



Catholic Ethos

The Oxford English dictionary defines “ethos” as “the characteristic spirit, (tone) of a community.” Its origin lies in the Greek language and the concept of “ethics” is linked to it.

School Schedule.

A Roman Catholic school (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person and of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

Catholic Education.

Catholic education is not just about ideas, or courses or even subjects or syllabi but, rather, it is about people.

Catholic schools are inclusive. Inclusion is not just about religious denomination. Inclusion must also take nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background and ability into consideration.

The Catholic school must embody respect. Respect for the individual student with their own distinctive talents and characteristics, respect for others, also made in the image and likeness of Christ.

A Catholic school is a school that can say of itself that quotation from John 10:10, ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full’

A good education, a Catholic education, is not a preparation for capitalism or a narrow narcissistic and selfish view of life but rather one of compassion, service, respect and using one’s talents and opportunities.

Bishop Tom Deenihan Homily to mark Catholics Schools Week, January 2022.



Describing Ethos

The concepts of Culture and Ethos in a school are elusive, they do not lend themselves easily to paradigms of measurement and accountability evident in formal evaluations, school league tables or analysis of a school's test results.

Culture and Ethos are not separate and distinct but intermingled into what we see, what we do, what we feel about our schools.

Culture might explain "how things are done in a school", ethos explains why we are committed to the schools we lead and manage, to the pupils enrolled in them and to the communities they serve.

The ethos of a Catholic school is evident overtly (prayer, symbols, displays, sacramental preparation) and covertly (in all we say and do) in the school every day.

The Five Key Characteristics of a Catholic School.

- ***We are called to be followers of Christ.***
- ***We have an understanding of catholic education.***
- ***The schools is a Christian community.***
- ***The schools is an agent of personal growth and social transformation.***
- ***Religious education is an integral part of the life of the school.***



Why does Catholic education remain highly valued in an increasingly secular world?

There are more than 28,000 Catholic schools in Europe are educating over 8,500,000 pupils. Of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe it is only two countries, France and Macedonia, where there is no religious education in State schools. However, in France, almost 20 per cent of the population attend Catholic schools.

Research indicates that there are four characteristics of Catholic schools that resonate with parents:

- (a) they have an academic structure and culture.
- (b) they create strong internal communities.
- (c) they have devolved governance and autonomy.
- (d) they have the inspirational Gospel message which gives the school community a sense of mission and purpose.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/why-are-catholic-schools-so-popular-at-a-time-of-increased-secularisation-1.3777895>



Catholic Education in the Diocese of Meath.

Irish Catholic education has been highly valued since monastic times, Ireland became known as the land of Saints and Scholars.

St. Finian and St. Columba two prominent saints from this era, are closely associated with this Diocese.

Catholic primary schools have been central to the continuity of the religious, cultural, sporting and artistic traditions of the communities there are situated in for generations.

They have achieved this while also possessing the capacity to adopt to developments in educational philosophies, pedagogical methodologies, infrastructural and technological advancements.

The core values of our ethos, the education of the whole person, mind, body and soul remain like the teachings of Jesus, a vital constant in an ever-evolving world.

Our schools strive to be places of learning and centres of excellence. This manifested visibly in the physical appearance, maintenance and identification of the school buildings and grounds.

Our schools strive to promote and model values of truth, justice, faith and freedom. They are open to all who wish to visit or engage with them, as well as to new challenges and initiatives. They strive to reflect on and rectify errors and omissions. Catholic schools are bright and cheerful places which celebrate the children's work and achievements.

A Catholic school should promote and acknowledge the contribution our faith makes to the world of art, architecture, literature, philosophy and music. Above all our schools are blessed places of joy and love, where children are happy to come to be educated.

They are places where parents are confident that their children will thrive and grow, intellectually, morally, physically and spiritually. They are living communities of faith, visible to all on every school day, in every parish in the Diocese. Our schools are an example to and a reflection of the wonderful communities they serve.

They have always been and will continue as places where might can find modern day "saints and scholars."