

**Ethos Statement of Stepaside Educate Together National School**

In Stepaside Educate Together NS we approach everything with kindness first and foremost. We are respectful, honest and fair.

We are a diverse and inclusive national school in the broadest sense of the word where children of different abilities, nationalities, social backgrounds & cultural backgrounds learn and play together. We understand that we are each individuals who are wonderful in our own ways and understand that we are each deserving of equal access to learning helping each child to achieve their potential. We are a school where children’s voices are heard and the rights and responsibilities of all educational stakeholders are recognised.

We are a school which strives to be ambitious and progressive in our teaching and learning coupled with high standards. We respect the professionalism of the teachers.

A child-centred approach is aimed to create a positive learning environment where children experience a well-rounded curriculum in a fun, friendly and nurturing setting. We encourage activity and promote healthy lifestyle choices. The pupils will be given the tools to move on from this national school to their next stage of learning allowing them to be caring, confident, gentle, positive, mindful, ethical, conscientious, hard-working, active, open and ready for the life ahead of them.

In SETNS we develop our physical surroundings to make a happy, colourful, bright, welcoming, warm, inviting, engaging, safe and friendly environment for learning. We aim to embed ourselves in the community and to contribute positively to it. We utilise the natural environment to enhance learning opportunities.

We embody the four pillars of our patron body, Educate Together. We are co-educational, democratically run, equality based and child-centred.

We recognise that pupils, staff, parents and committee members all share in the development of our school culture and that we have a collective responsibility in safeguarding the values of this ethos statement as our school and school community grows.

**Note**: This ethos statement was drafted in November 2016 in line with the four year vision being led by the Board of Management. The words and ideals in this statement come from pupils, staff, parents and committee members following on from an extensive consultative and collaborative process.