

# Educating About Difference Uniting Classrooms And Teacher Education (EDUCATE)

## Partners:

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## Expert Advisory Group

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## Aims of the Project

The EDUCATE project aims to explore the skills, knowledge, resources and interventions that enable Initial Teacher Education (ITE) students to teach about difference and controversial issues - especially in, but not limited to, Equality-based, Multi-denominational and Integrated schools (EMIs) on the island of Ireland. The research, which builds on and extends existing partnerships and includes Representative/Support/Management/Patron [RSMP] bodies North and South, investigates how ITE students might benefit from sharing of good practice and resources from practising classroom teachers in EMIs and their RSMP bodies.

## Methodology

### Establishing Context

Baseline surveys and focus groups will explore primary ITE (UU and MIC) students and practising EMI teachers' confidence and competence to teach about difference and controversial issues.

### Intervention

Inputs in UU and MIC on teaching about difference and controversial issues will be collaboratively developed by partners, including input from RSMP Education Officers and a North-South network of 12 EMI teachers.

## Application

ITE students implement learning from module intervention on teaching placement.

## Evaluation and Dissemination

Endline survey will be administered to research participants. Findings will be measured against the baseline survey. A repeat of focus groups will also be facilitated.

## Beneficiaries

The intended beneficiaries include ITE students and tutors in UU and MIC, who will enhance their confidence and skills to teach about difference in primary schools. Teachers in EMI schools will benefit from being connected to an all-island inclusive EDUCATE network. The RSMP bodies will gain feedback on ITE student preparedness to teach in their sectors. Children in primary classrooms where teachers have an enriched understanding and pedagogic experience of inclusive education are also intended beneficiaries. ITE providers along with policy makers, academics and curriculum designers will benefit from the opportunity to reflect on the findings, particularly the scholarly output created by this All-Island collaborative EDUCATE project.