

What are Community National Schools?

Community National Schools

State-run,
Child-centred,
Multi-
denominational
schools

Background

Established in
2008, Managed
by Education
and Training
Boards (ETBs)



Core Values

Excellence in
Education,
Care,
Equality,
Community,
Respect

Mission

Students of all
religions and
beliefs are
treated
equally

Aim

Providing equal
opportunities to all
children in the
communities they serve

What are Community National Schools?

- State-run
- Publicly accountable
- Child-centred
- Co-educational
- Multi-denominational schools



Who runs these schools and what difference does that make?

Local ETBs are the patrons of Community National Schools. ETBs are statutory authorities with responsibility for Community National Schools, over 250 post-primary schools, and a wide range of adult and further education training centres and services.



Why is there a need for Community Nationals Schools?

The establishment of the Community National Schools was part of the State's response to an increasing diversity in Irish society. Because of this, there is a growing demand amongst parents for the State to provide more choice of school types other than single-denominational models.



So, what will my child experience in a Community National School?

**Like all primary schools, Community National
Schools follow the Primary School
Curriculum, (NCCA, 2023). However, a
significant aspect of the model is its unique
multi-denominational 'ethos' or
'characteristic spirit'.**

CNS Core Values



In Community National Schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally

Key Difference

No religious or cultural groups or beliefs are privileged over another – all are respected and supported

Faith formation classes (First Holy Communion & Confirmation preparation) take place outside the school day

What Replaces Faith Formation?

Community National Schools use the Goodness Me, Goodness You (GMGY) programme



The GMGY curriculum makes an important contribution in enabling each child to live their life to the full while exploring their identity and their place in the world

Why is a Community National School the right choice for my family?

- Multi-denominational
- Co-educational
- Child-centred
- State-run and publicly accountable
- Same Primary Curriculum Framework taught in religious schools
- Doesn't privilege any group, religion or culture over others
- No faith formation during school hours
- Strong community spirit