

# Education about RELIGIONS & BELIEFS & ETHICS

## Welcome to our consultation.

We are developing part of the Primary Curriculum. We are looking at Religions, Beliefs and Ethics in the primary classroom and we would like to hear your views.

## Why is a curriculum in Education about Religions and Beliefs and Ethics being developed?

An important part of your child's education involves learning about the lives, values and traditions of friends, classmates and members of the wider community.

Much of this learning already takes place in our classrooms.

However, to ensure that every child has the opportunity for such learning and to ensure the good practices that already takes place in schools is recognised and supported, we are developing a curriculum in Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics.

I would like my son to understand that he has rights and responsibilities.

Help us to understand our friends' beliefs and traditions.

I would like my daughter to be confident and secure in her own identity and belonging.

Help me to learn more about fairness and justice.

I want to learn more about my own beliefs and traditions.



## Have your say.

To contribute to the consultation, submit a questionnaire at:

[www.ncca.ie/consultation/erbe](http://www.ncca.ie/consultation/erbe)

Alternatively you can attend one of our consultation events which will be publicised on our website.

# Education about RELIGIONS & BELIEFS & ETHICS

**A new area of learning, Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics, is proposed for the primary classroom. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) would like to have your views.**

## So why are we looking at Religions, Beliefs and Ethics in the primary classroom?

An important part of your child's education involves learning about the lives, values and traditions of their friends, classmates and members of the wider community. Linked to this is the need to nurture and value your child's own sense of identity and belonging. Much of this already takes place in our classrooms now we want to ensure that every child gets to benefit from this learning.

## What is Education about Religions and Beliefs?

In Education about Religions and Beliefs your child will learn about the major forms of religion, belief traditions and worldviews that have been embraced by people around the world. This learning will help your child develop a respect for, understanding of, and empathy with people of diverse religions, beliefs and worldviews.

## What is Education in Ethics?

Education in Ethics is about learning to make choices and decisions in a way that considers the effect on others. Therefore, your child will learn about respecting the dignity and freedom of all human beings. Your child will explore the importance of human rights and responsibilities as well as the place of justice within society. These ideas help contribute to the common good. They are all important to living together in a modern Ireland.

## How will the curriculum contribute to your child's life?

Learning about religions and beliefs and ethics will foster your child's sense of identity and belonging. It will do this by developing your child's:

- Self-awareness
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Well-being

Your child will build friendships with peers through sharing ideas about the world and talking about lived experiences.

Talking about personal beliefs and values, and listening to those of others, will help your child accept the right of each person to hold different beliefs or opinions.

## Who will be learning about religions, beliefs and ethics?

Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics will be for all children attending primary school.

## Key Ideas

ERB and Ethics will help your child to:

- Develop self-awareness, confidence, personal beliefs and a positive sense of identity.
- Understand how different worldviews have contributed to the culture in which we live.
- Show empathy and joy with human diversity and form deep, caring human connections.
- Gain greater self-understanding.
- Relate to others.
- Understand the relationship between rights and responsibilities.
- Recognise unfairness, injustice and the impact of discrimination.

## How can I have my say?

You can contribute to the consultation by visiting [www.ncca.ie/consultation/erbe](http://www.ncca.ie/consultation/erbe) where you can complete and submit a questionnaire.

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