



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Staying Engaged, Re-thinking Collaboration with Collaboration and Sharing in Education Project (CASE)

THEME:

Shared Education

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€28,890,790.79

MATCH FUNDERS:

Department of Education NI and Department of Education Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Education Authority (EA)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Léargas

Start Date: 01/10/2016

End Date: 30/11/2022



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Cross-border partnerships in the CASE project rose to the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic by re-thinking collaboration and continuing to deliver exceptional levels of shared education in a new virtual climate.

Adapting to the 'new normal' of the virtual classroom was the first step for teachers involved in the project. Of primary importance was the well-being of the school community and over 200 teachers took part in Teacher Professional Learning on 'Weaving Well-being' and 'Mental Wealth'.

Future-proofing continuity in education was another element in equipping teachers, with a high uptake in webinars delivered by Blended NI and the University of Ulster.

"We want the pupils to become aware of their well-being and focus on positive activities at this time. We will also show them the important role they play creating positive experiences for others. We will help them realise the importance of friendship and the need to talk and discuss issues together."

Reflection from one of the CASE partnerships on the role of the project during COVID-19

In late September 2020 St Brigid's Special School (Dundalk) and St Oliver's National School (Carlingford) held virtual classroom sessions, working on topics related to World Animal Day and World Kindness Day.

Similarly, St Vincent's Secondary School (Dundalk) and Dundalk Grammar school jointly developed a digital literacy programme to raise awareness of the science behind social media, presenting it to First Years in both schools.

Just prior to Christmas 2020, pupils in Ballykelly Primary School (Limavady) and Faughanvale Primary School (Derry-Londonderry) were paired with residents in local care homes, writing letters and making cards and gifts. They also formed a virtual choir to send some Christmas cheer to the homes. Similarly, St Riaghan's National School, Wood School Ardara and Crannog Bui (County Donegal) designed cards for Shanaghan House and showed each other their cards in a virtual meet up.