

## Ciaran Gamble

Parent, participant in an IEF funded project

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My children went to St Therèse Nursery down the years. The Nursery was involved with other schools, Protestant schools, with funding from the IEF. They went on trips, to the seaside or a farm and worked on projects together. Young ones don't realise this is a Protestant, this is a Catholic; what they see is children. It's brilliant. The Nursery has a parents' association offering courses such as assertiveness, cookery and basic skills. We've always wanted to reach out to all sections of the community especially as newcomers moved into our area: Indian, Polish, Czech and so on. We - the parents - started to build up relationships through the IEF scheme, with things like classes and shopping trips together. We have "All Mothers' Days" when mothers from two or three different areas come to us.

A lot of people didn't know what the "other side" was doing and what we found out was we're all the same - we've got all the same problems, all the same worries. We're trying to continue the links now the PACT scheme has finished. Our community needs it - we live in a box! All we know about other cultures and creeds is what we read in the news. That shouldn't be; we have a mixture of religions in our area - Protestants, Hindu, Chinese but they don't get involved, and what we try to do is to involve them.

As a single dad with five children my personal development through all this has been fantastic. PACT has helped turn my life around.

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St Therèse Nursery in Poleglass has been linking with Kings Road, Edenderry, and Holy Cross Nurseries and Glengormley IPS and Glenann Primary School through the IEF Promoting a Culture of Trust (PACT) programme.

