



SALT 2021
Keynote Speaker
Déirdre Kirwan

Déirdre Kirwan was principal of a primary school in Dublin (1987-2015) where 80% of pupils came from more than fifty linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds. With the school community, she led an integrated approach to language teaching and learning that included use of pupils' home languages. In 2008,

Déirdre was awarded European Ambassador for Languages (Léargas). In 2009, she was conferred with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin for her research in the area of language education. She has contributed to the new Primary Language Curriculum (Ireland) and to the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) on the topic of early language learning. Links to publications she has co-authored with David Little can be found at the

EU's School Education Gateway:

<https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/viewpoints/experts/identity-irish-primary.htm>