

Preface

In the context of the debate about what works and why, there is a wide range of benefits to researching your own practice, whether directly feeding into improvement through action research or, more broadly, gaining understanding and knowledge on themes of interest and relevance. This is why research is embedded into researchers. As research becomes embedded in your practice you can gain a range of benefits. Research can help you find solutions to particular problems arising in your working areas, underpin professional learning of knowledge, skills and understanding, connect you with sources of information and networks of professional support, clarify purposes, processes and priorities when introducing change – for example,

to curriculum, pedagogy or assessment, improve understanding of your professional and policy context, organisationally, locally and nationally, enabling you to teach and lead more strategically and effectively and develop your agency, influence, self-efficacy and voice within your own working area and more widely within the profession.

With the aim of providing academic contributions to educational sciences researches, in total 48 manuscripts were submitted for this special issue. However, only 17 of them were accepted as a result of at least three referees' reports. We would like to thank all the referees and authors for their contributions to the special issue.

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