



Educate  
Together



Pupils at the new Holywell ETNS, Swords on their first day at school, Sep 1st 2010

## TEACHER NEWS

SEPTEMBER  
2010

Welcome back to school and to our very first Educate Together Teacher News!

We're hoping to issue a newsletter twice a year with updates on issues related to the ethical curriculum. If your school is involved in a particular event or initiative related to the Learn Together; between now and February, please let us know. The event or initiative doesn't have to be big or startling – in fact, simple, sustainable and easily transferable to other schools is best!

In the meantime, I'm hoping to start a blog on the same subject, which will be available through the Educate Together website.

And finally, in appreciation of the fact that September can be slightly frantic...good luck to all!

Fionnuala Ward  
Primary Education Officer

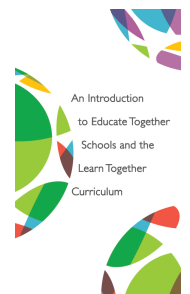


### Online Course

We ran our first online course this summer: An Introduction to Educate Together and the Learn Together Curriculum. The course was made up of 5 modules: An Overview of the History and Background of Educate Together; the Moral and Spiritual strand; the Equality and Justice strand; the Belief Systems strand and the Ethics and the Environment strand. The focus, for those modules related to the Learn Together, was very much on classroom resources and ideas.

Over 180 people registered for the course and the feedback was really positive. We were delighted with its success and are offering it again during the October mid-term break: from Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Oct for anyone who missed it (October participants will not be eligible for EPV days).

We will also be running this course again – and hopefully a further course, which takes a more in-depth look at some aspects of the Learn Together – next summer.



### Tutors

Due to an increasing amount of work both in the schools and in the Colleges of Education, we've decided to put together a panel of tutors, who would be available to deliver sessions in either. Training and support will be provided and we hope to have a planning day on Sat Sep 18<sup>th</sup>.

Teachers who wish to apply to join the panel are very welcome. CVs, (no more than 2 pages), and a brief letter of application should be sent by email, before 12.00, noon, on Friday Sep 10<sup>th</sup> to [teachereducation@educatetogether.ie](mailto:teachereducation@educatetogether.ie)

Tutors will be paid for all presentations. However, we cannot guarantee that all successful applicants will be asked to present in either the schools or the colleges as the situation in relation to the provision of substitute cover is still unclear. Nor do we know, at this stage, exactly how many tutoring hours will be available.

Applicants should have:

- a comprehensive knowledge of the Learn Together curriculum and significant experience in the area
- excellent communication skills
- a proven ability to work on their own initiative and as part of a team

Experience at presenting at third level and / or post-graduate qualifications would be an advantage.

## Chester Beatty Library

The Chester Beatty Library has let us know that it is especially interested in welcoming Educate Together schools in the upcoming term. Fun, pupil-friendly worksheets / treasure trails will be available from late October onwards as well as handling objects, based on collections, (perfect for group work), with related quizzes / questions.

The Head of Education, Jenny Siung, would be more than happy to talk to schools beforehand for suggestions and recommendations. The Chester Beatty has a number of artifacts related to Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam and a visit would fit in nicely with the aims and objectives of the Belief Systems strand.

Please see [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie) or to book guided tours, forms can be filled online on [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie) under Plan a Visit.

To access handling packs contact Justyna Chmielewska or Jenny Siung on [educationservices@cbl.ie](mailto:educationservices@cbl.ie)

### **Current Exhibition: Muraqqa' - Imperial Mughal Albums Until October 3rd 2010**

Named by The Art Newspaper as one of the top ten Asian exhibitions worldwide for 2008 and back home after a four-venue tour of America, this is a stunning, not-to-be-missed exhibition of paintings from the land of the Taj Mahal. The Chester Beatty Library holds one of the finest collections of Indian Mughal paintings in the world, and this exhibition is a rare opportunity to see many of the best of those works.

## Colleges of Education

Educate Together has been knocking on the doors of the Colleges of Education for some time now. St Pat's, Mary I, Froebel, Marino and CICE are all denominational colleges in receipt of state funding. Educate Together has argued that, as these colleges are funded by the taxpayer, they should reflect all sectors of primary education.

The minimal input on Educate Together and the Learn Together curriculum in the Colleges of Education means that NQTs – and Educate Together schools which employ NQTs – are left at a definite disadvantage. This was highlighted by a plethora of comments posted on forums to that effect during our summer course this year.

Happily, there has been significant progress in this area. The up-coming academic year should see full electives on Educate Together and the Learn Together in Mary I, CICE and Froebel. St Pat's, the first college to come on board, is committed to continuing modules for both third year students and post-grads and Hibernia has offered us 3 online hours in the new year.

So, overall things are looking up!

## Lists of Resources for Learn Together

Teachers who took part in last year's Learn Together survey prioritised a need for an online list of resources in all four strands of the curriculum. Just such a list has been put together and takes into account suggestions and recommendations from the survey, itself. In fact, there are five lists altogether - one for each of the four strands as well as a list of recommendations for classroom and school libraries.

These lists are in no way final or complete. Nor are we suggesting that schools should buy any or all of the items listed. Really, they're just an indication of what's out there in relation to support for the ethical curriculum, with links to relevant websites for further information.

Please feel free to comment, (good or bad), on any item you may have used – there are forums for feedback attached to each item. Likewise, if you'd like to recommend a book / pack / resource, please email us.

The lists are available free, by subscription. To gain access to the lists, email us at [resources@educatetogether.ie](mailto:resources@educatetogether.ie)

## Inservice

To date, 14 schools have availed of inservice on the Learn Together during planning or staff meeting days. Inservice will be available again this year. This is normally a half-day session which is tailored to your school's needs.

The focus is on practical ideas, workshops and activities for teaching the Learn Together. The cost ranges from €350 to €400 and a session for parents can also be arranged. Some schools have shared the session to bring down the cost.

Contact: [teachereducation@educatetogether.ie](mailto:teachereducation@educatetogether.ie) or 01 429 2500

The **Astronomy Ireland** team came to visit us here in the national office over the summer. All available staff decamped to the conference room, coffees in hand, for a wonderful presentation on the solar system.



Astronomy Ireland staff are available to visit schools and will tailor presentations to accommodate age groupings and class interests. A nominal fee, to cover transport etc., is charged. See: [www.astronomy.ie](http://www.astronomy.ie) or email [edu@astronomy.ie](mailto:edu@astronomy.ie) for more. Details are also included under our resource lists for both the Ethics and the Environment and Moral and Spiritual strands. An examination of the stars and planets is a wonderful means of engendering awe and wonder and provides a great opportunity for self-reflection.