



Growth of Integrated Education



Baroness May Blood with the Minister of Education, Caitriona Ruane and Blackwater's Head Boy, Johnny Garvey and Head Girl, Allison Gill

Two new integrated schools have opened this academic year. The plans for Blackwater Integrated College were approved by the Minister of Education in March this year and the new school opened in September 2008. Cliftonville Primary School, in North Belfast, successfully transformed to integrated status after their development proposal was also approved by the Minister.

Baroness May Blood, Minister for Education, Caitriona Ruane, and the US Consul General, Susan Elliot attended the official opening of Blackwater Integrated College in October.

At the opening Baroness Blood said, "Parents and supporters have campaigned long and hard for integrated provision in the mid-Down area and I'm delighted that their vision has been realised with the opening of Blackwater Integrated College.

"It has always been my belief that integrated education is an essential part of a shared future and I believe that Blackwater will contribute to that shared

future as well as being a wonderful school of learning for all of the pupils who attend it."

Olwen Griffith, Principal of Blackwater College, said, "Today is very special in that it marks the beginning of a new era for education in mid-Down."

And at Cliftonville Primary School, Principal Brenda McMullen said, "Everyone is very excited about what the future holds for Cliftonville as an integrated school.

"We really appreciate the support that we have received from the IEF and NICIE as we move towards integrated status."

The Minister has also given conditional approval for Ballymoney Model PS to transform to integrated status from September 2009. Three schools are awaiting Ministerial decisions; Parkhall College in Antrim, Straidhavern PS and Fort PS. All of these schools have accessed in-service training through NICIE on integration in practice.



President Bush visits Lough View Integrated Primary School

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Philanthropists Fly In to Visit Rowallane
- Presidential Visit
- Hollywood Stars show their support for Integrated Education
- Parents and Public continue to back Integrated Education

The Integrated Education Movement wishes all its supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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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Australian Boost For Integrated Schools



Teresa Keating, Director of the Australian Ireland Fund, with Drumlins IPS pupils Joshua Rice, Phoebe Poots and Jack McAllister

Teresa Keating from The Australian Ireland Fund and Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust visited Drumlins, Ballycastle and Rowandale Integrated Primary Schools in June.

"It was fantastic to come and visit these schools," said Teresa Keating. "The schools have battled long and hard to get to where they are today and they are clearly going from strength to strength. Such achievements send out a clear message of hope and optimism for the future of Northern Ireland."

The Australian Ireland Fund and Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust have contributed to a number of integrated school projects in recent years and had supported Drumlins IPS when it first opened in September 2004.

Over £120,000 Goes to Promoting a Culture of Trust

Fifteen schools actively working to promote a culture of trust and develop paths of reconciliation through education are to receive grants totalling over £120,000 through the IEF's Promoting A Culture of Trust (PACT) grant programme.

The grants were awarded through the new three level structure as follows:

- Level I – Ten schools were awarded grants totalling £43,936
- Level II – Three schools awarded grants totalling £26,600
- Level III – Two schools awarded grants totalling £49,970

IEF Trustee and Chair of the Grants Sub Group, Dorothee Wagner 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 difference."



Dorothee Wagner, IEF Trustee and Chair of the Grants Sub Group with pupils from Loughshore Educational Resource Centre

The IEF has been supported in funding PACT IX by the Department of Education, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and BT.

The McDonnell's Attend Rowallane Celebrations

Leading philanthropists, Jack and Jackie McDonnell of The American Ireland Fund, flew into Northern Ireland to be guests at a special prize-giving celebration for Rowallane Integrated College. Also attending the event were Baroness May Blood MBE and Lady Patricia Cooper, representing the Integrated Education Fund. Through extensive fundraising and the support of the Worldwide Ireland Funds, the IEF has been able to support Rowallane as an independent college for the last two years.

Jack and Jackie McDonnell are key supporters of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland and have provided \$400,000 in support of Rowallane IC. Their support is part of an overall commitment of \$1 million to the College which The Ireland Funds announced last March.

The prize-giving took place in June at Down Academy. Rowallane IC and Down Academy came together to form the new Blackwater Integrated College in September 08.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Jack McDonnell said, "It is a privilege to be back in Northern Ireland this year to celebrate the successes of Rowallane. Our support for Rowallane will continue as they join with Down Academy and we look forward to returning next year for the first Blackwater IC prize-giving celebration."



Jack and Jackie McDonnell presenting the McDonnell trophy for Mathematics to Rowallane IC pupils Lauren Bissenden and Danny White

President Visits Lough View



President Bush enjoying the children's work

The President of the United States, George W Bush and the First Lady, Laura Bush, took time out of their European tour to visit Lough View Integrated Primary School on the outskirts of Belfast. The visit is seen as part of the ongoing endorsement by successive US administrations for integrated schooling in Northern Ireland as a means of building trust and understanding between young people.



President Bush discusses with pupils their environmental project called, 'The Mighty Bush'



President Bush addresses pupils



The President with the First Lady



The President takes a keen interest in the pupils project

From Hollywood to Hazelwood

In rare video interviews, Ciarán Hinds and Geraldine Hughes, both Belfast born Hollywood stars, have revealed their reasons for supporting integrated education in Northern Ireland.

Ciarán Hinds, the star of *Phantom of the Opera* as well as *There Will Be Blood*, *Munich*, and *Road to Perdition*, paid a special visit to the IEF offices and met with IEF staff and Hazelwood Integrated College drama students.

Geraldine Hughes, who co-starred with Sylvester Stallone in *Rocky Balboa* and opposite Hollywood legend Clint Eastwood in his latest movie *Gran Torino*, gave a Drama Master Class at Hazelwood Integrated College. The students who attended the workshop had the opportunity to showcase their skills as the Hollywood star helped them hone their creative talents.



Ciarán Hinds meets with Hazelwood IC drama students



Geraldine Hughes gives a Cinemagic acting Master Class at Hazelwood IC

Eileen Lenehan, Principal at Hazelwood Integrated College, said, "It's a great honour for us to welcome Geraldine back to our school. She came here in April as patron of the Integrated Education Fund to meet with students and staff of the College, so it's a real thrill that she has taken time out of her busy schedule to give a Master Class as part of the Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival."

The interviews are available to watch online at www.ief.org.uk

Series of Integrated Education Conferences Held by NICIE

Towards the end of August, four successful conferences were held by NICIE in integrated schools spread across Northern Ireland, focusing on the theme of "Educating for a Shared Future".

The conferences were staged at Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle; Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh; Oakgrove Integrated College, L'Derry and Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast.

More than 1,000 teachers and classroom assistants, representing 41 integrated schools, attended the conferences each had a chance to share their own particular expertise.

A range of external organisations also contributed by providing a selection of engaging afternoon workshops on topics such as: human rights education, anti-bullying, restorative justice and conflict management.

Keynote speakers at the conferences included Alan McBride from the WAVE Trauma Centre, Richard Moore from the



Staff from integrated schools enjoy the conference at Hazelwood IC

charity Children in Crossfire and Charlie Irvine from Questions of Difference (QOD).

Generous funding was provided by the Australian Ireland Fund and Warwick Fairfax Trust and other bodies, including the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Michael Wardlow, NICIE Chief Executive Officer, said: "The tremendous response to this initiative demonstrates the importance teachers place on the permeation of the integrated ethos through all aspects of school life."

"These Conferences further supported the development of relationships between staff in a range of schools, so that real partnerships and learning can flourish."

Parents and Public Continue to Back Integrated Education

The latest independent research on public attitudes to education in Northern Ireland show very strong support for closer integration, collaboration and sharing across the traditional school 'sectors'. The findings come from a survey about attitudes towards Integrated Education, carried out on behalf of NICIE by Millward Brown Ulster. Some of the findings include:

Preference for integrated education

Public support for formally integrated schools remains very high, with 43% of parents stating that they would prefer that their children attended an integrated school. When asked 'How important or unimportant is integrated education in promoting mutual respect and understanding in Northern Ireland?' 63% saw it as 'very important' and a further 21% as 'fairly important'.

Support for Sharing and Collaborating between schools

A huge 79% of parents and grandparents with children of school age or younger supported schools sharing facilities with their nearest school even if that school was of a different type (sector).

Michael Wardlow, CEO of NICIE, commented: "Yet again independent research confirms what we have known for over 30 years, that parents and grandparents of school age children in Northern Ireland want their children to be educated together. We would welcome a wider debate with policy makers and other stakeholders in looking more closely at such options, particularly now, when the educational system is being significantly re-organised. Now is the time for evidence based planning to be at the core of decision making, if we are to provide a school estate fit for purpose for our shared and better future."

NEWS IN BRIEF

American Students Visit



Linda Pickett, Associate Professor at the University of Michigan-Flint and her students visited Oakwood IPS, Cedar IPS and NICIE as part of a study tour to learn more about integrated education and its role in peace education. They are pictured here with NICIE Development Officer Denise Morgan (second left).

Success for Past Pupil

NICIE has welcomed the election of Ciarnán Helferty, a former pupil of Oakgrove Integrated College, L'Derry, as the new President of Queen's University Students' Union.

Ciarnán, who was guest speaker at the recent NICIE AGM and is currently studying politics said, "I strongly feel that attending an integrated school was the best thing that ever happened to me and had a huge influence on my life."

"I plan to do all I can in my time in office to promote inclusion for all to help produce a peaceful and new Northern Ireland."

Forthcoming Highlights from the NICIE Training Calendar

Nov	Peer Mediation – Training for Trainers
Jan	Board of Governor Training – Recruitment and Selection
Feb/March	History – Exploring Different Perspectives ABC – 3 days OCN Level 3
March	(Staff in integrated schools) Newcomers – Welcoming children from ethnic minority backgrounds
May	(Staff in Integrated Schools) Anti – Homophobic Bullying
June	Forgiveness Education
October	Conflict Resolution

NICIE Representative Speaks at Major European Diversity Conference in Berlin

NICIE Development Officer Terry McMackin journeyed 800 miles in September to take part in a Berlin conference on European diversity.

He was one of only eight speakers selected to present a workshop to educational figures from across Eastern and Western Europe.

The conference was arranged by the Inter-European Commission on Church and School (ICCS) to tie in with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

Terry used the unique opportunity to showcase integrated schools' work in bringing children from very different backgrounds together.

He said, "It was a great chance to explain to important European delegates what

integrated education means and the benefits it brings young people learning in Northern Ireland."

"I had plenty of positive examples to share with them, like our successful Anti-Bias Curriculum."

"There was a lot of interest from the other representatives throughout the conference and it's good to know that people who perhaps didn't fully understand integrated education in Northern Ireland now do."

Windmill Celebrates its 20th Anniversary in Style

Windmill Integrated Primary School, in Dungannon, proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary in September. The school has come a long way to reach this key milestone, opening in 1988 in a former Church Hall with only 26 pupils. Student numbers have greatly increased since then to 234 and three years ago the go-ahead was given for the school to build a permanent building.

The main highlight of Windmill's anniversary celebrations was a glittering gala dinner, held in the Armagh City Hotel on Friday 26th September.

Mr Brendan Kerr, Chairman of the Board of Governors said: "Our twentieth anniversary is a celebration of the tremendous achievement that has been made through hard work and sacrifice by everyone who has played a part in this school."



Windmill children with the anniversary flower bed

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council also provided the school with a commemorative flower bed, which includes flowers planted in a windmill shape, to mark the two decades it has spent successfully educating children.

NICIE Welcomes Statement from Churches on Post-Primary Transfer

NICIE has welcomed the new contribution from Northern Ireland's four main churches to the ongoing debate over post-primary transfer.

Commenting on the joint statement which was issued by spokespeople from the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic Churches in November, Michael Wardlow, the Chief Executive Officer of NICIE, said: "This is a welcome and important statement coming as it does from some of the key stakeholders in education.

The churches' involvement in schools in Northern Ireland pre-dates the establishment of the state in 1921 and the fact that this is an interdenominational, agreed position,

sends out a strong challenge to our political representatives to put party positions behind them and place children back at the centre of the debate.

The core message, which is to remove the high stakes test at 11 and replace it with a more considered choice at 14; including the possibility of using academic criteria, is a sensible compromise solution.

We would call upon all involved to give the statement a considered response and not the normal knee-jerk reaction."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Exam Results Celebrated



Lagan Integrated College students celebrate their A-Level success.

Exciting New Diversity in Action Course

NICIE, in partnership with Lagan Integrated College and Youthlink NI, have developed a Diversity Programme for delivery in sixth forms in the integrated sector. This 14 session course is accredited by the National Open College Network (NOCN) at Level 2 and is currently being piloted in Lagan IC, Belfast; Priory CIC, Holywood; and Oakgrove IC, L'Derry. The course explores the celebration of different aspects of diversity as well as challenges to diversity such as: sectarianism, racism, homophobia and conflict transformation in the school context. The plan is to roll out the programme to other integrated colleges following the pilot. If you would like further information on the course, please contact Darren O'Reilly, Community Relations Project Officer at NICIE 028 9023 6200.

Peer Mediation

Peer Mediation is a relationship building programme which enables young people to understand and resolve conflict within their school. NICIE recently ran a two day training course for school staff to enable them to train pupils for Peer Mediation.

After this session, two-thirds of integrated primary schools will be offering Peer Mediation as an integral element of school life; with several more ready to come on board in 2009. The training is offered to all primary schools in Northern Ireland.

If you are interested in Peer Mediation, please contact Clodhna Scott-Wills at NICIE 028 9023 6200

£20 Million Drive for Integrated Education Launched



Baroness May Blood with Ciarnán Helferty at the Launch of the IEF's Development Plan

The Fund has launched their five year development plan to help make integration not separation the norm in Northern Ireland's schools. Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair, launched the plan entitled 'Towards Tomorrow Together' at the Irish Embassy in London on the 3rd November and at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners on the 10th November. Speakers at the launch included Ciarnán Helferty, a past pupil of Oakgrove IC and current President of Queen's University Students' Union and Geraldine Tighealaar OBE, IEF Board of Trustees Chair.

Baroness Blood said, "It has taken a lot of work and consultation to bring us to this new Development Plan. I believe it is a visionary plan, a sound plan and also an ambitious plan – a plan that will stretch us to reach new goals for integrated education in Northern Ireland. Not to mention a challenge to raise £20 million over the next five years!"

The money raised will be invested in effective funding programmes such as a Transformation Support Programme to assist schools wishing to transform to integrated status, and an Existing Schools Programme to support and develop the growth of existing integrated schools.

UTV Business Eye Awards

This year the Integrated Education Fund was chosen as the charity to benefit from the prestigious UTV Business Eye Awards which took place on 3rd October at the Culloden Hotel. The event featured a charity casino with proceeds donated to the Fund.

Richard Buckley, Editor of Business Eye, said before the event, "We very much believe in and support the work of the Integrated Education Fund and are delighted that they are the nominated charity at the 2008 awards ceremony."

Brian Small, Northern Ireland Fundraising Manager for the Fund said, "To be the nominated charity at this influential awards ceremony was incredible news. We are indebted to Richard and Brenda Buckley of Business Eye for giving us the opportunity to benefit from such a high profile event."



Phantom Ball Fundraiser

Over £70,000 was raised at a Gala Dinner at the Europa Hotel in October, sponsored by Uel Butler of DFC Vehicle Solutions in support of the Integrated Education Fund. The Phantom Ball was themed on Gaston Leroux's classic French novel 'Le Fantôme de l'Opéra'. The glittering event was hosted by Broadcaster Gerry Kelly and brought together the combined talents of QUB Music School students Fiona Flynn and Nathan Morrison, accompanied by Michael McGuffin and sponsored by Dr Angela Feeny. Legendary comedian Frank Carson and the Krankies provided the evening's entertainment.



Baroness May Blood, Frank Carson and the Krankies at The Phantom Ball

A rare signed copy of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney's book, 'The Riverbank Field', helped raise funds on the night; along with a host of unique auction prizes including a Mercedes/McLaren Formula One racing suit signed by Lewis Hamilton, a Master Class with celebrity chef Jean Cristophe Novelli, a luxury ski chalet holiday and a VIP package to the Brit Awards with after-show party passes. Some of the auction prizes were donated by world famous names, including internationally acclaimed local artist Ross Wilson and boxing legend Barry McGuigan.

The IEF would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a fun evening; especially our auctioneer Ian Wilson and the Hazelwood Integrated College Choir.

Join Us Online

The IEF recently relaunched their website which now hosts up to date news and video clips. Log on to www.ief.org.uk to find out more.

The IEF is now hosting on YouTube, Bebo and Myspace sites where supporters can make use of the discussion forums, stay up to date with the latest news and leave comments on the latest topics. Log on and become a member!

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