

Shared Education Newsletter

2022/23

Ballinamallard Primary & Community Nursery School
Irvinestown Primary School

St Paul's Primary School and Necarne Nursery School



This year our Shared Education Programme recommenced with P5-P7 classes participating in shared lessons with a focus on outdoor learning linked to the World Around Us topics. In this newsletter you will read all about what each class got up to and see lots of fantastic photographs. The aims of our shared work were:

- To build upon and sustain friendships and positive relationships in the shared classroom.
- To embed the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty and fairness through active participation in shared classes.
- To know what influences their views, feelings and behaviours towards others and understand that there can be more than one point of view.



Year 5 Shared Education Programme 2023



Fifty Pupils from Year 5 in Irvinestown Primary School and St. Paul's Primary School have thoroughly enjoyed their shared lessons this year. Throughout the year we focused on the curriculum area of 'The World Around Us' and the pupils took part in Outdoor Learning lessons linked with this area of the curriculum. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting together!

We were excited to spend a cold January morning together in Necarne. We enjoyed icebreakers, a scavenger hunt and exploring the grounds of Necarne to complete other set tasks before enjoying a picnic break. We played games together. A great way to start our Shared Education journey!



In St Paul's, we focused on trees and plants. Over a series of two days, we rotated around four set challenges where we used measuring sticks to estimate the height and age of trees. Using quadrats, we looked at what plants we could find in various habitats within the Forest School. We used iPads to research and record information on different types of native trees and completed Fact Files about these. Lastly, we used our artistic skills to explore the patterns and textures of bark and leaves. We were enthusiastic and focused on our learning.

In Irvinestown Primary, our focus was on Mini Beasts. We moved around a carousel of activities encouraging us to explore Mini Beasts and their surroundings. These activities were completed throughout two days and we were grouped with friends from our own school and new friends too!





We explored the School Garden to find different Mini Beasts, looking closely using magnifying equipment and identification charts to classify them. We created Fact Files on the iPads using Pic-Collage to research and record information about less familiar Mini Beasts and shared our learning together.

We surveyed various habitats on the school grounds using quadrats to explore the types of Mini Beast life found in each area and discussing together the reasons for this. We explored the work of the artist Andy Goldsworthy and created our own interpretations of his art using only natural resources and things found within the School Garden.



We were excited to spend a day together exploring the Marble Arch Caves. Many of us had not been to the caves before so it was such a great opportunity to learn about something so amazing in our local area.



We explored the caves with a guide, learning about the formations and how the caves were created. We also took part in 'Rock out with the Cave Crew', an activity based in the local Killykeeghan Nature reserve. This was part of the Cuilcagh Mountain Geopark. We were taught about the rocks in the area, local wildlife and features and formations of the land.



We have had a fantastic time this year learning together and making new friendships. We look forward to more shared experiences together in the future. 😊



Year 5 & 6 Shared Education Programme 2023

Approximately 80 children from P6 in St Paul's, Irvinestown Primary School and Ballinamallard Primary School came together for Shared Education. It was great to see so many relationships that had been formed in P3, before COVID, developing further this year.

This year's theme was Outdoor Learning.

Day 1

At St Paul's children enjoyed three different activities, making name tags from natural resources, discovering the forest area and making fruit kebab bird feeders. The children had a great first day.



Day 2

A wet, cold and windy day at Day 2 at Irvinestown Primary School. But this didn't stop the children having fun and learning more about their natural environment. Children engaged in species identification, natural habitat scavenger hunt and an exciting time in the discovery garden.



Day 3

Castle Irvine, Necarne was the venue for Day 3. Leaf and tree identification, bark rubbings, bug hunt and a discovery walk were all the order of the day. In the words of the children the best moment was when they had free play in the huge green area in front of the castle.



Day 4

A fun filled day for our fourth day at Ballinamallard Primary School where we enjoyed some forest fitness, stone painting and rugby coaching by Allun Hawthorne.



Day 5

Back to Ballinamallard Primary School for our fifth day. We enjoyed an alphabetical scavenger hunt, a walk around Mill Race River Walk and made delicious s'mores in the outdoor learning area.



Day 6

We headed back to Castle Irvine for the last of our Shared Education outdoor lessons. The lessons included creating animal habitats, sketching Castle Irvine and designing board games from the flora and fauna of the forest floor.



Fun Day

What a great way to end our Shared Education experiences with a trip to Rosstown beach!! We were blessed with a dry day. The children had a great day building sandcastles, looking for fossils and playing football.



Year 7 Shared Education Programme 2023



We visited the Centenary Garden and Garden of Celtic Saints in Irvinestown. We also visited the Famine Memorial and Lowtherstown Workhouse site. It was interesting to explore the history of our local area.



We worked together to make eco-friendly bird feeders and attached them to the trees in Irvinestown Primary School garden area.



We really enjoyed playing team games and problem solving games together in groups at St. Paul's Primary School.



The pupils worked together in groups to build shelters using natural materials from the surrounding outdoor area at Ballinamallard Primary School.

We completed Spring Flower paintings and sketches of Lowtherstown Workhouse.



Other activities during our Shared Education lessons included Relax Kids, Scavenger Hunts and Litter Picking at Necarne.





In April, all of the Year 7 pupils from Irvinestown Primary, St. Paul's and Ballinamallard Primary School went on a Shared Education trip to Gortin Glen Forest Park, where they followed various walking trails.



They had a fantastic time playing together in the huge play park.



The weather was beautiful and the children had a lovely picnic together in the sunshine!



Feedback from Pupils



It made a positive impact on me as it was a great way to make new friends.

I enjoyed learning and doing outdoor activities with friends from other schools.

I really liked doing Rugby. I liked getting to take part in lots of activities with children I know from outside school.

Some of the work was challenging but really enjoyable! I liked visiting other schools.

I enjoyed making new friends and meeting up with old friends.



I loved the trip to the Marble Arch Caves. We learnt lots of interesting facts and it was good to go on a trip with the friends we met in the other schools.

All the activities were really fun!!