

1 March 2017

Kevin O'Neill, Principal
St Colman's Primary School
Annaclone
Banbridge
BT32 5LS

Dear Kevin

Thank you so much for the invitation to the Erasmus+ day celebrations at St Colman's. The itinerary for the day looks wonderful and we look forward to learning more about the working relationships that you have developed with the seven other European schools.

After our conversation about this project and the international connections you are developing with schools across Europe, it is clear that you and colleagues recognise the value of learning from schools in other jurisdictions. Closer to home we understand that you have also developed a partnership with Fairhill Primary school. You will be aware of our work supporting schools across Northern Ireland to work together through the Sharing Education Programme. An element of this work involves working in other international jurisdictions including Israel and Los Angeles.

Our work in Israel involves collaborating with the Centre for Educational Technology in Tel Aviv to encourage and support Jewish and Arab schools to work together, promoting both societal and educational benefits of collaboration. As part of this work we host delegations of visiting principals from Jewish and Arab schools in Jerusalem who are keen to understand the benefits and logistics of shared education in Northern Ireland.

Given your international work with other schools we would like to invite you to collaborate with us. We work with a network of school partnerships across Northern Ireland that help us to showcase shared education to visiting practitioners, educational policy makers and academics.

This is our third year hosting visiting groups from Israel and we are planning to host another delegation of principals from Jerusalem on March 26th to 30th 2017 and would like to invite you and your school to host this delegation on the March 29th. Typically this involves an opportunity for the principals to meet with you and the principal of your partner school, talk with teachers and where possible students involved in shared education.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Professor Tony Gallagher



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