Mission Statement and Ethos

Harold's Cross ETNS is an Educate Together School, run in accordance with the Rules for Primary Schools of the Department of Education and Youth. We at Harold's Cross ETNS seek to provide an environment that is child-centered, co-educational, equality-based and democratically run. Our mission for our school is to ensure that no child is an outsider, to celebrate differences and provide the knowledge, skills and attributes that children need to enable them to live in a pluralist society and contribute to society as a well-informed citizen.

We Are Child Centred:

The educational and developmental needs of the children of the school are our most important consideration. Each child's needs, abilities and individuality are recognised and respected in a caring and relaxed learning environment that is rooted in equality and respect.

For example, we:

- Ensure all staff and children are addressed by their first names.
- Use a wide range of learning techniques to suit the different learning styles of children.
- Provide for the additional educational needs of children.
- Actively listen to children to find out about their experiences and their concerns in an effort to detect and resolve problems as early as possible.
- Encourage children to 'tell' teachers about any bullying incidents.
- Positively and consistently reinforce good behaviour, effort and achievement for both individuals and groups.
- Intervene early and appropriately when student behaviour does not meet expected standards but never use isolating/humiliating sanctions or physical force unless restraint is required for safety reasons.

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We Are Co-Educational:

Our school welcomes children of all genders. Whilst we acknowledge that there are gender differences, we encourage all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities in a balanced environment, which does not favour one gender over the other or promote gender stereotypes. We are also dedicated to fostering respect, understanding and friendship between girls and boys.

For example, we:

- Always teach children of all genders together.
- Value the ability and contribution of all genders.
- Make sure all children participate in a full range of classroom tasks.

We Are Multi-Denominational:

All children have equal right of access to the school. Children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds are equally respected.

For example, we:

- Have a first come first served enrolment policy.
- Follow an ethical education programme entitled Learn Together, instead of religious instruction.
- Teach about different festivals each month and do not prioritise one belief system.
- We have a weekly assembly focusing on our Learn Together values of the month.
- Teach children about inclusion, diversity and discrimination to encourage understanding, tolerance and acceptance of the customs observed by different individuals and communities.
- Encourage parents from various backgrounds to share their national, cultural and religious heritage with the children. Staff do not discuss their own beliefs with children.

We Are Democratically Run:

We accept that parents are the primary educators of their children and in turn ask that they positively affirm the professional role of the teaching staff. Parents and guardians are encouraged to actively participate in the daily life of the school. We also teach the children about issues such as democracy, power sharing and freedom of speech.

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- Teach children to express their views sensitively and respectfully and to value their right and the rights of others to do so.
- Have a Student Council that allows students a voice and an opportunity for their ideas to be formally represented.
- Organise curriculum meetings for parents of each class at the start of each year.
- Value and encourage the professionally enabling contribution of parents to the education of their children.

Learn Together Ethical Education Curriculum:

In place of religious instruction programmes, which are taught in denominational schools, Educate Together schools teach the Learn Together Ethical Education Curriculum. This curriculum has four strands:

- Values and Ethical Perspectives
- Equality and Justice
- Belief System
- An Ethical Approach to the Environment

Here in Harold's Cross Educate Together National School we hope our children will:
Dream More, Learn More, and Do More.

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