

**Council for
Integrated
Education**

Learning Together
for a Shared Society

Growing Together

Impact Report 2020-2021¹

¹ This report covers 18-month period from 1st April 2020 to 30th September 2021

An Introduction from Roisin Marshall, Chief Executive Officer – Council for Integrated Education

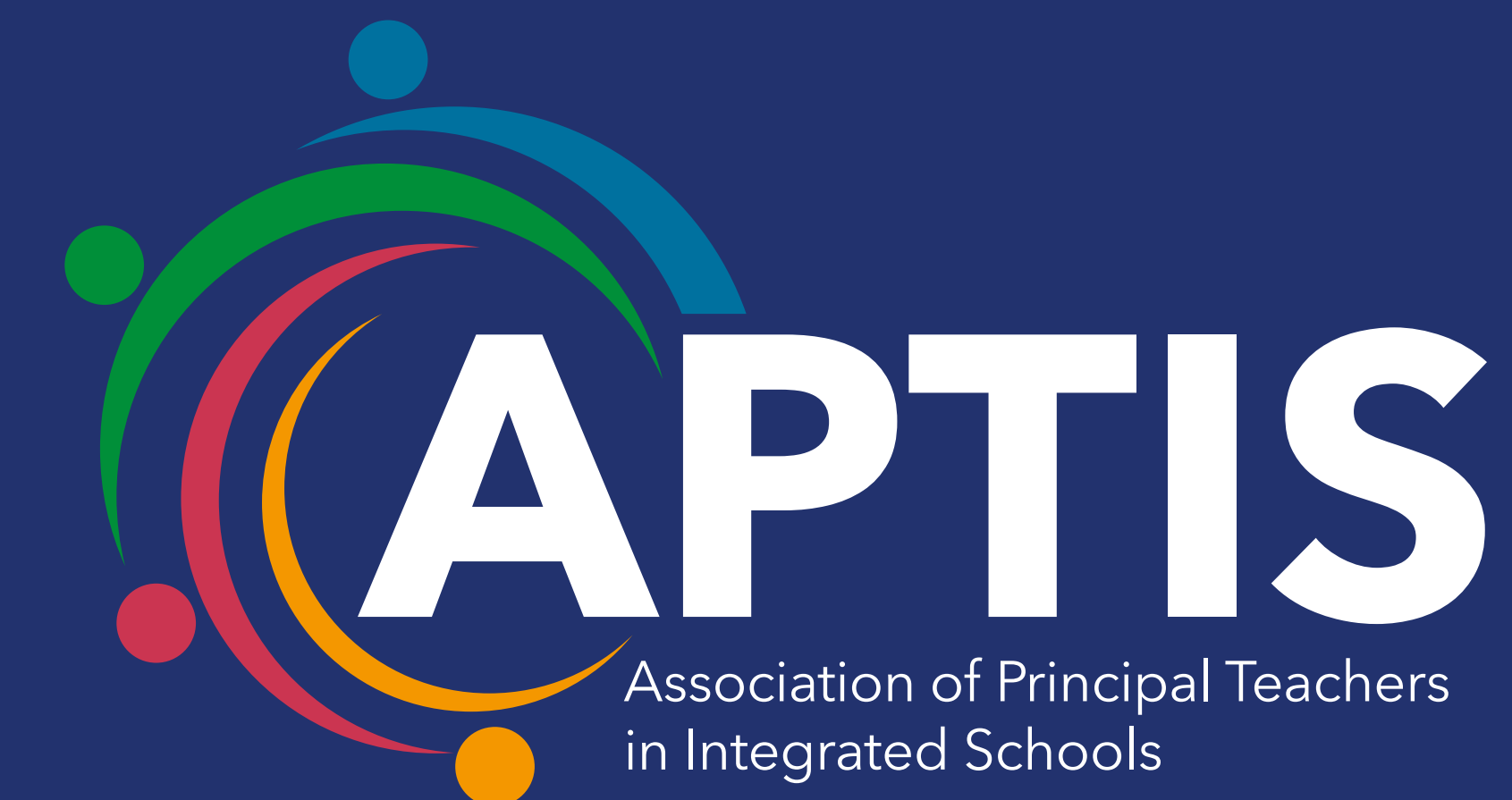
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Highlights

- **Congratulations!** Huge celebrations and a warm welcome to four new schools which have Transformed to become Integrated this year.
- **Resilience.** Through the pandemic, school leaders, staff, parents and pupils have shown strength, persevered in the most extreme of circumstances and often have been simply inspirational.
- **APTIS**, the network of Principals of Integrated schools has been an invaluable source of personal and professional support, not to mention sanity saving!



Highlights

- In June 2021, we were sad to witness the closure but proud to pay tribute to the school community of **Groarty Integrated Primary School**.



- **Integration Works!** With our colleagues in the Integrated Education Fund, we engaged with twenty schools who, despite the times we are in, took time out to explore the potential of Transforming to becoming Integrated for their school and community.

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Sean Pettis, NICIE Senior Development Officer and Roisin Marshall, NICIE CEO, launching the 40th Anniversary of Integrated Education celebrations at Lagan College, September 2021.

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Our Mission:

To promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland through Integrated Education.

Our Vision:

A society where children are educated together; confident to express their own identity and culture; and accepting of, and prepared to engage with, the identity and culture of others.

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The principles that inform the Integrated ethos are:

Equality
Faith and Values
Parental Involvement
Social Responsibility



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our reports

We focus our work on keeping high internal ORGANISATION standards and working outwardly to GROW, SUPPORT and PROMOTE Integrated Education

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We GROW Integrated Education:

Success!

For the first time in over a decade, the Transformation to Integrated status of four new schools has been approved by the Education Minister.

This represents 459 pupils and 532 new Integrated Education spaces, helping us to meet ongoing high demand for Integrated Education.

Carrickfergus Central and Seaview Primary Schools in particular, enjoyed dramatic enrolment growth since their intentions to become Integrated were made public.

We are delighted to welcome two firsts this year, with the Transformation of both a Nursery school and a Maintained school to Integrated status.

The following schools have Transformed to Integrated status:

4 = 532
new schools = new places

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Central Integrated Primary School (formerly Carrickfergus Central PS), Carrickfergus.

Andrew Norrie, Parental Engagement Campaign Manager (Maternity Cover), IEF, Nuala Hall, School Principal and Roisin outside Central IPS.



Seaview Integrated Primary School (formerly Seaview PS), Glenarm.

The staff team at Seaview Integrated Primary School, celebrating their new status, name, logo and sign!



Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School (formerly Harding Memorial PS), Belfast.

Isaac Thompson, winner of the Gillespie Achievement Award pictured with the school's sign that celebrates their new Integrated status.



Brefne Integrated Nursery School (formerly Brefne Nursery School), Belfast.

Victoria McGimpsey, Principal with Tina Merron, CEO of the Integrated Education Fund, Elaine Crozier, Chair of BoG, and Roisin.

Demand for Integrated Education

The number of pupils in Integrated schools increased by 600² between 2019 and 2020 and has since been boosted by an additional 459 with the four new schools Transforming to Integrated status on 1st September 2021. **This represents 1059 additional pupils.**

23% of pupils who applied for a place in year 8 for September 2021 were not offered one.³ A total of 2814 pupils applied for 2310 Integrated Education places.

To cope with some of this additional demand, Integrated schools were granted 92⁴ temporary extra places for September 2021 intake. This represents almost 20% of all extra places granted (477). Integrated places at post-primary currently represent less than 10% of all year 8 places available.

Area Planning Activity

Collaborative meetings between education bodies to plan provision across NI (Area Planning) stalled for much of 2020. NICIE officers have attended all levels of Area Planning meetings since they resumed online in Autumn 2020.

We celebrated the approval of the establishment of a **Nursery Unit at Round Tower IPS** in Antrim in January 2021 and increased admissions for Strangford College in April 2021.

The proposals to transform St. Mary's High School, Brollagh and Ballyhackett PS were not approved and closure of both schools was approved in Spring 2021. We continue to support the other schools awaiting a decision from the Minister on their proposal to become Integrated: Bangor Central Nursery School and Glengormley High School.

The EA is moving forward with an exciting project in partnership with Ulster University. If the consultation proves favourable and funds can be secured, EA plans to close Coleraine College and Dunluce High School and to open a **new Integrated College on the University site in Coleraine**. North Coast Integrated College would also close and students from all three schools would attend the new school. NICIE is excited by this innovative collaboration and what it might mean for future generations in the Causeway area.

Pupils in Integrated schools:

6% of primary pupils

9% of post-primary pupils

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² Department of Education 2020/21 school year

³ Data supplied to NICIE by EA in June 2021

⁴ Data supplied to NICIE by EA



NICIE has supported the **Mid-Down Integrated College Steering Group** in the submission of their proposal to the Department of Education for a new post-primary Integrated College in Mid-Down, incorporating pupils from Blackwater IC in Downpatrick.

We responded to **13 public consultations** on Development Proposals related to Integrated Education growth. We supported schools and groups to submit **8 Development Proposals to grow places** in Integrated Education.

13

public consultations

8

Development Proposals

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We SUPPORT Integrated schools

The exceptional circumstances meant that our engagements in this period have soared, with around 1000 online engagement instances/attendances involving over 70 schools across the last 18 months.

This included over 20 Principal network (APTIS) meetings as well as teachers', Vice-Principals and SENCO networking and sharing opportunities. In May 2021, the Teachers' Committee hosted an information session delivered by Humanism UK.

'What was most useful for me was meeting people and learning about Integrated Education.'

NICIE Training Workshop delivery (all online)

Theme	Number of attendees	Number of schools represented
School Development and Governance	116	61
Developing Integrated Ethos	258	60
Transformation Support	30	20

'I have found this course extremely useful in examining my own experience of bias and how different types of bias can have a detrimental effect on staff and pupils in educational settings. A must for all school staff!'

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Our **Excellence in Integrated Education Award** is a self-evaluation tool that Integrated schools are invited to use to develop their ethos in line with NICIE's Principles of Integrated Education. There are seven schools currently working towards the award and this year, the award was achieved by four schools:



Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle

Staff and pupils receive their award. Pictured (top right) is Kevin Lambe, who retired as Principal of the College this year.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School, Moira

Staff and pupils receiving their award from Roisin.



All Children's Integrated Primary School, Newcastle

Gill Gleghorn, Chairperson of Board of Governors, Paula McConville, Senior Teacher and Integration Coordinator, Mila Astruc-Kidd, pupil, Roisin, Neidas Bumblyte, pupil and Jon Beattie, Principal.



Enniskillen Integrated Primary School, who also celebrated the start of their new build this year.

Pupils from Enniskillen IPS cut the first sod for the school's new build, supported by, Adele Kerr, Principal, Michelle McIlveen, Education Minister and Neil Jardine, Chair of the Board of Governors.

This is just one of the **Fresh Start funded new-build projects** for Integrated schools, which are progressing at different paces across NI, creating over a dozen beautiful new spaces to learn and share.

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In March 2021, we published an Introduction to **Anti-Bias in Education**, 'Bias Busting for Beginners'. This project builds on NICIE's earlier work and has been updated with over 140 hyperlinked resources and other reading in the online version.



We also produced a reflective journal which is designed for those who attend our workshops and courses in Anti-Bias in Education.

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."
Albert Einstein – Theoretical Physicist



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Project supported by the Irish
Department of Foreign Affairs

Hard copies of Bias Busting for Beginners can be collected from our office in Belfast with prior notice. If you are interested in attending an Anti-Bias workshop, or hosting one in your school or workplace, please [contact us](#).



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We PROMOTE Integrated Education

In Autumn 2021, the results of a [public poll](#) highlighted the extent of the appetite for change in our education system:

71% of people in NI believe **Integrated Education should be the main model** of education here (risen from 66% in 2013).

58% were aware that almost any school in NI can become **Integrated** through a process called Transformation (risen from 29% in 2013).

73% said they would support their local/child's school becoming **Integrated** (risen from 67% in 2018).

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey ([2020](#)) reported that **69%** of respondents said that if they were sending a child to school, **they would prefer it to be a mixed religion school** (increased from 61% in 2019).

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We responded to 10 consultations on issues ranging from Educational Underachievement to Early Years provision and a Bill of Rights.

Integrated schools marked **Integrated Education Month in March 2021**, finding innovative and heart-warming ways to feel togetherness, when schools had been closed to most pupils since January.



Pupils at Crumlin IPS combined their art together to create this 'roarsome' display!

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A new look for NICIE

We have wanted to expand our promotional activities for some time and this year has seen our work in this area evolve and develop at speed. One advantage of the lockdowns was that it enabled reflective conversations about who we are and what we want to say.

We worked with Seasoned Communications, who conducted an audit and made extensive recommendations in Autumn 2020. By Spring 2021, we had appointed local design firm, White Noise, to develop our re-brand and messaging.

The result is a fresh new brand and new way to talk about ourselves, which we launched in Autumn 2021:

WE'RE THE COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATED EDUCATION

WE'RE PEOPLE-LED

We're a people-led movement believing in and building peaceful social change through Integrated Education...

WE'RE INTENTIONAL ABOUT INCLUSION

We support students, parents, staff and governors to intentionally build inclusive communities, celebrating our distinctive local and increasingly global cultural mix...

WE'RE STUDENT-CENTRED

We value that students are at the centre of how Integrated schools work, within a caring environment where they feel involved, valued and respected...

WE'RE ASPIRATIONAL

We believe students can achieve in all-ability settings and develop a love for learning with dedicated teachers helping them find their unique path...

WE'RE COMMITTED TO FAIRNESS

We promote an anti-bias approach that challenges and informs the way we do school - through the curriculum, in the classroom and across the community...

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www.nicie.org.uk

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NICIE STAFF TEAM

Carol Black	Executive Assistant to CEO & SMT
Emma Hume	Development Officer
Lynn Johnston	Development Officer
Maureen Johnston	Finance Officer
Laura Largey	Development Officer (from March 2021)
Lorna McAlpine	Senior Development Officer
Florence McCaw	Administrative Officer
Roisin Marshall	Chief Executive Officer
Denise Morgan	Development Officer (on secondment from November 2020)
Michael Nicholl	Administrative Officer
Sean Pettis	Senior Development Officer (from August 2020)
Mark Roberts	Office Manager
Alastair Rowan	Development Officer
Clodhna Scott-Wills	Senior Development Officer

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