



Educate Together Second-Level Project

Educate Together Second-level News
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Second-level Start-up Groups
Cross-party Support for Aim High Campaign



Representatives of all political parties united outside Dáil Éireann June 2nd as they gave their support to 'Aim High', Educate Together's manifesto for change in second-level education. Pictured with Mr Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together as he signed the manifesto are Labour TD Ruairi Quinn, Sinn Féin TD Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Fianna Fáil TD Mary O'Rourke, Fine Gael TD Brian Hayes and Mary White TD of the Green Party.

The manifesto proposes an alternative approach to second-level education in Ireland, focusing on a partnership approach to learning for students, teachers and parents, and the nurturing of creative, communication, research and critical analysis skills.

On 23 June, Paul Rowe, CEO and Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development met with Minister Mary Harney to discuss issues around Educate Together's applications to open Educate Together second-level schools. Minister Harney was very supportive of our campaign – and of the need for parental choice and diversity in education generally, and undertook to speak to her cabinet colleagues on our behalf.

Meeting with Minister looks hopeful

The message from the Department of Education and Science for the last 18 months has been that questions around the future of post-primary provision are under review. Educate Together has sought a meeting with Minister Coughlan to discuss this and has now been given a commitment that she will meet with Educate Together before making any final decisions.

Network News

Integrated Curriculum discussed at Working Groups Meeting

Second-level working groups Curriculum, Teaching & Learning; Leadership, Management & Structure and the Ethical Curriculum group met on Saturday 12 June at the Educate Together national offices in Dublin.

John O'Reilly, lecturer in education at the University of Limerick, gave an interesting and thought-provoking presentation based on integrated approaches to curriculum at second-level.



Each working group then discussed their own topics and continued working towards their presentations for the General Members Meeting (GMM) planned for later this year.

The next working groups meeting will take place in early September 2010 (date and venue to be confirmed).

Lucan – Minister meets local representatives

In early June, Lucan public representatives met with Minister Coughlan, to discuss second-level school provision in the area, following the recent review of the 2008 decision to sanction a VEC Community College in the South Lucan (Clonburriss) area.

It is understood that strong support was voiced in the meeting for the establishment of an Educate Together second-level school in Lucan, which is very encouraging. However, it seems that there may have been disagreement as to where and when such a school should be set up.

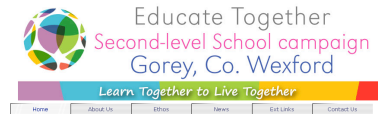
Since that meeting, the Lucan Task Force has continued to lobby local politicians for their support and has also begun an expression of interest campaign. The group has received over 350 expressions of interest from local parents already, without any public launch or publicity.

If you would like to register your interest, download an expression of interest form from the second-level page on Educate Together's website:

<http://www.educatetogether.ie/second-level/2010/06/anna-livia-lucan-educate-together-college-interest-form/>

Gorey – over 500 expressions of interest received

Gorey Educate Together second-level committee has been stepping up its campaign for an Educate Together second-level school in Gorey/North Wexford.



To date, the committee has received 545 expressions of interest from local parents. They are particularly pleased at the broad community support for the campaign; approximately 40% of the expressions of interest received so far have been for children who are not Gorey ETNS pupils, but attend other primary schools in the area.

The group is asking supporters to write to the Minister to acknowledge the strong community support for an Educate Together second-level school in Gorey. So far, the committee has gathered over 400 of these letters, which they will post to the Minister in mid-July. You can download the letter at www.et2ndlevelgorey.com.

The Gorey second-level group will have a stall at the forthcoming Gorey Town Festival weekend on **Saturday 31 July** and **Sunday 1 August**.

For more information about the Gorey campaign group go to:
<http://www.et2ndlevelgorey.com/>

Galway – New Start-up Group

On Thursday 17 June Regional Development Officer Jarlath Munnely attended a meeting at Galway ETNS to discuss plans for activities as part of Galway's second-level school campaign. The meeting decided that all 3 Educate Together schools in the county (Galway ETNS, Claregalway ETNS and Kilcolgan ETNS) could be involved in the campaign, and that from September 2010 events would take place in each of these schools to get feedback from parents.

More activities are envisaged for later on this Autumn, including publicising the campaign in the wider Galway community, lobbying public representatives, hosting information meetings, setting up stands in shopping centres and launching an expression of interest campaign.

If you want to get involved, or have suggestions for the campaign, please contact jarlath.munnely@educatetogether.ie.

Greystones/South Dublin – New Start-up Group



The Greystones Educate Together Secondary Action Group (Getsag) has recently been reinvigorated, launching its expression of interest campaign at Educate Together schools in the Greystones and South Dublin areas. They are meeting again soon and would welcome new members. Contact Jessica Bird on 087 6467771 if you are interested in becoming involved in the Greystones/South Dublin group.

Second-level News

Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara gains permanent recognition

Good news this week for the school community of Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara – the school will gain permanent recognition from the Department of Education in September, following a number of years of campaigning on the part of parents. This Irish language second-level school opened in 2006, the first Voluntary Secondary School to be set up with the patronage of An Foras Patrúnachta, patron of over 50 primary Gaelscoileanna around the country.

This news is encouraging for parents campaigning for Educate Together second-level schools around the country.

For more information: <http://www.leinsterleader.ie/news/Good-news-at-last-for.6406255.jp>

Intel General Manager critical of second-level approach

Jim O'Hara, General Manager of Intel Ireland, has been voicing his views on the Irish education system this week. In the print and broadcast media he has criticized the emphasis on content in our second-level system and about the need to re-focus on the skills young people require.

Jim O'Hara is one of many from the fields of academia, educational research, industry and the voluntary sector who have called for an overhaul in the approach to second-level education in recent months.

Read more:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2010/0708/1224274267474.html>
<http://www.examiner.ie/ireland/gear-second-level-to-wealth-creation-says-intel-director-124551.html>

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