



Killinarden Community School
Development Education Policy
Reviewed October 2023

1. Development Education

Development Education (DE) is an educational process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing interdependent and unequal world in which we live. It involves participative methods, increasing knowledge and skills, changing values and attitudes through behaviours and positive actions.

Aims and objectives

We believe that development education enables our students to become more responsible members of society. We encourage our students to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community, both locally and globally. In doing so, we help to develop their role as global citizens.

Our objectives in the teaching of Development Education are

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

2. Teaching and Learning

We use a range of teaching and learning styles to deliver Development Education in our school. We emphasise active learning methodologies by including the students in discussions, investigations and problem-solving activities. We encourage the students to take part in a range of tasks that promote active citizenship, such as awareness events on various social justice issues. We offer students the opportunity to hear visiting speakers from the community speak on social justice issues or organisations to come and facilitate workshops on social justice themes.

3. Development Education Curriculum Planning

We use the national curriculum as a basis for our development education work. However, we are flexible in the way this is delivered. Subjects often work together in a cross curricular manner to carry out joint learning projects. Development education topics are also introduced through teaching in other subjects, not just through CSPE and Development Education. There is a large overlap between the programme of study for many subjects when it comes to exploring development education, and where possible we make these links for our students.

Every year we hold an intercultural week to inform and raise awareness of the different nationalities within our school. Development Education is a specific subject timetabled for our TY students, while other subject departments incorporate it into their subject planning. A bank of teaching resources for each department is provided for staff in our school library.

Development Education and Inclusion

We teach Development Education to all students, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of students with learning difficulties.

5. Assessments

- In our school magazine every year and on our website we acknowledge the work done as active citizens in our school and community.
- At school graduation each year a 6th year student is acknowledged for their volunteer work in the school and community and is awarded the Harambee Award. We encourage our students to keep records of their contribution to raising awareness on social justice themes in the school or beyond the school community.
- Assessment for Development Education is not done through formal examinations but relies on participation records and reflective tasks throughout the year.

6 Resources

We draw upon nationally and internally produced material to support our work in Development Education. We keep the resources for Development Education in our school library. Our Development education coordinator/team holds a selection of reference materials for teaching sensitive issues.

7. Monitoring and review

The planning and coordination of the teaching of Development Education are the responsibility of the DE teacher, TY coordinator and TY students who also:

- Support colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in DE, and by providing a strategic lead and direction for DE
- Give the school management teams an update for areas for further improvement in relation to DE in line with the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2017-2023.

This policy will be reviewed in October 2025 or sooner if necessary

Signed: _____

Date: _____