



DCU CHANGEMAKER SCHOOLS NETWORK

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2020



Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter

I hope you are all safe and well. Now more than ever do we need changemakers in our world and in our schools. You are in for a treat with this wonderful newsletter and sneak peak at the innovative changemaking practices and leadership evident in our 15 primary schools.

Each school was asked to create and document one initiative to support the embedding of the philosophy of a changemaker with their students.

Students were encouraged to complete this sentence "I am a changemaker in my home school or community because..."

How powerful it is to have the 5,000 students in our 15 primary schools identifying as changemakers, children who believe they can make their schools, homes and communities better places - social innovators in primary school.

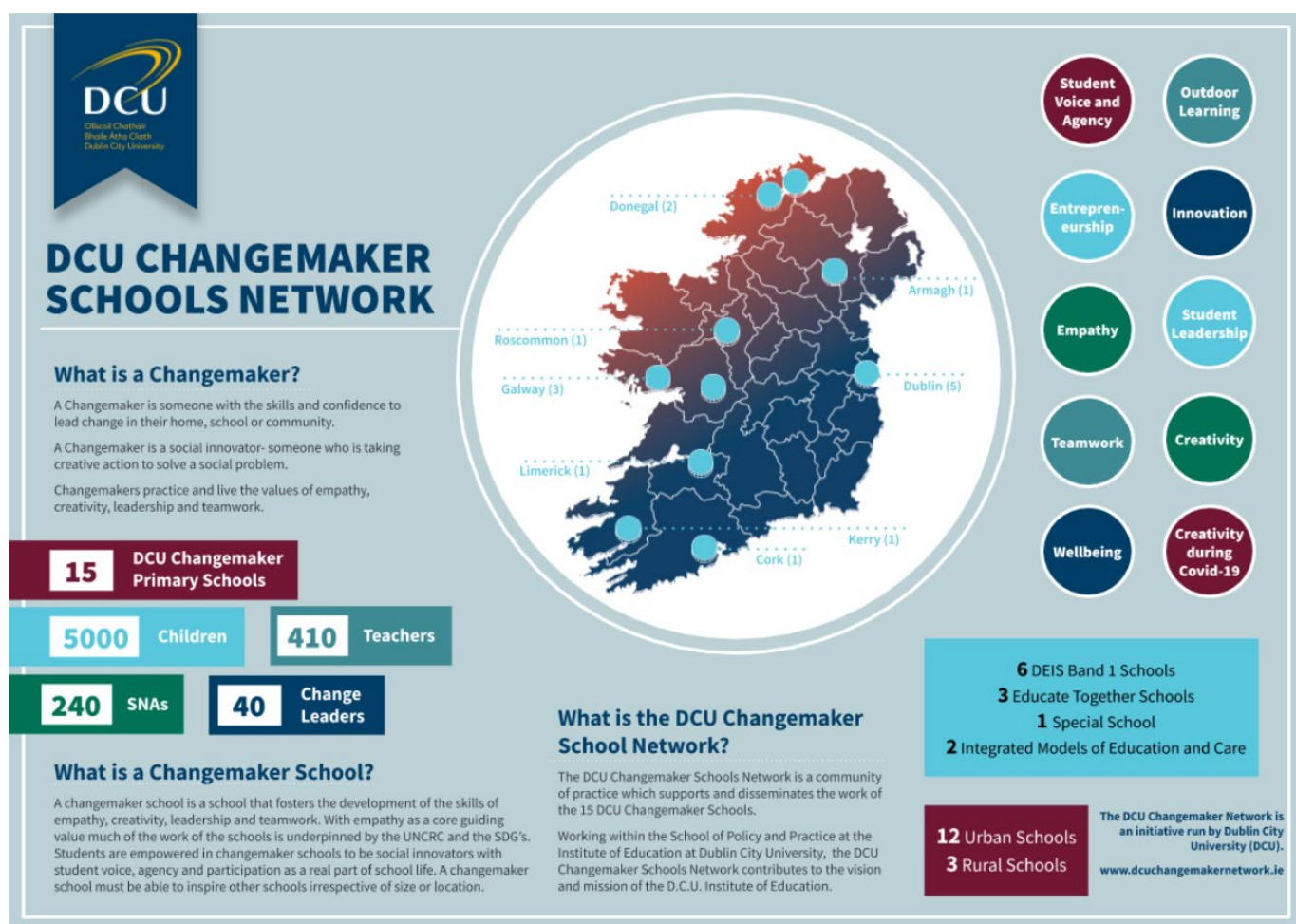
However, we received so much more than this.

The common themes that emerged from all the schools were empathy, creativity, leadership, teamwork, innovation, wellbeing, entrepreneurship, innovation and student voice and agency.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, share with your communities and feel proud!



Did you know...?



Does your school have a twitter account? Do you have a twitter account?

If so follow us on [@DCUCMS](https://twitter.com/DCUCMS)

Follow the DCU Institute of Education on Twitter [@DCU_IoE](https://twitter.com/DCU_IoE)

#Changemaker



We have 15 schools and support 5,000 students between them all.

Meet our 15 Primary Schools:



Dublin

Francis St. C.B.S. - 154 children (all boys)
(nominated in 2014)

www.francisstcbs.ie | T: @FrancisStSchool

I: francis.street.school

St Ultan's P.S. - 402 children

(nominated in 2015)

www.stultans.ie | www.stultanscampus.ie

T: @StUltansSchool

Our Lady Immaculate J.N.S. - 213 children

(nominated 2015)

www.olijns.home.blog | T: @oil_inr

Dalkey School Project N.S. - 236 children

(nominated 2017)

www.dspns.ie

Donabate-Portrane E.T.N.S. - 454 children

(nominated 2014)

www.dpetns.ie

Co.Roscommon

Tarmon N.S. - 179 children

(nominated 2017)

www.tarmonns.ie | T: @SchoolTarmon

Galway

Scoil Bhride Shantalla - 191 children

(nominated 2017)

www.scoilbhrideshantalla.ie | T: @scoilbhride

Galway E.T.N.S. - 420 children

(nominated 2015)

www.getns.weebly.com

English N.S. - 38 children

(nominated 2016)

www.englishns.com | T: @EnglishNs

Killarney

St. Oliver's N.S. - 652 children

(nominated 2014)

www.stolivers.ie

Limerick

Corpus Christi P.S. - 329 children

(nominated 2015)

www.corpuschristips.com | T: @CMoyross

Armagh

Our Lady & St. Mochua's N.S. - 162 children

(nominated 2014)

www.derrynooseps.co.uk | T: @MochuaS

Cork

St. Columba's G.N.S. - 401 children

(nominated 2014)

www.stcolumbasgns.ie

Donegal

Little Angels Special School - 110 children

(nominated 2014)

www.littleangelschool.net | T: @LittleAngelsSch

Scoil Iosagáin - 776 children

(nominated 2017)

www.scoiliosagain.ie

Innovative Practices

Integrated Models of Education

Did you know that two of our schools have 'Integrated Models of Education' or 'Whole School Wrap Around Models' to deliver services onsite for both the children and their families, as well as provide a primary school education?

— Corpus Christi School in Moyross, Co. Limerick

Corpus Christi School in Moyross has developed the 'Sky is the Limit' Project. This project aims to respond to the needs of children in school through an education that focuses on the social and emotional wellbeing of the child, but also provides a service delivery to families onsite.

The school works with a care team which consists of assistant psychologists, clinical psychologists and other therapeutic service providers as well as all members of the school community to provide a 'wrap around' service aimed at supporting the educational, social, emotional and behavioral needs of children and their families.

The school offers excellent services to support speech and language development such as 'Little Voices' and 'Babbling Babies'. 'Babbling Babies' is offered to new parents support the development early attachment with their baby as well as early language development support.

— St. Ultans School in Cherry Orchard, Dublin

St Ultans School in Cherry Orchard provides an Integrated Model of Education and Care (ICE) to children from the early years to 6th class. The school provides an integrated pre school, primary school and out of school care service to support the meeting of children's educational, emotional and social needs on their campus. The school also provides therapeutic services onsite to support the child and their families. As well as a nursery and early years service, primary school, care unit, music therapies and hot meal kitchen the school also has a community service programme. This programme which provides services to the campus primarily only employs local people and purchases local goods and services. Check out their [care campus here](https://www.stultans.ie).

A national model for breaking the cycle of poverty



EDUCATION



CARE



NUTRITION



EQUITY

Both schools have the capacity to influence and inspire through their pioneering integrated model of provision and contribute to broader systemic change in the education system in Ireland. A key component of being a changemaker school is the ability to influence, inspire and support other schools.

Tarmon N.S. Castlerea, Co.Roscommon

Changemakers | Empathy | Community Engagement

'The Changemaker Philosophy'

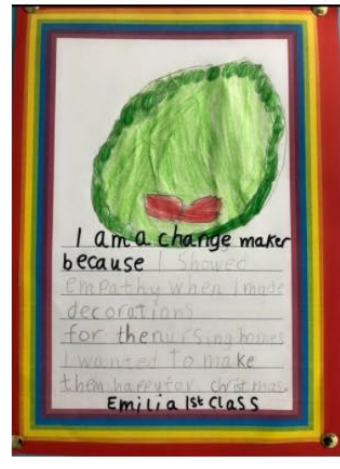
Tarmon N.S. have been working really hard at embedding the philosophies and values of a changemaker with their students and in their school as a whole. They are active on twitter with their work and worth a follow @SchoolTarmon.

Students at Tarmon N.S. have been encouraged to develop the skills and confidence to lead change in the school, home and community as is evident in their wonderful artwork.

True changemakers.

They also have a dedicated page on their website to their work on empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork.

Check it out [here](#).



'A Christmas Connection'

Tarmon N.S. developed the initiative 'A Christmas Connection' to support the work of the school in embedded changemaking leadership and practice. The children created Christmas cards and letters to give to nursing home residents.

Please see their newsletter [here](#).



Our Lady and St Mochua's Primary School, Derrynoose

Changemakers | Teamwork | Student Leadership

As one of our first schools nominated in 2014, Our Lady and St Mochuas have embedded the philosophy of a changemaker School in every aspect of school life.

Check out this video:



At the beginning of their changemaker journey the staff and students reflected on what it meant to be a changemaker school for them.

Listening and responding to the answers to this important question, the school not only focussed on empathy and creativity but excelled in how student and teacher leadership is fostered and supported. The schools has the following committees and teams:

Pupil Leadership Team

Eco Committee

Changemaker Committee

House Captains and Prefects

Each team member is encouraged to be a leader in the community and staff are encouraged to award marks for examples of changemaking practices and leadership.

The school has an award each week for students who engage changemaking practices and each award is very specific as to why it was received.

Check out their video on student leadership here:



Watch this school!!!

St Ultans School, Dublin

Creativity

The students at St Ultans School have the wonderful opportunity of learning music through the Presto Project, St Ultans resident music programme whereby each child receives a minimum of 30 minutes of free music education every week. The programme is an El Sistema inspired programme; the Venezuelan model of music for social change established by José Antonio Abreu in 1975.

Two students from St Ultans, Faith and Faustina, participated in 'Ode to Joy' at the National Concert Hall as a tribute to the frontline workers on European Music Day.

Read their newsletter [here](#).



Faith and his teacher Aura Stone practicing the Double Bass on zoom.

Scoil Bhride Shantalla

Changemakers | Entrepreneurship | Creativity | Innovation | Community Engagement

Creativity and Innovation

Scoil Bhride Shantalla is located in the Westside of Galway city and is involved in many innovative projects. One such project which aims to support literacy through oral language and storytelling is a project entitled:

'The use of storytelling for language enrichment in early years service and primary schools within linguistically diverse communities'

The school has created a cluster with two others to collaborate with the Speech and Language Dept of NUIG to promote and support literacy, including family literacy through oral language and storytelling. The project funded by the School Excellence Fund has a research component and aims to link and create relationships between Early Years, DEIS schools and lecturers and researchers in NUIG.

Supporting the development of innovative teaching methods to develop oral language as well as creative approaches to the integration of children with additional needs is key to this collaborative project.

The participants in the project will not only have the capacity to inspire, inform and influence each other but it is hoped the strategy will reach and influence educators throughout the country.

Watch this space!

How better to develop the skills of empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork than through language, storytelling and collaboration. We are really looking forward to hearing and learning more about this project.

6th class students in Scoil Bhride Shantalla are Changemakers.

I am a changemaker at school because I came from Poland just last year and yesterday I stood in front of the whole class and read The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.

Bartlomiej Taracha

I am a changemaker at home because when my baby brother was born a few months early I helped my mother with him.

I am a changemaker because when my cousin needs someone to go with her or needs someone to talk to I am there.

Nicole Wilson

I am a changemaker at farming because I bought 3 calves for 700 euro. I'm going to feed them and look after them and sell them to make a profit.

Colm Magee

I am a changemaker at school because when my friends are sad and have no one to play with I help them feel better and make them laugh.

Flavour Oseghale

I am a changemaker at home because I like to help with my family and to help my family to be happy.

Callum Codd

I am a changemaker at school because I contributed in a big way to a conversation about discrimination. I talked about transgender issues, body types and more.

Daniel Sobkow

I am a changemaker at my rugby club because I'm bringing my two little sisters along. I love rugby and they have an interest in it too. My rugby coach's sister plays for Leinster and Ireland and she's coming down to talk to us about rugby.

Latoya Rossborough

I am a changemaker at school because I moved school recently and I have showed empathy to everyone in my new school.

I am a changemaker at school because I show leadership everyday by encouraging others to do their best.

Nathan Kimings

I am a changemaker at home because I help my Mum do the work.

Keith O'Neill

I am a changemaker at school because I didn't want to do Irish and now I try my best and am good at it.

Nicola Mahon

I am a changemaker at home because I show a different way to communicate with my teacher- I use SeeSaw.

Cillian Burlat

I am a changemaker at school because my 4 friends and I came up with the idea for the Sea Weed Project.

Mahmoud Diarrassouba

Entrepreneurship

Check out his amazing video:



Corpus Christi Primary School, Limerick

Changemakers | Student Leadership | Innovation | Creativity

Corpus Christi have been working extremely hard on the embedding of the identity as a changemaker with their students. As it is a large school, the children in each zone of the school focussed on the different pillars of a changemaker school.

The children in Junior Infants spoke about people that were important to them in their lives and how their voices are heard.

Children in 1st and 2nd class focussed on how important teamwork is and the qualities of a good leader. They all identified how they used their teamwork and leadership skills as changemakers.

3rd and 4th class explored what empathy means and how they show empathy in their daily lives.

5th and 6th discussed how the pillars of leadership, teamwork, empathy, creativity, innovation and teamwork come together to make them changemakers.

Corpus Christi Primary School have creativity in abundance have a listen to their world renowned choir here:



Quotes from students in 5th and 6th

I am a changemaker because I like to develop my creative talents. I am a member of the school choir and I love representing my school and my family at different events and showing everyone how great Moyross is. I also did Family Art with Richie in school. My Auntie did the programme with me. I didn't get to finish all of the project yet because of Covid 19 but hopefully I'll get to finish it soon. I would love to continue to do art as I get older.

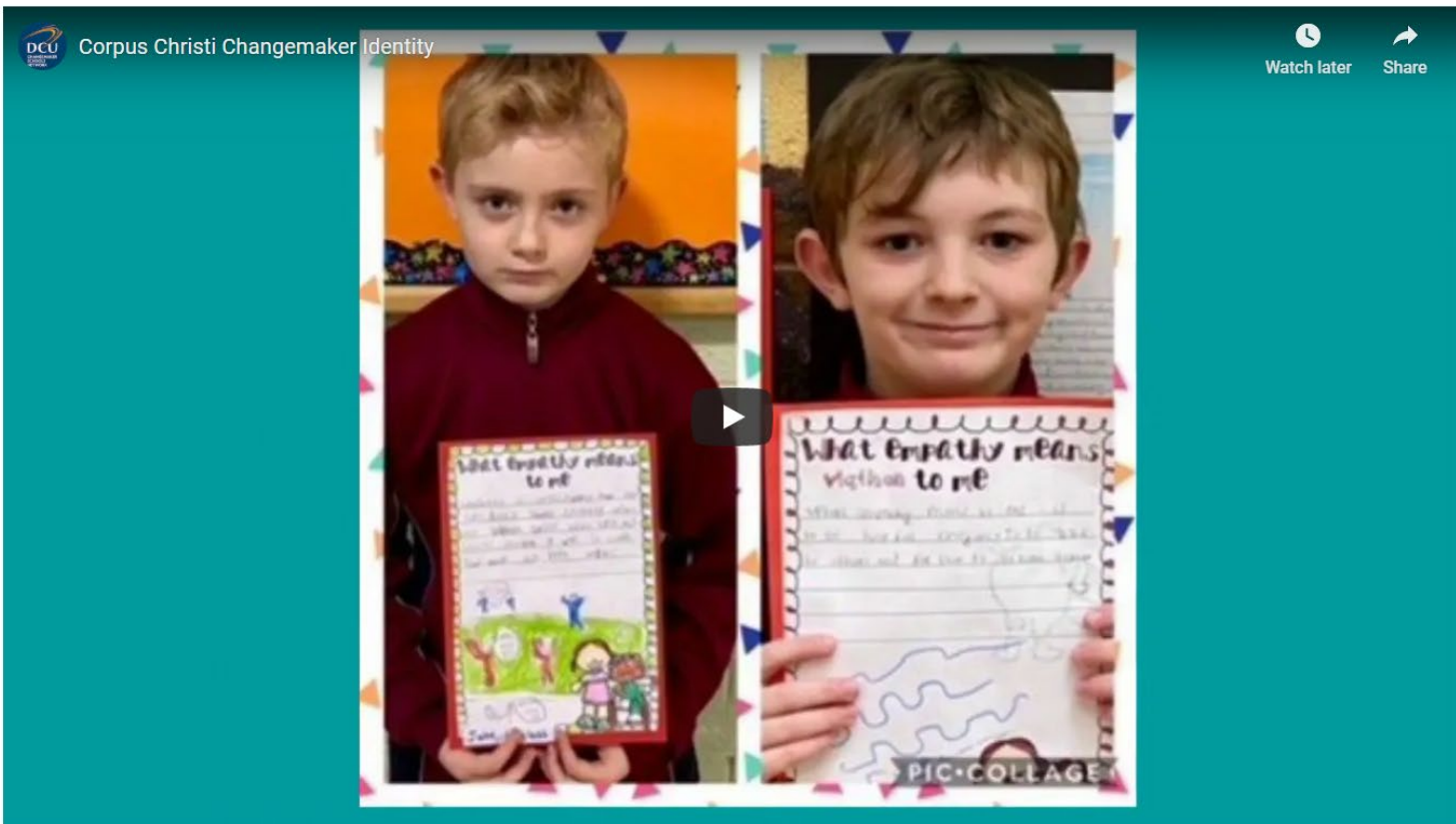
Leah, 6th Class

I am a changemaker because I know all about Animal Welfare. I am part of the Equine Project and I have learned all about looking after horses and what a horse needs to be healthy. I have told my Dad all about what I have learned and I make sure the horses are eating the right food and that they have shelter.

Robert, 5th Class

Check out this amazing video of the work going on in Corpus Christi. They have worked unbelievably hard at embedding the identity of a changemaker school with all of their students.

Our Changemaker Identity



St Olivers N.S. Killarney

Student Voice, Agency and Participation | Changemakers | Innovation | Creativity | Community Engagement

The students at St Oliver's in Killarney have really embedded the changemaking practices of student voice, agency and participation. When building an extension in the school, CRAG was established. CRAG or the Children's Research Advisory Committee comprises four students and two teachers.

This group was tasked with consulting with the other students in the school and bringing their ideas, opinions and voice to the architects and Board of Management of the school during the consultative phase. Having real engagement with matters that affect them in the building of their new extension was very empowering for the students of St. Olivers. The students in the CRAG prepared design ideas using Minecraft, PowerPoint, Adobe Spark and conducted surveys using survey monkey.

This consultative process also supported the school in their work to embed the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNCRC (1989) and in particular Article 12 which emphasises the rights of children to have a say in matters that affect them.

The school used the consultative template developed by Laura Lundy (1997), and followed four main strands: **Space, Voice, Audience and Influence** when shaping the process.

This is a wonderful example of children being treated as full participants in school with their views being taken seriously by the adults in the school.

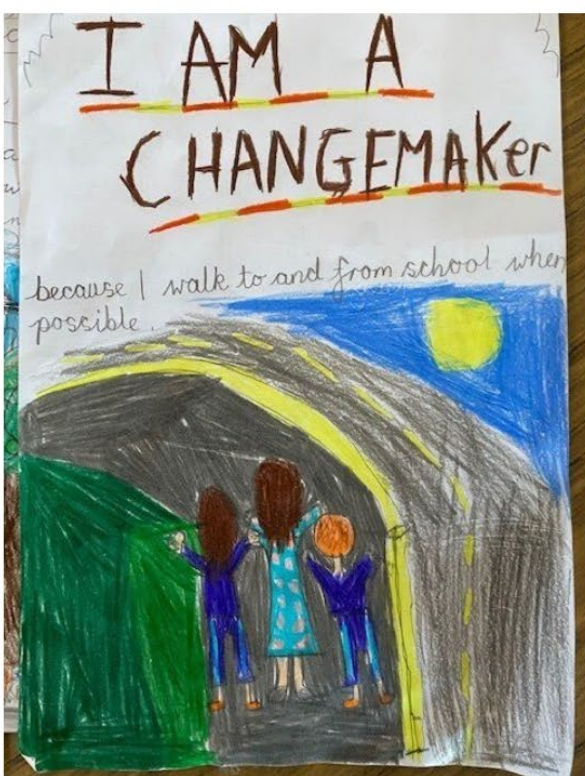
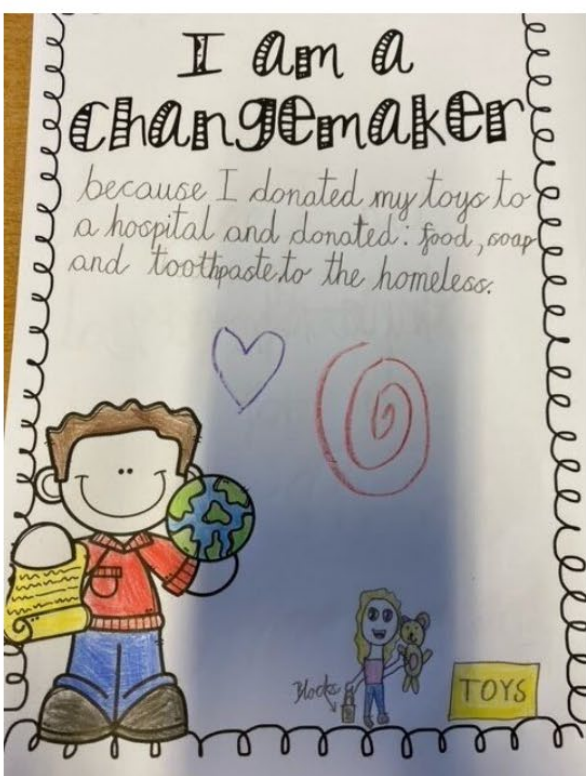
Please see a more detailed piece on how this work was carried out [here](#).

See a students presentation [here](#).

Changemakers

The Students at St Oliver's N.S. in Killarney are real changemakers.

Working hard to create change in their home, schools and community, 3rd class completed "I am a Changemaker because..."



Innovation and creativity with parents

We love hearing of innovative practices with parents and the Scribbler magazine at St Oliver's N.S. is a great example of engaging with parents creatively and pedagogically. The Scribbler magazine is an initiative which was established by a group of parents and provides an opportunity for students in all classes to write about and submit work on any genre or topic that interests them to the editorial team or parents. There is great excitement when the magazine is published with its selection of articles, illustrations and creations.

Galway Educate Together NS (GETNS), Galway City

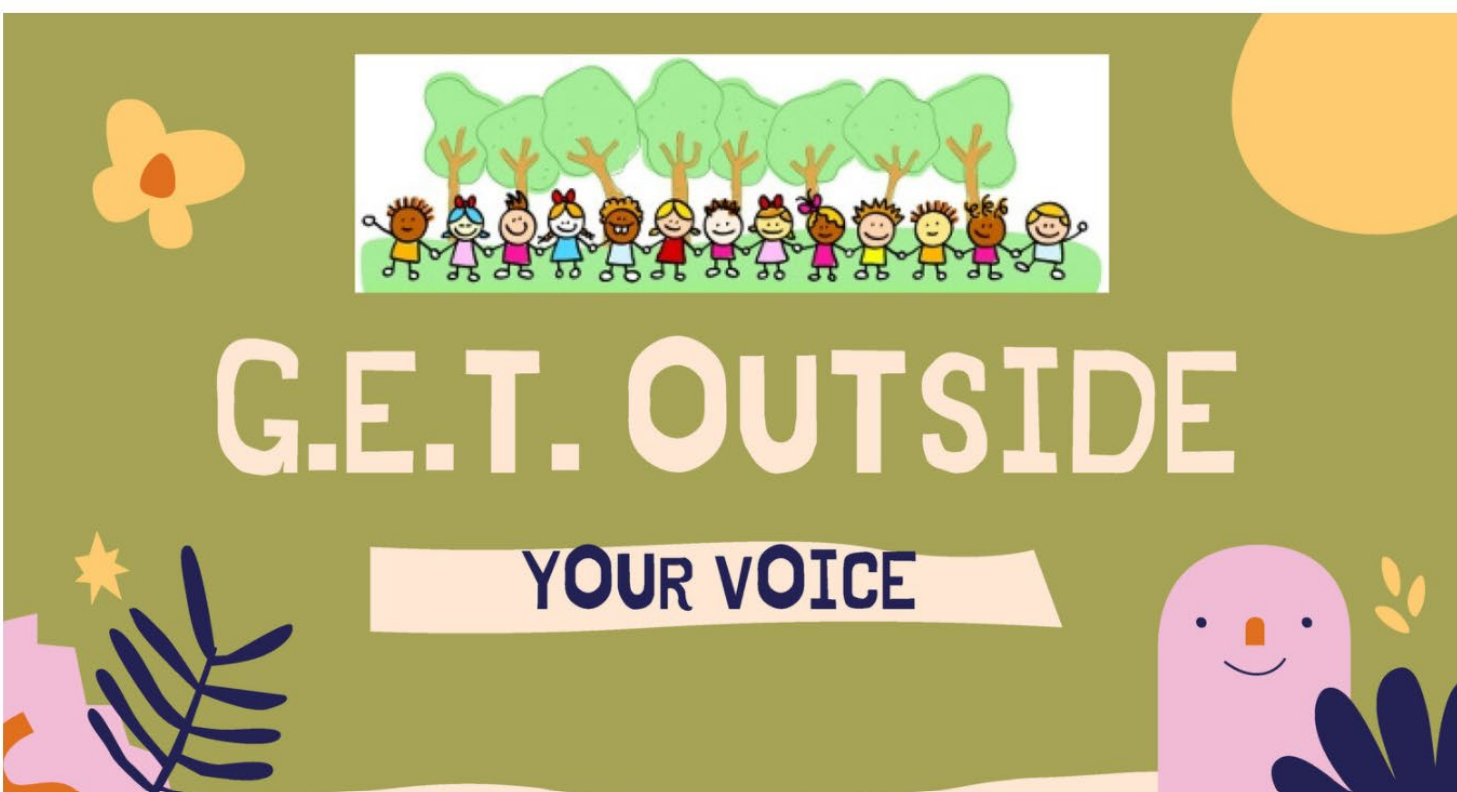
Student Voice, Agency and Participation | Student Leadership | Creativity | Teamwork

Another school which has really encouraged student voice participation, agency and voice is Galway Educate Together. GETNS has a Children's Advisory Panel (CAP) comprises of children from junior infants to 6th to support the school as they realise the wishes of children, parents and staff to spend more time outside. The G.E.T. outside initiative was realised from listening carefully to the voices of all stakeholders. Using the UNCRC and the SDG's to support their vision, the school used the Lundy model to ensure the ideas of children were accurately gathered.

The Panel listened to the children and completed surveys, held world cafe style meetings with parents and consulted all school staff.

Please see here what was achieved and results of the CAP's surveys, you will be blown away. Read about their polytunnel, space for circle time, space for growing vegetables and flowers and an area for climbing and playing hide and seek.

View their [presentation](#) below:



All children in the school were shown the presentation and subsequently asked to respond to the following statements:

- I am happy to see....
- I would like to see more of....
- I have some new ideas I would like to share...

This is a wonderful example of changemaking leadership and practice in action. Children as reflective agents recognising that their voice has power and that they have ownership over what happens in school.



Creativity and teamwork

A Crannóg is currently being constructed at GETNS. We cannot wait to see it!!!

Scoil Íosagáin, Buncrana

Empathy | Wellbeing | Creativity

Scoil Íosagáin has 10 classes for children with special educational needs and prides itself on its changemaking practices and leadership of inclusion, empathy and creativity.

Wellbeing and creativity

Scoil Íosagáin has a dedicated teacher to wellbeing, one of their change leaders Diarmuid. Diarmuid supports all the students and staff not only in their work as a changemaker school but also leads the 'Wellbeing and Creativity' programme in the school. This programme supports creativity and wellbeing through movement, drama and outdoor activities. This innovative approach to education aims to meet the needs of all the different learning styles of the students in the school by building focusing on empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork.

Empathy through 'check and connect'

Check and connect is an initiative involving mentoring and supporting students through the building of a relationship with 'one good adult' in the school, apart from their class teacher. This programme which aims to support the development of a positive, supportive relationship with children is solution focussed to help with skills development required for communication, resilience, understanding, social and emotional learning.

Donabate-Portrane Educate Together NS (DPETNS), Co.Dublin

Empathy | Creativity | Student Leadership

The staff and students of DPETNS recently said 'so long for now' to Maeve, who retired this December. Maeve is a true changemaker and was one of the first principals engaged with the network when it first began in Ireland in 2014. We welcome Susan as our newest changemaker principal to the network.



Human Rights Month

To support the changemaking practices and values of empathy and creativity DPETNS explored the difference between rights and responsibilities. The school worked on the Black Lives Matter Campaign and explored ways to stand up to racism.



Empathy

This period of time has been difficult for people in nursing homes, the students of DPETNS wrote postcards to residents. The children put great care and love into the letters and pictures and the project helped everyone feel the warmth and connection with others.

Little Angels Special School, Letterkenny

Changemakers | Entrepreneurs | Creativity

Changemakers

Little Angels Special School is the only special school in the network and they have been working really hard at embedding the skills, values and philosophies of a changemaker school with the students.

Quotes from students:

- "I am a changemaker in my home and school community because I spread joy and happiness."
- "I am a changemaker in my home and school community because I promote and represent diversity."
- "I am a changemaker in my home and school community because I enjoy learning new skills to help me communicate."



Entrepreneurship

This Christmas the students at Little Angels Special School established their own enterprise and sold their Christmas goods at a Christmas market. Students contributed to many of the decisions such as printing the school crest on the decorations and what decorations were created.



Read their Market Catalogue [here](#).

Francis Street School, Dublin City

Changemakers | Empathy | Wellbeing

As one of the most urban schools in our network, situated right in the heart of the city centre of Dublin, Francis Street School was one of the first changemaker schools in Ireland. The school prides itself on its changemaking practices, particularly empathy and the four pillars of sustainability, social justice, digital literacy and the arts guide their work.

Wellbeing warriors

The students of Francis Street School have developed a Wellbeing Warrior team who are tasked with supporting the wellbeing of the students at the school. What an amazing example of teamwork, leadership, empathy and creativity.

The school has been working really hard at supporting the students in identifying as changemakers.

Check out this video by 5th class:



Eglish NS, Ballinasloe

Innovation | Creativity | Outdoor Learning | Student Leadership

Eglish is one of our smallest and most rural schools, but it packs a punch!! Their [website](#) is well worth checking out.

Quote from a student

"I am a changemaker in my home, school and community because I use my voice and know that I make a difference."

At Eglish NS the students are given an opportunity to use their voice and agency in many matters that are important to them. Siobhan, the school principal has developed a programme to support the empowerment of students with the gift of public speaking. Read more about [Let's Stand](#) at Eglish NS.

Students of Eglish competed in an EU Direct Soap Box competition speaking for or against the motion 'Everybody wants to go to back to the pre-Covid way of life'. Parents got involved and one of their students, Shannon got a 'highly commended'.

The school also has incorporated the values of empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork into their school ethos and those values permeate the teaching, learning and relationships in the school. The schools use 'Changemaker Tap's, whereby students get a virtual 'tap' when they exemplify the skills of empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork. The students then express why they received the 'tap' at the school assemblies.

Look [here](#) at all the wonderful affirmations this school has received over the years, innovation in abundance - a true changemaker school.

Dalkey School Project, Dublin

Changemakers | Creativity | Student Voice | Outdoor learning

Changemakers

Quotes from students

"I am a changemaker because I contacted Mark Pollock for my project and he inspired me because he was the first person to walk to the South Pole while he was blind. This shows a great growth mindset. He survived and stayed motivated. Then he broke his back and he had to go in a wheelchair. He uses the GTXO skeleton legs to walk. He is an inspiration."

Max Richards

"I'm a changemaker because...

I recycle

I share

I'm open to other people's opinions

I think everyone is equal."

Ana Bull

Creativity, chainmaking, beach and forest school

2nd class in Dalkey have been working very hard at embedding the values of a changemaker school.

Check out their [newsletter](#), it is amazing!

The Student Council at DSPNS have been tasked with leading the changemaking practices with the students at their school. To begin their conversation they spoke about some of the changemaking practices that are fully embedded in their school culture. Here is what they had to say:

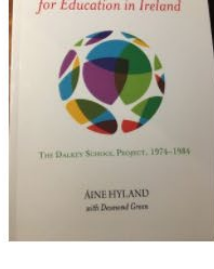
We advocate for gender equality and support the arts and creativity.

We have an accepting and happy atmosphere in our school.

We talk through friendship issues, are welcome and inclusive of all religions.

We have a great understanding of dyslexia and autism.

Check them out [here](#).



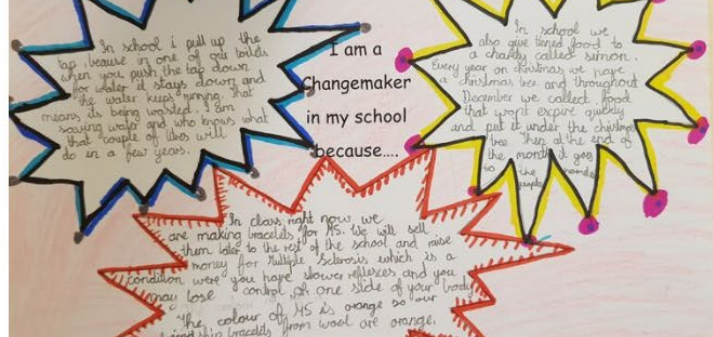
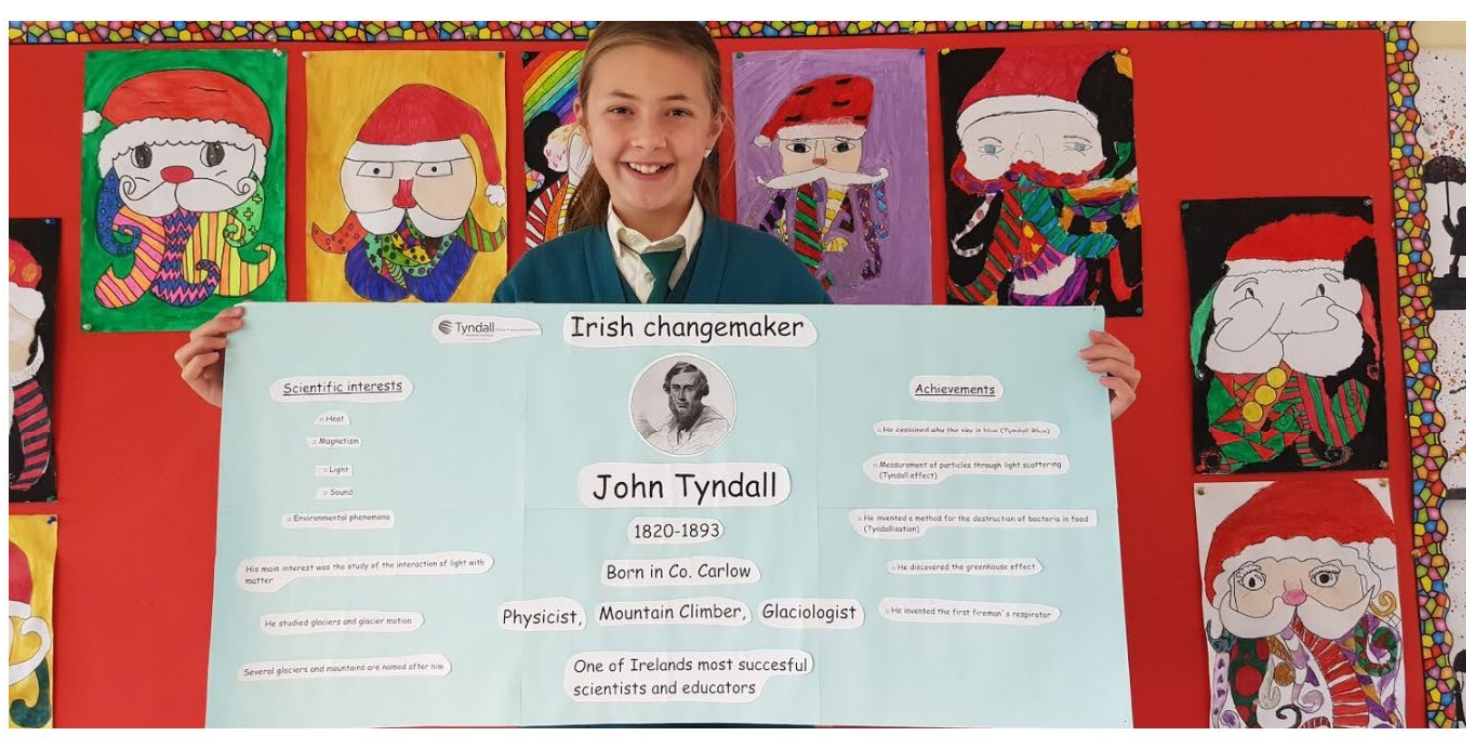
Did you know that Dalkey School Project was the first educate together school ever established in Ireland. One of the founding members of the Dalkey School Project, Professor Aine Hyland has just published a book documenting the origins of the Dalkey School Project and the educate together movement.

St Columba's Girls National School with Facility for Deaf Children, Cork City

Changemakers | Creativity | Teamwork

St Columba's Girls School in Cork City is a school with a fully integrated facility for deaf children, the only school of its kind in Ireland. All the children in the school learn sign language and all students are fully integrated and included.

The school have been working unbelievably hard at embedding the philosophy of a changemaker school with their students and even researched and created projects on Irish Changemakers.



Our Lady Immaculate Junior School Darndale, Dublin

Creativity

The students at OLI, the only Junior school in our network have been working very hard this term to embed the practices of a changemaker student. They have worked particularly hard on creativity.

Check out their [newsletter](#)!!

Each school is on their own journey to reach our vision to empower students as changemakers and to work with and within the DCU Institute of Education to transform education in Ireland. Our hope is to lead social innovation in primary schools by developing the values, skills and processes of empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork.

Thank you for all of your hard work last term.

