



# Educate Together Second - Level Project

## **Educate Together Second-level News Vol. 2, Issue 3 – Nov / December 2009**

### **Educate Together welcomes engagement with Department on Plans**

On November 10th, Educate Together had a constructive meeting with Department officials to discuss aspects of their plans for second-level education. The following week, officials were in front of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Science to answer questions on the organization's application to register as a second-level patron.

References were made to the need for caution on the Department's part because of the cost of establishing second-level schools. Speaking for the Department, Frank Wyse said they must ensure that an Educate Together second-level school "will cater for a broad range of children in the community it represents" and said: "When we approve Educate Together schools, that approval will not be reversed lightly."

Department officials also raised questions about the undertaking in Educate Together's second-level Blueprint that their schools will not stream. Speaking about comments made, Emer Nowlan said: "This is a good example of where national and international research is very clear; mixed ability groupings benefit students over a range of outcomes".

Deputies Paul Gogarty and Brian Hayes pointed out the two-year delay and pressed officials to give a timeframe for processing Educate Together's application; they undertook to respond "in a matter of weeks."

Read Educate Together's press release [here](#).

Read the [full transcript of the Joint Committee Meeting](#)

## Blueprint Presented in Galway



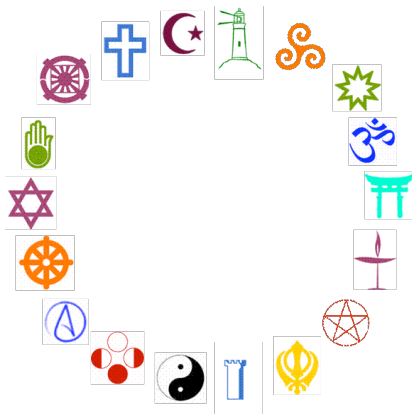
On 5th November Paul Rowe, CEO and Emer Nowlan, Second-level Project Manager, addressed a well-attended public meeting in Galway Educate Together National School as part of a series of visits planned to different parts of the country to present our Blueprint for Second-level Schools.

There has been interest in establishing an Educate Together second-level school in Galway for a number of years and local parents first contacted the Department of Education and Science 5 years ago. Now that there are 3 successful and popular Educate Together primary schools established in the area (in Kilcolgan, Claregalway, and in Newcastle, Galway City), pressure is mounting for an Educate Together second-level school for pupils to go on to after 6th class.

## **Committee of South Dublin Council asks Minister to recognise Educate Together as second-level patron**

On 28 October, councilors on the Lucan - Clondalkin Area Committee of South Dublin County Council passed a motion put forward by Cllr Derek Keating stating its support for the campaign for an Educate Together second-level school in Lucan. The committee then wrote to Education Minister Batt O’Keeffe to request a progress report on Educate Together’s application.

Minister O’Keeffe’s reply to the committee confirmed that he had asked his Department to “examine the broad issues relating to school recognition at second level,” and that Educate Together’s application to be recognised as a second-level patron would be “looked at in that context.”



## **Lucan schools celebrate “light” and “giving”**

On Monday 21 December all 5 Educate Together primary schools in the Lucan area will come together in Griffeen Valley ETNS for a seasonal celebration of Light and Giving. The event will include a ceremony of lights and a plea for the gift of an Educate Together second-level school for Lucan.

Pupils from Griffeen Valley ETNS, who are hosting the event this year, are learning about the Winter Solstice. Esker ETNS are covering the Hindu festival of Diwali, and children from Adamstown Castle ETNS are preparing a display about Christmas. Lucan ETNS is studying the Jewish holiday, Hanukah, and pupils from the newest Educate Together school in the area, Lucan East ETNS, are working on a display about Eid, the Muslim celebration that marks the end of Ramadan.

The event is being organised jointly by the Griffeen Valley PTA and the Lucan Task Force, which is campaigning for an Educate Together second-level school in the area.

## **Working Group "Advocate" Session Planned**

In the New Year we will once more be calling in the services of volunteers to advance the work of the Second-level Project. Working Group sessions which took place in 2008 were vital in developing the plans outlined in *Taking the next Step - a Blueprint for Educate Together Second-Level Schools* and we are very grateful to all those who have taken part to date.

We are now planning a session for all those who are familiar with our second-level plans and are interested in "advocating" for an Educate Together second-level school as part of our lobbying effort.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in this please contact us at [secondlevel@educatetogether.ie](mailto:secondlevel@educatetogether.ie).

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