# Educate Together

# Education & Support



news

For Educate Together teachers and boards of management

Spring 2017



# OUR WORLD IRISH AID AWARDS 2017

## "FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET"

As a teacher, I cannot recommend participating in the Our World Irish Aid Awards highly enough! The content of the tesson plans grabbed the children's interest immediately, and I was overwhelmed by the level at which they engaged with the idea of creating a fairer, more just world for everybody. The cross-curricular approach of the programme lends itself excellently to the primary school curriculum, and is easily incorporated into many of the SESE, SPHE and Arts strands, as well as presenting many opportunities for developing Literacy and ICT skitls.

Working on their Our World projects really helped the children to develop not just an invaluable awareness of some of the problems facing people in developing countries, but also of how we all have a role in helping to make positive changes for the future. Engaging with the project really gave the children a concept of shared responsibilities for the future of our world and its people, moving us away from the 'them and us' mind-set that has too often warped children's understanding of development issues.

Through giving the children opportunities to engage meaningfully with issues such as poverty, gender equality and sustainable development, the Our World Irish Aid Awards actively develop an invaluable sense of global citizenship and civic responsibilities in the children. I was extremely proud of the insightful and engaging projects that my class produced, and am looking forward to getting involved again soon!

Katie Doyle, 6th Class Teacher
 Rathfarnham Educate Together National School, Dublin 14

Irish Aid

Irish Aid, the Government's overseas aid programme, invites you and your class or school to participate in the Our World Irish Aid Awards. The theme for this year is "For People and Planet".



This exciting Awards programme helps primary pupils, in 3rd to 6th class to explore the interdependent nature of our world and the connections between people, animals and the environment, in places near and far.

The Awards were launched at the beginning of January by the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Joe McHugh, Irish Aid is inviting teachers to register now by filling out the form below. Registered teachers will receive a Teacher's Pack, which includes classroom posters, a teacher's booklet, fun and interactive pupils' magazines as well as online curriculum linked lesson plans.

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2017 AWARDS!

Simply fill out the form below and post back to: The Our World Irish Aid Awards, Real Nation, Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8

You can register or find out more via phone or email: 01 522 4834 or ourworld@realnation.ie



School Name:				School Rell Number (Ral):				
School Address:								
School Principal: Representative Teacher's Email:			Representative Teacher: Representative Teacher's Mobile Number:					
We are interested in under	taking the Our World Iri	sh Aid Awards programs	me in the	following class	esc -			
Republic of Ireland	☐ 3rd Class	4th Class		5th Class	☐ 6th Class			
Northern Ireland	☐ Year 5	☐ Year 6		Year 7				
☐ Tick here if you would	prefer to receive a pack i	in Irish rather than Engli	sh.			Ca P		
Ptease indicate how you fi	rst heard about the prog	ramme:						
☐ This publication	☐ Having particip	Having participated previously		TV/radio/newspaper article				
□ Word of mouth	☐ Expo/Conferen	Expo/Conference		Advertisement				
□ Online	☐ Other (please s	pecify):						

## **Ethical Education Conference 2016**

## **RAISING STUDENT VOICES**

The second annual Ethical Education Conference was held in Dublin last November. It was a great success with excellent addresses by leading voices on the theme of *Raising Student Voices*. We were also delighted to have the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD officially open the conference. The following pages have reviews by students and teachers and some lovely photographs of a really productive two days of sharing good practice. Thanks to our sponsors Folens, The Educational Company of Ireland, MediaScene, The Heritage Council, The Our World Irish Aid Awards, Carambola and Eversheds.

Many thanks to the students and staff of the following schools for their participation in the StudentMeet: Bremore ETSS, Stepaside ETSS, Castaheany ETNS, Rathfarnham ETNS, Belmayne ETNS and Ranelagh MDS.













# Diary of Two Energised Primary School Teachers

# **Reflections on the Ethical Education Conference 2016**

# Chloe Buckley & Collette Peoples, Adamstown ETNS

'Raising Student Voices' was the theme of this year's conference. We arrived on Friday evening for the official opening by Minister Richard Bruton TD followed by a keynote from the Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon, who both spoke passionately about the theme of the conference.

On Saturday morning it was our turn to have the spotlight shone on us through the TeachMeet. The session was facilitated by Simon and Rozz Lewis, two engaging and enthusiastic presenters who introduced us to apps like Kahoot and Google Forms and how we could use them in class. It wasn't long before we were up to present for the designated TeachMeet five minutes on Adamstown ETNS's Yellow Flag award.

We focused on the various ways the Yellow Flag was used to raise children's voices within the school and how we found the initiative to be a great opportunity to celebrate the children as individuals as well as members of a particular culture or ethnicity. We thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of presenting to other teachers and sharing our learning on the great work being done in Adamstown ETNS.

This session was followed by a presentation by Professor Laura Lundy, Director for Children's Rights at Queens University. Laura encouraged us to reflect on how children's voices could be nurtured by involving them in IEP planning, consulting them in aspects of the curriculum and ensuring the allocation of a budget for the operation of Student Councils.

After lunch we attended two workshops: 'Facilitating Student Voices: Linking Oral language and Writing', delivered by Stephen Graham of Folens and 'Children are the Citizens of Today and not just the Adults of Tomorrow', delivered by Anne O'Donnell of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Both were really valuable and emphasised the fact that if we, as educators, truly aspire towards raising children's voices, we must teach them how to raise their individual voices.

We left the conference feeling genuinely motivated. We're really grateful to our Principal, Tom Moriarty, for sending us to the conference. Most importantly we're really grateful to be part of such a progressive, liberal school network as Educate Together.

Many thanks to all the other teachers who participated in the TeachMeet: Molly O'Duffy, Tyrrelstown ETNS; Olive O'Connell, Stepaside ETSS; Kate Minnock, North Wicklow ETSS; Ruth Donald, NDNSP; Gearóid Ó Flatharta, Belmayne ETNS; Sarah Mae Hamilton and Emma Cleverly, Midleton ETNS; Susan Finn and Eimear Coogan, Galway ETNS and Mark Dunne, Aston Village ETNS.



Students from Belmayne ETNS at the #StudentMeet



**Professor Laura Lundy, Queens University** 

# The Chronicles of a First Year Student at a Conference

## **Setanta Ballesty. North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School**

Taking part in the Ethical **Education Conference meant** leaving school at 11am to get to the conference hotel on time. Refreshments (tea, biscuits that kind of thing) were very welcome when we got there.



Our first workshop was a second level student workshop led by Joanna Siewierska from the Irish Second-level Students Union. We worked in groups with students from other schools to discuss how our student councils work i.e. how we elect people to do certain things for the council and shared information and ideas about student councils.

After this there was a StudentMeet which was when lots of primary school students joined us and some of us stood up on stage and talked about what initiatives we had carried out in our schools. There was also some competitions and spot prizes. It was a very good and interesting day for all of the Educate Together Student Councils.



**Students from Stepaside ETSS** 

## We trended on Twitter!

## First #StudentMeet

Ethical Education trended on the innovative hosting of our first StudentMeet facilitated



by Dr. Shane Bergin from UCD School of Education and Joanna Siewierska from ISSU. Students were given 6 minutes to share an or participating in in their school. It was a great success, and Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children who was in attendance, remarked on the impressive nature of the presentations

"The #StudentMeet was a great way for me to meet new people. As it was my

"I found it both educating and enjoyable."

"It was a very good and interesting day for all of the Educate Together Student Councils.'

We are looking forward to having



**Presenters Shane Bergin and Joanna Siewerska** 

# Conference Review by a Couple of Newbies

## Ella Rogers-Browne and Helen Hynes Clonturk Community College, Dublin

As two teachers in a new start-up Educate Together second level school, we weren't sure what to expect from the 'Raising Student Voices' Conference. One thing was certain though: we were there to learn as much as possible so that we could bring it back to school and enrich our teaching.

The 'newbie' feeling didn't last long as we were warmly welcomed by friendly coordinators, facilitators, and fellow Educate Together teachers.

One major plus was being able to bring our student council members along for a #StudentMeet on the Friday evening. They were thrilled to be involved and felt like they were treated as equals. Their voices were definitely heard and more importantly, valued by those listening.

It was also a great opportunity for our students to meet students from other schools. They left (reluctantly) with a wealth of ideas and have since been working enthusiastically on numerous projects and will be attending the next Board of Management meeting.

# **New Network for Teachers** of Ethical Education

The national office is supporting the development of a professional network for teachers of Ethical Education. We'll be holding the first meeting in March to plan activities such as CPD workshops for teachers. A number of teachers have already given their names to be invited.

If you're interested email sandra. irwingowran@educatetogether.ie



L-R Helen Hynes, Fiona Ní Ghloinn, Melanie Taylor and Ella Rogers Browne

As teachers we also felt that our voices were valued and it was great to learn that a new Ethical Education Teachers' Network is in development. We left with many new acquaintances and vital points of contact from other Educate Together schools.

The conference is still in its infancy, but with its value for money (raffles, quizzes, school testimonies and refreshments and the Educate Together ethos central to all), engaging speakers and focus on innovation, it has a very bright future. We'll be back next year and we'll be bringing as many teachers and students as possible along with us. We hope to be delivering our own presentation highlighting our progress in our first year!

## 3 Things I took Away...

**Ciara McMackin, Kishoge Community College** 

- 1. Ombudsman Niall Muldoon's sincerity and ambition with regard to student voice which set the tone for the whole weekend.
- Some of the most productive insights and conversations of my career over one weekend.
- 3. The 'practice what we preach' approach of the TeachMeet demonstrating a very effective means of presentation based learning and assessment for learning using technology, as well as the potential of an open, 'choose to participate' environment.





## **European Project on Ethical Education –** (Erasmus+)

The LITTLE (for short) project is underway and Educate Together is currently involved in developing an online methodologies course for teachers of Ethical Education. We will be looking for teachers to pilot the course, if you're interested email sandra.irwingowran@educatetogether.ie. We're also in the process of developing the project website, make sure to check the link from Educate Together's website in a couple of weeks: www.educatetogether.ie

## Your chance to nominate a student for the International **Children's Peace Prize**

Every year, the KidsRights Foundation awards the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize to a young person (12-18 years) who has demonstrated the skill and determination necessary to personally improve the rights of children and young

You or your school can help find this year's winner! Nominations are being accepted now and will close 17th March, 2017.

To find out more about the award or to nominate someone see www.



# **Learning to Create a Better World for All**

## **Teresa Farrell, Carlow Educate Together National School**

Fifth and Sixth class from Carlow Educate Together NS were delighted to reach the Regional Finals of the 2015 Our World Irish Aid Awards. Our class created a project, based on the 2015 Awards theme of "Caring for our World".

The project focused on the UN Development Goals and how they help to improve the lives of children, especially in developing countries. The class spent a number of months exploring the topic and learned how Ireland is working hard to achieve the Goals through the work of Irish Aid to make long-term improvements to the lives of children and their families.

The children also explored how global issues are linked to their own lives, and pupils came up with ideas about how they can play a role in creating a better world for all.

From a classroom point of view, I was delighted with how the children worked together in groups and brought everything together to create a project they were very proud of. When the class heard they had reached the regionals of the awards, there was great celebration. It really brought the class together and the children learned lessons about the world that they will carry into their future.

The children who went to the Awards had a super time. They met children from other schools, including a couple of other Educate Together schools, and got to see many different projects. However, seeing their teachers being forced to dance to 'Shake It Off' by Taylor Swift might have been the highlight of the day!

From my point of view the Our World Irish Aid Awards linked perfectly with Educate Together's Learn Together Curriculum, especially the Equality and Justice Strand. It also tied in very well with many other subjects, especially geography.

To find out more about the Our World Irish Aid Awards see www.oneworldirishaidawards.ie

The deadline for receipt of entries is 24th March, 2017



Pupils of Carlow Educate Together NS, representing their class at the 2015 Our World Irish Aid Awards Regional Finals

## Friendship Week 2017

## Sign up today & receive your FREE:

- Resource Pack full of curriculum-linked activities for the classroom.
- Age-appropriate information on migrants and refugees.
- Friendship Bracelets with slogans in English & Irish.

Funds raised from the sale of cz bracelets will help us take a stand for millions of refugees living in dangerous situations with little protection.



## **SIGN UP TODAY!**

www.amnesty.ie/friendship-week or call 01 863 8300



## **Educate Together and International Developments**

## **Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together**

Ethical Education and education for sustainability are increasingly prominent in education the world over and Educate Together's experience and curriculum is increasingly being seen as very relevant in the international context.

This interest has already resulted in the building of a small cluster of Educate Together primary schools in the South West of England centred on Bristol. The first school Redfield Educate Together is in its third year of operation and has an excellent new building, with over 170 pupils and 20 staff. In 2017 two further primary schools are due to open in Keynsham and Weston-super-Mare. There is a steady increase in interest in the impact of the Learn Together curriculum in the English primary system; feature articles have been published in The Guardian, Times Education Supplement and there has been significant radio coverage on BBC and local radio.

Last October I was invited to speak at an educational conference in Bogota, Colombia in the days after the peace plebiscite. This was a major conference of teachers and administrators. It discussed the importance



of education for peaceful resolution of conflict, citizenship and sustainable development. Links were made with a number of organisations and schools and there appears to be scope for the development of a Latin American Spanish edition of the Learn Together curriculum and partnerships with like minded educationalists in this area.

During this trip I also visited the UN University in Tokyo and met the organisers of the world network of Regional Centres of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development. Educate Together is a partner in the Dublin Education for Sustainable Development Centre which is based in DCU.

If you are interested in participating in any of this work, please email: internationaldevelopment@ educatetogether.org



# **Primary Publications 2017**

The Educational Company of Ireland





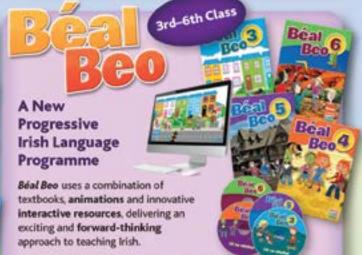
II-6th Class

Operation Maths is the first Irish Maths Programme to place understanding, problem-solving and active learning at its heart. A uniquely child-centred programme, Operation Maths teaches children to understand, not just do, Maths.

A FREE Mini-Whiteboard for each pupil! For more information and to check out the new Operation Maths blog, visit

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ww.edco.ie/bealbeo





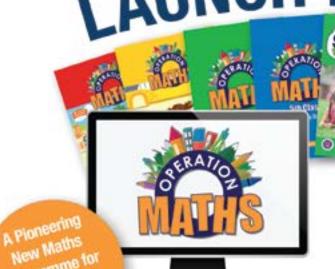




Programme for

Junior Infants to Sixth class

# AUNCH EVENINGS The Educational Company of Irelan





A unique, comprehensive and practical spelling scheme for First to Sixth class

## WHAT'S IN STORE:

- A Programme Overview
   A talk from the Programme Authors
  - Sample copies of New Edco Primary Publications
    - Amazing Prizes and Giveaways!

Date		Time Location		Venue	
Wednesday	1 March	6pm-7pm	Kilkenny	Lyrath Estate Hotel	
Thursday	2 March	6pm-7pm	Dublin West	Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley	
Tuesday	7 March	6pm-7pm	Cork	Rochestown Park Hotel	
Wednesday	8 March	6pm-7pm	Limerick	Castletroy Park Hotel	
Thursday	9 March	6pm-7pm	Meath	Bellinter House, Navan	
Tuesday	14 March	6pm-7pm	Dublin North	Hilton Airport Hotel, Northern Cross	
Wednesday	15 March	6pm-7pm	Galway	The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road	

## **PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS**

- Free Edco Primary Teacher Planner
- A Luxury Goodie Bag for the first 100 teachers that PRE-REGISTER

Pre-register at

www.edcolaunches.eventbrite.com







Stephen Graham workshop on Facilitating Student Voices: Linking Oral Language and Writing, sponsored by Folens



Deirdre O'Donoghue, Sandra Irwin-Gowran, Fionnuala Ward and Laura Dooley of Educate Together Education and Support with Minister Richard Bruton TD



**Students from Bremore ETSS** 



Anne Marie Lillis (Shellybanks ETNS) trying out the technology in the exhibition space.

## **School Support Clinic**

The Educate Together national office provides a dedicated time for school support queries. To avail of this service and receive a response during the dedicated times send your query to schoolsupport@educatetogether.ie or call 01 429 2500

School Support Clinics are from 2pm to 4:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

## **Data Protection**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is due to come into effect in May 2018. While that may seem a long way away, schools should start thinking now about how this will affect them, so that they have plenty of time to put procedures in place to meet the requirements of the regulation.

For instance, a response to a data request must be made within 28 days of the request.

If a school fails to meet this deadline, it can incur a fine of €250,000, which will not be covered by the school's insurance policy. Yes, that is a quarter of a million Euro!

There's no allowance made for the fact that schools effectively close during the summer holidays, so this would mean that schools will need to have arrangements in place to open mail over the summer. You'll find more information here:

http://www.dataprotectionschools.ie/en/

## **Training for Boards of Management**

We're holding two training sessions on recruitment for primary Boards of Management:

- February 13: 7pm to 8:30pm
- February 14: 4pm to 5:30pm

These will be held as online Webinars, and are open to all Board of Management members. We'd particularly urge Principals and Chairpersons to participate, either as a refresher course for those who have experience of recruitment, or as an introduction for those who are new.

Put the dates and times in your diaries now, and keep an eye out for an email giving all the details.

## RADON

Radon is a carcinogenic, radioactive, naturally occurring gas that is given off by rocks and soil. We've been asked to bring radon testing to your attention.

If your school hasn't been tested for radon, the Department of Education and Skills will fund testing work, and pay for remedial work. There's lots of general information on radon here: www.radon.ie, including an explanation of radon and how it gets into our schools/homes. There's also an interactive map so you can see the risk of radon in your area.

## **Key Dates for Training & Events**

### **FEBRUARY**

- Webinar on Recruitment (7pm to 8:30pm)
- 11 **General Members' Meeting**
- Webinar on Recruitment (4pm to 5:30pm) 14
- 28 Closing Date for applications to WorldWise Global Schools Passport (second-level)

## **MARCH**

- **WorldWise Global Schools Funding applications** for 2017/2018 school year opens
- 23/24 **Principals' Conference**
- TBC Launch of Lessons on Humanism (primary level)

### **APRIL**

27 WorldWise Global Schools Conference (second-level)

## **Educate Together eVetting Process**

# eVetting is the new online system for processing Garda vetting. Educate Together adopted eVetting in November of last year

Teachers are vetted through the Teaching Councils but SNA's, all ancillary staff, volunteers and anyone who carries out 'relevant work' in a school must be vetted.

To ease the process we've set it out in easy to follow steps below:

## **Step One: Invitation to Vetting**

The school nominates the person to be vetted with the *Vetting Invitation Form NVB* 1 for completion. The applicant returns the form to the school with proof of ID and address as per NVB Identification 100 point checklist.

## **Step Two: Validation of Identity**

The school ensures the *Vetting Invitation*Form NVB 1 has been completed, signed and dated by the applicant and that the declaration of consent box is ticked.

The school also validates the identity of the vetting applicant with the photo ID and proof of address provided.

The Principal/Chairperson responsible for overseeing Garda Vetting in the school should complete the *Garda Vetting Verification ID*Form ensuring that they tick the identification documents viewed and that it reaches the NVB 100 point check. The completed form and the ID checklist should be returned by post to the National Office. The school should keep a copy of all documentation for it's records. Proof of identity does not need to be sent unless it's requested.

## **Step 3: Invitation to E-Vetting Website**

The Educate Together national office reviews the *Vetting Invitation Form NVB 1* and then inputs the applicants details into the online National Vetting Bureau portal. The applicant will then receive an email from the NVB portal with a link to the vetting website inviting him/her to complete the online vetting NVB 2 form.

Please note that the form must be completed within 30 days of receiving the email. If not, the link will expire and the applicant must re-apply.



## **Step 4: Submission of the Online Vetting Application to the NVB**

When the applicant has completed and submitted the NVB 2 form, they will be issued with a reference number. It is advised that the applicant retains this number for their own records.

The National Bureau will then return the form to Educate Together National Office for a final validation after which the relevant liaison person submits the vetting application form to the National Vetting Bureau for processing.



## **Step 5: Issuing of Vetting Disclosure**

The National Vetting Bureau processes the application. Once the process is complete (5-6 working days)\* a notification is sent to Educate Together national office along with the vetting disclosure.

Educate Together then posts the original copy of the vetting disclosure to the Chairperson of the Board of Management for their consideration.

The school will be obliged to retain the copy of the vetting disclosure along with the identity documents. The school must also provide a copy of the vetting disclosure to the vetting applicant.

\* Applications may take longer to process if there are addresses listed outside the Republic of Ireland etc.

### **Relevant Work**

It is now against the law to commence 'relevant work', that is, work that involves regular and necessary access and or contact with children or vulnerable persons without first being vetted. Vetting Applicants should provide a full description of the role being applied for on the Vetting Invitation Form. It is not sufficient to state 'volunteer'. The role must be specified, such as, 'Reading Buddy' or 'Sports Coach'. If the applicant carries out multiple roles you should state the one that involves most contact with children or vulnerable adults.

## **Documentation accepted for Identity:**

In order to proceed with a vetting application it is a requirement under National Vetting Bureau (NVB) procedures that the applicant must provide proof of their identity and proof of their current residence as per the NVB Identification 100 point checklist. For a full list see https:// vetting.garda.ie/Help/FAQ for further details.

### Photographic I.D.

The following identification can be accepted:

- Current Passport (from country of origin) -70 points
- Current Driving Licence or Learner Permit (credit card format only) - 80 points
- Irish Public Services card 80 points

### **Proof of address**

One of the following can be accepted:

- Utility bill (electricity, gas, television, broadband, etc.) from within the last 6 months. Mobile Phone bills are **not** accepted - 35 points
- Statement from a bank/building society/ credit union from within the last 6 months -35 points
- P60 or P45 for the current year 35 points

In the absence of this documentation, an applicant has the option of swearing an affidavit/ affirmation before a Commissioner for Oaths to verify his/her identity. There may be separate requirements by a Commissioner for Oaths in this regard.

## **Vetting of Minors**

The NVB permits the vetting of those over the age of 16 years old. Where an application is being made for a 16/17 year old, consent of the parent/guardian must also be obtained. All applications for people under 18 years old must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian Consent Form NVB 3.

Schools should also ensure that the email address and contact number provided for the Vetting Invitation Form NVB 1 is the email address and contact number of the parent/ guardian and not the young person.

## **Retrospective Vetting**

As the requirement to be vetted for relevant work and employment purposes is now provided for in law, under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012-2016, there is now a statutory requirement that those who are currently employed by a school and/or carry out 'relevant work' who have not previously been vetted by the NVB or GCVU must now commence their vetting application before 31st December 2017 under the Retrospective Vetting Process.

Educate Together will shortly commence the retrospective vetting of any SNA, ancillary staff and volunteers who have not previously been vetted.

Teachers will be vetted retrospectively by the Teaching Council on a phased basis whereby retrospective vetted will be linked to membership renewal.

A further circular will be issued by the DES shortly focusing on Retrospective Vetting.



The progressive, professional union, representing teachers and lecturers in the Post-Primary, Further/Adult and Higher Education sectors.



TUI is committed to a comprehensive system of high quality public education at all levels that is free, co-educational, non-denominational and informed by principles of equity and equality.

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