

## Elect ASTI members to the Teaching Council

### Vote online February 22 – March 9

The term of office of the current Teaching Council comes to an end in March 2016. In advance of that date, elections for a new Teaching Council will be held from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Teaching Council elections will be held online and all teachers registered on or before September 30, 2015 will receive voting instructions, including voting pin numbers, by post.

The ASTI has endorsed a number of teachers who are members of the ASTI to run in the Teaching Council elections.

The Teaching Council, which was established in 2006, is the regulatory body for teachers and its objectives include upholding standards in the teaching profession and in the professional development of teachers and promoting the status of the teaching profession.

The Teaching Council is made up of 37 members, the majority of whom are serving teachers. Of 22 places reserved on the Council for registered teachers, six are nominated by the teacher unions (ASTI, TUI and INTO nominate two teachers each) and the remaining are elected. **Seven teachers are elected by second-level teachers.** Nine teachers are elected by primary teachers. The other 15 seats are filled as follows: two nominated by the Colleges of Education; two nominated by specified third-level bodies; four nominated by school management; two nominated by parents' associations; and five nominated by the Minister for Education, including one IBEC and one ICTU representative.

### ASTI endorsed candidates

Two candidates, both of whom are ASTI members, have received ASTI endorsement and are running for the constituencies and electoral categories below. A third endorsed candidate is not being opposed and has been deemed elected (see page 4).

Candidate	Constituency
Gerard Hogan	Community and Comprehensive Schools Leinster, Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency
Seán O'Neill	Leinster Constituency

### Opportunity for members in C&C schools

ASTI members working in Community and Comprehensive schools have an opportunity to elect an ASTI member to represent them on the Teaching Council.

#### Gerard Hogan is the only ASTI-endorsed candidate contesting the Community and Comprehensive Schools' Constituency.

Gerard is a teacher at Kinsale Community School where he is currently the ASTI school steward. He also serves as Equality Officer for the Cork South Paddy Mulcahy Branch of the ASTI. If you want to ensure an ASTI-endorsed candidate is elected to represent the Teaching Council Community and Comprehensive Schools Constituency, vote for Gerard Hogan.

See inside for Gerard's profile.

You can also visit Gerard's Facebook page [Gerard-HOGAN-for-TEACHING-COUNCIL](#) and Twitter feed at [@gerhogan4](#)

# ASTI ENDORSED CANDIDATES

**ASTI endorsed candidates will contest the Teaching Council elections in the following constituencies / electoral categories:**

## Community and Comprehensive Schools

Leinster, Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency  
(ASTI endorsed candidate – Gerard Hogan)

## Voluntary Secondary Schools

(Male)  
Leinster Constituency  
(ASTI endorsed candidate – Seán O’Neill)

### Voting deadline

Voting takes place online.

Teachers who are registered with the Teaching Council will receive a letter with instructions and two security pin numbers and can vote on-line up to noon on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Constituency: Community and Comprehensive Schools – Leinster, Connaught, Munster, Ulster

#### GERARD HOGAN

**School: Kinsale Community School, Kinsale, Co. Cork**  
**ASTI Branch: Cork South Paddy Mulcahy**

A PE and chemistry teacher originally from Co. Longford, I started my teaching career in 2006 at Cashel Community School, before obtaining a permanent post at Kinsale Community School in 2007. I am **ASTI school steward, Branch Equality Officer** and a regular **delegate** at convention.



### Community and Comprehensive teachers:

Use your vote to elect an **ASTI member to the Teaching Council Community and Comprehensive Constituency.**

A goal of the Teaching Council’s Strategic Plan (2015-2017) is to develop a national framework for **continuous professional development (CPD)** for teaching. I want to ensure that the finalised *Cosán* framework reflects the high level of professionalism that already exists in our schools. I will resist any attempt by the Council to set a quantum of CPD hours that teachers will be required to undertake.

I want to ensure that any **Fitness to Practice** procedure protects the good name and reputation of the teacher and that such hearings are conducted in private.

As a teacher involved in the pilot **Droichead** programme, I want to make sure that **Newly Qualified Teachers** are protected and that their experience and professional status is recognised, through the implementation of a revised model of induction and probation.

A vote for me will make certain that **our interests as teachers are safeguarded** and **our professional standing enhanced.**

*Email: [gerhogankcs@gmail.com](mailto:gerhogankcs@gmail.com)*

*Gerard is the only ASTI endorsed candidate running for this constituency/ sector. In order to represent ASTI members in the community and comprehensive schools, Gerard needs teachers in these schools to cast their votes. If you are teaching in the community/ comprehensive sector, please make sure you and your colleagues participate in the Teaching Council elections.*

## Constituency: Voluntary Secondary Schools – Leinster

### Male Panel

#### SEÁN O'NEILL

*School: Saint Laurence College,  
Loughlinstown, Dublin 18; Mobile: 087 1257281*

**ASTI Branch: Dublin South County**

**The Teaching Council needs to become a positive voice for teachers.**



Seán O' Neill is the only ASTI endorsed candidate running in the Voluntary Secondary School Leinster Constituency (Male Panel). Please cast your vote for Seán.

Now is the time to listen to members. Our profession has seen tremendous change and uncertainty. The Teaching Council has been part of that change. It must actively engage with teachers to reflect the reality of life in school. It has brought in many new initiatives and innovations which have changed education at a time of under investment in our schools and cuts in education spending. Droichead, Cosán, the emphasis on CPD and other initiatives, have and will create extra duties and responsibilities for teachers but will not create the necessary new employment opportunities. Therefore, **the physical and mental wellbeing of teachers must be the most important issue in the planning of all innovations and policies in education.**

I am a long-time activist and have served in a number of roles in the ASTI, including School Steward, member of CEC, Standing Committee representative and member of ASTIR Editorial Board.

The Teaching Council has the remit to regulate the teaching profession, so it must demonstrate a duty of care for our teachers. I want our Teaching Council to enhance the teaching profession and support all our teachers. This is what I will fight for and I am asking for your vote.

*Email: [oneillsa9@gmail.com](mailto:oneillsa9@gmail.com)*

## How are second-level teachers represented on the Teaching Council?

11 members of the Teaching Council represent second level teachers, as follows:

	No. of Seats	Total
ASTI nominees	2	2
TUI nominees	2	2
<b>Community and Comprehensive</b> Connaught, Munster, Ulster and Leinster	1	1
<b>Voluntary Secondary</b> Connaught, Munster and Ulster	2 (1 female, 1 male)	4
Leinster	2 (1 female, 1 male)	
<b>VEC</b> Connaught Munster and Ulster	1	2
Leinster	1	
<b>Total seats</b>		<b>11</b>

Beth Cooney has been deemed elected to the Teaching Council.

## ASTI member deemed elected to Teaching Council

### ELIZABETH COONEY

ASTI member Beth Cooney, also received ASTI endorsement as a candidate in the Teaching Council elections. However, as Beth is unopposed in her constituency (Voluntary Secondary Connaught, Munster, Ulster - Female Panel), she is deemed elected.



Beth is a teacher at St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary and a member of the Nenagh Branch. She has been involved in the ASTI for more than 15 years and has served as Branch Secretary, member of the Central Executive Council, and member of the ASTI Equal Opportunities and Awards Committees. Beth is a recipient of the ASTI Centenary Bursary which she achieved in relation to a Ph.D. on teacher learning.

### Annual Convention 2016

Preparations are underway for Annual Convention 2016 which takes place in the Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork from Tuesday March 29th to Thursday March 31st.

Key issues for this year's convention include new/recently qualified teachers' pay and conditions, the impact of education cutbacks on schools and students, the moratorium on posts of responsibility, and teachers' workload/conditions.

A special Nuacht will issue shortly with a full list of motions to be debated during Annual Convention.

Information is also available in the events section of the ASTI website [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie)

### ASTI nominees to Teaching Council

The ASTI is entitled to nominate two representatives to the Teaching Council. The two ASTI representatives for the next Teaching Council, nominated by Standing Committee, are:



#### JOHN HOLIAN

John teaches at Balla Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. He is Standing Committee representative for West Mayo, East Mayo and Carrick-on-Shannon.



#### NOELLE MORAN

Noelle Moran is a teacher at St Jarlath's College Tuam. She is Standing Committee representative for Galway, Tuam and East Galway.

## General Election 2016

What to ask your local politicians when they call to your door...

1. Why is FEMPI still in existence given that there is no longer a financial emergency?
2. Will you work to restore the common pay scale for all teachers?
3. Will you work to lift the moratorium on posts of responsibility?
4. What will you do about the abolition of ex-quota guidance provision for schools?
5. Will you abolish the public sector pension levy?

The ASTI is also supporting the Irish Congress of Trade Unions General Election campaign which is highlighting a number of key issues including precarious employment (including in teaching) and the need for universal access for children and young people to properly funded, high quality education.

For more information, including more suggested questions for politicians, see our General Election page on the ASTI website [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie)