

Time to value education

As of March 2018, the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSSC) has almost 93% of controlled schools across Northern Ireland confirming membership with us. This gives Council a strong mandate to advocate on your behalf.

We continue to work closely with member schools and other organisations which make a valuable contribution to education.

Our second AGM took place on 8 March and we were pleased to have the Permanent Secretary Derek Baker and the Chief Executive of the Education Authority Gavin Boyd take part in a panel discussion with me to answer your questions on current issues in the education sector.

CSSSC has held a further seven events for our member schools: a conference in partnership with the Education Authority with the theme 'learning together for a better tomorrow'; a women in leadership event to celebrate International Women's day; a conference exploring ethos in the controlled education sector; and four seminars celebrating and disseminating effective practice in controlled schools.

We have also been working with member schools regarding several issues that are having a significant impact on them and advocated on their behalf.

Education must be valued and given the priority it deserves across all government departments. CSSSC will continue to work tirelessly as a voice for controlled schools on these matters.

Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Our team of experienced staff is here to help you. Please don't hesitate to contact us about any issue.

You can also visit our interactive map on our website to find your designated school support officer.

Controlled Schools' Support Council
Second Floor, Main Building
Stranmillis University College
Stranmillis Road
Belfast
BT9 5DY

Telephone: **028 9531 3030**
 Email: **info@csscni.org.uk**
 Web: **csscni.org.uk**

CSSSC hosted a number of events in February and March which were a direct outcome of the listening events held last year

Exploring ethos

CSSSC's working group continues to look at the ethos of the controlled education sector.

As part of this work, a conference on 22 March provided an opportunity for Principals to explore ethos and how it applies to their own school.

Key note speaker Dave Thompson encouraged delegates to examine why ethos matters and the contribution Governors can make to the ethos of a school.



Those in attendance shared best practise and addressed questions to a panel of peers from all school phases within the controlled sector.

Participants considered ways in which CSSSC can provide support for schools in relation to ethos and this input will be used in developing an ethos toolkit for controlled schools.

Learning together for a better tomorrow

Over 50 delegates from schools across Northern Ireland attended CSSSC's raising standards conference on 28 February, which was delivered in partnership with the Education Authority.



The event explored how school leaders can connect theory and practice to raise standards in schools.

Key note speaker Gareth Hetherington discussed the 'Skills Barometer' and forecasting future demands for skills in the work force.

The importance of collaboration for improved educational outcomes emerged as a key theme of the event.



Realising your potential

CSSSC celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March with an event aimed at enabling participants to 'realise your potential'.

Drawing on the experience of inspirational controlled school principals, the discussion identified challenges and solutions for women in education.

The panellists included Maria Quinn, Abbey Community College; Michelle Rainey, Ballyclare High School; Heather Murray, Millington Primary School; Gillian Dunlop, Largymore Primary School; and Grace Trimble, Kilkeel Nursery School.

Outcomes from the event included encouraging participants to Lean In and set up their own peer support networks. CSSSC will look at what further events it could facilitate to meet the needs identified.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Permanent Secretary, Derek Baker, launched CSSC's €140k Erasmus+ project on 9 January at partner-school Kilcooley PS. The project is funded by the European Union via the British Council.

Bangor Academy is also involved, alongside international partners from Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Denmark and Finland. The two-year project focuses on teaching problem-solving in technology rich environments, and will conclude with an international conference in Northern Ireland in 2019.



Killicomaine Junior High School was recently awarded a second place 'highly commended' in the Youth Sports Trust awards 'Best Secondary School of the Year' for its outstanding contribution to the Girls Active programme.

This terrific achievement was led by PE teacher Mrs Hillis and six students called the GLAM girls, who aim to get more girls active.



Castleberg High School was placed 5th in the non-grammar GCSE league table published by The Irish News on Monday 19 February.

The school's 2017 GCSE exam results, in which 83% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades, including Maths and English, were 36% above the Northern Ireland average for schools of a similar type.

CSSC understands that when it comes to reported league tables it is difficult to compare like with like and great care must be taken to not undermine the quality teaching that is taking place in all schools. There are more stories on our website celebrating your excellent results and achievements. Don't hesitate to contact us if there is something you wish to share.



CSSC Vice chair Andy Brown, EA Chief Executive Gavin Boyd, Permanent Secretary Derek Baker, CSSC Chief Executive Barry Mulholland and Mervyn Storey MLA

CSSC AGM 2018

CSSC's second AGM took place on 8 March 2018 in Armagh City Hotel. Permanent Secretary, Derek Baker, EA Chief Executive Gavin Boyd and CSSC Chief Executive Barry Mulholland took part in a panel discussion to engage with Principals on current issues in the education sector.

Markethill High School students performed a medley from the Wizard of Oz, while The Armstrong Primary School choir sang for guests. The EA music service's South Ulster Youth Orchestra also played.



Cannon Malcolm Ferry spoke on behalf of the Transferors Representatives' Council



Kilkeel Nursery Principal and CSSC Board Member Grace Trimble



EA music service's South Ulster Youth Orchestra



CSSC Vice chair Andy Brown leads the panel discussion



Cookstown High School pupils show Permanent Secretary Derek Baker their winning BTYSTE project



The Armstrong Primary School Choir



Trevor Robinson, Principal of Lurgan College



Banbridge Academy Principal and CSSC Council member Robin McLoughlin



Markethill High School students performed extracts from The Wizard of Oz



Harvey Donnelly (centre) of Wellington College displayed his winning BTYSTE project