

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 2018/2019

ACCS DEIS Symposium, 2018

Keeping Expectations High & Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS)

The ACCS DEIS Symposium, 2018 took place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on Tuesday, 23rd October affording delegates in DEIS schools the opportunity to gather together, share strategies and reflect on the excellent work which is undertaken in the schools every day. There are currently 28 schools involved in DEIS and almost all were represented on the day.

Following the official opening of the Symposium by Paul Fiorentini, President, ACCS, Maria Lorigan, Senior Inspector, Department of Education and Skills, addressed participants acknowledging the phenomenal work going on in DEIS schools and describing the Triple A approach to Attendance which can, in fact, be applied to all schools. This approach centres on Accuracy, Awareness and Attainment linking the importance of interrogating the attendance data which is readily available in all schools and using this as a starting point when tackling attendance issues in schools. Schools are advised to analyse patterns of attendance, e.g. the days of week which are most problematic etc. and to build parental awareness of the integral link between attendance and success in educational outcomes and in life choices.

Indeed, often the students themselves are unaware of how many actual days they have missed in a school term and checking in with them regularly as we meet them on the corridor can have interesting results. When we set targets with them for the following week or month and challenge them to improve their own attendance, we are placing a real importance on attendance with them as individuals, with their families and across the entire school population.

The importance of effective transition programmes in schools was highlighted throughout the day both from the pedagogical bridging perspective and from the socio emotional bridging perspective. These types of supports can be vital as



Ms. Mary Jackson, ACCS Executive, Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, former President ACCS, Ms. Maria Lorigan, Senior Inspector, Department of Education and Skills, Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS and Ms. Elizabeth Tierney, ACCS Executive.

students navigate between different sectors, programmes and different friendship groups during their time in formal schooling. Establishing structures to ensure the place of student voice in these transition programmes is vital to success for both child and school.

Developing robust literacy, oracy and numeracy skills in students, enhancing the authentic role of parents in school life and creating close links with community are key to effective schools. Linked closely with these are the new themes in DEIS planning: In truth these are already interwoven into the fabric of school planning and are already visible in data available to schools. These are:

- Wellbeing
- CPD
- Leadership where the Board of Management and the Principal/Deputy Principal have a firm belief that they can make a real difference in the lives of these young people. Set in the context of the Framework, LAOS 2016, this belief is common among all teacher leaders within the school.

Being happy in school and feeling valued for who we are is closely linked to our wellbeing. "It really matters to me that the Principal/Deputy Principal is at the door every morning and calls me by my name."

When students, upon entering a classroom are addressed by their name their chances of success in that classroom are immediately higher.

"Today was the first day I was happy to be different!".

This comment was heard when the MFL subject department in one school ran a 'Speed Dating' workshop celebrating the 58 different languages spoken in the school. Language and Identity are closely linked



Delegates at the ACCS DEIS Symposium 2018

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making it very challenging to be different in school at age 12 conversing in a language different to the one spoken in the family home.

On the day, the key message about Whole School Planning and DEIS planning is simply put; in the DEIS school these are combined into a single process. The committee working on the SIP is the same committee working on the DEIS Action Plan. The School Improvement Plan is the DEIS Action Plan. In this way while the Board of Management has understanding and oversight and all key personnel such as the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Heads and Guidance Personnel are clear about their roles, everyone commits to being on a DEIS team related to each of the themes. Schools are advised to request a DES Inspectorate visit to support and guide them in their planning work.

To lead or to teach effectively in a school requires a great deal of commitment and passion and this is especially true in a DEIS school. In the DEIS school we see evidence daily of the absolute gap between what other children take for granted and what the DEIS child experiences.



Mr. Noel Kelly, TUSLA, Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, former President ACCS, Ms. Áine O'Keeffe, TUSLA and Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS.

Noel Kelly, Director, Educational Welfare Services, TUSLA and Áine O'Keeffe, National Integrated Services Manager, Educational Welfare Services, TUSLA, focussed on the different Education Welfare Services which are integrated to improve outcomes for young people in DEIS schools.

TUSLA acts as an independent legal entity merging HSE Children and Family Services, the Family Support Agency and the National Educational Welfare Board.

TUSLA Educational Welfare Services (EWS) has three component programmes:

- Home School Community Liaison Scheme
- School Completion Programme
- Statutory School Attendance Service The EWS lists its three priorities as follows:
- Improve Attendance
- Improve Participation
- Improve Retention

Together the three services provide an integrated response to child educational welfare needs to achieve the three outcomes as outlined above. TUSLA manages the Home School Community Liaison provision at a national level. Currently there are a total of 416 HSCL posts in the system which are available to 531 schools across the country (198 Post-Primary). The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a core programme in the continuum of EWS service provision. This programme is available currently to 195 DEIS schools and the projects within schools are governed by Local Management Committees (LMC). The projects are targeted at those most vulnerable and seek to bridge school, family and community contexts. The focus of the programme is to advocate for the young person while maintaining gains in school attendance and completion rates.

In the afternoon Ardee Community School addressed the DEIS Symposium presenting their approach as an exemplar in best practice in planning and delivery for DEIS in a Community School Setting.

School Principal, Mary Jackson was accompanied on the day by colleagues, Brigid Smith, (HSCL) and Andrea Duffy, Dee Side School Completion Programme Coordinator. The presentation clearly highlighted the importance of developing a collaborative and integrated approach to Home School Community Liaison and Home School Completion within a school setting. Delegates were reminded of the role of the parent as the primary educator in their child's life and how this is strengthened when there is a significant adult in the school for the child and the This key figure develops family. relationships with colleagues, parents and young people at a different level to other school personnel. Without doubt, for the job to be done effectively a huge amount of planning and administration is required on a weekly basis.

"The most important part of Home School is the "Home Visits" - we are privileged as HSCL teachers to go into people's homes. In these contexts, you can learn a great deal, and you are giving the power to the parents. You make them feel comfortable as you drink tea. It is so important from the parents' point of view that as HSCL we never go out with an agenda (phone in advance and let them know I am in the area and visiting a few homes that day) and that we always remember that the bottom line is it is a privilege to be invited into someone's home!"

"10% of the DEIS budget is spent on running parents' classes, family learning and recreational classes which supports their own emotional needs and which in turn, will support the young person in their journey through school. We never give up on a parent and are available at all school events where parents are present including Parent Teacher Meetings, Open Days, Awards Events etc. We use all sorts of incentives to ensure that parents are fully included in their child's school life. We are careful to work closely with the other local organisations who may also be involved in this family's life such as Gardaí and St. Vincent de Paul."

"The role can be very isolating, so it is important that you arrange your schedule so that you are in school at lunch and breaktimes. In this way you can catch up with colleagues, advocate for the students and parents who are in this programme. This job is all about building and maintaining relationships. I love my job!"

Ms. Brigid Smith, HSCL, Ardee C.S.



Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS, Ms. Mary Jackson, ACCS Executive, Mr. Frank Moran, former ACCS Executive, Ms. Andrea Duffy, Dee Side School Completion Programme Coordinator, Ardee C.S. and Ms. Brigid Smith. HSCL. Ardee C.S.

Andrea Duffy from the Dee Side School Completion Programme described how this programme was created in 2003 and includes 4 Primary and 3 Second level schools. It's primary base is Ardee C.S. and the programme includes 40 targeted students from the school. The model is built firmly on the needs of the young people and includes regular referrals and reviews to ensure that it remains effective and relevant for these young people. It works on the basis that the correct interventions can make a substantial difference in young people's lives. Andrea's role is centred on building relationships, teaching and modelling behaviour, advocating on behalf of the young person, challenging their thinking and motivations and training them in restorative practice skills. devoted to mentoring and to ensuring the correct supports are in place for each young person.

While there are many challenges, there are huge strengths to the programme as it provides positive role models at school and community levels and the local approach allows for flexibility and creativity in meeting the needs of everyone.

ACCS wishes to acknowledge and thank Mary Jackson, ACCS Executive and Antoinette Nic Gearailt, Former President, ACCS for the huge contribution which they made to the organisation of the ACCS DEIS Symposium. ACCS pays tribute to Frank Moran, Former ACCS Executive who, like so many, has worked tirelessly on behalf of the DEIS schools in our sector and who brought the Symposium to a close on the day.

"It is great to come out to CPD which is so centred on our core work in schools."

> Delegate (ACCS DEIS Symposium 2018)

Congratulations to New
Minister for Education
and Skills
Joe McHugh, T.D.,
past pupil
of Loreto Community
School





Loreto Community School congratulates our esteemed past pupil Joe McHugh T.D. on his appointment as Minister for Education and Skills. We wish him every success in the role and are confident that education is in safe hands. Joe is pictured below, in the back row second from the right. He's now in the front row playing in a bigger league!

New NAPD President



Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Kieran Golden, Principal, Mayfield Community School in his role as President of NAPD. Kieran is pictured here with Ms. Mary Keane, outgoing President, NAPD at the 19th Annual Conference in the Galmont Hotel, Co. Galway.

SEAI Energy Updates, Autumn/Winter 2018

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.

Switch Off

As the Autumn approaches you can cut energy costs by making the most of natural daylight and remembering to switch off lights when rooms are not in use:

- Switch off lights when daylight is adequate, especially the row of lights nearest the windows.
- Actively use window blinds to promote daylight and control glare.
- Exterior lights left on during the day and all night waste energy. Use time clocks to switch lights, make sure they are adjusted when the clocks change.

For more tips on how to save your school energy and money visit www.energyineducation.ie.

For teaching resources and workshops for pupils visit www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability.

Sign up to SEAI's schools ezine and keep up to date on new resources and supports for teaching energy and sustainability in school.

Enter SEAl's Schools competition with your "One Good Idea". Deadline 16th November, 2018

Every year we invite primary and post primary students to enter our annual competition by telling us about their One Good Idea to help save energy and tackle climate change. Students design and launch a creative awareness campaign in their community to show people how One Good Idea can make a difference. Winning teams receive prizes for themselves and their school, find out more at https://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/one-good-idea/ or stay in touch with us on Twitter or Facebook to keep up to date.

Top Energy Tips

Did you know between 50-70% of energy use in schools is for space heating? With the weather getting colder here are some tips for reducing heating energy use and maintaining comfort levels:

- ✓ Do Keep track of your fuel deliveries in order to track fuel savings or fuel wastage.
- ✓ Do Read the manual on how to operate your storage heaters correctly (if your school uses these).
- ✓ **Do** Set your room thermostats to 18 degrees
- X Don't Cover radiators or allow new furniture to cover radiators.
- X Don't Ignore stuck radiator valves Get them fixed
- X Don't Open windows to control temperatures when heating is on.

School's out for Mary O'Sullivan

Beara Community School in Castletownbere said a fond farewell to its principal Mary O'Sullivan who retired after 38 years teaching, 18 of which she was at the helm.

A native of Kanturk, Mary graduated from St. Angela's College, Sligo as a Home Economics teacher, taking up her first teaching post in Abbyfeale. She then moved to Castletownbere, teaching in the former vocational school at the North Road, moving on again to teach in Newcastlewest. However, 'the lure of Beara proved too strong' she said and she returned to teach in the newly opened Beara Community School, settling in the area and marrying local man Ollie O'Sullivan and raising four children.

During her time at the school, Mary was also transition year co-ordinator. 'Becoming principal has definitely been the highlight of my career in education, but being involved in transition year was a huge experience in leadership and management. I was always very conscious that the school didn't miss out on opportunities because of its geographic location, and some of the projects pupils have become involved in with transition year have seen them travel all over the country and achieve great success.'

She also credits the growth of the special needs facilities in the school as one of the most positive aspects of her time there: 'We now have two special needs classes which enable students with special needs to fully integrate with mainstream education.'

She noted how during her teaching career, there has been huge changes in education legislation and welfare: 'One time there was only one annual parent teacher meeting but now parents play an active role in the school, it's something which is very welcome and very positive. When the school first opened here in 1980 being a Community School we had parents on the Board, from day one, long before other schools did in the country, so Beara was actually ahead of its time.'

Mary wished her successor in the role of principal well for the future.

'Pauline Hurley has been appointed school principal, and she will be the first principal in the school's history who is a born and bred Beara native. I wish her and Niamh O'Driscoll who will take up the role of deputy principal

As for plans for her retirement, Mary is heading off shortly to walk the first leg of the Camino, but may not stay away from education completely: 'I'm not a person to be idle, so I could well end up going back to studying, maybe something new.'

Ms. Helen Riddell, Beara



Mary O'Sullivan served on the ACCS **Executive Committee from November** 2009 to March 2015 holding officer positions as Hon. Secretary from 2012-2014 and as Treasurer from 2014-2015. During these years Mary gave tirelessly to ACCS and served on many sub-committees on behalf of the Executive. There is no doubt that the sub-committees reflect her passion for education and her interest in promoting ACCS and its many member schools.

These range from the Constitution Sub-Committee. Convention **Education Sub-Committee, the Information** Technology Sub-Committee, the School **Accommodation Needs Sub-Committee to** the ACCS Identity Sub-Committee and the **ACCS Small Schools Sub-Committee.**

ACCS wishes Mary every health and happiness on her retirement.

ACCS/Microsoft Dreamspace Event

The ACCS ICT Sub-committee held its first meeting of the 2018/19 year in Microsoft's Head Office at One Microsoft Place in Leopardstown, Dublin 18 on Wednesday, 19th September. Following the meeting, a number of ACCS school Principals, Deputy Principals and ICT coordinators joined the Subcommittee in the Microsoft Educational Dream Space for a training session on the use of Eportfolios in the classroom for assessment and for the launch of the ACCS website portal by personnel from Wriggle. The Dreamspace facility is one of the best in Europe and is available free for school groups and is used by schools as a digital learning space with support from Microsoft facilitators.



Microsoft Dreamspace - September, 2018



St. Mark's Community School, Tallaght National Award Winners - 'The Multilingual Classroom Project'

Linguistic diversity is part of Europe's DNA

"We speak over 50 languages in St. Mark's and we want to celebrate them all, the languages we learn through and the languages we live through."

(The students, St. Mark's C.S.)

The European Commission's European Language Label "rewards excellence and innovation in language teaching and learning" in 31 countries throughout Europe. Since 1998, awards have been made annually to projects and programmes in primary, post-primary and third level institutions as well as vocational training and adult education. More that 2000 grass-root projects have received this award for school education, vocational education and training or adult learning projects.

This year St. Mark's Community School was one of nine award winners in Ireland. St. Mark's won the award for the Multilingual Classroom Project run by the school's Language Support Programme. The project, now in its third year, encourages and enables EAL students to use their first languages to support their learning of English, as well their learning across the curriculum. The project also aims to encourage students to value their home languages and learn more about the languages and cultures of others.



Recent Relevant DES Circular Letters

CL 62/18	Clarification in Respect of Section 5 of Circular 0013/2018 in Relation to the NCCA Religious Education Syllabus and Religious Instruction
CL 60/18	Breastfeeding Breaks for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools
CL 57/18	Revision of Salaries of all Staff Paid Directly by a Recognised School or ETB with Effect from 1 October 2018
CL 55/18	Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools with Effect from 1 October 2018
CL 54/18	Revision of Salaries with Effect from 1 October 2018 for Clerical Officers and Caretakers Employed in National Schools Under the 1978/79 Scheme and Clerical Officers Employed in Post-Primary Schools Under the 1978 Scheme
CL 53/18	Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) with Effect from 1 October 2018
CL 51/18	Revision of Teacher Salaries with Effect from 1 October 2018
CL 49/18	Revised Procedures for Suspension and Dismissal of Teachers and Principals
CL 46/18	Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2018/2019
CL 45/18	HSE Post-Primary School Vaccination Programme 2018/2019
CL 43/18	Best Practice Guidance for Post-Primary Schools in the Use of Programmes and/or External Facilitators in Promoting Wellbeing Consistent with the Department of Education and Skills' Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice

Donahies Community School Official Opening of The Rogers Suite

The official opening of the new ASD unit named The Rogers Suite, was held on Friday the 14th of September 2018 at the Donahies Community School.

Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath performed the opening and later sang songs with the students.

Local representatives included, Senator Aodhán O'Riordáin, Cllr. Tom Brabazon, Cllr. Michael O'Brien, Tommy Broughan T.D., Finian McGrath T.D., Minister of State for Disability Issues, Cllr. Micheál Mac Donncha and Seán Haughey, T.D.

Along with the students of the Rogers Suite and their parents, principals from local schools and representatives from TUSLA, Northside Partnership, NEPS, Sphere17 and Glanmore Foods all joined in the celebrations.

ACCS was represented on the day by Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS, John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS, Antoinette Nic Gearailt, former School Principal Donahies C.S. and former President ACCS.



Mr. Finian McGrath, Minister of State for Disability Issues with Donahies Community School students.



Mr. John Irwin, General Secretary ACCS, Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS, Mr. Finian McGrath. Minister of State for Disability Issues, Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt. former President ACCS and Mr. Peter Keohane, Principal Donahies C.S.



Mr. Peter Keohane, Principal Donahies C.S., Ms. Michelle Horrigan, Deputy Principal Donahies C.S. and Mr. Finian McGrath. Minister of State for Disability Issues.

St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh

Back to school with a smile



Hallam Coen is delighted to be enrolled as a first year student in St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh.



Ciara Kelly and Niamh Grego enjoying their first day in St. Louis Community Photos: Regina Anderson

Old Bawn Community School Habitat Accomplishments

Five years... €100,000 raised... supporting 3 building projects

Old Bawn Community School was the first Community School to partner with Habitat for Humanity. The school is still only one of a few Community Schools involved with home building projects in Romania and Zambia. Since 2014, Old Bawn Community School has sent 3 separate groups of student volunteers to different parts of Romania, to build homes in partnership with families in need of decent accommodation. The school community has raised over €100.000 and has helped home more than 10 families.



2014 Cluj, Romania. A team of 15 Old Bawn Community School Habitat Volunteers, made up of 10 students and 5 teachers.

The volunteers worked on a 3-year building project. This project was completed in 2016 ahead of schedule and now homes 50 different families. One of the families in receipt of a home is pictured on the right of the photo above.



2016 Ploiesti, Romania. This is a group photo of the OBCS Habitat volunteers outside an almost complete quadruplex. This provided four new 2-bedroom apartments for four different families in need of accommodation. The volunteers worked alongside and got to know the families receiving these homes.

2018 Cumpana, Romania. The OBCS Habitat Volunteers pictured outside a quadruplex that they helped to build. This building provides homes for four different families. The volunteers worked in partnership with a recently married couple with a young child who will be moving into their new home this Autumn.

Over the course of each two-year fundraising cycle, culminating with the three builds, students have shared an experience that will have an immeasurable value to their own personal development. They have made friendships, authentically experienced a new culture, learnt new skills, shown personal leadership and initiative.

When on their most recent build in Cumpana last June, this is what some of the Old Bawn students wrote in their shared journal:



'The atmosphere on-site is my favourite thing ever. Everyone works hard together, and everyone is friendly.' - Laura

'I continued working on the drywalling in the room. I loved it, got to use lots of Maths.' - Chloe

'Using the drills is fun, digging the holes in the sun is hard but it's nice to see the progress and feel like you're accomplishing something.' - Kerri-Ann

'I love getting to work in teams with everyone and getting closer to everyone. Each person has their own element to contribute and many of us have discovered skills which we never knew we had. I am so grateful to the students and teachers for being so supportive and looking out for each other.' - Dylan

'Today I insulated the outside of the houses in the lovely sunny weather. I also learnt how to make cement. It really hit me that all this work we are doing means so much to these families as we got to meet an amazing family who are moving into one of the Habitat Houses. The amount of gratitude they showed us was so Heart-Warming. I'm happy they will be getting the house because they truly deserve it.' - Roisin

'Overall, this has been an experience that I will never forget surpassing my expectations in every way possible. As I'm sitting on the plane now, I'm waiting to go back and do it all again, just so I could go and help those in need again. Looking back, the two years of Fundraising and Teambuilding were worth it in every way possible...' - Darren

'Knowing that we are helping a family get a home is truly an amazing feeling. I have loved it and it was the best experience of my life that I will remember forever.' - Sarah

'Overall, the week has been the best experience of my life so far: I've made lasting friends, met so many genuine and lovely people, gained experience in working on a site... learnt about Romanian culture and I obtained an insight into what these families go through which is basically the whole reason we're here. I would do it again in a heartbeat and I can see myself back here in the future.' – Saoirse

Old Bawn C.S. is immensely proud and thankful of the volunteers and wider school community for being so supportive and for donating their time, funds and expertise for these projects. Old Bawn C.S. is excited to have recruited their new volunteers for their next Habitat project - building homes in Zambia in 2020. This marks a new adventure and a wonderful opportunity for the community of Old Bawn.

Clifden Community School

An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, Officially Opens New School Building



Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President ACCS, Ms. Áine O'Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary ACCS, Ms. Mary Kelly, Principal, Clifden C.S., Ms. Mary Mullarkey, Chairperson of the Board of Management and Mr. John Irwin, General Secretary



An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, Br. James Mungovan, Trustee, Ms. Mary Mullarkey, Chairperson of the Board of Management and Mr. Paul Fiorentini, President

St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield Awarded The PDST 'Wellread National Award'

The PDST 'Wellread National Award' is a national initiative designed and organised by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It aims to create HEIGHTENED AWARENESS about the importance of creating a CULTURE OF READING in school communities for our young people as part of their personal and academic development.



(L-R) Mr. Casey (Teacher), Mr. O'Brien (Teacher) and Ms. Brady (Parent).

The PDST 'Wellread National Award' is an initiative that seeks to involve all relevant stakeholders who impact on student learning including STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ANCILLARY STAFF, PARENTS, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND WIDER COMMUNITY in a range of reading and associated activities.

It is envisaged that a national award will explicitly foster and nurture a reading culture in your school and will bring about an overall IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENTS' LITERACY SKILLS IN A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY.

St. Aidan's Community School is delighted to announce that our school has been successful in becoming a Wellread School 2018-2021. This is a major achievement, enormous endorsement and a great honour. We are very proud! A lot of hard work by the students, parents, the Librarian Ms Flynn, teaching staff and management has led to this honour. Below is our presentation which gives you a flavour of the work being done in our school to promote and improve reading -

 $\label{lem:http://www.staidanscs.com/latest-news-2/2018/6/5/pdst-wellread-national-award.} \\$

Follow happenings in the library on Twitter @staidanscslib.

Follow us on Twitter: @jscplibraries.

Currently Reading: The Guernsey Literacy and Potato Peel Pie Society.

Recently Read: The Therapy House by Julie Parsons, Fire & Fury by Michael Wolff and Trash by Andy Mulligan.