



BROOKEBOROUGH SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS

Putting Pupils First:
A Bottom-Up, Local Solution, Which Meets Local Needs

BROOKEBOROUGH

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Where Children Come First



The Playstation





Pupils and Staff in Brookeborough Primary Schools celebrate after a successful joint drama production for parents

MOVING FORWARD

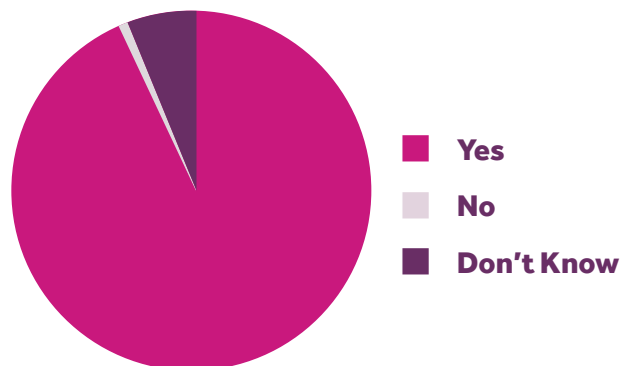
After **45 years** of successful cross-sectoral co-operation, the **next step** for our two primary schools in Brookeborough, Co Fermanagh, is a **Shared Education Campus** in the village. This is the natural development and progression of the **historic & on-going collaboration** between our two schools, which started in 1969, well before the term 'Shared Education' was known.

Our proposal has **overwhelming support of governors, parents, staff and local community**. This will provide enhanced and sustainable educational provision for all sections of the community in Brookeborough and build a more shared society for the future.

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SUPPORT FOR BROOKEBOROUGH SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS



Community Support

93% of the respondents to a survey of the school communities, undertaken in March 2014, stated that they supported the proposal for a shared campus in Brookeborough. 6% said they didn't know and less than 1% was not supportive of the proposal.

Cross-Party Political Support

Brookeborough Shared Campus has the support of **all** the political parties in Fermanagh District Council (including SF, DUP, SDLP & UUP).

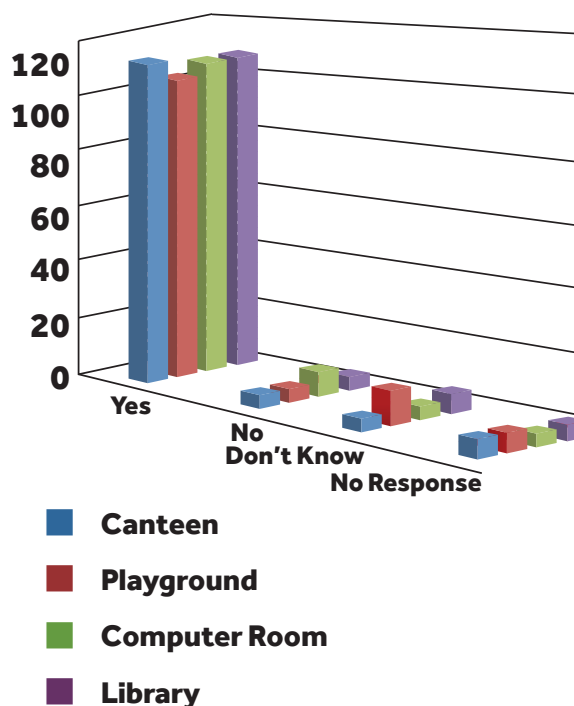
BROOKEBOROUGH SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS

The **Brookeborough Education Shared Campus** will consist of:

1. **A new shared education campus** built on a neutral site in Brookeborough, accommodating St Mary's Primary School and Brookeborough Primary School, including outdoor sports & play facilities. Potential sites are currently available in Brookeborough for the campus.
2. The campus will also include the cross-community playgroup, **The Playstation**. This will ease transition to the local primary schools and enable the cross-community friendships continue from playgroup into primary school.
3. Each school and playgroup would retain its own separate ethos and identity.
4. The Shared Campus will be open for the **local community to use**, which will meet the huge need and demand for shared space in Brookeborough.

SUPPORT FOR SHARED FACILITIES

The survey asked about sharing school facilities i.e. canteen, playground, computer room and library. Almost all respondents want to see these facilities shared.



FIT WITH AREA PLAN

The respective managing authorities, **CCMS** and **WELB** have endorsed the proposal for the Brookeborough Shared Campus, which provides a local area / parish solution as proposed in the WELB Strategic Area Plan for primary schools.

SCHOOL REF NO.	PRIMARY SCHOOL	PUPILS 2013/14	PROPOSAL IN AREA PLAN
2011894	Brookeborough PS	63	Local area solution to be explored
2031876	St Mary's PS, Brookeborough	52	Local area/parish solution to be explored

Both primary schools are of considerable age, requiring capital investment in the future - St Mary's PS is 75 years old and Brookeborough PS is 50 years old. A shared campus is the most optimal and economical solution. By working jointly through shared education, in line with government policy, our two primary schools are viable and meet the sustainable schools criteria as set out by the Department of Education (DE).



Pupils in Brookeborough showing team-work during their Shared Classes

BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY

Like many border communities, Brookeborough has had a divided history and it did not escape the impact of the Troubles. However, due to the vision and courage of the successive principals and governors in both our primary schools, who recognised the importance for children to develop friendships across the community, they maintained the cross-community co-operation between our two schools.

Over that period, two generations have enjoyed the **benefits of the cross-community linkages** and the families have clearly shown that they want their children and grandchildren to continue to have the opportunity to learn, work and play together in the future. A shared educational campus in Brookeborough can ensure that this happens.



Pupils from St Mary's PS and Brookeborough PS performed an adapted play by Dan Gordon, followed by a variety concert for parents

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF ON-GOING SHARING BETWEEN THE TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In the last decade the cross-community linkages between our schools have intensified in both curricular and extra-curricular activities, with all of the pupils enjoying regular / weekly shared classes and activities.

Staff from both schools plan the curriculum together; deliver shared classes; undertake shared projects with their pupils; and host joint performances and exhibitions for the parents. Joint staff development and joint workshops and training for parents are common between our two primary schools. We currently exchange teachers for ½ day per week to help deliver the curriculum in the areas of STEM and PDMU.

The educational benefits have been immense and will further increase in the shared education campus. We avail of the teaching expertise from both schools, enabling us to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.



The pupils from St Mary's PS and Brookeborough PS performed the Wizard of Oz to a packed audience

We are able to de-composite classes and provide age appropriate lessons for pupils. Jointly, the schools have produced award winning teams for competitions including the Fermanagh Feis. This would not have been possible individually.



The winning Choral Verse team at Fermanagh Feis – St Mary's PS & Brookeborough PS

ADDRESSING DEPRIVATION & DISADVANTAGE



Pupils from St Mary's PS and Brookeborough PS penned their own drama production 'Racism Ruins Lives' which had repeat performances to packed audiences due to popular demand

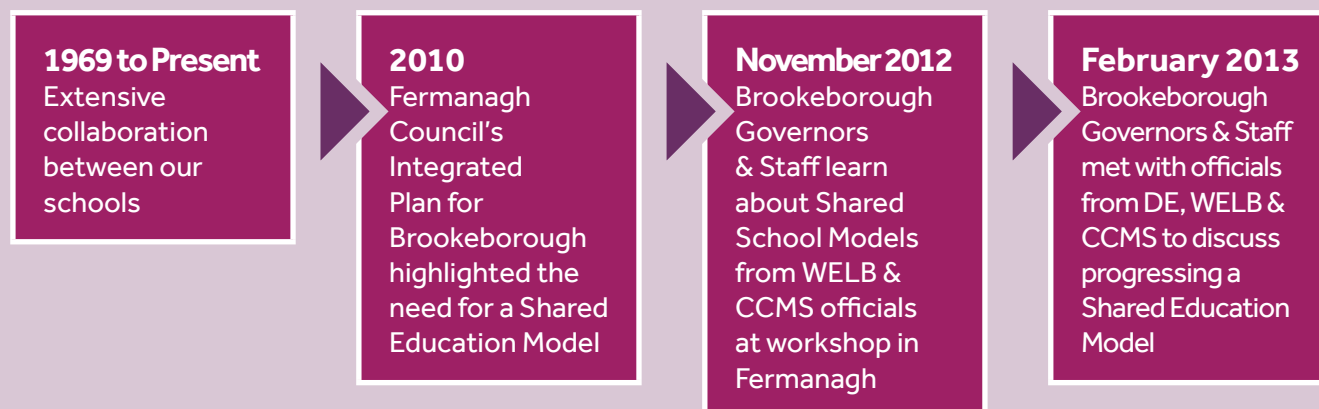
Brookeborough Shared Education Campus will help address many of the deprivation and disadvantage measures in the area. Brookeborough is in the **most deprived 6%** of Super Output Areas, in relation to 'proximity to services'. St Mary's PS has a **greater proportion of pupils on free school meals (36.54%)** compared to Northern Ireland (30.97%) and a **higher proportion of pupils with special educational needs (25%)** which is in excess of the Northern Ireland rate of 20.49%. **Fewer residents in Brookeborough have a degree or higher qualification (20.75%)** compared to the rest of Fermanagh (21.27%). **More residents have no or low (Level 1) qualifications (46.54%)** compared to Fermanagh (44.09%).



John O'Dowd, MLA, Minister for Education, centre, with Mr D Finlay, Principal of St Mary's PS, Brookeborough and Miss H Gardiner, Principal of Brookeborough PS (After a meeting in Fermanagh, to discuss the way forward for Shared Education and Shared Models, April 2013)

THE JOURNEY TO A SHARED CAMPUS

The following summary shows that our two primary schools have been actively exploring the potential for a sustainable shared education model in Brookeborough for some time. This timeline provides evidence of the careful and detailed work that has taken place to pursue this aim.



Consultation on WELB Draft Strategic Area Plan for Primary Schools (March – June 2013)			
March – June 2013	17 April 2013	April & June 2013	June 2013
A series of governor & parent meetings were held to discuss Shared Models. Parents completed surveys showing support for Shared Model. This was fed into WELB consultation	Meeting with the Minister for Education (with Fermanagh primary principals) when bottom-up, local shared solutions were encouraged	Brookeborough Governors & Staff visited a Joint faith school in Liverpool (Emmaus) to learn about a Shared School Model & they hosted a reciprocal visit from Emmaus PS	Joint governor meeting & joint submission to area planning consultation process requesting exploration & development of Shared Education Model in Brookeborough



THE FUTURE

**Brookeborough Shared Education Campus –
A Bottom-Up, Local Solution that meets Local Needs**

ACHIEVING GOVERNMENT POLICIES

The Brookeborough Shared Campus is highly consistent with the aims of key government policies & strategies.

Congruency with Government Policies / Strategies

Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC)

The Brookeborough Shared Education Campus will enhance the quality and extent of shared education provision and thereby help ensure that sharing in education becomes a central part of every child's educational experience. **In the absence of a shared campus, the alternative would most likely be the 2 primary schools amalgamating with schools within their own sectors outside of Brookeborough district, creating greater polarisation and segregation, which would run counter to the aims of T:BUC.**

Furthermore, the Shared Campus would create **shared space for the community**, which has been identified as lacking in Brookeborough and it would meet the need for community cohesion

Programme for Government

The Brookeborough Shared Education Campus will help achieve the commitment to **'Substantially increase the number of schools sharing facilities and ensure that all children have the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes.'**

Putting Pupils First: Shaping Our Future

The Brookeborough Shared Education Campus will help meet the terms of reference for Area Planning: Identify realistic, innovative and creative solutions to address need, **including opportunities for shared schooling on a cross-sectoral basis.**

IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE CROSS-SECTORAL SHARING IN BROOKEBOROUGH



97% of respondents to the survey are supportive of the on-going cross-community work between the 2 primary schools in Brookeborough and they would like to see it continued.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- No Response

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The school communities are confident that a shared campus is the way forward for the future of education in our community. This is the natural evolution of our working relationship over the last 45 years, which will cement the already well established linkages between our schools. Any other solution will cause division and polarisation in the community.

Brookeborough has the chance to build a united and shared community. Let us all take this opportunity, to build a better and shared future for our children and for generations to come.

CONTACT

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