

Policy on Interculturalism

Scoil Naomh Cholmcille

School Ethos

Each person through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to achieve his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever-changing world. Show respect and expect respect.

An intercultural ethos permeates through our school, embracing all cultural minority groups and languages. Embracing other cultures does not dilute the great pride we have in our own Irish heritage and Catholic roots. Scoil Naomh Cholmcille is an Irish, Catholic school 'being loyal to' and upholding this identity, while showing respect to all, is at the core of all decisions made by staff and Board of Management.

What is Interculturalism?

- It is education which respects, celebrates and recognises the normality of diversity in all areas of human life. It sensitises the learner to the idea that humans have naturally developed a range of different ways of life, customs and worldviews, and that this breadth of human life enriches us all.
- It is education, which promotes equality and human rights, challenged unfair discrimination, and promotes the values upon which equality is built.
- The term 'Interculturalism' expresses a belief that we all become personally enriched by coming in contact with and experiencing other cultures and that people of different cultures can and should be able to engage with each other and learn from each other.

(Intercultural Education in the Primary School – Guidelines for Schools, pg.3)

What are the characteristics of Intercultural Education?

- Intercultural education is for all children. It equips children to participate in an increasingly diverse society. Equally, an education which is based on only one culture will be less likely to develop these capacities in children. Recognising that diversity is normal in humans is something that is appropriate at all ages.
- Intercultural education is embedded in knowledge and understanding, skills and capacities, and attitudes and values.
- Intercultural education is integrated with all subjects and with the general life of the school where appropriate.
- Intercultural education requires real-world focus.
- Language is central to developing intercultural competencies.
- Interculturalism is not something extra that teachers must do in an already busy school day – rather it presents a different way of doing the same things. Intercultural education is not an addition to the Primary school curriculum since the curriculum itself is an intercultural curriculum.
- The school context is important in facilitating learning. Inclusive environments are characterised by learning environments that reflect and show pride in the language, ethnic and cultural diversity that characterises Ireland. As such, they provide support for the positive self-image of all children irrespective of their ethnicity, as well as reinforcing the normalcy of diversity for all children. We in Scoil Cholmcille ensure that all children irrespective of their colour, ethnic group, or ability can feel at home and represented within the school.

Student Body: At present we have 209 children enrolled in our school. There are some members of the travelling community. Our enrolment policy formally states our welcome all peoples of all creeds and cultures. We are vigilant to ensure that respect is shown by all children to all others. As we say.. **Show respect, expect respect!**

Reviewed and updated by staff members in: October 2018

Signed by and on behalf of BOM:

Mary Daly (Chairperson)

Date: _____

Signed by on behalf of Scoil Naomh Colmcille:

Frank Kelly (Principal)

Date: _____

Next Review Date: October 2019

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis so as to take into account any changes that may occur in the make-up of our school's population.