

Integrated Education Continues to Thrive After 25 Years



Left to right: Mr Campbell Mulholland (from the original class of 28 pupils in 1981), Secretary of State Peter Hain, Angel Cullinane (new pupil from 2006) and Principal Mrs Helen McHugh celebrate 25 years of Integrated Education at Lagan College.

Integrated Education, where Catholic, Protestant, children of other faiths and none are educated together, has come a long way since Lagan College, the first planned integrated school, opened in September 1981 with 28 pupils in a scout hut. Twenty five years on, there are now 61 integrated schools educating over 18,000 pupils.

To mark the 25th Anniversary of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland and to pay tribute to thousands of Northern Ireland's parents who have chosen an integrated school for their children, a celebratory event took place on Tuesday 19th September 2006 at Lagan College. 250 guests attended which included some of the original pupils and their parents along with representatives from integrated schools, church leaders, politicians, funders and education stakeholders.

Guest of honour, Peter Hain MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, sent a clear

challenge to the Northern Ireland's wider education sector to do more to bring young people together. He said, "The courage and foresight of parents in Belfast in the depths of the 'Troubles' in 1981 to establish a school in which to educate Protestants and Catholics together is remarkable. Northern Ireland's young people have a right to meet with young people from other communities. The interaction should form an important part of education as citizens. They can best understand their own identities if they also understand and respect other identities, and have an insight to appreciate common bonds of all traditions."

To help realize this vision, four more integrated schools joined the sector in September 2006. Rowallane Integrated College and Clogher Valley, Integrated Primary schools opened with independent funding from the Integrated Education Fund in temporary accommodation in Belvoir Hospital Estate, South Belfast and Fivemiletown respectively. Crumlin High School and Ballycastle Primary School have received official approval from the Department of Education to transform to integrated status.

Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education said, "As we enter the 25th year of Integrated Education, the problems facing parents are still the same as they were for the parents in the 1980s. Despite an increase in the number of places within existing integrated schools and the welcome addition of four more integrated schools, 810 pupils were turned away this September from our nurseries, primaries and second level colleges. The need to provide more integrated places has never been stronger and we will continue to lobby government to ensure that every parent who wants an integrated choice for their child shall have one."

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US Embassy event in Dublin

The United States Ambassador to Ireland will be graciously hosting a reception at his Phoenix Park residence for friends and supporters of Integrated Education at the end of November.

Christmas Receptions

Following on from the success of previous Christmas Receptions, this year's social will be even bigger and better with a joint IEF and NICIE event being planned for 13 December. Full details will appear on the IEF and NICIE websites. Plans for the IEF Christmas Reception in London are taking shape with details to be published on the Fund's website.

Christmas Greetings

This year the Fund has decided to donate our Christmas card budget towards support for Rowallane Integrated College and Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School.

So please accept our early but warmest greetings.

Celebrities Line Up for Frank Carson's 80th Birthday Bash in aid of Fund

A host of the UK and Ireland's top personalities arrived in Northern Ireland for one of the IEF's most impressive fundraising events to take place this year. The Frank Carson 80th Birthday Bash began with a celebrity golf tournament at Royal Belfast Golf Club and was followed by a gala dinner and star studded cabaret at the Culloden Hotel in the evening.

The event brought together leading names from the world of sport, screen and stage including the legendary Sir Norman Wisdom, former world boxing champion Barry McGuigan, Northern Ireland football manager Lawrie Sanchez, TV personality Chris Tarrant, Sky Sport presenter Andy Gray, and comedian Stan Boardman. Also joining in the celebrations were Northern Ireland's own Stephen Watson, John Linehan (May McFettridge), George Jones, Gene Fitzpatrick, Pamela Ballantine and Gerry Kelly.

The money raised from the event will help the Fund's campaign to support the growth and development of Integrated Education across Northern Ireland and, in particular, the two new independent schools, Rowallane Integrated College and Clogher Valley Integrated Primary School, which were controversially refused government funding in March of this year.



Frank Carson, Sir Norman Wisdom and Lawrie Sanchez get ready to tee-off



Frank Carson receives a standing ovation



Gerry Kelly and Barry McGuigan get competitive



Chris Tarrant pays tributes to Frank Carson and Integrated Education



Celebrities get behind fundraising drive



Baroness May Blood, Lady Stella Empey and Doreen Sayers at Gala Dinner

More Would Vote for Integrated Education

New research published independently by Millward Brown Ulster (August 2006) has revealed that 80% of the people surveyed would like to see their MP, MLA or local councillor support Integrated Education in Northern Ireland.

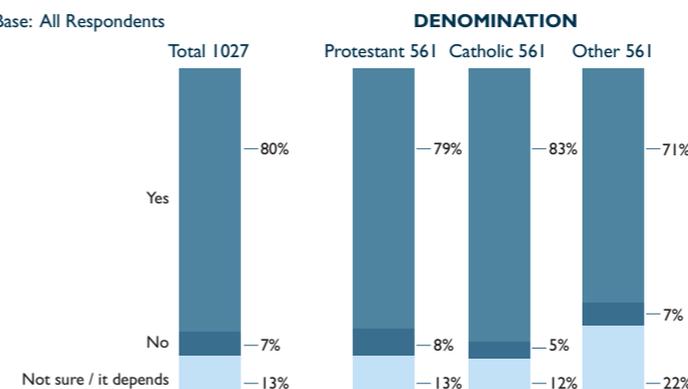
59% of respondents said that next time they vote, they are more likely to vote for a political party or candidate that included support for Integrated Education in their manifesto. 61% of Catholics and 59% of Protestants agreed with this statement.

Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive of NICIE said, 'The survey confirms the fact that public opinion is strongly behind a shared future in which children are educated together as the norm. These findings should send a strong message to our local politicians on how they should be developing their education manifestoes to ensure they will deliver on what people really want for our children. I hope that they have the courage to respond'.

Stephen Young, MBU Director said, 'The research indicates, yet again, very high levels of public support for integrated education in Northern Ireland and the public's interest in backing political candidates and parties whose manifestoes include a commitment to integration in our schools'.

Would you like to see your MP, MLA or local councillor supporting Integrated Education in Northern Ireland

Base: All Respondents



Source: Millward Brown, August 2006



Past and present Principals of Lagan College Sheila Greenfield, Helen McHugh, Terry Flanagan and Dr Brian Lambkin celebrate 25 years of IE with Secretary of State Peter Hain



Pupils at Clogher Valley IPS enjoying their first day at school



Triplets Dearbhla, Aioibhin and Caoimhe Walsh starting Cedar IPS, Crossgar, waved on by teacher Anne Millis



Pupils Lauren Bissenden and James Kirk enter the newly opened Rowallane Integrated College for the first time

25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Tickets are going like hot cakes for the celebratory, formal Gala dinner which will be held on Saturday 3rd March 2007 at the Armagh City Hotel, 7.30pm -1.00am. If you haven't booked, don't delay! Tickets are £30 per person and will include a gourmet meal, live entertainment and great company! If you would like to book a place(s) or a table(s), please contact Linda Buchanan at NICIE on 9023 6200.

A special accommodation rate has been reserved at Armagh City Hotel if you want to stay over. To make a room reservation, call them on 3751 8888 quoting reference number INT 03037.

Shimna Wins International Award

Shimna Integrated College has received a prestigious award for its 'fantastic range' of international activities, including links with schools in several European countries.

The Newcastle school received the prestigious DfES (Department for Education and Skills) International School Award at a ceremony in London due to its links in countries such as Germany, Spain, France and Russia.

Governors Wanted!

NICIE is compiling a register of people who would like to consider becoming a member of a Board of Governor in an integrated school. If you have an interest in education and have experience of finance, marketing, communications, policy, human resources or law in the private, public or voluntary and community sectors then we would like to hear from you. Becoming a governor is challenging but rewarding voluntary work and full training will be given. The time commitment differs from school to school but most Boards meet monthly and are responsible for taking decisions on the running of the school estate, making staffing appointments, and managing the school budget. Please contact Frances Donnelly on 9023 6200 for further information and/or an information pack.

Harbour Commission Event

As part of our celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of Integrated Education, an exclusive dinner and evening of entertainment will be held on Thursday 9th November at one of Northern Ireland's most prestigious and impressive settings, the offices of the Belfast Harbour Commission. Guests will enjoy an evening of music and drama performed by students from integrated colleges. Keynote speakers at the event will be IEF Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood MBE, and IEF Campaign President David Montgomery. We are indebted to the Chairman of the Belfast Harbour Commission, Mr Frank Cushnahan CBE and his staff for providing us with this unique opportunity.

A Day at the Races



Baroness Blood, George Jones and Nicola Russell at Down Royal Race day

A day at the races proved a real winner for Integrated Education when 140 friends and supporters came along to Down Royal Race Day at the beginning of September to help celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Integrated Education. The event was a colourful and exciting occasion - an opportunity to see racehorses and jockeys close up and for some novice punters to rub shoulders

with experienced tipsters to help raise money for Integrated Education.

The day's programme included a three course lunch in the Down Royal corporate suite with Baroness May Blood as the keynote speaker.

The Fund is indebted to internationally renowned artist Nicola Russell for not only attending the event but also for donating one of her original paintings for the auction. The proceeds of which helped boost the money raised on the day.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our individual and corporate supporters, here in Northern Ireland and abroad, for their generosity and support for the Integrated Education Fund and in particular George Jones who was a wonderful master of ceremonies on the day.



Left to right: Marc Casey, Richard Buckley, Brenda Buckley, Caoimhe Mannion, David Mackey, Mary Mackey and Russell Moore enjoy Down Royal Race Day

Integrate to Accumulate

The imminent publication of a new book, 'Integrate To Accumulate' by leading UK businessman Tony Carson and Toronto-based journalist Cy Jamison, examines Integrated Education from an international economic perspective.

The aim of the book is to raise questions in the minds of its readers, urging them to debate and seek information on this vital issue. The book is in the advanced stages of publication, and author's proof copies are readily available for the purposes of review or press interest directly from the Integrated Education Fund.

Tony's motivation for undertaking this work is to examine the economic rationale for increased Integrated Education in Northern Ireland, and indeed in other countries throughout

the world. The moral argument for educating children together has been well documented and it is also broadly understood and accepted as a socioeconomic benefit for divided societies. However, this understanding is sometimes at odds with the need for governments to be mindful of the public purse, and indeed manage the vested interests which often operate within traditionally segregated systems.



Businessman and author Tony Carson

The Integrating Education Project



Established to mainstream inclusive education, the project aims to establish key principles and practice that schools need to embed in order to support the process of building good relationships within and between schools.

It is funded for two years from August 2005 by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and managed NICIE.

The concept of integrating education or shared education has been accepted by the wider educational community.

We need to ensure that the expertise, the vision, the experience of schools with inclusive policies, practices and cultures is highlighted and shared. The Integrating Education Project seeks to achieve their aim by supporting schools to realise integration in practice, to identify effective practice in building good community relations and finding ways to share that practice.

Based on the citizenship model below the project has supported just over 50 schools from all sectors across Northern Ireland.

Contact → awareness → appreciation → dialogue → acceptance → shared future

Project Manager, Roisin Marshall said 'What is needed now in education in Northern Ireland is a commitment from all key stakeholders to build capacity in all schools to meet the challenges of a post-conflict situation'.

Integrated Schools Win Fight for Survival



Three integrated primary schools- Hilden, Carnlough and Conlig have recently been saved from closure by their respective education boards. The news of their reprieve came on September 7th much to the relief of parents, teachers and governors of the schools.

Hilden PS transformed to integrated status in 1996 while Carnlough transformed in 2001. Both schools were formed as a response to parental demand and have fully embraced the integrated ethos. A successful parental ballot took place at Conlig PS last year and parents overwhelmingly voted to transform to Integrated status. It was this decision that has saved the school from closure and the Integrated Education movement are pleased to welcome them.

Unfortunately Groomsport IPS has not been granted a reprieve and is scheduled to close at the end of June 2007. The school was opened in 2004 after a two year campaign by parents who wanted integrated provision in the Groomsport area.

Michael Wardlow Chief Executive of NICIE commented on the decisions. "We are very pleased that Hilden, Carnlough and Conlig have rightly been saved from closure however we are extremely disappointed that the board did not see fit to keep Groomsport IPS open. We would like to know from the board how it intends to replace the integrated provision it seeks to close off in Groomsport. Will the parents still have an integrated choice?"

Parent Steering Groups

Antrim - The Antrim group have chosen the name "Sixmile Integrated College" for the proposed college and have submitted a very strong and well supported proposal to the Department of Education. They are in the process of constructing a college web site and choosing designs for their logo and uniform. The group are feeling very positive and are hoping for a positive response to their proposal in light of the recent closures of second level schools in the town.

Clogher - The Clogher Valley group were delighted to see the school open on 1st September 2006 with funding raised by the IEF. They are delighted to have Mrs Clare Meehan has been appointed as principal of the school. Clare has proved to be a capable, creative and dedicated teacher and manager. The AGM is to be held on Tuesday 17th October 2006, at which time further parents will join the newly formed Board of Governors. Those involved in the school are feeling very positive about the decision on their recently submitted proposal to secure mainstream funding for the school.

Ballymoney - The Steering Group for Ballymoney Integrated Primary School have grown in number over the last few months. The members of the group have a very strong personal commitment to the Integrated Ethos and have worked relentlessly to raise awareness of Integrated Education in the area. They have submitted a strong proposal to the Department of Education and are anxiously awaiting a decision from the Minister.

Strabane - The Development Proposal for Strabane has been lodged with the WELB. This was published on Thursday 5th October, and the consultation period has now commenced. Much work is currently being carried out by the Steering Group on developing a prospectus and logo.

The group are also continuing with their awareness raising and are intending to hold a Fun Day for Halloween as well as a stand at the Ethnic Minorities event in Strabane during October.

Moira - A hugely successful awareness raising campaign has paid dividends for the Rowandale Integrated Primary Education Steering Group.

Summer events such as a Teddy Bears Picnic, Car Boot Sale and a children's party at *Jumping Jacks* helped attract new supporters as well as maintaining the interest of the existing database. The steering group's success is reflected in healthy pre-enrolment figures for September 2007. Steering Group members await a decision on the development proposal which was lodged at the end of August. They remain optimistic and enthusiastic about their campaign for integrated primary provision for the wider Moira area.

Limavady - Limavady Integrated Second Level Education Steering Group have chosen to support the year long initiative between NICIE's Integrating Education Team and Limavady Learning Partnership. The steering group are hopeful that this initiative will result in a greater level of shared education and community relations focused work between the existing second level schools in the area. In the meantime, the Steering Group will continue to raise awareness and gauge the level of interest in the idea of second level integrated education provision in the Limavady area.

IEF launches Transformation Support Grant

The IEF launched the Supporting And Developing Integrated Education (SADIE) Grant Making Programme in September 2005 and is pleased to announce a new funding package available through the programme specifically for Transforming schools. The Transformation Support Grants are available to financially support the process of Transformation and have been tailored to help schools meet the specific demands of the process. The IEF has gratefully received support and guidance during the development of the grant from educational partners such as the Department of Education, the Education and Library Boards and NICIE. The IEF would particularly like to thank all those integrated school Principals that responded to a meeting about Transformation last year at which vital information was gathered about the real experience of Transformation from the schools' perspective and how help could be better delivered to schools considering Transformation and during the process.

Crumlin High School is the first school to receive the new Transformation Support Grant. The IEF is looking forward to seeing the School's ambitions realised and wishes the School's every success on the innovative initiatives they have planned to enhance and progress their Transformation process.

The IEF would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Crumlin High which has just been given Department of Education Approval for Transformation to Controlled Integrated Status as of September 2007. The dedication and hard work of all the staff and governors of the school has received high acclaim from representatives throughout the Education sector and the Crumlin community must also be praised for how the process has been embraced and supported at a local level.



IEF Launches Transformation Support Grant (Transformation success Bangor Central IPS)

Grants



Donor and supporter Jack McDonnell

Donors make a Difference

This September, Maine Integrated Primary School celebrated it's second year on the school's permanent site and also the second year of Maine Integrated Primary School Pre-school. The school has gone from strength to strength with enrolments continually increasing. The school now has 71 children in total and an additional 16 children attend the pre-school with a waiting list of a further 23. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting year which should see the building of the new permanent school completed in time for September 2007.

Pact VII Launched

In 2000 the IEF launched the grant making programme, Promoting A Culture of Tolerance (PACT), and whilst 'promoting a culture of tolerance' was the IEF's starting point, the aim of the programme is much more than just 'tolerance'; it is:

"...to fund projects in schools to promote the development of skills, structures and relationships that allow schools, their governors, staff or pupils, to increase their understanding, acceptance and respect for cultural and religious differences."

The IEF is delighted to announce that funding has been received for the new round of the programme, PACT VII, again from the Northern Ireland Fund for Reconciliation (NIFR) and, for the first time, from the Department of Education. The additional funding will enable the IEF to further develop and build on the success of the programme to date which has been so generously independently supported by NIFR for the past six years.

Maine has a hard working, dedicated, and enthusiastic team of staff, parents and volunteers whose passion for an excellent integrated provision in Randalstown has brought about the school's success. The school has also received support from other integrated primary schools, NICIE and the IEF. IEF grants awarded to the school have been supported by our American friends Jack and Jackie McDonnell and the McDonnell Pre-school at Maine has been named in recognition of their contribution. Deirdre Houston, Chair of the McDonnell Pre-school, thanked everyone involved for all their hard work and support and said of the McDonnell financial contribution ~

"We are very excited to have this support. The temporary building has been converted to meet the pre-school requirements and equipment has been purchased for the children. The pre-school has very quickly become part of the wider local community; the McDonnell Pre-school were invited to a teddy bears' picnic with three other local playgroups where the children had a ball! This would not have been possible without the very generous donation made by the McDonnells."

PACT VII is currently open for applications (the closing date for applications is Friday 27 October 2006) and the IEF welcomes enquiries from schools of all management types across Northern Ireland. The IEF wishes all of this year's applicants every success and looks forward to the projects that PACT VII will bring. The IEF would like to take this opportunity to thank all the schools and organisations who have participated in the programme to date and whose imaginative and often courageous initiatives have brought us to this exciting point.



Integrated Teachers Sweep Awards



Winners at the BT Teaching Awards 2006 were Joyce McMeekin from All Children's CIPS, Billy Burnside won a distinction for the DFES Governor of the Year, Helen Farrimond of Cranmore IPS and Colleen Jordan from Oakwood IPS

Four finalists from integrated schools have been successful in the Northern Ireland Teacher Awards 2006. The awards took place in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast on Thursday 15th June to celebrate and recognise the hard work of teachers in Northern Ireland.

The winner of the BT Award for Teacher of the Year in a Primary School was Colleen Jordan from Oakwood Integrated Primary School (IPS), Belfast. Joyce McMeekin from All Children's Controlled Integrated Primary School (CIPS) in Newcastle won a Commendation in the Promethean Award for Headteacher of the year in a Primary School. The DFES Innovation Award for Lifetime Achievement went to Helen Farrimond, Headteacher of Cranmore IPS, Belfast.

This year was the first time an award for School Governors was included, recognising the vital contribution that governors make to school communities. Billy Burnison from Shimna Integrated College won Distinction in the DFES Award for Governor of the Year.

Dr Robert Jennings MBE, founding Principal of Slemish Integrated College, chaired the Teaching Awards. Dr Jennings was a national winner in the 2002 Teaching Awards for School Leadership in a Secondary School and has chaired the awards for three years.

Deborah Girvan, Communications and Lobbying Manager at NICIE said 'This is a fantastic tribute to the high standard of teaching in Integrated Education, we would like to congratulate all of the winners for their dedication and hard work.'

MP Pays Tribute to Integrated Education

The Integrated Education movement strongly welcomed the ringing endorsement of Integrated Education made recently by the SDLP's Deputy Leader Alasdair McDonnell.

In an address delivered to a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Integrated Education at the House of Commons, Dr McDonnell restated the SDLP's clear and strong record of support for integrated education within Northern Ireland: 'The SDLP supports Integrated Education in practice as well as in principle. We firmly believe in promoting the principle of parental choice in education and believe that every parent in Northern Ireland should be able to choose to send their child to an integrated school'.

He paid tribute to the integrated schools in his constituency which he said have all immensely benefited many children and young people in South Belfast, noting sadly

how these positive examples of inter-community integration contrast with much division and segregation on too many of the streets of South Belfast:

'Just as the integrated sector is a vital component in our education system, so too will it make a valuable contribution towards the fulfillment of this vision of a better Northern Ireland' he added.

Dr McDonnell went further and paid a special tribute to the people who have consistently championed Integrated Education over 25 years in Northern Ireland, in often hostile circumstances.

Acknowledging that the problems confronting Northern Ireland run deep and that Integrated Education does not offer all the answers, Alasdair McDonnell nevertheless declared that Integrated Education 'should and must be part of the solution of a truly shared future'.

Palestinian Schools Adopt 'Joined Up' Approach

The Good Relations resource manual 'Joined Up', developed in 2005 for schools in Northern Ireland by local authors Nichola Lynagh from NICIE and Mary Potter from the Corrymeela Community, has been translated into Arabic by the Centre for Applied Research in Education in Jerusalem and distributed to all Palestinian schools.

The Joined Up resource provides school senior managers, teachers and teacher educators with guidance and resources to support them in developing effective active learning approaches for exploring controversial and difficult issues with children, young people and adults in schools which lie at the heart of local communities. 'Acknowledged or not, all the life issues and struggles of identity, relationships and community are present within the school setting', says co-author Nichola Lynagh from NICIE.

This comprehensive resource, supported by the International Fund for Ireland and The Ireland Fund, explores these concerns as an essential part of learning how to live in the contested and transforming society of Northern Ireland. Now this approach has been adopted by the Centre for Applied Research in Education in Jerusalem.

Director of the Centre for Applied Research in Education in Jerusalem, Dr Ghassan Abdallah, said he was looking forward to further cooperation with the Northern Ireland authors as the publication is rolled out among the Palestinian schools.

Windmill Sails to a Brighter Future

The official opening of a new £2.2 million school building at Windmill Integrated Primary School took place on Friday 6th October. Baroness May Blood performed the opening ceremony and other special guests included Will Haire, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education (DE) and the Mayor of Dungannon.

Funded by the Department of Education, the new building is a split level design with excellent amenities and replaces several old mobiles which have been in use for nearly 20 years since the school first opened. Every classroom in the new building has an interactive whiteboard and computer suite, and each Keystage its own resource area.



The new building at Windmill Integrated Primary School, Dungannon

If you have any stories that you would like included in future Integrated Education newsletters then please contact Sam Fitzsimmons at IEF or Philip O'Sullivan at NICIE

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Integrated Schools Prove All-Ability Academic Success

The Integrated Education sector noted with great interest the recent publication of the 2004-2005 'league tables' for the non-grammar schools in Northern Ireland.

Looking at the results for the Integrated Colleges in particular, these results vindicate the claim that all-ability schools do not have to sacrifice their all-ability teaching to achieve academic excellence.

Over half the integrated colleges which offer GCSEs in Northern Ireland had more than 50% of their students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. Of the 17 all ability integrated colleges which feature in the table, nine appear in the top 40 of the list, of these 4 are in the top 20 and Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle comes first.

Principal of Shimna, Kevin Lambe, said that publishing league tables can give undue emphasis to only one part of school life, but nevertheless was delighted. 'This is a testament to the talent, commitment and hard work of students and staff, supported by the Board of Governors. Our results are a vindication of all-ability education and include achievement across the range from straight As onward. While we can't help being pleased, we are equally aware however, that every school mentioned in the list has students showing talent, commitment and hard work and also deserve congratulations'.

Former US Secretary of State opens Rowallane Integrated College



Former US Secretary of State delivers keynote speech at Rowallane Integrated College

Former US Secretary of State, Richard Riley, joined pupils, staff, parents and supporters of Rowallane Integrated College for the official opening of the new independent school.

Despite being turned down for funding in March 2006 by the former Minister of Education, Angela Smith, the school, which is currently on a temporary site at Belvoir Park Hospital, opened its doors to pupils on September 4th, supported entirely by independent funding secured through the IEF.

At the opening Secretary Riley said 'The role of Integrated Education is essential to a Shared Future and Rowallane Integrated College represents that future.' He went on to say that an important part of a student's education is not only what they learn from their teachers but what they can learn from each other and what the teachers can learn from them. The parents involved in Integrated Education in Northern Ireland present a model which has international significance.



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