



Further Growth in Integrated Education



Pupils from Fort Hill Primary School

Demand for places in integrated schools is continuing to grow despite a drop in the overall school aged population in Northern Ireland. New figures from the Department of Education show that the number of pupils attending integrated schools has risen to 19,400 compared to 18,800 last year.

There was bittersweet news for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland after the announcement on two Development Proposals by Caitriona Ruane, Minister for Education. Fort Hill Primary School, Lisburn was granted ministerial approval to transform to integrated status. However, Clogher Valley IPS, Fivemiletown which has been independently funded by the Integrated Education Fund (IEF) for the past three years was turned down for conditional approval as a Grant Maintained Integrated Primary School.

John Walsh, the Principal of Fort Hill, said, "Our vision is for a school which is totally representative of the whole neighbourhood and catering for all primary age pupils in an area which has seen great change during

the past decade. We believe that by becoming integrated our pupils will have much to gain and nothing to lose. We can now move forward together to create a new and exciting chapter in the school's history."

IEF Chief Executive, Tina Merron said 'We are obviously delighted that the Minister has approved the development proposal of Fort Hill Primary school to transform to integrated status in September 2009. This is very much in keeping with the aims of the IEF over the next 5 years, to encourage more schools across Northern Ireland to begin the Transformation process. Nevertheless, the Minister's refusal to grant conditional approval to Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School is deeply disappointing.'

In March the parents of Crumlin Primary School voted overwhelmingly in favour of the transformation of their school to integrated status. NICIE and the NEELB are currently working with the school on a Development Proposal to bring about this change.



Principal Nigel Arnold and pupils of Glengormley IPS present Brian Small, IEF Fundraising Manager with a cheque for £100

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If you have any stories that you would like included in future Integrated Education newsletters please contact Terry McMackin at NICIE or Elaine McKelvey at IEF.

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News in Brief

Carson Bursary award to Hazelwood IC student



Lee Stitt, Carson Bursary recipient from Hazelwood IC

Lee Stitt, a Moving Image Arts student at Hazelwood IC has received a £1000 Carson Bursary through the IEF. The scheme was set up by comedy legend Frank Carson and his son Tony to fund young creative talent and gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what integration means to them. Lee used the money to fund equipment for his 'Life in a Jar' project which is a short film exploring themes of acceptance, integration, consumerism and sharing.

Lee's short film will be available on the IEF's website later this month.

Garden show 2008



Pupils from Oakwood and Millennium IPS at the Garden Show 2008 prize giving

Oakwood IPS hosted the prize giving for the 2008 Garden Show Ireland's 'Young Gardener's Corner' competition. Integrated primary school pupils were given the opportunity to 'Make a Scarecrow' and their creations were showcased at the annual Garden Festival in Hillsborough Castle grounds. The competition was sponsored by Allianz.

- Overall Winner**
Oakwood IPS
- Scariest**
Cranmore IPS
- Most Innovative**
Oakwood IPS
- Highly Commended**
Millennium IPS

Grant Programme Aims to make Impact on Reconciliation

The IEF launched the 10th round of their Promoting a Culture of Trust (PACT) programme with the Education Minister Caitríona Ruane and broadcaster and former school teacher Gerry Kelly at Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

Education Minister Caitríona Ruane said "The IEF is to be congratulated on this most successful and worthwhile Programme. It has provided the opportunity for thousands of children, teachers, governors and parents to learn about and celebrate difference. It is through programmes such as PACT that society here will move on from the past to a new diverse future."

Dorothee Wagner, Trustee and Chair of the IEF's Grants Committee, said "The aim of the programme is to promote the development of skills and relationships that enable schools, pupils, staff, governors and the wider community to increase their understanding, acceptance and respect for political, cultural and religious differences.

The success of PACT and the growing interest in the programme is testimony to the determination that exists in schools across Northern Ireland to contribute to peace building and to undertake vital cross-community work."



Gerry Kelly, Dorothee Wagner, IEF Trustee and Chair of the Grants Sub Group and Education Minister Caitríona Ruane with pupils from St. Therese Nursery School and Glengormley IPS at the launch of PACT

Based on the success of PACT the IEF secured funding from the Department of Education, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and the Vodafone Foundation. Vodafone's £50,000 donation is specifically for projects using the mediums of Music and Sport to deliver cross-community school initiatives.

US Integrated Education Partnership

In a recent trip to Belfast, five American high school students from the first successfully merged interfaith school in America explored the past, present, and future of Northern Ireland through an Integrated Education Partnership with Lagan College, Belfast.

Susan Elliott, US Consul General in Belfast, generously hosted an evening reception at her residence in Ardnally for the students. We would like to extend our gratitude to Susan and all her staff for such a lovely evening.



Doane Stuart student pictured with US Consul General Susan Elliott

Legacy Fundraising

UK Statistics for Legacy Income to the Voluntary Sector reveal a massive £1.6 billion is gifted every year – the single largest source of individual giving for charities.

As a charity, the IEF has been the beneficiary of occasional legacy donations – for which we are extremely grateful. Like most of our donors, the people who left us money believed passionately in what we are doing and how we do it. Just as importantly, they trusted us to process their gift with care.

The IEF are now considering adopting Legacy Fundraising as part of our fundraising programme. As with all our dealings, it will be undertaken with professionalism, responsibility, sensitivity and with due regard to the donor, the legater and of course, the good name of the IEF.

Legacy gifts can be made as a direct contribution to the IEF or, as some might prefer, an 'in memoriam' donation for specific programmes or directed towards specific schools.

In the event of you wishing to make provision in your will for the IEF and consequently the growth of integrated schools here, we have been offered the support of a leading firm of lawyers who will make the necessary arrangements at your convenience if you so prefer.

If you feel you would like to learn more about legacy giving, please contact Brian Small on 028 9033 0031 for an informal chat.

High Profile Support for Integrated Education

In rare video interviews Maeve Binchy, international bestselling novelist and Shaun Robinson from the band Oppenheimer talk about their reasons for supporting integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Maeve Binchy, author of numerous bestsellers such as *Tara Road*, *Evening Class*, and *Circle of Friends* welcomed the IEF into her home and delivered a strong interview about her support for integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Shaun Robinson explained how his experiences of playing in Oppenheimer and working as a chemistry teacher in integrated schools helped shape his views on why integrated education is important for the future of Northern Ireland.



Shaun Robinson



Maeve Binchy with husband Gordon Snell

At the end of February former World Boxing Champion and IEF supporter Barry McGuigan authored and presented a powerful argument for Integrated Education on two of the most influential current affairs programmes on network television.



James Nesbitt

The BBC Daily Politics show where Andrew Neil, newspaper editor, publisher, broadcaster and business consultant, Charles Clarke, former Home Secretary, and Michael Heseltine, former Conservative Deputy PM joined Barry in a studio discussion and stated their support for Integrated Education.

Barry also contributed a piece to the BBC's 'This Week' programme; once again he composed a compelling argument for integrated education. A studio discussion followed with Michael Portillo and Dianne Abbot both stating their support for the campaign for more integrated provision in Northern Ireland.

Also, Northern Ireland actor James Nesbitt stated his backing for integrated education on the BBC's 'The One Show'. The programme reported on Northern Ireland's divided society and featured contributions from community development consultant Tony McAuley on the Peace Walls and interviews with students from Hazelwood Integrated College on integrated education.

In the same week, Liam Neeson, patron of Integrated Education and Nesbitt's co-star in "Five Minutes of Heaven", echoed these comments in an interview for the Radio Times. He said of integrated schools, "That's where it's got to start".



Liam Neeson



Barry McGuigan at the official opening of Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Queen's University study highlights barriers to inter-school collaboration

A new study by Queen's University Belfast highlights the barriers to inter-school sharing and emphasises the central role that cross-sectoral engagement between pupils can play in improving educational and reconciliation outcomes.



Priory IC and Sullivan Upper students studying together

The Report provides evidence that the Government needs to do more to encourage and support meaningful sharing and collaboration that goes beyond the Entitlement Framework. As the authors of the study state "...current policy arrangements do not identify reconciliation or the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding as a key objective of educational collaboration it is perhaps not surprising that this is not a priority for schools."

IEF Chief Executive, Tina Merron said "The Fund welcomes this report. It makes an important and valuable contribution to understanding the complexities of cross-sectoral collaboration in post-primary schools."

You can view the report, entitled 'School Collaboration in Northern Ireland: Opportunities for Reconciliation?' at www.schoolsworkingtogether.co.uk/webpages/news/School-Collaboration-in-NI.pdf

Eames-Bradley Report

After two years of work, the Consultative Group on the Past, led by Lord Eames and Denis Bradley, have published their proposals for how the people of Northern Ireland can confront the past and build a new shared future. There are many important recommendations in the Eames Bradley report regarding reconciliation, sharing and cohesion, including that a Legacy Commission should be established and engage specifically with the Christian Churches in Northern Ireland to encourage them to review and rethink their contribution to a non-sectarian future in the light of their past, particularly in the area of education.

The report also stated that a large number of those consulted aspired to a new Northern Ireland where tolerance, respect for cultural and religious diversity, equality and justice are the foundations of our relationships. The report went on to state that "surely there is no better place to begin this process than with our children in our schools."

The Fund welcomes the report and will consider fully its recommendations on education.

To download the full report click on <http://www.cgpn.org/>

Important research paper launched at Lagan Integrated College

A seminal research paper on "Churches and Christian Ethos in Integrated Schools" was launched at Lagan IC, Belfast. It was produced by Macaulay Associates and initiated by All Children Together (ACT), commissioned by NICIE and funded through the IEF.

A group of educational and church representatives gathered in January to discuss the findings of the paper. Tony Macaulay, of Macaulay Associates presented the key findings of his paper. He explained one important conclusion of his research was that church attitudes towards integrated education had gradually softened over the years.

Mr Macaulay also spent time explaining how his paper showed that most integrated schools have made a great effort to maintain a clear Christian ethos, while still welcoming children from other or no faith backgrounds.

After a lively discussion, ACT founder Margaret Kennedy urged people to continue to lobby for both church and governmental support for integrated education.

If you would like more information about any of this, please contact Terry McMackin on 028 9023 6200.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mill Strand IPS marks 20th anniversary



Enthusiastic pupils, dressed in maritime costumes, celebrate their school's milestone anniversary at a special drama and craft day. Mill Strand was founded in 1987 by a dedicated group of parents in Portrush and was named after a nearby beach. It now has around 200 students enrolled and is looking forward to the next 20 years.

Newcomers invitation 28th May

Great demand has recently been expressed for an opportunity which enables teachers to share good practice on supporting newcomer pupils attending integrated schools. NICIE therefore invites teachers to participate in an event on **Thursday 28th May**, held at **Integrated College Dungannon**. Participants will benefit from presentations by external speakers and attend workshops. A maximum of two teachers per school are encouraged to attend and NICIE will provide funding for substitute cover for the day. We look forward to exchanging ideas. Contact Paula for further information pmcilwaine@nicie.org.uk.

World Forum on Early Care and Education 16th - 19th June

Over 600 early childhood administrators, trainers, caregivers, public officials, and advocates from more than 70 countries will gather in Belfast to exchange ideas at the 2009 World Forum on Early Care and Education.

It is therefore with great pleasure that NICIE has recently accepted an invitation to present to the 2009 World Forum on the theme of education for social justice, alongside colleagues from Serbia, Canada and Ireland. NICIE's particular focus will be the promotion of an anti-bias approach to early years education, with an emphasis on helping teachers recognise and challenge bias.

For further information about World Forum go to www.worldforumfoundation.org

New-Bridge Integrated College students win stock exchange contest

Young financial masterminds from New-Bridge Integrated College, Banbridge, have demonstrated their stockbroking skill and won the annual Fantasy Share Race, run by Rensburg Sheppards and the Belfast Telegraph.

A record 33 schools from all around Northern Ireland took part in the competition this year, with each team of students given an imaginary £100,000 to invest in FTSE 350 companies.

The New-Bridge team was made up of Year 14 Business Studies students, guided by Mrs Jane Hanna, Head of Business Studies. They were Amber-Lea Ardis, Ryan Berry, Ryan Best, Aiobhin Canavan, Danielle Kennedy, Rachael Kerr, Matthew McGrath and Daniel Quinn.

They won the contest by increasing the value of their shares to an amazing £139,980, claiming the grand prize of £500 in HMV vouchers.

New-Bridge Integrated College Principal Gerry Jones said, "All of us in the college community are immensely proud of our sixth form Business Studies students' success."



Two of the winning students from the New-Bridge IC Business Studies Team



NICIE at European Conference

Paula McIlwaine (NICIE Professional Development Officer) and Alistair Donaghy (Governor of Braidside IPS) recently joined a group of professionals who travelled to Tilburg, Holland as part of a Leonardo Da Vinci Lifelong Learning Exchange focusing on sharing good practice in intercultural education.

NICIE Statement of Principles launched

Comedy artist and writer Nuala McKeever launched the revised NICIE Statement of Principles at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School, Armagh in March.

Commenting on the launch of the revised NICIE Statement of Principles, Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive of NICIE, said, "The Statement of Principles provides the guidance by which integrated schools work towards developing a shared and better future for all our children. Helping our children to be more open minded and welcoming of difference is an essential part of this."



NICIE Statement of Principles launched

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sporting success

Fort Hill Integrated College claimed the Maxol Direct Senior Cup for the first time defeating St Malachy's College, Belfast in an exciting football match held at Ballyskeagh stadium.

Windmill Integrated Primary School has also shown its commitment to sporting excellence, opening its own state of the art synthetic pitch in January.

Latest round of ABC training a success



In February, 21 members of staff from 14 integrated primary and post-primary schools focused on exploring, reflecting and developing responses to diversity as they engaged in NICIE's three-day "Anti-Bias in Education Training". The highly participatory nature of the course (linked to the manual "ABC: Promoting an Anti-Bias Approach to Education in Northern Ireland") was enthusiastically embraced by the dedicated group. One person said in their evaluation of the course that it was "a great personal and professional experience".

Training day for staff new to Integrated Education

A training session for staff new to Integrated Education was held by NICIE in March at the Mount Conference Centre, Belfast. 19 teachers and classroom assistants, from both primary and post-primary integrated schools, attended and learned more about NICIE, the Integrated Education movement and the integrated ethos. They were also advised on the best way to implement good practice in their schools. Overall the session was very well received and many participants highlighted a desire for further training. NICIE would like to thank the three teacher facilitators who took part, Nadine Dorrian, Strangford IC, Jim McDaid, Hazelwood IPS, and Tim O'Sullivan, Braidside IPS

Integrated Education Week

Integrated Education Week was launched on Monday 2nd March by comedy artist and writer Nuala McKeever at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School, Armagh. This year's theme was 'It's a small world'.

Integrated Education Week is an annual event which celebrates the ethos and the successes of all integrated schools across Northern Ireland. It gives schools the opportunity to focus on what makes an integrated school different. Difference and diversity are positively encouraged as integrated education continues to contribute to the peace and reconciliation process in Northern Ireland today.

Speaking ahead of the launch Nuala McKeever said: "I'm supportive of integrated education in that educating children separately hampers the good work that is done in other areas to move our society forward. Without integrated education our chances of moving forward are limited."

Education Minister Caitríona Ruane visited Millennium Integrated Primary School Thursday 5th March to help celebrate Integrated Education week.

Speaking at the event, Ms Ruane said: "It is great to see the young people at Millennium Integrated Primary school study and research the cultures that help them to understand other traditions and societies. We have a multi-lingual society and the young people were learning and developing their language skills which will increase their interest and success in languages throughout their education.

"Integrated schools do have an important role to play in education in the north. As Minister I have a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education. In the north of Ireland, there are over 18,000 children and young people being educated in integrated schools."



Nuala McKeever with Saints and Scholars IPS pupils at the launch of Integrated Education Week

The Small Guys help the Big Guys

Integrated Primary schools show their support for the Integrated Education fund by fundraising through their Integrated Education Week programmes. The IEF would like to thank all these schools for their kind generosity.

Oakwood IPS held a non uniform day and raised just over £240. Glengormley IPS celebrated the school's links with over 20 countries and raised £100 for the Integrated Education Fund. Rowandale IPS held Spanish Flamenco musical workshops and a school concert and raised £70. Blackwater IC held a non uniform day and raised £500. Forge IPS held international dress up day and raised £150. Glencraig IPS sold fair trade products and raised £82. Saints and Scholars IPS raised £100.



Glencraig IPS pupils with a banana producer from St Lucia. P6 and P7 pupils explored life in Uganda through workshops during Integrated Education Week



Rowandale IPS enjoying their Flamenco evening as part of Integrated Education Week pictured with parent Phil Vance Brown the guitarist



Principal Nigel Arnold and pupils of Glengormley IPS present Brian Small, IEF Fundraising Manager with a cheque for £100

The IEF is most grateful to Allstate Northern Ireland for its generous support, without which this publication would not have been possible. Our charity is committed to the development and growth of integrated education in Northern Ireland.

