

Taking Boys Seriously

addressing underachievement



Barry Mulholland (CSSC), Professor Brian Murphy and Susan Morgan (UU), Gerry Campbell (CCMS)

The first Taking Boys Seriously joint conference organised by Ulster University, The Controlled Schools' Support Council and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools was held on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

The conference captured innovative practice in some of Northern Ireland's post primary schools and youth groups in terms of raising boys' aspirations and improving engagement. A panel comprising youth workers and educators discussed attainment within their areas of expertise.

The Taking Boys Seriously research, led by Ulster University, seeks to proactively engage with young men, schools and youth groups to increase attainment and levels of higher education participation among young males.

Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive of the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) said

"CSSC was delighted to co-host this conference with Ulster University and CCMS. Our own research has shown that while 61% of controlled school pupils achieve five or more GCSEs at A* to C (including English and maths), it adds to the growing body of evidence that male pupils entitled to free schools meals are underachieving.

"When statistics are considered, the complexity of factors impacting on pupil attainment become apparent. Blunt measures such as GCSE results do not reflect the added value that schools provide to enable pupils to achieve their potential.

"It's clearly evident there are innovative approaches in the controlled sector that focus on raising attainment; this conference provided an opportunity to showcase best practice from two of our schools, Markethill High School and Abbey Community College through its partnership with Monkstown Boxing Club."



Barry Mulholland (CSSC), Sharon O'Connor (EA) and Gerry Campbell (CCMS)



Pupils from Boy's Model School, Abbey Community College and Blessed Trinity College



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our team of experienced staff is here to help you. Please don't hesitate to contact us about any issue.

You can also visit our interactive map on our website to find your designated school support officer.

Controlled Schools' Support Council
Second Floor, Main Building
Stranmillis University College
Stranmillis Road
Belfast
BT9 5DY

Telephone: **028 9531 3030**
 Email: **info@csscni.org.uk**
 Web: **csscni.org.uk**



Christmas card competition launched

Pupils from controlled nursery schools have been invited to design a Christmas themed greetings card for CSSC. The competition was launched by pupils from Killeel Nursery School, pictured with Principal Grace Trimble and Sara McCracken, CSSC's Head of Marketing, Research and Communication.

The winning entries will be used as CSSC's e-Christmas card and will be announced in December.

Exploring problem solving

A professional development course on 'using technology to present problem solving activities' for Erasmus+ project participants was held by CSSC in Trinity College, Dublin, in October.

Delegates took part in a range of interactive activities, considered learning outcomes and investigated how best to teach problem solving in mathematics.

To find out more about the project please visit the Erasmus+ section of the CSSC website or contact Jill Brown – jill.brown@csscni.org.uk



CSSC raises funds for Cancer Focus NI

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland is CSSC's charity partner for 2018-2019 with over £400 raised to date.

Staff will be participating in the Cave Hill moonlit walk on 16 November to continue fundraising for this important cause.

Engaging with Sign – A language for you and for me

CSSC has secured funding from the Department for Communities' Sign Language Partnership Group to host sign language workshops in six controlled primary schools.



The workshops will raise awareness of the needs of the deaf community and teach valuable sign language skills.

School Support Officer Tracey Woods is coordinating the project. Contact tracey.woods@csscni.org.uk for more information.

Ethos toolkit



Thank you to the member schools that have volunteered to pilot CSSC's toolkit to help schools self-evaluate and develop their ethos. Feedback from the pilot schools will be used to refine the toolkit before it is disseminated through a number of events in the New Year. Information on these events will be available in due course.

For more information on CSSC's ethos work please contact Heather McKenzie on heather.mckenzie@csscni.org.uk

T:BUC funding success

CSSC supported Killeel High School and Priory Integrated College in their successful T:BUC bids.

Killeel High School will develop its partnership with St. Louis Grammar School, while Priory Integrated College will run a project in conjunction with St Columbanus' College in Bangor.

The next round of T:BUC funding will open in February 2019. If you would like support in making an application please contact your school support officer.



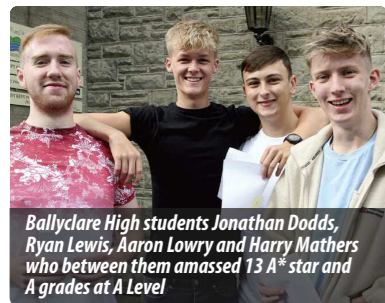
Magherafelt High School's PE Department welcomes a new joint schools programme with St Pius X

GCSE and A Level result success

We enjoyed hearing about member schools' GCSE and A level success. Below are some photos CSSC received, and you can read more in the news section of our website.



Limavady High pupils jump for joy at their GCSE results



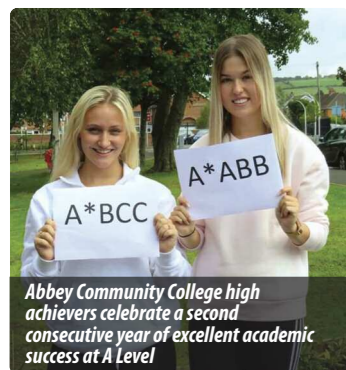
Ballyclare High students Jonathan Dodds, Ryan Lewis, Aaron Lowry and Harry Mathers who between them amassed 13 A* star and A grades at A Level



Lisneal College pupils pictured after receiving their results, 95% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades at GCSE



Market Hill High School pupils celebrate record GCSE results, with twenty pupils receiving 5 or more A*/A grades



Abbey Community College high achievers celebrate a second consecutive year of excellent academic success at A Level



Fivemiletown College pupils celebrate GCSE results with Principal Janice Allen



Senior prefects at Banbridge Academy celebrate success with Principal Robin McLoughlin and senior teacher Mr McMullan

Attainment and performance

CSSC recently launched a report which explores attainment and performance in the controlled sector. The report looks at GCSE results and school leaver destinations, with a particular focus on pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM).

The report was accompanied by case studies featuring controlled post primary schools, all of which are available to download on CSSC's website.

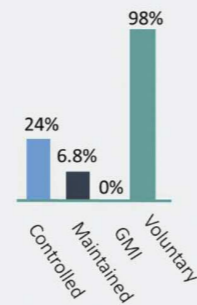


Attainment and performance in the controlled schools' sector

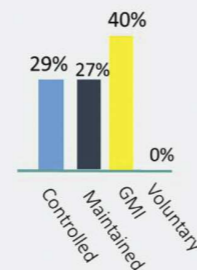


School level attainment at GCSE

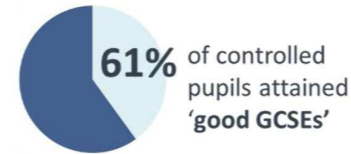
High attaining schools
>80% pupils attain 5 GCSEs A*C (Inc. English and maths)



Low attaining schools
<40% pupils attain 5 GCSEs A*C (Inc. English and maths)



A higher proportion of controlled pupils attained 'good GCSEs' than pupils in the maintained and GMI sectors.



Factors affecting attainment at GCSE...

- FSME pupils do not attain as highly as those who are not entitled to FSM
- Girls outperform boys
- FSME boys consistently under attain compared to other pupil groups

School leavers' destinations

- 65% of grammar school pupils
- 15% of secondary school pupils ...continued their study in higher education.

Controlled secondary school pupils are less likely to go on to higher education than pupils in GMI or maintained schools.

51% of controlled secondary school pupils go on to further education.

The choices pupils of different religions make could be influenced by family or community values.

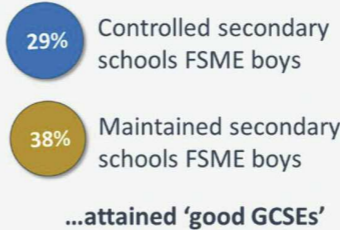


Exploring male attainment

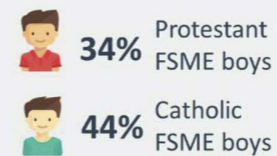
Within the controlled sector...



Across sectors...



All school leavers...



Fact: It would take 97 more Protestant FSM boys to attain good GCSEs to equalize the two cohorts.

Education funding inquiry – CSSC speaks on your behalf

CSSC has been engaging with the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Secretariat regarding the opportunity to give oral evidence to the education funding inquiry.

The inquiry is examining whether education funding in the Northern Ireland budget is sufficient and how spending should be prioritised.

"CSSC's submission to the inquiry was informed by your Council representatives, your views from our previous finance survey and our ongoing conversations with Principals," said CSSC's Chief Executive Barry Mulholland (pictured).



The submission highlighted that the funds allocated to the DE in the Budget Act 2018 are not sufficient to improve educational outcomes in the current system; the allocated funds, and how they are distributed, will not meet the urgent pressures schools are facing.

CSSC also sought clarity on how funds in the confidence and supply arrangement will be allocated and specified that the distribution of any additional funds should be informed at a local level."

"On capital funding, we reiterated that the funds available are not sufficient to support much needed investment in the school estate," Barry Mulholland continued. "Prolonged underinvestment in school maintenance has compounded existing pressures on the education estate budget, leading to the need for significant capital investment. Sufficient investment is also required in the area planning process to ensure the school estate supports high quality education for all pupils."

If called to the Committee, CSSC will emphasise that Northern Ireland's education system requires significant investment after year-on-year decreases to school budgets in real terms. Schools, which provide the frontline service, should be prioritised and protected from further reductions.

New Head of Corporate Services

Shane McCurdy took up post as CSSC's new Head of Corporate Services on 8 October. Shane was formerly the Chief Executive of the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) and most recently EA's interim Head of Finance. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and has over 25 years' experience in education finance and administration. We are delighted to welcome Shane to the team.



Download the full report at www.csscni.org.uk

Data used: DE Summary of Annual Examination Results (SAER) 2016/17 and DE Qualifications and Destinations of School Leavers data 2015/16. 'Good GCSEs' refers to the attainment of five or more GCSEs A*-C, including English and Maths.