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**Press Release**

**28th March 2014**

**Donegal ETB Principals visit counterparts in Northern Ireland on cross border trip.**

Donegal ETB’s Chief Executive has established a Teaching and Learning Council which will consult and advise and promote the provision of high quality Teaching and Learning to all Learners in Donegal ETB. The Council will have a broad remit. Members are looking at good practice in their Schools and Centres with a view to sharing these throughout the network. The goal is to continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Donegal ETB. Embracing this new initiative, Shaun Purcell, Chief Executive sees the Council initially focusing on integrating ICT as part of this process. As resources allow, structures and resources are being put in place to support this.

The Western Education and Library Board’s (WELB) Curriculum Advisory and Support Service organised the visit from the Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB). St Cecilia’s College, St Columb’s College, St Mary’s College and Holy Cross College Principals and key staff hosted the visit. The aim of the visit was to look at how schools in the WELB are using ICT to support teaching and learning and how teachers integrate ICT into their own teaching to enhance pupils’ learning in the classroom. Also the trip will forge strong relationships between both regions, sharing best practice prodigy with a view to enhancing the quality of education.

The principals and their ICT co-ordinators were provided with an overview of the schools and the curriculum context. *“The visit,* advises Shaun Purcell, *.. was an opportunity to see at first-hand the practicalities of incorporating ICT into learning and teaching, how these techniques can further enhance education in the classroom and how the education experience can be extended to the home”.*

*On foot of conversations with WELB, Mr Paddy Mackey, and Barry Mulholland CEO the trip was organised by Ms Anne-Marie Poynor of the North West Teachers Centre, to Strabane and Derry and has created a positive sharing of good practice. “There is great potential in strengthening these links with our Cross Border schools to advance all areas in the curriculum. We have also had a number of visits from colleagues in other sectors in education which will inform our strategies into the future. We look forward to exploring new avenues with our counterparts in Northern Ireland”.*

***Ends***

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