



National College of Art and Design
A Recognised College of University College Dublin

12th May 2024.

To whom it may concern,

I am very pleased to recommend Bernadette Nugent for an Art teaching position in your school/organisation. I have known Bernadette since September 2020. I am the leader of the Joint Hons. BA in Education and Design/Fine Art programme that Bernadette undertook in the School of Education (2020-2024) in the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). I was her year group tutor in the final year of the programme and I supervised her on her school placements in all years. During her four years in the School of Education I observed Bernadette grow as an educator and as an individual into the confident, dedicated and professional person she is today.

I observed and supervised Bernadette teaching in a variety of settings (Primary & Secondary Schools) over her time as a student teacher. She has a very natural teaching style and engaged tremendously well with the pupils in her care. Bernadette is a very competent, dedicated and conscientious teacher. She is very enthusiastic and motivated- she has an ability to inspire pupils and get them on her side. Bernadette has always managed to create a learning environment where pupils actively engaged in learning and were acknowledged and praised for their achievements. She is very capable of disciplining pupils in a calm, yet firm manner. The reports back from her various school placements were very good.

Bernadette is very organised and her planning of units of work and lessons was excellent. Bernadette managed to create units of work that were innovative in content and art practice, included multiple layers of learning but adhered to the national curriculum/specification. She is very empathetic and has an excellent grasp of differentiation for pupils with additional educational needs as well as gifted pupils. Bernadette focused on differentiating by outcome rather than task and in creating an inclusive classroom where all students felt equal in their learning. Bernadette is very interested in pupils with additional educational needs and disabilities and took extra classes outside of her school placement requirements to familiarise herself with a broader range of learners.

Literacy and numeracy were evident in her lesson planning and Bernadette also incorporated other national educational priorities in her planning and delivery of content e.g. Sustainable Development, Wellbeing and Digital Media. Bernadette incorporated cross-curricular teaching and scaffolding of teaching and learning content in her planning and delivery of content. Bernadette was involved in pastoral care while on school placement and she has expressed a keen interest to be involved in this area in her future career as a teacher.

Bernadette has excellent communication skills. She has a very happy and enthusiastic nature and she got on extremely well with everyone she came into contact with both in college and whilst on school placement. Bernadette was very willing to accept advice and guidance and has been an excellent mentor and friend to her peers.

Bernadette always displayed very good leadership skills and was always willing to help out when needed. She is fully capable of running an Art Department on her own but she also works very well as part of a team. Her punctuality and attendance were always very good.

I found Bernadette to be exceptionally pleasant, personable and genuine at all times and I have no hesitation in recommending her for an Art teaching position. She would be an asset to any Art Department and school.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 086 6063223 or bodkinp@staff.ncad.ie during working hours.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Patsey Bodkin". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Patsey Bodkin

Lecturer in Education
Programme Leader- Joint Hons. BA in Education and Design or Fine Art
Coordinator of the Continuing Professional Development Programme for Teachers
Coordinator of the Youth Art Programme