

# [ Shimna IC ]

Newcastle



## Twenty Years of Shimna Integrated College

Shimna opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1994, the first day of the first IRA ceasefire, which was followed a few weeks later by the first Loyalist ceasefire. Shimna grew from All Children's IPS, the first Integrated school outside Belfast, and we are very proud of the shared history of the two schools. The parents who founded Shimna wanted an Integrated, academically excellent, all-ability, child centred and parent friendly education for their children.

### Integration

There were of course many further acts of violence and destruction after 1st September 1994, but with hard work and commitment, Shimna has sustained religious/cultural balance. We are also very proud of our Sharing Languages, Sharing Cultures programme through which Shimna provides a weekly element of Integration to sixteen of our local primary schools, most of them single identity. In 2011, our SLSC won the TES Outstanding Community Contribution Award.



### Student Centredness

Twenty years brought a DE inspection, and we take the greatest pride in the fact that our students are described as 'exemplary'. For a student centred school, this is the ultimate accolade. Our students are fully involved in the life of the school. In 2013, our Student Council won the Speaker's Award, presented in Westminster.



### Parental Involvement

Parents founded Shimna, and parents/guardians continue to work in partnership with staff, students and governors in everything we do. We are very proud of the attendance record at parent consultation meetings.

### 20th Anniversary Ball

For our 20th Anniversary, we treated ourselves to a glamorous ball in the Slieve Donard Hotel. We were delighted to dance away the night with founding students and staff, founding parents and governors, and current students, staff, parents and governors. We were particularly delighted to welcome former students and staff who flew in from across the world to be there.

We are very, very proud of our wonderful school. We are hugely grateful to those founding parents and All Children's IPS, to the Integrated Education Fund and the Department of Education for their support in helping us create the building on our beautiful mountain and seaside site, and to NICIE for all their support always.

### Academic Excellence

A highlight of our twenty years came in 2006, when Shimna was designated as NI's first Specialist School with a specialism in languages and the international dimension. However, the real proof of our academic excellence is the fantastic community of our Old Scholars. We have had students at Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, Glasgow, University College Galway, University College London, Aberdeen, Manchester, Liverpool, Hull, Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster, Berklee College Boston, St Scholastica's College Duluth, Otago University Dunedin NZ, Dublin City University CAFRE, SERC, SRC, Belfast Metropolitan College and many, many more.

Our students have studied medicine, dentistry, actuarial science, plumbing, fashion design, law, creative writing, anthropology, midwifery, veterinary science, nanotechnology, sound engineering, speech therapy, and many, many, many more.

