

SUBMISSION REGARDING SHARED EDUCATION:
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HART MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Shared and Integrated Education

When completing this submission, Presentation Primary School and Hart Memorial Primary School have considered the following directions:

- 1) Review the nature and definition of Shared Education as it applies across all educational phases- including consideration of the need for formal statutory definition and an obligation to facilitate and encourage Shared Education
- 2) Identify the key barriers and enablers for Shared Education
- 3) Identify and analyse alternative approaches and models of good practice in other jurisdictions in terms of policy interventions and programmes
- 4) Consider what priorities and actions need to be taken to improve sharing and integration –including the effectiveness of the relevant parts of the CRED policy. The need to engage more effectively with parents/carers

1) Background to Shared Education in Hart Memorial Primary School and Presentation Primary School

We strongly feel there *is* a need “for a formal statutory definition and an obligation in statute to facilitate and encourage Shared Education”. We believe the shared history and commitment between our schools have led us to a place where we can deliver Shared Education.

Background

Hart Memorial PS and Presentation PS have worked together in Shared Education for over 20 years firstly through Education for Mutual Understanding programmes then the Schools’ Community Relations Programme. We applied for and were accepted for Primary Curriculum Partnership Programme and we now have funding through Community Relations, Equality & Diversity. During this time, our schools have developed strong professional and personal relationships among staff and pupils.

Education for Mutual Understanding

This began with one teacher from each school working together and ensuring their sporting activity encompassed all aspects of the cross community ethos in that children were encouraged to sit together, work together and have mixed groups at all times. This project between the two P7 teachers was a success due to the commitment of both teachers who went over and above their remit to make all activities truly cross community based.

Development

In 2003 Presentation PS got a new principal and in 2005 Hart Memorial had its P7 teacher promoted to the principal’s post. This P7 teacher was the teacher who had built the initial link with the P7 teacher from Presentation Primary School.

From this budding relationship and under two newly appointed principals the schools decided to explore the initial P7 project and deepen the link between the two schools. The commitment from the principals and teachers in both schools has seen Presentation Primary School which now has an enrolment of 257 pupils (from 60 in 2003) and Hart Memorial Primary School which has an enrolment of 387 pupils work together to develop and build their link to what it is today: nine classes from each school involved in CRED partnership projects addressing real issues.

SUBMISSION REGARDING SHARED EDUCATION:
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HART MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Schools' Community Relations Programme

The initial link began with sport. With SELB advice, we wished to develop the link (at that time still only between the two P7 classes) and to begin to look at real community relations issues. So, with help from BEAM, we dramatized and performed Dave Duggan's short story "The First Ship in the Sea." This play tackled deeper issues around religion and culture and was performed to parents from the two schools in Portadown Town Hall - a bold step from both schools due to the content of the play. It was very well attended by all stakeholders along with representatives from DENI and SELB.

The schools then moved to the next level by developing SCRCP connections between as many year groups as possible. This was ably endorsed and supported by Jayne Simms, SELB, who worked with and encouraged both schools to participate in a variety of activities for all year groups. Many of these joint projects used drama, art and sport as media through which issues were addressed. During one year, our P7 classes joined in developing a joint school song with Tommy Sands entitled 'Portadown' which culminated with a performance in front of the Mayor of Craigavon, parents, families and other dignitaries. Other highlights included a performance in the Market Place in Armagh comprising drama and song and which was attended by an ETI representative. Towards the end of the SCRCP, we began what has become an annual trip for the P7 children to Corrymeela, reinforcing 7 years of working together – an incredible and most memorable experience for all concerned.

Primary Curriculum Partnership Programme

The PCPP programme was introduced in 2011 and was a two year project which encouraged deeper relationships with and involvement by *all* stakeholders in both schools. Through the PCPP project we held many joint ventures such as parent sessions with Paul Grey/Peter Sherlock. Teachers and classroom assistants had more in-depth planning and training and also experienced joint workshops.

Through PCPP, we moved on to address controversial and divisive community relations issues. We were also interested in widening children's cultural awareness since 55% of Presentation Primary School's enrolment was made up of Newcomer children. For example, P3 classes explored the area of celebrations perceived to belong to specific communities - St. Patrick's Day and the 12th July - which concluded with a performance to a packed audience of over 200 parents and Governors and which included the Lord Mayor of Craigavon and ETI. A DVD was made of this show for parents and also for ETI dissemination of good practice. Primary 5 classes undertook the topic of Community which involved visits to churches of differing denominations in the neighbourhood; some parents were initially resistant to this. Primary 6 classes worked on Identity through the medium of flags. A display of their work was publically launched in a unit of the town's High Street Mall at the height of the regional 'flag crisis'. P7s looked at Sectarianism whilst the P4s examined Shared History through World War 2. The schools created a merged school choir which went to a recording studio to cut a cd.

Throughout the programmes, parents from Hart Memorial Primary School were encouraged to collect their children from the joint sessions in Presentation Primary School and vice versa. We held joint assemblies where parents from one school came together with parents from the host school in the audience.

Community Relations, Equality & Diversity

By using the model developed through PCPP and by building on already well established relationships among staff, we have continued to address the issues which need addressing. The link between the two schools continues to strengthen and develop: shared SLT meetings; joint training at Baker Days and School Development Days; inter school standardisation of levels for cross curricular assessment; regular co-ordinator meetings; shared Boards of Governors meeting...to name just a few areas where our schools come together.

SUBMISSION REGARDING SHARED EDUCATION:
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HART MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

2) Identify the key barriers and enablers for Shared Education

Enablers

We believe Shared Education involves the ***shared vision of all stakeholders***. It is the embodiment of all the years of building ***relationships*** and relies greatly on the ***enthusiasm*** of all staff. On a practical level, it requires ***joint planning, spending time together*** and ***addressing the real issues*** of Strand 2 of the PDMU curriculum.

It ***takes time*** and relationships need to be established, supported and cemented. CRED is an excellent way in which this can take place although Shared Education involves so much more, as is laid out in this submission.

We have ***joint Baker Day and School Development Days***. We ***share training and resources***. This only works because we ***link areas in our School Development Plan*** through ***joint SLT meetings, reporting regularly at Boards of Governors meetings***. With regard to developing working relationships among staff, we need to build in ***time for planning*** as this is an essential aspect of making Shared Education work; without this dedicated time between partners, the good work we have done over 20 years would not have been possible.

We have been held as an example of good practice in Shared Education by ETI – a dvd was made of the success we experienced through PCPP. We have invested a lot of ***time and effort*** in getting ***all stakeholders on board*** and this has not always been the easiest path for both schools. Through ***openness and good communication*** with all stakeholders we have achieved this. The geographical ***proximity*** of our two schools has been an advantage to us in building our relationship on a genuine level.

Another important point for success in Shared Education is that both schools continue to have ***strong individual identities*** as well as having a ***shared ethos***. This is an important feature which enables all stakeholders to feel safe to come on board.

Barriers

One barrier to Shared Education is definitely ***budgets*** which can restrict planned activities although worthwhile Shared Education does not require a large financial outlay. However, funding for joint planning - the major foundation for a successful relationship – is essential. ***Time*** for staff members to meet is essential for planning and relationship building.

3) To improve shared education

We both feel there needs to be an ***obligation*** placed on all schools to participate in Shared Education. To link and work effectively with another school in their area, to share vision, expertise, resources and experiences need to be a ***statutory part of the curriculum***.

We believe Shared Education requires ***ring fenced money*** without lengthy application forms. In the past we have spent much time form-filling for small pots of funding. Planning and evaluations can be used to account for the funding received. Shared Education should be part of the ETI ***inspection process*** as with any area of the curriculum.

Parental involvement is vital and could be increased with help from outside agencies. Schools may not always have the expertise, time or funding available to do this. ***Parental education*** on Shared Education is necessary for full community support.

SUBMISSION REGARDING SHARED EDUCATION:
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HART MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

4)Pupils views

We would like to share with you the opinions of our current pupils who have been working together for up to seven years. We believe their opinions are the most important part of our report as Shared Education impacts on them directly.

We asked our pupils 3 questions:

- 1) Name 3 benefits of working with your partner school
- 2) Name one highlight of working with your partner school
- 3) How could we make Shared Education better in the future

<u>Name 3 benefits of working with your partner school</u>	
Presentation	Hart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ We meet new friends and visit their school ♣ We learn lots of things which make us different such as cultures, religions, schools ♣ We get to work as part of a team ♣ We visit many community places which we would never get a chance to see 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Making new friends & getting to know each other; meeting them at clubs outside school ♣ Doing fun activities together to learn in an enjoyable way ♣ Learning about our own identities and others' ♣ Learning to accept and respect people from different cultures / countries / religions – and not to fight about these things ♣ Learning what happens in a different school

<u>Name one highlight of working with your partner school</u>	
Presentation	Hart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ I love working with the respecting differences puppets. They really make me see how problems can be easily solved ♠ Being creative with ICT and having different opinions when working as part of a team to create Powerpoints and videos ♠ I enjoy working together on everything we do ♠ I loved designing new school crests. It was really enjoyable and gave us a new identity. I had never thought of this before 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ Creating shared art and displaying the results in the town for our parents and the community to see ♠ Presenting our shared learning at a performance for lots of schools and the Minister for Education ♠ Making friends from other countries and talking in their language; meeting up with new friends ♠ Making shamrocks and sashes then putting on a play

<u>How could we make our shared education with our partner school better in the future?</u>	
Presentation	Hart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We should come together to have assemblies together in each other school as I love to see my mummy make new friends with parents just as I have made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More opportunities to play together before lessons start; more time to complete work – sometimes activities are rushed

SUBMISSION REGARDING SHARED EDUCATION:
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HART MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

<p>with my friends in my partner school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ I would love to have Golden Time together in each other's school◆ We could learn new languages together◆ We could have more ICT tasks together◆ I love having a new teacher to listen to◆ We need to meet more often	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ More shared educational trips and some just to have fun eg wall climbing◆ Opportunities to help younger children in our partner school, maybe as Reading Buddies◆ Meeting up more in other venues to socialise ; have film nights; put on a play for our parents
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Email to: committee.education@miassembly.gov.uk