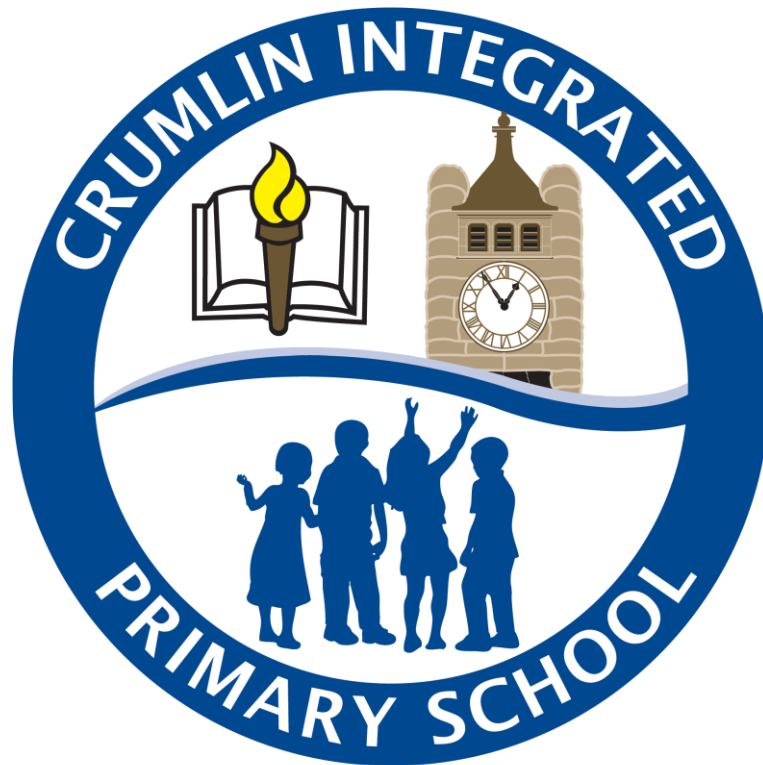


Crumlin Integrated Primary School

'Lighting up the minds of today for a brighter tomorrow'



Integration Policy

Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Date: November 2024

Integrated Education brings children and staff from Catholic and Protestant traditions, as well as those of other faiths, or none, together in one school. For the past number of years, in a deeply divided society, Integrated schools have been an alternative to an educational system in which most children attend largely religiously separated schools.

Integrated Schools differ from other schools in Northern Ireland by ensuring that children from diverse backgrounds are educated together every day in the same classrooms.

It is important to note that Integrated schools are not secular but essentially Christian in character and welcome all faiths and none. In Integrated Primary Schools Catholic children are offered Sacramental preparation: -First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. At the same time, Protestant children can generally avail of the Follow Me and Grow and Love programme to develop their own faith knowledge.

Integrated Education aims to provide children with a caring and enhanced educational experience. Empowering them as individuals is a priority for staff so that, as they grow and mature, they'll be able to effect positive change in the shared society we live in.

Crumlin Integrated Primary School is a unique school in the Crumlin area. Our school is characterised by equality, tolerance, respect for others and a high standard of teaching and learning. We welcome the entire community and celebrate our individuality and diversity.

Children are at the heart of our school. Our committed team of teachers and learning support assistants provide a safe, friendly environment in which our children are able to grow in confidence, to learn and develop their talents and abilities in preparation for tomorrow's world and their future in it. We welcome children of all abilities, of all faiths and of none.



Aims / Objectives

This policy has been influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Northern Ireland Equality Legislation.

The four core principles of integrated education - **equality, faith and values, parental involvement** and **social responsibility** - represent the cornerstones of the integrated ethos. *Crumlin Integrated Primary School* demonstrates its distinctiveness and vision through a commitment to these principles.

Equality

Crumlin Integrated Primary School promotes equality and sharing between and within the diverse groups that compose the school community.

- All school policies and teaching and learning aim to reflect the integrated ethos. e.g. the integrated ethos is reinforced through PDMU, Assemblies and class learning.
- PE - provision for a range of sports, such as Irish dancing, GAA, hockey and football, will be made to reflect the diversity within the school community.
- Library books, class novels and textbooks will be carefully chosen to ensure that a range of viewpoints are explored.
- Provision for managing social, cultural, religious, or political events e.g. sporting events such as All Ireland County victory, European / World Cup games, state funerals, Remembrance Day, Ash Wednesday arrangements, Harvest etc will be made.
- The school community feel secure in demonstrating aspects of their identity regardless of social or cultural background, ability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. (RSE Policy)
- Consideration is given to the display and/or promotion of symbols and emblems (e.g. poppies and shamrocks).
- Striving for equality, Crumlin Integrated Primary aspires to high academic standards within an all-ability framework that provides equal access to the curriculum for all.

Faith and Values

- Crumlin Integrated Primary School provides Religious Education in accordance with the Department of Education and NICIE guidelines. While Christian in ethos, we aspire to create an environment where those of all faiths and none are respected, acknowledged and accepted as valued members of the school community.
- Crumlin Integrated Primary School endeavours to observe a range of different celebrations and seeks to acknowledge significant religious and cultural events which are representative of other faiths.
- Assemblies will be used to reflect the Key Principles of Integration including different religious and cultural events.
- Provision for sacramental preparation and attendance at Church services.
- Alternative provision will be made for those pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in any religious activities and classes.

Parental Involvement

The support and commitment of parents is a fundamental element of integrated education and historically parents have been central to the development of integrated schools.

- Crumlin Integrated Primary School maintains significant levels of parental representation on the board of governors (in accordance with legislative requirements and structures).
- We sustain effective parental involvement in the life of the school (board of governors, PTA committee, parent helpers).
- We ensure parents are made fully aware of the integrated ethos as well as specific reference to the integrated ethos in written information provided for parents
- Attempt is made to provide school related information when required in a range of formats to meet the needs of the parent population of the school.

Social Responsibility

- Crumlin Integrated Primary School delivers the curriculum on an all - ability and inclusive basis to all of its pupils. It respects the uniqueness of every pupil and acknowledges his/her entitlement to personal, social, intellectual and spiritual development in the attainment of individual potential.
- An emphasis is placed on nurturing self confidence and self-respect (see pastoral care policy)
- The school uses and promotes non-violent methods of conflict resolution (eg. peer mediation). *Further detail can be found in our Anti bullying and Positive behaviour policies.*
- A range of charities and causes are selected / supported in order to reflect the integrated ethos of the school. In this way, pupils are encouraged to recognise those less fortunate than themselves, the oppressed and victims of injustice.
- The school is open to being used for appropriate community events organised by groups which support the integrated ethos. In this way the school is promoted as a shared civic space.
- Crumlin Integrated Primary School actively engages with other integrated schools through APTIS, the Integrated Schools Teachers Committee and the VP forum.
- Crumlin Integrated Primary School is an active member of the community and has many links with other primary and post-primary schools in the area. In particular, there is a very successful Shared Education programme in place with Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach, St Joseph's Primary School, Crumlin and Crumlin Integrated College.

