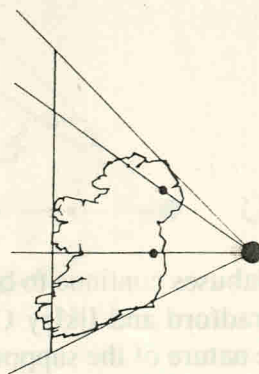


INSTITUTE OF IRISH STUDIES



UNIVERSITY of LIVERPOOL

British Association for Irish Studies

Institute of Irish Studies

Joint Education Programme in Irish Studies: Steering Group

Note from the Chairman

I am sorry that it is proving difficult for the Steering Group to meet, but I hope that this note will re-assure you that the work of the Joint Education Programme is proceeding on the agreed lines.

There have been some disappointments, notably the failure to secure long-term funding for the Joint Education Programme; the difficulty of arranging a conference in London to publicise the JMB's Irish Studies syllabuses; and the continued delay in finalising the GCSE Irish syllabus owing to the repeated postponement of the revised modern language criteria. Nevertheless, much has been achieved and much will continue to be achieved. In particular, the active involvement of a wide range of local education authorities will greatly help in spreading Irish Studies in schools and colleges.

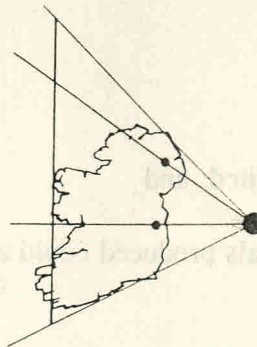
Primary Working Party

Since the last meeting of the Steering Group, the Primary Working Party has met on three occasions - 21 July and 29 September 1990 and 19 January 1991. As a result, the first three Irish Studies Pathways through the National Curriculum (Key Stage 1: 'Who Am I?'; Key Stage 2: 'Communities' and 'Symbols in Society') are about to be trialed in schools. The trials begin on 20 February with sixteen schools in Manchester, including two special schools, and in the spring and summer terms the trials will be extended to schools in Birmingham, Cumbria, Durham, Knowsley and Sefton. A wide variety of schools will thus be included in the trials, at least half of whom are more interested in the cross-curricular aspects of the pathways than the Irish content. (The records of these meetings are not attached, since they contain no strategic information.)

Secondary Working Party

The Secondary Working Party met for the first time on 20 October 1990 and decided upon a plan to devise materials for Key Stage 3 for the Irish Studies option (HSU 19 'Culture and Society in Ireland up to the Early Twentieth Century') over the next twelve months. The materials would be trialed in schools early in the spring term 1992 and should be ready for publication by autumn of that year. The Working Party divided into small groups, each dealing with specific aspects of the option and working to a common format. (The record of this meeting is enclosed since it summarises the strategy being pursued by the Secondary Working Party.)





British Association for Irish Studies

Institute of Irish Studies

JOINT EDUCATION PROGRAMME: SECONDARY WORKING PARTY

Record of Meeting held on 20 October 1990

The first meeting of the Secondary Working Party was held at 10.00 a.m. in the Seminar Room, Institute of Irish Studies, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool 7

1. Present: Mr David Barnes, Mr Will Colhoun, Dr John Dunleavy, Mr Peter Fitzpatrick, Mr David Leedham, Dr Christine Kinealy, Mr Brendan Murray, Mr Jo Sheerin, Dr Roger Swift (Chair)

2. General strategy and role of Working Party

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) the Secondary Working Party would develop in draft support materials (or study units) for Key Stage 3 over the next 12 months;
- (b) this material would then be extensively trialled in schools;
- (c) the target date for the preparation of the completed materials was summer 1992; and
- (d) the Secondary Working Party would meet at least three times a year although they should liaise with Christine Kinealy and Roger Swift whenever necessary

3. The National Curriculum: its approach to Irish Studies

The attention of the Committee was drawn to an article by Nesson Danaher which had appeared in the *Irish Post* and which outlined the availability of support materials for Irish Studies.

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) such support materials were an essential prerequisite to encourage schools to take the Irish Studies option;
- (b) as the Irish Studies option (HSU 19) was in competition with the 'Britain and World War' option, unless good resource materials were available, the demand



6. Identification of possible themes

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) the following groups should be established

Political	-	John Dunleavy; David Leedham
Economic	-	Brendan Murray, Christine Kinealy, Roger Swift
Social	-	Jo Sheerin, David Barnes
Cultural	-	Will Colhoun, Peter Fitzpatrick;

- (b) each group should meet before the next meeting and inform Christine Kinealy of the outcome of this meeting;
- (c) each person should produce 3 double pages (i.e. 6 pages) each or 6 double pages per group;
- (d) in addition to the text, each group should also provide notes for teachers
- (e) this material should be sent to Christine Kinealy by March 1991 for circulation to other members of the group.

7. Involvement of teachers in the Joint Education Programme

IT WAS AGREED to inform the group about any relevant events which were taking place at the Institute. The September 1991 Conference was felt to be particularly relevant

8. Date of next meeting

The Group will next meet at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 27 April 1991.