

**"THE CHILDREN CALL US BY OUR FIRST NAME. THERE IS NO THEM, THERE IS JUST US"**



**SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL**

Our teachers bring the curriculum to life by encouraging children to think, question and engage both with their teacher and each other. Reflection and mindfulness are key components of the school year. Children don't wear uniforms. This child-centred approach empowers the individuality of the students while respecting their identities.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Parental involvement in Educate Together schools can encompass all aspects of school life from formal structures like the Board of Management, the Parent Teacher Association and Faith Formation Groups (outside of the school day) through to more hands-on voluntary roles within the school. All parental involvement in school life positively affirms the professional role of the teacher in the classroom and the formal education of the child.

**RAISING STUDENT VOICES**

Educate Together schools aspire towards affirming pupil voices. Debate and discussion are nurtured. Student councils are elected by pupils within the school and these councils are encouraged to contribute to school life and the wider school community.

**OUR JOURNEY**

National schools in Ireland are primarily faith-based. In 1978, a group of parents and educators saw the need to form an organisation that was independent from religious orders, and with a legal commitment to parents, staff and children. This organisation would run schools based on equality and respect where children were welcomed and affirmed irrespective of socio-economic, cultural or religious background. Today we have nearly 100 national schools and demand continues to grow. More and more parents and families want their children educated in an atmosphere of equality. Teachers also choose Educate Together because they want to work in an environment that guarantees and promotes equality.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENROLLING YOUR CHILD?**

Login to [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie) and discover where your closest Educate Together school or campaign group is. Get in touch with the Educate Together national office, we're here to help!

**GET INVOLVED**

Find out how you can participate in this unique equality-based education movement. We are a charity and often need volunteers, donations and support. Check out our website and sign up to our newsletter to stay informed.

**Educate Together national office**  
(01) 429 2500  
[info@educatetogether.ie](mailto:info@educatetogether.ie)  
[www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie)



Educate Together



**EDUCATE TOGETHER**

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS**

An overview for parents

**"WE ARE ALL EQUAL."**



## EDUCATE TOGETHER'S EQUALITY-BASED SCHOOLS:

- ARE STATE-FUNDED
- ARE NON FEE-PAYING
- HAVE NO UNIFORMS
- ARE OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN
- TEACH ETHICAL EDUCATION
- TEACH THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

All children have equal access to the school and no one religion or worldview is given priority over another within the school.

### ETHICAL EDUCATION

Our 'Learn Together' Ethical Education curriculum is taught alongside the National Curriculum. 'Learn Together' includes learning about morality and spirituality; equality and justice; belief systems and an ethical approach to the environment. 'Learn Together' replaces religious instruction and is recognised as a model of best practice in Intercultural Education by the European Union. It teaches children about different belief systems as well as atheism, agnosticism and humanism, without promoting any one worldview over another.

### EDUCATE TOGETHER HAS OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF PROVIDING A UNIQUE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUALITY-BASED ETHOS AT PRIMARY LEVEL

The Educate Together model is founded on a legal commitment to parents, staff and children to run schools based on equality and respect. Our core principles are:

#### EQUALITY-BASED

All children have equal access to the school and no one religion or worldview is given priority over another within the school.

#### CO-EDUCATION

All children are encouraged to explore their full range of abilities and are provided with equal opportunities regardless of their gender or identity.

#### CHILD-CENTRED

Our child-centred approach means that we put children at the heart of all policies and practices and involve them in decision-making where appropriate.

#### DEMOCRATICALLY RUN

We run schools on a democratic basis, encouraging active participation by parents and students in the daily life of the school whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.

**"WE LEARN TOGETHER TO BECOME  
CARING AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF  
A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY."**



**"HE LOVES HIS TEACHER AND THE  
WAY THE CHILDREN ARE TREATED  
AS EQUALS WITH THE ADULTS."**

### OUR WORDS ARE SUPPORTED WITH ACTIONS

Educate Together's commitment to equality at school continues after enrolment. Here are some of the ways in which we support children in our equality-based schools:

#### ENROLMENT

We welcome all children. No child will ever be asked their religion as part of the enrolment process. While in school, no child will be separated or treated differently in any way due to their religious or philosophical beliefs. Many schools have enrolment policies which take into account siblings already attending the school or residency in catchment areas. Check with individual schools for a copy of their policy.

#### CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

There is no faith formation / instruction in any religion during the school day. Pupils are free to be themselves. They are exposed to different beliefs and perspectives in a respectful way that encourages critical thinking. This affirms each child's identity and encourages children to see diversity and different worldviews in a positive light. Schools provide facilities for the teaching of faith formation after school if requested.

#### GENDER EQUALITY

Educate Together has always recognised and celebrated the diverse nature of family. Our schools develop programmes to counter gender stereotyping in all its forms and are proactive in promoting an approach to learning that encourages and supports a wide range of talents among students irrespective of gender.