



Navan Educate Together National School



School Booklet *2015*





About

Educate Together

Educate Together is the patron body to Ireland's multi-denominational schools. Established in 1978, it now has 74 national schools nationwide, all teaching the full primary curriculum. They are committed to delivering an excellent education to children. Educate Together schools are child-centred learning communities where boys and girls learn together and parental involvement is encouraged.

In an Educate Together school children are equally respected, regardless of social, cultural or religious background. They are encouraged to be active learning participants in the classroom and to contribute to school policies. This approach gives an excellent, rounded education, in an environment children will enjoy. It also nurtures their self-confidence to be active citizens in their communities.

All Educate Together schools should be :

- Multi-denominational ie. all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds being equally respected.
- Co-educational and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities.
- Child centred in their approach to education.
- Democratically run with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.





The Learn Together

Curriculum

Learn Together is an ethical education curriculum for Educate Together schools. It is divided into four strands: Moral and Spiritual, Equality and Justice, Belief Systems, and Ethics and the Environment. Children are taught the various aspects in an age appropriate manner. The curriculum is a celebration of diversity, and through understanding differences and similarities between different faiths, children learn respect and tolerance for people with different beliefs (or none).

Moral and Spiritual: Moral Development and Spiritual Growth

Equality and Justice: Human Rights, Promoting Equality, the Democratic Process, Activating Equality through Positive Action

Belief Systems: Incorporating all the major religions and belief systems (including but not restricted to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism) Key Figures, Rites and Ceremonies, Celebrations, Beliefs and Values

Ethics and the Environment: Knowledge and Awareness of Environmental Issues, Activation of Responsibility and Stewardship



General Aims of the Programme

The programme should:

- Foster in each child a knowledge and understanding of different value and belief systems in an atmosphere of critical enquiry and mutual effect
- Prepare children to become caring members of a multicultural society with the necessary intercultural skills to enrich such a society
- Address issues of spirituality and morality
- Facilitate in children the ability to make reasoned and informed moral judgements
- Support children in cultivating their spirituality in a secure environment
- Raise awareness in children of issues of human rights, justice and equality in society
- Develop in children an ethical and reasoned approach to caring for the environment
- Provide children with a range of dispositions and skills to enable them to participate in and contribute to the democratic process and become informed, socially responsible and fair-minded citizens.



The School Day

The school day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 1.40pm for Junior & Senior Infants and at 2.40pm for 1st to 6th classes. Children should be collected promptly at the appropriate times. If anyone other than a parent/guardian is collecting a child, or if an older child is going home unaccompanied, the teacher must be informed in advance. There is a 10 minute break at 10.30am, and a lunch break at 12.30-1.00pm.

Healthy Eating Policy

The school has a policy of healthy eating, since it is important to develop healthy eating habits early in life. NETNS wants to encourage healthy eating so we ask parents not to give their children crisps, chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks and popcorn. Children should be given a selection of foods such as sandwiches, fruits, yoghurts, carrots or celery sticks, dried fruit.



Once a month the school has a 'treat day' (usually the last Friday of every month) when the children are allowed to bring in crisps, chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks, popcorn, etc, or buy from the school tuck shop – which is run as a fundraiser by the Parents' Association.

School Uniform

There is no school uniform. Children should wear comfortable clothing that they can manage (i.e. they should be able to button, zip, etc). They should be able to recognise their coats and hats. Please ensure that names are written on coats, hats and scarves etc.



Behaviour Policy

We have a system of rewards in place in our school. The children receive stamps for positive behaviour and collect certificates, privileges and prizes that are awarded every Friday in Celebration Assembly. We also have a system of sanctions for unacceptable behaviour. A copy of the full positive behaviour policy is available from the school office.

School Correspondence

In order to keep you up to date with all the activities in the school we send home a weekly newsletter on Friday in your child's schoolbag. We encourage all parents to provide an email address so that the school newsletter can be emailed, thus helping to reduce the amount of paper that the school is using. The weekly newsletter is also posted on our school website, as is children's work and photos of school events. Parent/Teacher meetings are held in November/December. Teachers report of child's progress. We welcome as much informal contact as possible. If your child has any problems, academic or otherwise, please let the teachers know immediately. Appointments can be made for one-to-one meetings with your child's teacher or the Principal by phoning the school secretary.

Child Illnesses

Parents are requested not to send their child to school if they are sick. It is vitally important to inform the school of any ongoing medical condition that your child may have. A note or phone call should follow a child's absence from school. An emergency contact number should be supplied so that parents/guardians can be contacted during the school day, should an emergency arise. All schools must report pupil absences of 20 days or more to The National Educational Welfare Board.



Homework Policy

It is the policy of all the teaching staff at NETNS to set homework assignments to pupils on a regular basis (at least four days per week). We believe that carefully devised homework assignments foster initiative, develop independent learning skills, and allow time for the practice, application and consolidation of what has been learned in school. Parents and guardians are encouraged to show an interest in their child's homework, so that by extending the child's learning from classroom to home a powerful link is forged between teacher and parent. Homework assignments may involve research, writing, reading or learning and should be completed on time. Written homework should be presented to as a high a standard as appropriate to the child's ability. Adequate time should be given to learning assignments. Provision should be made for children to complete assignments in a quiet environment (away from the TV etc).

Parents should note if and when children have difficulties completing homework assignments, or when in unavoidable circumstances children could not complete their homework a note should be sent to the teacher. Children should be encouraged to read library books, and to discuss such work with their parents.

Guidelines for Homework :

Junior & Senior Infants = 10 to 15 minutes

1st & 2nd Class = up to 30 minutes

3rd & 4th Class = 30 to 45 minutes

5th & 6th Class = up to 1 hour





Parental Involvement

The parents and children at NETNS come from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds. As in all schools, parents want the very best for their children. The school therefore makes a real effort to inform and involve parents in the education of their children. Amongst other things, it is important that the school communicates to parents about the curriculum, the ethos and expectations of the school, bearing in mind that the Irish education system may vary greatly from that of the home country. Effectively carried out this strategy will ensure positive informed home support with the consequent benefits for the children's education.

Parental involvement in the school is structured through representation on the Board of Management and Patron. Communication from parents to these bodies is carried out through their representatives. Parents are encouraged to discuss curriculum and educational issues with their Principal and Class teacher.

Teachers very much appreciate the contributions parents make to their children's education, and have great respect for parents and their role. In turn teachers expect to have their professionalism respected and appreciated. This makes for a positive partnership between parents and teachers.





Parental

Involvement (continued)

Involvement of parents

- The school asks parents to offer help in their areas of expertise, and this is drawn up into a skills register or Parents Help List for teachers to draw on.
- The Junior Infant parents are involved in an induction programme for their children, including an initial talk and meeting with their teacher before the new academic year. (As are all new pupils joining NETNS)
- Parents are encouraged to assist in the school, eg. Workshops, cookery, art activities, school trips, ICT, etc.
- Parents assist in the preparation of props, and costumes for school performances.
- The Parents' Association organise a variety of activities to raise funds and involve parents.
- Parents are well represented on the Board of Management and Patron Body, making useful contributions to the school as a whole. They feed back information to all parents.

Positive examples of parental involvement already exist in our school, we have parents who give:

- Samba drumming Classes
- Capoeira Classes
- Art & Craft Classes
- Guitar Classes
- ICT Support



Parents also give their time to help with school trips by providing transport thus reducing the cost, and enabling us to take full advantage of the educational sites in our local area. We also encourage parents to come in and speak about their occupations.



Breakfast & After School Club

We have an After School Homework Club running every afternoon from 1.40 to 6.00pm. This club is run independently, but is under the management of the School's Board of Management. The school has received funding from Pobal to set up this club, which means that families in receipt of benefits will have a percentage of the club's fees paid for them.

As well as being assisted with their homework, the children are given opportunities to engage in organised play and activities, free play with their friends and allowed time to rest and relax. They also receive a hearty snack on arrival and a more substantial meal later on.



The school also has a Breakfast Club. This operates from 8.00am until 9.00am daily. The children receive a hearty breakfast and then engage in free play until 9.00am. Again this club is funded by Pobal, allowing families who receive benefits to have a percentage of their fees paid.



NETNS Preschool & Daycare Service

In our preschool we follow the ethos of Navan Educate Together National School by promoting a philosophy of education in which no child is considered an outsider, by promoting the fullest development of abilities irrespective of gender, class or stereotypes. Our objective is to nurture the unique qualities and potential of each child, to encourage them in all aspects of development in a non-competitive environment.

Our curriculum combines play, Montessori and creative activities. Outdoor play is also emphasised throughout the year.

At the core of our curriculum are well planned learning centres that allow for child choice and self-directed play. Typical centres include; Construction/Blocks/Transport; Library; Home Corner/Dramatic Play; Sensory-Sand Table; Manipulatives; Mark-making; Small World; Montessori materials; Music and Movement.

We are currently offering morning sessions and we cater for children aged two and a half to five years old. We are operating under the Government ECCE and Subvention Schemes, which means that some or all of the fees may be paid for the parents.



A Daycare Service is available for all preschool children and may fall under the Subvention Scheme for some parents.

This service currently runs from 12.15 to 2.40pm. If there is sufficient interest this could be extended to 6pm. The service includes a hot healthy dinner and a healthy snack, free play and PE, timetabled arts and crafts activities and an opportunity for rest and quiet time.

More information is available from the school.





Contact Details

Principal : Eva Boyle

Address : Commons Road, Navan,
Co. Meath

Telephone : 0469060305

Fax : 0469060305

Email : etnavan@hotmail.com

Website : navaneducatetogether.ie