



**EVERY CHILD
DESERVES
THE BEST
EDUCATION**

change **X**



7 ideas that are improving education in primary schools across Ireland



HOW IT WORKS



EXPLORE

Find great
ideas
for your
school



START

Start an idea
and get
support
& mentorship



CONNECT

Share
experience &
learning
with other
teachers



THE IDEA

ReCreate works with local and national businesses to collect unwanted and surplus items. These unwanted materials are then used in schools as materials for art, craft, theatre and creative projects of all kinds. The concept is known as 'Creative Reuse' and it allows children and teachers to unleash their creative potential while saving money on art materials and preventing perfectly good materials going to waste.

THE IMPACT

ReCreate has hosted over 600 workshops teaching innovation through Creative Reuse, and now supplies materials to over 1,700 schools and community groups around the country.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

Your school can become a Member of ReCreate, arrange a visit to the Warehouse of Wonders, avail of materials and sign up for a workshop on 'Creative Reuse' with a local artist.

RECREATE

Engaging kids in creative projects using materials from the warehouse of wonders



changex.org/recreate

"We were thoroughly impressed by the whole experience of working with ReCreate. Our artist was so professional, knowledgeable, and passionate about her craft. It was informative, innovative, and lots of fun! We are so glad we found ReCreate and truly look forward to working with them in the future."



THE IDEA

“The Way We Were” is a living history initiative that involves older people exhibiting artefacts from earlier times and explaining to primary school pupils how they are used. It’s a programme of Third Age Ireland - an organisation that provides opportunities for older people to contribute to their communities and engage actively in society. The programme facilitates inter-generational learning and has multiple benefits for everyone involved.

THE IMPACT

The programme has proven really successful in many primary schools with both students and exhibitors benefiting hugely from the opportunity to get together and share stories as well as creating a unique learning experience for the children.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You can run the project either as a once-off or as a series of workshops.

THE WAY WE WERE

An inter-generational project that brings young and old together through living history



changex.org/the-way-we-were

“The older people were so enchanted to be engaging with these fascinated kids. We had quite a job moving the children on to let the next group in! They truly experienced living history in the most interesting, playful way.”

- Jenny Morton, Organiser in the Burren





MINDFULNESS MATTERS

Mindfulness courses and resources for primary school teachers



changex.org/mindfulness

THE IDEA

Mindfulness Matters builds resilience and self-esteem in Ireland's children by providing teachers with courses and training in mindfulness techniques that they can use with children in the classroom. These techniques have been proven to create a positive school experience and a pleasant learning environment for every child, while enhancing concentration and improving physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

THE IMPACT

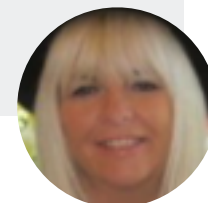
Mindfulness Matters have worked with over 5,000 teachers and 50,000 students across Ireland.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You can get started straight away with simple techniques and resources, attend a Summer Course or host a workshop in your school.

“Mindfulness enhances and develops the physical, social, emotional and mental well-being of each pupil. I have been using Mindfulness Matters courses and resources for the past few years and have seen the benefits first hand.”

- Dr. Máire Nic An Fhailghigh, Chairperson of Mayo EC





THE IDEA

Playworks is a programme designed to improve break time both for children and teachers. It's a semi-structured approach to how you organise playtime during breaks on the yard. It promotes a positive atmosphere, conflict resolution skills and encourages children to be active. It has been shown to build empathy, increase learning and improve behaviour, with research showing essential benefits to child development, an improved school climate and more focused students.

THE IMPACT

Playworks is now active in almost 100 schools across Ireland. Originating in the US, Playworks works with over 700,000 kids annually.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You can sign up to participate in training where you will learn how to implement Playworks in your yard creating a better break time experience for everyone!

PLAYWORKS

Create an inclusive environment for play and physical activity in your school



changex.org/playworks

"The difference in our yard is that the kids are having more fun, the teachers are having fun too and everyone's coming back to class ready for work. It's just a fantastic programme - we love it!"

- Michelle Gibbons, SNA in Galway





THE IDEA

DabbledooMusic is a creative and fun way to learn about music using a new system of music notation designed specifically for teaching children. The system has been created with the aim of giving all children access to quality music education allowing teachers to embrace music as a subject, regardless of their previous musical experience.

THE IMPACT

DabbleDoo Music has worked with over 100 schools in Ireland and over 20,000 children.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You can start by testing out some of the free resources and then signing up for a workshop or an introductory course.

DABBLED OO MUSIC

Making music more accessible, fun and engaging for teachers and students.



changex.org/dabbledoo

“DabbledooMusic caters for every child and every teacher regardless of musical ability or confidence. It inspires musical creativity daily in my class and most importantly inclusivity in the process.”

- Gina Condell, Primary Teacher , Wicklow Educate Together





THE IDEA

A Walking School Bus is a group of children walking to school with adult supervision. It's very simple and that's part of its beauty! It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of volunteers. With support from the school, this can be a great way to allow children get more physical activity and social interaction during the school day

THE IMPACT

Studies show that fewer children are walking and cycling to school and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Changing the behaviour of children and parents requires creative solutions that are safe and fun and implementing a walking school bus can be both!

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You could suggest this to parents as part of a plan for your school to become more active or lead the way and help local parents to set it up.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

A healthier, more fun way for children to get to and from school.



"It's been a wonderful thing for my neighbourhood. The kids love it, the parents love it and the children arrive at school excited, happier and because they've already had physical exercise, they're much more attentive and ready to work."



ECO BEO

Transform your local landscape into an outdoor classroom and create a unique learning experience



changex.org/ecobeo

THE IDEA

Burrenbeo believes that all places have an inherent learning potential, the 'outdoor classroom', and that local communities – particularly schools - should be supported to benefit from this resource. This is an investment in both the students and also in the place itself, as these young experts will be the future stewards of their own places. Such a relationship of caring can also help students connect with and address the bigger challenges that face our environment at a national and global level.

THE IMPACT

Burrenbeo Trust have worked with over 1,200 primary school students in the Burren region over the past decade.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CAN DO

You can start the Eco Beo programme in your school and transform your local area into an 'outdoor classroom' using the online resources developed in the Burren. There are also further training opportunities for schools and teachers that would like to learn more about the programme.

**WHAT IDEAS
COULD WE
BRING TO OUR
SCHOOL?**



changeX

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