



Department of
Education

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AN ROINN
Oideachais

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Your ref: PMcC/JW/1706

24 October 2014

Dear Peter

SHARED EDUCATION SIGNATURE PROGRAMME

Your correspondence of 15 October refers.

As the Committee is aware, on 17 September 2014 the First and Deputy First Minister announced a £58 million funding package provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) for three Delivering Social Change signature programmes, including Shared Education.

The Shared Education Signature Project will run until 2018 with investment of £25 million over the four year period. The project will focus on supporting schools that have previously participated in Shared Education. The Department of Education (DE) is the lead Department and delivery of the project will be through the Education and Library Boards. The project will be launched by the Education Minister and the first call for applications opened in the near future.

The objectives for the project (as set out in the approved business case) are as follows:

- improve education outcomes through schools working collaboratively;
- increase the number of schools participating in Shared Education;
- improve reconciliation outcomes through schools working collaboratively;
- increase the number of young people participating in Shared Education;

- to work collaboratively to provide educators with professional development and develop their confidence and competence in using a range of learning strategies necessary for work in shared classes;
- enable schools to implement a progressive approach to shared education; and
- to ensure shared education becomes a core element of strategic planning within the Department of Education, Education and Library Boards and Schools.

To ensure Shared Education becomes a core element of strategic planning, project targets will be included in both the DE business plan and the ELB Resource Allocation Plans and monitored accordingly. Schools participating in the Shared Education Signature Project will be required to include specific plans and actions for Shared Education in their School Development Plan.

More broadly, the Department is currently developing a Shared Education Policy, which will set out the rationale, vision and objectives for Shared Education. The policy will also set out the actions and interventions that the Department will take to embed Shared Education across the system.

Yours sincerely

Veronica

VERONICA BINTLEY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer



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Committee for Education

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17 October 2014

Our Ref: PMcC/JW/1706

Dear Veronica

Shared Education Signature Programme

At its meeting on 15 October 2014, the Committee noted evidence from Professors Knox and Borooah in respect of the Shared Education Signature Programme announced in September 2014. The relevant extract in respect of the objectives of the Signature Programme is reproduced below:

- Improve education outcomes through schools working collaboratively
- Increase the number of schools participating in Shared Education
- Improve reconciliation outcomes through schools working collaboratively
- Increase the number of young people participating in Shared Education
- To work collaboratively to provide educators with professional development and develop their confidence and competence in using a range of learning strategies necessary for work in shared classes
- Enable schools to implement a progressive approach to shared education
- To ensure shared education becomes a core element of strategic planning within the Department of Education, Education and Library Boards/ Education & Skills Authority and schools.

Committee for Education

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The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking confirmation of the relevant objectives, funding levels and timings for the Shared Education Signature Programme. The Committee particularly sought clarity as to how the Shared Education Signature Programme will facilitate Shared Education becoming a core element of strategic planning within the Department, ELBs and schools.

A response by Friday 31 October 2014 would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Signed Peter McCallion

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Clerk
Committee for Education

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