

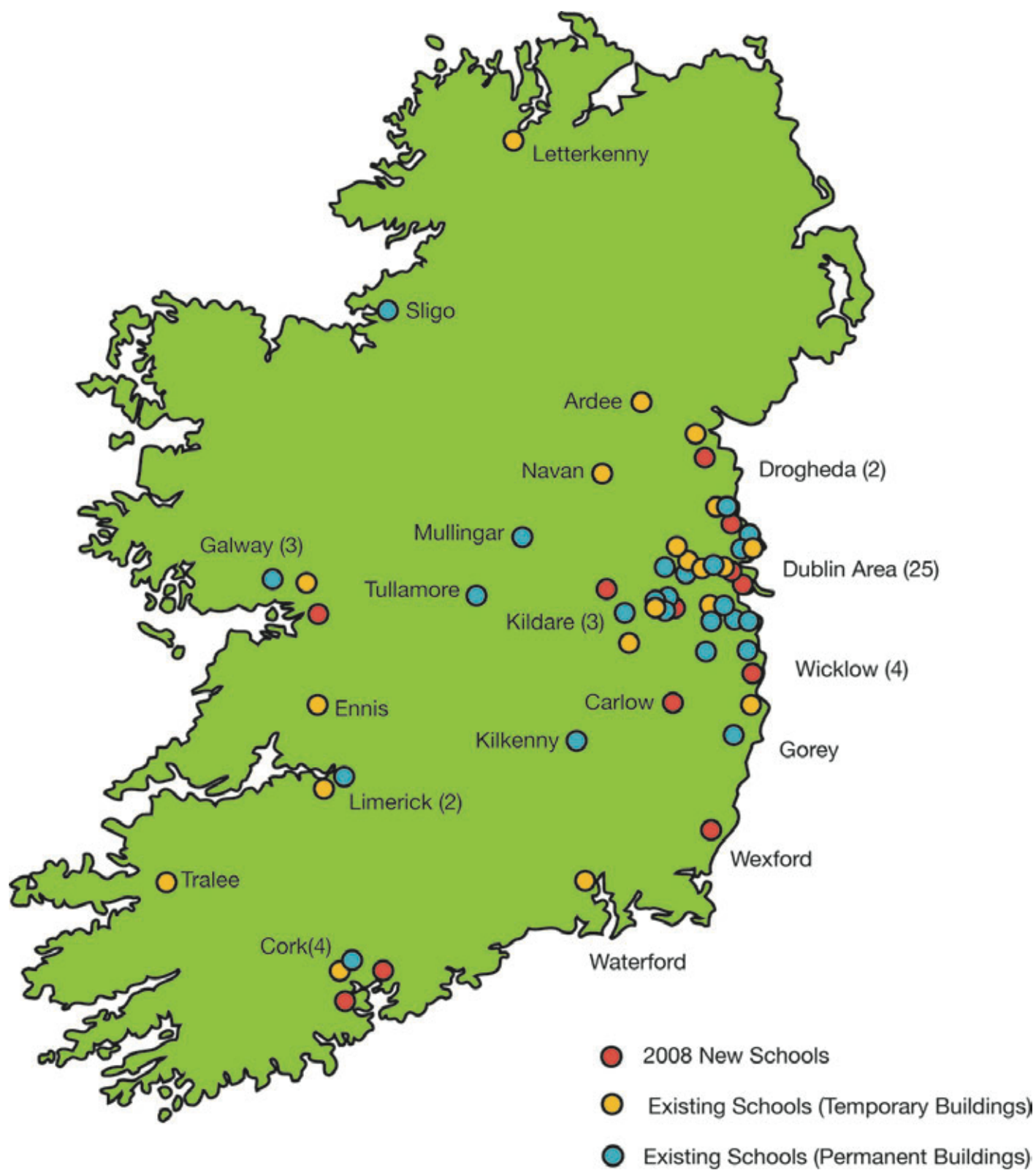
Educate Together Annual Report of the Board of Directors



This report covers the period January 1st 2008 to December 31st 2008



Tree planting ceremony at Lucan East Educate Together National School, one of the 12 schools opened in 2008.



Annual Report of the Board of Directors of Educate Together January 1 2008 - December 31st 2008

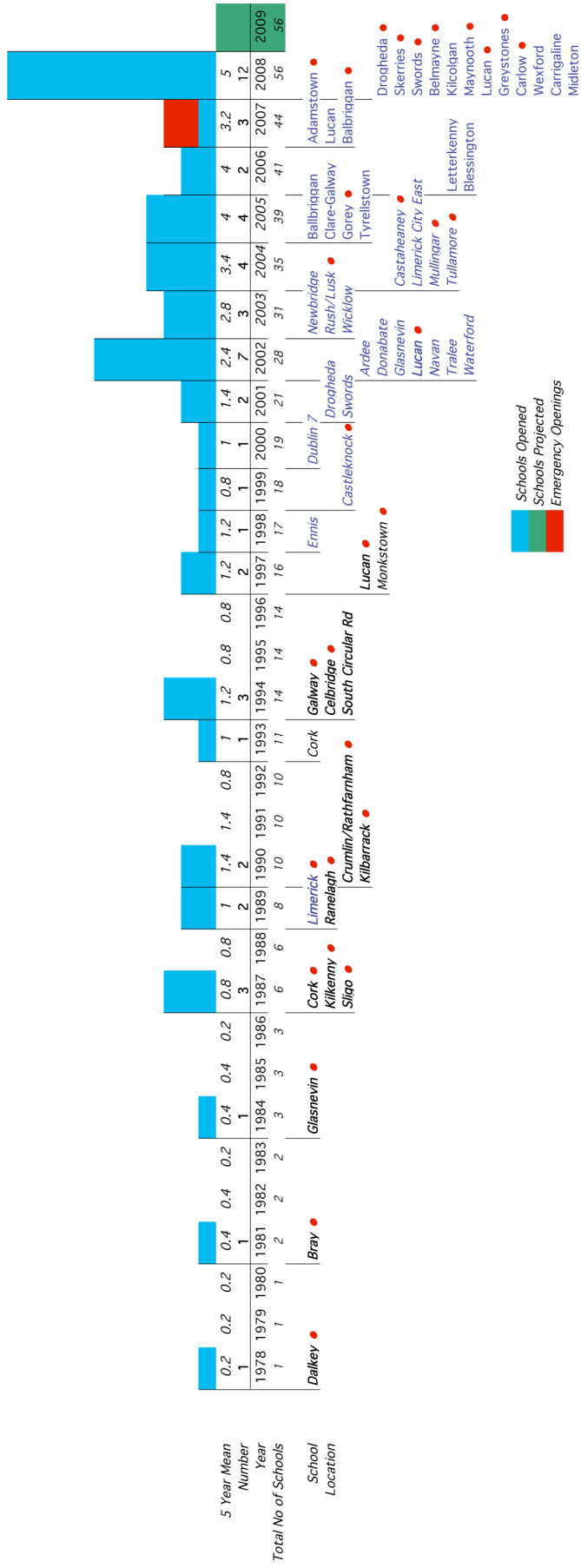
Summary

2008 was a very significant year in the history of Educate Together. The year saw the opening of 12 new primary schools, eight of which opened in modern new buildings provided by the State. Educate Together took possession of no less than 15 new buildings for its schools and saw the proportion of its schools in temporary accommodation fall below 50% for the first time. The year also saw significant advances in our school support services, our training programmes for boards of management and for the first time, a State funded module on Educate Together in a college of teacher education. On the organisational side, the revenue, turnover and staff effort in the national office increased, with income increasing to over € 960,000 over the year. Most strategically, Educate Together applied for recognition as a second-level patron and made a number of important strides with this exciting work. Statistics and chronology of the year follows.



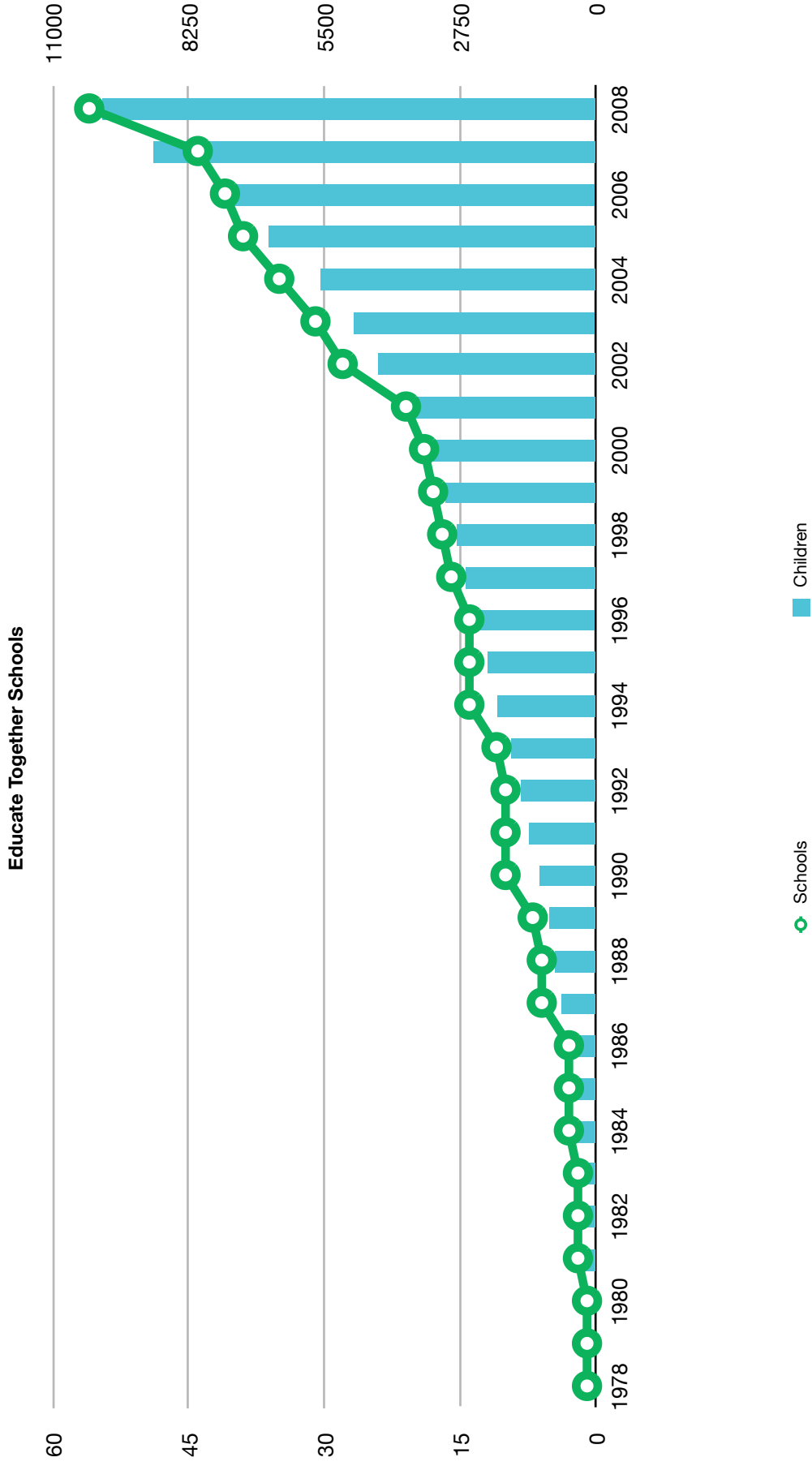
The 15 new buildings opened in 2008

School Openings Educate Together Sector 1978 - 2008



31 Schools in Permanent Buildings
 41 Schools with Educate Together's National Patronage
 56 Total Number of Educate Together schools

Statistics



2008 Chronology

January

New Staff in National Office

Jarlath Munnely and Niall Wall join the national office as New School Officers.



Jarlath Munnely



Niall Wall

Pre-enrolments for new schools

Largest ever first day list at Carpenterstown launch.

Second-level General Members Meeting

Prof. Áine Hyland, Emer Smythe (ESRI) and others assist members in consideration of second-level project.



Áine Hyland at the Second-level General Members Meeting

CEO speaks at IPPN Conference

Paul Rowe on Q&A type panel at IPPN. Highlights need for cooperation to bring about proper funding of primary schools.

February

Training for New Schools Groups

Intensive work carried out with new schools groups and training of New School Officers. Pre-enrolments being built up for prospective new schools.

Office Developments

Louise Daly is promoted to School Support Officer.



Louise Byrne

Louise Byrne joins us as a Office Manager.

Second level progress

First edition of second-level newsletter. Meeting with officials from the Department of Education and Science on 26th February to out the Department's position on Educate Together as a second-level patron.

Ethical Education Curriculum General Members Meeting

Members meet in Clarion Hotel to discuss progress of the Learn Together programme.



Members at the Ethical Education Curriculum General Members Meeting

CEO speaks at NAPD Conference

Paul Rowe presents paper on the Future of Patronage and Planning for New Schools at Royal Hospital Kilmainham event.

March

New Schools Groups

Training sessions held for prospective school managers.

Second level progress

Meeting of working groups on Management and Structure and Teaching and Learning Methodologies, Lobbying and Communications, Campus and Built Environment, Curricular Framework and the Ethical Education Curriculum established.

Formal application made to DES on 13th March to register as a second-level patron. A number of geographical areas where interest has been expressed mentioned in application.

Meeting with Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA), on 27th March to explore the possibility of drawing up a "Model Agreement" to establish Educate Together second-level schools in partnership with VECs.

April

General Members Meeting

Consultative meeting held on School Support Needs.

12 New Primary Schools recognised

Large advert placed for 12 new principal teachers
Carpenterstown ETNS refused recognition.

Educate Together Principal's Conference Held in Portlaoise

Tom Collins (NUI Maynooth) addressed conference.

Second-level progress

Work on second-level curricular framework began.

May

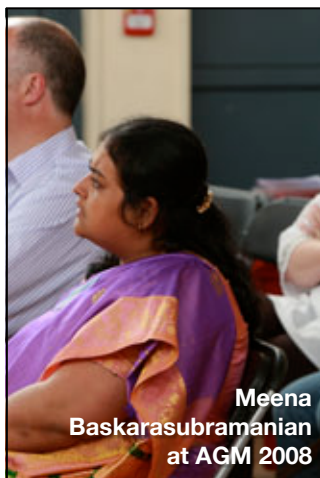
New Primary Schools Programme

Intensive work with DES over accommodation for new schools, training of school managers and prospective board members.

AGM at Adamstown

Successful AGM held hosted by Adamstown Castle ETNS and Esker ETNS. Brigid McManus, Sec. Gen of DES, and Niall Crowley, Director Equality Authority speak to the meeting.

We welcomed Mark Kelly, Paddie Murphy, Andrea Burke-Khan and Gerry Breslin onto our Board of Directors.



Meena
Baskarasubramanian
at AGM 2008



Micheal Johnston
at AGM 2008



Board of Directors

Second-level

Public meeting held on May 28th organised by parents from Educate Together schools in the Lucan area who wish to revive the campaign which began in 2000. Over one hundred people attend the meeting.

Public workshop held in Waterford on May 17th to bring people up to date with the Waterford second-level campaign.

Working groups on Ethical Education Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Methodologies and Curriculum and Management and Structure meet.



Emer Nowlan & Richie Murphy at the proposed site
for an ET second-level school in Waterford

June

HR Manual for Educate Together Office drawn Up

Training of office staff in performance assessment and the drawing up of a formal HR manual for Educate Together's employees is drawn up.

Governance Manual for Educate Together Board of Directors

Board of Directors draw up a Governance Manual for their work.

Volunteer Interns in National Office

Stephanie Cornelius (US- Boston) does sterling work as an intern in the national office.

Training for all newly appointed principals and school managers

Evening session held in Dublin for 24 new school leaders who will open new schools in September.

CEO speaks at Conference on the Future of Patronage

Paul Rowe presents paper on the Future of Patronage at Royal Hospital Kilmainham event organised by DES. Controversy over "community national school model".

Second-level

Online petition set up to put pressure on Minister to confirm Educate Together's registration as a second-level patron.

Draft Curricular Framework presented to members of the Curriculum and Teaching and Learning Methodologies working group on 21st June.

Waterford and Swords, launch their second-level campaign websites.

July

Launch of TCD Feasibility Study on Educate Together Second-level school

Launch of document by Evana Bacik in Trinity College.

New Schools

Intensive work to prepare new schools for opening in September.



Emer Nowlan, Paul Rowe, Evana Bacik, Aiden Seery & Andrew Loxley at the Launch of the Second-level Feasibility Study

Office Developments

Intensive work to upgrade office infrastructure to support this effort.

August

New Principals for Castleknock ETNS and Monkstown ETNS

Dermot Higgins stood down as principal of CETNS and was replaced by Aedin Ní Thuathail.

Mary Stuart retired as principal of Monkstown ETNS and was replaced by Rosario Kealy.

CEO Speaks at Parnell Summer School

Paul Rowe presents paper on religion and education at Parnell Summer school in Avondale House.

New School Buildings Handed Over in Knick of Time

New buildings for 8 of the new schools were handed over, some just two days before start of term. Frantic work over the last weekend of August.

Wexford ETNS Opens

Wexford ETNS jumped in first and opened on August 27.

September

12 New ETNS are open

New ETNS opened in Kilcolgan, Aston Village, Skerries, Thornleigh, Maynooth, Lucan East, Carlow, Greystones, Belmayne, Carlow, Carrigaline and Midleton.



Emer Nowlan & Jessica Bird at the Handover of Greystones ETNS



The 12 New schools that opened in 2008

Minister opens Lucan East ETNS

Batt O’Keeffe and the press corps descended on Lucan East ETNS on their second day of operation and were given a great welcome by parents, staff and children. Success of the ‘fast track’ building programme showed that permanent buildings could be delivered efficiently for new schools.

Presidential visit highlights 30th Anniversary of the first Educate Together school

In September, we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the first Educate together school. The event took place in the Morrison Hotel and was graced by the presence of The President, Mary McAleese, who presented awards to four key founders of the movement. In her speech, she stated "Educate Together has stepped up to the plate nationally and shifted what was a pioneering movement right into the mainstream".

A high point of this event was the performance of the Adamstown School Choir, which is a joint choir from Adamstown Castle ETNS, Esker ETNS and St. John the Evangelist Catholic National School. After singing for the President and guests, the choir performed on Millennium Bridge in brilliant sunshine.



President Mary McAleese at Educate Together’s 30th Anniversary



President Mary McAleese at Educate Together's 30th Anniversary with the Adamstown Schools' Choir

October

General Office Developments



Barra Lysaght

Masina Johnston takes up the new post of Fundraising Officer.

Barra Lysaght, a former Educate Together student joins the Educate Together National Office as Team Assistant.



Fiona Richardson

Second-level

Fiona Richardson joins the second-level team as Education Officer.

A steering group involving collaborators from Dublin City University and the University of Limerick established to guide Student Voice Research project.

Training programme for academic year launched

A full programme of training for boards of management of Educate Together schools was published. It runs from October to May.

Second-level

General Members' Meeting specifically on the issue of second-level Educate Together model held on 11th October.

Following involvement in the Interim Boards of Management of newly established Community Colleges in Donabate and Phibblestown, Educate Together asked to participate in a similar Board for the Adamstown Community College. Tom Moriarty, principal of Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School to represent Educate Together.

November

General Members Meeting

A further general members meeting was held on the Ethical Curriculum. This drew up proposals for working groups and for an interactive website to be developed in 2009.

No New Schools for 2009

Announcement of Review of School Recognition Process by Minister O'Keeffe. He also stated that there will be no new primary schools will be recognised in 2009. New Schools Officers in national office are reclassified as Regional Development Officers.



Fionnuala Ward

General Office Developments

Fionnuala Ward joins the Educate Together National Office as Teacher Education Co-ordinator (part-time).

December

General Members Meeting on Learn Together curriculum

Members debate options for progressing work on the Learn Together curriculum. Mary Stuart leads Monkstown ETNS team in showcasing their approach.

Second-level

Fergus Finlay, Chief Executive of Barnardos launches Lucan Task-Force for an Educate Together Second-Level School website.

Changes in Primary Partner Organisations

Monsignor Dan O'Connor retired from his post and was replaced by Eileen Flynn.

Canon John McCullagh, the Secretary of the Church of Ireland Board of Education also stood down.

John Carr, Gen Sec of INTO announced his retirement.



Gorey Educate Together National School

Receive the latest news from Educate Together direct to your desktop!

Educate Together is going through a phase of rapid development. We are campaigning for significant system change in Irish Education and delivering services which impact on the quality of education provided in our schools. We regularly publish newsletters, news alerts and other information through email.

You may subscribe to our free newsletter, which is a free email service by sending a simple message to:-

subscribe-eten@educatetogether.ie

Archives of previous newsletters and extensive information on the sector can be seen at our website:-

<http://www.educatetogether.ie>



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