

Extended Schools

schools, families, communities - working together

WELB/SELB Extended Schools

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Opening New Doors

Lumen Christi College, Derry ran a "Beginners ICT Programme" between September and December, 2009. It introduced adult learners to the digital world of ICT, both in traditional guises such as word processing, through to the modern day necessity of email! The vast majority of the learners were new to the computer and were self-proclaimed as 'terrified of ICT!'



During the programme, learners worked on basic word processing, web-based email and basic web searching, at an informal and personal pace, with no examinations but rather a slow and steady build-up of skills being acquired.

Accreditation was via the OCR endorsed 'eDCC' – eDigital Competence Certificate. The eDigital Competence Certificate is an independent scheme that aims to reward success and encourage progress, by awarding certificates that recognise computer skills of all kinds and at all levels. A qualification from eDCC recognises the progress learners have already made and

gives them confidence to go on and achieve even more.

The growth in confidence over the ten weeks was in stark contrast to the general fear of ICT that was prevalent in the first few sessions. Eleven adults gained certifications in word processing, web-based email and internet browsing which has given them the skills that they will build upon in the next programme, "Improvers ICT". This was included as part of the school's Extended Schools' programme for Term 2, due to the success of the initial programme.



Digital Storytelling

St Mary's is a rural primary school situated in Mullaghbawn, South Armagh with an enrolment of 300 pupils.



Annually, pupils complete Literacy and Numeracy NFER Assessments and the results from the Literacy Assessment were used to set the criteria for the selection of pupils to participate in a four week Digital Storytelling Project funded through the Extended Schools' programme. Seven underachieving boys in Literacy were identified as the target group and were invited to participate in the programme. The main focus was to encourage reading among the boys. Each boy was supported by a male

relative during the programme.

The course ran for four weeks during which time the working partnership of pupil and male relative planned a short digital story on a topic of their interest. The group were each given a digital camera and Mac-book home to practise their ICT skills between each session. On completion of the 4-week programme the boys invited family members and friends into school to showcase their movies.



Completed evaluations by the group clearly indicated the highly successful programme encouraged both Reading and Talking and Listening. Assessment results showed an improvement in Literacy and teachers commented on the increased confidence and self esteem of the seven boys whose presentation, punctuality and attendance all improved.



Engagement and enjoyment were clearly evident by the 100% commitment shown by all participants each week.

“Sperrinview School have created a truly inspirational sensory garden that catches the imagination”

Woodland Classroom and Outdoor Facilities

During the 2008-2009 school year it was decided to enhance the woodland setting of Sperrinview School Dungannon to -

- develop the educational environment for the pupils,
- improve practice in environmental education and sustainable development and
- be healthy.

This led to the creation of a woodland classroom and enhanced the existing sensory garden. Play is integral to children’s enjoyment of their lives, health and development. Children and young people, whatever their age, background or disability, need and want to play in whatever way possible. Through play, children create their own culture, develop their abilities, explore their creativity and learn about themselves, other people and the world around them.



Extended Schools money to purchase outdoor clothing to fit all pupils. This allowed pupils to access the facilities, regardless of the weather, thus experiencing the environment in all seasons.

“Both our pupils and staff loved the sensory garden. We could visit it everyday!”
Beverley Somerville, Nursery Assistant, Windmill Integrated Nursery School, Dungannon.

“Sperrinview School have created a truly inspirational sensory garden that catches the imagination, is well designed to be accessible to all and encourages pupils to explore their senses in an enriching way. Well worth the visit!”
Julie Gillespie, Teacher, Donard School, Banbridge.

“The outdoor classroom is good fun, it’s nice to get out of the class! I enjoy the monkey bars and balancing bridge – it’s a bit mucky at the minute but good craic.”
15 year old Pupil in Class S1, Sperrinview, Dungannon.



In an effort to ensure that this facility was made as accessible as possible to all pupils, Sperrinview used some of the 2009-2010

School Life Project

“The children and staff gained a tremendous insight into how things in schools have changed.”

Pupils, teachers and community of St Brigid’s Primary School, Mountfield, Omagh have recently been immersed in an ICT and A Connected Learning Project called “School Life”. This project, funded by the Extended Schools’ programme, successfully encompassed aspects of school life through three generations. All pupils including parents and grandparents were asked to recall their thoughts and experiences of their school life. A timetable was established and each family had access to a lap top for two days. Old photographs were collected and used to enhance the project.

The pupils were enthralled with the varied stories contributed by their parents and grandparents. The children and staff gained a tremendous insight into how things in schools have changed. As a school community we had many laughs reading and talking about the “antics” members of our families got up to.

Without doubt, the project has brought pupil’ ICT competences and literacy learning experiences to new heights. The 2Simple Software used in the project allowed the pupils access to a wide variety of writing formats. The involvement in the project has served to enhance and

enrich not only curriculum areas but cement and build upon relationships between peers and their families. It was fantastic for the staff as educators to see the pupils so involved in the management and ownership of their project.

The project has been commented on and commended by all involved. It has been a massive yet thoroughly enjoyable undertaking with pupils, teaching staff and parents spending many months and many hours of their own spare time working on these marvellous creations. Parents, grandparents and members of the community volunteered to be interviewed on camera by Year 6 & 7 pupils.

FILMCLUB

FILMCLUB is a chance to enter the incredible, limitless cosmos of films - a rollercoaster ride through worlds that delight, challenge, inspire, unite and amaze.

The children watch a film as a group and then spend time talking critically about the film, describing their likes and dislikes, film techniques, issues raised in the film etc. Children with all abilities in Literacy can take part, learning and achieving all the time.

Carrick Primary School's FILMCLUB are fantastic at discussing the films and writing reviews for the website, which is a fabulous resource as they can also learn about what is happening in the world of movies. Members have previously won DVDs for writing excellent reviews and a former FILMCLUB member won an all expenses paid trip to the Movieum in London with 'red carpet' treatment for their 'Review of the Week'.



The children have worked so hard that FILMCLUB has made us a STAR CLUB and last summer Mrs Hamilton was invited to attend a STAR FILMCLUB leader's event in London.

Ben McCaugherty, a FILMCLUB member, reports 'I love FILMCLUB and it has even encouraged my family to try watching different kinds of films and then we like to discuss them also.'

Any Extended Schools Co-ordinators interested in FILMCLUB should contact: laura@cinemagic.org.uk

SELB Cluster Group Feature: Local Schools SWING Into Action

Children from three rural primary schools in the South Armagh area had a unique opportunity to meet each other when their schools ran an Extended Schools cluster group during term one.

Despite the excellence of the SELB's 'Moving On, Moving Up' Programme, the three school principals, were acutely aware that children from their local communities had very little opportunity to interact with and get to know children from surrounding districts prior to attending post primary schools. It was felt that the move from relatively small rural schools to large secondary institutions could be intimidating for many.

The schools decided to use 'Extended Schools' funding to offer an activity that would allow the children to interact and intermingle with others whom they



would, in a few short months, be sharing secondary school transport with.

The three schools also wanted the activity to advance its own intrinsic value of developing an interest in a new, previously untapped sport.

Children from the three schools, Jonesboro' Primary School, Dromintee Primary School and St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, Forkhill met once per week to participate in Golf lessons.

Twelve primary seven children from each school took part in one ninety minute lesson per week, for eight weeks. A coach was hired to collect children from each school and they were taken to Newry Golf Academy situated on the outskirts of Newry. Children received professional coaching in the fundamental skills of what was, for virtually all children, a completely new sport. The children were then able to use the Golf Academy's 'driving range' to practice these skills in a safe environment.

At the end of the 8 weeks the children took part in a mini skills tournament with each child receiving an award for their participation in the scheme.



All three schools have noted how the children from each school now confidently socialise with each other when they meet at other school based events such as football tournaments, school quizzes and trips.

A significant number of children of both sexes are now also playing golf in their leisure time after school and at weekends.

Perhaps most striking is that the three school principals have noted that children from other classes in all three schools are now pleading that they get a chance to go to golf lessons in the future!

Speech and Language Therapy Programme

Kilkeel Nursery School has run a Speech and Language Therapy programme through the Extended Schools programme for the past three years and we believe that we have hit on a winner! It has nearly 100% participation and the firm approval of pupils parents, staff and Governors alike.

Children are assessed and given individual or group work if required, parents attend workshops where their vital role is reinforced, and there is a drop-in clinic for parents who can discuss worries or concerns in a friendly familiar environment.

One parent commented: "I didn't know just how much he learnt by me talking to him" and another said "you just take it for granted they know the things - but you do need to tell them!"

Because of the therapist's involvement we have got a couple of children with very severe but unusual conditions through the statementing process. Fewer children need to go to speech and language therapy in the community, and primary schools see better language skills, too.

Parents feel more empowered and some have even taken the TVs out of their children's bedrooms and read them stories instead of putting on a DVD. "I really look forward to reading stories – it is a cosy happy time snuggled up together – and I know it is really good for her for reading later on" said one mum.



"I really look forward to reading stories – it is a cosy happy time snuggled up together ..."

Green Fingered Success at St John's

Students at St John's Business and Enterprise College, Dromore, Co Tyrone have been thinking outside the box. They have taken a once overgrown and abandoned patch of ground and transformed it into a school garden project.

It all started in March 2008 when the students at the direction of Veronica McCanny began the tedious job of preparing the ground. Students from year 8 to year 12 all lent a hand and worked tirelessly in all weathers to pull

weeds and lift stones.

The Garden now boasts a wide range of vegetables - onions, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, lettuces and herbs. There is a small pond that attracts frogs and insects. The bird tables and feeders provided a much needed source of food for the birds last winter.

It is a Garden for the students run by the students. Through the Extended Schools' programme a gardening club was set up and students can now stay after school for the garden to



continue and develop students have to understand that it must be viable. Therefore produce is sold at St John's Christmas fair and in the summer at the school car boot sale. All profits are reinvested in the Garden.

The benefit of getting children to learn outside the traditional methods of teaching has to be widely recognised according to the learning outside the classroom. The advantages for the students include increased self-esteem, better communication skills and feeling more positive about themselves.

'.... worked tirelessly in all weathers to pull weeds and lift stones.'



Arts & Crafts Club

"Anyone can be an artist, it's just a matter of finding the time to experiment." (Time to Teach Magazine)

In September 2007 Mrs Fiona Mc Conway (Arts Co-ordinator) Derrychrin Primary School, Cookstown set up and organised an Arts & Crafts Club through the Extended Schools programme allowing pupils and staff to produce craft activities that were enjoyable and helped to develop social interaction skills.

However, with time to experiment and plan, the Club's focus has moved to developing the artistic skills and creative imagination of the pupils and to help them nurture their talents.

"All pupils are artists. They begin pieces of work and develop their skills over time, changing and adapting aspects of their work to create finished pieces." (Mrs Fiona Mc Conway)

Having been accepted into "The Real Art Project" led by Mr Vincent Mc Nicholl (SELB) our pupils are now focusing their attentions on the work of local artists, using their paintings to help develop their skills.



The work of our pupils is mounted and displayed immediately to sustain their momentum and enthusiasm. The standard of work now being produced has allowed us the opportunity to celebrate this great work by hosting a "Real Art Exhibition" open to all parents and members of the local community. We thank all those involved in the Extended Schools programme for allowing us the opportunity to have such a wonderful club which has provided our pupils and staff with the time and resources to experiment, develop and enjoy arts and crafts.



Playground Buddies



The Student Voice at Lisnagelvin Primary School, Londonderry is using funding provided through the Extended Schools' programme to implement a new and innovative scheme under the high level outcomes 'Enjoying Learning and Achieving' and 'Contributing Successfully to Community and Society'. During 2008/09, the School Council identified the improvement of playground experiences for all pupils in the school as a priority.

Class Councils discussed the ways to promote positive playgrounds and a representative from each class council presented these ideas to the central School Council. After much discussion, the first stage of the programme was introduced, 'Playground Buddies'.

P7 pupils were keen to participate in the scheme and in preparation for their role, underwent three hours training from School Council staff based on the Jenny Mosley and Playboard principles.

Following this training, a number of P7 pupils volunteered to trial the scheme during 2009/10. Their objectives were:

- making the playground a happier place for younger children in school.
- organising playground games
- offering friendship

The Extended Schools' programme provided funding to purchase friendship stops, uniforms and publish a handbook for all 'Playground Buddies'. This has been an extremely successful venture welcomed by all staff and playground supervisors. Playground issues have minimised and friendships have developed between older and younger pupils in a positive and supportive way.

The 'Playground Buddies' have shown responsible leadership qualities and have enjoyed the challenge. Presently, class councils are planning ahead and presenting their ideas to the School Council for the provision of outdoor play equipment for new playground areas in our new school building. It is hoped that Extended Schools funding will be able to support stage 2 of this programme.



“ Really enjoy these classes, can now email and surf the internet, great fun, a great night out.”

A Parent’s Perspective: Adult Computer Class for Beginners

The Extended Schools’ programme in St Joseph’s College, Coalisland is one that is both wide and varied, catering for children as young as 4 years old right up to our adult Computer class which has students in an age range from 45 years young to some whom are in their 70’s and 80’s, no names obviously!

Our adult computer class has been in operation for the past 3 years, takes place on Thursday nights 7.00 - 9.00 pm January/February. It is probably our most popular extended schools event and is for adults who have never switched on a computer before. The class is over subscribed, next years class, if funding is available is already almost full. Enough from me better to hear the comments of some of those who attend this year’s class.

Mary Madden. “We will be recommending these classes to our friends, we are very lucky to have had this opportunity.”

Nora Dynes. “Really enjoy these classes, can

now email and surf the internet, great fun, a great night out.”

Johnny Gillen. “ Excellent class, have learned a lot, perhaps a handout each week to brush up at home.”

Rita Devlin. “ The course was excellent I looked forward to it each week.”

The Extended Schools’ programme has enabled us in St Josephs to open up our school to the wider public and an age range that we feel has been overlooked.



Supporting Early Literacy and Numeracy Development

Ballykelly Primary School have repeated the very successful ‘Supporting the Development of Early Learning Skills’ programme that ran as a result of Extended Schools funding last year. The school has carefully considered data from various sources, including school and community data. Considering all that information alongside their ‘School Development Plan’, it was decided that this programme was a way of offering a community programme of education which will have immediate and lasting benefit towards raising educational achievements.

This year the course will run for 10 weeks and is entitled, ‘Certificate in Supporting Early Learning skills’ and is accredited by the Open College Network (OCN)³ at Level 2. It may well also have the added bonus of re-introducing adults into further education and training courses-so the benefits may last well into the future. The course this year has gone according to plan and it has been very well supported. We had planned for 25 adults however the good news is that we have had an average of over 30 adults who are working their way through the course; importantly our students include support staff from other local schools.



“A day that starts well is a good day”

A Pupil’s Perspective: Early Bird Programme

Hi we are Lila and Isabella and we are going to tell you about the “Early Bird” programme in our school, St Claire’s Primary School, Newry. We have a wide variety of clubs, they are: Library, story club, Irish Dancing, Fun and games, Concentration games, Keep Fit, Ball games etc. The clubs are really fun and they are a great way to kick start our day. The clubs are a big help to working parents.

“My mum has to leave my sisters to another school across the town so it is more convenient for mum to drop me off first.” (Lila)

“My mum starts work at 8:30 am so the clubs

are really helpful to her as she doesn’t have to arrange childcare for me to get to school.” (Isabella)

The clubs ensure that no children are hanging around outside the school getting into mischief.

The assistants who take the clubs are really cool and we love when they join in the activities. Through the clubs we get to learn new talents, keep fit and make new friends.

In St Clare’s we feel -

“A day that starts well is a good day”



Art Club

Thanks to funding provided by the Extended Schools programme, Dromore Primary School (Co Tyrone) has been able to greatly enhance their school grounds by painting some fantastic new decorative murals onto their new outdoor play shed, as the culmination of their Art Club activity.

The school Principal, Mrs Emerson, describes how the children learned so much from the expertise of Mr Liam Breen, a local artist who



involved the children in the overall project at every step, from planning the designs in the initial drawing classes to painting the final murals together at the end.

Foundation Stage children painted a mural of their innovative, new Sensory Garden. Key Stage One children decided to paint fruit, reflecting their enjoyment of 'Smoothie Making' as another Extended Schools activity.

And Key Stage Two children took an 'Under the Sea' theme, as it was a topic they particularly enjoyed.

The children themselves report that they loved taking part in this activity and working with classmates to create a piece of group-art. Parents have commented on how children learned or developed new skills and how superb the final results are. The murals now provide a colourful and appealing backdrop to the children's outdoor play.



A Pupil's Perspective: Breakfast Club



Since I began going to the Breakfast Club in St Patrick's Primary School, Pennyburn, Derry, I have made many friends. One good thing is that I don't have to get up as early in the morning as usual because I can eat my

breakfast in school, so it is very handy.

Children benefit from the Breakfast Club because it is a chance to sit down and chat with your friends before going to class. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet, because parents are able to sit with their child.

The staff working at the Breakfast Club are very helpful and

kind and so are the canteen ladies serving you. It has benefited many children at the school. There is a good selection of breakfasts to choose from with only a few being cereal, pancakes, toast, scones and orange juice.

At the Breakfast Club there are tickets which are worth forty pence which you can buy some items of food with. When I leave to go to secondary school I would love there to be a breakfast club just like St Patrick's.

I think that every school should have should have one!



Computer Suite/Family Learning Centre

The Minister for Social Development Margaret Ritchie officially opened the new Computer Suite/Family Learning Centre in St Patrick's Primary School, Armagh.

St Patrick's Primary School is now leading the way in relation to ICT Developments in Armagh City. The school recently received funding from the Department for Social Development and this was used to convert a classroom into a state of the art Computer Suite/Family Learning Centre. The Computer Suite/Family Learning Centre has 30 PCs, a

colour laser printer and an interactive whiteboard. It also has a fully fitted air conditioning system.

The facility is used by all classes during the day and it is used to deliver the various ICT based Extended Schools Programmes each week. The school has also forged strong links with the local Southern Regional College and the facility is used by their staff to deliver a number of adult ICT courses at night.

The Minister for Social Development Margaret Ritchie officially opened the

School's new Computer Suite/Family Learning Centre on 25th November 2009 and this was a huge success for all associated with St Patrick's Primary School.





Extended Schools Key Tasks

Schools are reminded that there are a number of key tasks which must be completed before the NIESIS system will allow you to access planning functions for your 2010/2011 allocation. These are:

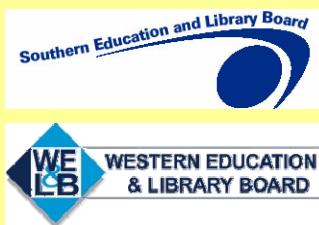
- Complete all monitoring for Quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Complete your Annual Report and ensure that the box is ticked to register it as complete and that the second box is ticked to verify the information as being correct.

Once you have completed all monitoring and your annual report then action planning functions for the 2010/2011 allocation will become active. Clusters must also ensure that their monitoring and annual reporting has been completed and it is the responsibility of the lead school to ensure that this has been done.

Action Planning for 2010/2011

All action plans from 2009/2010 will copy across as draft plans. This means you can view, edit or delete them. You will also be able to enter new plans. Please delete any action plans you do not wish to continue with. Once again you must ensure that the two boxes at the bottom of each plan are ticked before the plans are submitted to the project board for assessment.

For Southern and Western Board schools and clusters action plan assessment will commence on Monday 14 June 2010 at 9 am.



SELB/WELB EXTENDED SCHOOLS TEAM

The Extended Schools programme in this area is supported by a joint team of WELB and SELB staff.

The WELB/SELB Extended Schools Team would like to thank all those whose contributions have made this newsletter possible.

If you have an article which you wish to be included in the next edition of the Extended Schools Newsletter please forward your article (no more than 200 words) and a photograph to extended_schools@welbni.org for consideration.

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