

# Enhancing the Global Dimension in Teacher Education

## Rationale

The Global Dimension (GD) is now a core element in the revised NI curriculum. The Global Dimension forms an integral part of compulsory provision. The aim is to prepare teachers to implement this aspect of the new curriculum effectively. St Mary's University College is committed to providing high quality teacher education in this curricular area at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The College has an ongoing commitment to the Global Dimension, which is now embedded in its institutional mission and as a consequence global education is currently integrated in teaching and learning aspects throughout college life. St Mary's is committed to enhancing the Global Dimension through existing and new undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

This project creates a new focus to existing work that will ring-fence provision for the Global Dimension and elevate its status as a core element of the College curriculum. Students graduating from the College will therefore have an increased awareness of and competence in teaching the Global Dimension.

The College has established a team to develop, coordinate and manage the Global Dimension within the College under the leadership of the Director responsible for teacher education. The Global Dimension team, including 12 academic staff and a full-time Global Dimension Coordinator, have a range of expertise in teaching aspects of the Global Dimension and in researching this area.

The project also aims to establish links across the globe between various types of educational institutions to ensure that, through the use of ICT and exchanges, students and staff will be able to develop together across the continents and between cultures. The project has been developed in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Centre for Global Education (Belfast).

## The objectives of this project are:

- To develop taught programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels that promote expertise in teaching the Global Dimension.
- To develop an online course in teaching the Global Dimension.
- To provide undergraduate and postgraduate students with the necessary professional development in this curriculum area.
- To offer specific certification in the area of the Global Dimension.
- To enable teachers to disseminate such expertise in the Global Dimension within their schools.
- To undertake research in various aspects of the Global Dimension in education.
- To establish on-campus access to development education resources and online sources of information and material.
- To produce a reference guide to the Global Dimension in initial teacher education.

## This project will fall into 3 phases:

**Phase 1** refers to empirical research on teachers' specific needs for preparation and support to teach the Global Dimension and is based on the initial 'Enabling Effective Support' research undertaken by St Mary's.

**Phase 2** concerns:

- The development and implementation of a new pathway within the Master of Education (M.Ed.) programme within the broad area of global awareness and local and global citizenship.
- The modification of the M.Ed. pathway.
- The expansion of the Global Dimension teaching throughout initial teacher education at undergraduate level.

**Phase 3** has four main components, which all refer to resourcing teaching and research in the Global Dimension:

**The first component refers to –**

- The establishment of links with NGOs who provide resources/training/support on the Global Dimension
- A Global Dimension Coordinator to oversee the project.

**The second component relates to -**

- The development of the online course and its evaluation.

**The third component refers to -**

- The production and dissemination of a reference guide to the Global Dimension in initial teacher education.

**The fourth component will seek to -**

- Establish links with educational institutions in the developing world.
- Employ video conferencing, electronic links, and tutor exchanges with the institutions as teaching aids in programmes relating to the Global Dimension.

## Project Steering Group

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