

Methodist College Belfast Briefing for Education Committee on the Diversity of the College

Areas to cover:

The Principal and representative of the Board of Governors thank the Education Committee for the opportunity to host their meeting and to present on the ethos of the College and the level of “mixing” in the school

1. Ethos

- a. opportunity diversity and excellence
- b. a values based educational experience (tolerance, respect, integrity, equality)
- c. pupils encouraged to develop compassion, self-awareness and independence of thought and spirit
- d. provide an education that is exciting, exacting, enriching and ennobling.

2. Extent of mixing

- a. Members of 23 different religious groupings
- b. Diverse ethnic mix, 87.6% white
- c. Diverse geographic mix – 43 postcodes – town and country

3. Reasons

- a. Aims and values lived out
- b. Opportunities to share experiences
- c. Commitment to making a difference: community involvement (local and global)
 - i. Salter Sterling Outreach Project
 - ii. Belfast Inter-Schools Creative Writing Forum
 - iii. University of Cambridge Higher Education Plus Programme
 - iv. Input into the Community Relations Council, the Sharing in Education Programme and the work of OFMDFM on developing a United Youth Policy
 - v. contributor to the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life: community, diversity and the common good
 - vi. Community voluntary work
 - vii. Romania Society
 - viii. India Society
 - ix. Languages – French, German, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Chinese
 - x. Multi-cultural evening
- d. Experiences of current and past pupils and families.

4. Conclusion

Methodist College provides a naturally integrated, cosmopolitan environment where pupils from all backgrounds and faiths learn together, play together and grow together; a school where pupils have memorable and life changing opportunities.