



Building Inspiring Caring

CIRCULAR 2018/19 TL027

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students

Cc: Bursar

November 2018

Area Based Planning

In recent years Area Planning has been at the forefront of many discussions around Education in Northern Ireland and all schools are included in this plan. As part of the Integrated Schools family there have been very encouraging moves towards the promotion of Integrated Education under the statutory duty to 'encourage and facilitate the development of Integrated Education' that is in Article 64 of the 1989 Education Order. We welcome these moves that are happening and believe that Blackwater and Integrated education in this area should be at the very centre of any future plans. Working with Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Integrated Education Fund (IEF) we aim to make this a reality in the coming years.

NICIE is an advisory body for all Integrated schools across the province and IEF is an independent charity supporting the growth of Integrated Education in NI. We are very pleased that 10 years on from the formation of Blackwater IC we are embarking on a new chapter and working closely with these bodies, we are very much committed to increasing the provision for Integrated Education in the Mid Down area.

At present our current site has not had the investment required to modernise and we believe our students deserve the best education possible in the best facilities possible. We are aware there is very strong parental demand and support for Integrated Education in NI and the local area and we are convinced that working alongside NICIE and IEF will assist in meeting this demand.

As parents we are looking for your support moving forward to ensure that our students both current and future are afforded the opportunity to get the best education possible in state of the art facilities.

As a starting point NICIE will be hosting a public meeting to be held in Cedar Integrated Primary School, Crossgar on **Thursday 29th November at 7.30pm** for all interested parties. This meeting will be looking at Post Primary Integrated provision in the Mid Down area which will include future plans for Blackwater IC.

This is obviously very early days and the start of a process that may take some years to progress and I will be keeping in regular contact with parents. I will be available at all stages to answer any concerns, queries or questions.

As Principal of Blackwater IC I firmly believe we can look forward with great optimism towards the future and will work closely with NICIE, IEF, parents, staff, governors and the local community to assist with the promotion of Integrated Education in the area.

Stephen Taylor
Principal