

## The Catholic school in the Community

Education is, to a very significant extent, the way in which the various overlapping communities to which we belong as human beings – the family first of all – initiate us into the richness of a shared life and heritage. In support of families, the Catholic primary school system in Ireland is rooted in parish and local communities. Efforts are ongoing in Primary and Secondary schools to develop a stronger collaborative partnership between the school, the parish and local communities.

## Education in a Time of Transition

At this time, responsibility for many of the schools formerly administered by religious is being transferred to trusts made up wholly or partly of lay people

## A Catholic Education Service

It is the Bishops' intention to provide in cooperation with the Religious Trustees further support in the near future for those involved in the work of Catholic education by establishing a national Catholic Education Service for the whole of Ireland.

## Invitation to Dialogue

In conclusion, the Bishops look forward to a fruitful dialogue about the best way of ensuring that Catholic schools can develop in the coming decades. In this way, in conversation with all our partners in education, we will ensure that the schools themselves and their supporting structures remain effective, relevant and true to an authentic vision of the Catholic school for our times.

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A Pastoral Letter from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

# VISION 8

*A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*



IRISH CATHOLIC  
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE  
DOMHÓIL NA BPAID CRISTIANACH ÉIREANN

# VISION 08

*A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*

## The Catholic School in Ireland

Catholic education is inspired by Jesus Christ. It is person centred, seeking to develop the full potential of each person.

Catholic education proposes a sacramental view of reality helping pupils to see God 'in the bits and pieces of everyday life'.

Catholic education takes place in open, happy, stimulating and mutually respectful communities.

Catholic education values intellectual and practical reason, promoting dialogue and understanding between faith, tradition, culture, and heritage.

Catholic education values tolerance and inclusiveness. Catholic schools welcome pupils of other traditions, faiths and none, seeing such diversity as offering opportunities for deeper understanding among people holding diverse convictions.

Catholic education seeks to enable pupils act with integrity and justice, in pursuit of the common good in an imperfect world, and to act as stewards of creation.

### In Catholic schools:

Religious Education, Prayer and Worship form an essential part of the schools' curriculum, functioning at its core. Such learning is rooted in faith and inspired by wonder at the transcendent mystery of God revealed in the complex beauty of the universe.

Pastoral Care seeks to provide sensitively and effectively for the needs of **all** students.

Educational Excellence is pursued for all young people so that they may realise their full uniqueness and potential.

Concern for others' needs leads to practical outreach and partnerships, locally and globally

