



# Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE BOOKLET

If you require this document in an alternative format (such as in large print, in Braille, or electronic) and/or language, please contact the Shared Education and Community Relations Team by any of the following methods:

Direct line: 028 9185 8162

Email: [secr.Team@deni.gov.uk](mailto:secr.Team@deni.gov.uk)

(If completing this booklet in Word, please use "Print Layout" view)



Department of  
**Education**

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**Oideachais**

MÁNNYSTRIE O  
**Lear**

January 2015



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your organisation  
(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am responding:  As an individual  
 On behalf of an organisation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return this form by 6 March 2015 to:**

Shared Education and Community Relations Team  
Department of Education  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor  
Co Down  
BT19 7PR

Telephone number: 028 9185 8162

Or by email: [secr.Team@deni.gov.uk](mailto:secr.Team@deni.gov.uk)

## About this Focused Consultation

This focused consultation provides an important opportunity for you to provide views on the proposed policy and legislation for the development of Shared Education. This document should be read alongside the Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education document and the Shared Education Bill. You should note that whilst this document provides a summary description of each of the Key Actions, full details are set out in the policy document.

The Department would encourage organisations/groups which work on behalf of or with children and young people to seek the views of the children and young people they work with, as well as workers and parents. Where organisations do this, it would be helpful if they would clearly distinguish whether the views represent the organisation, an individual or groups of people or organisations.

## How to Respond

This response booklet refers to comments on the proposed actions set out in *Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education* and on the draft Shared Education Bill. Both of these documents are available electronically at [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or on request by emailing [secr.Team@deni.gov.uk](mailto:secr.Team@deni.gov.uk).

Consultation responses can be made by email to [secr.Team@deni.gov.uk](mailto:secr.Team@deni.gov.uk), or in writing to the address above.

**To enable responses to be analysed effectively, please only use this form.**

The consultation period will conclude on **6 March 2015**.

## Confidentiality and Freedom of Information

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the focused consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the focused consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Department in this case. The right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential, any

information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, the Department does have the responsibility to decide whether any information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

### Further Copies

The consultation document and this response booklet are available electronically at [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or on request by emailing [secr.Team@deni.gov.uk](mailto:secr.Team@deni.gov.uk) or by telephone on 028 9185 8162.

## Background

The Programme for Government (2011-15) contains three commitments to advance Shared Education, namely:

- to establish a Ministerial Advisory Group to explore and bring forward recommendations to the Minister of Education to advance Shared Education;
- ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in Shared Education programmes by 2015; and
- to substantially increase the number of schools sharing facilities by 2015.

Following their appointment, the Ministerial Advisory Group engaged in a widespread consultation exercise with key stakeholders across the region and visited a number of schools, colleges and institutions across the north of Ireland, including those involved in Shared Education. They sought directly the views of parents, children and young people as well as reviewing evidence locally and also nationally and internationally regarding different models of Shared Education and their effectiveness.

The Advisory Group report, which contained twenty recommendations, was published in April 2013 and the Minister encouraged a period of civic reflection and public discourse on the report.

In his statement to the Assembly of 22 October, the Minister set out his response to the Ministerial Advisory Group's recommendations and his intentions in advancing Shared Education. The Minister also set out the education, good relations and equality case for shared education. (You can access the statement at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/shared\\_education/shared-education-ministerial-advisory-group.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/shared_education/shared-education-ministerial-advisory-group.htm))

The Shared Education policy has been shaped by the evidence based work and recommendations of the Advisory Group and their significant engagement with key stakeholders. The policy and the key actions it sets out will be supported with resources to meet the additional costs required to implement Shared Education over the coming years.

This focused consultation provides an important opportunity for you to consider if any of the actions proposed need further refinement.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister indicated his intention to bring forward legislation to provide a statutory definition of, and provisions to encourage and facilitate Shared Education. The Minister intends to introduce a Shared Education Bill to the Assembly in the near future. This consultation also provides an important opportunity to consider the proposed Bill. You should note that the proposed statutory definition is supported by a detailed policy description of how Shared Education operates in practice.

## SECTION 1: SHARED EDUCATION POLICY

### Area 1: Defining, Encouraging and Facilitating Shared Education

Shared Education is described as the organisation and delivery of education so that it:

- Meets the needs of, and provides for the education together of learners from all Section 75 categories and socio-economic status;
- Involves schools and other education providers of differing ownership, sectoral identity and ethos, management type or governance arrangements; and
- Delivers educational benefits to learners, promotes the efficient and effective use of resources, and promotes equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion.

Specifically, Shared Education involves the provision of opportunities for children and young people from different community backgrounds to learn together.

Does the policy description of Shared Education require further refinement?

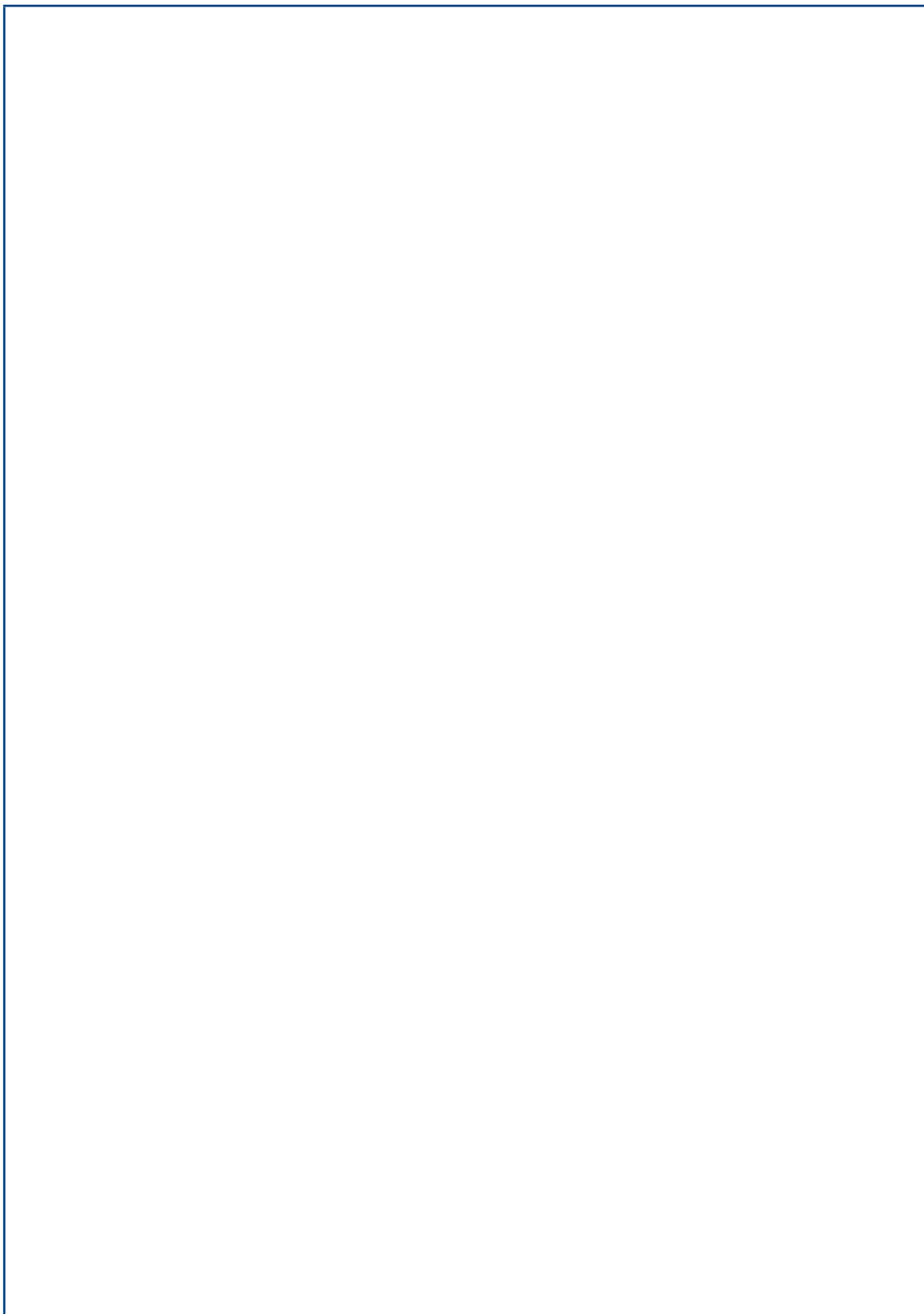
Yes

No

No strong view



**Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.**

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### Key Action 1: Bring forward Legislation

DE will bring forward a Shared Education Bill which will provide a statutory definition of Shared Education and provide a power to encourage and facilitate Shared Education.

Does Key Action 1 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

## Key Action 2: Provide Co-ordinated and Effective Support for Practitioners

In order to support effectively the further development of Shared Education, dedicated officers will be appointed in each Education and Library Board (or within the Education Authority) with responsibility to encourage, facilitate and support Shared Education.

Does Key Action 2 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 3: Develop self-assessment tools for practitioners

The Education and Training Inspectorate will develop a Shared Education Continuum model, which can be used by schools and other non-formal educational settings, to self-assess their position in relation to the delivery of Shared Education.

**Does Key Action 3 require any further refinement?**

Yes

No

No strong view

**Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.**

## Area 2: Future funding of Shared Education

### Key Action 4: Provide funding support 2014–18

DE is, in conjunction with funding from the Delivering Social Change project and Atlantic Philanthropies, providing a funding stream to support Shared Education in schools over the next four years.

DE will also work with the Special EU Programmes body to advise on how best Peace IV funding can be used to support further the development of Shared Education.

Does Key Action 4 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 5: Develop Sustainable Long-Term Delivery Arrangements

DE will use the learning from both the Delivering Social Change and Peace IV projects to determine how best to support educational establishments in offering Shared Education in the longer term from 2018 onwards.

Does Key Action 5 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Area 3: Structures for Shared Education

#### Key Action 6: Develop Advice and Guidance on Options for Sharing

DE will develop and publish guidance on options for sharing to provide practical advice and support to schools and their communities

Does Key Action 6 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 7: Provide Capital Investment to Support Schools Sharing Educational Facilities

The Executive's *'Together: Building a United Community'* strategy includes a target to commence 10 new Shared Education Campuses in the next five years. DE is responsible for delivering this programme.

Does Key Action 7 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.



## Area 4: Embedding sharing throughout the education system

### Key Action 8: Develop Effective Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

Effective monitoring and evaluation arrangements for Shared Education will be put in place.

Does Key Action 8 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 9: Develop the Workforce

DE will, as part of its work to finalise a new teacher professional development strategy, ensure that this includes steps to provide teachers, from initial teacher education through to the most experienced teachers, with opportunities to learn together, including preparation for teaching through Shared Education.

Does Key Action 9 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

## Key Action 10: Align Educational Policies

The Education & Training Inspectorate will undertake independent reviews of current practice in relation to the delivery of:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Pre-School Education);
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 and 2);
- Local and Global Citizenship (Key Stages 3 and 4);
- The Curriculum Framework for Youth Work (Youth Service); and
- The Community Relations Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy (including consideration of the opportunities that are provided for children and young people to discuss and explore issues associated with divisions, conflict and inequalities).

Work will be undertaken with CCEA, which has statutory responsibility for advising the Department on matters concerned with the curriculum and the development and production of teaching support materials for use in schools, in order to address recommendations regarding the content of these areas of learning and in supporting teachers and other educationalists in their delivery.

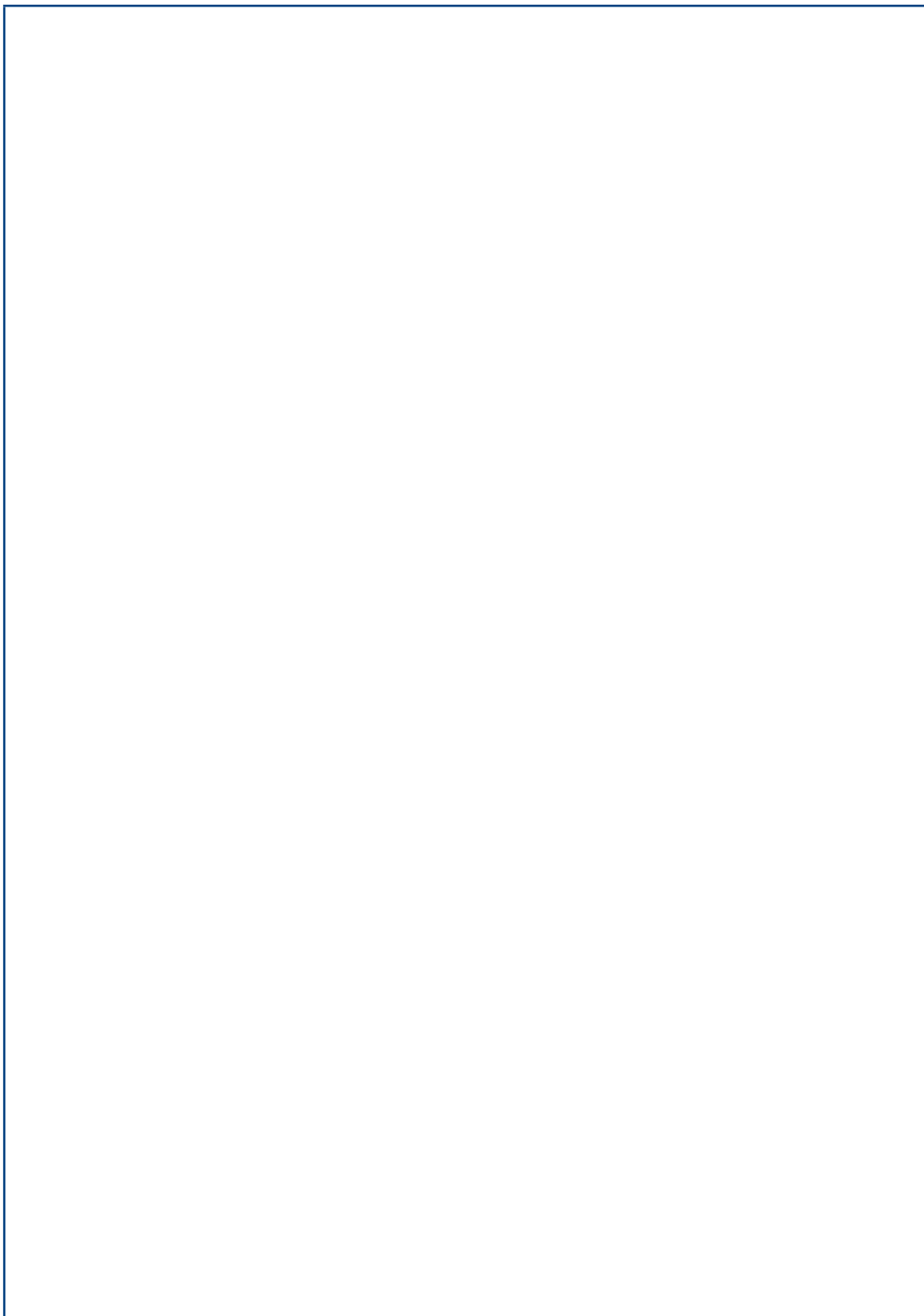
**Does Key Action 10 require any further refinement?**

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

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### Key Action 11: Support Special Schools and Learning Support Centres

DE will keep under consideration how Shared Education and the enhanced collaboration between mainstream schools, learning support centres attached to mainstream and special schools can most effectively meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities, those with emotional and behavioural difficulties and those with special educational needs.

Does Key Action 11 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 12: Promote engagement with Parents & Carers

The Department and its Arm's Length Bodies will encourage schools and other educational establishments to ensure Shared Education programmes provide opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with and between parents and caregivers.

Does Key Action 12 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 13: Promote engagement with Children and Young People

The Department and its Arm's Length Bodies will encourage schools and other educational establishments to ensure Shared Education programmes find meaningful ways of giving children and young people a voice and of listening and responding to their views.

Does Key Action 13 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.

### Key Action 14: Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

DE recognises that schools and other educational institutions have an important role in promoting equality of opportunity and good relations. The Department will, in conjunction with OFMdfM (which has responsibility for equality legislation), consider the case for schools and other educational institutions to be designated as 'public authorities' under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and thus to be required to comply with the statutory duties to promote equality of opportunity and good relations.

Does Key Action 14 require any further refinement?

Yes

No

No strong view

Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.



## SECTION 2: SHARED EDUCATION BILL

The Shared Education Bill provides a legal definition of Shared Education. This proposed statutory definition is supported by a detailed policy description of how Shared Education operates in practice. This legislation also places a power on the Department and relevant Arms-length bodies to encourage and facilitate Shared Education and makes provision to enact requirements placed on the new Education Authority (which will replace the existing five Education and Library Boards) relating to Shared Education.

**Do you consider that the Shared Education Bill requires further refinement?**

Yes

No

No strong view

**Please use this space to set out the refinements you consider need to be made.**

**Please complete and return this form by 6 March 2015 to:**

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Department of Education  
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**Thank you for taking the time to respond.**



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