



"THERE IS A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED."

EDUCATE TOGETHER'S SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS:

- ARE STATE-FUNDED
- ARE NON FEE-PAYING
- HAVE NO UNIFORMS
- ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS
- TEACH ETHICAL EDUCATION
- TEACH CROSS-CURRICULAR SUBJECTS

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students participate in a variety of sporting activities, both indoor and outdoor, team and individual. Students are encouraged to join one of the many clubs on offer, such as foreign languages, cookery, film, drama, art and craft, chess, music, science and technology. Students also have opportunities to participate in programmes such as the Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, Young Social Innovators and the Gaisce Awards.

INDIVIDUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT

Students don't wear uniforms. Instead, the majority of our school communities agree on a dress code that allows students to express their individuality and identity. Reflecting the equality-based nature of the schools and the emphasis on mutual respect, all members of the school community are on first name terms.

OUR JOURNEY

Schools in Ireland are primarily faith-based. In the 1970s, 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. 40 years later, families have seen that Educate Together national schools provide a balance between academic development and social well-being. In more recent times, there has been a movement to see this balance continued in second-level education. In 2011, after many years of advocacy and local activism from parents and communities, Educate Together was recognised by the Government as a second-level patron. The first Educate Together second-level schools their doors in 2014. There is now a network of second-level schools all over Ireland.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENROLLING A STUDENT?

Go to 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
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Educate Together



EDUCATE TOGETHER

SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS

An overview for students and parents



**"OUR SCHOOL REFLECTS
OUR COMMUNITY."**

**AN EQUALITY-BASED
EDUCATION THAT PLACES
THE STUDENT AT ITS CENTRE**

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our second-level schools provide a learning environment that affirms and celebrates students' identities and equips them with the skills and knowledge necessary for the 21st century. We emphasise the importance of developing lifelong learning skills that will enable students to reach their full potential while at the same time preparing them to become caring and active members of a culturally diverse society.

Active, engaging teaching and learning methods are used throughout Junior and Senior Cycle. Teachers take a cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning, helping students to understand the links between subjects and their real-world applications. This enables students to develop research skills, group work skills, time management skills, digital literacy skills, presentation skills and more. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is widely used as a tool for learning across all subject areas.

**EDUCATE TOGETHER HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED
A UNIQUE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUALITY-BASED ETHOS
AT BOTH PRIMARY AND SECOND-LEVEL**

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

EQUALITY-BASED

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

CO-EDUCATION

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

LEARNER-CENTRED

Our student-centred approach means that we put students at the heart of all policies and practices and involve them in decision-making.

DEMOCRATICALLY RUN

We run 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.



**"I LOVE THE WAY THE TEACHERS
ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE
INDIVIDUALITY AND SHARING WHO
YOU ARE AS A PERSON."**



**"I HAVE NEVER TAUGHT IN A
HAPPIER, MORE RESPECTFUL
ENVIRONMENT."**

ETHICAL EDUCATION

Students follow an Ethical Education curriculum, which includes themes on values, worldviews and belief systems, global citizenship education, diversity, migration and equality. Our ethos provides a strong moral, ethical framework for the whole school community, and informs all policies and practices in the daily life of the school.

ENROLMENT

We welcome all students. Many schools have enrolment policies which take into account siblings already attending the school or residency in catchment areas. We work closely with local primary schools, parents and students to make the transition from primary to second-level easier, holding induction sessions before the start of the new school year.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Educate Together schools aspire towards affirming pupil voices. Debate and discussion are nurtured. In an Educate Together second-level school, all members of the school community are invited to participate in the management process through membership of the Board of Management, Student Council and Parents Association. The school Principal provides dynamic, positive leadership, with students, teachers and parents encouraged to participate in policy-making and planning. As well as having an active Parents Association and Student Council, the school's Board of Management includes two student Associate Members.