

# BECOMING A COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL (CNS)

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



  
**Community**  
NATIONAL SCHOOLS



**etbi**

Education and Training  
Boards Ireland  
*Boird Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Éireann*

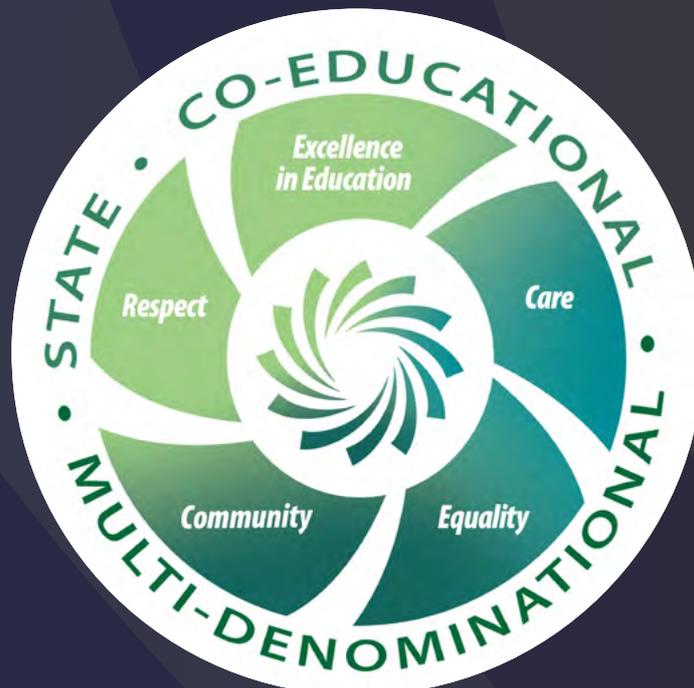
Is your child's school currently exploring or working through the process of becoming a Community National School (CNS)? You're probably wondering what this process might mean for your child? Read this pack to learn about how a CNS is similar and different to your school as it is today!

## WHAT ARE COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOLS?

CNSs are state-run, co-educational, multi-denominational primary schools underpinned by the core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.

CNSs give equal opportunities to all children in the communities they serve and strive to provide high-quality, multi-denominational, equality-based education. They were established in 2008 and are under the patronage and management of local Education and Training Boards (ETBs).

“The community spirit is incredible and everyone is made feel a big part of the school. The feeling of community and the openness to communicating with parents is brilliant. You really get the feeling of one big family and you can see how much the teachers put into their lessons!!” - (CNS Parent)



# WHAT ARE THE **SIMILARITIES** BETWEEN YOUR SCHOOL NOW AND A CNS?

CNSs are similar to your school today in many ways!



## Curriculum

If your school becomes a CNS, your child will continue to be taught the national primary school curriculum. CNSs teach the same subject areas that your school currently teaches. These are prescribed by the Department of Education (DE) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and therefore do not change if your school becomes a CNS. Furthermore, 'Excellence in Education' is one of the core values of the CNS ethos. This means that all CNSs make every effort to ensure that children are achieving to the best of their ability by prioritising excellence in teaching and learning. There is one key difference between what is taught in your school today and if it becomes a CNS – the Patron's Curriculum. This will be outlined on the next page of this brochure.



## Staffing

There are wonderful staff in your school that help your child to learn and grow. If your school becomes a CNS, all staff are welcome to continue working in the school and many, if not all, of them will. However, some teachers who would prefer to continue to work in a school with a single-religious ethos may choose to do so by moving to a religious-run school.

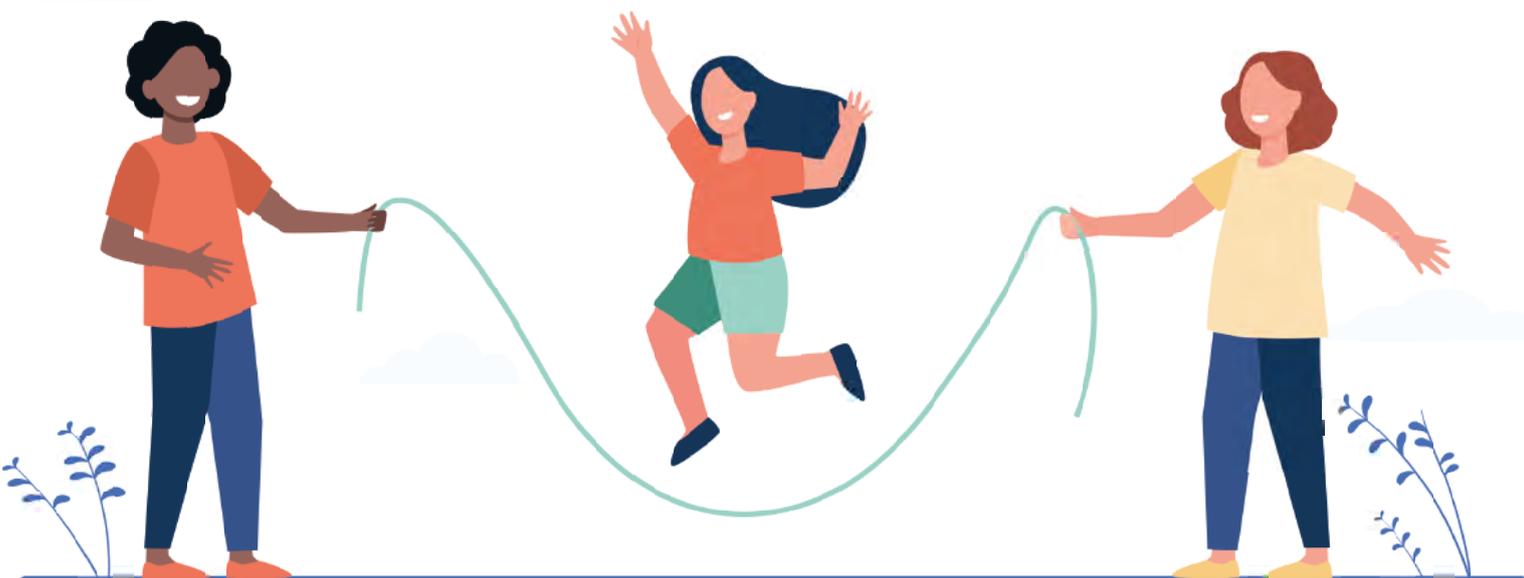


## Extra-Curricular Activities

Your child's school may currently facilitate fun and engaging after school activities which your child really enjoys! If your school becomes a CNS, these activities will continue to be facilitated as before.



"It has an incredibly warm, inclusive environment and excellent home/school communication. There are really high standards in education, and wonderful extra-curricular opportunities for the children. There are strong links within the local community. Most importantly, my child is happy going to school every day." - (CNS Parent)



# WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR SCHOOL NOW AND A CNS?

Becoming a CNS will bring some new and exciting changes to how your school currently operates! These changes will help provide your child with a multi-denominational educational experience.



## Ethos

Your school, like the vast majority of schools in Ireland, currently has a religious ethos. If your school becomes as CNS, it will have a multi-denominational ethos underpinned by the core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect. This means that all children are treated equally regardless of any aspect of their identity.



## State-funded and state-run

CNSs are Ireland's only state-funded and state-run primary schools. Currently, your child's primary school is state-funded, but privately-run. CNSs being state-run is significant as there is a growing appetite amongst the public for the state to take responsibility for key public services e.g., health.



## Co-educational

If your school is currently a single-sex school, it will become co-educational if it changes patronage to a CNS.



## Goodness Me, Goodness You!

Denominational schools provide a 'faith formation' programme in one particular religion e.g., the Catholic faith. Children in CNSs follow a 'multi-belief and values education' curriculum called *Goodness Me, Goodness You!* (GMGY). GMGY engages children in identity education, values education, philosophy with/for children and multi-denominational religious education. Teachers and school leaders will be provided with ongoing training to support them in teaching GMGY. For more information on GMGY, visit: [www.cns.ie/goodness-me-goodness-you-new/](http://www.cns.ie/goodness-me-goodness-you-new/)



“The fact that it is multi-denominational, both in terms of curriculum and culture, the dynamism of the principal and staff and the great emphasis put on science, maths and art is all wonderful.” - (CNS Parent)



## Sacramental Preparation

If your school is currently a Catholic school, it is likely that Catholic children are prepared for their sacraments by their classroom teachers during the school day. This will no longer be the case if your school becomes a CNS. Your child will still be able to make their Holy Communion and Confirmation. However, responsibility for preparing children for the sacraments will transfer to the parish. These classes take place after the school day and can be facilitated in either the parish or school building.

Many teachers and parents in schools which have changed patronage to a CNS have reported this as a very positive move as preparation for the sacraments can be very time consuming. Moving sacramental preparation to outside the school day means that teachers and children have more time to engage with the rest of the curriculum during school time.



## School Name, Logo/Crest

The name and logo of your school may currently reflect its religious ethos. If your school becomes a CNS, its name and logo will need to change to reflect its multi-denominational ethos. While the name of the reconfigured school should be decided before it re-opens as a CNS, the new crest can be developed over time in consultation with the school community.



## Uniform

Some schools may decide to use a transfer of patronage as an opportunity to change the school's uniform or uniform policy. This can be done over time in consultation with the school community. Parents should incur no additional costs in terms of uniform as a result of any changes made. This may mean that some children continue to wear their existing uniform for a period of time.

# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

### Where can I find out more about the CNS model and ETBs?

To find out more about the CNS model, visit [www.cns.ie](http://www.cns.ie)

To find out more about ETBs and ETBI, visit [www.etbi.ie](http://www.etbi.ie) or your local ETB's website

### Where can I find out more about the Schools Reconfiguration for Diversity Process?

The DE has published guidance for school communities on this process. This is available at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/811e2-schools-reconfiguration-for-diversity/>



“My child’s religion is respected, and events take place for all religions and beliefs equally. My daughter is encouraged not just in education but also in life skills.” - (CNS Parent)

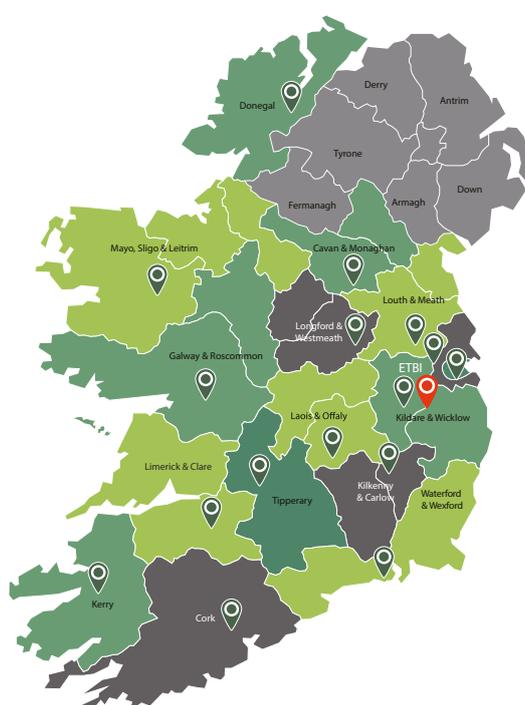


# WHAT ARE ETBS AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR MY CHILD IN ATTENDING AN ETB SCHOOL?

ETBs are state bodies with responsibility for education and training in CNSs, Community Colleges, Further Education and Training (FET) colleges, youth work and a range of adult and further education centres. There are 16 ETBs across the Republic of Ireland serving their local communities.

As ETB schools, CNSs benefit greatly from a broad range of supports and services that may not be available to other schools. ETBs provide ethos, governance, educational, administrative, financial, human resources, information technology (IT), capital and building supports to schools. This has a direct impact on the children and families attending these schools, as it allows school leadership to focus on their primary task of caring for the children and leading teaching and learning.

A list of existing CNSs under the patronage of ETBs is available at <https://www.etbi.ie/schools-support-directorate/about-cnss/our-schools/>



# ETB CONTACT INFORMATION

## **CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB**

047 30888 > [info@cmetb.ie](mailto:info@cmetb.ie) > [www.cmetb.ie](http://www.cmetb.ie)

## **CORK ETB**

021 4907100 > [info@corketb.ie](mailto:info@corketb.ie) > [www.corketb.ie](http://www.corketb.ie)

## **CITY OF DUBLIN ETB**

01 6680614 > [info@cdetb.ie](mailto:info@cdetb.ie) > [www.cdetb.ie](http://www.cdetb.ie)

## **DONEGAL ETB**

074 9161600 > [info@donegaletb.ie](mailto:info@donegaletb.ie) > [www.donegaletb.ie](http://www.donegaletb.ie)

## **DUBLIN AND DUN LAOGHAIRE ETB**

01 4529600 > [info@ddletb.ie](mailto:info@ddletb.ie) > [www.ddletb.ie](http://www.ddletb.ie)

## **GALWAY AND ROSCOMMON ETB**

091 874500 > [info@gretb.ie](mailto:info@gretb.ie) > [www.gretb.ie](http://www.gretb.ie)

## **KERRY ETB**

066 7121488 > [info@kerryetb.ie](mailto:info@kerryetb.ie) > [www.kerryetb.ie](http://www.kerryetb.ie)

## **KILDARE AND WICKLOW ETB**

045 988 000 > [admin@kwetb.ie](mailto:admin@kwetb.ie) > [www.kildarewicklow.etb.ie](http://www.kildarewicklow.etb.ie)

## **KILKENNY AND CARLOW ETB**

059 9138560 > [info@kcetb.ie](mailto:info@kcetb.ie) > [www.kilkennycarlow.etb.ie](http://www.kilkennycarlow.etb.ie)

## **LAOIS AND OFFALY ETB**

057 8621352 > [info@loetb.ie](mailto:info@loetb.ie) > [www.loetb.ie](http://www.loetb.ie)

## **LIMERICK AND CLARE ETB**

061 442 100 > [info@lcetb.ie](mailto:info@lcetb.ie) > [www.lcetb.ie](http://www.lcetb.ie)

## **LONGFORD AND WESTMEATH ETB**

044 9348389 > [info@lwetb.ie](mailto:info@lwetb.ie) > [www.lwetb.ie](http://www.lwetb.ie)

## **LOUTH AND MEATH ETB**

046 906 8200 > [education@lmetb.ie](mailto:education@lmetb.ie) > [www.lmetb.ie](http://www.lmetb.ie)

## **MAYO, SLIGO AND LEITRIM ETB**

094 902 4188 > [infomayo@msletb.ie](mailto:infomayo@msletb.ie) > [www.msletb.ie](http://www.msletb.ie)

## **TIPPERARY ETB**

067 31250 > [nenagh@tipperaryetb.ie](mailto:nenagh@tipperaryetb.ie) > [www.tipperary.etb.ie](http://www.tipperary.etb.ie)

## **WATERFORD AND WEXFORD ETB**

053 912 3799 > [info@wwetb.ie](mailto:info@wwetb.ie) > [www.waterfordwexford.etb.ie](http://www.waterfordwexford.etb.ie)

[www.etbi.ie](http://www.etbi.ie)



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Education and Training  
Boards Ireland

*Boird Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Éireann*

Piper's Hill, Kilcullen Road  
Naas, Co Kildare  
W91K729

 @etbi\_ireland

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Community National Schools (CNS)

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