

To the Committee Clerk re Shared Education Bill

Whilst I appreciate that bringing children of different backgrounds together is a positive thing, I do not see how Shared Education is adequately tackling the problem of segregated education which is one of the issues at the heart of our society's problems.

Hasn't this been tried before in various forms? At the age of 47 I can remember various schemes from my youth (and afterwards) which involved cross-community cooperation with other schools. We are no further forward now.

Our children need to form meaningful relationships with others in order to move our society forward and I don't see how this can happen through short-term projects with neighbouring schools, which is all that the Shared Education bill will lead to. That's fine if this is the beginning of something, but this strikes me as your end solution, which it most definitely is not!

Active promotion of integration, the expansion of integrated schools, schools being encouraged and permitted to transform, the Education Committee taking on board advice from the integration lobby, training of teachers in facilitation.....there are countless ways the money would be better spent.

On a side note....

My school is applying for funding from the shared education budget and the applications process is like a circus performance!!!

Hoping that you see sense and spend the money in a way that teachers would like it to be spent!

Fiona Darrah