



Development Education

Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew

Caring, challenging and achieving together...



Development Education School Policy

Aims and objectives

Coláiste Bhríde believes that Development Education (Dev Ed) enables our students to become more responsible members of society. We encourage our students to play a positive proactive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community, both locally and globally. In so doing, we help to develop their role as global citizens. We teach our students about their rights and about their responsibilities. They learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of an increasingly globalized world.

Development Education aims to

- Understand what constitutes for good relationships with others

- Get students to understand the world that they live in, on a local and global scale
- Be thoughtful and responsible members of their community and their school
- Develop good relationships with other members of the community
- Become active members of our democratic society
- Make informed choices regarding social issues
- Develop positive, lasting relationships with our extended communities

Teaching and Learning

We use a range of teaching and learning styles to deliver Dev Ed in our school. We emphasize active learning methodologies by including the students in discussions, investigations and problem-solving activities. We encourage students to take part in a range of tasks that promote active citizenship, for example awareness and participation where possible in events regarding social justice issues. We offer students the opportunity to invite speakers from the community into our school to speak on social justice issues or organizations such as NGOs to come and facilitate workshops on social justice themes.

Development Education Curriculum Planning

We use the National Curriculum as a basis for our Dev Ed work. However, we are flexible in the way this is delivered. Sometimes, for example when dealing with issues on climate change, we get subjects to work together in a cross curricular manner, such as Science or Geography, to carry out joint learning projects.

On other occasions, we introduce Dev Ed topics through teaching in other subjects, such as focusing on gender equality in SPHE, RSE or Religion. There is a large overlap between the programme of study for many subjects when it comes to exploring Dev Ed and where possible, we make these links for our students.

We also explore Dev Ed through various activities and whole-school events. For example, the student council representatives from each form meet regularly to discuss school matters and often focus on a certain social justice theme that they would like to explore on a whole school level. This includes areas such as fair-trade and ethical consumption. For example fair-trade fortnight in February or international women's rights in March. We have a Dev Ed committee which meets fortnightly to develop an action project for the school community.

Development Education and ICT

ICT makes a contribution to the teaching of Dev Ed and ICT classes learn to work together in a collaborative manner. They also develop a sense of global citizenship by using the internet and e-mail to explore these issues further and to access resources on social justice themes. The use of iPads allows students to access and engage with the most up to date information in class.

ICT is also a valuable resource for staff regarding Dev Ed. An online database of lesson plans and resources has been created in the school. All staff have access to the database that is divided by sustainable development goals and subject.

Development Education and Inclusion

We teach Dev Ed to all students, inclusive of all students' abilities. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of students with learning difficulties.

Students will be provided with opportunities to take responsibility, develop leadership skills, think creatively and use their talents for the good of their peer group or the wider community.

Assessments

1. Our school is working towards achieving a second WWGS 'Global Passport' which recognizes good practice in the delivery of Dev Ed in schools.

2. Our teachers record any appropriate achievement for each student in their contribution to the school or community in terms of active citizenship or their Dev Ed work.
3. We encourage our students to keep records, in their personal record-of-achievement file, of their contribution to raising awareness on social justice themes in the school or beyond the school community.
4. We do not set formal examinations in our TY Dev Ed module. The sense of achievement through student involvement and increased awareness is a record in its widest sense.
5. First year students are assessed on their Dev Ed focused module “Educating the Heart” using the framework provided by Children in Crossfire.
6. We also hold our achievements accountable to outside organisations when we take part in programmes such as Concern’s Speak, Act, Do or the Global Passport Award accredited by WorldWise Global Schools.
7. The Dev Ed committee assesses its actions using the WorldWise Global Schools self-assessment toolkit.

Resources

We draw upon nationally produced material to support our work in Dev Ed, using NCCA validated courses. For example, we make extensive use of the material produced by the NCCA, Concern, the UN, WorldWise Global Schools and Irish Aid. We keep the resources for Dev Ed in a central folder in topic boxes for each unit of work. We have additional resources in the library. Our Dev Ed coordinator/team hold a selection of reference materials for teaching sensitive issues. This is in addition to our online database.

Communication and Development Education in our School

Coláiste Bhríde acknowledges the importance of communicating the work of those involved in Dev Ed in our school to our communities.

The school's App is used to communicate messages regarding Dev Ed as well as achievements with parents, staff and students. In addition, the daily staff newsletter informs staff of key dates and events. The Dev Ed noticeboard, which is updated by our committee regularly, keeps students informed on social justice issues. Our bi-annual school newsletter provides a summarised report of our achievements and the social justice issues with which we have engaged.

The above communications are in addition to regular reports to our Board of Management and Parents' Association.

Monitoring and Review


The planning and coordination of the teaching of Dev Ed are the responsibility of the Dev Ed core team of teachers and students who also:

- Support colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in Dev Ed and by providing a strategic lead and direction for Dev Ed.
- Give school management and Board of Management an annual summary report in which the strengths and weaknesses in Dev Ed are evaluated and areas for further improvement are indicated.
- The Dev Ed committee reviews the school's engagement with Dev Ed annually using the Global Passport Framework.
- The quality of teaching and learning in Dev Ed is monitored and evaluated by the teachers who use the WWGS Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) as part of the school's agreed cycle of monitoring and evaluation.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if necessary.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE:

Version number	2
Policy drafted by	Ms Linda Dunne Ms Anna Gahan Ms Ann Marie Doyle
Approved by Board of Management	9/3/2020
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Next review date	TBC



Chairperson Board of Management