



Educate
Together

Educate Together: Impact Review 2011



Educate Together

We are here to build a network of inspirational schools through partnership with parents, students, educators and leaders. Educate Together schools nurture critical thinking, problem solving, team working, creativity and above all, respect for the potential of every single individual. We are learner-centred by design.

Priorities 2011

1. Providing Choice
2. Providing School Support
3. Pioneering Second-Level



CEO Foreword

Welcome to our review of 2011. Educate Together has had an eventful year. We made some real impact and now have even firmer foundations for further growth. The change in government created a new momentum in the education sector and the new Minister's drive for reform is very encouraging.

During 2011 our primary network expanded again, we introduced new supports to our 60 existing schools, and perhaps most significantly, 2011 marked our formal recognition as a second-level patron.

Educate Together continues to go from strength to strength. We are now educating more than 14,000 pupils in our schools and we have a team of more than 850 exceptional teaching and support staff.

All of this success has only been possible due to the fantastic support of our parents, teaching staff, principals, volunteers and supporters. Thousands of people across Ireland give so generously of time, ideas, energy and finances to sustain our work.

On behalf of the staff, the board of directors and the entire Educate Together family, thank you.

Paul Rowe,
CEO, Educate Together



Providing choice

Opening and Expanding schools

Educate Together is the fastest growing provider of education in Ireland.

By September 2011 Educate Together had 60 schools open with new schools in Holywell, Portlaoise, Blanchardstown West and Powerstown. Educate Together also received confirmation that a new school in Ashbourne will open in September 2012. These five new schools alone represent an additional 2,948 pupil positions created – a 19% increase in the Educate Together pupil capacity from September 2009.

In September 2011 the Department of Education & Skills gave a figure of 550,000 as the updated primary school population. Educate Together's school network capacity grew to 24,915 pupil places – this now represents 4.5% of the total primary school going population, a significant increase of 164% in just 2 years.

This growth in Educate Together capacity has not happened only through the opening of new schools as mentioned above, but also through the growth of capacity in existing Educate Together schools.



In 2010 and 2011

60

Schools in the **primary** network

4

New schools **opened**

20

Schools have **doubled** in capacity

5

Schools have **tripled** their capacity

1

School has **quadrupled** its capacity

Represents an **increase** of **164%** on previous capacity

The **total** new capacity at the end of 2011 is now **24,915** pupils

The number of new school **buildings** achieved

19

Estimated state **capital** leveraged

€165m

At the end of 2011 Educate Together was supporting **47 different parent groups** across Ireland campaigning for an Educate Together school in their area.

School support

Putting students first

In 2011 there were 60 schools in the Educate Together network. We provide enhanced support to individual schools, which ensures that we meet our obligation to put our students at the centre of everything we do. Every Educate Together school is different as every child is different, but we are bound together by our unique ethos. By ensuring that the school environment is managed to the highest standards, we can be sure that the teachers and children can get on with the business of learning.



School Support Impact **2011**

- 278 **appointments** approved in 47 of 60 Educate Together schools.
- 155 volunteers completed the new **online Board of Management Training**
- 47 **New Chairpersons** appointed to Boards of Management
- 92 **Patron Nominees** sourced
- 5 schools embarked on **Ethos Self Evaluation**
- 160 learners completed **online Learn Together** courses
- 4 **teacher training colleges** offered Learn Together curriculum electives

Top 5 school support advice line topics 2011:

Recruitment

Redeployment Panel

Human Resources

Sourcing volunteers

Interpretation of circulars from the DES

IMPACT

850 school staff supported
€1.5 million in volunteering hours invested
14,600 students learning



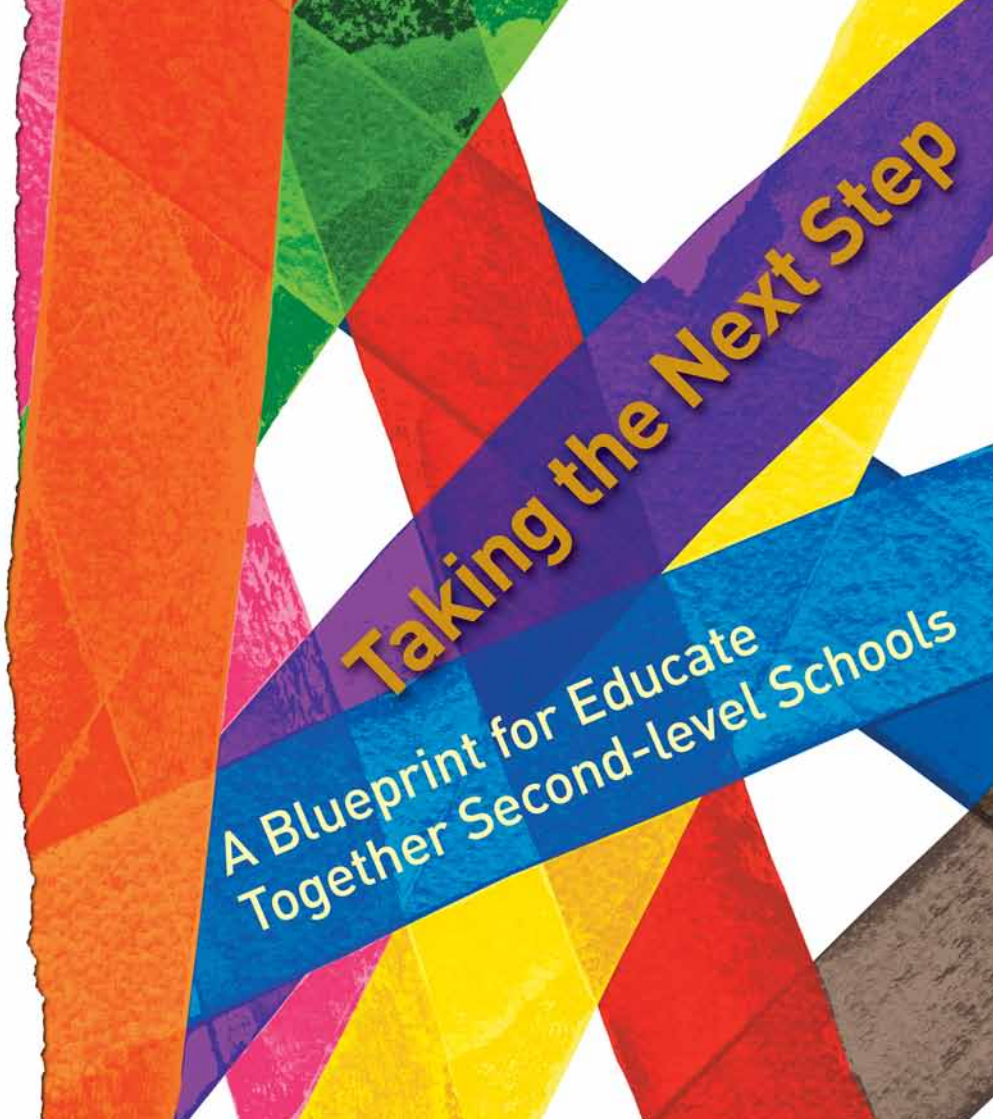
Second-Level

A new model

The time for reform and innovation in Irish education is now. The need to improve second-level schooling is widely accepted by business leaders, educationalists and social activists alike. We need to encourage students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, effective communicators, creators and innovators. Educate Together has a unique opportunity to pioneer new approaches, as we will be opening a completely new type of school.

In May 2011 the Minister for Education and Skills announced the formal recognition of Educate Together as a second-level patron.

This announcement opens the way for us to make Educate Together second-level schools a reality.



Educate Together hosted a significant international conference on curriculum integration in Limerick in May. Held in association with the University of Limerick and the NCCA, the 'Re-imagining Learning' conference attracted national and international contributors from Ireland, the UK, Canada and the USA.

During 2011 Educate Together also supported parents who activated campaigns to make formal applications to open second-level schools in Drogheda, Greystones, Lusk and Dublin 15.

"I can now confirm the Government's view that Educate Together meets all the requirements to operate as a patron of a second-level school."

Ruairi Quinn T.D.

May 2011



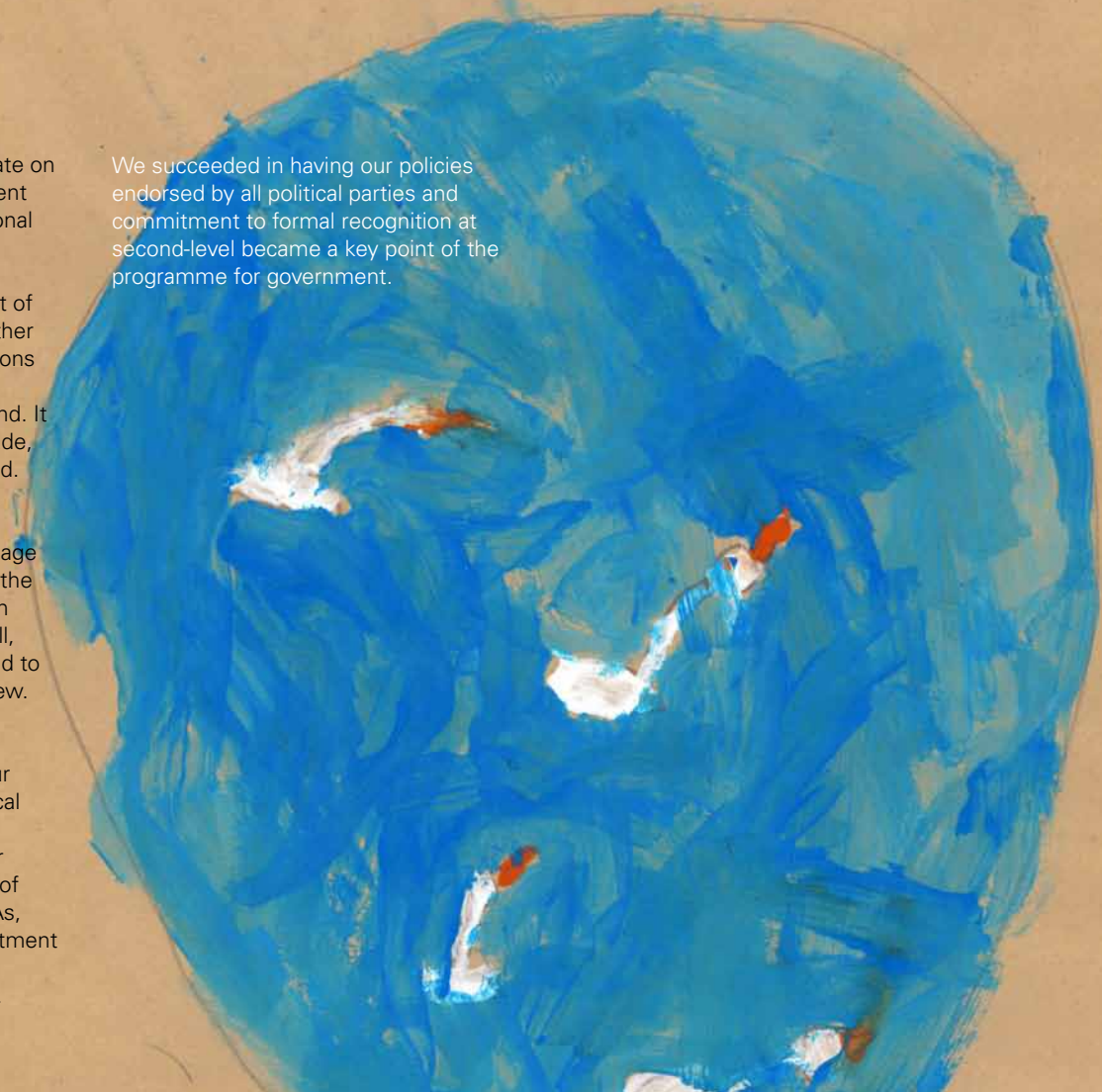
System Change

Educate Together is an active advocate on educational issues both to government and other influencers in the educational sector. This work behind the scenes keeps issues that are important to parents and students at the forefront of policy makers' minds. Educate Together applies influence to areas and decisions that will have a profound impact on generations of young people in Ireland. It is critical that good decisions are made, and that bad decisions are challenged.

In 2011 Educate Together made submissions to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism, the Teaching Council, the Oireachtas Select Sub-Committee on the Education and Training Boards bill, the DES enrolment policy review, and to Ireland's UN Universal Periodic Review.

The general election in February presented an opportunity to push our education priorities across the political spectrum. Our campaign identified five key priorities as identified by our membership. We sought protection of education budgets, retention of SNAs, delivery of parental choice, a commitment to innovation in education and new permanent buildings for our schools.

We succeeded in having our policies endorsed by all political parties and commitment to formal recognition at second-level became a key point of the programme for government.



Governance

Board of Directors

Chair:

Diarmaid MacAonghusa

Finance and Business:

John Roberts
Declan Ryan

Legal:

Richie Bourke

Education:

Dolores O'Donnell
Andrea Burke-Khan
Paddie Murphy
Robert Dowling

Other:

Simon Bradshaw
Mary O'Rourke
Ferdinand von Prondzynski

Chief Executive Officer:

Paul Rowe

Company Secretary:

Paula Fagan, Financial Controller

Senior Mangement:

Deirdre O'Donoghue
Leadership, Development and
Governance

Emer Nowlan:
Education and Network
Development

Mary O'Donovan:
Development and Fundraising

John Holohan:
Communications

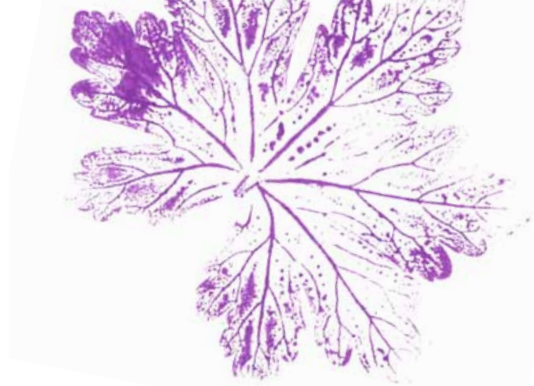
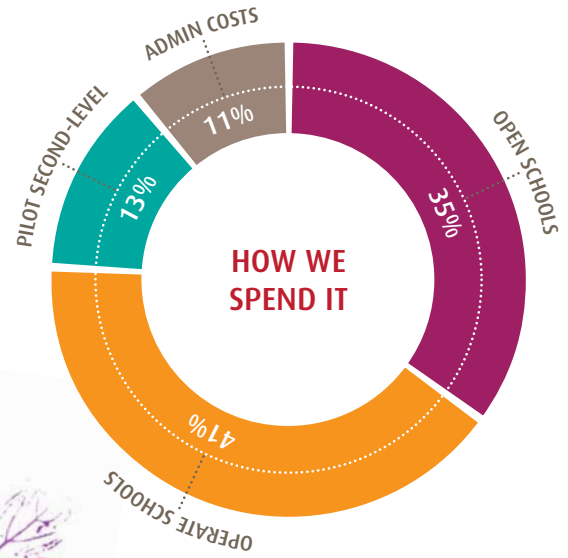
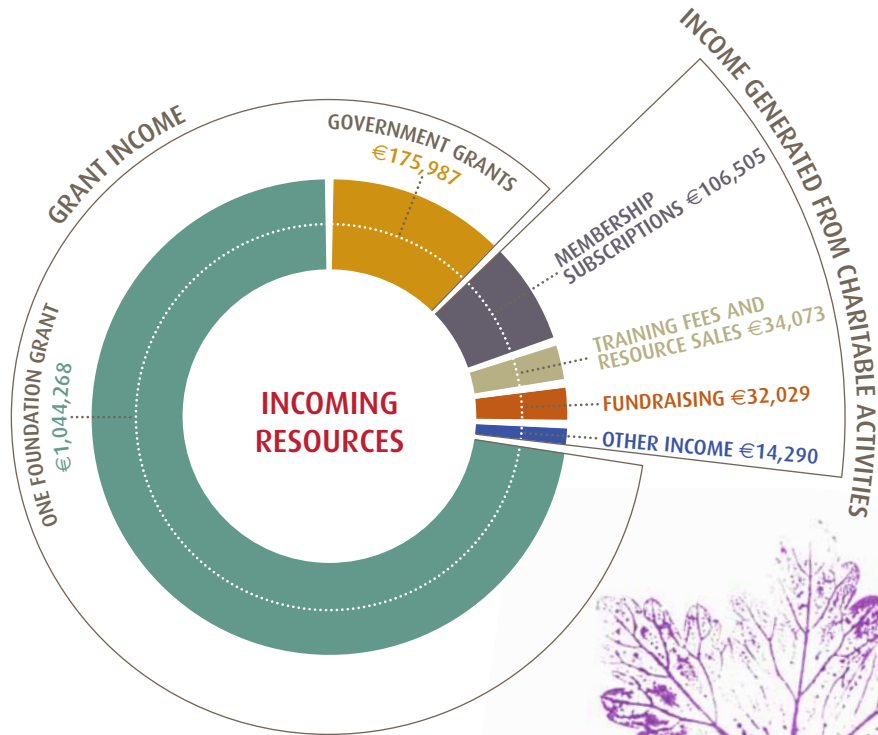
Louise Byrne:
Finance and Administration

On 19th of July 2011 we mourned the loss of our friend and director Brendan Kehoe who died following a short illness. He is greatly missed by the Educate Together community.



Educate Together's Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 31st December 2011



	Total 2011 €	Total 2010 €
INCOMING RESOURCES:		
<i>Grant income:</i>		
One Foundation grant	1,044,268	1,200,000
Government grants	175,987	197,742
<i>Income generated from charitable activities:</i>		
Membership subscriptions	106,505	81,776
Training fees and resource sales	34,073	6,263
Fundraising	32,029	29,237
Other income	14,290	24,919
Total incoming resources	1,407,152	1,539,937
RESOURCES EXPENDED:		
Programme related costs	1,239,065	1,217,478
Governance and administration costs	150,164	138,589
Total resources expended	1,389,229	1,356,067
Net incoming (outgoing) resources for the year	17,923	183,870
Reserves at the beginning of year	114832	-69037
Reserves at the end of year	132,755	114,833



Educate Together Impact

In the last 10 years we have

opened
40 schools

rallied
50,000
volunteers

given choice to
40,000 parents & an
inspiring education
to **26,600** children!



2011 A good year....

Educate Together calls on parents, students and teachers to make submissions to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism.

January
2011

After many years of campaigning Educate Together collaborates with St Patrick's College to deliver an 'Ethics in Education' course for trainee teachers.

April
2011

Educate Together launches anti homophobic bullying course in partnership with BeLonGto

May
2011

Minister Ruairi Quinn formally recognises Educate Together as a second-level patron and praises its Blueprint for second-level schools.

June
2011

All Educate Together school boards came to the end of their term of office. We said goodbye for now to many incredible and inspiring individuals who brought great passion and commitment to the education of every student in their schools.

August
2011

Educate Together launches "Volunteer of the Year" award, recognizing the contribution of our 4,000 volunteers.


September
2011

October
2011

Launch of the first module of our online Board of Management training, provided free to all members of Educate Together boards of management.

November
2011

Educate Together's annual Ethos Conference discusses our Ethos Self Evaluation Tool after five schools complete the evaluation since March.

A photograph of children holding hands, showing their lower bodies and legs. One child is wearing a yellow lace-trimmed top and black leggings, another is in a light pink sweater and dark jeans, and a third is in a patterned top and blue jeans. They are standing on a light-colored floor.

Educate Together was founded in 1978 when a group of parents in Dublin campaigned and won the right to open and manage a school for their children. The principles of the school were that it would be:

Multi-denominational
Child-Centred
Co-Educational
Democratically run



These principles were enshrined in the Educate Together charter in 1991 and today form the foundation for the ethos of every Educate Together school.

Follow us on
Twitter
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www.educatetogether.ie

Charity Number : CHY 11816
Company Number: 656183

A big THANK YOU to the Educate Together schools who contributed the beautiful photographs and artwork.

Design by Slick Fish Design
Fabric illustrations by Sarah Cunningham



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