



Educate
Together



Educate
Together

SECOND-LEVEL PROJECT

ETSLN

Second Level Newsletter

VOL 3 ISSUE 3
NOV/DEC 2010

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

In November we received the news that the Department of Education and Skills had selected Co Wexford VEC as patron for the new post-primary school in Gorey. We are very disappointed for the parents and volunteers who campaigned so hard, and for the 957 families in Gorey who chose Educate Together over the VEC in the parental survey.

Despite this setback, we are continuing with our plans to open our first second-level school. Our working groups have been very busy, we have just held a productive second-level General Members Meeting, and we are continuing with our plans for the *Re-imagining Learning* conference scheduled for June next year.

With all good wishes for the festive season,

Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer



Second-level General Members Meeting

The second-level General Members Meeting (GMM) on Saturday 11 December provided working groups with the opportunity to report back to each other on progress they'd made since the summer. It was also a forum for second-level start-up groups to discuss campaign strategies in the light of the recent Gorey decision and as we approach a General Election. Members of the Drogheda and North Wicklow/South Dublin second-level start-up groups attended, as well as parents from other areas who are in the process of starting their own campaigns.



Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development highlighted the progress that has been made in 2010, with Educate Together now firmly established as a well-qualified potential patron for second-level schools.

We were fortunate in having Sarah Anderson from the Gorey campaign committee whose presentation on its campaign provided genuine insights into the realities of working on such an intensive project. Her campaign reflections showed how successfully the group worked together, and how they managed, with limited resources, to gain significant support from the local community.

Professor Áine Hyland also spoke positively about the Gorey campaign, congratulating the local group on their hard work and on winning the support of nearly 1,000 parents in Gorey. She pointed out the great opportunity that is now presented by political situation, referring back to the 1977 general election which was a key factor in the opening of the first Educate Together primary school.

The **Second-level Fighting Fund** was launched at the meeting. This has been set up so that people can provide much-needed support for this crucial phase of the second-level campaign. Intensive lobbying, legal and policy work is planned for 2011, in a final push towards opening the first school. To donate go to: www.educatetogether.ie/get-involved/2010/12/second-level-fighting-fund/

Second-level Start-up Groups

North Wicklow/South Dublin Educate Together Second-level Action Group

For more information please contact Jessica Bird on 087-646777, or go to the group's Facebook page.

Limerick

Contact Santhi Corcoran if you would like to get involved.

E: santhil@eircom.net

Swords Action Group (SSETSAG)

For more information go to: www.setsecondary.org

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School Action Group

For more information, go to: www.droghedaetss.com

Kilkenny

Contact Mary Galway if you would like to get involved.

E: MaryGalway@eircom.net

Start-up meetings in January 2011

Dublin 15

Wed 19 January at 7.30pm

Venue to be confirmed.

For more information email:

castaheanypta@gmail.com

Good News!!

In September the ASTI Standing Committee formally accepted that Educate Together should be recognised as a second-level patron. We have good relationships with the two second-level teacher unions and lots of great support from individual teachers, but this is the first formal union acceptance that we are aware of and it is a great boost to the campaign.

Working Group updates at the GMM

At the GMM the **Ethical Curriculum** working group reported on progress they have made exploring a Values-Based Indicators Toolkit, looking at ways of using it to help make the Educate Together ethos more explicit in a second-level context. School students will take part in values research as part of this process. (For more on the Toolkit see: www.wevalue.org).

The **Leadership, Management & Structure** working group reported on their current work, adapting Articles of Management for an Educate Together secondary school. Issues such as principal recruitment; associate student members on the Board of Management are being discussed, and they are exploring how the Educate Together ethos can be embedded throughout the Articles and made more explicit.

The **Curriculum, Teaching & Learning** working group reported on their research into examples of integrated approaches to curriculum. The group's main focus for 2011 will be: exploring how particular themes/ curriculum areas might work in an Irish school context; planning an integrated Easter camp experience for 6th Class and 1st Year students; and preparing to showcase examples of integrated approaches at the *Re-imagining Learning* conference.

The **Campus and Built Environment** working group reported on some work they did with sixth class pupils on school design. They are currently working on a draft second-level school design, as well as beginning to explore temporary accommodation solutions.

The working groups will be meeting again on **Saturday 22 January**, venue and times to be confirmed.

Conference in May/June 2011

Re-imagining Learning - Curriculum Integration in the Early Secondary Years

Educate Together is organising this two-day conference in May/June 2011 in partnership with the NCCA and the University of Limerick. The conference will explore ideas for innovation in early secondary education, and will focus in particular on more integrated, relevant and applied approaches to delivering the curriculum. Confirmed speakers to date include: Dr Candy Beal, Prof James Beane, Dr Jim Gleeson, Dr Anne Looney, Prof John Portelli, and Dr Emer Smyth. For more information see: <http://tiny.cc/reimagining-learning>



Educate Together



OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



NCCA