



Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Emer Costello and student Codie Scully officially open the new building at D7 ETNS. More info on p.4



Educate Together

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**Educate Together AGM 2010**

The 2010 Educate Together AGM took place on Saturday May 15th at Newbridge ETNS.

The key message of the AGM was the urgent need for new primary schools across the country. Educate Together CEO Paul Rowe, warned that Irish schools are facing an unprecedented level of demand, with 43 areas nationwide needing new schools. A high birth rate in 2007 will have a huge knock-on effect for Junior Infants enrollments in 2011. Paul said "We estimate 40 new schools will be needed – double the highest amount the Department has ever opened in one year."

New school announcements are traditionally made in February, allowing six months for the school to be established and staff recruited. But with so many new openings anticipated, major strains will be placed on patron resources. Paul added "This is unprecedented and the old way of announcing school openings in February without any consultation would be a recipe for disaster. I am appealing to our new Minister to accelerate reform of

Departmental procedures and invite consultation with school patrons on how to meet the accommodation challenges ahead." He concluded by stating "The



Tánaiste has an opportunity to be a real advocate for change in Irish education. We are heartened by her words on taking office and are very willing to assist in the implementation of long overdue reforms that are needed."

The keynote speaker at the event was Catherine McGuinness, President of the Law Reform Commission who praised Educate Together's contribution to Irish education saying "The advent of Educate Together in the mid '70s was a catalyst for change in Irish education. To this day they continue to advocate for innovation in teaching methodologies and reform of

our education system, showing a dedication to Ireland's youth that has to be respected."

At the open forum at the end of the AGM, Ruairi Quinn TD, speaking from the audience, reiterated the Labour Party's commitment to Educate Together and our ambitions at second level. He went on to say that if Labour are a party in Government after the next election, that commitment will become policy. This statement was warmly received by all.



Attendees at the AGM

The Educate Together Online Training Course is open for bookings now and places are filling up rapidly! Check out page 2 for more info.



At the launch of "The Struggle for Shared Schools" were Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together, Joan Whelan, Principal, Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School, Dr. Cécilia Linehan, Co-Founder, ACT, Gemma Hussey, Minister for Education 1982-86 and Dr. Jonathan Bardon, Author.

## 2009 Annual Report

2009 was in many ways a watershed year for Educate Together. Following the unprecedented opening of 12 new schools the year before, we consolidated our network and planned hard for an accelerated development programme for the next 5 years. The securing of long term funding investment at the end of 2009 gave us a financial foundation on which to base the future expansion of the network. This also allows for improved services to schools and development of our capacity to create a vibrant, active organization that can achieve a lasting reform of Irish education. Although the Department placed a moratorium on the opening of new schools in 2009, Educate Together is now better placed than ever before to significantly increase its scope and influence. Key future objectives include; significant growth of our primary school network, the opening of our first secondary schools, the launching of a suite of new online courses, investment in new staff in the critical areas of fundraising, communications, education and volunteer support, a sustained awareness programme to drive parent interest, increased training for schools in the Learn Together curriculum and the establishment of a new national office and training centre. The whole national office team look forward to working with all our members and supporters to deliver on these objectives. Copies of the report are available from Educate Together National Office.

## Book Launch

A major new work from Northern Irish historian Jonathan Bardon entitled "The Struggle for Shared Schools in Northern Ireland: The History of All Children Together" was launched by former Minister of Education Gemma Hussey on Wednesday 26th May at Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School. Paul Rowe, Educate Together CEO, Fintan Mullen, Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and Cecil Lenihan, co-founder of ACT were present at the launch.

The book chronicles how All Children Together (ACT), the founding movement for integrated education in Northern Ireland, started in 1972 in the face of powerful establishment resistance, both clerical and lay, to a vision that would see children of all religions and no religion educated together.

At a political level it describes how, crucially, ACT persuaded the British Government to pass enabling legislation in 1978 for schools to become integrated. Author Jonathan Bardon has spoken to many of those involved from the outset of the campaign for shared schools and trawled through reports, newspapers, the unpublished records of ACT and government files recently opened under the 30-year rule. What emerges is a remarkable tale of determination, tenacity, courage, dedication and, above all, vision by ordinary men and women from both sides of the religious divide.

## Educate Together Training

Educate Together are delighted to offer our first online Summer Course in July and August 2010; **An Introduction to Educate Together and the Learn Together Curriculum.** The course is fully approved by the Department of Education and Skills. All participants successfully completing the course will receive a certificate. Employed teachers completing the course are entitled to Extra Personal Vacation days.

### Who is it for?

This course is primarily aimed at people teaching in, or planning to teach in, Educate Together schools. It was developed in response to a survey of classroom teachers, which identified a demand for online professional development in the Learn Together curriculum. Anyone interested in Ethical Education, and/or the ethical aspects of Social Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) or Intercultural Education will enjoy this course.

### What will I learn about?

The origins and ethos of Educate Together; the four strands of the Learn Together curriculum; examples of appropriate resources for teaching the Learn Together curriculum; sourcing and adapting material for use in the delivery of the Learn Together curriculum.

### How is the course organised?

The 20 hour course is divided into five four-hour modules:  
 Module 1 – Introduction & Background  
 Module 2 – Moral and Spiritual  
 Module 3 – Equality and Justice  
 Module 4 – Belief Systems  
 Module 5 – Ethics and the Environment

### How much does it cost?

The course fee is €89. To enroll or for more information call 01 4293500 or email [summercourses@educatetogether.ie](mailto:summercourses@educatetogether.ie)

## APPOINTMENTS

### New members of the Educate Together Team

#### Mary O'Donovan

##### Head of Development (Fundraising)



Mary O'Donovan is originally from Dublin and has just returned to Ireland after spending almost 10 years in the UK fundraising for WWF, and CARE International. Mary has a wealth of experience in all kinds of fundraising and is happy to support ET schools

with their fundraising efforts. She can be contacted at [fundraising@educatetogether.ie](mailto:fundraising@educatetogether.ie).

#### Aoife Murray

##### Communications Officer



Aoife Murray is originally from Dundalk and has a wealth of experience in

Communications and PR roles, most recently at The Base Youth Center and Childcare facility in

Ballyfermot and Invoke PR &

Events. Aoife holds a BA in Communication Studies from DCU and graduated from Trinity College in 2009 with a MPhil in Popular Literature. Aoife is looking forward to working with all members of the Educate Together community. She can be contacted at [aoife.murray@educatetogether.ie](mailto:aoife.murray@educatetogether.ie)

#### Gerry Breslin

##### Principal of Portlaoise ETNS

Originally from Co. Donegal, Gerry has taught in Educate Together schools in Lucan and Newbridge, where he also served on the Board of Management. Prior to this appointment he held a post of responsibility for Ethos, IT and Pastoral Care for the Student Council. Gerry has also worked extensively in the voluntary sector for the past 15 years.

#### Maria Boyne

##### Principal of Holywell, Swords ETNS

Maria is a graduate of Colaiste Mhuire Marino and holds a Masters of Education from St Patrick's Drumcondra. In addition she has obtained a Diploma in Special Needs Education and has valuable teaching experience in this field. Maria brings over fifteen years teaching experience to her new role. Maria stated 'I am thrilled and excited at the prospect of working with such supportive parents and their families in helping build a strong school community in Holywell Educate Together'.

## Aim High



The anniversary of Hilary and Tensing's ascent of Mount Everest, May 29th, was marked by the launch of Educate Together's Manifesto for second-level education in Ireland. Guests arrived at the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin's city centre for a evening of fun and fine dining. "Taking the Next Step- a Blueprint for Educate Together Second Level Schools" suggests an education that delivers above and beyond a

mountain of CAO points. The manifesto proposes an alternative approach to second-level education in Ireland, focusing on a creative partnership approach to learning for students, teachers and parents, and the nurturing of creative, communication, research and critical analysis skills. "Taking the Next Step" can be downloaded from the Educate Together website.



Attendees at the Aim High event

## Lucan and Gorey Public Meetings

Educate Together's development teams held two successful public meetings for its second level programme in Lucan and Gorey. Both areas enjoy strong local support for the establishment of a local second level school.

At Lucan Emer Nowlan, Ann Ryan and Amy Mulvihill presented and took audience questions on the second level blueprint to an audience of nearly a hundred parents drawn from the five Educate Together schools in Lucan. The meeting was chaired by John Holohan. In an vibrant Q&A session many issues regarding the workings of the proposed model were discussed and issues relating to the ongoing patronage review of the Clonburris school were also addressed. The local parents group are currently running pre-enrolment to establish an accurate forecast of future pupil numbers for an Educate Together second level school. In 2008, 737 people signed the petition calling for the establishment of the school.

An area that has been discussed in the national media in relation to secondary school accommodation issues, Gorey has a new and very active parents group, lobbying locally to ensure the new school for the area (proposed for 2012) will be under the patronage of Educate Together. A well attended public meeting was held in the Amber Springs Hotel on May 12 where Paul Rowe and Emer Nolan presented our second level plans. Subsequent to the meeting over 300 local parents signed up to the school and the local council has endorsed the campaign for it to open under Educate Together patronage.

# NEW SCHOOL OPENINGS

## Portlaoise

An new Educate Together National School will open on Railway Street, Portlaoise on August 30th. Preparations for the school opening are gathering pace. Teacher recruitment is ongoing.

## Holywell, Swords

The new Educate Together National School in Swords is the 58th Educate Together National School to open and the 3rd in Swords. The school will open in September and is currently enrolling pupils for Junior and Senior Infants.

# NEW BUILDINGS AND RESOURCES

## Dublin 7

May 16th saw Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Emer Costello joined by children, staff and parents to officiate at the opening of the new building for the Educate Together National School in Grangegorman. The new building is a 16 classroom purpose built school on Fitzwilliam Place North.

## Castleknock

Cllr Ciaran Byrne, Mayor of Fingal was on hand to officially open a new Sensory Garden at Castleknock Educate Together National School. Containing five raised flowerbeds, several interactive works of art and five sensory installations with mosaic design throughout, the Sensory Garden was developed as a collaborative project involving students, teachers, and members of the local community.

Please note that all vacancies in schools must be advised to the national office for inclusion on the Educate Together website. Please forward all vacancy information to

[seonaid.dunne@educatetogether.ie](mailto:seonaid.dunne@educatetogether.ie)



## School News

### Castaheany



Castaheany Educate Together NS officially raised its recently awarded Yellow Flag for Interculturalism and a Green Environmental Awareness Flag on

June 17th. Principal Mary Heany expressed her pride at her school's achievement "This is a great day for Castaheany ETNS. The children have worked so hard on our intercultural and environmental projects and seeing the flags fly is a positive sign to everyone in our community of the great spirit and attitude at this school". Castaheany ETNS is the only school in Dublin 15 to be awarded both flags.

### Griffith Barracks



Griffith Barracks Multi Denominational School were very proud to formally raise their 3rd Green Flag at a ceremony in the school on the

10th of June. They were very honoured to have David Gunning, CEO of Coilte to join the staff and students in this celebration.

### North Dublin National School Project



Once again the children of NDNNSP transformed the school on Spring Clean Day during April. Not even the

smallest piece of dirt stood a chance of surviving the day!

### Swords

Wednesday 23rd June will see 6th class students at Swords ETNS celebrate their

graduation and journey onto second level education. They are assured of a warm welcome and a listening ear at the school for years to come.

### Balbriggan

Thursday 17th June saw teaching staff moving furniture and resources into their new building. The development of the new building can be watched on the Ballbriggan ETNS website, [www.balbrigganetns.com](http://www.balbrigganetns.com)

### Esker

Esker ETNS recently purchased 8 new Interactive Smart Whiteboards. All classes in the school now have this state of the art technology at their fingertips. The staff would like to thank the Board for their work in accessing the funding for the project.

### Carlow



Junior Infants at Carlow ETNS spent the last week gearing up for summer holidays and creating a huge new summer display, which is taking pride of place in their classroom.

### Thornleigh



May 24th-28th saw Multicultural Week take place at Thornleigh ETNS, including a parents' showcase, where

parents came into class to share traditions and cultures with pupils, and the international food fare, which saw a high array of delicious foods from around the world. Both of these events were a huge success.