

An Educate Together School in Your Community

Educate Together believes parents should have a choice. Today only 2% of primary schools in Ireland are multi-denominational and there are whole regions of the country where parents do not have a multi-denominational option.

Why is choice a good thing for everyone?

In denominational schools, children whose families have different beliefs have to 'opt-out' of prayers and religion classes. This can make children feel left out and it can be difficult for families and schools to manage.

Providing an Educate Together school in an area gives families a choice. Denominational schools are still available for all, and children whose families don't share the majority faith have an option of a school where they don't have to feel 'different'.

Adjusting the balance

In most parts of Ireland there is little chance of a new school being built as there are enough places for children in the existing schools. To give parents a choice, more multi-denominational school places will need to be created.

The Department of Education and Skills has identified 47 areas around the country where these places are needed. There are a number of ways they could be created, while ensuring parents can still choose denominational schools.

- two schools might amalgamate and a new multi-denominational school might be established in the vacant premises
- a large school might become two schools – one denominational and one multi-denominational both sharing a campus
- a school might consider transforming to a multi-denominational patron

Educate Together would like to hear from people who are interested in this discussion. We work with parents, teachers and school management to provide all the information they need to help them find the best solution for their local community.

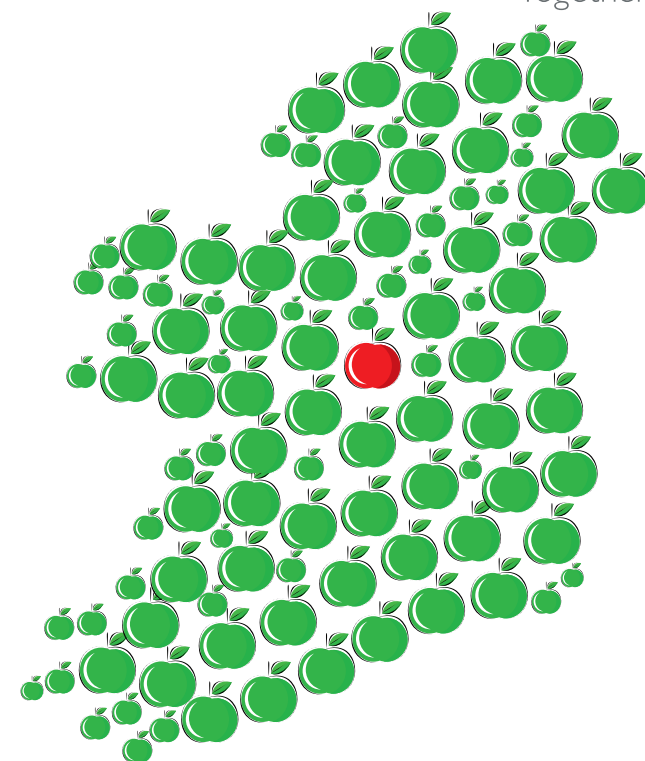
How can I find out more?

If you would like more information please email newschools@educatetogether.ie and we will contact you.

www.educatetogether.ie



Educate
Together



Only **ONE** Irish
school in 50 is
multi-denominational.

An Educate Together National
School in Your Community

Our Schools

Educate Together schools are national schools. They teach the national Primary Curriculum and are open to all, irrespective of social, cultural or religious background. Teachers are fully qualified, as in all national schools.

Educate Together schools are child-centred and focused on the best educational outcome for your child. Our teachers bring the curriculum to life by encouraging children to think, question and engage both with their teacher and each other.

Our Ethical Education curriculum 'Learn Together' supports children's moral and spiritual development and teaches children about different belief systems. Everyone takes part and no one has to opt out.

Some things you might not know

- **Educate Together schools are local schools**

Educate Together national schools are built on parental involvement. Our schools participate actively in their local communities.

- **Educate Together schools enable students to do their best**

Our learner-centred ethos means that all children are enabled to reach their full academic, social and personal potential. Children are challenged to think and to take action in their communities. They enjoy their learning and perform to the best of their ability and this is reflected in Department of Education Whole School Evaluations.

- **Educate Together schools teach religious education**

Our schools celebrate religion and recognise the important part it plays in many children's development. As part of a full Ethical Education curriculum, we teach children about a range of belief systems, not just one in particular.

- **You can make your First Communion in an Educate Together school**

In Educate Together schools faith formation classes take place after school hours. We work with parents and local religious leaders to make sure that Catholic children can prepare for First Communion or Confirmation. Some schools have other faith formation classes, such as Koranic studies.

- **Educate Together schools have strong codes of behaviour.**

In Educate Together schools positive behaviour policies are developed by the whole school community. In this way children learn about rights and responsibilities and work together with teachers and parents to create a positive learning environment for everyone.

- **Children learn better together**

Despite what some people think, research shows that academically girls and boys perform just as well learning together as they do apart; and their social development is improved in a co-educational environment. In our schools children 'learn together to live together'.



