



Second-Level Working Groups

The core principles of Educate Together - that schools are multi-denominational, co-educational, learner-centred and democratically run - are explored in a second-level context in *Taking the Next Step: A Blueprint for an Educate Together Second-level School*.

The Blueprint is divided into 4 key areas, as follows:

- Curriculum, Teaching & Learning,
- The Ethical Curriculum,
- Leadership, Management & Structure, and
- Campus and Built Environment.

What is a working group? A working group is made up of volunteers who come together to help further the aims of the Educate Together second-level project, and who focus on one of the 4 key areas outlined in the Blueprint (see above). Each working group works on different projects in their chosen key area in preparation for the opening of the first Educate Together Second-level schools.

Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Working Group This working group has been researching examples of integrated approaches to curriculum. At an Educate Together second-level school, students experience a wide range of new subjects, but the curriculum will be delivered in more integrated ways. The group has also been exploring how best to ensure a learner-centred approach at an Educate Together second-level school.

Ethical Curriculum Working Group This working group is involved in research projects that help to develop the ethical curriculum at second-level. This curriculum is based on values of equality, human rights and active citizenship, and includes a comprehensive religious education programme.

Leadership, Management and Structure Working Group This working group develops guidelines to assist an Educate Together second-level school in implementing policies that reflect Educate Together's ethos, where parents, students and teachers all participate in decision-making.

Campus and Built Environment Working Group This working group undertakes research projects that will help ensure that an Educate Together second-level school building will provide the best possible teaching and learning environment, and where building design and its maintenance are seen as opportunities for the school community to promote environmental awareness and responsibility.

Who can become a member of a working group? Anyone can become a member of a working group. However, it is important that volunteers have a good understanding of the Educate Together Ethos and are committed to Educate Together's Second-level Project.

Who are the working groups responsible to? The Educate Together Second-level Education Officer provides information on the terms of reference for each working group, and its main objectives. However, the responsibility for delivering on these objectives is up to the members of each working group.

How often do working groups meet? The working groups usually meet every two months, and more often if they are working on a particular project. They also have opportunities to report back to other second-level working groups and at Educate Together national meetings.

How do I join a working group? Contact Educate Together's Second-level Education Officer at Educate Together's National Office. Tel: 01 429 2500 E: secondlevel@educatetogether.ie