

**Whitechurch
National School
Ethos Statement**

March 2021

Whitechurch National School
Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, Ireland

Scoil Náisiúnta an Teampaill Ghill, Bóthar Teampaill Ghill, Ráth Fearnáin, BÁC 16.

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School Roll Number: 11638N



Chairperson

Rev. Canon A. H. McKinley

Principal

Ms. Sarah Richards

Deputy Principal

Ms. Alex Wilson

Whitechurch National School Ethos Statement

Whitechurch National School is a coeducational primary school under Church of Ireland management. The Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough is the school's Patron. The school is managed by a Board of Management made up of nominees from the community, parents, teachers, and parish. The Patron nominates two representatives to the Board of Management; one of whom is nominated by him as Chairperson of the Board. The Ethos (characteristic spirit of the school that informs all aspects of its work) is set out below:

Whitechurch National School is a community where all pupils are equally valued and respected – irrespective of gender, social or ethnic background, family circumstances, educational achievement, physical characteristics or intellectual functioning. Pupils experience a sense of caring and belonging, they are treated fairly and their spiritual, moral and religious development is encouraged, as is their intellectual, social and academic development.

Whitechurch National School is a community where the traditions and teachings of the Church of Ireland inform the encouragement and development of values such as faith, hope and charity; as demonstrated by honesty, justice, fairness, sensitivity to others and civic responsibility.

Whitechurch National School is a part of the local church community and has strong links with the Parish. Pupils take part in services in the local church (eg. Advent, Easter etc.) Special events take place in the school to mark religious festivals and celebrations eg. Christmas, Easter etc. The Rector visits the school and takes part in Assembly on a regular basis.

The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of inclusion, tolerance and respect for religious differences. The admission policy of the school allows those of other faiths or none to enrol as pupils. Whitechurch National School values and recognises the contribution that pupils of different faiths bring to the life of the school.

Time spent teaching Religious Education is per Department of Education guidelines. All pupils generally take part in Religious Education lessons. The 'Follow Me' programme (developed by the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Boards of Education) is in use throughout all the classes. Please see the Religious Education Policy for further details.

Whitechurch National School nurtures the freedom of thought, reflection, and a personal, self determined relationship with God. This is most evident in the teaching of Religious Education and in the prayer life of the school community.

This Ethos Statement was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management in March 2021.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management Principal

Date: _____ Date: _____