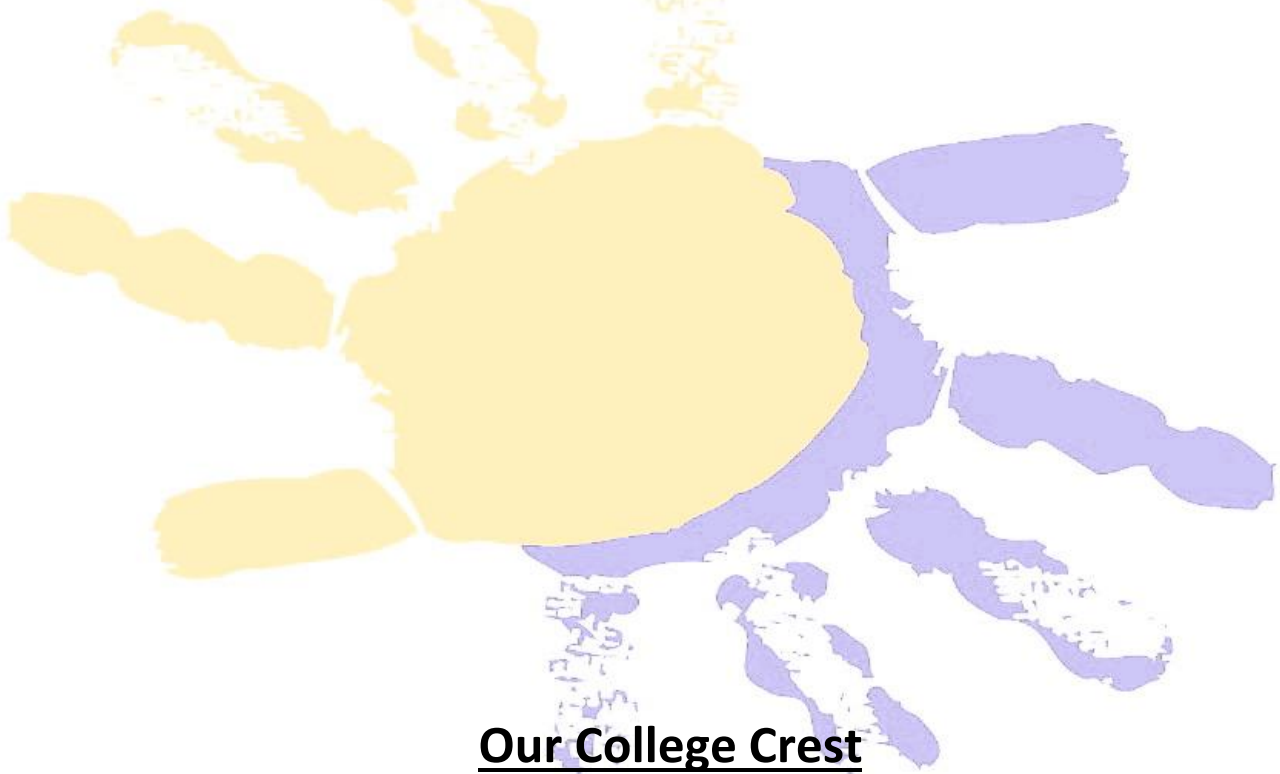


New-Bridge Integrated College Integration Policy



Our College Crest

Bridge Building

River Bann (Banbridge)

Iur Cinn Tra

Newry – Copse trees



Handshake

Peace & Reconciliation

Dove

Symbol of Peace

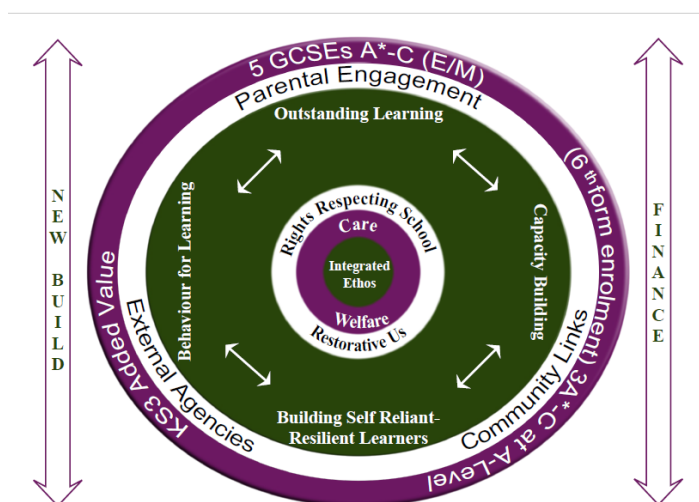
New-Bridge founded in 1995 by parents from Newry and Banbridge area

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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998
Statement of Principles for Integrated Education



Introduction

- The rationale behind our integration policy is to outline the aims and objectives of integration in accordance with NICIE Statement of Principles and within New-Bridge Integrated College and the wider community.

School's History

- New-Bridge Integrated College was founded in 1995 by parents from Newry and Banbridge areas.
- Our school foundations are built on relationships: pupil to pupil; teacher to pupil and teacher to parents.
- Young people of all abilities, religious traditions (or none) and cultural backgrounds are welcome at New-Bridge Integrated College
- We offer an inclusive learning experience for gifted and talented pupils, pupils with a high academic profile and those with special educational needs.
- Situated in a pleasant rural setting whilst welcoming pupils from all the surrounding areas the College is a happy place to learn and work. Moving into state-of-the-art facilities in 2024, New-Bridge will continue to flourish and grow.
- It is our integrated ethos, that sense of belonging and that capacity to care which has made our school the success story it is today. We celebrate the added value that education in an integrated school can offer.

School Mission Statement

'New-Bridge Integrated College is an integrated all-ability school welcoming children of whatever creed, culture, class or gender. We are committed to ensuring that all our pupils are provided with the opportunity to achieve to their full potential in a challenging and stimulating environment in which they all feel cherished and valued'.

Vision

- To enable our pupils to grow mature in their own beliefs, culture and tradition.
- To promote peace and reconciliation by actively seeking knowledge and understanding of other beliefs, cultures and traditions
- To develop in our pupils the self-esteem and self-discipline necessary for responsible citizenship in a pluralistic society
- To provide a challenging and stimulating environment in which the academic, sporting and personal success of pupils is promoted and celebrated.
- To cherish, nurture and respect each other regardless of race, gender or other differences.
- To encourage individual spiritual development and to work and pray for peace in our lives.
- To promote the involvement of all members of the College community, whether governors, parents, pupils or staff in the development of the College

- To foster a caring and responsible attitude to the College and the local environment
- To create effective links between the College and the wider community
- To intentionally strive for a mix of students, staff and governors that creates an environment that, not only acknowledges the diversity in its community but recognises that mixing is an opportunity to learn with, from and about each other.



Motto

- ‘The school for all the family’ - our school caters for boys and girls from same family and all abilities from same family – we stretch our more able students whilst also providing additional support to students to overcome learning barriers.

School Awards which capture and celebrate the work we do in promoting our Integrated Ethos



Our Integrated Ethos



- ‘Laureate of Peace Education’ – Evens Foundation
- ‘Excellence in Integration Award from NICIE
- ‘Gold Compassion Award’ from Children in Crossfire
- Our Rights Respecting School Silver Awards
- ‘When the adults change Partner school’ – Paul Dix
- Outstanding Pastoral Care award – from Families First
- Goldsmith Community Engagement Finalist – Goldsmith, London



The “New-Bridge” Way

New-Bridge Integrated College is a **Restorative school** where positive behaviours are to be reinforced by all members of staff. Staff are expected to address all pupils' behaviour, every teacher promotes their own positive classroom culture, and this is reinforced through strong

departmental cultures where pupils' achievements and success are celebrated. All members of our college community actively and consistently promote our core values of **READY-RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECT** in all of their interactions with our pupils.

Pastoral teams and leaders work hard to ensure that our high expectations of behaviour are reinforced through our core values. Different behaviours may be referred through our pastoral structures if required but our promotion of positive behaviour for learning is promoted across the whole school culture where relational learning is our priority and central to our Integrated ethos of tolerance , respect and understanding.

Our Positive Behaviour Policy at New-Bridge Integrated College provides an agreed course of action amongst teachers, students, parents and all staff, which promotes effective teaching and learning and the worth and value of each person. The policy identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and respects the rights of all members of the College community.

Behaving in a positive and respectful way is crucial to the social, physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual personal development of our students. It is essential in helping them develop as responsible, independent young adults, able to fulfill their potential and play an active, caring role in our community. All members of staff concentrate on encouraging students to develop as responsible, self-motivated young people who respect themselves, others and the property of others. At New-Bridge we encourage everyone to know, understand and implement the College core values fairly and consistently; Our approaches to behaviour are always restorative and seek to repair but it must also be acknowledged that higher level sanctions could be applied in some circumstances.

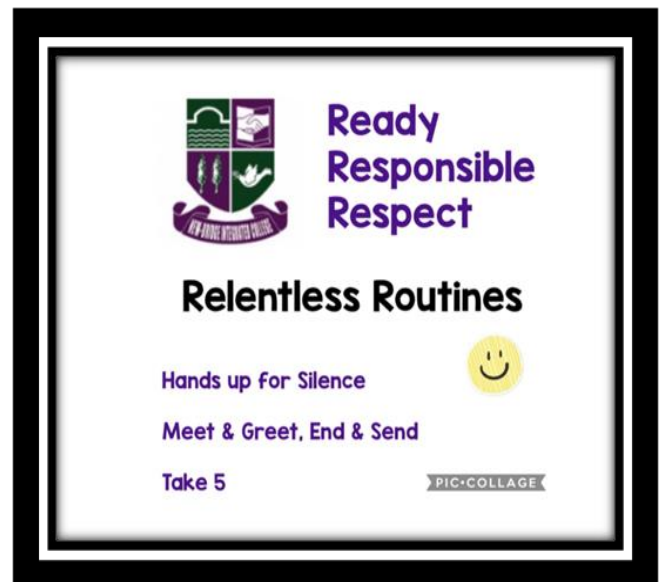
We believe the achievements of our pupils should be celebrated and acknowledged every day and share this within school and through strong parental communication. We recognise achievements at celebratory assemblies, pupil of the month competitions as well as through praise post cards and positive phone calls home so that our families can share in celebrating student achievement and success.

Calm and Consistent Adult Behaviour is modelled for students by New-Bridge members of staff:

- Pupils will receive a positive Meet and Greet at the beginning of each lesson from their teacher and teachers will be visible at their classroom doors.

- Pupils will expect their behaviour to be addressed by their teachers
- Teachers will allow take up time for pupils to make good decisions and de-escalation strategies are employed in all classrooms and around the school site.
- Teachers will end and send in every lesson
- Teachers will allow a take 5 if this is required
- As part of Intervention teachers will refer to pupil passports, RP Keyring for support and /or engage in Empathetic Observation with a Colleague

Our Core Values –The 3R’s & Relentless Routines



Aims / Objectives

This policy has been influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Appendix 1) and Northern Ireland Equality Legislation (Appendix 2)

The four core principles of integrated education - **equality, faith and values, parental involvement** and **social responsibility** - represent the cornerstones of the integrated ethos. New-Bridge Integrated College demonstrates its distinctiveness and vision through a commitment to these principles (Appendix 3).



Equality

- New-Bridge Integrated College promotes equality and sharing between and within the diverse groups that compose the school community.
- Equality is reflected in the school admissions criteria. The intentionality for religious / community balance is related not only to pupils but also to staff and governors.
- **ADMISSION CRITERIA YEAR 8** Extract from Policy “It is important for parents and primary school principals to be aware, that since its foundation, the College welcomes pupils of all-ability including those achieving grades in the Transfer Test. The Board of Governors will seek to reflect in the total number admitted to the College a balance between the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. In order to achieve this, places will be allocated as follows: **Protestant tradition: 45% Catholic tradition: 45% Other: 10%.”**
- The school draws its intake from primary schools representing the different sectors: Integrated Primary; Catholic primary and Controlled primary
- All school policies and teaching and learning aim to reflect the integrated ethos. e.g PE - provision for a range of sports, such as Gaelic games / rugby, to reflect the diversity within the school community; English or History – texts will be carefully chosen to ensure that a range of viewpoints are explored. (Divided City, Bog Child, Translations and Troubled Times)
- Striving for equality, New-Bridge Integrated College aspires to achieve high academic standards within an all-ability framework that provides equal access to the curriculum for all. We operate tailored pathways to ensure the needs of all pupils are met – route 1, 2 and 3 pathways are offered at Key stage 4 to promote relevance, breadth and access to the curriculum for all. Traditional and vocational subjects are offered Post 16 to ensure different learning styles and careers aspirations are catered for.
- Provision for managing social, cultural, religious or political events e.g. sporting events (such as All Ireland county victory, European / World Cup games, wearing team shirts), state funerals, civil disturbance, Remembrance Day, commemoration of the Easter Rising, Ash Wednesday arrangements, Harvest etc.). Factfiles are produced for key events in the year and learning opportunities promoted within our school community
- Our ethos animates the school and is a reminder that Integration permeates everything from what is taught, how occasions are marked and how we are with one another.
- The school community feel secure in demonstrating aspects of their identity regardless of social or cultural background, ability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

- Consideration is given to the display and/or promotion of symbols and emblems (e.g. poppies and shamrocks).



Faith and Values

- New-Bridge Integrated College provides Religious Education in accordance with the Department of Education and NICIE guidelines. While Christian in ethos, we aspire to create an environment where those of all faiths and none are respected, acknowledged and accepted as valued members of the school community.
- New-Bridge Integrated College endeavours to observe a range of different celebrations and seeks to acknowledge significant religious and cultural events which are representative of other faiths. We also encourage selected religious / community leaders who respect our ethos to visit and participate in worship. Local clergy from different religious denominations are regular attendees at important religious and celebratory dates in our school calendar.
- Assemblies are used to reflect different religious and cultural events led by students and staff.
- New-Bridge has an established FIN group (Fellowship in New-Bridge) who meet weekly – monthly FIN theme is established and is communicated to the wider community.
- Provision will be made for sacramental preparation and attendance at Church services
- Alternative provision will be made for those pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in any religious activities and classes.

Parental Involvement

- The support and commitment of parents is a fundamental element of integrated education and historically parents have been central to the development of integrated schools.
- New-Bridge Integrated College maintains significant levels of parental representation on the board of governors (in accordance with legislative requirements and structures).
- We sustain effective parental involvement in the life of the school through Board of Governors, Friends of New-Bridge, social media and home-school communication
- We ensure parents are made fully aware of the integrated ethos (through invitation to integration focused events such as our Peace Assembly and IEM events) as well as specific reference to the integrated ethos in all written information provided for parents.
- Attempt is made to provide school related information in a range of formats (mother-tongue languages, braille etc) to meet the needs of the parent population of the school.
- Families in receipt of free school meals are catered for sensitively; e.g posting information to families' homes as well as on the school App – TSN funding is allocated towards addressing social deprivations – free breakfast, second hand uniform, funding support for curriculum materials are all provided to bring more equity to our community.
- Open Day Events, parent information events and parent teacher meetings, induction evenings are organised throughout the year to bring community in.

- Parental feedback on aspects of our school development plan are obtained throughout the year eg new year 8 parental survey, year 10/12 options survey, consultation on policies relating to Anti-Bullying Policy, RSE Policy, Pastoral Policy....



Social Responsibility

- New-Bridge Integrated College delivers the curriculum on an all - ability and inclusive basis to all of its pupils. It respects the uniqueness of every pupil and acknowledges his/her entitlement to personal, social, intellectual and spiritual development in the attainment of individual potential.
- An emphasis is placed on nurturing self confidence and self-respect (see pastoral care policy)
- The school uses and promotes non violent methods of conflict resolution (eg. peer mediation, buddy system restorative practice)
- New-Bridge Integrated College as a Restorative Practice school and promotes restorative approaches to repairing relationships.
- New-Bridge promotes 'when the adult changes' practices as the first school in NI to be granted the title of 'When Adult changes Partner school'.
- New-Bridge Integrated College adopts an Anti-Bias approach in the resources we use, the activities we offer, the events we mark and the visitors we invite into school so that students get a full breadth of experience of what is culturally familiar and what is unfamiliar to them.
- A range of charities and causes are selected / supported in order to reflect the integrated ethos of the school. In this way, pupils are encouraged to recognise those less fortunate than themselves, the oppressed and victims of injustice.
- The school is open to being used for appropriate community events organised by groups which support the integrated ethos. In this way the school is promoted as a shared civic space.
- The school has in Intergenerational Strategy group made up of members of our sixth form who organise intergenerational projects through out the year for our local community.
- New-Bridge Integrated College actively engages with other integrated schools (eg. through APTIS, the Integrated Schools Teachers Committee, The Carson projects, feeder school links etc).
- New-Bridge Integrated College is an active member of the community e.g. through engagement in the area learning partnership; Banbridge Area Learning Community (BALC) and Shared Education Project 'Troubled Tales' with Banbridge High School. BALC Pastoral, BALC Teaching and Learning, BALC SEN and BALC Careers committee groups promote a collaborative approach to catering for the needs of our communities.