

Report on	Northern Ireland Forest Schools scheme at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Northern Ireland Forest Schools project at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council are currently assisting three local schools with this pilot scheme. The principle aims of the scheme are to increase both the child's and teachers perception and knowledge of the local environment, allowing both to gain new skills to take back to the classroom,
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Tree planting event at Hill of The O'Neill to mark an important educational partnership.



Pictured above Brian Poots, NIFSA; Councillor Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council; and pupils from St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Dungannon Primary School and Gaelscoil Aodha Rua.

On Tuesday 24th October, the fifth anniversary of the opening of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre, the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Kim Ashton, planted a young oak tree at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park in order to celebrate the partnership between the Council and Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA). Council Chair Kim Ashton was helped by pupils from the three schools – Dungannon Primary School, Gaelscoil Aodha Rua and St Patrick's Primary School - that are taking part in the first year of Northern Ireland Forest School Awards educational activities on the Hill of The O'Neill. P2 pupils from Dungannon Primary School have completed their NIFSA environmental programme and will soon receive their Forest Ranger awards. The classes from Gaelscoil Aodha Rua and St Patrick's Primary School will begin their NIFSA learning activities in early November.

4.0 Other Considerations

Financial & Human Resources Implications

4.1 Financial: Budget already allocated.

Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.

4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s) For the purpose of members information only.
6.0	Documents Attached & References N/A