



# Educate Together 120

## Educate Together's vision for education equality in Ireland

Since the 1970s, Educate Together schools have nurtured critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, creativity and above all, respect for the potential of every individual child.

Educate Together schools are equality-based, co-educational, child-centred and democratically run. Our schools provide learner-centred ethical education. Educate Together schools encourage students to reach their full potential - both academically and socially.

## Educate Together 120

### – Towards Equality Education for Every Child

Educate Together is on the verge of a huge breakthrough in its mission to provide access to equality-based education for children across Ireland. For over forty years, Educate Together has successfully challenged the status quo of the education system, giving tens of thousands of young people access to our unique Ethical Education curriculum – helping them to develop as creative and critical thinkers, lifelong learners and caring, active members of society.

Reaching this point has taken hard work, determination and the support of people like you. Now we are embarking on the next stage of our journey: **Educate Together 120** – Towards Equality Education for Every Child.

This Campaign will open the doors of a further 30 equality-based schools, extending the Educate Together ethos to communities all across Ireland.



“We appreciate, enjoy and cherish the openness with which every child in the school is supported in their growth. Teachers are more than just teachers – they are proper guides and philosophers. Parents are extended the coveted opportunity of walking alongside their wards, taking part in school activities that are immensely conducive to the wholesome growth of the children. We look forward to continuing this warm relationship with Educate Together in the years to come and would love to see the school and the organisation grow.”

Parent, Mullingar  
Educate Together  
National School



# The Educate Together Story



## Educate Together in 2016

In 1978, the first Educate Together school was opened in Dalkey by a small group of parents and teachers who got together at school gates and around kitchen tables to create a new model of equality-based education. Their hard-won success was replicated by communities in different areas, and by 2006, there were 40 Educate Together national schools providing equality-based, child-centred education around the country.

The last decade has seen huge changes in Irish society. Alongside the social and cultural shifts taking place, there has been a growing awareness of the meaning and importance of equality, and families across Ireland are demanding that this change is reflected in their schools. Educate Together has played its part in leading and supporting that change, developing an advanced Ethical Education curriculum and supporting teachers and school communities to make a difference at local level.

As demand for a more inclusive and relevant model of secondary education grew in Irish society, so too did the numbers of families seeking an Educate Together second-level option, and in 2014 we opened our first second-level schools. These schools are already radically changing the school experience for young people in Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Louth and Wicklow - nurturing creativity and interpersonal skills and bringing learning to life.

90 schools: 81 primary and 9 second-level schools, providing Ethical Education to 22,000 students across Ireland

1,200 school staff, including principals and teachers

Tackling disadvantage: 27% of schools qualify for support under the DEIS support scheme for schools in areas of social disadvantage

Promoting inclusion: 14% of schools with specialist facilities for children with autism / special education needs

Growing pressure to accelerate the establishment of a national network of schools to meet increasing demand



## Towards Equality Education for Every Child



### A tide of change is spreading across the country

More and more families want their children educated in an atmosphere of equality. Parents want their children to grow and develop as confident and caring citizens in a global and diverse world. Teachers want to work in an environment that guarantees and promotes equality. In every county in Ireland, families are seeking the choice to send their children to Educate Together schools.

Opening 90 Educate Together schools over the last 40 years has taken courage, perseverance and determination on the part of parents and teachers all over Ireland. There have been many challenges to overcome, and while there is no shortage of voluntary and community initiative at local level, financial support is required to open schools and make change happen.

Our advocacy has resulted in greater political support for opening new Educate Together schools, but this work is still underfunded. Depending on its size, it costs anywhere from €60,000 to €100,000 to open a school, and government grants still cover less than 20% of those costs.

### The opportunity

**Join us in opening 30 more ground-breaking inspirational schools, transforming education for future generations.**

With the rapid growth in awareness and support for equality-based education in recent years, comes an unprecedented opportunity to take a giant leap forwards. With your support, we plan to raise **€2 million over the next 5 years**. This will enable us to open **30 more schools** - giving thousands of families access to equality-based education. It will also guarantee the future of Educate Together schools: when the Educate Together network reaches **120 schools** it becomes **self-sustaining**. This is the tipping point towards achieving equality education for every child in Ireland.

**Educate Together 120** provides a wonderful opportunity for you to be part of realising this vision.

“We were delighted to make a financial contribution to support Educate Together’s development in the early stages. We would encourage all of you who can to make a contribution now (however modest) to support the next phase. It has given us, and will give you, great satisfaction to be a pioneer in creating an inclusive and pluralist educational environment for our children.”

Desmond Green  
and Catherine Cotter

# Join Us

Educate Together is a movement that is transforming the educational experience of a whole generation.



We now invite you to join us on this inspiring journey! With your support, we aim to raise €2 million over the next 5 years.

Whether you can contribute €1,000 or €100,000, all support at all levels will be hugely valued in helping us to achieve our goal of Equality Education for Every Child.

## The following provides guidance on possible levels of support:

- Campaign Contributor: €250\*

- Campaign Supporter: €1,000

- Campaign Friend: €10,000

- Campaign Champion: €25,000

- Campaign Sponsor: €50,000

- Campaign Patron: €100,000

\*€250 is the tax relief donation level - The tax refund for donations from all donors regardless of their tax status (PAYE or Self-assessed) goes to Educate Together at a blended rate of 31%. Charities no longer need to ask donors about their tax affairs and the only reason that a refund claim will be rejected is if the donor has not paid sufficient tax in the relevant year to cover the reclaim or inaccurate details have been supplied. Educate Together is happy to discuss this further if you have queries. We would also be delighted to discuss suitable pledge timelines with you - whether once off, monthly or annually.

For more information, contact Emer Nowlan at [EducateTogether120@educatetogether.ie](mailto:EducateTogether120@educatetogether.ie), call 01 429 2500, or return the form below to Educate Together, Equity House, 16/17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. All enquiries will be dealt with in confidence.

I am interested in meeting someone to discuss the Campaign

OR

Please contact me by phone to discuss further

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

While we would really value the opportunity to engage with you in person or by phone to discuss the Campaign and your potential support, for those who would prefer to make an online or postal donation please see details below:

Online: [www.educatetogether.ie/donate](http://www.educatetogether.ie/donate)

By post: Educate Together, Equity House, 16/17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7