



The National Conversation on Education

Student Council of Kilcolgan ETNS Submission

We, the Student Council of Kilcolgan Educate Together National School, would like to share what matters most to us in our school experience and what we hope future schools in Ireland will look like.

In our school, we enjoy learning through creativity and movement. Art helps us express feelings in ways that talking sometimes can't, and PE is one of the highlights of our week. We appreciate having inclusive spaces and good facilities like our basketball court. Using iPads and technology also makes learning more enjoyable and helps us understand things better.

There are areas where we feel school could improve. Many of us would like more PE and more time outdoors, not just at break but as part of our learning. Some students suggested a four-day week or having time during the school day to complete homework, showing how important wellbeing and balance are to us. We also feel that we use too many school books and would prefer more active, playful approaches to learning, especially in Maths, English and Irish.

We would like more school trips, more plays and more opportunities to start the day with games that help us feel connected and ready to learn. When it comes to hot lunches, opinions are very mixed — some students enjoy them, others don't, and many feel students should have more say in what is offered.

When we imagine the future, we picture bigger classrooms, more outdoor activities and a school with more space and technology. Most importantly, we want to continue feeling listened to. Even though it was hard for us to name specific values, we realised how important respect and kindness are when we imagined what school would be like without them.

Overall, we want school to be a place where learning feels active, creative and meaningful — a place worth getting up for in the morning.

Kilcolgan ETNS Student Council