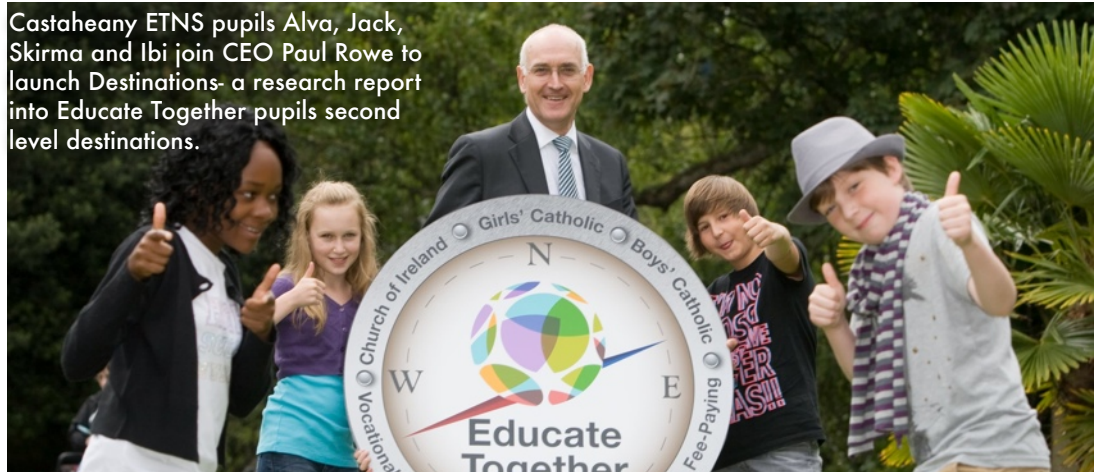




Castaheany ETNS pupils Alva, Jack, Skirma and Ibi join CEO Paul Rowe to launch Destinations- a research report into Educate Together pupils second level destinations.



ETSN

School Newsletter

JULY
2010

Next Stop Educate Together Second Level!

Educate Together launched its "Destinations- Where to Next?" research on the second-level educational destinations of its graduates on July 29th in Dublin. The launch followed the announcement, the previous day, by the Tánaiste of an expert group that will be established to deliver a transparent and accountable framework for second level patronage.

The Destinations research, conducted among 37 Educate Together primary schools, shows our graduates go on to attend all types of post primary schools with a preference shown for co-educational models. The report also cites a 90% preference expressed by parents for second level Educate Together schools for their children if available.

Speaking at the report's launch in Buswell's Hotel, Paul Rowe Educate Together CEO stated "Destinations" shows us that parents whose children go to our schools try to send them on to second level schools that best match our ethos. The vast majority of them would prefer to have an Educate Together school to go to instead. The

Tánaiste's patronage framework initiative is welcome - we have been calling for a transparent process by which school patronage can be democratically determined for many years. We look forward to the expert group green lighting our second level applications that will allow us without further delay to deliver the model of second level education that our research shows us is in high demand."

Educate Together has longstanding applications lodged with the Department of Education and Skills to open second level schools in a number of locations nationwide. It welcomes the establishment of a clear framework on second level patronage but cautions on the urgent resolution of a number of existing second level school applications, particularly in Lucan and Gorey, where a shortage of school places has already forced the implementation of emergency accommodation procedures.

In relation to the Minister's plans to establish a new Lucan second-level school as a formal partnership, Educate Together has been asked to enter

discussions with the VEC on an approach to achieving this. While the organization does not discount productive discussions with the VEC, these discussions would be entered into on the understanding that any partnership must facilitate delivery in full of Educate Together's blueprint for second level education. In addition these discussions should not override Educate Together's right to have its longstanding applications adjudicated upon under existing education legislation.

Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development for Educate Together says "Parents have been campaigning for an Educate Together school in Lucan for years now. To meet this demand any proposed new model would have to provide a real choice for parents in the area - it must be a brand new type of second-level school which delivers Educate Together's specific democratic ethos".

Energy Efficient Building Grant

SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) have announced the details of an Energy Efficient Retrofit Fund (EERF) for school building and facility upgrades. Projects included are to focus mainly on thermal and electrical energy use in buildings. A grant of 35% funding is available, with a grant range greater than €20K and less than €500K, e.g. €100K granted projects are encouraged. The project must be completed and final documentation submitted by 1.12.2010. For more information visit <http://www.seai.ie/Grants/Retrofit/>



Paul Rowe Educate Together CEO (with some of the pupils of Waterford ETNS at their Farewell Assembly for retiring Principal Margaret Boucher

80,000 New School Places by 2016 Not Enough

Educate Together has welcomed the planned investment of €3.1bn in upgrading and expanding the schools network by 2016 but warns that more will be needed. In November 2008, CSO figures for registered births and the Department of Education's own Geographical Information System anticipated the need for 100,000 new primary places by 2015. However yesterday's Capital Review announced provision for 80,000 new places - 10,000 of which will be in temporary accommodation.

Commenting on the revised funding figures Educate Together CEO Paul Rowe stated "The Department of Education and Skills has been planning since 2008 for a 100,000 surge in primary school places up to 2015, approximately 14,000 per annum. Yesterday's announcement has both reduced the number of places planned for and extended their provision over an additional year. Educate Together is concerned that this will place enormous pressure on the Department's ability to meet the demand for places we all know is there. As every child in the state has a right to an education this apparent shortfall has to be addressed and

additional investment may well be required."

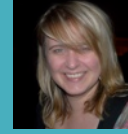
Educate Together estimates that up to 40 new schools will be required for 2011 alone and is calling for the publication of the Department of Education and Skills' immediate plans for new schools at the earliest opportunity. Paul Rowe commented "We are committed to working with the Department on the upcoming new school programme and look forward to doing our part in the challenge of meeting the state's educational needs. To this end we are requesting the publication at the earliest opportunity by the Department of detail on how the €272m allocated to primary education in 2011 will be spent. It is vital that a new process for the recognition of new schools at primary and second-level is put in place, so that patrons can plan properly and schools can be opened professionally and with the full support of parents".

The allocation of school patronage is currently at the discretion of the Minister and made on the recommendation of Department officials. In addition to the requirement to provide new school places the Department also has to make allowances for renewed calls by educationalists and parents for the provision of choice in education beyond the predominant denominational model.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sarah Williams

Volunteer Officer



Sarah has recently joined the Educate Together team as Volunteer Officer.

With a dynamic career history in the corporate, education and NGO sectors, Sarah's previous work was in the national office of Volunteering Ireland as Programme Manager. Sarah has found a home for her drive and commitment to the development of volunteerism in her new role with Educate Together. A volunteer herself, Sarah is involved with Media Forum and Voluntary Service International, and has been active in community media, environmental projects, youth work and various festivals.

RETIREMENTS

This summer saw the staff and pupils of two Educate Together schools say a fond farewell to their Principals; Margaret Boucher in Waterford and Kieran Griffin in Bray. Margaret has been a long-time supporter of Educate Together, having spent a large part of her career teaching at Educate Together schools and contributing to its growth from a regional grass-movement into the organisation it is today. Waterford ETNS marked Margaret's departure with a special farewell assembly.

Kieran Griffin has had a similar career-long engagement with Educate Together, having been involved with the founding of the Dalkey School Project and was Principal of the Bray School Project for 29 years.

Commenting on both retirements, Paul Rowe said 'It is with regret that the entire Educate Together team says farewell to Margaret and Kieran. It has been a pleasure to work with them both.'

New Insurance Option

Facility Hire Insurance makes it possible for Schools to arrange short term Public Liability Insurance to cover anyone hiring out their premises for a wide range of activities.

Schools can now arrange Public Liability Insurance for individuals and groups who are not currently insured, or who cannot access reasonably priced cover for a one-off event. This product has been developed by O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd, who currently are Insurance Brokers for many Educate Together Schools. Although Facility Hire Insurance can only be used by 'approved facilities' and facilities must be vetted, O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd has fast-tracked approval for all Educate Together school premises. All schools have been added to the list of approved facilities on the scheme website which can be found at www.facilityhire.ie. The username is facilityhire and the password is odon09pass. In addition all schools will receive a user pack from O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd, providing the opportunity to arrange short term insurance for anyone wishing to hire their premises for any of the listed activities.

If you have any queries regarding the scheme please call Damien Sewell of O'Driscoll O'Neil on 6395882.

National Fundraising Day October 22nd 2010

stay tuned for more information



Running a Marathon?
Trekking to Antarctica?
Cycling to France?

Get sponsored and help
Educate Together!

For a form and further
information contact Masina at
National Office on 087 976

Become an Educate Together Superhero! Make October 22nd your schools' day to contribute to the Educate Together network current and future. We are in the prime position to improve services to schools, expand the network and develop our capacity to create a vibrant, active organisation that can achieve a lasting reform of Irish education.

The plan for the National Fundraising Day is simple, one member or small group of your school's community (well known person/people) does a sponsored run, swim, knit, silence(!) or some other challenge activity. Do the challenge and become an Educate Together Superhero! If you are interested in becoming your schools superhero talk to your Board of Management or call Masina Johnston in the Educate Together National Office, 01 429 2500. Fundraising packs full of ideas for challenges will be sent to schools.



Tralee ETNS Principal Denis Reidy joins students for their Mad Hatter Party.

School News

Midleton E.T.N.S.

Midleton Educate Together in Co. Cork. is now heading into its third school year and is fast becoming a well recognised school in Midleton. The Parents Association have had a busy year of fundraising as well as promoting the school. Coffee Mornings have been a great success and have brought new students and parents to the school. The St. Patrick's Day Parade was a big day for the school and its students, when they walked with pride and showed the town of Midleton how much they have grown in such a short time. Midleton ETNS ended the year with two big events, the Sports Day and the Annual Table Quiz.

Swords E.T.N.S.

The school will be hosting its end-of-August picnic this year. All the new Junior Infants pupils are invited and will be joined by many parents and your students. The picnic provides the perfect opportunity for new and existing pupils to prepare for the new school year, while having fun!

Carrigaline E.T.N.S.

The school year at Carrigaline started with the big move into new rented accommodation. Many parents were on hand to help with carpeting and fitting out the school, turning the purpose built crèche facility into a bright and happy place for learning.

CETNS welcomed over 20 new Junior Infants this year. In-class activities for the children ranged from the visit of a hedgehog and a beekeeper, daffodil and tree planting days, National Spring Clean with Tidy Towns, celebrating World Book Day and visits from various musicians.

North Kildare E.T.N.S.

This year the school maintained their exceptional record in the Cumann na mBunscoil Athletics events in Santry against forty schools, winning for 1st place for the Under 11 Girls and Under 13 Boys relays, 4 gold medals for boys and girls' sprint races, 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze for boys and girls' hurdle races, 2 gold in the boys and girls' high jump, silver in the boys' long jump, and 2 bronze in the U12 boys' relay and U11 girls 500m races. Well done to all athletes!

Tralee E.T.N.S.

The school held its annual Mad Hatter Party in June. While pupils modelled their individually created 'Mad Hats', icecream was sold to raise funds for Downs Syndrome Ireland.

Carlow E.T.N.S.

The July programme at the school went very well. Classes went on several excursions in the local area including the theatre, cinema and parks.

Gorey E.T.N.S.

Pupils at Gorey ETNS brought the house down and drew the school year to a close with their production of the Wizard of Oz, their second pantomime of the year. Also, the school will be celebrating its fifth anniversary in September with a family day planned for September 12th. Congratulations to everyone at Gorey so coming such a long way in just five years!

Navan E.T.N.S.

The school would like to wish a fond said farewell to its twelve 6th class students who are moving on to pastures new in September. Their Graduation Ceremony was held in the school in advance of Sports Day this year.

CONTACT US

Do you have some great school news? Why not shout about it and let everyone know?

Email:

aoife.murray@educatetogether.ie

Call: 01 4292500

Find us on Facebook!