

Vincent Fullam MBE

Governor, Drumlins Integrated Primary School

I chaired Ballynahinch Regeneration Group and the parents campaigning for Drumlins Integrated Primary School asked to use our newly-restored market house for meetings. It was a bunch of ordinary people who wanted to work together and they jumped a lot of hurdles to do it. I've been involved with them ever since. Two days after I retired from work, I found myself on the Board of Governors at Drumlins and I've been chair since 2009. The IEF has helped with financial support and with advice on our campaign.

My main project is to get a permanent school on a proper site. We started in a spare mobile in Cedar Integrated Primary School's grounds, then moved to a disused factory in Ballynahinch and then found this site. It's very congested here and we need more accommodation.

It was opened in 2008 by the US Consul General, Susan Elliott. I got a call from the BBC that morning asking how on earth a small school in a small town could get such a high-profile guest. I said "We have friends in very high places and friends in very low places, so we can get most things done!" Susan was lovely and came back a year later to see how we were getting on.

I have such pride in our school and the young people in it. It's a joy to work with our dedicated staff and principal, who have shown me that the school day for a teacher is much longer than nine to five.

Drumlins has gone from strength to strength. You have a vision and you work towards it. Our integrated ethos is too important to lose.

4/20

Drumlins IPS has benefited from donations through the IEF for classrooms and most recently for an additional teacher, increasing the number of local children who can access integrated education.

