Learning with children from other schools
What children and young people think
About this report

The **Government** is the group in charge of the country.

They want more children to learn with children from other schools.

This means things like schools sharing classes so children learn with other children

- from different religions
- with disabilities
- who live in different places. Like in the town or the country.
The Government think this will help children because

- children can have more choices about what they learn

- children can meet people from different backgrounds

- children can learn about other schools

- schools can save money.

We are called the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. Or NICCY for short.

We wanted to tell the Government what children think about learning with children from other schools.

This report tells you what we did.
What we did

We asked lots of children what they thought about learning with children from other schools.

When children learn with children from other schools it is called shared education.

What we found out

1. Children learn with children from other schools in different ways

When older children learn with other schools they usually share lessons.

When younger children learn with other schools they usually do things like

- a few lessons together
- trips
- sports.
2. What children think about learning with children from other schools

What is good

Learning about children from different backgrounds is good.

It can help children learn because they can do things like

- use things from other schools
- learn from different teachers
- learn more subjects.

Children like that they can

- meet new friends
- talk to people from different backgrounds. For example they can meet children who live in different places.
What could be better

Some children were worried about being bullied by children from other schools.

Children don’t want to be the only one from their own school when they share classes.

Sometimes children do not talk to children in their classes who are from other schools.

Sometimes it is hard to get to other schools because

- other schools have classes at different times
- it can be hard to sort out transport.

A few children said they would not like learning with children from other schools.

They said the lessons might not help them to learn or could be too easy.
3. How to make learning with other schools better

Help children more and from a younger age

This means things like

- starting to learn with other schools from a young age
- making sure children can get to know each other before they have classes together
- making sure everyone can learn with children from other schools.

Listen to children

Lots of children said the Government and schools should listen to what children think.
Make good plans about learning with other schools

This means things like

- trying out new ways of learning with other schools
- sorting out problems with getting to other schools
- making sure children share the right classes with other schools.
What should happen next

What the Government should do

The Government should

• listen to all the ideas in this report

• tell children how they will help more children learn with other schools

• ask children more about learning with children from other schools

• listen to what children say.
What NICCY will do

We will talk to the Government about

- this report
- what children want the Government to do.

We will check

- the Government’s plans about learning with children from other schools
- if the Government listen to what children say.
How to find out more

You can find out more about this plan by

- writing to
  NICCY
  Equality House
  7 – 9 Shaftesbury Square
  Belfast
  BT2 7DP

- phoning 028 9031 1616

- emailing info@niccy.org