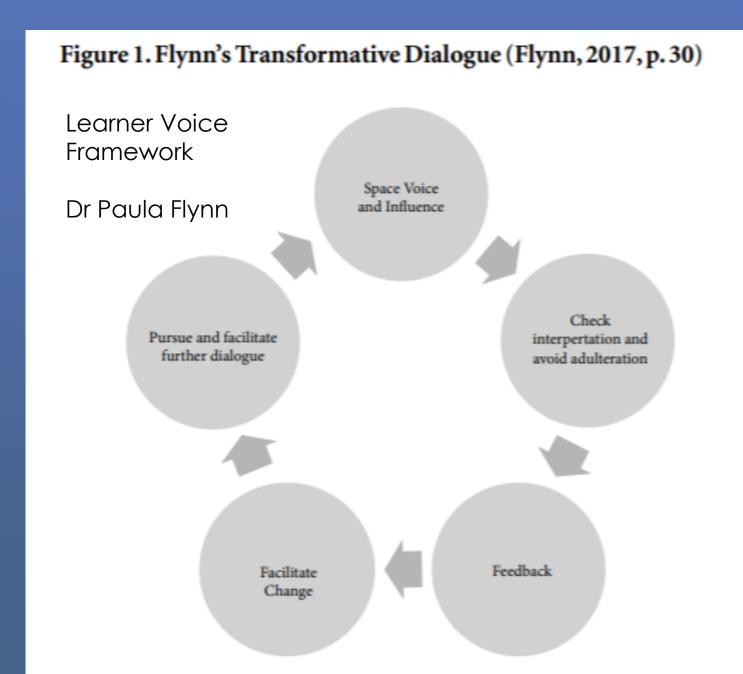












National FET Learner Forum

Learner voice is at the heart of AONTAS' work. The Further Education and Training (FET) Learner Forum is a large-scale project designed to ensure FET is actively engaging learner voice and creating policy that is responsive to learner needs.



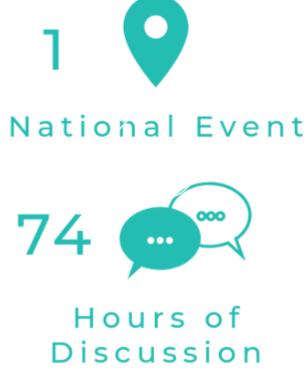
Since its launch, the Forum has reached over 1500 learners. The project consists of one national event and a series of 16 regional events held at Education and Training Boards across Ireland each year. At each event, learners from across the FET sector are asked to share their experience in FET and offer recommendations on how to improve services. Learners' responses are documented and reported back to key stakeholders to be used in future policy planning.

2019 in numbers so far...

2019: A Year in Numbers



Regional Events



National FET Learner Forum 2019



National Campaigns & Events



Find your learning pathway

www.onestepup.ie

LEARNER STORY

"After 47 years I decided to go back to education"





European Agenda for Adult Learning

LEARNER STORY

"Don't let that voice in your head tell you 'I've got a disability': you can do it"

Name: Gillian

Place of Learning: Maynooth University





LEARNER STORY

"Anything is possible once you do not give up on yourself"

Name: Avril

Place of Learning: An Cosán, Ronanstown CDP

Giving Learner Voice a Platform











https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPZoRql0kjw

Thank you

Keep up to date with our work:

www.aontas.com





Freephone Helpline: 1800 303 669

Visit: www.onestepup.ie

References

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