

“Our belief is that a teacher is the most important person in the classroom”

# CIARA MCGUANE

## Rahoo



Ciara McGuane spent nine years in the UK where she trained and worked as a teacher before branching out into professional development for teachers. Ciara returned to Ireland in 2016 and, the following year, set up her business, Rahoo, in Co Clare.

In the UK, Ciara’s work involved training groups of teachers, working one-to-one with teachers by observing lessons, and assessing and supporting trainee teachers.

As someone who is passionate about the impact professional development can have on teachers, and therefore their students, she identified an opportunity to offer a similar service in Ireland.

Rahoo, which derives from the Irish word ‘rathú’ (thrive), makes professional development accessible to teachers whenever and wherever suits them.

“Our belief is that a teacher is the most important person in the classroom, and we aim to support them to be the best

that they can be and to thrive in their profession,” Ciara says.

“We provide face-to-face and online training for primary and post-primary teachers in areas such as effective lesson planning and assessment.”

Rahoo’s courses are designed to highlight best practice rationale, allowing teachers to reflect and question their current practice. Ciara aims for the company to become Ireland’s most trusted and reputable independent training provider for teachers.

Rahoo has a team of 30 professional tutors across Ireland, and its courses are approved by the Department of Education and Skills.

While Ciara and her husband had a great life in London, Ciara knew she would not be comfortable with not living in Ireland again, so they moved home for personal rather than professional reasons when they were starting a family.

Settling in was not without its challenges. “When you move home to Ireland, you

think that you have your community here waiting for you – but having been away for so long, your network has decreased, and things have changed. You are starting from scratch, although it can be hard to accept that sometimes,” she says. “You have to make the effort to meet new people and make new friends just like you did abroad – as well as reacquainting yourself with the old friends.”

Ciara has been impressed by the range of supports for entrepreneurs that are available in Ireland with programmes like Back for Business, New Frontiers and the assistance of Local Enterprise Offices across the country. But she says that navigating the entrepreneurship ecosystem can be challenging for a returning emigrant as they may not be aware of the supports available and the eligibility criteria associated with them.

Rahoo has gone from strength to strength and is currently focused on expanding its course offering for the teachers who want to work with the company.



**POSITION**  
CEO

**WHAT WE DO**  
We provide face-to-face and online training for primary and post-primary teachers in areas such as effective lesson planning and assessment.

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