

# Catholic Schools Partnership



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*About Catholic Primary Schools*





*Catholic Schools Partnership is an umbrella body providing support for all the partners in Catholic schools. Here we answer some frequently asked questions about Catholic primary schools.*

**1**

***Aren't all schools the same?***

While all schools share a lot in common, they are not all the same. Every school has a certain ethos or characteristic spirit that inspires all aspects of the life of the school.

**2**

***What is different about a Catholic school?***

Our religious faith is central to our lives and influences the way that we see things. We believe that the life of Christ is really important, that each person is made in the image of God and that we form part of a parish community called the Church. We pray every day. We learn about the Bible, the Church, Mass and the Sacraments, and the teachings of the Church. We introduce pupils to the Christian values that we hope will inform the way they will live as children, adolescents and mature adults.

# 3

## *What do pupils learn?*

From the outset, the experience of the pupil in a Catholic school is characterised by respect for both faith and reason. So we teach children all aspects of the curriculum – languages, maths, music, science, art, sport. This is all part of what we do at school. In all of this we want to cherish each person as Christ would do, and we seek to support parents in their task of nurturing their children toward fulfilment in life and of preparing them to take their place in the world according to the gifts that they have been given.



# 4

## *Who attends Catholic schools?*

Obviously the vast majority of pupils are Catholic, as many Catholic parents want their children to have a faith-based education. Catholic schools are inclusive and have been leaders in integrating migrants into local communities. Our schools have also led the way in areas such as special needs and traveller education.



5

*What about children from other religious backgrounds?*

Children from various backgrounds are welcomed into Catholic schools. The number varies from one place to another but respect for all religions and for people of no faith is an important part of the life of the school.

6

*Are Catholic schools as good as other schools?*

Yes, they are. By all measures, both in Ireland and other countries, Catholic schools are amongst the best schools. There are many international surveys that suggest Catholic schools achieve the highest academic quality.





***Are there Catholic schools in other countries apart from Ireland?***

Yes, there are Catholic schools in almost every country in the world. In many nations as in our own, they form a central part of the education system, while in almost all democratic societies they are funded by the State.



***Will there be Catholic schools in Ireland in the future?***

Yes, there will. It is part of the role of the Church to teach, and as long as there are parents who want such schools, they will be provided. Given the popularity of such schools throughout the world, there is every reason to believe that Irish parents will continue to value and demand this type of schooling for their children.



***How will Catholic schools develop in the future?***

Catholic schools will continue to provide a quality education through a deepening partnership of home, school and parish. The vision underpinning this partnership can be found in the new National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland – *Share the Good News*.



***How do I find out more about Catholic schools?***

Go to [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).

# SOME NUMBERS

0

The amount of Euro spent on pay, travel and subsistence for the volunteers serving on Boards of Management in Catholic primary schools in the Republic of Ireland.

46

The number of times Jesus is called 'teacher' in the Gospels. It is the title most commonly associated with him by his followers.

50

The number of years since the Second Vatican Council. Concerning Catholic schools the Council said: 'parents must be recognised as the primary and principal educators' and teachers must have 'special qualities of mind and heart, very careful preparation, and continuing readiness to renew and adapt'.

52

The greatest number of nationalities that we have found in a Catholic primary school.

2,841

The number of Catholic primary schools in the Republic of Ireland. These schools are at the heart of our local communities.

17,046

The number of volunteers serving on Boards of Management in Catholic primary schools in the Republic of Ireland.