

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2000

Dublin West Education Centre AGM 2000

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Dublin West Education Centre. It is with certain optimism that we meet here tonight as we face the next phase of the centre's history, progress and development. Very shortly we will have the official opening of our new purpose built Education Centre on the campus of the Institute of Technology Clondalkin. Work on this new centre is in the final stages as we have observed in our website, photographs and progress reports over the past few months. I know it is essential for all our staff both administrative and educational to have a building that is a pleasant working environment. Our educational endeavours will continue as they take place in this new attractive education centre that is indeed a fitting place and epitomises all the educational aspirations of Dublin West Education Centre.

Before I address the programmes and activities for 2000 in Dublin West Education Centre, I wish to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our director-Don Herron. Don has the great ability to lead, to direct and to nurture all the work of the centre this past year. At the same time he continues to monitor, to cajole and to support the various challenging stages of our building work in the Institute of Technology Clondalkin. We look forward to a very exciting and rewarding period for Don and all the centre staff, as we move into the new building. On behalf of Management Committee Don, I thank you most sincerely and congratulate you on an excellent year's work.

Deirdre Cleary our administrator, has worked in a most dedicated way to ensure the efficient and smooth running of the centre, despite the increased volume in the work of the centre at local and at national level. Deirdre has a great commitment and dedication to the Dublin West Education Centre and despite the multitude of tasks in hand she deals with all in a calm, most optimistic and effective manner. On behalf of all the teachers and centre users who benefit from the Education Centre, thank-you Deirdre for an excellent year's work. On behalf of Management Committee, Deirdre I thank-you for all your hard work and service to the Centre.

The administrative team in Dublin West Education is an excellent team. They have risen in a very professional way to all the challenges that have taken place over the past year. I acknowledge most sincerely the dedication of full-time staff members, Yvonne Fitzgibbon, Carmel Finlay (accounts), Angie Grogan, Karen Maher for their support on specific areas of project and programme support. Additional support was provided from Lorraine O'Brien, Anne Alamack throughout the year. We acknowledge the excellent work of Fintan Keating our IT advisor. We thank our bookkeeper Marie Fitzmaurice. Additional help was available from Paddy Hyland, Ray Dunne, James Doyle and Grace Loughran. The administrative team supporting the work of the Primary Curriculum Support Programme include Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Fiona Flaherty initially, Carol Hemingway, Mary Brady, Mary King in the latter part of the year. At times we need to pause and to acknowledge most sincerely all the dedicated personnel working for DWEC who ensure the smooth delivery of the many centre services to teachers, schools and projects. On behalf of Management Committee thank you for your immense contribution during 2000.

There has been a considerable range of educational developments in Dublin West Educational Centre in 2000 at national and at local levels. A central core of our work is to serve the schools and teachers in our immediate area and to provide quality programmes. DWEC has had a very active 2000 locally and this reflects the curricular and organisational development in schools today.

Local Programmes and Activities

- Whole School Programmes

- Learning Support Programmes for newly appointed teachers
- Art and Craft
- Interculturalism
- Counselling in collaboration with TACA
- Primary drama
- Primary music
- National Reading Initiative English reading course and Write-a-Book project
- Local principals' support group
- Irish Water Safety Association
- Civic Social Political Education programme (post-primary)
- University of Limerick Guidance and Counselling Diploma

National Programmes

- Civic Social Political Education programme (now completed)
- Substance Misuse Prevention Programme (SMPP)
- Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP)
- National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) ICT programme
- Employee Assistance Scheme (up to September)

The centre facilitates the in-service activities of national programmes administered elsewhere:

- Leaving Certificate Physics and Chemistry
- Junior Cycle Maths
- School Planning Initiatives for primary and post-primary schools
- Primary Sports Initiative launched recently.

Finally, I would like to thank the extremely hard-working voluntary members of the Management Committee of 2000. We have achieved a great deal over the past year. New members joined the committee and contributed greatly in our pursuit of educational excellence. To those of you who serve on the sub-committees of management committee I thank you for your time, your energy and your continued interest in all educational matters. Management Committee enjoyed the opportunity to work with our administration colleagues before Christmas in preparation for the move to the new centre. This day gave us all a sense of our future together. The focus for us now in the coming months is to put all our plans and hopes into action and to enjoy and indeed

welcome this new phase of Dublin West Education Centre's development as we all strive to achieve our educational potential together.

Frances Leahy

Chairperson

25th February 2001