

Bray School Project

Role of the Patron

Saturday 10 February 2018

The Education Act 1998

- Establishes a proper legal framework for education in Ireland
- Gives legal standing to a Board of Management
- Sets out the duties and obligations of the various members of the school community
- Recognises the value of partnership in education

Patrons

Part II, Section 8

- Definition of Patron: “The person who.....is recognised by the Minister as the patron of a primary school.... as trustees or as the board of governors of a post-primary school ”
- “...shall carry out the functions and exercise the powers conferred on the Patron by this Act...”
- DES to keep a register of all recognised Patrons

Role of the Patron

- Accommodation (sign the lease with the DES/Landlord)
- Ethos of the school
- Appointing two nominees to the Board of Management
- Appointment of Board of Management, including Chairperson
- Appointment of Independent Assessor for Selection Boards (teaching & SNA staff)
- Approving appointment of teaching & SNA staff
- Approving the publication of the enrolment policy of the school

- Act to preserve the ‘characteristic spirit’ or ethos of the school,
- Seek regular reports and be in a position to act to support, advise and if necessary intervene in the interests of the school, its children, parents and staff,
- and amongst other things:
 - Set out, monitor and support a curriculum of ethical education that comprises 2.5hrs of teaching contact time for all pupils per school week in National Schools.

Patron as a Limited Company

- Legal obligations under Companies Act
- Annual Returns - accounts, change of directors
- Up-to-date Membership list
- Holding Annual General Meeting

A Company and a Patron

- As a company, Educate Together is obliged to carry out its duties in a clear and transparent manner
- Publication of our Patronage Manual, clearly setting out how we perform our role as Patron.

As a Member School

- We give school support
- Training is open to the Board of Management
- We administer the Educate Together Redeployment Panel
- Carry out Garda Vetting for the school
- A company member

Educate Together - Origins

- 1978: Dalkey School Project opens
- 1984: Three schools (Dalkey, Bray, North Dublin) get together to form Educate Together
- 1997: Monkstown opens with DSP patronage
- 1998: Educate Together becomes a company limited by guarantee
- 2000: Dublin 7 ETNS opens with Educate Together as Patron
- 2007-2016: 6 established schools opt for ET Patronage

93 Educate Together Schools 2017/2018

- 70 Educate Together National Schools as Patron
 - 11 Local Patron
- 9 Second-level schools
- 2 Primary schools in UK

Educate Together structure

- Company limited by guarantee
- Funded from DES Grants, members and fundraising
- Board of Directors, elected annually by rotation at AGM
- 99 Members (Patron and BoM of 11 schools, BoM of 77 schools)
- All policies set at AGM
- Staff: 14 full-time staff, 7 part-time & 12 Directors



The Role of the Patron

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