

# Brownlow CIC

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Brownlow High School opened in September 1973 in the midst of “The Troubles” and in November 1991 became Brownlow Integrated College, the first secondary school to “transform” to integrating status.

Transformation was a challenging process and was difficult at times. There was lots of opposition as well as support in the area. No school had transformed before, so there was no handbook and much to learn, but we had a vision of what we wanted to achieve for our young people.



We slowly but surely took steps to reach our goal to make our environment a shared and safe space for our young people, where they could be proud of their background yet still learn about and appreciate the experiences and views of others.

<http://www.brownlowcollege.co.uk/>

Our school make-up is and has always been unique: As well as representing the traditional cultural and religious differences inherent in our community, at present 37% of our pupils are in receipt of free school meals, 13% have English as a second language, 14% are on the register for Special Needs. For us integration has many dimensions.

One of our pupils recently said, “Attending Brownlow is educational, inspiring and inclusive. It exposes pupils to new cultures, creeds and ways of thinking, giving us a more open-minded view of the world at large. It facilitates exploration, communication and negotiation. We draw strength from each other’s differences, learning to think and thinking to learn”.



At Brownlow, over 20 years after transformation, we continue to challenge our young people to see beyond themselves and to strive to be the best that they can be so that they can contribute positively to our shared society.

Included are some photos of our 2013 Multicultural Day. We run this event every two years, with a view to giving pupils the chance to experience music, food, culture, dress and languages from around the globe. The aim is to impress on pupils how different everyone is but how much fun we can have finding out about each other.

