EA Update
ASPIRE

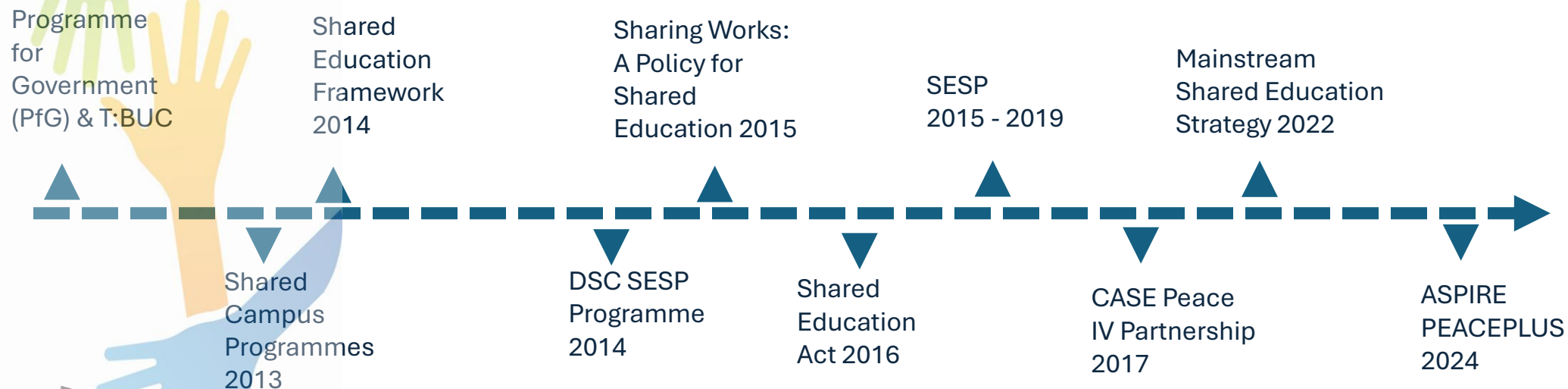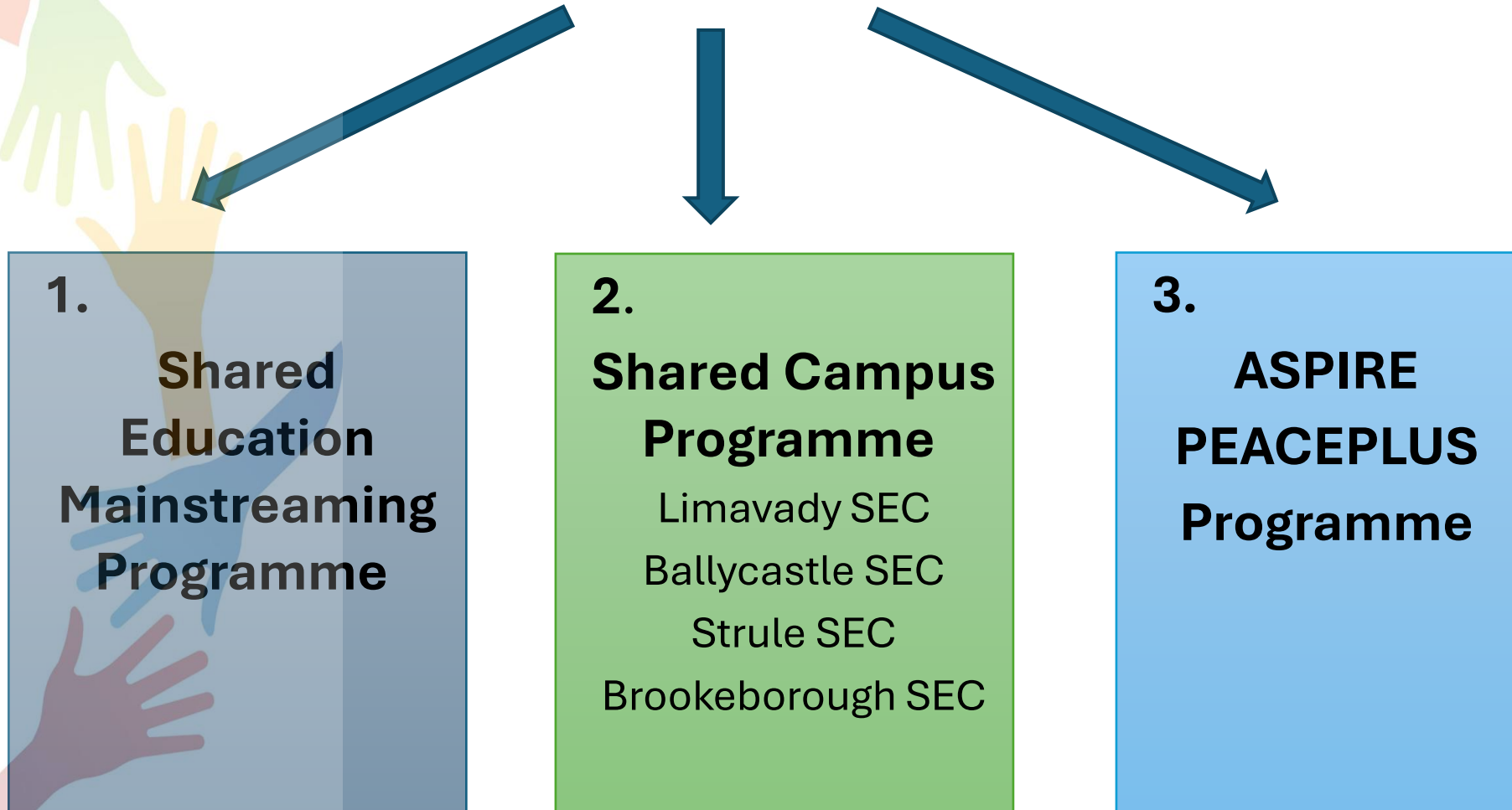PEACEPLUS - Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education

The SE Act (2016)

- The purpose of shared education is—
- (a)to deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;
- (b)to promote the efficient and effective use of resources;
- (c)to promote equality of opportunity;
- (d)to promote good relations; and
- (e)to promote respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.

The Journey so far – Working Together

Programme for Government (PfG) & T:BUC

Shared Education Framework 2014

Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education 2015

SESP 2015 - 2019

Mainstream Shared Education Strategy 2022

Shared Campus Programmes 2013

DSC SESP Programme 2014

Shared Education Act 2016

CASE Peace IV Partnership 2017

ASPIRE PEACEPLUS 2024

ea Education Authority

Shared Education

Shared Education Programmes (EA)

1. Shared Education Mainstreaming Programme

2. Shared Campus Programme

Limavady SEC

Ballycastle SEC

Strule SEC

Brookeborough SEC

3. ASPIRE PEACEPLUS Programme
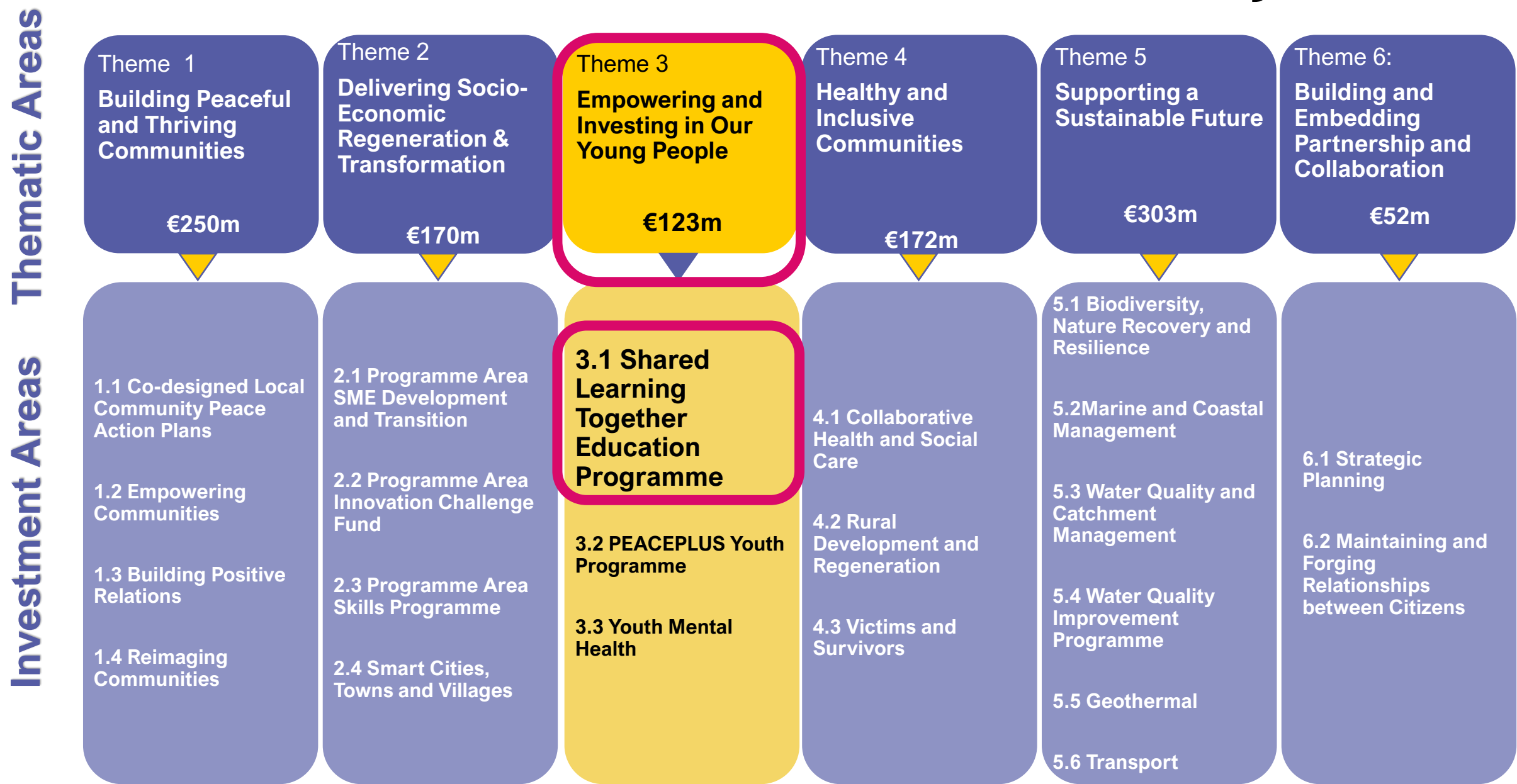
ea Education Authority

Shared Education

Mainstreaming Shared Education

- 134 Partnerships comprising 315 schools across NI

- Partnerships range from 2 school to 9 school in size and from Nursery to Post-primary

- Partnerships include schools of all types – Maintained, Controlled, Voluntary Grammar, Integrated and Irish-medium

- Funded by DE – spend allowed for Transport, Sub cover and Leadership only, delivering 20 hours of shared education.

- Programmes include educational and reconciliation outcomes that can be found in the Shared Education Pupil Pathway document.

PEACEPLUS – Where does the ASPIRE Project fit in?

Thematic Areas

Theme 1
Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

€250m

Theme 2
Delivering Socio-Economic Regeneration & Transformation

€170m

Theme 3
Empowering and Investing in Our Young People

€123m

Theme 4
Healthy and Inclusive Communities

€172m

Theme 5
Supporting a Sustainable Future

€303m

Theme 6:
Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

€52m

Investment Areas

1.1 Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans

1.2 Empowering Communities

1.3 Building Positive Relations

1.4 Reimaging Communities

2.1 Programme Area SME Development and Transition

2.2 Programme Area Innovation Challenge Fund

2.3 Programme Area Skills Programme

2.4 Smart Cities, Towns and Villages

3.1 Shared Learning Together Education Programme

3.2 PEACEPLUS Youth Programme

3.3 Youth Mental Health

4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care

4.2 Rural Development and Regeneration

4.3 Victims and Survivors

5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience

5.2 Marine and Coastal Management

5.3 Water Quality and Catchment Management

5.4 Water Quality Improvement Programme

5.5 Geothermal

5.6 Transport

6.1 Strategic Planning

6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

Key Themes within ASPIRE PEACEPLUS Programme

Laser sharp focus on Peace Building and Reconciliation

Focus on achieving more together

Exploring personal and shared experiences

Embedding system wide networks and connections.

ASPIRE

Aims:

Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education

Enable Educational Benefits

Securing high quality **outcomes** for pupils North & South and building educator capacity

Ensuring Economic Benefits

Establishing **processes** to enable effective sharing at system and partnership level

Energise Societal Benefits

Building cohesive communities which respect all cultures and identities

ASPIRE

ASPIRE - Progress to Date

€34.5m Sept 2024 – Dec 2028
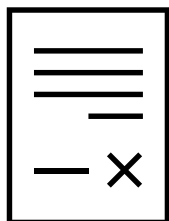
464 Total applications accepted

24,096 Total number of pupils engaged in shared activity

Pupils - School Type

School Type	Pupils
Special	491
Post Primary	1732
Primary	19242
Pre-School	2631
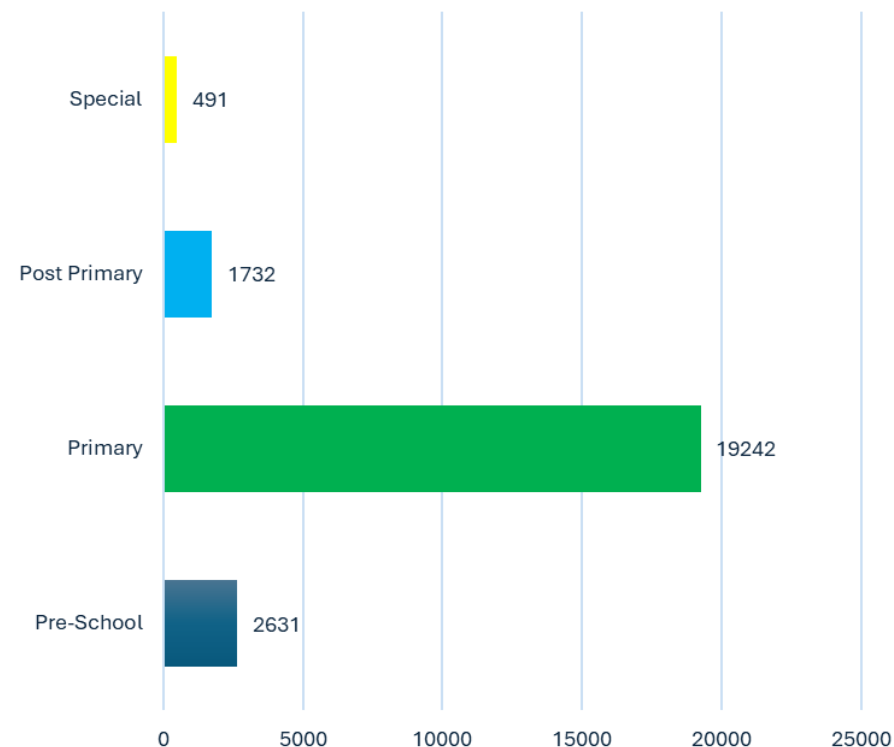
PEACEPLUS ASPIRE
25/26
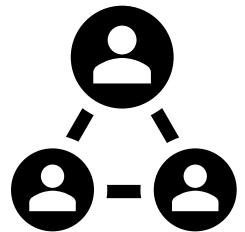
254 Partnerships
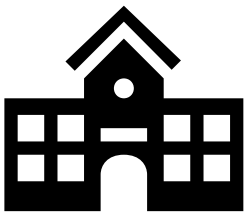
574 Schools and settings
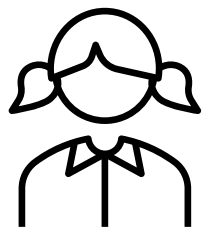
28,642 Pupils approved

Pupils approved for 25/26 by School Phase

School Phase	Pupils
Pre-School	5,926
Primary	20,359
Post Primary	1,506
Special	671
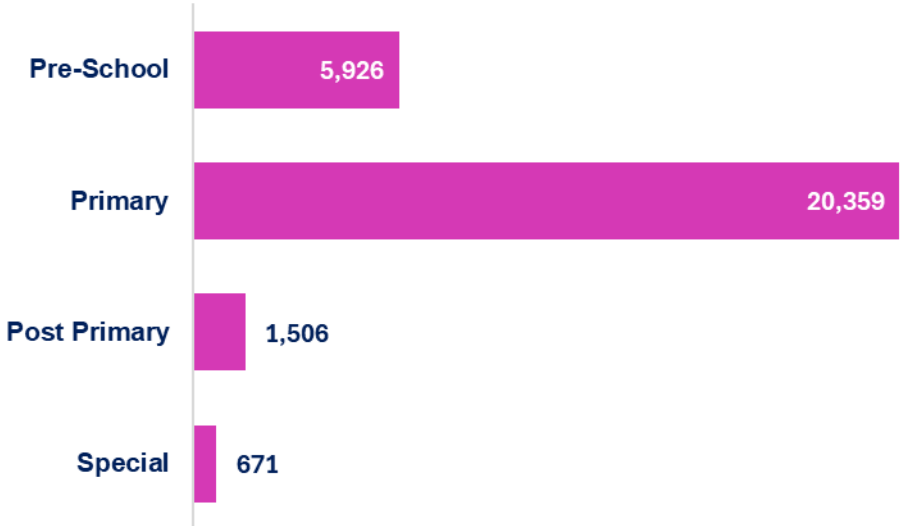
Belfast City Council Schools involved in PEACEPLUS ASPIRE
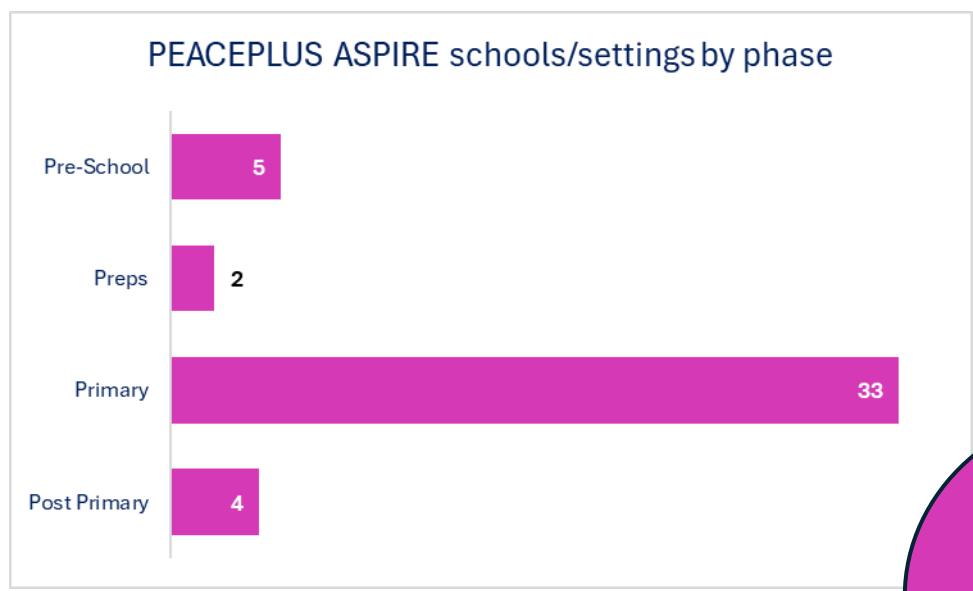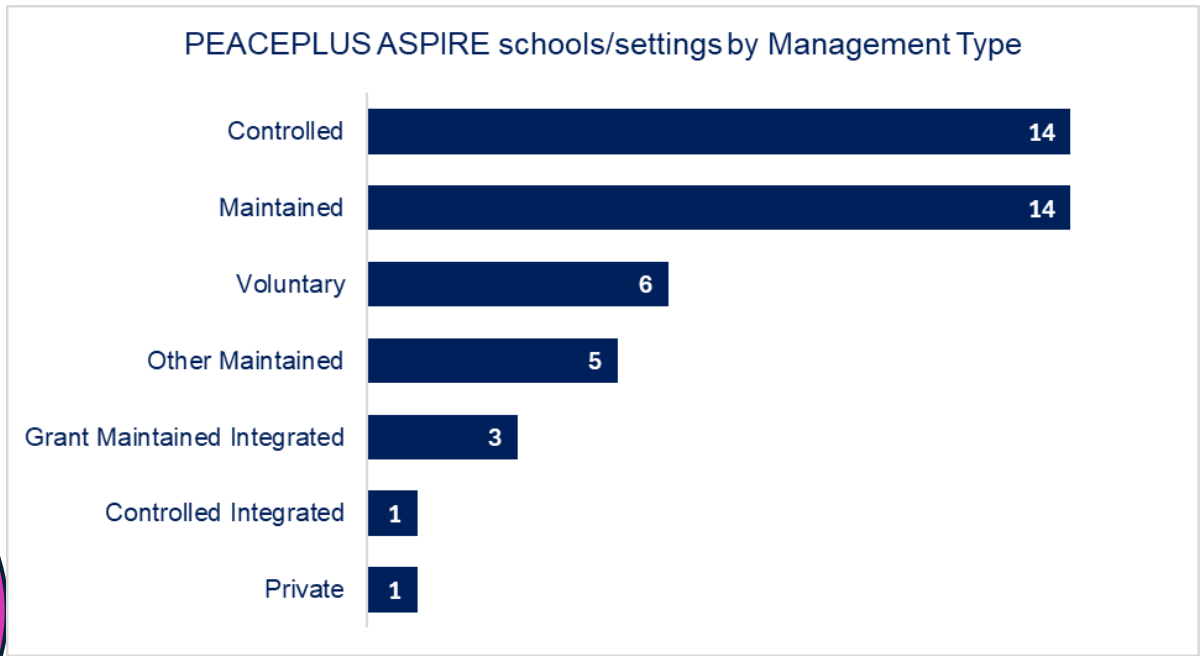
Criteria for participating

ASPIRE is open to primary and secondary schools in Northern Ireland and the border counties (Louth, Monaghan, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan and Sligo).

Schools must identify between one and three other schools to work in partnership with for the school year, delivering 30 hours of shared education to funded pupils.

These partnerships must be schools that are geographically close together and which represent a diverse student population. **The diversity of the school population must be reflected in the pupils who participate in ASPIRE.**

Schools who were part of ASPIRE PEACEPLUS 2024/25 and/or CASE are eligible to apply – will need to demonstrate progression in action plan

Schools must demonstrate a **commitment to peace and reconciliation** and **community engagement**.

Schools must demonstrate the capacity **to monitor and report** on project progress, including financial reporting.

ASPIRE

Council Collaborations – BCC

Pupil Democracy Event

Through a series of workshops from Fact Check NI, WRDA/Reclaim the Agenda, the Secondary School's Student Union NI and the Social Change Initiative, pupils in their shared education pairs examined the threats which face our democracy, such as disinformation, the rise of the far right, racism and violence against women and girls. Pupils also explored opportunities for change, such as votes at 16 and improved civic and political education.

The event hosted numerous Politicians from across Belfast, with a welcome from Lord Mayor Micky Murray.

This project is supported through funding from Belfast City Council's Good Relations Action Plan, which is part funded by The Executive Office through the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

Shared Education ASPIRE Team

Jayne Simms– EA Lead ASPIRE PEACEPLUS

Eimhear McGarry

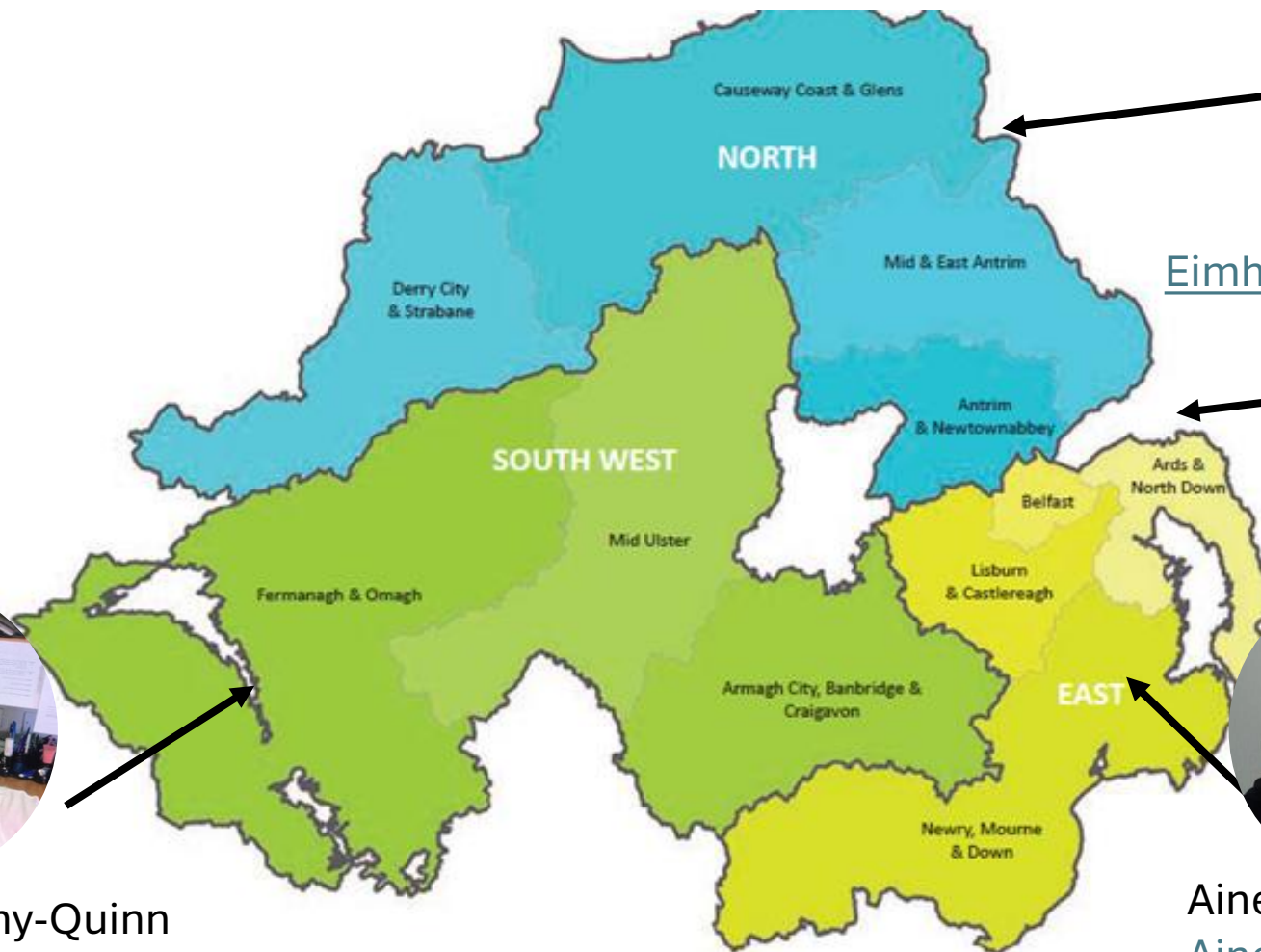Eimhear.mcgarry@eani.org.uk

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Shared Education Hub

The Shared Education Hub has been developed, by the Education Authority to:

- Promote cross-sectoral partnership working
- Develop an understanding of Shared Education
- Build the capacity of the school system to deliver highly effective Shared Education
- Share best practice from teachers, school leaders and academics
- Explore new approaches which can improve outcomes for children and young people
- Establish the link between Shared Education partnership working with School Improvement
- Facilitate teachers with a range of resources and materials can be used to deliver Shared Education

Scan this QR Code to access the Shared Education Hub

Shared Education

Building Capacity to Support Shared Education

Shared Education TPL Menu

A menu of TPL Modules has been developed for practitioners to building the capacity of the workforce, across the school system, to deliver high quality Shared Education. This site provides a range of online learning modules that can be accessed by practitioners, schools, partnerships and wider clusters at any time. Each module consists of videos, animations, presentations and tasks to enhance the learning experience. Participants should navigate their way through each module completing set tasks and recording information in the relevant learning journal. There are also a selection of recordings from our Bitesize TPL Programme which will help develop your individual and partnership Shared Education Practice.

Scan to access the entire TPL Menu

Questions