

Collaboration and Sharing in Education

VOLUME 4

SUMMER 2019



Teacher Professional Learning Module—Sharing through Play

The CASE external TPL modules for this term kicked off with 'Sharing Through Play' in Armagh Teacher's Centre on the 13th May. Facilitated by Dr. Glenda Walsh on behalf of Stranmillis University College the course aimed to;

- Help participants reflect on a range of key skills and understanding about how a playful learning pedagogy can be effectively translated into practice
- Enable critical debate about the role of the environment and their own role as a teacher in facilitating and progressing young children's learning and development through a playful learning approach
- Help participants become more confident in the delivery of play-based approaches both

- indoors and out
- Develop each teacher's awareness and understanding of how to infuse learning into the playful activities and how these learning experiences can be progressed in play
- Examine approaches to observing, planning and assessing children's learning in play
- Engage in a practical session on playful learning in practice and reflect on the potential learning and progression within

Thirty participants took part in this three day course from a range of CASE partnerships, Some of the teachers were already engaged in delivering shared pupil activity, while others were planning to work together during Year 3 or beyond.

Janis Wright from Ballydown Primary school and Niamh McNally from her partner school, St Francis' Primary School commented,

"We have really enjoyed being part of our Shared Education Partnership. One of the most positive parts of the experience has been the opportunity to have productive professional dialogue about the challenges of teaching Primary One. Joint training also gave us further insights from experts in play to inform our practice and we are now working on updating our observation processes together."

A full range of TPL opportunities for CASE partnerships are available from September 2019 and will be advertised on CASE website www.sharededucation.org.uk / www.sharededucation.ie

Minister attends Cavan Schools' Celebration Event

In September 2018 Killinkere National School and the Model School Bailieborough began their Shared Education journey with a total of 36 pupils taking part. The pupils visited each other's schools for lessons and activities built around the theme of World War I and the Trenches. Cavan County Museum provided excellent workshops and facilities on site at the museum for the children's learning and research for the project.

The culmination of the year's work was a Launch Day at Cavan County Museum on Friday, May 17th which was

attended by Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphries TD, Chairperson of Cavan County Council, Madeleine Argue, Senator Joe O'Reilly and Niamh Smyth TD. The Boards of Management of both schools, parents and local representatives were also in attendance. The day



showcased the wonderful talent among our primary school pupils and their ability to forge new cross community relationships in a meaningful and resourceful manner. Killinkere National School and the Model School plan to continue in Shared Education through the CASE Project and will be increasing pupil participation from September. Both school communities are committed to developing inclusion, promoting diversity, community cohesion and facilitating shared learning goals. This is a new and exciting opportunity for growth and a welcome journey of hope for lasting peace in our communities.



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A Poetic Celebration of Shared Education



Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Lifford, Co Donegal and Welchtown National School, Ballybofey, Co Donegal have just successfully completed their first year in CASE .

Pupils from Junior Infants – 6th class in Welchtown NS and from 1st - 2nd class and 5th- 6th class in Scoil Mhuire, participated in Drama and Music activities, and held a joint performance at the end. This was enjoyed by all in both school communities.

The children and teachers also gained valuable experience in STEM with the introduction of shared LEGO workshops and the use of equipment purchased through CASE..

The pupils in the older class groups greatly benefitted from a group of lessons in Mindfulness led by a class teacher. These lessons assisted the senior children in getting to know each other during the early stages of the programme.

A Journey in Sharing

*We first got together in twenty nineteen,
The difference between us was plain to be seen.
Shared Education was the overall goal,
So into the project we put our heart and soul.*

*The children first met at a play place for fun,
The introductions were over, our journey had begun.
The plan was finalised, the activities laid out
then Welchtown came to Lifford for their first 'look about'.*

*The young kids were excited they had no inhibitions,
Each session was clear, having fun was their mission.
The drama and Lego made group work such fun,
The music and singing joined them as one.*

*The older kids found it all hard at the start,
Their difference in culture meant they lived worlds apart.
But over the weeks things began to improve,
The mixing was wonderful when they found their groove.*

*After many weeks the sessions were done,
The shared learning was over it was an end to the fun.
Our last day together it became very clear,
We're already excited for our project next year.*

By the pupils of Scoil Mhuire gan Smál & Welchtown.



Community Celebrations in Derrygonnelly

Derrygonnelly PS and Killyhommon PS organised a fantastic morning in Derrygonnelly Community Centre for the children from P1-7 to showcase their fabulous Shared Education work.

Parents, grandparents, neighbours and Governors attended the morning. Primary One performed a short drama called, 'Leary's New House' and P2 children performed a drama called, 'How the Harp came to Be'. This was then followed by the whole P1/2 group singing and dancing, 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman.

The P3/5 children had their beautiful 2D and 3D art work displayed around the hall for all to view, displaying their recycling and biodiversity projects. The children really loved showing their work to their families.

Finally the P5-7 children who had been working in groups for their STEM project on, 'How can we continue Shared Education while there were floods in Boho?' presented their ideas and displayed their bridge or boat.

When tasked about Shared Education the pupils mentioned that they liked meeting new people, playing in different school

grounds, having fun together and being taught by a different teacher!

Parents have also been very positive about shared education. One parent stated that 'This helped build my child's confidence.' while another summed it up as, "I think that it is a brilliant idea to see the two schools working together and the children enjoying their time together and friendship.'

