



Educate
Together

Donabate Portrane ETNS

ANNUAL REPORT

and Financial Statements

2025

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Our Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

Educate Together is working towards an Ireland in which all people have access to an excellent education that is inclusive of all, irrespective of belief system, race, ethnicity, class, culture, gender, sexuality, language and ability.



Mission

Educate Together is an agent for change in the Irish State education system seeking to ensure that parents have the choice of an education based on the inclusive, intercultural values of respect for difference and justice and equality for all. In Educate Together schools, every child will learn in an inclusive, democratic, co-educational setting that is committed to enabling each child to achieve their full personal, social and academic potential, and to supporting them to develop as caring and active members of a culturally diverse society.

Values

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.

CHILD-CENTRED

in their approach to education.

CO-EDUCATIONAL

and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities.

DEMOCRATICALLY RUN

with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.



Educate
Together

Dalkey School Project in 1978



Our History

45 years of experience in equality

Educate Together has its roots in the Dalkey School Project National School, founded in 1978. Dalkey SP was the culmination of the hard work of several parents who wanted inclusive schools that embraced difference and celebrated principles of tolerance and mutual respect, where children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds were equally respected.

After similar schools opened in Bray (1981) and North Dublin (1984), they formed a national umbrella organisation in 1984, adopting the name 'Educate Together'. The Educate Together Charter, agreed in 1990, sets out Educate Together's core principles: equality, co-education, democratic participation, and a child-centred approach. By the mid-1990s, the movement had grown to 14 schools, and a permanent national office was established. Educate Together was formally incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 1998.

Following a decade-long campaign, Educate Together was recognised as a second-level patron in 2011, and the first three Educate Together second-level schools opened in 2014.



Educate Together students at the presidential inauguration of Michael D. Higgins in 2011

Present day

Today, Educate Together operates a national network of 118 schools across Ireland—97 primary and 21 second-level—educating over 42,000 students. Growth has continued to be driven by parental demand, with the national office supporting families' rights to access their preferred model of education. Over the last 15 years, 50 schools have been established in response to this local demand.

“

“There can be no doubt that, as a society, we have travelled far from the Ireland of 1978 when the Educate Together movement first took root. Today, that pioneering vision has taken its rightful place in our education system, growing, flourishing and enabling a further generation of citizens to benefit from the generous and participative ethos which defines Educate Together.”

Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland

”

Year in Review

2025 at a glance

In 2025, Educate Together operates a national network of 118 schools—97 primary and 21 second-level—educating over 42,000 students, driven by continued parental demand for equality-based education.



42,164

Students enrolled
(an increase of 827 from 2024)



97

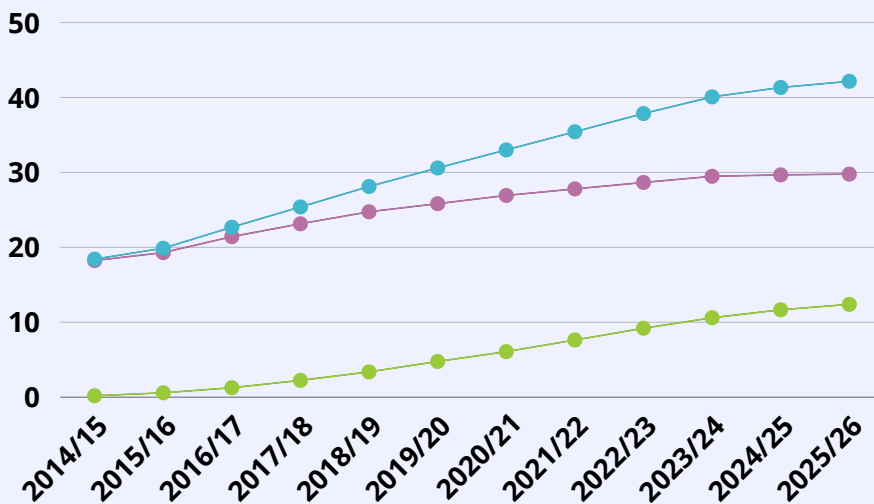
Primary schools



21

Second-level schools

The Educate Together School Network 2014 - 2025



Total students
Primary pupils
Second-level students

Year in Review



469

School staff appointments



87

Board members trained



2,475

Garda-vetting applications processed



195

Independent accessors approved



57

Schools in Nurture Schools Projects



€12,500+

Raised for One Day Together 2025

In the Media

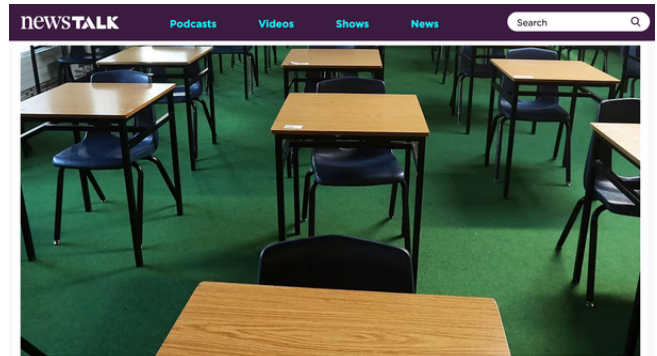
IT THE IRISH TIMES

'We certainly didn't cancel Christmas': What happens when a Catholic school turns multid denominational?

Michelle McBride
Tue Feb 11 2025



Educational charity hopes to see more schooling options in Kerry



How is religion taught in schools today?

To discuss, Kieran is joined by Edward Platt, School Development Officer with Educate together and Hazel McWey, Principal of Catholic Ballinabranna National School Carlow...

Irish Independent

Leitrim

Call for action as Leitrim remains without Educate Together school

Irish Examiner

'Ireland is my home now': Meet the Ukrainian children who found refuge from the war in Cork



Polina and Nadya. Polina attends a Cork Educate Together national school: 'I walked in and they were all waving Ukrainian flags!' Picture: Chani Anderson

louthlive

Educate Together says many Louth families still lack school choice

Educate Together urges action on parents' survey.

The Laois People



News © December 5th, 2025

Educate Together urges Laois parents to complete school survey

In the Media

RTÉ | 100

Seven schools awarded for celebrating inclusivity and diversity

Updated / Thursday, 10 Apr 2025 18:18



Students from Powerscourt ETNS said their new committee has improved diversity and inclusivity

Irish Independent

Gorey Educate Together celebrates 20 years as school goes from strength to strength



Mia, Amelia, Sheila and Clara Doherty dancing at the Gorey Educate Together National School 20 Year Anniversary Celebration. PHOTO: Sabrina Firench

Meath Chronicle



Henry, Laurence and Edith (Movie Facts Act)

A Wonderful Journey... Trim Educate Together celebrates 10 years

Irish Independent

Wexford school showcases children's involvement in a variety of programmes during open evening



Lillie Kehoe from Ballinabarna and Bríd Kehoe from Ballinabogue at the Educate Together open evening.

Irish Independent

NEWS 7



Bray School Project opens new classes



Irish Independent

Wicklow students drive change with third youth-led sustainability conference



Attending the launch of the conference were Eve Doyle, Sophie O'Callaghan, Marja Micevicute, Rada Kanevskaya and Anna Klein of Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow.

Echo LIVE.ie

'He's done wonders for some of the kids in the school': Cork Educate Together dog Guy 'graduates'

The graduation ceremony featured music from the school choir and a celebration of My Canine Companion, with the school's LCVP class having raised €600 through bake sales and a raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses.



the nenagh Guardian



Dare to Believe ambassadors, Two-time Olympic Champion Fintan McCarthy and Olympic boxer Gráinne Walsh at Mullingar Educate Together National School as part of the Dare to Believe programme to inspire the next generation, sponsored by Allianz. Photo by David Fitzgerald/Sportsfile

DublinGazette

Stapolin ETNS take their campaign to the Dáil



RTÉ | 100

DJ For A Day: Singing along with Stepside NS

Updated / Friday, 11 Apr 2025 11:52



limericklive

Inclusive Limerick school celebrates landmark 20th anniversary

The milestone event for Limerick Educate Together was held in Mungret and brought together over 200 parents, teachers and pupils



Deirdre McMahon, Pauline Ryan, Marek McGann and Limerick Educate Together principal, Mike Qualey at the anniversary celebration

Chairperson's Report



Emma Lane-Spollen
Chairperson

Growing Conflict, Inequality & Climate Change

Complex global challenges are increasingly shaping everyday life and children's awareness of the world and others. This generation is being exposed to and shaped by the media more than any generation before them. Children are seeing other children being killed by war and famine, facing brutal inhumanity, and they are taking in opinions and coverage that are often highly polarised.

In this context, the school community plays a vital role in helping children and young people develop the skills and confidence to think critically, understand different perspectives and engage constructively with others. We also need to recognise how central our schools are in providing a safe space in which to nurture a love of humanity and to encourage empathy and active citizenship.

Our ethos places equality, respect and democratic participation at the heart of education, ensuring that students develop not only strong academic foundations but also the values needed to engage with and contribute positively to society. The continued growth in demand from families seeking this form of education affirms the importance of the work being carried out in our schools.



Progress in 2025

During 2025, the organisation successfully completed an interim review of our Strategic Plan, Stronger Together, and we can report substantial progress made and clear priorities set for the remaining two years. This exercise provided an opportunity to reflect on the changing educational landscape in Ireland; demographic shifts, evolving policy priorities, and the ongoing demand for Educate Together.

A significant national development during the year was the long-awaited nationwide survey of parents regarding primary school patronage. For many years, Educate Together has advocated for a transparent process that enables families to express their preferences for the type of schools they want in their communities. The scale of participation in this survey demonstrated strong public interest. We look forward to the publication of the findings. The outcome of this may be very influential in shaping our work in the coming years.

Progress in the reconfiguration of school patronage remains in theory an important part of that wider change. However, without practical supports to enable school communities to consider transfer and manage change, it is neither facilitated nor incentivised. The experience of Paradise Place Educate Together National School, the first Catholic school in the country to transfer patronage to Educate Together, continues to illustrate how such transitions can take place successfully when communities are supported and informed throughout the process.

Chairperson's Report



Dalkey School Project 50th Anniversary

Progress in 2025 cont.

Alongside these national developments, our schools continue to innovate and be thought leaders on the future of education. The benefit of our tight network is the ability to disseminate innovation through collaboration and shared learning. Across the network, educators are exploring new approaches to student participation, voice and democracy, digital literacy, cross-curricular learning, teaching about difference, and strengthening wellbeing. These initiatives reflect the creativity and commitment of our teachers and school leaders, and they ensure that Educate Together schools remain dynamic learning environments for students and staff alike.

2025 also provided an opportunity to reflect on the origins of our movement. In February, Dalkey School Project celebrated fifty years since its founding. What began as a small group of incredibly determined parents seeking a different kind of education has grown into a national movement serving tens of thousands of students. The anniversary was a powerful reminder of how far the vision of those early pioneers has travelled and how relevant it remains today.

Remembering Micheal Johnston

It was therefore with great sadness that we marked the passing later in the year of Micheal (Mike) Johnston, one of the founding figures of the Dalkey School Project and a powerful advocate for equality-based education. His leadership in the early years of the movement helped shape the principles that guide our work today. The legacy of his commitment lives on in the vibrant and inclusive school communities that continue to grow across the country.



Micheal Johnston, one of the founders of Educate Together

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend sincere thanks to our school communities, our many volunteers, and our partners and supporters whose collaboration makes our work possible. I also wish to acknowledge the dedication of the staff of Educate Together, led by Dr. Emer Nowlan, whose professionalism and commitment continue to drive the organisation forward. As we look ahead, the need for an education system that reflects the diversity and values of modern Ireland remains as strong as ever. Together with our members and school communities, Educate Together will continue to advocate for a system that places children, equality and democratic participation at its centre.

I commend to you the Educate Together Annual Report 2025.

Emma Lane-Spollen
Chairperson

Key Achievements



Dalkey School Project (DSP) Principal Clodagh & Sabina Higgins at DSP 50th Anniversary event

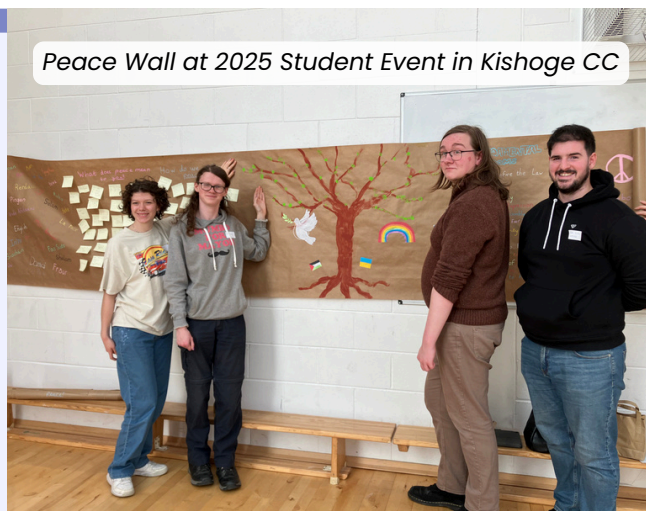
DSP 50th Anniversary

In February 2025, Dalkey School Project NS marked 50 years since its founding, celebrating its role in pioneering multi-denominational/equality-based education in Ireland. The event brought together founders and the school community to reflect on its legacy, which continues to underpin the Educate Together movement and its commitment to inclusive education nationwide.

Student Activism

In May 2025, Educate Together secured a three-year Irish Aid grant for a project supporting student-led activism in primary schools. The funding enabled the appointment of a Global Citizenship Education Officer to work with school leaders, teachers and students, providing training, resources and support through the Learn Together curriculum.

Peace Wall at 2025 Student Event in Kishoge CC



Thornleigh ETNS

Strategic Review

The interim review of Educate Together's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 confirmed strong progress across most areas, including school supports, Ethical Education, the Nurture project, governance and the first Catholic school transfer. Vision and Mission statements were updated with 98% member support. The plan was extended to 2027, with priority actions identified around data systems, student participation, and support for Ethos Self-Evaluation and patronage transfers.

Key Achievements



New Buildings

In 2025, four Educate Together schools moved into new permanent buildings: Harold's Cross ETNS, Malahide Portmarnock ETSS (Phase 2), Belmayne ETSS (Phase 2) and Stepside ETSS (Phase 1B handover). Riverview ETNS also regained part of its site, providing valuable space for growth. By year-end, the proportion of schools in temporary accommodation fell to 30% (22% of primaries, 62% of second-levels), reflecting steady progress.



Patronage Survey

Educate Together has long advocated for a nationwide survey on school patronage. In late 2025, the Department conducted the Primary School Survey, with over 240,000 families (almost 50% of eligible households) expressing preferences on patronage, co-education and language. The strong response highlighted growing demand for diversity in education, with results due in early 2026.



Key Achievements



Attendees at 2025 Teachers' Conference

Ethical Futures

In November 2025, over 70 educators attended Educate Together's annual Teacher Conference, "Our World, Our Classrooms: Co-creating Ethical Futures." Funded by the Department of Education & Youth's ESD fund, the event offered workshops on Ethical Education and Sustainable Development, deepening practice and strengthening commitment to equality-based education.

Budget 2026

Ahead of Budget 2026, Educate Together called for increased capitation, stronger support for management bodies, and greater investment in infrastructure and inclusion. The Budget delivered a €50 per pupil rise for primary and special schools (to €274) and €20 for post-primary (to €406) from September 2025, easing financial pressures on schools.



Kilkenny School Project



Attendees at 2025 Deputy Principals' Forum

Inaugural Forum

In 2025, Educate Together launched its inaugural Deputy Principals' Forum, offering primary and second-level deputy principals a space to connect and share experiences. Under the theme "Leading Inclusive and Brave School Spaces," the event provided valuable professional dialogue and peer support. Strong engagement and positive feedback confirmed the need for this community of practice, with the Forum set to return annually from 2026.

2022-2027 Strategic Goals

Educate Together's current objectives are set out in Stronger Together, Educate Together's Strategic Plan, which is available online [here](#).



QUALITY & CAPACITY

Strengthen the network and shared values across Educate Together schools.



LEADERSHIP

Be a leading voice for innovation and reform in education, continually striving for wider system change.



GROWTH

Increase the number of Educate Together school places.



ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

Strengthen our organisation through continually reviewing and improving our systems and practice.

Following an interim review in 2025, the plan was extended to 2027, with four key strategic actions identified to ensure the organisation's objectives are reached. These are outlined in an addendum that can be viewed alongside the full plan [here](#).



Information Hub

- High-quality guidance for boards, principals and teachers
- Promotion of the hub, maximise engagement



Student Participation & Democratic Structures

- Research on student participation
- Evidence-informed guidelines and resources
- Meaningful student engagement
- Review democratic structures



Supporting Reconfiguration

- Building momentum for patronage change
- Development of tools to support transferring schools
- Identifying and supporting schools seeking to transfer



CRM & Operations Development

- Redeveloped CRM and systems
- New AI policy for the national office

1. Quality & Capacity

School support, training and advice

The national office continued providing effective support to schools across a wide range of areas, including HR, staffing, recruitment, data protection, admissions, finances, safeguarding, and bereavement. For the first time, Educate Together delivered a new training module for principals and chairpersons, with 14 board sessions and 440 attendees (7 online).



Student-led workshop at 2025 Teachers' Conference



Attendees at 2025 Deputy Principals' Forum

Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Educate Together hosts various Communities of Practice (CoPs), some independent and others supported by the national office:

- Learn Together Advisors: 17 primary teachers from 16 schools, 3 meetings in 2025.
- Ethical Education: Second-level teachers, 3 meetings in 2025.
- Nurture: 76 practitioners from over half of Educate Together schools, 7 meetings in 2025.
- Second-level Guidance Counsellors: 8 schools, 2 meetings in 2025.
- Global Citizenship Education (GCE): Supported by Irish Aid; 82 participants from 56 primary schools, 2 meetings in 2025.

Alongside these, primary and second-level leaders and staff continued to collaborate throughout 2025.

Ethos Quality Framework

In 2025, Educate Together continued updating its Ethos Quality Framework—the first of its kind in Irish education—which includes a step-by-step guide for school self-evaluation and a dedicated online Ethos Guidance platform. The national office promoted the platform throughout the year, updating the 'Ethical Fundraising for Schools and Partnering with Charities' guidance, with 84 new users joining in 2025.

Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)

In 2025, the national office delivered induction for ten newly-appointed principals, supported the Misneach programme, held its annual principals' conference with 72 attendees, and met with the NCSE and DEY to advocate for Nurture. It also provided extensive CPD, including Nurture training for 50 staff, 12 school-based sessions for 232 educators, two Global Citizenship Education sessions, and three Department-approved summer courses on the revised Learn Together curriculum for 46 teachers.

1. Quality & Capacity

School Accommodation

Despite four handovers in 2025, several Educate Together schools remained in temporary accommodation; the national office supported 36 such schools (22% of primaries, 62% of second-levels) as the overall proportion fell from 31% to 30%, while engaging with the Department to advocate for improved delivery timelines. Three schools were under construction, ten projects reached pre-tender stage, design teams were appointed under INNOVATE for six schools, schools without a confirmed site fell to two, and three leases were executed with a formalised procedure to support lease arrangements.



CEO Emer Nowlan with Harold's Cross ETNS acting principal Aoife O'Sullivan & principal Ruth Matthews at building handover

Patron approvals, recruitment & appointments

Principals / deputy principals

12 principals (8 primary, 4 second-level) and 7 deputy principals (4 primary, 3 second-level) approved.

Boards of management

36 board appointments: 18 new, 18 returning.
19 chairperson appointments.
Increased governance demands noted.

Teachers / SNAs

341 teachers and 109 additional needs assistants approved.

Independent assessors

195 assessors appointed to recruitment panels.



Official opening of Harcourt Terrace ETNS new building

Garda Vetting

In 2025, Educate Together processed 2,475 Garda Vetting applications (down 11%), with 92 schools (96%) set up for online vetting. New safeguarding requirements under EU Directive 2011/93/EU were implemented, including mandatory EU and UK police checks. Two NVB compliance requests led to the review of 16 applications, and a new Lead Liaison Person was appointed, supported by a Department of Education grant.

Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)

In 2025, 19 schools engaged with the national office on admissions policies, resulting in ten amendments including changes to autism classes, common applications in Dublin 15, and catchment arrangements. All 85 schools with autism or specialised classes updated policies in line with Circular 39/2025, ensuring compliance with legislation and Educate Together's equality-based ethos.

2. Leadership

Management body activities

Educate Together acts as a management body for its primary schools, representing them with the Department of Education and other partners while providing advice, training and support. In 2025, it engaged closely with other management bodies, teacher and parent organisations through the Primary Education Forum and other stakeholder engagements. Advocating both alone and alongside other groups such as IPPN, the National Parents Council and the Children's Rights Alliance, it successfully called for better school funding, resulting in increased capitation in Budget 2026.



STEM Week at Rush & Lusk ETNS



As demand for equality-based education grows, the next Government must take action to ensure Ireland's education system can meet the needs of a modern society.

Curriculum development in Ethical Education

In 2025, primary schools continued embedding the revised Learn Together curriculum. Supports included a Moodle update to the Resource Bank and new materials such as Migration and War resources, used by 2,125 students across six schools. A new support guide was also developed for Ethical Education leads in second-level schools.

Initial Teacher Education reforms

Educate Together continued its partnership with ETBI and all five Colleges of Education to develop a Certificate in Ethical, Multi-Belief and Values Education. A comprehensive consultation process and glossary of terms were completed in 2025, with a framework now in place to recognise qualifications in the area. The partners will support the Colleges to launch and implement the framework in 2026, extending formal teacher education in the Learn Together and 'Goodness Me, Goodness You' curricula to all pre-service teachers in Ireland.

Making parental choice a reality in Irish education

No Notes.

Representation

Working Groups / Advisory Groups / Forums:

- Advisory Group for review of EPSEN Act
- Ukraine Civil Society Forum
- Code of Behaviour Working Group
- DE Implementation Group on Child Protection Procedures
- DEIS Advisory Working Group
- Primary Education Forum Consultation Subgroup
- BeLoNG To Education Sector Advisory Group
- Teacher Supply Data WG (representing PMBs)
- SNA Workforce Quality Assurance Working Group
- D15 Taskforce on Special Education Placements
- Teacher Professional Journey Study
- BOM Training Steering Group
- Student Council Guidelines
- Student & Parent Charter Bill
- Reconfiguration Steering Group
- Admin Executive Officer Action Research project
- UNESCO TSI Project Strategic Workforce planning for Teachers in Ireland
- Inclusive Education Alliance Steering Group
- Coalition for Inclusive Education

Attendance at:

- Inspectorate Education Partner Briefings
- TESS Attendance Campaign Stakeholder Briefings
- Primary Education Forum (quarterly)
- Admission Systems CAS Pilot
- DE Ukraine Stakeholder meeting
- Primary Teacher Supply meetings
- Secretary & Caretaker Strike support
- Convention on Education stakeholder briefings
- School Meals Programme briefings
- Primary Curriculum Specifications Launch
- DEY Statement of Strategy
- Oide Collab Forum
- Building Conference
- DE Special Education division briefings - Education Therapy Services, Assistive Technology, SNA Workforce Development Unit Stakeholder, Behaviours of Concern Guidelines & FAQs, 26_27 Special Class Provision Planning
- 13 Conferences (INTO, TUI, ASTI, CPSMA, ACCS, NAPD, JMB, NABMSE, IPPN, ETBi, Nurture, Buildings Conference, Education Research Summit, Best Practice Roma Education)

Written Submissions:

- National Consultation on Post-Primary Guidance within a Lifelong Guidance Landscape
- Department of Education and Youth Customer Service Survey 2025.
- Department of Education and Youth, Special Ed Section 37A Review
- Children's Rights Alliance Report Card
- EPSEN act recommendations - expectations and comments
- Children's Rights Alliance Annual Report Card
- Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Strategy Mid-Term Review

2. Leadership

Nurture Schools

The Educate Together Nurture Schools Project expanded in 2025, supporting schools to improve outcomes for students with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. With support from the Toy Show Appeal and RETHINK, the project grew to 57 schools, with 64 schools (55% of the network) actively engaged overall. Intensive training was provided to 85 staff, new Nurture rooms were developed, and a dedicated online resource bank—now complete and in use—was created to support practitioners across the network.



Nurture room in an Educate Together school



2025 Student Event in Limerick

Student participation across the network

Student voice and participation were central to national events in 2025. Over 180 students from 16 second-level schools gathered for student-led events in Limerick ETSS and Kishoge Community College on global citizenship and empathy, while 200 primary pupils took part in a student-led anti-bullying event in Cork ETSS. Student achievement included Limerick ETSS winning the 2025 Educate Together Debating Competition and second-level students participating in the ETSS Athletics Day, reflecting a strong culture of student leadership across the network.

“After today, I’ve seen how many organisations are helping our planet—I want to join them!”

Student attending one of the 2025 Student Events



2025 Student Event in Dublin

3. Growth

In 2025, Educate Together expanded access to its equality-based school model by increasing capacity, reaching 42,164 students (29,775 primary, 12,389 second-level) across 118 schools (97 primary, 21 second-level)—an increase of 827 from 2024. Twenty primary and four second-level schools were in the DEIS programme.

In response to parental demand, specialist places for children with additional needs also grew. By the end of 2025, there were 163 autism and other specialist classes in 68 primary schools (70% of primary schools) and 46 classes in 19 second-level schools (90% of second-level schools). Overall, 74% of all Educate Together schools had specialist facilities—nearly double the national average—with 15 new classes opening in 2025 and three schools opening their first classes.



National Survey on Parental Preference in School Patronage

In May 2025, Educate Together briefed Oireachtas members on school reconfiguration, hearing from Éadaoin Kelly, principal of Paradise Place ETNS (the first Catholic school to transfer to Educate Together patronage under the Government's Reconfiguration for Diversity process in 2024). Educate Together called for Government action to ensure meaningful school choice for families.

In late 2025, the Department conducted the long-awaited Primary School Survey, allowing over 240,000 families (almost 50% of eligible households) to express preferences on patronage, co-education and language of instruction. The strong public interest will inform future planning and the reconfiguration process. For Educate Together, this is a critical opportunity to respond to sustained parental demand for equality-based education, especially given continued oversubscription and limited scope for new school establishment. National results are expected in 2026.

ETB partnership schools

Despite ongoing efforts, management arrangements for two City of Dublin ETB second-level schools—Clogher Road Community College and Cabra Community College—which have operated as partnership schools with Educate Together since 2019, have not yet been finalised. This innovative model aims to increase school choice where new schools are not needed demographically, and both schools are seeing growing enrolments and successfully providing new options for families in Cabra and Crumlin.



4. Organisational Strength

Educate Together continued to operate effectively in 2025 as a charity, school patron, management body and membership organisation, meeting its core objectives and providing support and representation across the network.

High standards of governance were maintained, with full compliance with the Charities Governance Code reported to the Charities Regulator.

Annual General Meeting & Membership

Educate Together's Annual General Meeting took place on 10 May 2025 at Carlow ETNS, with 50 member schools represented. A webinar was delivered in advance of the AGM to support members in drafting motions; this was subsequently made available as an online resource. The Annual Report was completed and circulated in advance. Following workshops on current issues, delegates debated policy motions relating to Ethical Education, school accommodation, supports for children and admissions processes. At year-end, membership stood at 125, comprising 116 schools and 9 independent patrons.



2025 Educate Together AGM



Chairperson Emma Lane-Spollen giving address at 2025 AGM



Workshop at 2025 AGM



Workshop at 2025 AGM

Our Structure, Governance & Management

Educate Together is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013 on 12 May 1998 as a company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up, such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1). All income is applied solely towards the promotion of the charitable objectives of the company. The charity operates from its registered office, Equity House, 16 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin 7. The charity trades under the name Educate Together.



The company is established under a Constitution comprising the Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company, and the Articles of Association, which outline the governance of the company and its management by the Board of Directors (Trustees). The main object for which the Association was established is to: promote, in furtherance of the public good, education which is equality-based, co-educational, child-centred and democratically run. The terms co-educational, child-centred and democratically run as used in this document are as defined in the Educate Together Charter.

The company has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 11816 and is registered with Charities Regulator (CRA number charity 20033309). In 2025 the company complied fully with its obligations to submit annual returns on its core activities to the Charities Regulator.

Educate Together and its Board of Directors are bound by and must operate in accordance with the terms of its Constitution (i.e. the Memorandum and Articles of Association), and the law (primarily the Companies Act 2014). In addition, the Charities Regulatory Authority has oversight of all charities.

Our Board

Our Directors serve as charity trustees and work voluntarily without remuneration. Ten are elected by members at AGM for three-year terms, and the Board can co-opt an additional two Directors for one year. The Directors who served during 2025 were:



Emma Lane-Spollen

Chairperson

Joined Educate Together's board in 2019, elected Chairperson in 2023. An independent consultant & qualified management accountant who also sits on the Board of Friends of the Earth.



Síle Larkin

Company Secretary

Solicitor & former Head of Employment Law at An Garda Síochána. CEDR-qualified mediator. Serves on the Board of Management of Griffith Barracks MDS.



Siobhan Cassidy

Treasurer

Finance professional with 15 years of accounting & non-profit sector experience. Director of Corporate Services at Trócaire & Chartered Accountant. Holds an MA in Globalisation.



Niamh Cullen

Vice Chairperson

With Educate Together since 2006. Currently principal of Grace Park ETNS. Holds an MA & is a qualified primary & post-primary teacher. Has worked with Teaching Council and National Induction Programme for Teachers.



Matt Wallen

Board Member

Founding Principal of Knocknacarra Educate Together NS and previously principal of Limerick School Project. Holds a PhD in Education and Applied Linguistics.

Our Board



Doris Abuchi-Ogbonda

Board Member

Experienced board member, including on school boards of management & as a Director of The Rights Platform. Previously coordinator of the Migrant Access Programme.



Miriam Hurley

Board Member

Board Member since 2022. Former principal of Dalkey School Project. Chair of Irish Forest School Association. Board Member of Children's Rights Alliance. Holds an MA in Special Education.



John Collier

Board Member

Consultant in product design, marketing, & income generation. Holds a PhD, MBA, MSc in Marketing, & MSc in Innovation & Strategy. Certified Project Manager. Sits on the Board of Management of Cork ETSS.



Deirdre Duffy

Board Member

CEO of Friends of the Earth. Worked as Deputy Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. Former Co-Chair of Comhlámh. Holds an LLM in Human Rights Law & International Criminal Law & an MSc in Human Rights and Politics.



Colm Kelly

Board Member

Senior official in a teachers' trade union. Expertise in education & employment law, governance, & equality. Experienced speaker in educational issues at national & international levels.



Lesley Byrne

Board Member

Experienced teacher. Principal of Clogher Road Community College. Works on the Turn to Teach programme. Co-opted to serve on Dublin City Council by the Social Democrats in 2024.

Research & Development

Research and development are central to Educate Together's work as an organisation that is constantly striving to innovate in equality-based and democratic education, and a number of projects were underway in 2025, including:



DCU Partnership

In November 2025, Educate Together and DCU received a Research Ireland grant to survey its schools on student involvement in governance. This first national survey will help strengthen student participation support and reinforce the network's leadership in this area.



Certificate in EMBVE

Since 2021, Educate Together and ETBI, with five Colleges of Education, have developed a Framework to recognise certification in Ethical, Multi-Belief and Values Education. Approved in 2025, it allows teacher education providers to seek programme recognition, building on existing practice to prepare graduates for the multi-denominational, equality-based sector.



Human Resources and Systems

In 2025, Educate Together strengthened its capacity with hybrid working, a new AI policy, and a performance appraisal process rolled out in November and December. New hires included a Global Citizenship Education Officer, Finance Manager, School Support Manager, and an admin role, while recruitment for an Operations and Systems Manager neared completion. Three staff took extended leave.



Fundraising

As a charitable organisation, Educate Together raised €126,007 in 2025 through donations, fundraising, trading and corporate partnerships. One Day Together raised over €12,500, while partnerships with Brady's Insurance (78 schools) and Folens (67 schools) delivered savings and income. Grateful thanks to all donors, partners and participating schools.

2025 Challenges

Ireland's education system faces ongoing pressures from changing demographics, diversity, infrastructure, staffing and funding. With approximately 90% of primary schools under Catholic patronage, demand for Educate Together's equality-based model continues to grow.

Lack of new schools

Educate Together has grown from 28 schools in 2002 to 118 today, but access remains uneven, with no schools in six counties. No new schools opened in 2025 due to Department policy, constraining its ability to meet demand. The State should establish new schools in areas of growth and support patronage transfers.

School accommodation

Access to permanent buildings remains a significant challenge, with Educate Together disproportionately affected by extended periods in temporary accommodation. Currently, 83 schools (70.3%) are in permanent buildings, while 35 (29.7%) remain in temporary accommodation—22.6% of primaries and 62% of second-levels. Three schools are scheduled to move to permanent buildings in 2026. Greater certainty and faster access to permanent accommodation remain urgent priorities requiring sustained government attention.

Resourcing inclusion

Demand for inclusion supports is growing. In 2025, 74% of Educate Together schools host specialist classes (national average 35%), reflecting their inclusive ethos. Adequate staffing, therapeutic supports and facilities remain essential, with a review of allocation models needed to ensure fair distribution.



2025 Challenges

School funding concerns

Ireland continues to underfund its school system compared to other developed countries. Primary school capitation falls short of basic running costs, leaving many schools reliant on parental contributions and fundraising. Grants for voluntary management bodies have remained largely unchanged for almost two decades, despite growing governance demands, contributing to unequal support across the system.



Educate Together resourcing challenges

Educate Together is a registered charity. State grants cover less than half of its operating costs, requiring significant additional income through service delivery, trading and fundraising—a resource-intensive task for a small organisation. Grant funding for voluntary management bodies has remained largely unchanged for almost two decades despite rising governance responsibilities and costs, highlighting the need for stronger resourcing to support school boards and volunteers.

Pressures on school leadership

Educate Together is proud of its school leaders, but increasing pressures on volunteers remain a concern. In 2025, 19 chairpersons were appointed; four primary chairpersons resigned unexpectedly, leaving one vacancy. Some primary boards struggled to recruit treasurers, and two second-level boards faced sudden chairperson changes. These pressures reflect growing governance demands. Educate Together welcomes the Administration Executive Pilot and urges immediate access for developing schools.

Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Number	11816
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20033309
Company Number	286202

PRINCIPAL & REGISTERED OFFICE

Equity House, 16/17 Ormond Quay
Upper, Dublin 7, Dublin, Ireland

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Auditors

GSW Faulkner Orr (Audit & Assurance) Ltd,
Second floor, One Stephen Street Upper,
Dublin 8, D08 DR9P, Ireland

Bankers

AIB Bank, Blackrock, A94 H7F2, Ireland

Solicitors

Mason Hayes & Curran, South Bank House,
Barrow Street, Dublin 4, D04 TR29, Ireland

Financial Statements

Educate Together/Ag Foghlaim Le Cheile STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 €	Restricted Funds 2025 €	Total Funds 2025 €	Unrestricted Funds 2024 €	Restricted Funds 2024 €	Total Funds 2024 €
Income							
Voluntary Income	4.1	126,007	-	126,007	184,479	-	184,479
Charitable activities							
- Grants from governments and other co-funders	4.2	537,842	1,733,454	2,271,296	528,585	1,862,736	2,391,321
Total income		663,849	1,733,454	2,397,303	713,064	1,862,736	2,575,800
Expenditure							
Charitable activities	5.1	533,853	1,723,614	2,257,467	494,797	1,710,693	2,205,490
Other expenditure	5.2	91,625	44,802	136,427	56,975	42,100	99,075
Total Expenditure		625,478	1,768,416	2,393,894	551,772	1,752,793	2,304,565
Net income/(expenditure)		38,371	(34,962)	3,409	161,292	109,943	271,235
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		38,371	(34,962)	3,409	161,292	109,943	271,235
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds beginning of the year	19	487,336	157,533	644,869	326,044	47,590	373,634
Total funds at the end of the year		525,707	122,571	648,278	487,336	157,533	644,869

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 13th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:
Siobhan Cassidy
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Siobhan Cassidy
Director

Signed by:
Emma Lane-Spollen
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Emma Lane-Spollen
Director

Financial Statements

Educate Together/Ag Foghlaim Le Cheile

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	13	21,483	16,958
Current Assets			
Debtors	14	74,077	284,027
Cash at bank and in hand	15	718,572	837,646
		792,649	1,121,673
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(165,854)	(493,762)
Net Current Assets		626,795	627,911
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		648,278	644,869
Funds			
Restricted trust funds		122,571	157,533
General fund (unrestricted)		525,707	487,336
Total funds	18	648,278	644,869

Approved by the Board of Directors on 13th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:
Siobhan Cassidy
68C46FEAD684BE
Siobhan Cassidy
Director

Signed by:
Emma Lane-Spollen
FF00A003E85541F
Emma Lane-Spollen
Director

Reserves Policy and Sustainability

The board of directors has set a reserves policy that requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained above a minimum level that ensures that Educate Together's core functions could continue during a period of significant unforeseen difficulty. It has also set a target level of reserves that the organisation is working towards, which would provide for the financial stability and flexibility necessary to enable the organisation to adapt and innovate during a period of growth or change. The board's current target is to maintain unrestricted reserves equal to six months operating costs, plus redundancy costs and there has been significant progress on building these reserves since 2021, with the work on this continuing.



Keep in touch



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01 429 2500



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www.educatetogether.ie



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info@educatetogether.ie