A Vision for Catholic Schools in Ireland

CATHOLIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

This vision document outlines the identity and mission of the Catholic School in Ireland. Catholic Schools provide a unique, vibrant, nurturing environment for students, their families, the Church and wider civil society. The Catholic vision of education, inspired by the Gospel, commits to forming the whole person in a community rooted in reason, faith, hope, love and action. Each Catholic School expresses this vision in its own context and in every aspect of school life.



The Catholic School

INVITES

all into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who with the help of the Holy Spirit, leads us to a life of friendship with a God who is love (1 John 4:8,16).
Such friendship is lived out and nourished by participation in the community of believers that is the Church. The Catholic School actively nourishes and accompanies each person in the joys and sorrows of their spiritual journey and in their search for meaning and purpose in life. It respects those who find meaning in other faith traditions and secular worldviews. The school community grows together through shared dialogue and reflection, active listening and a culture of encounter. Opportunities for discernment, silence, prayer, liturgy and the Sacraments are integrated into the rhythm of the school day and liturgical year.

SHINES

gently in a vibrant, interconnected educational constellation.
The Catholic School is part of a local and global community of learning where schools, families, parishes and wider society align for the good of each student and for the common good of all. The Catholic School actively supports and works in partnership with parents as primary educators, to ensure each child flourishes. It is a welcoming living environment where the Catholic vision respectfully permeates all aspects of life, fostering a profound sense of community and shared mission.

NURTURES

a love of learning.
Integrating faith and reason, the Catholic School encourages all to find wonder in the world around them. It strives for excellence in learning and teaching for all. It encourages critical thinking, discernment, creativity and discovery through an exploration of truth, goodness and beauty. In a Catholic School, Religious Education stands as a core subject within a broad, innovative and integrated curriculum. Teaching is understood as a sacred art where all those who work in schools inspire all by their witness and daily example.

DIGNIFIES

the person.
The Catholic School recognises and affirms the fundamental dignity of each individual person 'created in the image and likeness of God' (Gen 1:27) and the capacity of everyone to reach their God-given potential to 'live life to the full' (John 10:10). The Catholic School focuses on the holistic development of each person - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. It honours the uniqueness of each person, recognising all people to have a shared dignity as infinitely loved children of God.

BUILDS

a culture of welcome, inclusion, joy, celebration, and hope, permeated by Gospel values and a spirit of freedom, truth, justice, and love.
In the Catholic School, learning happens in community. A sense of belonging, security and connectedness is nurtured. Catholic Schools prioritise cooperation, teamwork and collaboration, understanding every person's complementary gifts, roles and responsibilities in the community and in the Church.

WEAVES

Social and Environmental Justice into the life of the Catholic School.
Inspired by the Gospel calling to build the Kingdom of God and enlightened by Catholic Social Teaching, a Catholic School inspires all to become agents of change. A sense of collective responsibility and solidarity is cultivated. The poor, those who suffer from injustice and the many who dwell on the margins of life are given special care. All are called to promote peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and the care of creation.

NAVIGATES

new spaces with discernment and creativity.
The Catholic School seeks to provide a moral compass and inspire all to find new ways to live the Gospel in an ever-changing and complex world. It recognises that every generation faces new opportunities and new challenges. A Catholic School strives to provide a hope-filled space where such opportunities and challenges might be understood and navigated for the future flourishing of the individual, the faith community and society as a whole.