

Lecturers:

The course is a partnership initiative between St Patrick's College and Educate Together. Staff from both organizations will teach on the course and guest speakers will be invited to deliver specialist lectures.

Assessment:

Assessment will take the form of essay, portfolio presentation, evaluation and/or report.

Duration:

1 year part-time. This course will be blended, including online content and live lectures delivered in real time, as well as face-to-face lectures on selected Saturdays, to facilitate those whose capacity to travel to St. Patrick's College is limited.

As this is a modular Certificate, students may have the opportunity to complete it over a period of more than one year. Please check with St Patrick's College for terms and conditions.

Dates:

The course will run from October to June.

Fees:

The cost of each module is €432. Fees are eligible for tax relief or may be refunded through the Teacher Refund Scheme (details on enrolment).

Applications and further details:

Admissions Office
St Patrick's College
Drumcondra
Dublin 9
Tel. 01 884 2096 / 2025
Email: Admissions.Office@spd.dcu.ie
Web: www.spd.dcu.ie/in-service



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St Patrick's College is a College
of Dublin City University



Daire Keogh, President, St Patrick's College

St Patrick's College is proud to deliver this postgraduate programme in Ethical and Multidenominational Education, in conjunction with Educate Together. Participants on the programme will critically explore ethical approaches to education and the philosophy and values underlying their educational work in modern Ireland. This blended learning modular programme can provide a pathway to higher qualifications for teachers and related professions.



Paul Rowe, CEO, Educate Together

Educate Together is committed to supporting teachers' continuing professional development in this vital area. We are excited to be working in partnership with St Patrick's College to develop this innovative Certificate. It is wonderful that teachers will now have the opportunity to explore their own perspectives and practices in Ethical Education, while working towards a recognised postgraduate qualification.



Fionnuala Waldron, Head of Education, Dean of Education and Chair of the Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education

St Patrick's College is committed to meeting the professional development needs of teachers and schools. We are delighted to collaborate with Educate Together in offering the Ethical and Multi-denominational Education Certificate Course which is open to all teachers.



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Certificate in Ethical and Multi-denominational Education

Introduction

This is a one-year, part-time course. Successful participants will be awarded a postgraduate Certificate, which is awarded at Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications and 20 ECTS credits. Credit may be taken towards a master's degree, subject to certain terms and conditions.

St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and Educate Together have developed this Certificate in response to growing demand for a course which explores the concepts underlying Ethical and Multi-denominational Education.

The course will help teachers, principals and others working in education to explore questions like:

- What does 'Ethical Education' mean in a modern Irish context?
- What values should underpin education in multicultural democracies?
- How can a teacher support the moral and spiritual development of learners from different belief backgrounds?
- What does it mean to be an ethical leader in a multi-denominational school?



Course Outline

The course is made up of four modules, each of which involves 20 hours of formal contact time (including online and face-to-face)

Module 1: Philosophies of Ethical and Multi-denominational Education

This module will examine the philosophical issues which lie at the heart of the ethos debate in Irish education. The ethos of a school is an example of putting philosophy into practice in education; it is also an example of how no pedagogy is ever 'innocent'. The issue of ethos in Irish primary education is complex, with a traditionalist emphasis now coming under increasing pressure in the 'new Ireland'. This module will look at the philosophical alternatives available for teachers and students.



Module Coordinator and Course Leader: Jones Irwin

Jones Irwin lectures in philosophy and education at St Patrick's College. His recent work has focused on ethos in Irish schools. He has also been actively involved in the development of the new Ethics and Education curriculum strand in initial teacher education, which seeks to provide a multi-denominational option for teacher students. His most recent publication is the book: Paulo Freire's Philosophy of Education: Origins, Developments, Impacts and Legacies.



Module 2: Democratic Values in Education

During this module students will explore and critically examine the values which underpin education in multicultural democracies. They will learn about some of the value frameworks which inform education policy and practice in schools nationally and internationally, and will discuss and identify issues relating to values in the broader education system and in their own practice.

Module Coordinator: Brian Ruane

Brian Ruane is lecturer in history education and citizenship education in St. Patrick's College. Previously, he worked as a primary teacher and in education programme management with Trócaire and Amnesty International Irish Section. He has written and edited a number of reports, academic articles, curriculum materials and books in the broad area of human rights education. He has also been involved in the new Ethics and Education strand in the undergraduate programme.



Module 3: Curriculum and Pedagogy in Ethical Education

Students will examine the development of multi-denominational schools in Ireland and the Learn Together curriculum. They will explore the concept of Ethical Education in an international context and learn to identify appropriate teaching and learning methodologies and resources. Throughout the module students will reflect on the role of the teacher as an ethical practitioner and the relationship between curriculum and ethos.

Module Coordinator: Fionnuala Ward

Fionnuala Ward is the Primary Education Officer for Educate Together. She works extensively in the Colleges of Education coordinating courses on Educate Together and the Learn Together curriculum. Fionnuala qualified as a teacher in St Patrick's College, and later completed a Masters in Equality Studies in UCD. She has developed and edited a range of curriculum materials in the areas of ethical education and diversity.



Module 4: Teacher as Ethical Leader

This module will explore what it means to be an ethical leader, with a particular focus on multi-denominational school contexts. The approach will involve critical examination of theories and practical examples of case studies and scenarios, and the consideration of their application in everyday contexts. A key dimension of the module will be its action research orientation, which will require participants to inquire on an aspect of their own educational work as leaders and to reflect into that work with their peers. Through this process a theory of what it is to be an ethical leader will be developed.

Module Coordinator: Regina Murphy

Regina Murphy is Senior Lecturer and Director of Inservice Education at St Patrick's College where she teaches and directs courses at postgraduate level. A former primary school principal in Dublin, Regina has also taught in schools in New Zealand and England where she has experienced contrasting models of schooling at first hand. Her current research interests include generalist teacher expertise and teacher learning in communities of practice.

