

# Sharing Works

## Shared Education Signature Project

### Issue -2018

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The Little Mermaid Experience

Signature Project Overview

Meet the SESP Team

SELF - Shared Education Learning Forum

### DON'T FORGET



Find more details at  
[www.sharededucationweek.org](http://www.sharededucationweek.org)



DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE



## The Little Mermaid Experience

St Patrick's Primary School, Ballynahinch and Ballynahinch Primary School

*I feel amazing. It's so much fun to work with other people - it's fun to get to know others." Jessica*

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# Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the first edition of the Education Authority's Sharing Works Newsletter.

Whilst there has been significant progress in recent years, it is evident that Northern Ireland has still some way to go in healing the divisions in our society. These divisions are reflected in our schools where the majority of children continue to be educated solely with children of a similar background.

Shared Education seeks to help tackle division by providing opportunities for direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors. It also helps raise educational standards and to build a culture of good relations.

The Department of Education's Sharing Works policy commits to developing sustainable long-term arrangements to support the delivery of Shared Education.

Funding programmes, including the Delivering Social Change Shared Education Signature Project and the Peace IV Shared Education Programme, have enabled great progress to be made in both promoting and embedding Shared Education.

We are continuing to fund schools to develop and embed shared education collaborative practices in partnership with others on a cross-community and socio-economic basis.

Lessons learned, including the identification of best practice, emerging from these and previous funding programmes will be used to inform how best to support the delivery of Shared Education when these funding opportunities end. This will help build long term capacity in the education system to deliver high quality Shared Education.

It is right that we celebrate and share the good work that is taking place in Shared Education partnerships across Northern Ireland, and that we raise awareness of the benefits of and developments in Shared Education. This Newsletter is an important part of celebrating the success of Shared Education.

**Tommy O'Reilly**  
Deputy Secretary for Education and Children's Services, Department of Education

If you would like your partnership to feature in the next edition of the Sharing Works magazine, please forward relevant information and photographs to your Development Officer.

# Shared Education Signature Project

## Overview

Across Northern Ireland thousands of children attend our Nursery, Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools. Within these settings each pupil is exposed to a range of experiences and learning opportunities that aim to support every aspect of their development, both as a learner and as a future member of society.

Northern Ireland is recognised across the world as a country of division but one which is slowly emerging from a sustained period of conflict. Substantial challenges still exist with this process, not least the fact that our school system is represented by a number of different sectors, a situation which results in pupils from similar backgrounds attending schools of the same type and not building friendships with those from other backgrounds.

As far back as the 1980s, cross community initiatives were introduced in schools in an attempt to break-down the barriers between communities. Some of these were successful in facilitating pupil interaction but the scope to develop sustainable relationships and prioritise learning was limited.

In more recent times, through the development of the revised curriculum, the Department of Education has sought to complement face-to-face pupil engagement with the introduction of the curricular themes of Personal Development & Mutual Understanding and Learning for Life and Work. The further introduction of the Community Relations and Diversity (CRED) policy and the Entitlement Framework, helped create a framework within which links between schools of different types became increasingly important.

From 2007 onwards a number of pilot projects focused on establishing collaborative partnerships between different types of schools were established. This approach, now termed 'Shared Education', demonstrated that collaboration had a significant value-added impact in regard to relationship building and educational practice.

In 2015, the Department of Education, working with the Executive Office and Atlantic Philanthropies introduced the Shared Education Signature Project. Supported by a team of officers based within the Education Authority, the project's aim is to build on previous pilots and upscale the level of collaboration as well as increasing the numbers of schools involved in partnership working.

Over 370 schools in Northern Ireland are now active participants in Shared Education Signature Partnerships. These Partnerships are made up of two or more schools of different management types. Each Partnership is unique and provides opportunities

for pupils to engage in new and enhanced learning experiences that take place in their own classroom or at their Partnership school.

Partnerships have the freedom to work across the curriculum including the core areas of literacy and numeracy. The programmes are devised by teachers from the member schools who undertake joint research and planning as well as developing the necessary resources to deliver an enjoyable series of lessons. Opportunities for team building, developing communication, problem solving and thinking skills are all key ingredients of a shared education programme. There are benefits to be gained for whole school communities through children learning together and teachers planning together.

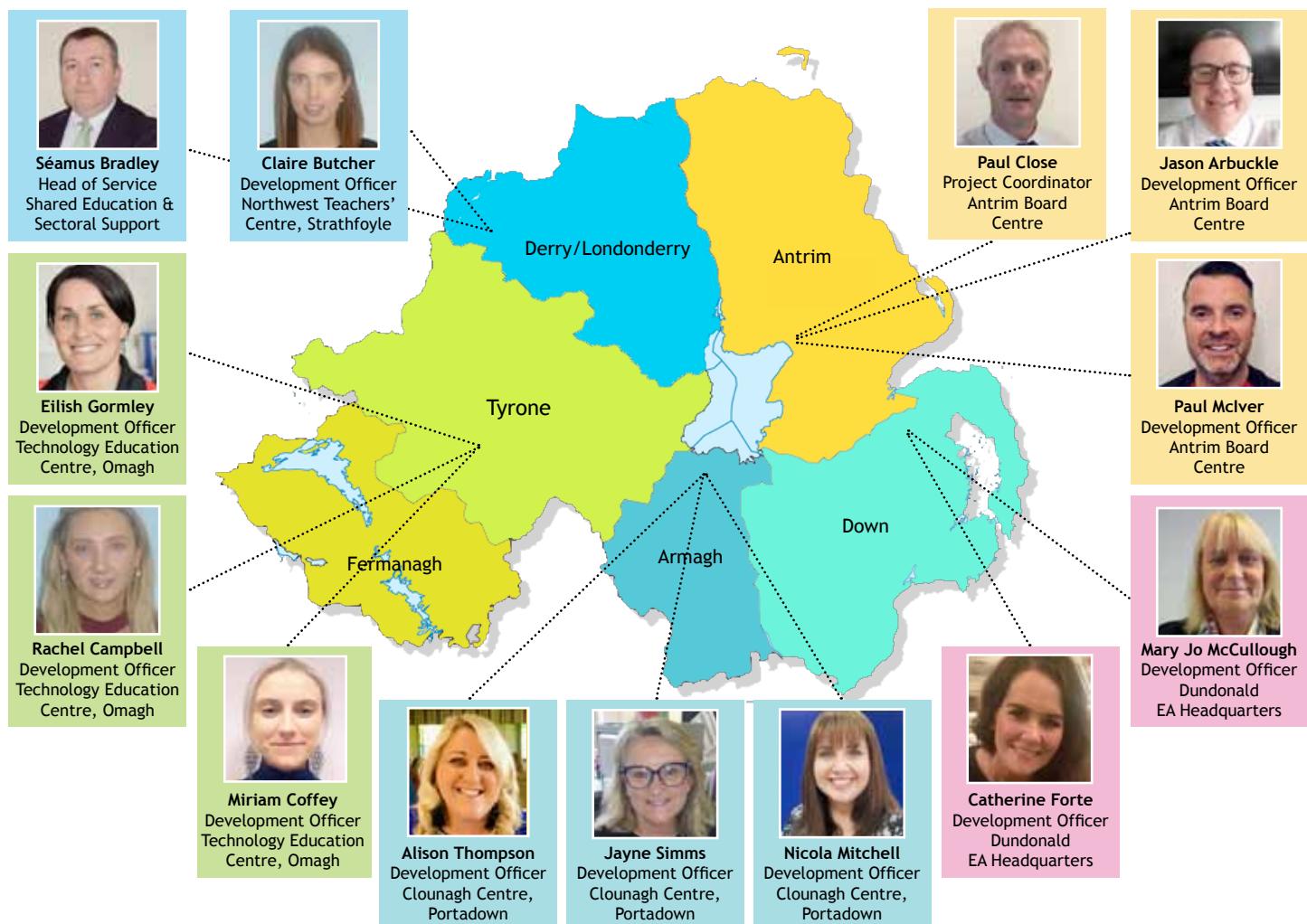
### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING STRATEGY

In addition to Shared Pupil Activity, the Shared Education Signature Project also supports the delivery of Teacher Professional Learning by providing teachers with the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from within their own partnership and beyond. Schools have identified mutual areas for development and together have worked on strategies to bring about improvement. School Leaders and Teachers have engaged in peer observation and assessment and have also had the opportunity to discuss pedagogy and practice. Feedback from teachers strongly suggests that this joint professional development has helped enthuse teachers and raise standards, not only across the Partnership but also within individual classrooms.

### MOVING FORWARD

The introduction of the Sharing Works Policy by the Department of Education in 2015, combined with the Shared Education Act in 2016 has confirmed the Assembly's endorsement of cross sectoral collaboration as a mechanism to increase educational outcomes, bring about school improvement and enhance community relations. The Education Authority now has a clear duty to promote, encourage and facilitate shared education and this will place collaboration firmly at the heart of educational development over the next number of years. Whilst this will present its own challenges, there is a substantial prize to be won, namely the opportunity to secure a better educational experience for all our young people and a society more at ease with its own diversity and difference.

# Meet the SESP Team



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The SESP team would like to pay tribute to former Development Officer and esteemed colleague Eamon Bogues. Eamon worked with SESP partnerships in the South Eastern area since the inception of the project in 2015 before his retirement earlier this year in July. We would like to thank Eamon for his commitment to Shared Education and his previous long service within the youth sector also. Wishing you a very happy and healthy retirement Eamon from all in SESP!

# The Little Mermaid Experience

*Continued from front page*

This year we got the news that the Shared Education drama was going to be 'The Little Mermaid'. We were shocked and excited when the announcement was made in our schools. Joshua really wanted to get into the show because his brother was involved in the Lion King last year. He thought it was really funny and, because it was the best thing he'd ever seen, it made him really want to be part of the next one. Finley wasn't so sure about it all because he thought that 'The Little Mermaid' was a girlie movie. This all changed in rehearsals when he got to know the characters, like Sebastian with his funny accents, and he couldn't get the uplifting songs out of his head.

Rehearsals began at the beginning of January and everybody was really excited when they found out that they were in the cast. On Wednesdays we rehearsed in Ballynahinch PS and on Thursdays everybody went to St Patrick's. We like working in each other's schools because we were able to see around them. We saw some things that were different and some that were the same. Jo really liked the stage in St Patrick's because it is really modern. Edward really liked the layout of Ballynahinch PS. In the end we all decided that there really wasn't much difference.

At the start of rehearsals, we were a bit nervous but as we went through the script and learned the dances, songs and lines we gained lots of confidence. We made loads of new friends, dancing together and singing the songs.

*'I live near Grace'*, said Jessica, *'and I sort of knew her. Now we know each other better and we are good friends.'* Edward knew Adrianna from the shared education link he had in his class so when they got together he found it really easy to play and chat with her. He was surprised to learn that she is half American!

It wasn't long before the week of the show came around. The snow messed up some of our rehearsal time but we just got on with it and the dress rehearsals went fine. Our first show was in Ballynahinch PS and as the cast of St Patrick's walked up to the school they could



feel butterflies in their tummies. Costumes on, make up done. We all had a good laugh at each other! Then showtime! Time flew by and before we knew it we were singing the closing song. The place erupted with the applause nearly lifting the roof. Four shows later, two in Ballynahinch PS and two in St Patrick's and it's over. We were all really sad before the last show because we are going to miss everyone. It's really cool that we all know each other so well. The experience has been really good. Performing the show was nerve wrecking but now that it is over we feel really proud of ourselves.

*By the Cast of 'The Little Mermaid' - St Patrick's Primary School, Ballynahinch and Ballynahinch Primary School*

## Some quotes:



*"It's nice to meet people from other schools.  
You get to learn new moves."* Caleb

*"I'm so happy that I got accepted into the drama group."* Katie

*"She's my best friend."* Orla said about Grace



# Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) Report Card Charts and Totals

Number of SESP Schools by Management Type  
2017/18

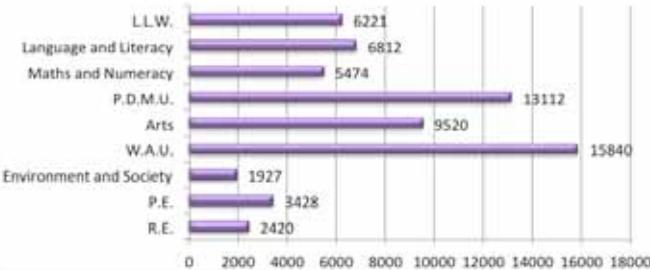
Sector	N
Controlled	172
Maintained	148
Grammar	24
Grant Maintained Integrated	13
Irish Medium	4
Special	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>

Percentage of SESP Schools by ELB District

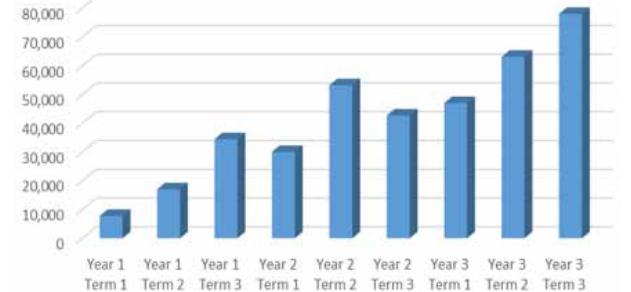


	Involved in SESPI	All Schools	% of school type
Nursery	14	497	3.22%
Primary	252	836	29.43%
Post Primary	95	140	70.71%
Special	10	39	25.64%

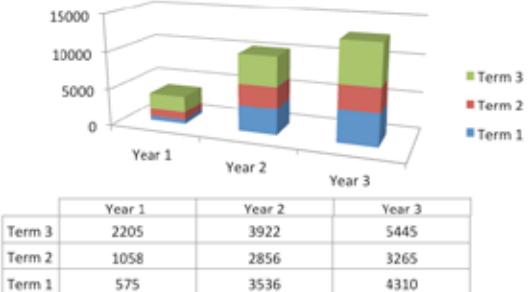
Number of Pupils Involved in Most Popular Areas of Learning - Year 3 Term 3



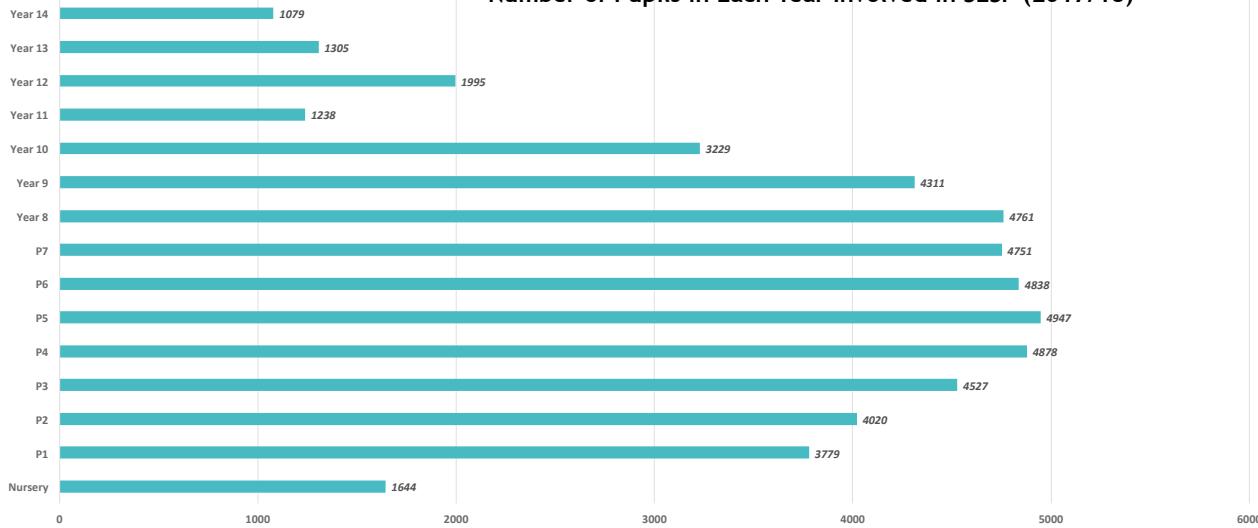
Total Number of Pupils Engaged in Shared Activity per Term



Number of Teachers Engaged in Shared Activity Throughout SESPI



Number of Pupils in Each Year Involved in SESPI (2017/18)



## SESP Stats at a glance...

- Pupils within Schools eligible for SESP - **126,690**
- Pupils involved in SESP (attendance in shared classes, activities or events) - **51,302**
- Teachers employed within SESP (FTE) - **7,196.3**
- Teachers involved in SESP - **4,228**
- Applications to SESP - **192**
- Accepted partnerships - **159**
- Schools applying to SESP - **426**
- Schools involved in SESP - **371**
- Parents involved in SESP - **8,164**
- SESP Teachers in receipt of CPD Training - **1,170 (2017/18)**
- Governors involved in SESP - **146**
- Percentage of all pupils attending shared classes, activities and events - **40.5%**
- Percentage of all teachers involved in SESP - **58.8%**



**Ahoy, Me Hearties!**  
Enniskillen Integrated Nursery School, Enniskillen Nursery School and Holy Trinity Nursery School pupils, parents, siblings and friends all come together for a joint Pirate-themed evening each year in May. This fantastic community event is full of fun and entertainment for all. It takes place in a shared community space and has become one of the highlights of the school calendar in each of the schools. The feedback received testifies to a really positive community atmosphere and demonstrates how relationships have been established across all sectors of the community.

## Views from Principals and Coordinators Involved in the SESP



**Julie Taggart**  
Principal  
*Nendrum College  
Comber*

The Shared Education programme between St Mary's High School and Nendrum College has continued to go from strength to strength. Not only in terms of Shared lessons using the connected learning model and focusing on the Using Communication cross curricular skill but also with the community involvement. This was particularly evident through our Ecumenical Service in Downpatrick Cathedral which involved parents, local clergy, our pupils from Nendrum and St Mary's High, but also those of Down High School, Blackwater Integrated College, De la Salle High School and St Patrick's Grammar School.



**Maud Perry**  
Principal  
*Down High School*



**Joe McCann**  
Principal  
*St Patricks GS  
Downpatrick*

Mrs Perry said: "In January 2018 our official Shared Education journey with Saint Patrick's Grammar School began. Funding through the Shared Education Signature Project led to a burst of activity as collaborative ventures to support learning and teaching took off, and new relationships were shaped. In addition to joint trips and fieldwork across all phases, the diverse range of activities included joint School Council work, charity collections, strength and conditioning work in rugby and Gaelic football, Numeracy and Literacy support and highly successful well-being and mindfulness sessions. The spontaneous surge of inter-departmental activity, the sharing of good practice, and the natural affinity displayed between our affectionately named Green and Red Highlands is remarkable and generates great excitement."



**Keith Williamson**  
Shared Education  
Coordinator  
*Down High School*

Down High School and St Patrick's Grammar School have just completed the first year of our shared education journey and it has been an empowering and enriching experience. Pupils have collaborated with charities and civic society, shared in Mindfulness workshops, received targeted and shared intervention in Literacy and Numeracy, ventured as one on field trips and in STEM challenges, coalesced in Young Enterprise, answered questions as part of a joint team in a French competition, received shared fitness training for Gaelic football and rugby, and been in the audience for both Nolan's Top Table and a conference to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. A majority of our teaching departments have met together to plan events and to share good practice. Teachers from both schools will be participating in a shared middle leader professional development session, and an entire year group will be learning together in shared classrooms.



**Susan Vallely &  
Siourdan Feron**  
Shared Education  
Coordinators,  
*Derryhale PS & St  
Oliver Plunkett's PS*

"We have enjoyed working with colleagues from another similar sized school. We have shared resources, developed many areas of the curriculum and actually have become really good friends."

# Shared Education in Northern Ireland Making International Connections



The first pilot projects on the Shared Education model of school collaboration began in 2007 when twelve schools began, with a team in Queen's University, to create cross-sectoral partnerships and explore how they could work together effectively. Later work by the Queen's team, the Fermanagh Trust and the North Eastern Education and Library Board broadened and deepened our understanding of effective collaboration. Those small beginnings have now grown into the Shared Education Signature Programme and the Peace IV programme which involve over half the schools in Northern Ireland.

A huge body of research evidence has been amassed over that period, ranging from explorations of best practice in coordinating school timetables; to in-depth studies of the experience of teachers working in partnership; to surveys and focus groups with students and teachers; to the largest longitudinal study of the effects of contact between students from different communities.

An unexpected development from all this work has been an extensive and growing level of international interest in the Shared Education model, with a number of divided societies adapting the approach to their distinctive circumstances. Academics from Queen's have been working with colleagues in Israel to support collaborative networks of Arab and Jewish schools, including support for a major training programme for school principals in Jerusalem. USAID has supported a Shared Education programme between Macedonian and Albanian students in Macedonia, and work is underway to explore the options for Shared Education work in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a somewhat different context, there

have been teacher exchanges between Northern Ireland and Los Angeles, funded by the US Embassy in London, to explore different approaches to collaboration in each place, and more are planned.

Current research priorities include further work on the conditions which make contact most likely to promote positive intergroup relationships; how collaboration can be best used to build professional learning communities and promote school improvement; the extent to which the interweave of connections between teachers can help us understand collaborative learning; and the role of collaboration in promoting effective professional development for teachers. On top of all this, there is a growing body of comparative research which is looking at the similarities and differences between Shared Education in different countries.

In little over a decade Shared Education has evolved from an attempt to find a way in which schools could help secure the peace, and contribute to the development of a shared and better society in Northern Ireland, to a situation where it has achieved real systemic change. Support from the Development Officer team in the Education Authority is now enabling more and more schools to make their contribution to this new direction for all our schools. In this task they are aided by the body of knowledge we have already developed on effective practice, and they are helping to grow that body of knowledge still further, so that schools can play an even more effective role in preparing our young people to build a better society for everyone.

Tony Gallagher, Queen's University Belfast





## Barbara Ward (Convenor for SELF)

We are delighted to report that the 2017-2018 academic year has been one which has seen SELF continue to build its membership and, more importantly, continue to advocate on behalf of our members with the Department of Education, the Education Authority and other key education stakeholders. It has been a year of change and development in the Shared Education story and SELF has been working to build our Mainstreaming Strategy as well as the capacity to effectively influence the changes ahead.

Our efforts have played an active role on two main fronts, seeking to ensure that the practitioner voice is heard in relation to the mainstreaming arrangements for Shared Education as well as in the Area Planning process. We have had two active Working Groups during this year and are currently working on two position papers which will be shared with members in the new term;

- Mainstreaming Shared Education
- Shared Education and Area Planning

The SELF Conference 'Shaping the Future', held in May 2018 was a tremendous success with 238 attendees representing 106 Primary Schools, 69 Post Primary, 10 Special Schools, 34 from Educational Stakeholder organisations and 17 from the Community Sector. The keynote speaker Tom Sherrington inspired those present with his address on Teachers' Professional Learning. The conference was primarily a Listening Event which gave the participants an opportunity to address some of the key questions and issues arising related to mainstreaming. The analysis of the feedback received has formed the basis of SELF paper to be published in the new term.



Special thanks to the Education Authority staff and SESP coordinators present who acted as group facilitators and scribes on the day.

Continuing to build links with educational stakeholders was a priority and SELF has now established good links with C2K and CCEA as well as key community and peace building organisations, notably The Community Relations Council (CRC) and Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) who we believe can support schools in establishing and embedding strong, effective Shared Education provision which will continue to thrive into the future.

In the new term, SELF will be actively seeking members to participate in Consultation groups with these organisations in the future to ensure that the practitioner voice is central to developments in support of Shared Education.

The big news for the year ahead is that Shared Education Week will take place in the week commencing 8th October 2018. We look forward to an exciting week when the work of all of our school partnerships as well as those who support them can be celebrated and shared with our local communities as well as the wider public.



We invite all SESP and CASE partnerships to register as members of SELF so that your voice can be heard. You can register for membership on our website [www.selfni.org](http://www.selfni.org)

## St Mary's High School Downpatrick and Nendrum College Comber



Two days in December almost sounds like a movie title and given the amount of activity the pupils from St Mary's High School Downpatrick and Nendrum College Comber packed into their two days of SHED events it would have to have been a historical adventure crossed with a political thriller! Pupils on both days spent the morning in either the Somme Heritage Centre or Stormont where life was brought to equally dormant places by excellent guides, garrulous MP's and inquisitive pupils. The afternoons saw pupils jumbled up on their buses with one bus heading to the Shankill and the other to the Falls where they explored and examined the representation of conflict through murals. This fitted with our two-year overall programme which combined two different pedagogical approaches and drew together a range of different subjects. Using a Connected Learning approach the subjects of History, LLW English, Drama and RE had focussed in Year 9 on topics related to the Civil Rights Movement in the USA, the story of Emmett Till, and the role of Martin Luther King and Human Trafficking and then in Year 10, following the Facing History methodology, each subject moved closer to home exploring WW1, sectarianism, local government and politics and how conflict impacts in big ways in small places. The day ended with the two buses meeting at the "peace line" where students disembarked and signed the international peace wall.





## Ballynahinch Shared Education Partnership

The Ballynahinch Shared Education Partnership hosted Principals from Jerusalem in Ballynahinch. The Jerusalem delegation wanted to see Shared Education in practice in a NI context.

The High School, Ballynahinch and Assumption Grammar School co-hosted the visiting Principals and representatives from the Jerusalem Education Authority. The schools were asked by Professor Tony Gallagher and Dr Gavin Duffy from The School of Social Sciences and Social Work at Queen's University to host this visit to showcase Shared Education in practice as a means of breaking down barriers in a divided society. The group visited The High School, Ballynahinch to speak to Principals and the Shared Education Coordinators in the schools. They then visited Assumption Grammar School to listen to a performance by the Partnership's Shared Education Choir and meet the teachers and students involved. In both schools the visitors were able to take a tour and visit classes to talk to pupils and teachers.

The Shared Education Choir is made up of children from the four Partnership Schools: Assumption Grammar School, The High School, Ballynahinch, St Colman's High School and St Colmcille's High School. It has been strengthened further by the involvement of students from Knockevin Special School. The Shared Education Choir performed a rendition of Ash's 'Shining Light' last Sunday at the Waterfront Hall, in which they added an accompaniment of Makaton sign language, taught to all students in the choir. Ash's frontman, Tim Wheeler, reached out via Twitter to say, 'Wow, that really gave me goosebumps, beautiful!'



*“Wow, that really gave me goosebumps, beautiful!” Tim Wheeler, Ash*

## St Therese's Nursery & Fort Hill Nursery



Pupils, parents and staff from Fort Hill Integrated P.S. Nursery Unit in Lisburn visited St Therese's Nursery in Poleglass to see Mr Hullabaloo in January and February for some interactive drama, puppetry and songs.

These events were a follow-up to our joint visit by the pupils, parents and staff of both Nurseries to the Courtyard Theatre to see the Mr Hullabaloo Pantomime in December.

The smaller setting of St Therese's Nursery allows for more interaction by the pupils as they get to dress up and take part in the acting out of the story and is an opportunity to meet Mr Hullabaloo in person which is very exciting for the Nursery pupils - and their parents!

As our parents also have an opportunity to take part in Incredible Years Parents classes together, it is a chance for them to have some time to chat in the Parents Room while the children play in class or outdoors after the Mr Hullabaloo performance.

Within our partnership, we see this as a valuable opportunity to bring parents together with their children thus involving them in their children's learning as well as reinforcing the values of Shared Education.

## Ballynahinch Schools



Ballynahinch Inter Church Carol Service Christmas 2017. Shared Education Choirs from Ballynahinch PS and St Patrick's PS, St Colmans PS, St Colmcilles PS, The High School Ballynahinch and Assumption took part. There were 300 parents in attendance.

## Newcastle Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School



Newcastle Primary School P4 and P5 travelled to Castleward to meet St Joseph's Primary School. This was a great trip to finish off our shared topic, 'Our Wee Country'. They explored the lovely grounds of Castleward Park, used microscopes to examine insects, conducted a science experiment to learn how mice keep warm and best of all got to meet up with their friends.



## Seaview PS and St. Patrick's PS, Belfast



Seaview Primary School is entering its third year of the Shared Education partnership with St Patrick's Primary School, Belfast. We believe that Shared Education is the collaboration between both school communities, in a fun learning environment, that will empower our young people with the skills and capabilities to make informed choices and contribute positively to an increasingly diverse and inclusive society.

Our initiative aims to advance the goals of improving educational attainment and developing stronger and mutually beneficial cross-community relationships using a shared education model that will involve pupils, parents, teachers, school leaders and outside organisations within the wider community across a number of working class communities in North Belfast.

This year the Year Two to Year Seven children have been involved, working in each other's schools. They have enjoyed activities such as improving maths skills through play dates using Numicon, using ICT to investigate each other's schools, celebrating their 'Identity' through art workshops with New Lodge Arts, producing joint stories through writing workshops with 'Fighting with Words' and fishing in Dromore to help support mental well-being. The parents have also enjoyed meeting up and doing some flower arranging together! The children really look forward to their 'Celebration Day' at the end of the year to reflect and celebrate everything that they have achieved together.



## The Wonder of Shared Education

Edmund Rice College, Glengormley and Hazelwood Integrated College, Newtownabbey

Following the success of Shared English lessons last year, we were keen to develop a programme of study that fed into more aims of Shared Education than just raising academic achievement - we wanted to nurture our pupils holistically as well. After some research, we decided to purchase two sets of the novel *Wonder* by P.J. Palacio, one for each school. This would allow the study of plot, language and character, but also give us scope to consider the novel's primary theme of inclusion and diversity.

We identified two Year 8 classes to study the book during lessons in their respective schools, using a shared scheme of work. The two classes met in October, on a Belfast Bus Tour, after which they enjoyed a series of shared lessons, located in both schools. Lessons included writing a Movie Review, the winners of which received a Movie House voucher, and a lesson built around the theme of 'Inclusion and Diversity' where the novel provided a stimulus for discussion and exploration of the theme.

As luck would have it, the film version of *Wonder* was released in December 2017, allowing us a Shared cinema visit which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and teachers alike!

Read more about our SE partnership at [www.hazelwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hazelwoodcollege.co.uk) - magazine

*Jennifer Kennedy and Sinead Tolan*



## Presentation & Hart Memorial Primary Schools



This year through the Shared Education programme in Presentation and Hart Memorial Primary School we have been focusing on delivering 9 shared lessons in each partnership; 6 PDMU based, 2 numeracy based using Izak 9 and 1 Global Learning lesson. This year we composed a shared school song together which was recorded by the Amma centre and performed in Rushmere shopping centre by our shared school choir.

Listen here - [www.presentationprimary.co.uk/shared-education](http://www.presentationprimary.co.uk/shared-education)

P7 children took part in a shared residential with Pathways that involved team building, leadership skills, adventure and friendship.

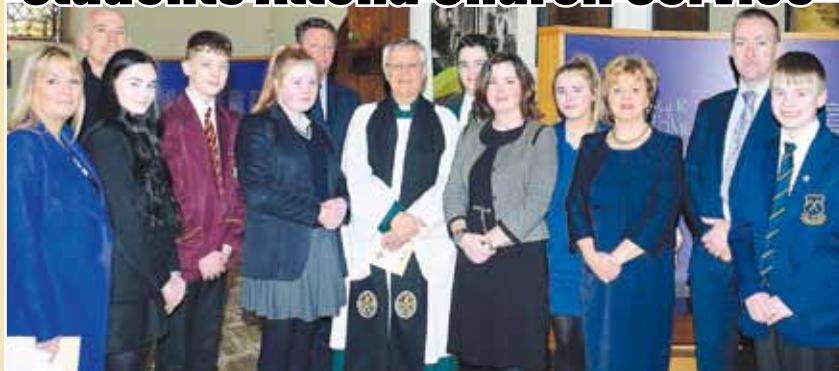
P4 children used the puppets from the Media Initiative Programme to look at similarities and differences.

## Riverside Special School, St Joseph's NS & Steeple NS

Through completing a course in 'Playful Learning in Practice', staff from all three partnership schools found this particular course content very valuable, relevant and informative. The staff involved got to plan and present and deliver a collective outdoor play plan for term 3 so that all pupils involved in the partnership will have the opportunity to avail of new and exciting outdoor play experiences. They hope that this play plan approach will help maintain high quality education for all. Some of our pupils will have the added opportunity to avail of these outdoor play experiences at each of the partner schools. Find out more and watch our end of year celebration video at [www.riversides.org.uk/links-to-other-schools/shared-education](http://www.riversides.org.uk/links-to-other-schools/shared-education)



## Students Attend Church Service



*Dean Henry Hull with representatives from local schools who attended the 'All as one in Christ' service at Down Cathedral*

Students from all the post primary schools in Downpatrick area took part in a service in Down Cathedral.

The pupils from Blackwater Integrated College, De La Salle High School, Down High School, St Patrick's Grammar School and St. Mary's High School were joined by students from Nendrum College, Comber, for a service to celebrate 'All as one in Christ.'

Clergy from Church of Ireland, non-subscribing Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic churches came together to share in the delivery of the service.

The Very Rev Henry Hull, Dean of Down, welcomed students, staff, parents and members of the schools' governing bodies to the cathedral.

All of these schools run Shared Education Programmes whereby students have the opportunity to work in each other's schools, with those from a different cultural background.

They learn about the importance of mutual respect, building tolerance and acceptance of difference.

This supports the young people to be able to engage constructively in society and helps them to understand we have much in common with those from other communities.



*Acknowledgement: Down Recorder*

## ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL, ALL TOGETHER!



This is the final result of one of the Shared Education activities between St. Ciaran's College, Ballygawley and Fivemiletown College. Year 8 students from both schools collaborated to enter an Anti-bullying competition organised by NASUWT, aimed at celebrating diversity.

Using digital media the students created a poster which they titled "Wall of Hope" and it was further shortlisted in the Arts and Minds Competition, a UK wide contest, aimed at promoting race equality and diversity in schools.

Judges, who included Gok Wan, singled out the two schools with comments such as, "There is a great use of symbolism, while the overall piece is a stunning piece of Art" and "Knowing it was jointly created by two schools of different religions really adds to its depth, both in terms of Northern Ireland and the world context."

Representatives from both schools were invited to the awards ceremony which took place in London and the entry was chosen as one of the winners in the secondary school category. A fantastic achievement!





**MEETING ROYALTY:** Prince Harry greets Eimear Holly, from Assumption Grammar School, while Lauren Scates, of St Colman's High and Sixth Form College, Megan Carson and Ella McCurry, from The High School, Ballynahinch, look on.



**EXCITEMENT:** Niall Black, from St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar, is congratulated by Meghan Markle for being named Star Baker in the Great Ballynahinch Bake Off, with Eimear Holly, Assumption Grammar School, Ella McCurry, from The High School Ballynahinch, Gareth Magee, from St Colman's High and Sixth Form College, and Mrs Angela Casey, Shared Education Coordinator from The High School, Ballynahinch.

# We only found out when the Prince and Meghan Markle walked into the room - it was an amazing experience



**DELIGHT:** Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle with students from the Ballynahinch area during their surprise visit to Northern Ireland last week. Right: Knockevin Special School's choir performed for the Royal visitors at the Eikon exhibition Centre in Lisburn last week.



THERE was a royal surprise in store for local students who took part in a peace initiative concert at the Eikon Centre in Lisburn last week.

Students from the Ballynahinch Learning Community choir were stunned when Prince Harry and his fiancee, Meghan Markle, arrived to take their front row seats.

The VIP couple had made the 'Amazing the Space' youth-led peace building initiative, which was launched by Prince Harry last year, the first stop on their whirlwind tour.

A group of students from The High School, Assumption Grammar School, St Colman's High School and sixth Form College and St Colm-

cille's High School, Crossgar, were delighted to meet the couple after their performance.

Children from Knockevin Special School were also thrilled to be part of the choir, which performed the Ash song Shining Light.

Knockevin vice-principal Miss Sara Liddell said the children's faces "lit up" when they realised who the VIP guests would be.

"We only found out when the Prince and Meghan Markle walked into the room," she said.

"It was an amazing experience, very exciting and the children felt special performing to them."



**TOP MAN:** Niall Black, from St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar, is congratulated by Meghan Markle for being named Star Baker in the Great Ballynahinch Bake Off, while Prince Harry talks about the Shared Education partnership with Assumption Grammar School co-ordinator, Mrs Fiona Feron.

# BAKE OFF

## PUPILS COMMENTS

from the High School, Ballynahinch and St. Colmcille's High School, Crossgar, Assumption Grammar and St. Colman's High School



**Ben Mackin**

My favourite part of the Bake Off was to get the opportunity to make new foods. I was in the China group where we made dumplings. I liked working with the other people in my group as we all came together to help each other out during the practical cookery part. I really enjoyed the presentations from the other groups and it was very interesting to hear about the different cultures and traditions from the different groups.

My favourite part of the Forestside Cookery School was the team work between my group. We all knew each other at this stage and worked really well together. We made sure we all had a job to do and shared the roles as best we could. The added bonus was that our group won the final competition. We were really pleased as we worked really hard together especially on our presentation skills.



**Sophie Wightman**

In this event I really enjoyed it as I was able to make new friends, not only in my group but with the pupils in the other groups. We were able to learn about our own traditions and other traditions which helped me have a better understanding of the similarities and differences we all share. I was able to make and taste foods from different countries and I really enjoyed learning about the things that make their culture special. I also learnt lots from Chef Jeffers at his bread demonstration, he really brought the group together and made us laugh! At the second event at Forestside Cookery School everyone seemed more relaxed and comfortable with each other. I loved working in my group in the professional kitchen and getting to use our imagination and creativity for the presentation of the breads. I really liked both events as I got to make friends with people from different schools, I would love to do it again!



**Joshua Gibson**

In the first session of the Bake Off I really liked getting into our groups and meeting new people. I was in the Spanish group and we got to make carnival pancakes. This was a good way to work together as we all had different jobs to do. I really liked listening to the presentations from the other groups as we got to taste foods and learn about other countries and their cultures.

During the second stage of the competition I really loved working in a professional kitchen. I felt a lot more confident at this stage as I was able to build on my relationships within the group and we all felt more relaxed around each other. We were able to communicate and make sure everyone had a job to do.

## St. Patrick's Primary School Crossmaglen and Markethill Primary School



St. Patrick's Primary School Crossmaglen and Markethill Primary School have been enjoying a warm friendship and positive working relationship since 2010 and continue to grow from strength to strength under the assistance of the Shared Education Signature Project.

This academic year they embarked on a very exciting and challenging project, the performance of two Shakespeare classics, 'Macbeth' and 'Hamlet' at the Armagh Theatre.

The whole process was supported by the Shakespeare's Schools Foundation who provided director and pupil workshops as well as scripts and additional drama know-how.

Blaithin McCann, teacher at St. Patrick's and director of one of the plays explained, "As preparations got underway the children slowly became epitomised as the Macbeth and Hamlet teams rather than two groups from each school. The spirit of participation throughout the process of the project was transformative, rather than simply the performance night. The practicalities of working with the two casts half an hour away from each other has been logically challenging for the teachers but the rewards have been huge."

Anna, a pupil from Markethill P.S. shared her experience as:

*"I got to play the part of Claudius, an evil step-father and the new King of Denmark. We met with St. Patrick's about once a week, sometimes they came to our school and sometimes we went to theirs. I loved meeting with Crossmaglen and best of all we got to perform the play in Armagh Theatre. The language was hard and challenging but I loved it."*

The final performance was enjoyed and supported by a full capacity of parents and community members from Markethill and Crossmaglen and was hailed a resounding success and a feather in the cap for all involved.

## Ballymacrickett Primary School and Ballinderry Primary School

We are currently within our third year of Shared Education between ourselves, Ballymacrickett PS, and Ballinderry PS. This programme has provided many opportunities for the children across both schools to have wonderful experiences. They look forward to meeting their new friends each term and working again with our partner school. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow as friends and develop relationships. It has fostered a love of science and technology, one of our focus areas. Through these activities children have developed skills of teamwork, problem solving and creativity. Our sessions have involved learning within the classroom and our outdoor learning environment. Through this, children are able to talk about what they have learned at home and with friends. They have made connections that learning can be fun and can happen anywhere, not just the classroom!

Through Shared Education the teachers have been able to share good practice in a non-intrusive way. It has developed relationships, which provide advice, help, support and the combining of resources beyond the programme. It has provided time to plan and deliver active lessons to a high standard. These lessons provide children with practical expertise, engaging activities and memorable learning. Through this planning and reflection teachers are developing their skills continually.

Shared education is inspiring our young scientists, equipping children with skills they need for life, and fostering an open mind and an ability to work with others from all backgrounds! See more at [www.ballymacrickettprimaryschool.co.uk/shared-education](http://www.ballymacrickettprimaryschool.co.uk/shared-education)



## P6 Children from Downpatrick PS and St Brigid's PS

The P6 children from Downpatrick PS and St Brigid's PS have been sharing mathematics lessons using the IZAK9 maths resource. The children have to collaborate and share their thinking to solve maths problems and puzzles using the large cubes.

The aim of the process is to allow the children enough time to ‘think about their own thinking’. It really fits in well with our Shared Education vision and values as the children automatically work in mixed groups on the challenges.

Read more at [www.downpatrickps.org](http://www.downpatrickps.org) (Shared Education)  
See more photographs at [www.stbrigidsprimaryschool.com](http://www.stbrigidsprimaryschool.com) (Shared Education)



## Kilrea Primary School and St. Columba's Primary School

What a day out on our Pushkin trip to Movanagher Forest! Thankfully it was mild and stayed dry for our P6/7 pupils from both Kilrea Primary and St Columba's Primary, Kilrea as we travelled together to carry out a soil study for our theme 'Opening Ground'.

We have been studying lots of different topics under the heading 'Opening Ground' - Egyptians; rocks, fossils, minerals and precious gems; gardening, digging and environment; and this day out was specifically to study the soil in our local forest.

Liz, a Pushkin environmentalist, talked us through all the activities we would be doing while we were in school. Then she turned us all into proper scientists with a kit including gloves, observation tray, trowel, vinegar and mustard powder, water and PH strips. When we got to the forest we had a little walk and then we got to select a patch of ground to dig a 20cm square pit. It was much harder than it looked because the ground was so full of tree roots! Once we loosened enough soil, we carried out lots of experiments on the soil uncovered as well as hunting for earthworms and recording our findings! We worked well together in mixed groups and have now been doing shared activities since P4 so we know each other really well.

We are looking forward to releasing our creative sides with a day of dance and drama in a few weeks' time! Watch this space! See more at our website [www.stcolumbaskilrea.co.uk/shared-education-1/](http://www.stcolumbaskilrea.co.uk/shared-education-1/)



## Shared Education Programme with Belfast Model School for Girls and St Louise's Comprehensive College

Year 8 students from Belfast Model School for Girls and St Louise's Comprehensive College meeting together for their first Shared Education day. This was a jam packed day full of exciting and very lively activities that saw all the girls working together and getting to know one another. The theme for this year's SEP is 'Knowing Me Knowing You' including Learning for Life and Work, Diversity, Inclusion and some Literacy and Numeracy thrown in for good measure. Half of St Louise's Year 8 went to the Model for their activities and half of the Model year 8 went to St Louise's for theirs. In total 350 students were involved in this programme. Activities included People Bingo, a Map exercise where they could see how close they live near each other and a table quiz where the competition was high. They learned so much about each other and made friends along the way. During our exit ticket the whole hall broke into song and they shared a very special moment with their new friends.

At the end of a fabulous day we said our goodbyes but it was not a sad goodbye as we will be meeting up again in the new year.

Patricia Boyd - Acting Vice-Principal, Belfast Model School for Girls

See more photographs at [www.belfastgms.org/site/2017/12/shared-education-programme](http://www.belfastgms.org/site/2017/12/shared-education-programme)



## Shared Education at work for Oakfield PS and Acorn IPS, Carrickfergus



Parents Workshop

Two Carrickfergus schools enlisted the help of Cool FM DJ Pete Snodden for a fashion show 'first'. The event was the latest collaboration between pupils at Oakfield and Acorn Integrated primary schools, who have been working together for the past three years as part of the Shared Education Signature Project (SESP).

In March we ran a 'Night of Fashion', a first for both schools working within the project. The aim was to further develop links with the local community, explained SESP coordinator Vicky Logan.

The schools have previously partnered up for a number of other events, including tree-planting, a Christmas shoebox appeal, shared lessons, and even workshops for parents. Most recently, pupils from Oakfield and Acorn joined thousands of other young people for Peace Proms at the SSE Arena.

Read more on our school websites

[www.oakfieldprimary.school.com/parent-area/shared-education](http://www.oakfieldprimary.school.com/parent-area/shared-education)

[www.acornips.com/shared-education.php](http://www.acornips.com/shared-education.php)



## St Joseph's PS Tyrella & Newcastle PS Term Two Shared Education Programme

P4 & P5 have worked together through two shared lessons each this term. Through working in pairs, they have extended their ICT skills and collaborated through the areas of WAU and Literacy. There was focus on 'Differences' including work on communities and identities. Pupils have had the opportunity to explore and use 'Book Creator' on the iPads as a means of digital development through Exchange and Express. The pupils had the opportunity to take part in online discussion through a Shared Education page on school websites.

The children also completed questionnaires to evaluate their levels of enjoyment and learning. Many of the children reported that they preferred using Book Creator on the iPads as they could combine their skills in Chatterpix & Photospeak to produce a digital story. The vast majority of P4 pupils preferred the art activity.

P6/7 classes participated in 5 lessons. They had opportunities to take part in teambuilding in order to forge closer friendships. The focus was on cultural differences associated with community symbols. They learnt about the significance of the poppy and shamrock. They engaged in a culture of mutual understanding and inter-relationships through digital literacy using Book Creator. They completed questionnaires which indicated that the majority of pupils had made friends and felt they could work together in mixed groups.

Teachers have established close, positive links through planning, teaching and monitoring & evaluation days. They have created schemes of work for the term based on topics related to cultural diversity, an evaluation

report of work done and produced written, video and photographic evidence. The pupils have produced quality pieces of work related to Book Creator. Teachers have led very successful shared lessons in both schools. Through establishing positive friendships, the pupils have shown respect and understanding of each other.

Through BoGs meetings with the Principal, all Governors have been fully informed of the work undertaken in P4-7 this term. Through staff training days led by the Nerve Centre and ICT coordinators in both schools, all staff agreed on a programme of work for Term 2 regarding Shared Education. Both Principals have successfully established an agreed system for the sharing of resources, accommodation and financial spend for Term 2. Principals monitor the programme through coordinator self-evaluation.

Principals engaged with ETI in a monitoring/evaluation of progress made to date. It was agreed that the collaboration was at Expanding/Embedding stage with Community Links identified as Developing/Expanding. Evidence of CPD was highlighted as a strength of this years work as there was clear impact on pupil learning as a result.

Through regular updates on both websites, parents and the whole school community have been kept well informed of the work done this term.

The British Legion supported the P6/7 project through a shared visit where the children learnt about the significance of the poppy to both communities.

## Building the Peace: The Good Friday Agreement 20 Years On

The 10th of April 2018 marked 20 years since the Good Friday Agreement was signed. Five Down High School pupils and five pupils from St Patrick's Grammar School were fortunate to be able to partake in a commemoration of this historic event at QUB. Appropriately this was a Shared Education experience. This challenging and reflective conference gathered together many of the iconic figures involved in the Northern Ireland peace process and not least President Clinton's Special Envoy, George J Mitchell, the primary architect of both the Mitchell Principles of Non-Violence and the Good Friday Agreement.

Key figures from our recent past were organised into panels to discuss various legacy issues related to the Good Friday Agreement. These included the degree of community participation in the peace process and the ramifications of the Belfast Accord in the light of the current political impasse at Stormont. Former political leaders such as Seamus Mallon, David Trimble, Gerry Adams and Peter Robinson all took part.

The final panel explored international input into the Belfast Agreement and the lessons of our peace process for the wider world. This panel was chaired by Senator George J. Mitchell and made up of significant former leaders - President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. Bill Clinton sounded a prophetic warning, reminding us that democracy is a precious gift that is imperilled across much of today's world, and we must nurture this gift. The event reflected on the profound changes that have occurred over the last two decades and challenged our current leaders to overcome the challenges posed by the remaining legacy issues. We were grateful to have this opportunity and it was a thoroughly inspiring and insightful afternoon.

*Sarah Magwood (11M) and Megan Starkey (11L),  
Down High School*



St Patrick's Grammar School and Down High students attended a series of panel discussions in Queens University Belfast featuring the key players in negotiating the Good Friday Agreement, exactly 20 years on from its signing. It was truly humbling to stand in the same room as such influential politicians and statesmen and stateswomen who strived to create a more peaceful, equal and safe society in NI for thousands of young people. After, Prime Ministers, Presidents and peacemakers mingled and took photos with students who donned their red and green blazers side by side (I myself was photobombed by former US Special Envoy for NI, Senator George Mitchell!) Our trip, and Shared Education as a whole, epitomises the key ideals and principles of the Good Friday Agreement: ethos, culture and identity are respected and kept whilst working, learning and forming lasting friendships with those from other communities.

*Cormac Savage, St Patricks Grammar School Downpatrick*



Read more at [www.downhighschool.org.uk/shared-education](http://www.downhighschool.org.uk/shared-education)

## *Millburn Primary School and St. Malachy's Primary School*



### *'Why build walls, when we can build bridges?'*

The importance of building dynamic and meaningful relationships between our young people is rooted at the very core of our Shared Education project, which focuses heavily on the theme of Identity. To ensure success for our pupils in this ever evolving society, we recognise the need for more collaborative STEM based learning in our classrooms. Year 6 pupils have used STEM as a vehicle to explore reconciliation themes whilst develop their knowledge of many STEM concepts. Pupils aim to utilise the skills learned through the project to create a model bridge symbolic of the unique partnership we have developed between Millburn PS and St Malachys PS. Coleraine.



[www.stmalachysps.co.uk/rights-respecting-school/shared-education](http://www.stmalachysps.co.uk/rights-respecting-school/shared-education)

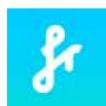
## Derryboy PS, Crossgar and St Caolan's PS, Saintfield

These two small rural primary schools have been working together for a number of Years.

Through Shared Education Victor Sinclair from Derryboy and Deirdre MacManus from St Caolans have worked hard to produce resources on the following topics:-

- The Euros
- The Titanic
- The Linen Industry
- The Great Famine

Find these  
resources at  
SESP Fronter  
room



Pupils using the booklets are encouraged to work together and respect the views of others. Pupils are also encouraged to work together in pairs and in groups and to help and support each other. The booklets have been produced with a variety of Integrated Curricular tasks including:-

- History
- Literacy
- Maths
- Science
- WAU

By using the resources the pupils have been able to develop skills in:-

- Managing information
- Being creative
- Research and information finding
- Problem solving

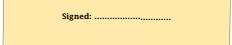
Both staff members have been happy to share the resources with other Primary partnerships via email and Fronter. A big thank you to Victor and Deirdre.

A Shared Education Production  
By Mr Victor Sinclair

**The Titanic**  
BELFAST - NEW YORK  
PROJECT BOOKLET

Passenger Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Derryboy PS & St. Caolan's PS  
Copyright Mr V Sinclair 2016

### Our Working Contract

1. Listen to each other, as everyone's opinion matters
  2. Respect the views and thoughts of others
  3. Allow everyone to have their say and reach an agreement
  4. Work quietly and enthusiastically whether individually, in pairs or in groups
  5. Encourage each other to try their best
  6. Recognise that sometimes it's fine to agree to differ
  7. Be nice to one another
  8. Be well mannered and remember to use 'Please' and 'Thank-you'
  9. Above all try to enjoy the project.
  10. Have fun.
- Shared Education Partnership  
Derryboy PS & St. Caolan's PS
- Signed: .....  




See more at [www.derryboyps.com/gallery](http://www.derryboyps.com/gallery)

## National Trust Minecraft Project



Using the popular game Minecraft on the iPad, children were able to take an innovative and creative look at their visit to the Corn Mill at Castle Ward increasing their knowledge of historical sites and old buildings in the locality, the features of the buildings and ways of life and cultures that have been shaped by influences from the local and wider world.

Pupils in shared classes were able to:

- Learn about the history of the Corn Mill.
- Build the Corn Mill using the given dimensions with the materials within a collaborative Minecraft World.
- Document the history the site and the project in a Digital Book.
- Share their work to the wider community through the Seesaw app and the iTeach website.



### The Curriculum Focused Learning Outcomes included:

**LITERACY** - Sharing, responding and evaluating ideas, arguments and points of view in discussions throughout the project; Participate in modelled, shared, guided and independent writing when composing content for the Digital Book.

**NUMERACY** - Processes - Select the materials and mathematics appropriate for a task; Appreciate important ideas about measurement including the need for accuracy; Understand and use scale in the context of simple maps and drawings. Use programmable apps to explore movement and direction and create pictures, patterns and shapes.

**WAU** - Technological change and the impact of inventors and inventions over time. Buildings and their features now and in the past; Historical sites and buildings in the locality; Designing and building models.

**PDMU** - Knowing about aspects of their cultural heritage, including the diversity of cultures that contribute to the locality.

### Shared Education partnerships who participated in the Minecraft project included:

**Ballynahinch PS & St. Patrick's PS,  
Ballynahinch**

**St. Joseph's PS, Tyrella & Newcastle PS**

**St. Macartan's PS & Cumran PS**

**St. Brigid's PS & Downpatrick PS**

**Annsborough Integrated PS,  
Castlewellan PS &  
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche**

Minecraft has been used as an amazing tool in education providing pupils with the opportunity to develop skills such as collaboration, teamwork, creativity and problem solving.

## St Dominic's Belfast & Friends' School Lisburn

Politics in Action concluded with a presentation of the pupils' report in Stormont on 26 April. The Citizenship departments had organised a learning fair at Stormont and in St Dominic's focusing on political parties in Northern Ireland and the main issues facing NI today.

St Dominic's and Friends have been very lucky to avail of the services of Peter Weil. Peter's background is broadcast journalism and includes producing 'Panorama', 'Newsnight' and 'World In Action' as well as editing Channel Four's 'The People's Parliament' and ITV's 'London Tonight'. Although not a trained teacher, he has been Head of Youth Programmes in BBC Northern Ireland; his most recent job was as CEO of the independent production company, CTVC. Last year CTVC's online education channel, TrueTube, won Channel of the Year at the Children's BAFTAs in November, the first time the category went to an online-only channel. The other finalists were CBBC, Cbeebies and the Cartoon Network.

'Politics In Action' is an extra-curricular Shared Education initiative for ten year 11 students from St. Dominic's School and ten year 11 students from Friends' School. Since September they have been studying some of the issues behind gender equality.

The emphasis of the course is on the practical side of politics rather than the theoretical. It was designed to develop a realisation of the importance of listening, as much as contributing, to the debate, of demonstrating respect to those who hold opposing views and a mastery of the key skills involved in establishing win - win solutions.

This has involved establishing a number of Shared student groups who set up inquiries into various equality issues.

They have talked to people who are affected by the current legislation, interviewed representatives from seven political parties in Northern Ireland and met journalists and front bench spokespersons from the two main parties in Dublin. They have drafted a set of proposals and



whilst working closely the Northern Ireland Assembly's Education Service at Stormont's Parliament Buildings in Belfast, they presented their proposals to parents, staff, governors, media and politicians from all the main parties in N Ireland.

They collaborated so often and have clearly become good friends too. Their commitment included:

- Six alternating shared sessions in each school (fortnightly)
- September Stormont Visit 1: Tour and Icebreakers.
- November Stormont Visit 2: Questioning Local Politicians.
- January Dail Visit: Questioning Southern Politicians and administrators.
- February City Hall Tour and Visit.
- March interview of Gerry Carrol (People before Profit) at St Dominic's.
- 25 April Stormont Visit 3: Student presentation in Long Gallery:

Supported by Professor Rick Wilford, Emeritus Professor of Politics at Queen's University students presented their recommendations in Stormont's Long Gallery to parents, school staff, MLA's and Ministers.

All the students in the group are volunteers and all 22 students remained fully involved. It must be noted that this initiative had key educational and reconciliation outcomes:

- Shared discussions/lessons on issues pertaining to equality
- Listening, debating, developing political intelligence, empathy for different political views, researching and reporting, presenting to an audience
- Understanding politics, division, democracy, reconciliation, prejudice
- Preparing themselves for integrated education at tertiary level and integrated careers beyond.

MLAs in attendance included:-  
 Gerry Carrol - People Before Profit  
 Katie Armstrong - Alliance  
 Mike Nesbitt - Unionist  
 Tim Atwood - SDLP  
 Clare Bailie - Green  
 Orlaith Flynn - Sinn Fein

*A Personal Message from George Mitchell was read out congratulating the pupils on their work in relation to Rights and Reconciliation*





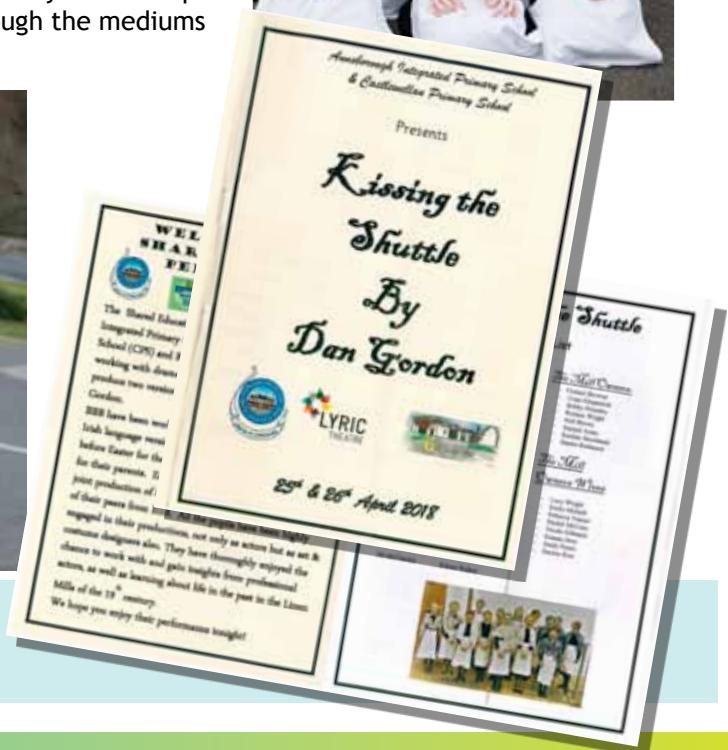
## *Kissing The Shuttle*

The Shared Education Partnership between Annsborough Integrated PS, Castlewellan Primary School and Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche worked with Drama facilitators from the Lyric to produce two versions of the Play 'Kissing The Shuttle' by Dan Gordon. The Irish version of the Play is called 'Ag Pogadh an Spoil'. This was an excellent example of community connections and links with the Lyric Theatre.

Three productions have been staged one in each school to parents, peers and Board of Governors. The pupils were highly engaged in the productions, not only as actors but as set and costume designers also. They have enjoyed the chance to work with and gain insights from professional actors, as well as learning about life in the past in the Linen Mills of 19th Century Ulster. Pupils and audiences learned about life in the Linen industry through the mediums of music, drama, song, recitation and storytelling.



[www.annesborroughips.co.uk/index.php?\\_id=496](http://www.annesborroughips.co.uk/index.php?_id=496)  
[www.castlewellanprimary.org.uk/shared-education](http://www.castlewellanprimary.org.uk/shared-education)  
[www.bunscoilbb.com/news/pgadh-an-spil](http://www.bunscoilbb.com/news/pgadh-an-spil)



## St. Patrick's PS, Loughguile & Broughshane PS

St. Patrick's P.S., Loughguile and Broughshane P.S. are now enjoying their fifth year of partnership, having moved from the CRED programme into Shared Education in 2015. We are delighted that this year is the first in which we have been able to welcome all of our pupils, from Yr 1 to Yr 7, on board. There are a host of learning experiences and activities going on which staff and pupils are enjoying, engaging in and learning from.

### A taste of some of our activities include:

Yr 6 getting busy exploring and learning about teamwork through the great outdoors. They have learnt to navigate their way through Portglenone Forest and built their own shelters to stay safe and warm. We hope to see these skills of working together shining as they continue to work on problem solving skills in numeracy lessons.

Yr 5 have been honing their ICT skills through their learning about St. Patrick, and have put together amazing animations using Lego Moviemaker. The end result is a credit to them, but so much of the pleasure has been in the process of learning and applying new skills together.

Out and about in the local community, Yr 3 have been on visits to Clementsmount Farm and Sainsbury's, as they focus on WAU and the journey of food from farm to fork.



Whilst pupils are thoroughly enjoying the activities planned for them, staff have been reaping the benefits of the programme through shared development days, TPL opportunities and the purchase and implementation of the Harberton Reading Scheme for our SEN pupils.

We look forward to our third term and all the opportunities it will bring.

[www.stpatricksprimaryloughguile.com/shared-education](http://www.stpatricksprimaryloughguile.com/shared-education)  
[www.broughshaneps.weebly.com/shared-education.html](http://www.broughshaneps.weebly.com/shared-education.html)



# 'Building a Strong and Shared Community'

## A case study of Shared Education in De La Salle High School, Blackwater Integrated College and St Mary's High School Downpatrick

### Context:

As our partnership develops, we continue to strive towards achieving positive relationships among staff and students, reaching out to others in our local community. By working together, we hope to improve educational outcomes for each student involved in Shared Education, and to open up opportunities for more pupils to become involved in Shared Education.

Our strategic vision, of creating positive relationships, begins with our staff as we co-teach and collaborate, modelling behaviour for our students. We connect staff and students from various subject areas of school life: ICT, Science, Maths, Physical Education, and others. With collaboration at KS4 level with exam classes, it was our target to make this transition more comfortable for our students and so we have introduced Shared Education to all KS3 year groups. With more time, we aim to increase collaborative contact even more.

We are now in our third Action Plan for Shared Education, beginning with only two subject areas and growing year by year. As well as increasing collaborative contact between students, we also aim to involve more departments in collaborative teaching and learning. Collaboration between the three schools existed before

the introduction of these three Action Plans, with SLT collaborating to create more opportunities for our students at KS4 level, introducing Occupational Studies. Shared Education has helped to nurture the relationship already established between the three schools.

The three schools are diverse in background, considering only one is co-educational, and one is integrated. Our schools are similar in that we hold a similar demographic in number and socio-economic backgrounds of pupils. Some of our students have siblings and family members in our partnership schools, and so there is a parental/guardian link as well.

All three schools are in agreement that Shared Education must benefit the learning of our students, and so specific aims and objectives are outlined on each of our school development plans.

### SLT and BoG:

Throughout the three years, our Senior Leadership Teams and Board of Governors have all been involved in the progression of collaborative learning and teaching. SLT and Board of Governors are regularly updated by coordinators, and are consulted on planned areas of development in the area of Shared Education.

### Staff Development:

Staff have been given opportunities for their own professional development through the TPL strategy courses provided and other course providers. Many staff have availed of these opportunities, and many hope to do so post-Christmas. These courses have been identified by Principals as key areas in which our staff can develop their skills and from which our partnership can benefit. It is also good practice that staff members present key findings of their training to remaining staff during school development days. These practices can then be disseminated among the partnership schools. Such courses have included: Collaborative Leadership, Understanding and Managing Behaviour, Collaborative Learning Online for Shared Education and Reconciliation, and Creating Effective Partnerships within the Local Community.

### Sharing of Good Practice:

Our students and staff had a very positive experience in sharing good practice to parents, fellow students, staff, BoG representatives and the local media during our presentation day in June 2017. Students presented their work and feedback during a presentation, as well as discussed and showcased work during a walking gallery. This was an invaluable experience to our students, who took the lead in sharing their feedback on progression. Coordinators have and continue to share good practice during School Development days to fellow staff members. This is an opportunity to showcase the work



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of students and staff, and also to promote the work of Shared Education to all of the school community.

## Progression:

With such strong links between subject schemes of work, there have been great opportunities for creating shared learning and teaching between subject areas.

In ICT students have developed their coding skills from Year 8 to Year 10. Our students have become experts in this field, receiving training from specialist and lecturer Ian Simons of Stranmillis College, Belfast. As a department, Shared Education has funded new resources for our students and has allowed them to progress in this niche area of study. As well as Year 9 students involved, Year 10 students have been given further opportunities to avail of Shared Education and maintain the strong and positive relationships established in previous years. We started with 163 students (all of Year 8) availing of expert training in coding in the first year. In Action Plan 3, 120 students are given opportunity for further shared learning experiences in both Year 9 and Year 10. This selection of students was based on those expressing an interest in coding in ICT and to allow for a smooth transition into KS4 ICT. Value added can be seen with one student attending Queen's summer school for coding.

In Science, students have progressed in their data collection skills by engaging in ecology fieldwork.

Gathering data, students were able to develop their numeracy and ICT skills by recording and presenting data in various formats. Departments have benefited hugely from new data collection instruments and resources, enabling HODs to bring Science to life. Year 9 continues to be the focus group, and moving forward further opportunities will be sought to increase student numbers in this area. Currently 60 students avail of shared learning experiences in the area of Science.

Student Councils have been working side by side throughout the three Action Plans. With their key focus being 'contributing to the life of the local community', the students have provided invaluable services to members beyond our school walls and within. Their work is set to continue with students fundraising to help the homeless and raising awareness for this cause among students. Currently 30 students avail of shared learning experiences through Student Councils.

Shared learning experiences have been provided for Physical Education students. Previously, 80 students have availed of shared learning. With relationships now firmly established in various departments, Action Plan 3 sees the introduction of the Maths department. HODs have created a scheme of work. Shared Education is helping to deliver raised educational and reconciliation outcomes in our partnership.



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Recently, as part of our Shared Education Programme, our student council took part in a Shared Education lesson/presentation hosted in De La Salle High School. The presentation was given by Cara-Friend which was established in 1974 as a voluntary counselling, befriending, information, health and social space organisation for LGB&T community. Since then they have been established as one of the most encompassing organisations in Northern Ireland, bringing together all ages, all genders and sexual orientations under one umbrella. They advocate unceasingly on behalf of the LGB&T community with the media, churches, government departments and politicians alike. An enjoyable morning was had by all students and staff members involved.

## St Malachy's College & Belfast Royal Academy



Over the three years of the SESP St Malachy's College and Belfast Royal Academy have focused on the provision of LLW at Key Stage Three. 2017/18 saw the extension of the scheme into Year 10. It has been very popular with the pupils and the staff delivering it.

The bespoke set of lessons explores a range of themes and makes provision for progression in relation to both tasks and the topics addressed. Year 8 focuses on 'All about Me'. In Year 9 the spotlight is on 'Inclusion and Equality'. Year 10 challenges the young people to investigate 'Managing Risk'.

In order to provide the pupils with a meaningful record/memento of their experience a journal was created by each year group and professionally published.

## Ebrington PS & Holy Child PS Derry/Londonderry



A Shared Education Joint Assembly by pupils from Ebrington PS & Holy Child PS. Parents and grandparents of pupils from both schools attended the event enjoying a cup of tea and refreshments afterwards.

## Blackwater IC & St Mary's HS Downpatrick

### Science Ecology Fieldwork at Delamont Country Park

This was the second fieldtrip for our science departments, and it is great to see a repeat of last year's event.

We held this event earlier this year as the conditions for fieldwork were more appropriate in the month of September.

It is amazing to see the relationships developed between our science department members, and how the sharing of expertise and resources have been ongoing.

A new group of students have been introduced to Shared Education and the follow up sessions should hopefully develop further the relationships they have established.

The science departments have benefited from new resources and fieldwork experiences, which they would not have had without Shared Education.

*Coordinator - L Curran*



*"Pupils successfully participated in all field work activities and were able to collect primary data. Each of the 3 groups were comprised of a mixture of pupils from all the participating schools and this gave them a lot of opportunities to mix together and continue to build relationships." Teacher*

## Teacher Professional Learning Modules - Feedback



I think it is fantastic that these types of courses are available. A great way to bond with your partner teacher outside of the school setting. This art course was great.

Great to have the time to share with partner schools. Progression of PDMU very useful to see documents and to think through with others. Well presented. Good ideas. Thank you.

The way in which Vine instructed and encouraged me to explore new ways of approaching things I would not have tried otherwise was great. She is very engaging and an excellent facilitator. I am buzzing with new ideas to try back at school!

Practical hands on activities for classroom practice - it was great - thank you!

I've been inspired to read more articles by researchers like Novak to develop my thinking and understanding of issues pertaining to middle-leadership.

Really valuable, thought provoking and inspirational.

Really enjoyed the small, relaxed environment, which encouraged developed conversation and the honest sharing of opinion.

This course really exceeded my expectation in terms of content and purpose. It has undoubtedly reduced my fears/anxiety in relation to delivering and planning for Shared Education Religious Education. I've also made lots of super new connections - one of the many benefits of Shared Education in general.

Has inspired me to perhaps complete further professional development courses. Also will help with chairing meetings and reaching consensus.



### Photos of the Art Module in Omagh



Details for modules 2018 now available at:  
[www.rtuni.org/apply/sharededucation](http://www.rtuni.org/apply/sharededucation)

## Rostulla and Hillcroft Special Schools Newtownabbey



What we share  
together makes us  
stronger:

Students  
learning, growing,  
experiencing together

Staff  
developing, empowering,  
building together

Family Communities  
meeting, supporting, joining together

Sharing Schools  
leading learning together



## Shared Education Ingredients

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden **↑** **↓** **→** **←** and **↖**

L	F	N	R	K	Y	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	D	W	Z	Q	F	J	Z	L	A	M
O	U	V	A	Y	I	T	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	K	Y	X	R	P	L	Z	S
A	N	Y	O	V	M	C	J	Z	Z	I	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	S	F	K	C
X	K	C	W	B	G	N	I	N	R	A	E	L	M	D	G	I	Q	L	P	O	N	O
R	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	S	E	N	D	J	I	E	O	O
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F	D	G	W	R	C	L	W	T	Y	S	R	O	N	R	E	V	O	G	A	F	J	T

CELEBRATION  
COLLABORATION  
COMMUNICATION  
COMMUNITY  
COORDINATORS  
DIFFERENCES  
DIVERSITY  
FRIENDSHIPS  
FUN  
FUTURE  
GOVERNORS  
LEARNING  
PARENTS  
PARTNERSHIP  
PRINCIPALS  
PUPILS  
RECONCILIATION  
RELATIONSHIPS  
RESPECT  
SHARING  
TEACHERS  
TOGETHER  
TOLERANCE  
UNDERSTANDING