

# Maths4All: Supporting Teachers in Implementing the New Primary School Mathematics Curriculum

Developing active communities focussed on mathematics teaching practice

The Maths4All project, funded by Science Foundation Ireland and led by Siún Nic Mhuirí and colleagues in the Institute of Education at Dublin City University, seeks to support the development of high-quality mathematics teaching at preschool and primary level. We support primary teachers in enacting research-based pedagogies at this pivotal moment of curriculum change.

The project was established in 2020 with the goal of supporting primary school teachers with implementation of the new mathematics curriculum. Professional development opportunities were offered via webinars and learning communities, while sample lesson plans, videos, and other materials were provided through the Maths4All.ie website. To date, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Central to the project's success was the establishment of a professional learning community (PLC) centred on teachers' classroom practice. Many early PLC participants now lead PLCs themselves, and many participant-authored lesson plans have been added to the Maths4All website.

We have partnered with the Early Childhood STEAM Network to create learning opportunities for early years educators. To address the professional development of primary teachers, our initial partnership with Clare Education Centre expanded to include Navan and Tralee Education Centres, serving to support wide engagement and dialogue at different levels.

Our webinar series gave teacher educators and researchers opportunities to speak directly to teachers. TeachMeets allowed teachers to engage with each other.



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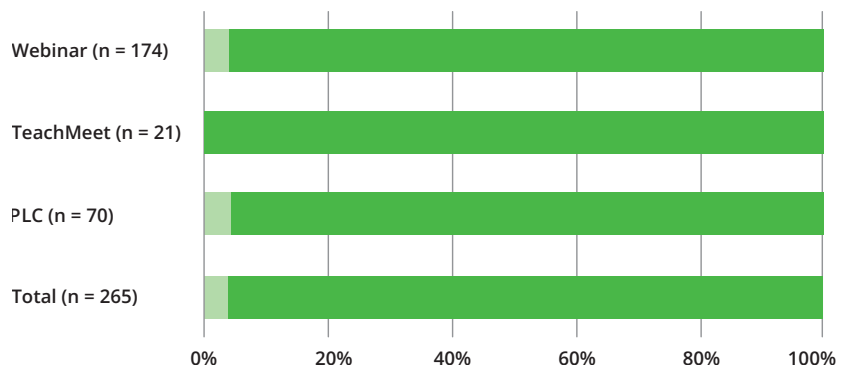
**The Maths4All project, established in 2020, offers webinars, learning communities, videos, sample lesson plans, and other resources to educators and researchers. Its main aim is to support primary school teachers with implementing the new mathematics curriculum, and it has grown to over 3,500 members. This article describes the project's activities and development.**

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And in our PLCs, teacher educators worked with small groups of teachers to trial and reflect on innovative lessons and create and share records of practice, such as lesson plans and work samples. Finally, we continue to build the professional development resources available on Maths4All.ie. The project has always aimed to engage teachers as co-creators of a wide range of resources, including videos, posters, and activity plans.

This multipronged approach appears to be effective. Maths4All activities serve as catalysts for ongoing teacher inquiry, which the website supports, building a platform for long-lasting impact on teachers' practice, knowledge, and communication. There are currently 3,503 members (membership is free, but registration is necessary to view videos), and the number of participants in various events from January 2022 to June 2024 indicates a high level of interest: 423 in PLCs; 61 in TeachMeets; 687 in webinars. Furthermore, most participants said their involvement in Maths4All events encouraged them to try new or challenging activities in their classroom (see graph).

### Did the event encourage you to try new/challenging activities in your classroom?



#### Responses to evaluation question

In summary, the Maths4All project has successfully engaged teachers in thinking about their practice and trialling new activities in their classrooms. It seems likely that the vibrant, and increasingly self-sufficient, community of teachers who have contributed to Maths4All will play an important role in the ongoing engagement that is needed to sustain teacher development in the context of curriculum change.