



Claire Saunders

Staff Tutor (Education) The Open University

Claire began her career as a primary school teacher, before spending the last ten years or so in higher education. Most recently Claire was a Senior Lecturer in Learning and Teaching at Solent University, Southampton, where she was also the course leader on the PG Cert in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Claire also worked extensively with course team to support the development of innovative approaches to learning and teaching

Claire took up a full-time role with The Open University as Staff Tutor (Education) in April 2019. From September 2019 she will be undertaking various management and module development responsibilities, working with Associate Lecturers on a range of Primary and Early Childhood modules.

Claire's current research is for her EdD thesis, due for submission in October 2019. Entitled, 'Protected space: Building a community of writers in a university', it is an ethnographic case study of a writing group. The study is the result of a lifelong personal and professional interest in writing as a powerful tool for communicating ideas that can capture the imagination and transform both reader and writer. Specifically, it focuses on the role of writing in the professional lives of academics in a modern UK university. The study explores how the potential for writing might be unlocked in a new university, where the main priority for academics is teaching, but where there is simultaneously growing pressure to produce research 'outputs' to satisfy an increasingly metrics-driven sector.