



Educate Together



Educate Together

SECOND-LEVEL PROJECT

ETSLN

Second-Level Newsletter

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MAY 2011

May 2011 has turned out to be an important month for Educate Together and the second-level project. Following the success of our *Re-imagining Learning* conference in Limerick on 13 and 14 May, we were delighted to hear the news at our AGM that Educate Together has been formally recognised as a second-level patron. Judging from the numerous calls, tweets and Facebook messages of support we have received since the Minister's historic announcement, it's quite clear that many other people are also very pleased. Our challenge now, as CEO Paul Rowe said in his response to the Minister, is: "to take the next step and open the doors of a new second-level school," something that everyone involved in the campaign is working hard to make happen.

Educate Together now a second-level school patron - official!



L to R, Paul Rowe, CEO Educate Together, Diarmaid McAonghusa, Chairperson Educate Together Board of Directors, and Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, at the AGM held at Gorey ETNS.

On Sat 28 May, at Educate Together's AGM, Education Minister Ruairi Quinn made the historic announcement that Educate Together has been formally recognised as a second-level patron, saying: "I can now confirm the Government's view that Educate Together meets all the requirements to operate as a patron of a second-level school."

In his address to AGM delegates at Gorey ETNS, the Minister also confirmed that future decisions on second-level patronage would be made, "in the context of the Government's commitment to plurality," and that the process for how such decisions are made will depend on what he described as "a new framework for the recognition of second-level schools."

The new 'framework' has yet to be established, but the Minister said that he intends to make it a priority. "I am finalising proposals to bring to Cabinet so that I can set about implementing this Government commitment shortly," he said.

Commenting on the Minister's announcement, CEO of Educate Together Paul Rowe said: "This decision is a very important landmark for our organization. It is a vindication of the huge effort parents around the country have put in to supporting our campaign to open second-level schools."



Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer

Second-level Start-up Groups

Kilkenny Information Meeting

5 May

Kilkenny's second-level start-up group held an information meeting at the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny on 5 May. The meeting was well-attended, with over 50 people there on the night, and included local TDs and councillors who are supportive of the Kilkenny campaign.

For more information about the Kilkenny campaign, contact Mary Galway E: marygalway@eircom.net

Dublin 15

Expression of Interest 2 June

The D15 2nd level campaign group held an Expression of Interest event at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on Thurs 2 June to raise awareness of their campaign.

If you would like to get involved in the D15 campaign, contact the group by email at: D15et2l@gmail.com or find them on facebook.

Easter Camp pics and info

Check out our Easter Camp photos, examples of students work and other info here:

<http://www.educatetogether.ie/press-releases/2011/04/second-level-easter-camp/>



L to R, Roland Tormey, UL, Emer Nowlan, Educate Together, Candy Beale, North Carolina State University, John Portelli, University of Toronto and John Hammond, NCCA, pictured at *Re-imagining Learning*

Re-imagining Learning Conference

On May 13 and 14, Educate Together hosted a major education conference entitled '*Re-Imagining Learning: Curriculum Integration in the Early Secondary Years*' in the Strand Hotel Limerick. The conference was organised in partnership with the NCCA and the University of Limerick, and explored current ideas for innovation from across the globe in early second-level education, with a particular focus on more integrated and applied approaches to delivering the school curriculum.

Emer Nowlan, conference organiser and Educate Together's Head of Education and Network Development, wrote about the conference in an article for the Independent, titled: '*It's time to re-imagine the ways we teach our children,*' available [here](#).

The conference programme is available to download [here](#).

Conference presentations are also available at this [link](#).

Working Groups Survey Update

Thanks to all the working group members who completed the online survey as part of our review of working groups. Of the 23 respondents, most felt their experiences as working group members had been enjoyable. Asked about how working groups could be 'inclusive, democratic and productive,' 83% felt that having clear terms of reference was extremely important.

An overwhelming majority also said that they felt the opening of an Educate Together second-level school would be the best recognition of their work. Detailed survey results will be circulated to working group members shortly, and will also be available to view on Box.net.

We have also set a provisional date for all working groups to meet and report back on progress - **Sat 24 September 2011** - more details to follow.

If you would like to join one of the working groups, email:

secondlevel@educatetogether.ie