

'We can' THRiVE



Carl Frampton and Courtney Cooper with the THRiVE project team

Boxing legend Carl Frampton was part of the launch of the THRiVE 'We can' campaign at Abbey Community College in Monkstown on Thursday 24 January.

Carl shared stories about his ambition, bouncing back and the people who have helped him become the person and boxer he is today.

THRiVE success story Courtney Cooper, who is deputy head girl of Abbey Community College also spoke at the event, and both Carl and Courtney shared their unique and moving

stories about growing up in Northern Ireland.

During the launch, local primary school children introduced their specially designed 'We can' banners which show their hopes and dreams for now and the future.

THRiVE is based in Rathcoole and Monkstown, and is a network of parents, controlled schools, and statutory, voluntary and community organisations, who are all working together to enable local children and young people to do well at home and at school. CSSC is proud to be part of the THRiVE project board.



Rathcoole Primary School



King's Park Primary School



Hollybank Primary School



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

Erasmus+ problem solving using technology

Vamia (a vocational education centre for students, adults and companies in Vaasa, Finland) was the venue for the 4th professional development course for CSSC's Erasmus+ strategic partnership project team.

The training took place from 18-20 February 2019 and was delivered by Peter Ahlroos from Vamia who provided the team with an excellent learning experience.

The project team, under Peter's expert tutelage, explored the use of Screencast-O-Matic, QR codes, iMovie, Inkflow, Powtoon, 360° cameras and H5P to create, edit and share interactive movies that could be used to stimulate learners' curiosity and engage them in problem solving and problem posing activities in mathematics.

Participants reflected on how the different technologies may be used by the teacher and also by the learners themselves.

The project team will use their new knowledge and skills to produce several resources for problem solving in mathematics, which will be available for download from this website in the future.



Dickson schools moving forward with MoU

Principals from the Dickson school have had a series of meetings since June 2018 to develop and enhance ways of collaborating to improve outcomes for pupils.

Facilitated by the Controlled Schools' Support Council and the Education Authority, all seven Dickson schools have been involved in terms of identifying how they might work more effectively together, which has culminated in the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU sets out the roles and responsibilities of all the Dickson schools to enhance the opportunities for those involved in the Dickson System to collaborate on important areas such as teacher professional learning and structured induction for pupils in their transition from junior to senior schools.

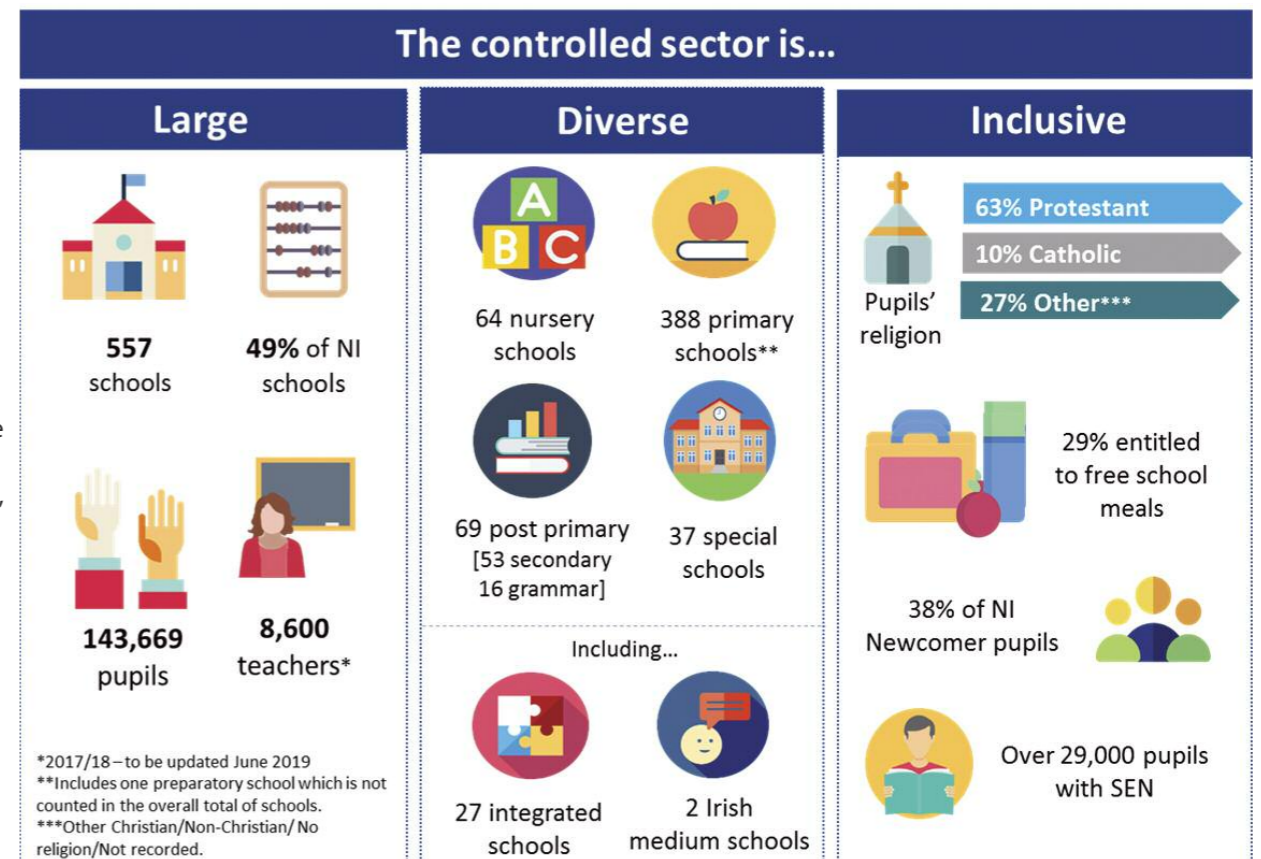
In February 2019 the Department for Education released school enrolment figures for the 2018/19 academic year.

The controlled sector continues to be the largest and most diverse school sector in Northern Ireland, as shown in the infographic.

The infographic shows the key statistics.



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MPs hear from CSSC reps

Local school leaders were given the opportunity to meet with MPs about education funding on Monday 28 January in Holy Cross College, Strabane, at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

CSSC representatives Grace Trimble, Principal of Killeel Nursery School, Raymond McFeeters, Principal of Castle Tower School and Ardnashee School and College, and Banbridge Academy Principal Robin McLoughlin, attended the event and spoke on behalf of the sector. Barry Mulholland and Sara McCracken were also in attendance.

The opportunity was taken to further highlight the ongoing concerns over the shortfall in the education budget.

Following the roundtable discussion, CSSC submitted additional information to the inquiry into education finance.



Commitment to collaborate

CSSC and Stranmillis University College (SUC) have signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding which will see a strengthening of the relationship and further collaboration between the two organisations.

“CSSC and Stranmillis have already forged a good working relationship, and this MoU confirms that the organisations will continue to work together in the best interests of all controlled schools in Northern Ireland,” said Barry Mulholland, CSSC Chief Executive.

SUC Principal Dr Anne Heaslett commented: “Only by working together can we empower the teaching profession to strengthen its professionalism and expertise to meet the challenging educational needs of children and young people in the 21st century”.



CSSC has run 18 events over the past few months, with 331 attendees. We plan our events based on insights from controlled schools, so please don't hesitate to contact us if there are other areas which would be useful for controlled schools.

Nursery teacher professional learning

Focusing on SEN in the early years, over 40 nursery school leaders attended this TPL seminar. Presentations from Glynnis Calvert, Ballymagee Nursery and Julie Coert, Nursery Teacher, Sperrinview Special School focused on their experiences from their early years settings.

RISE NI representatives John McLeod and Clodagh Doyle talked through the Solihull approach and adverse childhood experiences.



Grace Trimble, nursery representative, CSSC council, Julie Coert, Sperrinview Special School, Glynnis Calvert, Ballymagee Nursery School, Clodagh Doyle and John McLeod, RISE representatives with Tracey Woods, CSSC school support officer

Growing leaders and building capacity



Nichola Lynagh, Donna O'Connor, CSSC school support officer, Jane McAlister, Castle Tower School and Dr Noel Purdy, Stranmillis University College

Special school Principals participated in taster sessions that enabled them to reflect on their development as a leader. Topics discussed included: coaching and conflict resolution facilitated by Nichola Lynagh, and school leadership and cyber bullying led by Dr Noel Purdy, Stranmillis University College. There was a musical performance by Castle Tower School pupils.

Working together: Governors, Principals and CSSC

CSSC was delighted to host first time principals and their Chair of governors at Stranmillis University College on Tuesday 22 January.

The event provided an introduction to the role and contribution of CSSC as a support and advocacy body for controlled schools. The conference also considered ethos in controlled schools and the importance of the relationship between the Board of Governors and principal. David Canning OBE, a former primary school principal with over 33 years' experience, provided valuable insights into qualities needed to effectively lead a school.



Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive CSSC, David Canning OBE, John Unsworth, Assistant Director EA and Jayne Millar, Head of Education Support CSSC

Raising the profile of controlled schools



Participants in the Cool Academy

Controlled schools have been learning how to develop a strategic communications plan to raise their profile. Facilitated by Sara McCracken, CSSC's Head of Marketing, Research and Communication, principals were taken through a structured approach to identify schools' unique selling points, SMART objectives and target audiences.

The first event was hosted by Nigel Gould, Head of News and Sport at Cool FM in the Cool FM/Downtown radio studios, who provided insight into different media and what makes a good story. Freelance journalist Leona O'Neill attended the North West session and shared her top tips for engaging with the media.

Further workshops will be provided or to arrange a bespoke session for your school, please contact Sara McCracken (sara.mccracken@csscni.org.uk).

Stripping it back – building resilience

Controlled school leaders from across Northern Ireland came together as part of an event focusing on building resilience.

The event, co-hosted by the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) and the Education Authority (EA), took place on Friday 8 March 2019. We were delighted that Sara Long, CE designate of EA opened the event.

A panel discussion featured serving school leaders Ruth Harkness, Craigavon Senior High School, Emma Quinn, Rathcoole Primary School, Andrew Armstrong, Dromara Primary School and Diane Morrow, mTech Academy. They delved into what challenges school leaders face and how they maintain and build their resilience.

This was followed by a session with facilitator Billy Dixon, who gave a practical and interactive presentation based on research and personal experience.



Speakers participating in the building resilience event

Video highlights are available at www.csscni.org.uk

Great learning comes from great teaching

Well-known coach and mentor Stephen Harrison outlined how 'good leaders make great teachers'.

Celia O'Hagan, Senior Lecturer in Education at Stranmillis University College is a self-confessed whole school improvement activist, and she outlined how delegates could make a difference as a learning leader.

Hot topic sessions enabled controlled school principals to discuss subjects such as curriculum monitoring and managing difficult scenarios.

CSSC was pleased to work with Stranmillis University College and the Education Authority to deliver this conference in the Glenavon Hotel.



Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive CSSC, Celia O'Hagan, Stranmillis University College, Donna O'Connor, CSSC school support officer, Audrey Currie, Stranmillis University College and Stephen Harrison

Women's leadership development

A series of workshops focused on women's leadership development in the controlled sector.

The popular events facilitated by Lisa Strutt of Asentiv, were developed in response to CSSC's report 'Realising your potential'.

Session one focused on relationship building and personal branding. Session two explored leadership and making choices, and participants were presented with a gratitude journal from the Itty Bitty Book Company.



Participants enjoyed the workshops in Newcastle