

Third Partnership meeting – 15th May 2015

Bringing the work of the Education Partnership and Education Forum together

ESC Officers agreed to work through the key principles of the Partnership agreement with Forum members to establish whether agreement can be reached for them to sign up to the principles of the Partnership agreement.

Teaching Staff Survey

The draft questions were presented to the Partnership.

- It was agreed there would be a higher rate of response to a survey if it were made available in hard copy through the post;
- It was also agreed due to the importance of the survey teachers should have the time and space available to them to complete fully. It was agreed to post the survey to teachers' homes with an online version to be made available as well;
- Although there will be a cost to printing and posting the survey this is not expected to be too high;
- Although more time consuming to analyse, it was agreed to include more qualitative style questions with free text responses;
- It was agreed to run the survey in late June 2015 with a deeper analysis of results explored through selected focus groups in the autumn term;
- It was suggested the survey should include questions about IT in schools and these should focus on whether technology is working in the classroom to enhance the teaching of lessons;
- It was also suggested to include questions about the ESC Business Plan. The purpose of these questions is not just to provide valuable indicator data for the action points contained within the plan but also to gain the profession's views about standards / families / curriculum / autonomy etc in order to evaluate the direction of the plan;
- Consideration should be given to asking questions about health and safety and wellbeing;
- The finished survey will be released by ESC and made available to the NASUWT, enabling them to provide a covering letter to their individual members. The same will be made available to other unions;

ESC Business Plan and focus on Autonomy

The Department is in the process of developing 'red lines' for greater freedoms to schools and include:

- Pay and conditions - having one set for all States schools;
- Safeguarding – single set of arrangements;
- Financial controls – greater freedoms but publically accountable;

- Core curriculum;
- Autonomy must be earned;
- Term dates.

Representatives from the NASUWT agreed that 99% of the ESC Business Plan was seen as positive. There are elements which are challenging and need to be discussed further. The Partnership would like to use the Business Plan to establish the work plan for the Partnership for the next two to three years. It is important to recognise that the plan is designed to generate informed, evidence based discussion to investigate the four priority areas.

Education Conference

JD informed the Partnership that a conference will not be held in 2015 but might take place in 2016. It was felt by Officers and the Minister that it was not the right time to hold such a conference.