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CDI Awarded €40,000 Grant from RTÉ Toy Show Appeal

[The Childhood Development Initiative \(CDI\)](#) is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a €40,000 grant by the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. This generous funding will support our [Nova - Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing project](#), helping to transform children's lives in Tallaght, Dublin 24.

[CDI](#), based in Dublin, Ireland, has received this grant through [Community Foundation Ireland](#). The funds will provide crucial support to schools, young people, and families in need.

[Nova](#), CDI's newest youth mental health programme was developed in 2020/2021 and is now entering its second year of implementation. The programme supports over 700 students across nine primary and secondary schools in Dublin 24. [Nova](#) aims to address emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), which many schools have seen a sharp increase in post-Covid.

EBSA is a broad term describing children and young people who have severe difficulty attending school due to emotional factors, often resulting in prolonged absences. These children miss out on vital periods of learning and development. Nova supports schools in recognising and addressing EBSA by equipping them to deliver evidence-based interventions, provide crucial support to families, and develop innovative resources.

This grant from the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal will allow [Nova](#) to continue its work with schools and families into the next academic year. In addition to maintaining existing support, the funding will enable [Nova](#) to upscale some areas beyond what was previously planned. [Nova](#) will continue to resource schools to deliver the evidence-based [Friends for Life](#) programmes programme in all nine schools and provide funding for respite, therapeutic support, and assessments for children, young people, and their families who directly engage with Nova.

Tomás Hayes, Principal of [St. Aidan's Senior National School](#) in Tallaght, Dublin 24, commented: "St. Aidan's SNS has been an active participant in the NOVA Project pilot scheme since its initiation. This year marked the introduction of [Meitheal](#) interventions and [Friends for Life](#) programmes as part of the Nova project grants. The grant played a pivotal role in reshaping perceptions and practices concerning attendance. We are sincerely appreciative of the interventions funded by the Nova grant."

He added, "If allocated in the future, we are eager to further advance our EBSA work. We have exciting plans to extend and develop our nurture room, a place within the school where children can express themselves freely. The aim is to effectively address the children's needs and prevent exclusion from the classroom and any distress caused by their lack of coping skills."

CDI is grateful for the continued support from the prestigious Toy Show Fund. This grant will have a significant impact on the outcomes [Nova](#) can achieve for children, young people, and their families in Tallaght.

For more information, please visit www.cdi.ie.

Notes to Editors:

About RTE Toy Show Appeal

Inspired by children, the RTE Toy Show Appeal works to bring the magic of the Late Late Toy Show to every child

in Ireland. By funding essential support, health, well-being, play and creativity we aim to change children's lives for good.

The donations to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, are received and managed by registered charity, Community Foundation Ireland with whom we work in partnership. For more information about Community Foundation Ireland, please see here: [Community Foundation Ireland – For change. For better. For all.](#)

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has raised over €21 million for children's charities across the island of Ireland to date.

About CDI: The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) works to improve outcomes for children, families and communities in Tallaght and throughout Ireland. To do this:

- We deliver evidence-informed prevention and early intervention programmes, in partnership with communities and services.
- We support the child and family workforce through professional development training and consultancies.

For more information about CDI please contact:

Notes to Editors:

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