Driving sustainable Education through democracy

94% of students in Northern Ireland (NI) attend religiously segregated schools

Despite parents voicing a variety of opinions, policy planning lacks a formal mechanism for giving parents and communities an equal voice in the delivery of education

Is it possible to sustainably improve the NI educational system through public involvement in policy-making?

Future Schools: A collective approach by Ulster University researchers

Promoting public consultation in policy decisions

Transforming traditionally top-down policy-making into a more collaborative process

Designing toolkits that connect individuals, communities, stakeholders, and policy-makers

Toolkits that can help (launched in May 2022)

Trusted mediator between parents, communities, and policy-makers

Trusted means for determining school sustainability and possible alternatives to drive it

Evidence-based decision-making for educational bodies in NI

Public participation and deliberative democracy can support sustainable educational change in NI and in divided societies

Una O’Connor, Jessica Bates, Stephen Roulston, and Clare McAuley: Winners of the BERA 2022 Team Public Engagement and Impact Award