

# PEACEPLUS ASPIRE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is an exciting cross-border project that brings children from different backgrounds together to foster peace, reconciliation and inclusivity through Shared Education. The project partnership is led by the Education Authority in collaboration with Early Years - the Organisation for Young Children, the National Childhood Network, Léargas, and the Fermanagh Trust. It is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

At its core, PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is about building sustainable relationships, breaking down barriers, and creating inclusive learning experiences for every child.

## HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

Through PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, settings form a 'partnership of difference' with another local setting. These differences include religious, cultural, geographical (rural or urban), or other unique characteristics.

Partnerships are required to complete 30 hours of Shared Education. This can include;

- Curriculum based sessions featuring art, music, cultural activities and sports.
- External trips and activities

This sustained approach helps build strong connections between children, practitioners, and families across diverse communities.



# WHAT IS SHARED EDUCATION?

Shared Education is the provision of direct, sustained, curriculum-based contact between children and practitioners from all backgrounds. Its aim is to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a more cohesive society.

In Northern Ireland, Shared Education emerged to address divisions in schooling by religion, culture, and tradition. Recognised as a tool for peace-building, it gained strong government support, particularly through the Shared Education Act in 2016 and is now firmly embedded in Northern Ireland's education policy.

In the Republic of Ireland, the government has also demonstrated a clear commitment to promoting inclusion, equality, and respect for diversity across early years and school settings. For example, Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education, embeds equality and diversity as two of its core principles.



## HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

Parents or guardians, play a central role in their child's educational journey. This project is a wonderful opportunity for you to engage in Shared Education and encourage your child's involvement.

There are lots of ways you can take part:

- Talk with your child about the activities they are enjoying.
- Join in shared sessions with children and practitioners.
- Share your skills and experiences during activities.
- Attend parent workshops to learn more and connect with others.
- Take part in evaluation activities to help shape the project's future.



For more information, please contact:  
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