



1st April 2022

A Chara,

We are writing to inform you that the Yellow Flag Programme will soon release an open call for schools to apply to join our programme from September 2022.

The [Yellow Flag Programme](#) is a practice 8-step programme to guide schools in becoming more inclusive of all ethnicities, cultures and religions. It is the only innovative programme of its kind in Ireland to take a whole-school approach to tackling racism on both a social and institutional level.

The programme is considered a best practice model in integration by key education and social justice stakeholders, including the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) and the Irish Network Against Racism (INAR), and it has even been recognised at an EU-level as a model of excellence by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Watch this [video](#) to hear the students' and teachers' perspective.

The 8 steps of the whole-school framework are as follows:

- Step 1: Getting Started
- Step 2: Diversity Committee
- Step 3: Intercultural Review (survey)
- Step 4: Intercultural Awareness CPD Workshop for teachers
- Step 5: Action Plan
- Step 6: Beyond the School Walls
- Step 7: Classroom Work
- Step 8: Diversity Code & Policy Review

The programme works with all cohorts of the school community - students, teachers and parents - to build intercultural understanding, while fostering connections with local Traveller, migrant and integration initiatives, to embed the school's efforts within the local community context.

The Yellow Flag Programme has a successful history of collaborating with local authorities to facilitate the implementation of the programme in schools. In this way, schools have the opportunity to participate in the programme - a programme which is in high demand, and to date, has turned away over 150 interested schools due to limited resources - **while allowing county councils to deliver on several policy commitments through one initiative**. In particular, those outlined within the *National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy* (NTRIS), and the *Migrant Integration Strategy* (MIS).

The Yellow Flag Programme has been successfully embedded within the integration strategies of several local authorities in the past, and actioned by the Community Development and/or Social Inclusion Units. Most recently, the programme was included in the [County Kildare Integration Strategy](#), and [here](#) is a testimonial from one of the schools that became involved.

For a sum of €3,000 per school, local authorities can secure a place for a school (primary or post primary) in their catchment area, with access to the following support services, among others:

- a 2-year programme cycle with proactive in-person and online support across all 8 steps of the framework, notably including an Intercultural Awareness workshop for all teachers and staff;
- continued engagement as a Yellow Flag school, and support to renew the flag every three years;
- programme materials and classroom resources on Traveller culture, Black History Month, Human Rights etc.; and
- a Yellow Flag at the end of the programme, plus participation in an Awards Ceremony.

School applications will open in April 2022, with selection and onboarding in May 2022, ahead of programme roll-out from September 2022.

If you are interested in funding a school(s), or you would simply like to learn more, please contact the National Programme Coordinator, Molly Brady-Martin **before April 22nd 2022** so that we can ensure that a space is reserved.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,

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