

Educate Together

Education & Support



news

For Educate Together
teachers and boards
of management

Autumn 2017



**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.



www.tui.ie

Online Course Developer Needed

The online summer courses are a core way Educate Together supports the Learn Together Curriculum in primary schools. We would like to engage someone with experience in teaching the Learn Together and in resource/course writing. Specifically the person carrying out this role will amalgamate two existing courses (Moral and Spiritual and Belief Systems strands); update materials and links and add new content, etc. This is a contract position which can be done on a part-time basis.

Please apply with CV to: resources@educatetogether.ie by Tuesday 3 October

Become A Learn Together Advisor

Is the *Learn Together* one of the subjects you really enjoy teaching? Do you find yourself trying out new ideas, experimenting with resources, discussing approaches with colleagues? Would you like to join our panel of Learn Together specialists to help support the teaching of this curriculum? This is an unpaid position (expenses are paid) that offers opportunities for professional growth in Ethical Education.

Please apply with your CV to resources@educatetogether.ie by Tuesday 3 October

Pilot one of our Erasmus Online Modules

Educate Together continues to work with our three European partners (from Italy, Slovenia and Croatia) on developing resources for teachers of Ethical Education. We're currently finalising the content for an online methodologies course in Ethical Education and invite primary and second-level teachers to pilot parts of the course. There are 6 modules each taking approximately 1 hour to complete.

As an incentive we're giving a discount on tickets to the Ethical Education Conference for individuals who participate in the pilot. If you're interested please email sandra.irwingowran@educatetogether.ie

Could you video a lesson?

We're always looking for examples of good practice in teaching and learning of the Learn Together curriculum for CPD purposes.

We LOVE solid, simple, easily transferable lessons that just work.

What we DON'T love is lessons that take so much planning, organisation and / or resources that the mere thought of their existence has teachers lying prostrate in darkened rooms. If your school can organise someone to video you teaching an example of the solid, simple version, go for it! And if your school has the wherewithal to edit that lesson down to no more than 10 mins, even better! Just send to resources@educatetogether.ie or contact the National Office at 01 4292500 for further details.

Noticeboard

Ethical Education and Equality in Action

We'd like to create a regular feature in this newsletter whereby members of our Network tell us how they are making the Educate Together Charter and specifically the equality-based element of the charter a lived reality in their schools. For example, opening the school kitchen facilities to families in the school experiencing homelessness or organising art lessons for parents for whom English is not a first language.

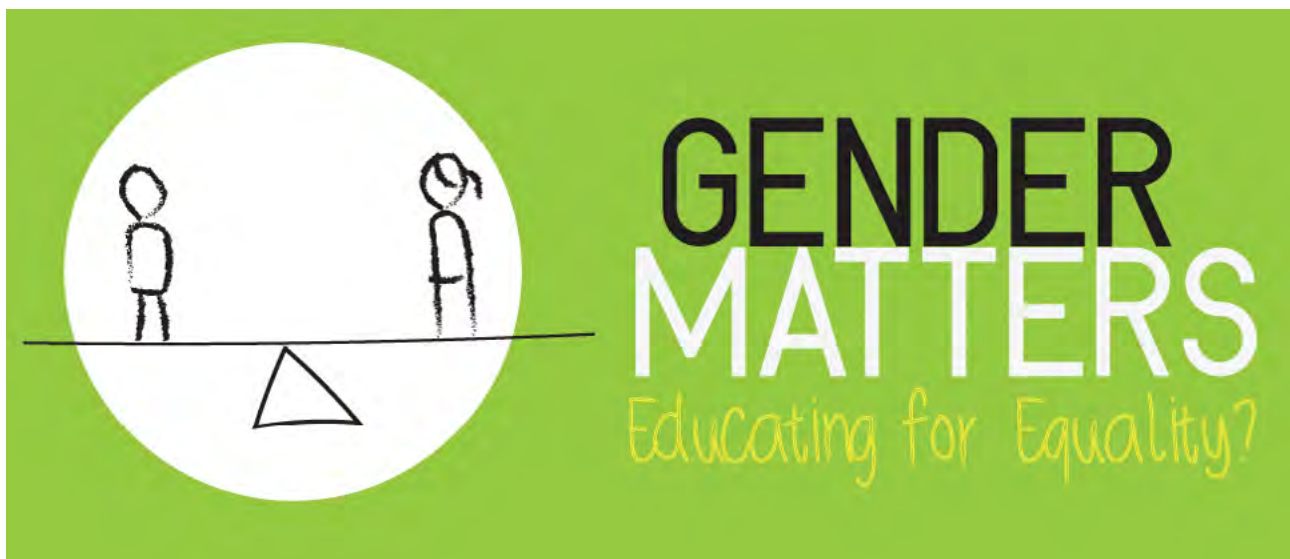
Describe what you do in a few hundred words and send us a picture for the next issue. Send your contributions to resources@educatetogether.ie Let's share all that good practice!

Teacher Calendar and Staffroom / Classroom Planner

Our digital teacher calendar which highlights religious festivals and particular days of interest which link nicely with the Learn Together and Ethical Education curriculum is good to go! All dates are hyperlinked to relevant sites which provide information and wherever possible teaching resources.

Available in both primary and second-level resource banks. Planners have also been sent out to schools for display in the staffroom and / or classroom.





Educate Together invites you to join us at the third annual:
Ethical Education Conference
Grand Hotel in Malahide, Dublin
Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November 2017

- Panel discussion, “Gender Matters in Sport” with Ger Gilroy, Caitriona McKiernan and others
- Keynote address by Dr. Debbie Ging, Senior Lecturer at Dublin City University.
- TeachMeet
- StudentMeet
- A fantastic selection of workshops
- Wine reception

Why focus on Gender Equality?

One of the principles of the Educate Together Charter is that our schools are co-educational, but what does that mean in 2017?

Co-education means more than educating boys and girls together. It means educating all students together, providing equality of access and experience to each student irrespective of their cultural background, belief system, gender or other status. But how is this borne out in practice? What are the gender matters that face us in education and are they being viewed through an equality lens?

The third annual Ethical Education Conference provides a forum where these issues and other questions can be discussed, explored:

- How do we increase the gender balance in participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects?
- How do we tackle gender discrimination and stereotyping in our schools?
- How do we manage school sports to ensure participation by all students?

Tickets only €99 available from Eventbrite.

Don't hesitate, book today at <http://bit.ly/EthEd2017>

TeachMeet Call for Presenters

Have an experience, an idea or example from your classroom practice you'd like to share? Apply to participate in this year's TeachMeet!

What? 5 minutes to share a resource, initiative, methodology or idea for Ethical Education with other teachers in a friendly, fun environment.

When? Saturday 25th November 9.30-11.00am, Ethical Education Conference

Why? It's a fun way to learn with and from other teachers. Audience participation, prizes and goody bags guaranteed!

Who? Teachers from primary or second-level Educate Together schools.

How? Email laura.dooley@educatetogether.ie with your idea by 30 September 2017.



Simon Lewis, principal of Carlow ETNS at last year's TeachMeet

StudentMeet Call for Presenters

What?

Students will speak in groups or pairs for 5 mins on a topic of their choice. There'll be games, prizes and snacks for all!

When?

Friday 24th November 4.45-6.00pm Ethical Education Conference, Grand Hotel, Malahide

Who?

Students! We'd ask that teachers would make student councils in their schools aware of the StudentMeet and the opportunity to take on a leading co-ordinator role.

How?

If the student council in your school would like to apply to co-ordinate please contact the relevant Education Officer:

Primary: fionnuala.ward@educatetogether.ie

Second-level: laura.dooley@educatetogether.ie

NB! *Please note that students must be supervised by an adult at all times at the StudentMeet. Schools will also have to organize for transport and supervision of students attending.



Shane Bergin of UCD at last year's inaugural StudentMeet

Reflections on 10 years with Educate Together



Emer Nowlan has worked with Educate Together for the last ten years, starting as Second-level Project Manager, then as Head of Education and Network Development, and for the last four years as Chief Operating Officer. After a decade of much energy and passion leading the organisation Emer is moving on from the national office. Before she left, we asked her to reflect on some of her experiences and most memorable moments working with the Network.

Before starting to work with Educate Together in 2007, I had returned from a number of years working abroad in different educational contexts. I was thinking about whether I wanted to return to teaching, but when I looked at secondary school classrooms here - through the lens of my postgraduate studies and against the backdrop of my experiences abroad - the prospect was not attractive. The exam-driven system seemed to offer few opportunities for teacher collegiality, cross-curricular or student-centred learning, or the whole school approaches necessary for promoting equality for students from marginalised backgrounds.

So when the opportunity came along to join a Network of schools based on principles of equality and democracy, and to lead Educate Together's second-level project I seized it without hesitation. Little did I know that I was stepping onto a rollercoaster ride that would last ten years!

So what was different in the Educate Together Network ten years ago?

There were 41 Educate Together primary schools, and none at second-level.

The economy was booming, and the school population growing rapidly. On my first day working with Educate Together in September 2007 I found myself in Adamstown, where three brand new primary schools were opening in one building. It was a joyous occasion, and successive opening days have provided an annual infusion of energy and promise. This year we have 91 schools, with 23,000 primary and 2,000 post-primary students in our network. That's a powerful force for social change.

There were 5 people in the national office team!

2007 was the year of the 'emergency schools' in Lucan and Balbriggan. I was impressed that the small office team, with the support of the network, was able to respond so quickly and professionally

when failures in planning left vulnerable children without school places. Visiting Esker ETNS and Bracken ETNS now, and seeing the positive impact they have made in their communities since, it is hard to believe they emerged from such fraught beginnings.

Educate Together was the only non-religious patron of primary schools in Ireland.

The emergence of the 'Community National School' and other models is helping us to articulate more clearly what is unique about our network, and the different ways our schools actively tackle inequalities. We need to continue to ask ourselves hard questions about privilege and democracy, and to keep pushing the boundaries of equality-based and Ethical Education.

There was no Educate Together presence in the Colleges of Education.

There is still an imbalance, but these days all students have some exposure to the Learn Together as part of their initial teacher education at primary level. And through the Erasmus project, development work at second-level, the Post-graduate Certificate in Ethical Education at DCU and our annual conferences, Ethical Education is being explored in increasing breadth and depth.

There were no Educate Together schools outside Ireland.

Seeing how enthusiastically the community in Redfield (Bristol) have adopted the model, and how successfully they are using the ethos to promote equality outside the Irish context, confirms that Educate Together is much more than just an alternative to faith schools.

It's impossible to condense my thoughts on these amazing ten years into two pages, so instead I have chosen just some of the more memorable moments:

My first public meeting in 2007.

I was terrified to learn that I would be travelling to Waterford in my first week to speak publicly about what an Educate Together second-level school would be like. At that stage I barely knew what an Educate Together primary school was like! Thankfully the conversations I had with parents and students that evening - and in many further meetings - helped me to understand what kind of school was needed, and the urgency of the need.

Business planning in 2009.

That was the year we spent the summer confined to a room in the old office in West Dublin strategising and planning with consultants. It was intensive, and at times frustrating, but all worthwhile when Paul's pitch to the One Foundation resulted in a five-year investment that has enabled so much progress and development since.

My personal belief that equality-based education should be fully state funded meant that I often found it difficult to fully embrace Educate Together's charitable status, and consequently the need to invest time and energy into fundraising. This need is clear for me now and I really hope that everyone will get fully behind the 120 campaign, as this provides a clear path to financial sustainability.



Cork ETSS opening, September 2016

The first summer courses in 2010.

The summer course really helped me realise that misconceptions about Educate Together schools still abound, even among teachers. Forum posts like 'people think there's no discipline'; 'that parents come in and out of the classrooms whenever they want'; 'that you can't mention Christmas'. All the myths were alive and well, but now we had a vehicle to start tackling them. To date around 1,000 teachers have completed our summer courses.



Emer with film director Lenny Abrahamson at Bracken ETNS in 2017

Formal recognition of Educate Together as a patron of second-level schools in 2011.

Recognition of the need for Educate Together schools at second-level was hard won, and followed extensive work by the National Office team, with support from countless volunteers. The Project included the development of our Blueprint which informs the vision for all of the second level schools we have opened since. The announcement of recognition as a patron, which finally came at AGM in Gorey ETNS, paved the way for sanction of the first schools. There are nine schools now, with four more opening next year, and I am filled with hope as I watch these schools bravely challenging the status quo to provide students and teachers with rich and broad educational experiences.

The official opening of New Ross ETNS in 2016.

The small group of junior infants were singing their hearts out - clearly so happy in their new school - and there were enthusiastic supporters there from across the local community. The school was opened as a result of the Forum on Patronage surveys, and I saw that day that with local support, divestment can work. Of the 25 areas identified for Educate Together schools, nine now have them, and I hope that the others will also see schools opened in the near future.

Moving on

I am moving on from the national office with some sadness - I will miss working with everyone in the team and the wider network. I am grateful for everything I have learned from the amazing people I have worked with, and for the great opportunity I have had to participate in such exciting and important work. I'm confident that Educate Together will continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to following each new success as a parent and committed supporter and advocate.

We All Belong... in Educate Together Schools

Sandra Irwin-Gowran, Education & Support Manager

Gender inequality continues to be a significant challenge both nationally and internationally. As we plan for the Ethical Education Conference 2017 with its focus on gender equality it provides a timely opportunity to address a related area in which educators often feel ill-equipped, being inclusive of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) identities at school.

Recently published research entitled *Exploring Homophobia and Transphobia in Primary Schools in Ireland* (Neary, Irwin-Gowran & McEvoy) has found that addressing homophobia/transphobia and educating around gender and sexuality identity happens in an ad hoc and mostly reactive manner in many primary schools. The research found that many primary school teachers and principals feel under-informed when it comes to preventing and educating about homophobia and transphobia. Added to this, the research found there is often confusion amongst parents, teachers and school leaders alike as to what constitutes homophobic or transphobic bullying.

This confusion correlates with findings from a survey of 1000 randomly selected adults for the LGBT Ireland Survey (2015) which found that:

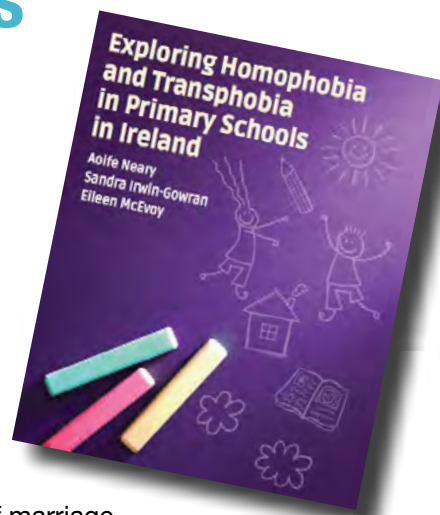
- 9 out of 10 adults don't think it's ok to discriminate against LGBTI people in goods and services
- 3 out of 10 of the same cohort think that bullying is a normal part of growing up and school life
- 1 in 10 don't believe that making fun of someone in school because of their LGBTI identity is harmful.
- The same research found a clear link between the experience of LGBTI related bullying and poor mental health outcomes.

While many schools, including many Educate Together schools, do really well when it comes to gender and sexuality identity, many do so because of the leadership of certain individuals who champion these causes. It would be great if more of us took up the mantle and seized teaching moments in classrooms, corridors or canteens

when situations arise. For example, never allow a casual reference to something as 'being gay' to go unchecked; celebrate the extension of marriage rights in other jurisdictions when they happen.

There are lots of opportunities to include LGBTI identity in the Learn Together and Ethical Education curricula. The Educate Together Resource bank has an abundance of resources that can be used to teach about relevant issues whether exploring Human Rights in senior infants, equality laws in 5th class or an in-depth analysis of gender inequality at second level. That said, school libraries should have a wide range of books that include a broad range of identities. In this way students can see their identity included and normalised without it being the subject of an issue to be addressed in class.

A new resource gives guidance on picture books primary schools can use to address a wide range of family backgrounds and identities. The resource called **We All Belong** was written and compiled by two teachers from the Network, Paul Knox (Castaheaney ETNS) and Cecelia Gavigan (Balbriggan ETNS) and it is available on the Educate Together Resource Bank. Each lesson (there's one for every class grouping) is linked to the SPHE curriculum and addresses themes such as gender, gender identity and expression, different family types, etc. The resource is available here: <http://learning.educatetogether.ie/course/view.php?id=20>



Learning through discovery at Hansfield ETSS

Eadaoin Hayes, Hansfield ETSS

Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School is located in Ongar, Dublin 15 which is close to the Meath border. Centred on the townland of Hansfield (or Phibbelstown) it's an area that has seen massive development in the recent past. As with many such places a generational sense of place can be difficult and it was this that inspired the theme for Hansfield's first shared learning day held in the school last May.

On 18 May, Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School hosted a 'shared learning' event whereby students, teachers, parents and invited guests came to view displays and hear from students about their place-based learning on *Ongar, Past, Present and Future*. On display were their herb garden, artworks, photo stories, town planning maps and surveys on health and wellbeing amongst other items.

The day also involved some of the students burying a time capsule on the school grounds, in which they enclosed their predictions for the future of the area, while a drone flew overhead and livestreamed film footage of the ceremony to the assembled guests.

Place-based learning enables students to explore their local area from a variety of subject perspectives and provides a great opportunity to promote an integrated approach to curriculum and learning through discovery. Through this approach students draw on many subjects and other sources to ask questions, find solutions and bring a theme to life for them.

Guests at the event were treated to an exhibition of the students' work on the Global Goals and Climate Change, explored as part of the school's integrated approach to Ethical Education. Students invited guests to participate in some fun activities as a way of teaching them about these important issues.

The event was a great way of demonstrating the innovative and creative learning that is happening at Hansfield ETSS which has just this year begun it's journey into senior cycle. Watch out for more to come as the school continues to grow and develop.



L-R Sophie Cormack, Olivia Byrne, Alex Deegan, Lamia Yous
Hansfield ETSS

New Principals in Educate Together Schools

Educate Together is delighted to announce the appointment of two new principals.

Claire Matthews has been appointed as Principal of Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School in Dublin 24 (opening 2018). Claire comes from a career teaching in Coláiste Chiaráin in Lexilip, followed by several years with the PDST.

Educate Together is delighted to announce **Anne Marie Lillis** as newly-appointed Principal of Dún Laoghaire Educate Together National School, which opened in September 2017.

Anne Marie has taught at all class levels in primary school since 1998 and has been Deputy Principal at Shellybanks ETNS for the past three years.



Anne Marie Lillis



Claire Matthews

Design-a-Card

What is it?

Design-a-Card is a class art project where students design a greeting card of their choice featuring their own artwork. The pictures can be drawn or painted in felt tip pen, water-based paint, crayon or pencil. Every student receives a free copy of their card, and if families wish, they can order packs of the greeting cards. They can also order gift tags, wrapping paper and calendars featuring the student's picture. Design-a-Card has a base price for each product, but it is up to the school to decide what final price to charge. The markup is donated directly to the school. Design-a-Card is an art project that can help to raise valuable funds for your school, and most importantly there are no upfront costs for participating!

How does it work?

Each school will receive a pack in the post, or alternatively you can register online at www.designacard.ie. After designing your card on the supplied template, you return the pictures to us, and a few weeks later every student gets a copy of

their Greeting Card. Then families can order cards and you can watch your fundraised income grow!

How can I use it?

Design-a-Card is a class project that can be used as a teaching tool to support the curriculum. For instance, sending greetings is common to many religious and cultural traditions. Vaisakhi, Hanukkah, Christmas, Eid al-Fitr, Diwali and Chinese New Year are all occasions when messages of goodwill are traditionally exchanged with others. The Design-a-Card project could be used in the teaching of these festivals. The students could use their cards to make a display of religious traditions. The project could be both educational and a fundraiser!

Any questions?

Contact the Design-a-card team at info@designacard.ie or 09064 76599



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Emotions and Mental Health

Fionnuala Ward, Primary Education Officer

Awareness of mental health has moved front and centre into the classroom in recent years. It's a welcome development and one that is hugely important for both students and teachers alike.



The Learn Together curriculum at primary explores feelings in 1st and 2nd class, addressing and normalising feelings such as anger, disappointment, isolation, frustration and jealousy. These feelings are often wrongly labelled as negative, whereas they should be seen as a normal part of the human condition. We've all experienced them at different times in our lives and will continue to do so.

Feelings shouldn't define who we are

The Irish language is, in many ways, much better at capturing the essence of these emotions than English. *Fearg, éad, díoma, etc.* are temporary concepts that position themselves *on* the individual (e.g., *Tá fearg orm*) and by implication have a shelf life, as such. They will remove themselves from that individual in time. Whereas in English these feelings become part of our very being – *I am angry!*

Emotion shouldn't be conflated with Mental Health

Students should be taught to expect to feel different emotions throughout their life and to develop resilience to deal with these emotions. Supporting students to react appropriately is critical to the development of such resilience.

Approaches to Develop Resilience

Strategies such as engaging in exercise, healthy eating and talking to family and friends are wonderful approaches to life in general. Such forms of resilience should be nurtured and encouraged at all costs. This is where the focus should lie.

One in four of us will experience mental health issues in our lifetime. In other words, every one of us will have either direct experience of psychiatric disorders like Bi Polar Disorder or General Anxiety Disorder or indirect experience whereby a friend or family member will experience same.





Mental health and mental health disorders should not be confused in the same way physical health and illness should not be confused. Nor should the normalisation of short-term 'downs' be emphasised to the extent that that the message is somehow sent that pupils *should* feel bad after particular experiences.

It's a complex area but for everyone's sake, the more accurately it's addressed in the classroom, the better.

Visit the [Educate Together Resource Bank](#) for ideas on how to address this in your classroom.



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Educate Together's first year in Senior Cycle Education!

It's hard to believe that this year marks the fourth year for Educate Together at second-level. Hansfield Educate Together Secondary School, Kishoge Community College and Ballymakenny College opened their doors for the first time in September 2014. Four years later, the schools are all in their impressive permanent buildings and are going from strength to strength.

All three schools are offering their students an innovative and exciting Transition Year programme. Hansfield ETSS also has students who have progressed straight to 5th Year which means that in just another two short years, Educate Together will be celebrating the first cohort of students to graduate from second-level! By that time, Educate Together will have thirteen second-level schools. Four schools (Dublin South City, Firhouse ETSS, Limerick and



Transition Year students from Ballymakenny College researching the Sustainable Development Goals in an Ethical Education Development Education class

Malahide Portmarnock ETSS), are due to open in September 2018 joining the nine already up and running around the country in Cork, Bray, Balbriggan, Whitehall, Stepside, Dublin 15, Lucan, Celbridge and Drogheda.

RECREATE

Ⓢ Creativity through Reuse Ⓢ



SUPPORTING
AISTEAR CREATIVELY

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ACCESS TO FANTASTIC ART
MATERIALS

FACILITATING
PERSONALISED WORKSHOPS

5 Books that address core strands of Ethical Education at Second-level

Laura Dooley, Second Level Education Officer

Values

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The trilogy is set in a dystopian future where child tributes from 12 districts are forced to compete in the annual “Hunger Games”, a fight to the death, as punishment for a previous revolution against the Capital. Can be used to explore the role of values and how they are informed and can change in different contexts and with different experiences. Can also be used to discuss inequality in society and the ethics of war and revolutionary movements.

Making Moral and Ethical Decisions

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley

Dr. Frankenstein decides to push the boundaries of scientific experimentation and succeeds in creating life. However, disgusted by the creature he has created, he disowns it and these actions have serious consequences. Can be used to explore and analyse how decision-making is influenced by experience and values, and the ethics of scientific research and experimentation.

Beliefs & Worldviews

His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman

The trilogy follows the two main characters, Lyra and Will, as they travel through a number of parallel worlds. Can be used to explore different beliefs and cultural practices and raises questions about the role of religion in society.

Different Teachings & Perspectives

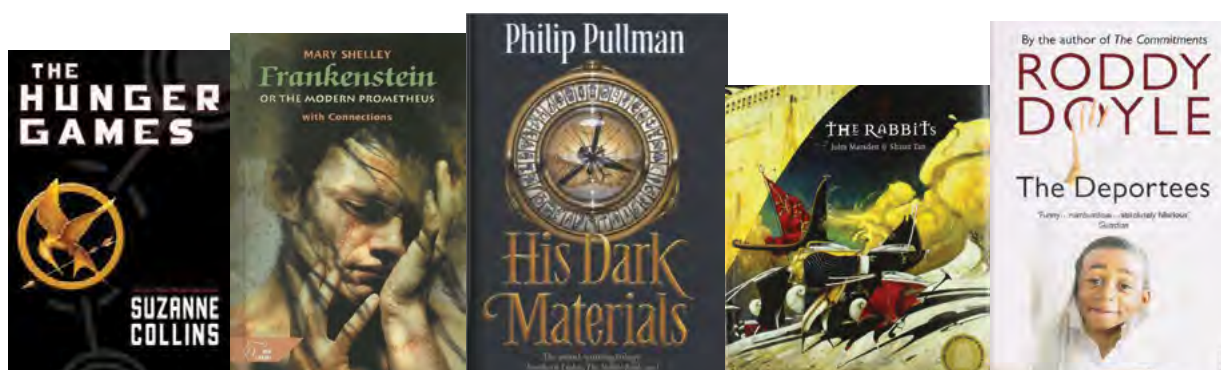
The Rabbits by John Marsden & Shaun Tan

A picturebook depicting the experience of colonisation from the viewpoint of the colonised. Can be used to explore differing perspectives of world events and the validity or bias of information we receive from different sources.

Diversity in Ireland

The Deportees by Roddy Doyle

A collection of short stories set in Ireland featuring a range of diverse characters. Can be used to explore stereotypes and the issue of racism and prejudice in Ireland.



Books for the other four strands of the Ethical Education Curriculum will be included in the next issue.
Have you got suggestions for texts to use in Ethical Education you'd like to share?

Contact laura.dooley@educatetogether.ie

Teachers' Ethical Education Network Launched!

On 31 May 2017 the Ethical Education Second-level Network was launched in Drumcondra Education Centre. This teacher professional network is for teachers of Ethical Education as well as those with an interest in Ethical Education, it's open to all teachers including those outside the Educate Together Network.

The Network will be of particular interest to teachers of Ethical Education, Development Education, CSPE, Philosophy and Politics and Society. Membership is free, just send a completed application form (available from <https://www.educatetogether.ie/support/ethical-ed-TPN>) to ethicaleducationnetwork@gmail.com.

The Ethical Education Network has planned two CPD events in October and November:

- **Teaching Ethical Education: Planning and Practice**
Thursday 12th October 6-8pm (Dublin- Venue TBC)
- **Ethical Education Approaches in Every Classroom**
Thursday 16th November 6-8pm (Dublin- Venue TBC)

For more information and to keep updated with our events like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ethical-Education-Network-Ireland-EEN-848167592005883/>

Educate Together Seeks Principals for Secondary Schools in Dublin and Cork

The Educate Together Blueprint for Second-level Schools 'Taking the Next Step' clearly outlines the vision for an Educate Together Second-level School.

Educate Together is currently seeking Principal Teachers to implement the Blueprint in two brand new secondary schools opening in September 2018. The schools will be based in Dublin South City and Limerick. Employment will begin in December 2017.

Each post offers a dynamic individual the opportunity to take on the role of Principal in a new voluntary secondary school at a challenging and exciting time. The Principal in collaboration with the Board of Management and school community, will ensure that the school provides an education that will enable all students to contribute meaningfully to their communities, embrace the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to live their lives and to build their careers in the 21st century.

Further details here: <http://www.educatetogether.ie/2L-Principals-Dublin-Limerick-2018>



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Key Dates for Educate Together Schools

When?	Day & Time	What's happening?	Where?	Who?
28 September	Thursday 10am-1pm	Educate Together Second-level Principals' Network	Fumbally Exchange, Dame Lane, Dublin	Second-level Principals
12 October	Thursday 6-8pm	Ethical Education Teacher Professional Network CPD event: <i>"Teaching Ethical Education: Planning and Practice"</i>	TBC	Teachers of Ethical Education
14 October	Saturday 10am – 1pm	Board of Management Training: Data Protection	Drumcondra Education Centre	BoM Members
16 October	Thursday 6-8pm	Ethical Education Teacher Professional Network CPD event: <i>"Ethical Education Approaches in Every Classroom"</i>	TBC	Teachers of Ethical Education or with an interest in Ethical Education
21 October	Saturday all day	Equality 17: Youth Work Ireland Consensus Conference Educate Together is a partner organisation) Further information: www.youthworkireland.ie/conference	Royal Hospital Kilmainham, D8	Teachers and young people
October	TBC	Educate Together Development Education CPD day funded by WorldWise Global Schools	Fumbally Exchange, Dame Lane, Dublin	Selected second-level teachers (Laura will be in contact)
October-November	Ongoing	Piloting of Erasmus+ Online Course in Ethical Education Methodologies	Online	Teachers- contact Laura/Fionnuala if you are interested
16 November	Thursday 7pm – 9pm	Board of Management Training: The Board As A Corporate Entity Webinar	Online	BoM Members
18 November	Saturday 10am-1pm	Board of Management Training: Finance	Dublin (Venue TBC)	BoM Members
24-25 November	Friday 3.30pm- Saturday 5.15pm	Ethical Education Conference 2017 <i>Gender Matters: Educating for Equality?</i>	Grand Hotel Malahide, Co. Dublin	Teachers (primary & second-level)
25 November	Saturday 11.30am	Launch of Erasmus+ LITTLE online course for teachers of Ethical Education	Grand Hotel Malahide, Co. Dublin	Teachers (ticket must be purchased for conference to attend)

Interested in saving energy and reducing your costs?

Free training course to help your school save money by better managing your energy use.

The Energy in Education programme offers a range of supports developed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills designed to help schools to improve energy management practices, reduce school operating costs and protect the environment.

Attend an energy management course

More than 500 schools from all over Ireland have already taken part in Energy Management courses at Education Centres. Participants are guided step by step through the energy management process from understanding bills and energy use in the school to developing and implementing an energy saving plan.

The course involves attending two half-day workshops where schools are given access to a range of resources, online tools, expert advice and opportunities to network and share knowledge & experiences with other schools.

Schools that attend courses can apply for an Assessment, Mentoring and Advice (AMA) service and avail of support from an energy advisor. The service includes a consultation and report to assist in identifying and implementing energy saving opportunities, and three months mentoring support.

Who should attend?

The workshops are open to any representative of a school community.

Register your interest by emailing energyineducation@seai.ie



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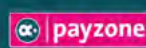
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Rollout of Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) at primary level from September 2017

The FSSU was set up in 2006 to provide a support mechanism for all voluntary secondary schools in relation to financial governance matters.

The expansion of the FSSU to include primary level was referenced in the Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2015-2019 and is included in the Department of Education & Skills Action Plan for 2017.

5 key points to note:

- The Department will publish a Circular in September 2017 which will outline the arrangements for the roll out and operation of the FSSU service. You'll find the Circular here: https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0060_2017.pdf
- The FSSU will be an important source of advice and support for primary schools on financial governance matters - primarily provided via on-line and telephone support. In this regard it is envisaged that from September 2017 onwards the FSSU will develop templates for use internally by schools for monitoring monthly income, expenditure, budget management, cash flow etc. The use of the FSSU internal templates will be optional for schools who may if they so wish, continue to use the IPPN Airgead Bunscoile/Financial Template, CPSMA Accounts templates etc. for their internal use.
- The FSSU will also be focussed on facilitating the phased introduction of a standardised national template for school accounts at primary level. The national template will be the standardised way for accountants/auditors to prepare school accounts in accordance with the requirements of Section 18 of the Education Act 1998. The following is the envisaged timeline for same:

2017/18 school year: FSSU to focus on provision of advice and support as part of preparations for the phased introduction of the standardised national template for school accounts.

2018/19 school year: This will be the first year for school accounts to be prepared using the standardised national template. This will be the



required format for schools to fulfil obligations under Section 18 of the Education Act 1998.

End February 2020 (6 months after end of 2018/19 school year): This will be the latest date for school accounts for the 2018/19 school year to be submitted to the FSSU.

1. The standardised national template for school accounts will be consistent with the format of the FSSU internal templates referred to at 2 above. Therefore, use of the internal FSSU templates may result in lower accountancy fees for certifying or auditing school accounts (as required under Section 18 of the Education Act 1998) as the information presented to an Accountant will be in a format that will facilitate relevant data for the school accounts to be extracted more readily.
2. This update should be brought to the attention of School Principals and Boards of Management.

Find out more: www.fssu.ie

School Procurement Unit Publishes Newsletter

The School Procurement Unit's latest newsletter has been published, and is available on their <https://jmb.ie/images/pdf/Procurement/Newsletters/Procurement-Newsletter-Issue-3.pdf>



This month's edition covers the latest frameworks available to schools, and also looks at the new stationery framework from the perspective of the school.

Schools can make considerable savings by using School Procurement, we advise having a look at the newsletter, which is well produced, and helpful.

Centre for School Leadership (CSL): Coaching

CSL has been set up as a partnership between the IPPN/NAPD and the DES. CSL has responsibility for leadership development throughout a principal's career, including pre-appointment training. Its current focus is on newly appointed principals, and experienced principals experiencing professional difficulties and/or challenging situations.

As well as offering a mentoring service for newly appointed principals, CSL offers a Coaching Service. If this is something you'd like to know more about, you'll find information here: <http://www.csfireland.ie/en/11-english/established-leaders-csl-ireland/16-csl-coaching-service-leadership-coaching.html>

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



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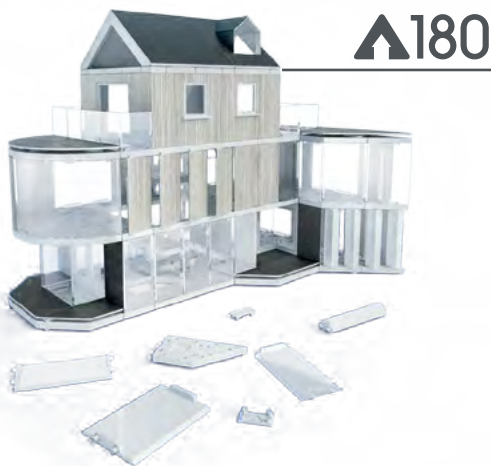
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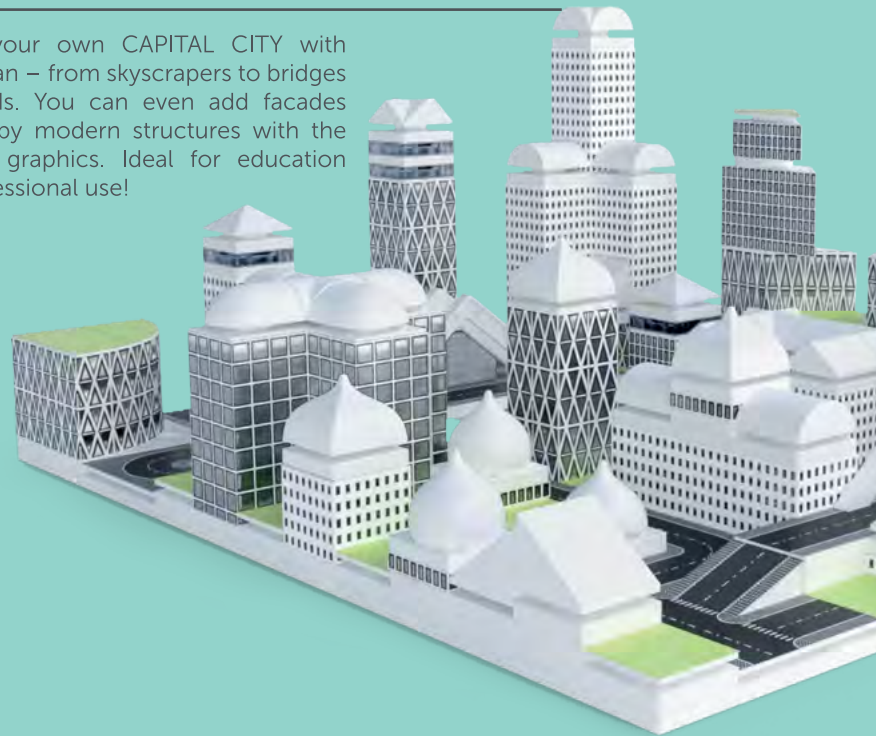


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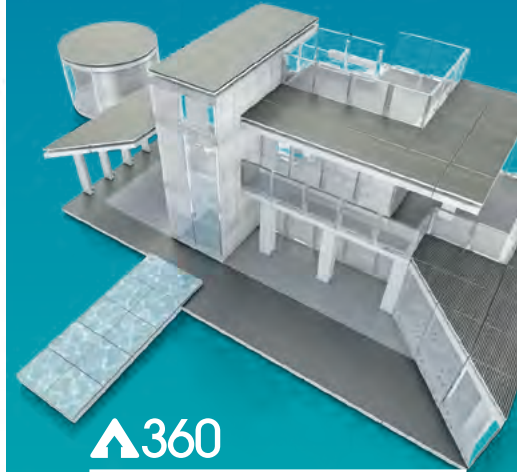
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