

GLENGORMLEY INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL IS GROWING!

A new building and new computers from The Ireland Funds support integrated education in Northern Ireland

The Ireland Funds have been proud supporters of Integrated Education for more than 30 years, believing it has an integral and vital role to play in building a shared future for the people of Northern Ireland. Integrated Education has been hailed as one of the most significant social developments within Northern Ireland, bringing together children from Protestant, Catholic and other cultural backgrounds in educational settings that teach respect, tolerance and conflict resolution.

Almost 22,000 children in 62 schools across Northern Ireland now attend Integrated schools. In Belfast, the Glengormley Integrated Primary School serves over 300 children in an integrated setting, and they are bursting at the seams.

"We're almost at capacity," says Principal Nigel Arnold as he sits in the school's computer room. "This year, we have 12 classes, by next year we will have 13, but the only way to get to that 13th class was to displace our preschool from the school building itself, a space they've occupied for close to 20 years."

A grant from The American Ireland Fund New York Dinner Gala and the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund to the Integrated Education Fund has helped

Glengormley build a new space for their preschool and the entire school will now grow and benefit. "The American Ireland Fund has been able to help us financially and it is exactly what the school needs," explains Nigel. "At a local level in Glengormley, we're very fortunate. The demand is there. And we are gradually building. Integration is not the only way forward, but it's certainly part of the solution to bring resolution and peace to Northern Ireland. So, the work's not done. We are still just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we would like to achieve."

In addition to the new structure made possible by The American Ireland Fund, computer equipment has been provided by

a grant from The Australian Ireland Fund. "We were very fortunate that The Australian Ireland Fund was able to provide us with funds to purchase further wireless laptops." Says Nigel, as he points to the equipment at each seat. "So we now have 30 machines in the room. That means that finally each child can sit down at a computer and work independently with support from staff."

And so whether you attended the recent New York Dinner Gala or the Sydney Garden Party, you can take pride in the fact that somewhere in the Glengormley section of Belfast, Maryam, Magda, Ryan, Peter and other children are benefiting from your philanthropy. **THANK YOU!**



