



Certificate  
in  
Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL

Sharing Classrooms: Deepening Learning Project October 2012

## 1. Introduction

*Sharing Classrooms: Deepening Learning* (SCDL) is an International Fund for Ireland project managed by Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and operating in all Area Learning Communities. It provides training and development to support collaborative courses that are part of Entitlement Framework arrangements.

SCDL aims to enrich and deepen learning through developing teachers' skills for creatively using all kinds of difference in shared classrooms. Training will draw on proven practice and experience from community/good relations work, in order to increase trust, confidence and skills of teachers, working with classes comprised of students from different schools.

Early in the programme, it was recognised that many of the skills being developed aligned with competency frameworks in use by the General Teachers' Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) and with the Professional Qualification for Headship (PQH). Consequently, it was decided to seek professional validation of the scheme and two routes were established, an *Exploring Skills in SCDL* course and an extension course entitled *Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL*. Both of these have been formally recognised under the auspices of *Classrooms Re-Imagined: Education in Diversity and Inclusion for Teachers (CREDIT)*. The CREDIT scheme is administered by Stranmillis University College and St. Mary's University College, whose help in the preparation of this specification is gratefully acknowledged.

## 2. Specification for Certificate in Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL

SCDL facilitation sessions provide opportunities for education professionals to develop strategies and skills relevant to the themes in the grid below. The *Certificate in Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL* comprises the 3 core modules from *Exploring Skills in SCDL*, a compulsory Additional Facilitator Skills module and an additional optional component chosen from Extension Modules 2.2 to 2.5. These modules correspond to SCDL Training Themes, 10 – 13 respectively and are required contexts for theory and skills development. The *Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL* course also requires a 2-day residential.

Extension modules	Strategies and Skills Extension focus
2.1 Additional Facilitator Skills for teachers in shared classrooms, shared learning environments  This is a <b>Compulsory</b> module	Theory and Skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work</li> <li>• The Facilitation Process</li> <li>• Group members and Group Dynamics</li> <li>• Facilitating Discussions</li> <li>• Developing Programmes</li> </ul>
2.2 Working Creatively with Controversial Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring Fears and concerns</li> <li>• Working with diversity</li> <li>• Working with emotions</li> <li>• Managing openings and endings</li> <li>• Exploring contentious areas of study</li> </ul>
2.3 Managing Commemorative Events / Occasions for whole school / shared classroom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparations</li> <li>• Emblems and Symbols</li> <li>• Exemplar events and activities</li> <li>• Following up outcomes</li> </ul>
2.4 Managing Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding conflict</li> <li>• Main Management styles</li> <li>• Dealing with negativity</li> <li>• Practical steps and approaches for shared classrooms</li> </ul>
2.5 Restorative Practices in Shared Classrooms	Approaches to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ways of working</li> <li>• Behaviour and Discipline</li> <li>• Dealing with negativity / breakdown in relationships</li> <li>• Negotiating</li> <li>• Mediating</li> </ul>

### **3. Assessment for the Certificate in Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL**

#### **3.1 Requirements**

To be eligible for the award of the *Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL* Certificate, participating teachers will be required to:

#### ***Either***

- Complete the assessment requirements for the Exploring Skills in SCDL certificate  
*It is expected that the majority of applicants to the Additional Facilitator Skills course will have participated in the Exploring Skills course.*

#### ***Or***

- Provide evidence of completion of another relevant training or course including its associated assessment  
*To discuss eligibility of prior learning and achievement please contact the SCDL project team. Contact details are provided in Section 4 of this specification.*

#### ***And***

- Attend the Residential Course for Additional Facilitator Skills in SCDL
- Provide a Report on a Facilitation, as specified in 3.2 below

- **3.2 Assessment Tasks**

Participants are required to:

- Facilitate an event relevant to role  
*Area Learning Communities have different ways of working and different degrees of collaboration so the approach to the facilitation cannot be prescriptive. It should however be relevant to the participant's particular role, teaching and Area Learning community contexts.*
- Present a report of a facilitation that they have planned and conducted  
*The report of approx 2,000 words must relate to one of the SCDL additional skills modules 2.2 to 2.5. It should show evidence of identifying an initiative which the teacher considers will deepen learning in shared classrooms within their school or Area Learning Community. The report must also show how they planned to implement the initiative and how they facilitated discussion to engage others with*

*their plans. Please see Appendix for a Guidance Note on the Facilitation Report.*

### 3.3 Assessment Dates

There will be 2 opportunities for assessment in the school year, corresponding to the training sessions for SCDL. These will be in December 2012 for Year 1, and March/April 2013 for Year 2 participants. There will be a further assessment opportunity in June 2012 enabling Year 3 learners to complete.

## **4. Support and Further Information**

A set of guidance notes to complement and support this SCDL specification will be provided at training sessions and will be downloadable.

For further information on the SCDL programmes and certification please contact:

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### Guidance Note on the Facilitation Report

The following note highlights, key aspects of the facilitation report. Additional guidance will be provided during the course. Participants are reminded that they have access to 1 full day sub cover to allow preparation for and conduct of the facilitation and that the initiative selected for facilitation should be capable of completion within the assessment period.

Please note that the overall length of the report should be approx 2,000 words and while the style will inevitably reflect personal preference, all reports must adhere to common requirements.

Each Report should contain:

- **A title** that indicates audience and purpose of the facilitation e.g. Planning for Remembrance Day Commemorations with shared class of A2 History students
- **Brief context** that outlines rationale and intended outcomes of the facilitation
- **Main body of report** i.e. description of methodology and process including detail on beginning, middle and end of session; activities used; levels of engagement etc.
- **Observations** at the time on the group dynamics
- **Conclusion** based on participant feedback; any subsequent reflections and next steps
- **Personal evaluation** of facilitation skills and style; learning and professional development