

Northern Ireland (NI) Attitudinal Poll

Summary Report



March 2018

**Report commissioned by the
Integrated Education Fund**

Northern Ireland (NI) Attitudinal Poll

This report covers the summary results – from a NI-Wide Attitudinal Poll-Project carried out on behalf of the Integrated Education Fund (IEF) in February 2018

The data, results, and commentary enclosed in this report are confidential and subject to the provisions of the UK Data Protection Act. Any publication, distribution, or communication, of this report, or parts of this report, should only be with the permission of LucidTalk and the IEF.

Subject

Polling Projects - Northern Ireland (NI) Attitudinal Poll - Summary Report

Issue

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Author(s)

Bill White – LucidTalk

Contents

Introduction	5
Methodology	6
Poll Results	7

Introduction

Introduction and Background

This year, 2018, sees the 20th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and, at the time of writing, sees a year since we had a functioning Executive at Stormont. The current political crisis, coupled with the financial crisis facing schools, means this anniversary comes at a particularly challenging time. It is therefore relevant and appropriate to seek the public's views on the education we offer our young people and on the opportunities for reform of the system.

The Integrated Education Fund sought evidence of public opinion in order to inform our continuing campaign to make sure communities are engaged in the development of education in Northern Ireland. The Fund commissioned LucidTalk, an independent polling and market research agency, to research views on the current education system and possible ways forward.

LucidTalk - Background and Professional Credentials

Lucid Talk is an independent polling and market research company with in-depth experience in the use of polling and general market research for public, private and political organisations.

LucidTalk is a member of all recognised professional Polling and Market Research organisations, including the UK Market Research Society (UK-MRS), the British Polling Council (BPC), and ESOMAR (European Society of Market Research organisations). The BPC are the primary UK professional body ensuring professional Polling and Market Research standards. All polling, research, sampling, methodologies used, market research projects and results and reports production are, and have been, carried out to the professional standards laid down by the BPC and AIMRO (Association of Irish Market Research Organisations).

Methodology

Polling was carried out by Belfast based polling and market research company LucidTalk. The project was carried out online and by telephone for a period of 8 days from 15th to 23rd February 2018. The project targeted the established Northern Ireland (NI) LucidTalk online Opinion Panel (10,482 members) which is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. 1,832 full responses were collated, and a data auditing process was carried out to ensure all completed poll-surveys were genuine 'one-person, one-vote' responses, and also to collate a robust and accurate balanced NI representative sample. This resulted in 1,520 responses being considered in terms of the final results - the results presented in this report.

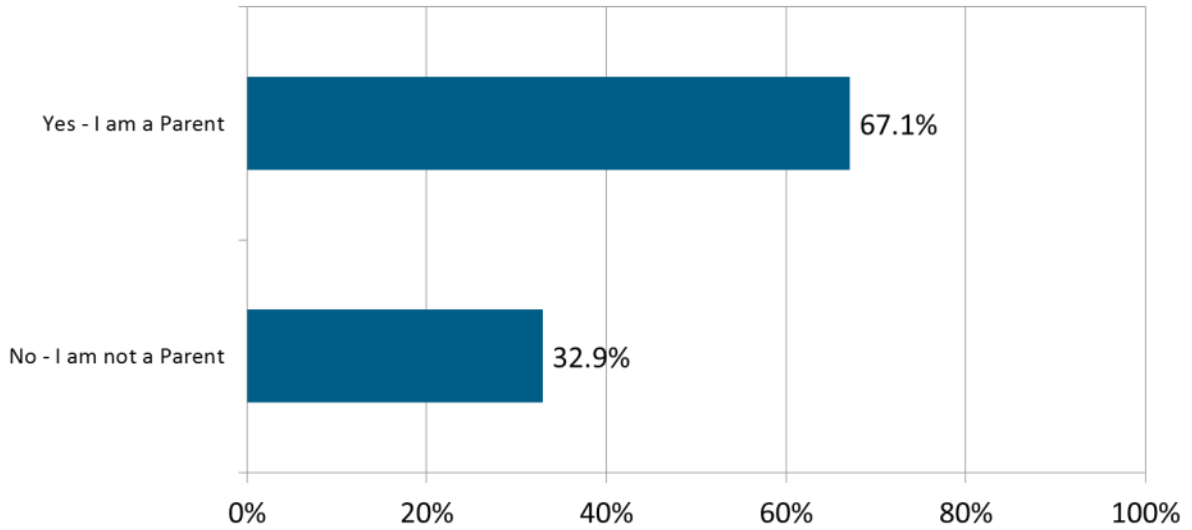
All data results have been weighted by gender and community background to reflect the demographic composition of Northern Ireland resulting in 1,520 responses being considered in terms of the final results. All data results produced are accurate to a margin of error of +/-3.0%, at 95% confidence.

All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

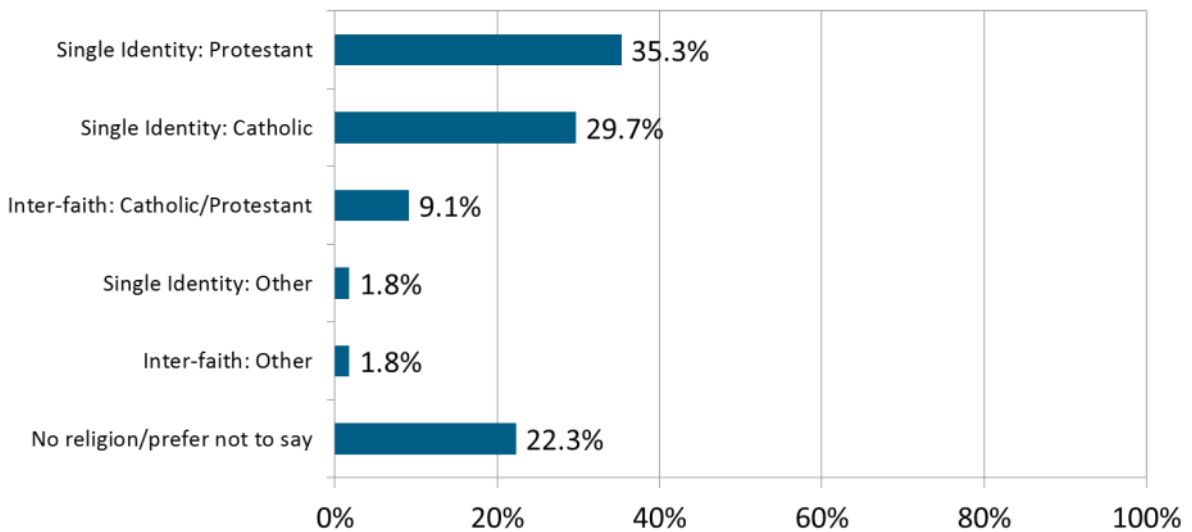
Poll Results

Demographics

QUESTION 1: Are you a Parent?



QUESTION 2: How would you describe your household?

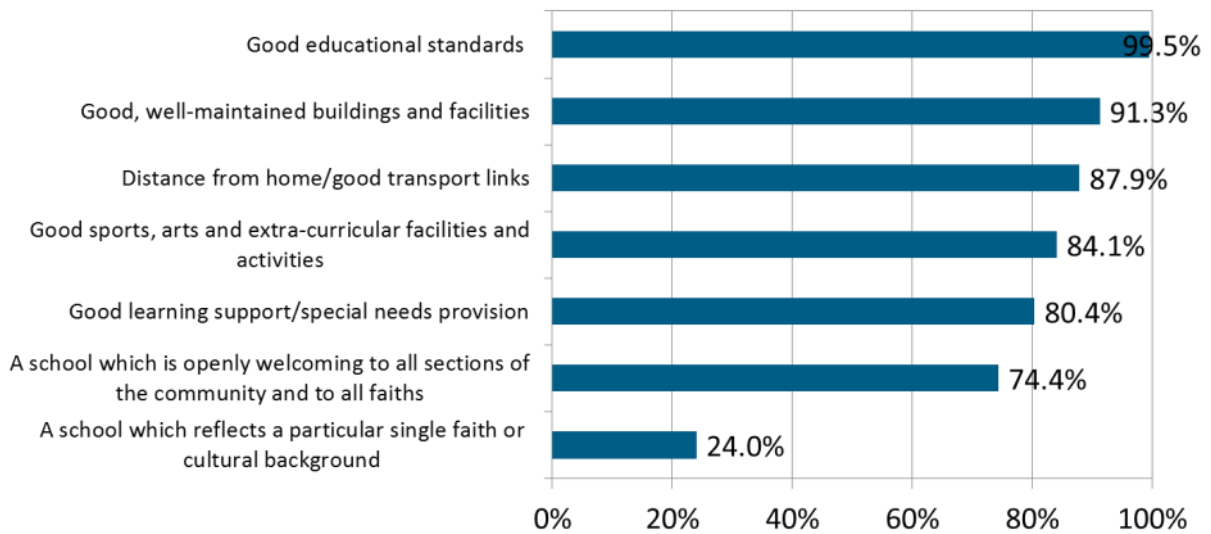


Poll Results

Issues you consider important

QUESTION P2: As a parent, please rate the aspects below in terms of how important they are / were / or would be to you in choosing a school for your child/ren:

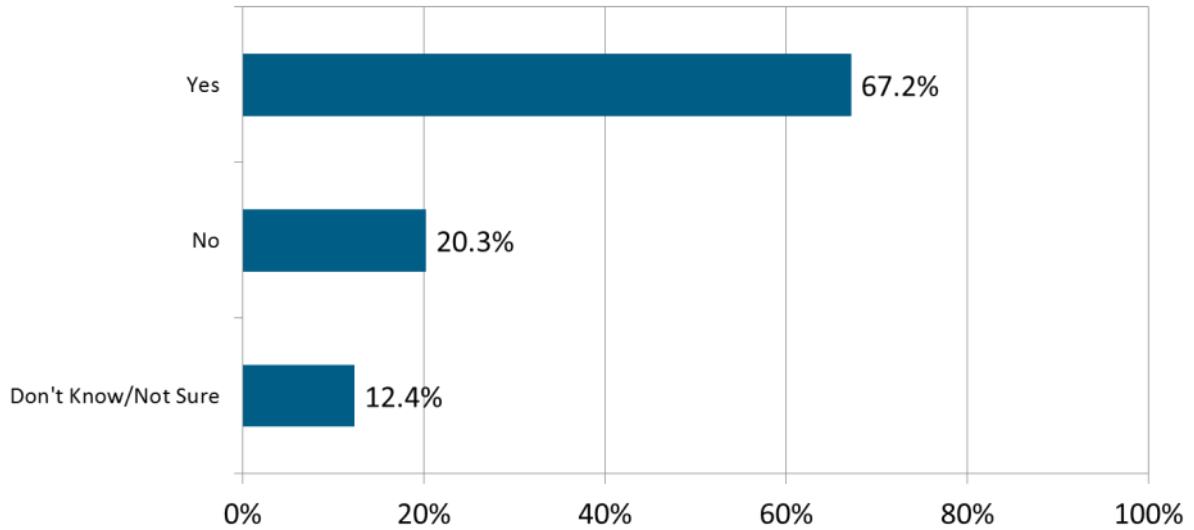
Very Important or Important



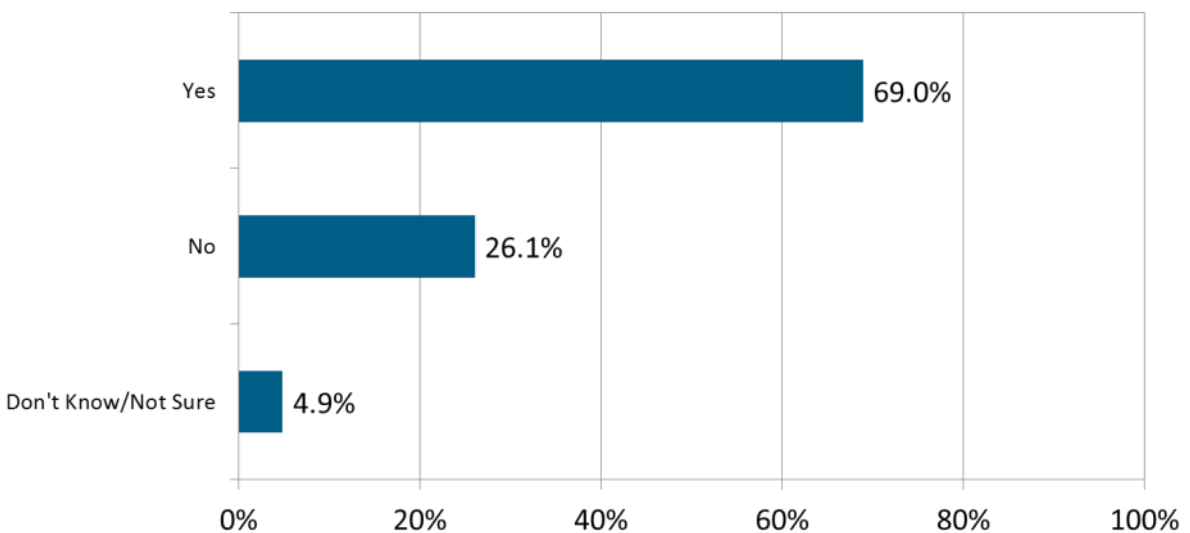
Poll Results

Integrated Education

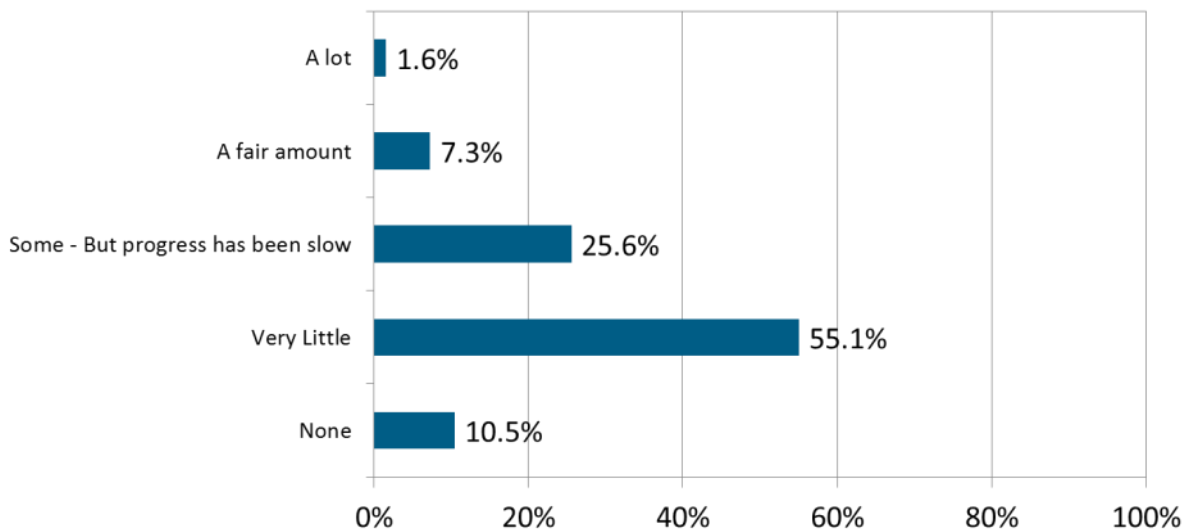
QUESTION 4: If your child/ren's school, (or if you're not a parent your local school), was to propose becoming an officially integrated school, would you support this proposal?



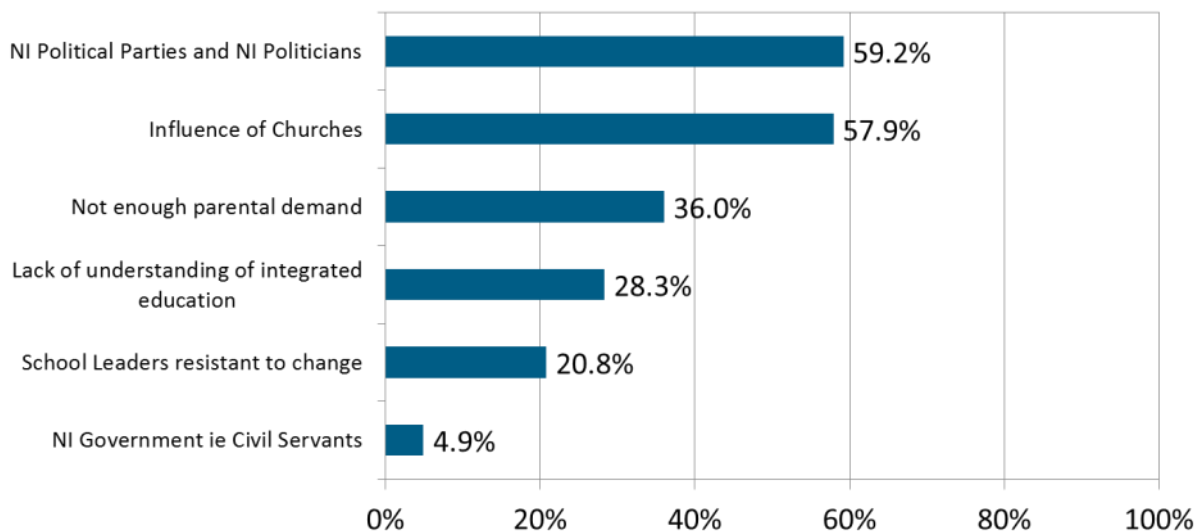
QUESTION 5: Were you aware that supporting integrated education in NI is one of the objectives stated in the 1998 'Belfast/Good Friday Agreement'?



QUESTION 6: The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement states: "An essential aspect of the reconciliation process is the promotion of a culture of tolerance at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage integrated education...." How much do you think NI's political leaders have worked to facilitate and encourage integrated education over the past 20 years?



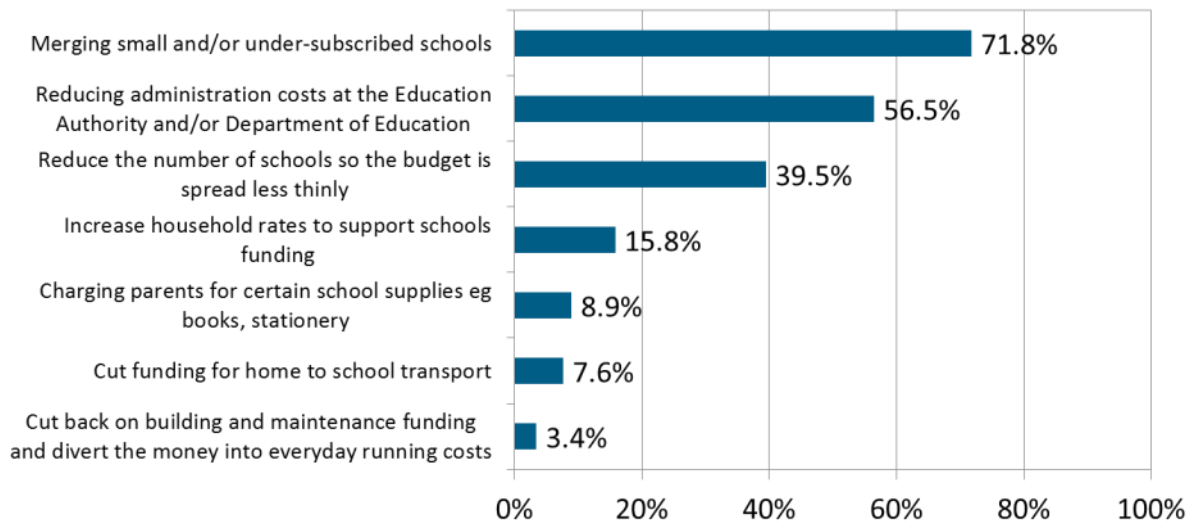
QUESTION 7: Currently only around 8% of pupils in Northern Ireland go to integrated schools. Given that integrated education is supported in the Belfast/Good Friday agreement, - What do you think has held up the growth of integrated education? Please pick UP TO 4 answers ie 1,2, 3, or 4 answers



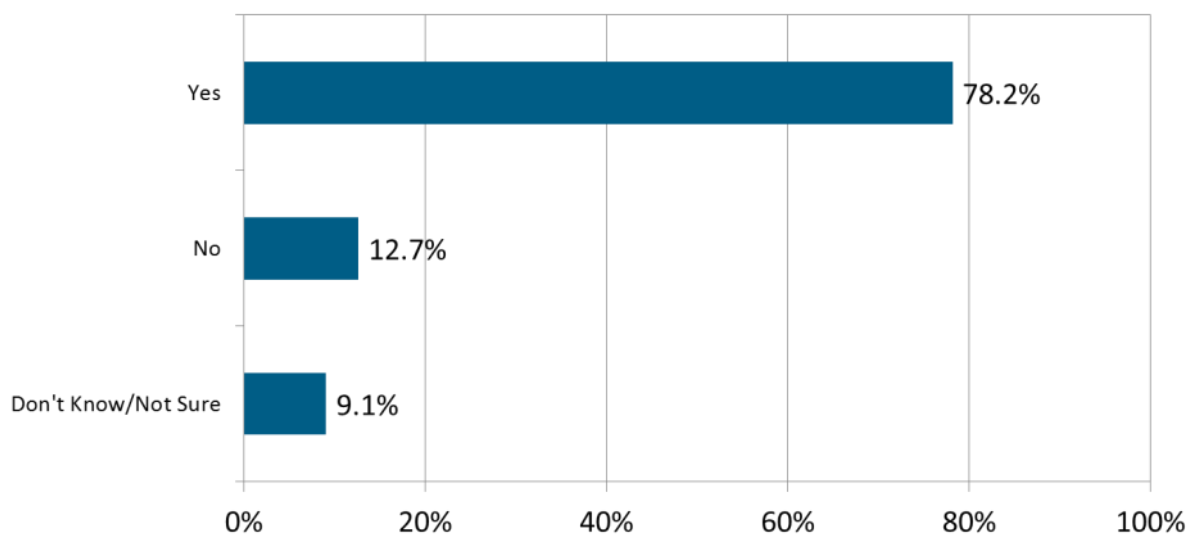
Poll Results

Education

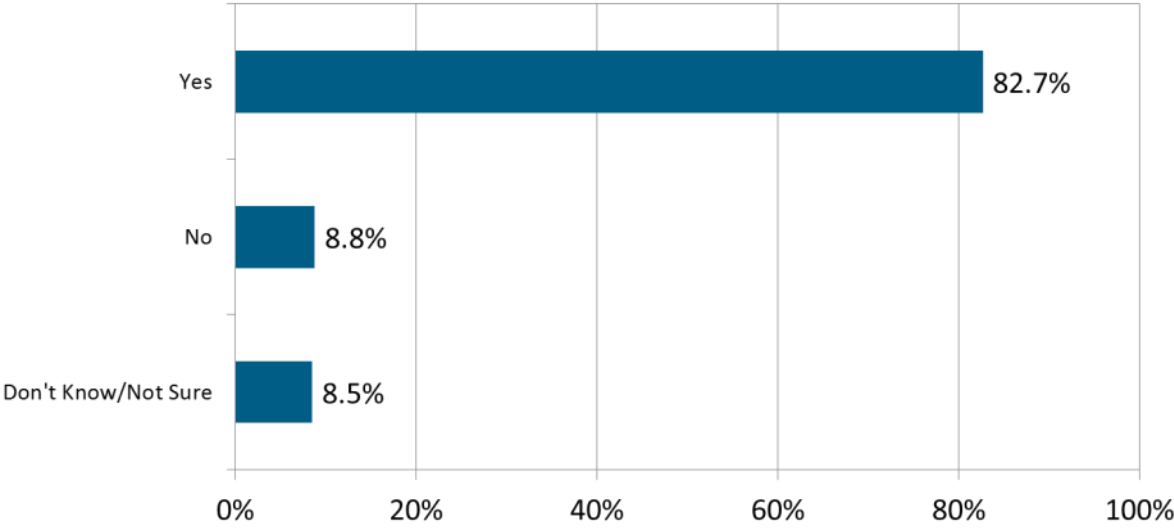
QUESTION 8: How do you think the Department of Education and the Department of Finance should act to save money and ease the pressures on education? Please pick UP TO 3 choices ie 1,2, or 3 choices



QUESTION 9: Taking into account that there are more than 50,000 empty school places in NI, would you support cross-community mergers of schools to rationalise the education system and to save money in Northern Ireland?



QUESTION 10: Should there be an independent, root and branch review of the way that education is planned and delivered in Northern Ireland, to make recommendations for improved efficiency and effectiveness and to ensure the best outcomes for all children?



LucidTalk

COLLATING OPINIONS COLLECTING VIEWS

The Innovation Centre,
NI Science Park,
Queen's Road,
Queen's Island,
Belfast
BT3 9DT

028 9040 9980
info@lucidtalk.co.uk
www.lucidtalk.co.uk



www.twitter.com/LucidTalk



www.fb.com/LucidTalk



Integrated Education Fund
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7AR

028 9069 4099
info@ief.org.uk
www.ief.org.uk



www.twitter.com/iefni



www.fb.com/IntegratedEducationFund