

Hi Peter,

I have attached the IEF and NICIE's draft amendments for the shared education Bill. I have also attached an outline for having an audit of Shared education before it is mainstreamed.

If you need anything else please let me know.

Many Thanks  
Fiona

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# **Shared Education Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

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## Bill

To

Make provision in relation to shared education.

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

### Clause 1 “Shared education”

1.—(1) This section applies for the purposes of—

(a) section 2; and

(b) section 2(3) of, and paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 1 to, the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (duty of Education Authority to encourage, facilitate and promote shared education).

(2) *“shared education” is a continuum with integrated education at the upper end of that continuum and “Shared education” means the education together of—*

(a) those of different religious belief *or none*, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic and *other children and* young persons; and

(b) those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not,

which is secured by the working together and co-operation of two or more relevant providers.

(3) In subsection (2) “relevant provider” means a person providing—

(a) education at a grant-aided school, or

(b) services of any kind (including youth services) which provide educational benefit to children or young persons or which are ancillary to education.

*(4) The Education Authority shall have regard for the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure in its duty to encourage, facilitate and promote shared education*

*(5) Integrated education which is defined in Article 64(1) of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 has the same meaning in this section as in that Order*

(6) Words and expressions which are defined in Article 2(2) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 have the same meaning in this section as in that Order.

### Clause 2 Power to encourage and facilitate shared education

2.—(1) The bodies listed in subsection (2) may encourage and facilitate shared education.

(2) The bodies are—

- (a) the Department of Education;
- (b) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- (c) the Youth Council for Northern Ireland; and
- (d) the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.
- (e) the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland*
- (f) The Council for Irish Medium Education (Comhairle na Gaelscolaichta)*
- (g) the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education*
- (h) Middletown Centre for Autism*
- (i) Controlled Schools' Support Council*

**3 It is the duty of the Education Authority to encourage and facilitate those bodies listed in subsection (2)(a)**

*(a) to promote those participating in 'shared education' to explore progression along the continuum to a more fully integrated model*

*(b) to help those participating in 'shared education' to explore in accordance with its duty defined in Article 64 and Article 68 of the education and reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 transformation to integrated status*

**4. the bodies listed in subsection (2)(a) to appoint the Northern Ireland Audit Office as defined in article 5 of the The Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Article 66 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and The Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 to evaluate 'shared education' and produce a report or recommendations prior to the mainstreaming of funding**

### ***New clause - Integrated Strategy***

**3. –(1) The Department of Education should adopt a strategy (integrated strategy) setting out how to support progression of shared education and promote integrated models of education**

**(2) The strategy must in particular set out –**

*(a) what outcomes the department of education intends should be achieved for that purpose*

*(b) what actions the department of education will take to progress shared education to integrated models of education*

*(c) an evaluation mechanism prior to 'shared education' funding being mainstreamed*

### **Clause 3 Commencement of duty of Education Authority in relation to shared education**

3.—(1) Section 7 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (commencement) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2) omit paragraphs (a) and (d).

(3) After subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) The following provisions come into operation on the day after the day on which the Shared Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 receives Royal Assent—

(a) section 2(3);

(b) paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 1.”

### **Clause 4 Short title and commencement**

4.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Shared Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.

(2) This Act comes into operation on the day after the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

## The case for an economic and educational outcomes audit by the Northern Ireland Audit Office prior to the mainstreaming of funding for Shared Education

The Department of Education's policy document *Sharing Works* sets out how Shared Education will support the Department's two overarching corporate goals:

- *raising standards for all; and*
- *closing the performance gap, increasing access and equity.*

The Sharing Works policy document highlights the economic case for Shared Education in '**making more effective and efficient use of limited resources to improve value for money.**'

The Ministerial Foreword of the policy states '**The policy will be supported with resources to meet the additional costs required to implement Shared Education over the coming years.**'

The Minister goes on to say that '*Shared Education has the potential to impact on **raising educational standards** and reducing underachievement as well as community relations and **economic benefits**.*'

### Current Funding

Currently the DE Shared Education policy is being driven by funding from the Delivering Social Change project and Atlantic Philanthropies, providing a funding stream to support Shared Education in schools over the next four years. This funding will focus on schools that have already engaged in collaborative working. Funding of £25 million over four years will be available.

DE has also secured Peace IV funding of £21m to support further the development of Shared Education in schools that have not yet engaged in Shared Education, as well as across pre-school and youth work settings in a way that will complement the Delivering Social Change Shared Education project.

The combined total of funding secured by DENI for Shared Education including the PEACE IV programme, currently stands at £46million.

Since 2006 the combined funding for shared education from philanthropic organisations including the International Fund for Ireland and Atlantic Philanthropies stands at more than £30million.

## Evaluation

Other than reports by the Education and Training Inspectorate and the Atlantic Philanthropies funded Sharing in Education Learning Forum on the impact of Shared Education in schools, to date there has been no non-aligned evaluation or research on measurable economic and educational outcomes of shared education

In the Sharing Works policy document Key Action 5: Develop Sustainable Long-Term Delivery Arrangements, the Department states that *'it wants, in the longer term, to see Shared Education not as an 'add on' or optional enrichment activity but as a normal and common experience for all young people firmly embedded within the ethos of each school.*

Therefore in regard for the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure in the Department's duty to encourage, facilitate and promote shared education an audit carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office, an organisation, which is wholly independent from Government will allow a critical overview of the economic viability of shared education and how it can be accommodated into the education budget.



Northern Ireland  
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**Our Ref:2391**

Dear Ms Campbell

**Shared Education Bill**

On behalf of the Committee for Education, I would like to thank your colleagues, Lorna McAlpine and Bernie Kells for the very useful and informative briefing on 25 November 2015 as part of the Committee Stage of the Shared Education Bill.

As indicated during the meeting, if your organisation has drafted amendments and would like the Committee to consider them, I would be most grateful, if you would forward them to the Committee at your earliest convenience.

The Committee expects to publish its report on the Bill in early January 2016.

Yours sincerely

*Signed Peter McCallion*

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