

Using ICT to build educational bridges; some issues for educators

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Education, history and politics

- Are schools shaped by history?
- How much does 'politics' impinge on schooling?

Map of Ireland and Northern Ireland



Carrick-a-Reed Rope Bridge



Walls of Derry



Giants Causeway



A 1000 years of history on two slides

- Since 1087 English 'interest' in Ireland
- Mainly driven by need for security/colonial mentality?
- Plantations of Scottish and English settlers in 17th century
- Growing demands by Irish for autonomy from 18th-20th century
- 1921 Partition of Ireland



1921-2008

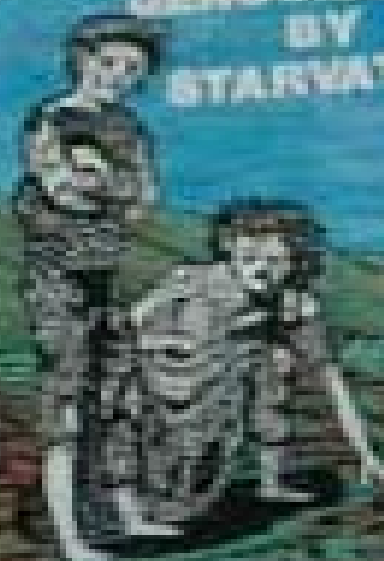
- Northern Ireland part of the UK; majority Protestant population votes for and is governed from Belfast
- Republic of Ireland independent, hoping for unification of the whole island?
- 1968-1997 'The Troubles'; attempts to coerce UK into leaving NI by IRA resisted by Police (RUC) and British Army
- 1997 Good Friday Peace Agreement; power sharing between Sinn Fein (Gerry Adams and the Democratic Unionist Party (Ian Paisley/Peter Robinson)

an
Sionna room



BRITAIN'S
GENOCIDE
BY
STARVATION

IRELAND'S
HOLOCAUST
1845-1849



OVER 1,500,000 DEATHS

This is a mural of the UFF. There are two loyalist gunmen wearing hoods. Why do the Nationalists not wear hoods??



The schooling landscape in Northern Ireland

- 94% of pupils attend either mainly 'controlled' (Protestant) or 'maintained' (Catholic) schools. 6% attend 'integrated' schools
- 37% of primary schools have less than 100 pupils (cf England 14%)
- Post-primary school population expected to decline by 13% between 2005-2015.
- Pupils take 11+ to transfer from primary to either 'grammar' or 'high schools'; now under review
- High academic performance but high level of economic inactivity among adults (27.5% in NI cf 21% in UK)

Student Teachers (in NI)

- Either one year full time postgrad (PGCE); 'mixed' at University of Ulster and QUB
- Or 4 years concurrent (St Mary's, Stranmillis)
- PGCE secondary students; 24 weeks in school, 12 in University (primary=18+18)
- 2 placements, one in 'High school' one in 'Grammar school'
- Students generally choose to teach in the same kind of school they attended

ICT in schools in NI

- 1250 primary schools and 250 post-primary schools linked by broadband
- Common hardware and software paid for (and refreshed) through public private finance initiative
- Ratio of 1:4 PCs per pupil in secondary schools and 1:8 in primary.
- Every teacher has laptop
- Virtual Learning Environment called LNI + video-conferencing links through 'marratech'

But what's ICT for?

- Improving learning through 'personalising' it, making it more accessible?
- Contributing to knowledge based economy... ICT skills for life
- Developing citizenship skills and opportunities through contact with other schools?
- What do you think?



Illegible text on a blue sign, possibly a list or schedule.

2 case studies of ICT for citizenship

- The Dissolving Boundaries programme
- Links primary, special and secondary schools in NI and across the border
- Started in 1999
- Involves 300 schools
- Focus on purposeful contact through the curriculum
- Based on links between 2 schools



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Dissolving Boundaries website. The header features a purple banner with a white map of Ireland and the text "DISSOLVING BOUNDARIES through Information and Communication Technology". To the right is a photo of children holding paper airplanes. Below the header is a green navigation menu with links: Home, About Us, Contacts, News, Partnerships, Gallery, Research, and Projects. A "User Login" section includes fields for "Username: Enter name" and "Password: *****" with a "Login" button. The main content area is titled "The Dissolving Boundaries Programme" and contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph describes the program's purpose. The second paragraph, which has a yellow highlight, states: "Since its inception (with the exception of 2005/2006) the dissolving boundaries students and a computer new schools each year. Meanwhile many experienced schools remain associated with the programme either maintaining the link with their first partner school or embarking on a new link or links. Now in its eighth year of existence the Dissolving Boundaries community continues to provide opportunities for the development of mutual understanding through collaborative curricular work using virtual and real contact between children in the different school sectors in the north and south of Ireland." An image of a computer monitor and mouse is also visible.

DISSOLVING BOUNDARIES
through Information and Communication Technology

Home
About Us
Contacts
News
Partnerships
Gallery
Research
Projects

User Login
Username:
Password:

The Dissolving Boundaries Programme

The Dissolving Boundaries Programme uses Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to facilitate cross-cultural educational linkages between schools in the North and South of Ireland and jointly funded by the two governments.

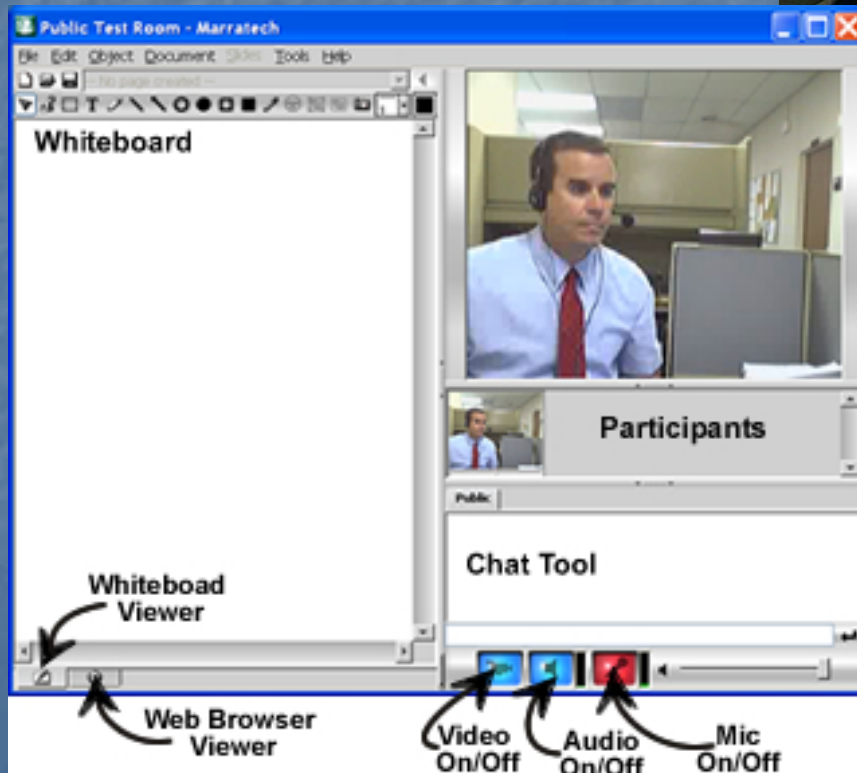
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Department of Education

www.dissolvingboundaries.org

Using the technology

- Ip-ip video-links
- Impact on special and primary schools



Using Moodle

- Forums; social interaction and talking about project
- Wikis; building a shared on-line project together
- Pupils working in 'joint' teams

Example 1 (primary forum)

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window with the title "SCM-SAP: Hurricanes - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar contains the URL "http://www.dissolvingboundaries.org/moodle7/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=3394". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Favorites", "Tools", and "Help". The toolbar contains various icons for navigation and utility, including "Google", "teachers", "Bookmarks", "0 blocked", "Check", "AutoLink", "AutoFill", "Send to", and "Settings". The browser has two tabs open: "SCM-SAP: Hurricanes" and "Epilogues".

The main content area displays a forum post with a document icon and the text "HURRICANE.doc". Below the document icon is the text "Hi James here is my work on Hurricanes." and a "Edit | Delete | Reply" link.

The first reply is from "aimee b boland" on Wednesday, 23 January 2008, at 12:11 PM. It includes a smiley face icon and the text: "Thank you for that information on the hurricane. Have any hurricanes happened in Strabane? Where did you get the information? Where did you the picture, I like it? Graham and Aimee." Below the reply is a "Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply" link.

The second reply is from "savannah h hurley" on Wednesday, 23 January 2008, at 12:12 PM. It includes a smiley face icon and the text: "Hi I liked your story about hurricanes. It was interesting. Who named hurricane Debbie? Do people get hurt during hurricanes? 😊 😊" Below the reply is a "Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply" link.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the "start" button, several open applications (3 Microsoft..., Roger, 2 Microsof..., SCM-SAP: ..., Microsoft W...), a search bar with "Search with Google", and the system tray with "Internet", "100%", and the time "14:11".

Example 2 (secondary wiki)

MWS-LGS: Wiki A - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.dissolvingboundaries.org/moodle7/mod/wiki/view.php?id=1403

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google teachers Go 0 blocked Check AutoLink AutoFill Send to teachers Settings


MWS-LGS: Wiki A Epilogues

View Edit Links History Attachments

Reload this page

Services for the Deaf

North	South								
<table><tr><td>Education</td></tr><tr><td>Basic Services</td></tr><tr><td>Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>Health?</td></tr></table>	Education	Basic Services	Recreation	Health?	<table><tr><td>Education</td></tr><tr><td>Basic Services</td></tr><tr><td>Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>Health</td></tr></table>	Education	Basic Services	Recreation	Health
Education									
Basic Services									
Recreation									
Health?									
Education									
Basic Services									
Recreation									
Health									



Moodle Docs for this page

You are logged in as Marie Mellon (Logout)

Done, but with errors on page.

start 3 Microsof... 2 Window... 2 Microsof... MWS-LGS: ... Microsoft E... Search with Google EN 14:36

Impact on pupils



- Improved ICT skills
- Better understanding of 'other'
- Developing sense of what 'collaborative learning' means

Impact on Teachers

- Better embedding of ICT in daily use
- Professional development through contact with other teachers
- Emerging sense of what collaborative learning involves



Working with schools inside NI

- The Digital Citizenship project
- 10 schools in NI working in 5 cross-community pairs
- Focus on citizenship class with 15-16 year old students

The screenshot displays the LEARNING NI web interface. At the top, the header includes the University of Ulster logo, the user name 'Mrs Mallon', and the text 'University of Ulster'. A search bar labeled 'Search My Course' is visible on the right. Below the header, there are navigation links for 'Members' and 'Discussions'. The main content area is titled 'Workspace Directory' and features a list of course workspaces. The first workspace, 'Course workspace', is highlighted. To the right of the list, there are several action buttons: 'Select All', 'Add', 'Modify', 'Copy/Move', 'Delete', 'Download', and 'Approve'. Below these buttons, there is a section titled 'Order Content In Directory' with a list of five school names and their descriptions:

Checkmark	School Name	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquinas and Bloomfield	Private workspace for pupils worki
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strabane and St Columb's	Private workspace for pupils from
<input type="checkbox"/>	Larne High and St Comgall's	A private workspace for pupils in L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laurelhill and St Colm's	A private workspace for pupils in L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fivemiletown and St Mary's (Newry)	A private workspace for pupils Fiv

The interface also shows a 'Help' button and a 'Terms and Conditions' link in the top right corner. The bottom of the page displays the 'Internet' browser status and a zoom level of '100%'.

What were our hopes for the project?

- Children would get experience of discussing and facing controversial issues in a **safe** environment
- Communication - develop ICT skills online and face to face
- Social – develop awareness of protocol/exchange and relating to other people

Virtual and actual contact

- Contact starts with exchange of personal profiles through the VLE
- Leads into joint work between mixed groups
- Often involves a face to face meeting, sometimes on 'neutral' territory

ME

Hello, I'm Cormac Kehoe and I'm 15. I live in Kylemore Park in Derry. I like football and I support Liverpool. My favourite players are Fernando Torres and Steven Gerrard. Also I play for local D and D side Oxford. We train in Templemore Sports Complex or in Thornhill College. I usually play upfront but sometimes rather playing right-back. As well as this I like going out on a Friday and Saturday with my friends or with my girlfriend. I go to St.Columb's College and I'm a 4th year. My favourite subjects are History, LLW, ICT and Spanish. My favourite TV shows are Heroes, Match of the Day and Gillette Soccer Saturday. My favourite films are Gladiator, Super Bad and Goal 1and 2. I like all types of music apart from classical. My favourite bands are Arctic Monkeys, All Time Low and Mayday Parade. And Alex Turner is my idol because he's an absolute genius.



Alex Turner



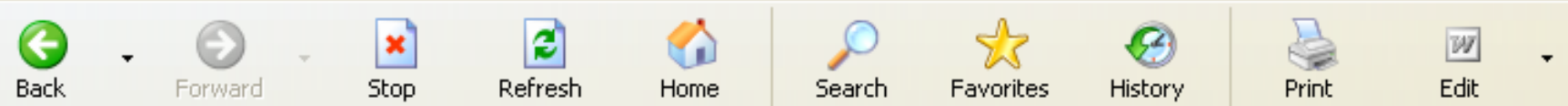
Fernando Torres



Me being a priest

Full Screen ▾

Close Full Screen



Address <http://learningni.net/Site/SiteMenu.aspx> Go

My Site **My Group Sites**

- Discuss
- Video
- News
- Alert
- Net Work
- Admin

Name	Description	Date Created	Coordinator
Future of the Transfer Test - Group C	Exploring Local Alternatives	30/11/2007	Nicola BYRNE
Future of the Transfer Test - Group A	Arguments for the transfer test to remain	30/11/2007	Nicola BYRNE
Future of the Transfer Test - Group B	Arguments against the transfer test to remain	30/11/2007	Jonathan Waterworth
Future of the Transfer test - Group D	Exploring Global Alternatives	30/11/2007	Nicola BYRNE
Future of the Transfer Test - Group E	Survey of School Opinion	30/11/2007	Jonathan Waterworth
Future of the Transfer Test - Group F	Local Party Stance	30/11/2007	Nicola BYRNE
Pupil site	site	29/11/2007	Nicola BYRNE

Arriving at Omagh College



A talk from Liam about foods and customs from other cultures

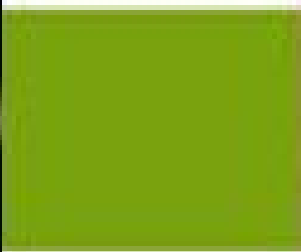


Working in teams



TIME FOR PEACE





Conclusions; 1

- NI teachers and students broadly 'positive'; different levels of 'controversy'
- Some difficulties with VLE
- ICT not assessed after age 14
- Pupils now see cross-community contact as 'essential' for citizenship education

Conclusions 2

What are the effects of limited contact?

- 48.3% of 19 year old students at University in NI had never worked with a partner (2008)
- Should schools have e-partner?
Mandatory=34.4%; 'encouraged'=62.1%