



Council for Integrated Education

Call for Tenders

Project: Transformation to Integrated status: Principals' lived experiences of barriers to Transformation since 2022.

June 2024

The Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) is seeking tenders from a suitable person or a suitable team of persons to deliver a research project between September 2024 and January 2025.

Background Information

Almost any school in Northern Ireland can Transform to Integrated status via a legal process called Transformation, outlined in the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989¹. The Integrated Education Act (NI) 2022² has amended the legal definition of Integrated Education and defined its purpose, but it has not altered this legal process. The Department of Education's guidance 'Integration Works'³ (2017 – under review) outlines the process of Transformation in a more accessible way.

The Integrated Education movement is currently experiencing an unprecedented surge in schools coming forward to explore and initiate this process. NICIE⁴ and the Integrated Education Fund (IEF⁵) work in collaboration with the Education Authority (EA⁶) to support schools in this process.

NICIE is a Non-Departmental Public Body, funded by the Department of Education to encourage, facilitate, and promote Integrated Education. IEF is an independent charity which supports the growth and development of Integrated schools. The Integrated Education Act (NI) 2022 has placed a new legal duty on the Department of Education and the Education Authority to facilitate, encourage and support the development of Integrated Education.

In 2022, NICIE and IEF were granted additional funding from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). This has enabled both organisations to respond more effectively to the growing demand for our services and to conduct a series of independent research initiatives, including this project. In combination, these

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1989/2406/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2022/15/contents/enacted>

³ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/integration-works-transforming-your-school-guidance>

⁴ <https://nicie.org/>

⁵ <https://www.ief.org.uk/>

⁶ <https://sites.google.com/c2ken.net/integrated-education-hub/home>

projects assist us to reflect on and refine our services so that we can better support Integrated and Transforming schools.

Previous research which has relevance to this project is the IEF's commissioned research to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Integrated Education Transformation process. This is currently being conducted by Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and we anticipate that the final report will inform this project.

The purpose of the project

Informed by the above recent QUB research into the strengths and weaknesses of the Transformation process, this project will focus on specific topics, to gather in-depth qualitative data from between three and five school Principals.

It will produce a paper detailing the barriers identified by Principals of schools which have recently engaged in the legal process of Transformation. The participants will be a representative sample of the schools supported by NICIE with their Development Proposals and Cases for Change in the last few years.

The produced paper will inform the programmes of support provided by a variety of Integrated Education stakeholders for schools engaged at any stage of school Transformation to Integrated status. We want the final paper to be brief and readable: between 2000 and 3000 words. This word count guide is open for negotiation with the successful tenderer and does not include diagrams or other graphic aids.

Project requirements

- Meet with NICIE and IEF representatives (the project advisory panel) to: initiate the project (September 2024); provide a mid-project report (November 2024); and present the final paper (January 2025).
- Maintain ongoing communications with the NICIE point of contact, who will act as the project's lead advisor.
- Conduct a brief background review of the relevant legal, policy and guidance frameworks, guided by the project advisory panel (Sep/Oct 2024)
- Identify and recruit, with project advisory panel support, between three and five school Principals who have been engaged in the legal process of school Transformation to Integrated status since June 2022 and who are willing to participate in an in-depth one-to-one interview (Sep/Oct 24)
- Agree the participant interview schedule with the project's lead advisor. (Oct 24)

- Conduct between three and five in-depth interviews with the identified school Principals, focussing on their lived experience of what they see as the barriers to Transformation. (Oct/Nov 2024)
- Produce a paper, between 2000 and 3000 words, (Jan 2025) which outlines
 - Executive summary
 - Brief background review
 - Key findings - identified barriers to Transformation
 - Discussion of identified themes
 - Recommendations

Tender assessment criteria

You should present your tender application based on the following criteria. The figures in brackets at the points below represent the weighting that will be used to assess the returned tenders and award the tender.

1. Background, experience and suitability to deliver the project effectively (35%)
2. Understanding of Integrated Education and the Transformation process (25%)
3. Outline of the processes/tools (methodology) you would use to conduct and deliver the project requirements on time (25%)
4. The price you would charge for the project (15%)

NB:

- Please keep your application as brief as you can, ideally between two and three pages of A4 text.
- The maximum budget available for this project is £4950.00
- The closing date for tenders is Monday 8th July 2024.

Your application should be returned to NICIE, for the attention of Lynn Johnston, Senior Development Officer and sent attached to an email to:

admin@nicie.org.uk **and** ljohnston@nicie.org.uk

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours, please telephone NICIE on 028 9694 4200.

If you have any queries, please contact Lynn Johnston via ljohnston@nicie.org.uk