



School Ethos & Reconfiguration

GENERAL INFORMATION

CÚLRA

BACKGROUND

Change in Society

Diversity
Multi-culturalism

Education System

Curricular changes
Multi-denominational
schools

Schools

Reflection of society
Inclusive and
welcoming

Parents & Guardians

Seeking meaningful
choice



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Statements from the Department

- ▶ *Over recent decades, Irish society has been undergoing major political, social, economic, cultural, demographic and educational change. Among key changes, which have particular relevance for this Report, are the **greater diversity of religious belief systems** and the **more multicultural composition** of the population.*

Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector, 2012

- ▶ *Most schools – denominational and multi-denominational, welcome children with all beliefs and none. Notwithstanding that however, it is recognised that more **diversity is needed to meet the changing needs of our population.***

Schools Reconfiguration for Diversity Programme, 2018

Cad é Athchumrú? What is Reconfiguration?

An opportunity for schools to move towards a **multi-denominational ethos**, which reflects the **diverse multi-cultural society** in which we live, provides increased **choice for families** regarding their children's education and ensures that **pupils' traditions and beliefs** are **celebrated equally**.

NUAHT IN THE NEWS



Pátrúnacht ar Ghaelscoil i
mBÁC athruithe ón Ard-
Deoise go dtí An Foras
Pátrúnachta

Tuairisc, 26/03/2021

'We grew up in Brazil. Now
our son speaks to me in
Irish'

Irish Times, 11/03/2020

Bishop Farrell launches
'Myfaith.ie' for children
preparing for sacraments

Catholic News, 14/10/2020

Third of people want more
mixed, multid denominational
schools, survey finds

Irish Times, 17/02/2022

School patronage
agreement could lead to
greater choice for families

RTÉ News, 07/03/2022

Priests' group calls for
sacraments to be held
outside school time

Irish Examiner, 09/08/2021



Consultation Process

**Approach and
Key Responsibilities**

Consultation Process



SCHOOLS' RECONFIGURATION
A consultation process with school communities regarding school ethos

CONSULTATION
Initial meeting with school management to gain an understanding of current school practices

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
Meeting with the Board of Management to provide an overview of the reconfiguration process and identify school priorities

ACTION PLAN
Co-ordination of a unique action plan for the school communities in conjunction with a sub-committee appointed by the Board

SCHOOL STAFF
Engagement with school staff to provide an overview of reconfiguration and insights into the impact on teaching and learning within the school

STAKEHOLDERS
Consultation with other members of the school community - parents/guardians, pupils, local groups, etc. regarding the school's reconfiguration process

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1. Initial meeting with school management
2. Board of Management meeting
3. Vision and Action Plan
4. Consultation with school community
 - i. Staff
 - ii. Parents/guardians and pupils
 - iii. Local parish
5. BOM decision



Support for Schools

Sustained support for reconfiguration

Supported implementation of *Croí na Scoile* programme

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

SCHOOL SUPPORT
Overview of sustained support programme available to school communities regarding the reconfiguration process

GUIDANCE AND COORDINATION
Advice to the school community at each stage of the process from initial consultation to implementation on a whole-school basis

MEETINGS
Facilitating meetings with Board of Management, school staff and other members of the school community to share information and seek feedback

SUPPORT MATERIALS
A suite of support materials - presentations, information leaflets, templates, etc. for all members of the school community

OTHER AGENCIES
Discussion with local stakeholders, patron bodies and the Dept. of Education regarding reconfiguration in the school community

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Continuous professional development for staff members to support the effective implementation of the multi-denomination ethos at whole-school level

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- ▶ Guidance and support from *An Foras Pátrúnachta* at each stage of the process
- ▶ Meetings with various stakeholders
- ▶ Support materials – presentations, information leaflets, templates, etc.
- ▶ Representation with other agencies – local stakeholders, patron, Department of Education
- ▶ Professional development for the implementation of ethics and multi-faith programme *Croí na Scoile*

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