

# Educate Together

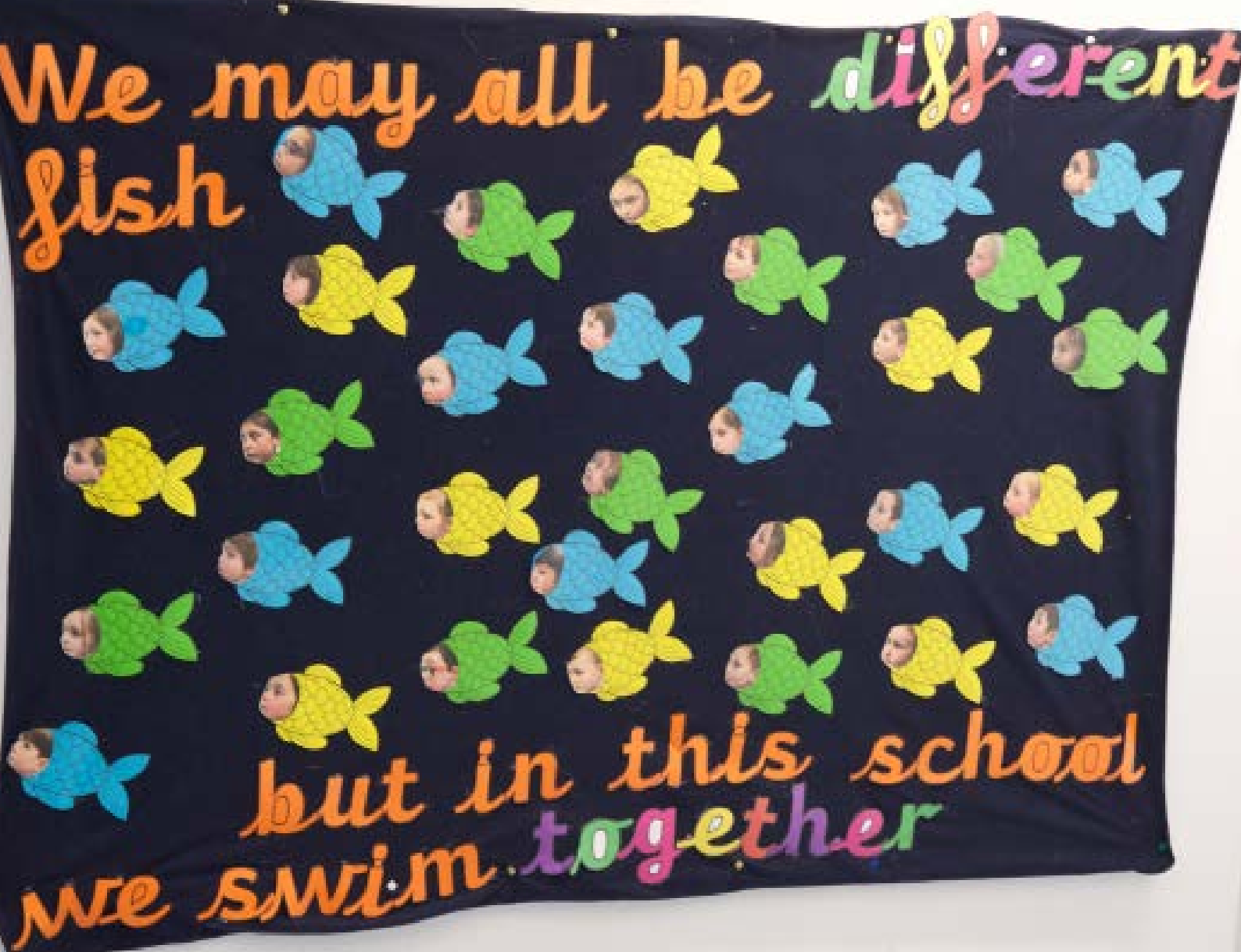
Education & Support



news

For Educate Together  
teachers and boards  
of management

Summer 2018



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## Save the Date!



## CHANGING OUR WAYS CHANGING OUR WORLD

Educating for a Sustainable Environment

Educate Together Ethical Education Conference 2018

Educate Together's Ethical Education Conference will take place on November 23-24 in Dublin (location to be confirmed).

This year's theme will focus on Education for Sustainable Development and the title is **Changing Our Ways, Changing Our World – Educating for a Sustainable Environment**. The conference will explore how Ethical Education can promote a respectful approach to the environment and examine the whole area of inter-dependency. Workshops will be designed to explore and support effective classroom strategies and supporting resources.

In recent years the Ethical Education conference has gone from strength to strength and has become a hugely popular event for professionals within the sector.

Add it to your diary now!

## Learn Together Review Working Group

The Education Sub-Committee of Educate Together's Board of Directors recently established a working group to review the Learn Together curriculum. We are delighted to have some very talented and experienced members of the Working Group (see below).

Over the next 18 months the working group will complete the review. For the review to be a success we need your input, consequently we will be asking your views over the coming months.

### Niamh McGuirk

Niamh McGuirk lectures in Ethical and Intercultural Education in the Institute of Education in DCU. Niamh previously taught in Donabate and Portrane Educate Together for ten years where she was Learn Together Co-coordinator and provided pre-service and in-service sessions on behalf of Educate Together.

### Paddie Murphy

Paddie is a former Principal of Rathfarnham Educate Together National School and has served on several Boards of Management in Educate Together Schools as well as being a current Director of Educate Together. She is one of the four authors of the Learn Together Curriculum.

### Dr Philomena Donnelly

Philomena Donnelly is retired Director of the Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) in St. Patrick's College, Dublin City University. She is co-founder of the Ethics and Education course

in St. Patrick's College, the first of its kind in the country.

### Dr Jones Irwin

Jones Irwin is an Associate Professor in Philosophy and Education at the Institute of Education, Dublin City University. He is the course leader for the PG Diploma in Ethical and Multi-Denominational Education at the Institute of Education (in partnership with Educate Together since 2012), as well as co-ordinator of the Values Education specialism on the EdD programme.

### Vera Shanahan

Vera Shanahan has taught in the Educate Together sector since 2012. Having worked in Dalkey School Project for three years, she is currently teaching 1st Class in Malahide/Portmarnock Educate Together. Vera is also a Learn Together advisor.

### John Thomas Doohan

John Thomas Doohan has worked in Dalkey School Project for five years. John is a former chairperson of the INTO LGBT Teachers Group and has translated the 'Different Families, Same Love' resource to Gaeilge. John is also a Learn Together advisor.

### Fionnuala Ward

Fionnuala is the Primary Education Officer of Educate Together and Chair of the Learn Together Review Working Group.

## North Bay's Learn Together Room



North Bay ETNS, situated in Dublin's north side has long had a room specifically set aside for Learn Together activities and discussions.

Recently, Eimear Kelly, a teacher on staff, along with a group of parents painted and redecorated the room with the strands of the Learn Together. Decorations were generated from the children's own work and they were thrilled to see them getting pride of place in the room.

Pictured here is the group of staff and parents responsible for the revamp.

Are there events in your schools related to the Learn Together or Ethical Education Curriculum that you would like to share? Send us a photo and we will include it in the next issue ([resources@educatetogether.ie](mailto:resources@educatetogether.ie)).

## He, she, they?

### Fiona Ní Ghloinn, Belmayne ETNS

Words matter. Words can create, inspire, empower; words can also destroy and hurt. As teachers we are keenly aware of how much power our words and actions can have. We are instrumental in helping children to shape the language they use when interacting with the world around them and societal changes within that world.

For this generation the issue of gender and gender identity often has a whole new set of concepts and accompanying language. For many young people the correct use of this language is really important and understood as affirmation of their identity. Concepts such as gender expression and gender identity are relatively new to most; not of course for those for whom understanding and recognition has taken a lifetime.

But, for many of us it is a new era and one which we may not be familiar or even fully comfortable with.

### How should I respond?

When there is a 'boy' in your class who draws images of 'himself' in dresses and long hair or a 'girl' who plays only with boys and wears 'boy' clothing, how do we respond? How do we ensure that we create safe and unbiased spaces in which these children can explore the many facets of their identity?

Do we openly discuss gender identity and if so when and how? Do we see gender identity as a permanent concept or a social construct which is fluid? These are questions that we might find ourselves trying to grapple with, but we may not always feel fully equipped to deal with them.

### Small Changes in Our School

In our school (Belmayne ETNS) we're making small changes that we hope will provide an affirming space for all.



- We've removed gender signs from toilets
- We're trying not to say 'good girl/boy'
- We're coming up with new ways to divide the class into groups other than based on gender.
- We're also trying to ensure that children have a variety of role models and books which affirm difference.

Making such changes can be easier said than done. But are they enough?

Probably not, but they are a good start. Often children and young people will let us know what they need if we create the space for them to tell us.

There is much discussion around sex education at the moment and this is a welcome debate. Any changes to the Relationships and Sexuality Education have to include both primary and second-level programmes.

A revised RSE programme must include areas such as same-sex relationships and sexual orientation and gender identity. It remains to be seen how far such developments will be allowed to advance and whether they will be welcomed or face opposition from vested interests. One thing is true, if we ensure that children and young people are at the centre of the process we can't go too far wrong.

Teachers need specific guidance on language to effectively deal with these issues. Once teachers are confident in this area, children and young people will be empowered to express themselves as they see fit and in the process become happy, self-assured, individuals.

This webpage will give you the basics when it comes to terminology [www.belongto.org/parents/lets-talk-terminology/](http://www.belongto.org/parents/lets-talk-terminology/) If you have a resource or lesson plan that you'd like to share please contact us at [resources@educatetogether.ie](mailto:resources@educatetogether.ie).

## Educate Together Schools To Take Part In Exciting Digital Cluster Programme

Over the next three years six Educate Together Schools will team together to develop online lessons to support the Learn Together curriculum as part of the Department of Education and Skills Digital Cluster Programme.

The schools, Carlow ETNS, Citywest ETNS, Firhouse ETNS, Kildare ETNS, Newbridge ETNS and Portlaoise ETNS were selected to participate following an application process.

Amongst other aims of the project, it is hoped that by the end of the 3 year period together, these schools will have developed dozens of lessons for all age groups which will be made available to all schools in the country.

We look forward to hearing more as the project develops!

## Postgraduate Certificate in Ethical and Multi-denominational Education from St Patrick's College / DCU

Registration for the 2018 / 2019 Postgraduate Certificate in Ethical and Multi-denominational Education from St Patrick's College / DCU will open shortly.

This has proven to be a very popular course and places will be limited.

At this stage, we're gathering expressions of interest. If you're considering applying for this course, please let us know by emailing ([fionnuala.ward@educatetogether.ie](mailto:fionnuala.ward@educatetogether.ie)). Please note this correspondence will be viewed as an expression of interest only with no commitment on your part.

## World Religion Day 2018

Shelley O'Flynn, Midleton ETNS

World Religion Day was recently celebrated in Midleton Educate Together NS. It's a day of celebration to acknowledge different beliefs not just in our school community but worldwide. We started the day with a whole school assembly which was led by both second classes. The children spoke about four different religions - their days of worship, ceremonial clothing and beliefs and values. We then finished our assembly by singing 'What a wonderful world' and 'One World'. There was a great variety of class activities throughout the school on the day including book reading, poems and dramas based on world religions.

The Yellow Flag committee organised this day of celebration. We are on our second Yellow Flag in Midleton ETNS and are hoping to apply for our third in 2019. The Yellow Flag Programme was pioneered by the Irish Traveller Movement and is an intercultural initiative. It's been a huge success in our school and I think our diversity code says it all!



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If you're interested in finding out more about volunteering with VSO Ireland, we'd love to hear from you. Call **01 640 1060**, email [volunteer@vso.ie](mailto:volunteer@vso.ie) or visit [www.vso.ie](http://www.vso.ie) now.

## M.E.T.N.S. Diversity Code

*We are all united under the sun,  
We are loyal to everyone.  
Like sister and brother, we accept each other.  
We have each other's back, we cut each other slack.  
We should all have pride, it'll show our best side.  
All around us different faces,  
Different people from different places,  
Different colour, shape and size,  
Accepting difference - now that's wise!  
We are all friends in this school,  
That is why we are cool!  
You are different, I am too,  
But we are equal, me and you.*



# Teaching the Learn Together / Ethical Education – Myth Busting

**Myth: There are no rules when teaching the Learn Together / Ethical Education – it's all very relaxed and informal.**

**False:** It is true that there are a variety of ways to approach teaching Ethical Education. But, it is wholly untrue that an Ethical Education lesson is without structure, it should include a well-planned lesson with clear learning outcomes. In all Ethical Education classes, creating the right classroom atmosphere is important. Check out the Erasmus+ online course (Module 1) for tips on how to establish and encourage a positive and inclusive classroom environment.

<https://learning.educatetogether.ie/course/view.php?id=144>

**Myth: All opinions should be heard and encouraged**



**False:** All children and young people should be encouraged to express, or at least have an opinion, on an issue. However, not all opinions are welcome! For example, if someone expresses views that undermine the rights of others these should not be tolerated. Often teachers feel they need to allow all opinions, but there is no place for racist, sexist, homophobic or other derogatory views in a school and especially not in an Ethical Education Classroom. Ethical Education aims to enhance students' critical thinking skills and provides space for discussion and debate. Students can be challenged on the views they express using school, national or human rights laws as a framework. Students need to be encouraged to have an opinion but also should be mindful of their responsibilities to others when

sharing it. Ethical Education aims to develop students' awareness of what motivates an opinion and how it impacts upon others.

To learn more about establishing an inclusive and fair classroom climate have a look at our online course. Module 1 deals with establishing a safe and fair classroom; Module 5 concentrates on managing conflict and facilitating dialogue on controversial issues.

<https://learning.educatetogether.ie/course/view.php?id=144>

**Myth: At second-level Ethical Education classes should only be taught by teachers with a background or degree in Ethics, Religion or Social Science**

**False:** Students can benefit from teachers of Ethical Education who come from a range of subject backgrounds. The most valuable quality for a teacher of Ethical Education to possess is curiosity: about their students and; about their wider local and global communities. Ethical Education provides an opportunity to engage in discussion and critical reflection with students about a range of issues. Teachers can find out more about teaching Ethical Education by: joining and attending events by the Ethical Education Network; by looking at the resources available at [www.learning.educatetogether.ie](http://www.learning.educatetogether.ie) and; by completing modules from the Erasmus+ online course for example, Module 3 Ethical Dilemmas and Decision-Making.

<https://learning.educatetogether.ie/course/view.php?id=144>

[www.ethicaleducation.ie](http://www.ethicaleducation.ie)

**Myth: Ethical Education is the same as Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) at second-level or SPHE and SESE at primary level**

**False:** While the Learn Together lends itself to integration, it covers a number of topics not addressed by other subjects within the primary curriculum. As such, it needs to be taught as a stand-alone subject in discreet time. Similarly, at second-level Ethical Education covers a wider range of topics including learning about different religious beliefs and worldviews and the process of ethical decision making. For more information

on the Learn Together and Ethical Education curriculums see:

[www.learning.educatetogether.ie](http://www.learning.educatetogether.ie)

**Myth: The Learn Together / Ethical Education does not need to be assessed**

**False:** Like every other subject, it is important that students get feedback on how they're doing in Ethical Education. Both assessment of, and assessment for learning processes should be part of Ethical Education. A subject that is not assessed is not valued. Project work can be particularly effective in Ethical Education but teachers can also use a range of other assessment tools in teaching Ethical Education and the Learn Together, such as portfolios, debates, presentations, posters, KWL charts, etc.

**Myth: The Learn Together/ Ethical Education is not liked or enjoyed by students**

**False:** Research conducted at second-level demonstrates that the majority of students value and enjoy Ethical Education. In particular, students mention that they find it interesting because it helps them to learn more about the world they live in and because classes often involve active learning. Ethical Education is an important part of the Educate Together ethos and helps to raise student voices by providing a space to learn and discuss things with one another and their teachers. Check out the Erasmus+ online course for more information on active teaching methodologies and raising student voices:

<https://learning.educatetogether.ie/course/view.php?id=144>

**Myth: There is no professional development available for teachers of the Learn Together/ Ethical Education**

**False:** The Ethical Education Network provides opportunities for primary and second-level teachers to engage in Continual Professional Development for Ethical Education free of charge. The Educate Together Ethical Education Conference also brings teachers together to learn from specialists in Ethical Education as well as from each other. Additionally Educate Together organises informal gatherings of Learn Together teachers to network and share good practice. For more information check out:

Contact Primary Education Officer Fionnuala Ward or Second-level Education Officer Laura Dooley with any queries about Ethical Education or to share ideas and resources for teaching:

[fionnuala.ward@educatetogether.ie](mailto:fionnuala.ward@educatetogether.ie)

[laura.dooley@educatetogether.ie](mailto:laura.dooley@educatetogether.ie)

[www.ethicaleducation.ie](http://www.ethicaleducation.ie)

[www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie)

**Myth: Educate Together is a Leader in Ethical Education**

**True!:** Educate Together schools are the only schools to have a dedicated curriculum in Ethical Education at primary and second-level. Educate Together National Office has been recognised by Erasmus+ as a leader in Ethical Education and was granted significant funding to work with international partners to enhance learning about Ethical Education. Along with the online LITTLE course which is already available in four languages, Guidelines for teachers are also being developed and will be launched at the 2018 Ethical Education Conference. See <http://ethicaleducation.eu/home.htm> for more information.



**Myth: Ethical Education is only suitable for Junior Cycle students at second-level**

**False:** Ethical Education is an important subject that helps students to develop their skills and knowledge on a wide variety of topics and includes learning about themselves as well as others and the wider world. Ethical Education will continue to be taught in Educate Together second-level schools at Senior Cycle including Transition year, 5th Year and 6th Year. The Senior Cycle Ethical Education Curriculum is currently under development. A Senior Cycle Ethical Education Working Group has been set up to aid this development and includes teachers and experts in curriculum development among its members. Keep an eye out for your opportunity to share your ideas for Ethical Education at Senior Cycle!

## Summer Courses 2018

### Want to develop your knowledge and skills in Ethical Education?

This year Educate Together is running two online summer courses

- Both Courses are EPV-Approved
- Contact national office to enrol

#### Course 1: Ethical Education in Educate Together Schools

This course examines the social and historical background to multi-denominational education, the development of an Ethical Education curriculum and the four, individual strands of the Learn Together. It is filled with ideas and resources and highlights curriculum links at every turn.

This course provides a great basis for learning more about the Educate Together movement and specifically, the Learn Together Ethical Education Curriculum.



#### Course 2: Facilitating Pupil Voices and Active Citizenship

Educate Together schools have always been to the forefront in encouraging and affirming pupil voices. This course examines how schools can do even more to give children, by far the most important stakeholder in primary education, a say in those hugely formative 8 years. The course also addresses strategies to nurture a culture of active citizenship, student councils, student-centred learning and how to reach out to those quieter, less assertive perspectives.

Suitable for teachers with an interest in encouraging and affirming pupil voices.

## Educate Together Schools Lead the Way in Teacher Exchange & Student Showcase

Educate Together second-level schools have been participating in teacher exchanges this term as part of the WorldWise Global Schools project coordinated by Educate Together National Office.

The teacher exchanges support the second-level teacher network by facilitating teachers to visit one another during school time to meet, share learning and attend each other's classes. The exchanges follow a continual professional development day for teachers earlier in the year on the topic of Ethical Consumption and Production which had a particular focus on clothing. Teachers have been embedding learning about this important Sustainable Development Goal across a number of subjects at second-level including Ethical Education. The participating teachers found the exchanges interesting and informative and are looking forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

Students will also have the opportunity to meet and share their learning with one another at a Showcase event hosted by Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School in May.



(l-r): Aifric O'Reilly (Celbridge Community School), Laura Dooley (Educate Together National Office), Ciarán Dunne (Hansfield ETSS), Aileen Wall (Hansfield ETSS), Michael Manners (Kishoge Community College)

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### HBSC Research Study

Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) Study, which is being run by the Health Promotion Research Centre in NUI Galway, is part of the 2018 World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative study, which will focus on the health and health behaviours of pupils across 48 countries this school year. The study will invite more than ten thousand young people aged between 9-17 years to participate. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first HBSC Ireland study in 1998, and data have been collected every 4 years since then.

Schools throughout Ireland are being randomly selected to participate, so keep an eye out for invitations through post, email and phone calls. You'll find out everything you need to know about the study at [www.nuigalway.ie/hbcs/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbcs/)

HBSC 2018 will help us gain new insight into and to improve our understanding of the health behaviours of young people. The results will also help with future development of health-related policy and practice, creating better opportunities for young people's health.

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## Spotlight on Education Research: Assessment for learning and assessment of learning - What's the difference?

Paul Black and Dylan William tackle this question in a recent article entitled 'Classroom assessment and pedagogy' published in the academic journal, *Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice*.\*

**Did you know?** Black and William are considered experts in the area of assessment and are often credited with reinvigorating the interest in it since the publication of their 1998 article, 'Assessment and classroom learning', which provided a review of 250 research articles which were relevant to practices in formative assessment.

**What is assessment for learning (AFL)?** The process by which teachers use assessment evidence to inform their teaching.

**What is assessment of learning (AOL)?** The use of assessment to determine the extent to which students have achieved intended learning outcomes.

**What is assessment as learning?** Black and William introduce and explain this concept as relating to the role of students in monitoring and directing their own learning.

**Something interesting in the article?** It seems that assessment for learning and assessment of learning or AOL and AFL have become part of the lexicon of teaching in recent years and are used frequently, particularly with regard to the new Junior Cycle at second-level. However, Black and William argue that for teachers, distinguishing between formative and summative aspects of assessment is at best, 'unhelpful, and may even be counterproductive.' (p. 2)

**What do we learn from the article?** In a nutshell, an assessment tool is not formative or summative by itself. Instead, whether you are assessing for learning or doing an assessment of learning depends on what you as a teacher do with the information. As Black and William explain:

*Where the inferences relate to the status of the student, or about their future potential, then the assessment is functioning summatively. Where the inferences relate to the kinds of actions that would best help the student learn, then the assessment is functioning formatively. (p. 3)*

\* Paul Black & Dylan William (2018): Classroom assessment and pedagogy, *Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice*, pp. 1-25.

**So, can assessment be formative and summative?** Yes! Black and William provide the following example:

*If we look at a student's responses to a test of multiplication facts, we might conclude that the student knows approximately 80% of his multiplication facts (a summative inference) or we might conclude that the student appears to have particular difficulties with his seven times tables (a formative inference). (p. 3)*

**Is dialogue an effective means of assessing learners?** Yes. Black and William contend that interactive dialogue can lead to more effective learning. However, this is dependent on the teacher being able to create the space for discussion and to skillfully steer the dialogue to ensure that the learning that was planned, actually occurs. This can be challenging:

*This is a delicate task, involving elicitation of pupils' contributions, responding in a way that seeks to use, and so to value, even the most bizarre of pupil suggestions, and conducting the discussion in such a way that the progress is, and is seen to be, partly the responsibility of the pupils, and yet is kept on track with the larger aims in view. (p. 9)*

**How should feedback on (any) assessment be structured?** Comments are key! Black and William support Carol Dweck's theory of growth mindset and believe that feedback about how to improve is more likely to send the message that performance can be improved. Furthermore, they argue that feedback that provides students with information on how to improve in future will encourage students to welcome and appreciate assessment.

**How is this relevant to Ethical Education?** Like every subject, assessment and planning are important for Ethical Education. The ideas outlined above draw attention to the value of dialogue as a mode of assessment. Dialogue is a nature element in an Ethical Education class and with some preparation and thinking, it can be used to support assessment and guide learning.

## Educate Together Schools Amongst WorldWise Global Schools Winners

On Tuesday 24th April, students and teachers from Educate Together second-level schools travelled to Galway for the WorldWise Global Schools Conference. The conference provided opportunities for students and teachers to participate in workshops related to global justice issues and develop their skills to take action in their local and global communities. In the afternoon, selected schools including Educate Together second-level schools Kishoge Community College, Ballymakenny College, Celbridge Community School and Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School, were awarded Global Passport Awards in recognition of their excellent work in the area of Global Citizenship Education.

All nine Educate Together second-level schools hold a Global Passport Award.

### What is WorldWise Global Schools?

WorldWise Global Schools is an organisation funded by Irish Aid that aims to support second-level schools to engage in Development Education.

### What is Development Education?

Development Education (DE), also known as Global Citizenship Education, is an educational process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, DE helps students critically explore the root causes of global justice issues and how they interlink with our everyday lives.

Development Education is an intrinsic part of Ethical Education.



Ballymakenny students with teacher Aidan Cassidy



Celbridge CS students



Hansfield ETSS students



Kishoge Community College collecting their Global Passport Award with teacher Aoife Norris

## Board of Management Training

**Q. Why would I do Board of Management Training after all the hours I spend at Board meetings?**

A. A good question. Members of Boards of Management (BoMs) give a considerable amount of their precious time, voluntarily, to Board meetings, and work between Board meetings. So what would encourage them to spend more of their precious time attending BoM Training?

Whether the training is provided by Educate Together (for primary schools) or the JMB/ACCS/ETBs (for second-level schools), it provides:

- information and resources to help Boards to make better use of the time spent at meetings, and in between meetings. It allows Board members to feel they can confidently contribute to discussions at meetings.
- a space to ask questions you didn't know you had

- a chance to engage with some of the more complex procedures and processes of BoMs.

From the basis of understanding what's in the Governance Manual for Primary Schools, to the intricacies of departmental circulars for all levels, via practical experience of actually working with the procedures at ground level, the training for Boards offers real insight into the day-to-day running of school and related policies.

At primary level, BoM training is developed jointly by all Management Bodies in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills. This training is funded by the DES, and is delivered by Educate Together staff; external specialists in various fields, and experienced volunteers. We aim to make it enjoyable with as much interaction as possible, while keeping to time!

**Upcoming training dates are:**

Training	Date	Venue	Time/Duration
<b>Data Protection</b> (including new GDPR legislation)	Saturday 26th May 2018	Blackrock Education Centre, Dublin	10am to 1:15pm Registration opens 9:30am, with tea/coffee available
<b>Data Protection</b>	Wednesday, 2nd May 2018	Online Webinars	6:30pm to 9pm

**Booking:**

To book a place on either of these training sessions contact [schoolsupport@educatetogether.ie](mailto:schoolsupport@educatetogether.ie)

### CAN YOU HELP WITH PARENTAL SURVEY?

Midleton Educate Together Parents Association wish to carry out a survey of parents and would like your help.

If any school has undertaken such a survey, please share survey questionnaire and experience with Aoife Wall of Midleton ETNS Parents Association by emailing [ETSurvey@midletonet.com](mailto:ETSurvey@midletonet.com)



**NEW Bua na Cainte 3**

**Duaischlár**

**Bua na Cainte** was awarded the European Language Label of the Year Award in 2015 and the National Digital Media of the Year Award in 2016.

**Bua na Cainte** fully embraces and meets the requirements of *Gaeilge* for oral language, reading and writing in the Primary School Curriculum and enables teachers to implement it in a practical manner in their classrooms.

**Bua na Cainte A, B, 1 & 2** comprise a number of key components and the **NEW Bua na Cainte 3** builds on the success and popularity of the programme with:

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- Animated Stories
- Listening and Comprehension Tasks and Games
- Teacher's Help screens

**A Pupils' Book**

- **NEW Bua na Cainte 3** also has a new Pupils' Spelling Book

**A printed Teacher's Resource Book**

**Edco 2018**

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