



Educate
Together

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR EVALUATION OF NURTURE SCHOOLS PROJECT (NOVEMBER 2022)

1. INTRODUCTION

Educate Together is the representative body for 117 equality-based schools in Ireland. A registered charity, Educate Together is the management body for 96 national schools and patron (or patron/trustee partner) of 21 post-primary schools, including voluntary secondary schools, community schools and community colleges.

Educate Together is a modern, dynamic, independent charity that is redefining standards in inclusive, learner-centred education. As a school patron, management body and membership organisation, Educate Together has responsibilities in relation to the governance and management of schools, which include school ethos. Through a unique Ethical Education curriculum, our schools develop students' knowledge, skills and attitudes in equality, human rights and sustainability.

Our core values as articulated in our charter are:

- Equality-based i.e. all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds being equally respected
- Co-educational and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities
- Child-centred in their approach to education
- Democratically-run with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.

2. BACKGROUND

Educate Together embarked on a Nurture Schools project in 2020. It is the first of its kind in Ireland to engage primary and second-level schools in the adoption of a Nurture approach at network level and is supported by Salesforce and Rethink Ireland. Salesforce provided the seed capital to begin the project in 2020 to run up to the end of 2022. Rethink's involvement began in 2021 and continues until September 2023.

Educate Together now seeks an experienced person/team/organisation to evaluate the project with a specific focus on the goals and objectives of the project, which were to:

1. Improve social and emotional skills development, attendance and confidence in learning ability of students in Educate Together schools through participation in the Nurture Schools project
2. Increase the knowledge, confidence and skills of educators in teaching students who are experiencing or at risk of educational disadvantage
3. Enhance educational practitioners' knowledge, skills, and students' capacity to engage in online and blended learning

The project has operated using an evaluation framework (i.e., agreed indicators and evaluation tools). Educate Together, along with our partners, has been responsible for data collection and preparation of reports summarising findings from the project to date.

This framework data is being collected in an anonymised manner from school staff and students and includes:

- Anonymised and collated Online 'Boxall' assessment results
- Anonymised school based assessments
- School staff surveys
- Student surveys
- CPD (Continuing Professional Development) evaluations
- Project reports (including reports from project partners)

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT EVALUATION

Educate Together would like to engage an external evaluator to:

- Undertake an analysis of the existing data to assess the impact of the project against the goals
- Develop a project evaluation report and recommendations for Educate Together, participating schools and the education sector as a whole regarding the Nurture approach. The report should be presented to a publishable standard.

4. METHODOLOGY

We anticipate the evaluation will include a combination of desk based work as well as interviews/focus groups with key stakeholders. The appointed evaluator will be provided with access to data gathered.

5. EVALUATOR SPECIFICATIONS

The person or people hired to undertake this evaluation should have the following qualifications and skills:

- Past experience conducting similar evaluations of projects demonstrated through past work and/or evaluation reports
- Past experience undertaking interviews/focus groups with key stakeholders
- Demonstrate an understanding of the work of Educate Together in the context of the Nurture project, the principles of the Nurture approach situated in the wellbeing framework for schools in Ireland
- Strong report writing and communication skills
- Ability to work to agreed timeframe and deadlines

6. TIMEFRAME

The contract will be awarded in December 2022. The evaluation will be commenced in January 2023 and completed by 28th February 2023.

7. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget for this work is up to €8,000 (inclusive of VAT). The consultant will be responsible for all tax, VAT and other associated liabilities.

Educate Together

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16/17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7

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T +353 1 4292500

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www.educatetogether.ie

Directors 2022 – 2023

T. Burke, L. Byrne Á. Clancy, A. Clifford,

C. Ó Cuanacháin, D. Abuchi-Ogbonda, M. Hurley,

E. Lane-Spollen (Acting Chair),

M. Wallen, R. Woulfe, S. Mortell

Company No. 286202

Registered Charity No. 20033309

8. TENDER PROCESS

To apply, please submit a tender document outlining the following information:

- Description of the proposed methodology and approach
- Detailed breakdown of cost and timeline
- Details of relevant experience for any persons involved
- Examples of previous work and contact details of two referees

9. SELECTION PROCESS

Each tender submitted by the deadline will be assessed on the basis of:

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the brief
- Proven track record
- Experience in relevant methodologies
- Knowledge of and experience working with the education sector and/or community and voluntary sectors
- Cost effectiveness

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- The proposal submitted, and any subsequent clarification discussions and written communications between the parties, will form the basis of a contract for services to be agreed between Educate Together and the successful consultant.
- The successful consultant shall be responsible for the delivery of all services provided within the terms of the contract on the basis of the agreed fees set at the beginning of the contract. Educate Together retains the right to withhold payment of fees where a consultant has failed to meet its contractual obligations in relation to the delivery of services to an acceptable level of quality.
- The resulting report, documentation or other outputs produced in the course of the contracted work will be the property of Educate Together.
- Any conflicts of interest must be fully disclosed by the tenderer to Educate Together upon submission of tender.
- Educate Together is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any tender offered.
- Educate Together will not be liable for any costs incurred by tenderers in formulating or presenting proposals.
- Educate Together and the tenderer undertake to ensure the confidentiality of information provided by either party in relation to this invitation to tender, subject to the parties' obligations under the law.

11. APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINE

Tenders should be sent by email to sandra.irwingowran@educatetogether.ie marked *Tender Application* in the subject line before **5pm on Friday 9th December 2022**.

Further Information upon request to the above email address.

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