

## **Aston Village Educate Together: A School Philosophy**

*Compiled by: The staff, the Board of Management, Parents' Association*

*Special Responsibility: John Kelleher*

*Updated: November, 2011*

*At the time of writing, Aston Village ETNS has 188 students from 30 nationalities.*

*As a start-up school, we are now involved in establishing ourselves as a school community. This poses certain challenges as we put together the scaffolding for a happy, successful, productive school environment.*

*The ethos of Aston Village and the school community, their attitudes, expectations, beliefs, goals and traditions are expressed in the school philosophy. This is the philosophy of the school as outlined by the partners involved in it.*

**The school considers the following to be true:**

- *That its main purpose is the education of the students academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally.*
- *That each individual is unique and important.*
- *That each individual (student and staff member) is capable of growth and development in many different areas.*
- *That people are different and that we should recognise and celebrate these differences.*
- *That people of different race, ethnicity and religion are equal and equally welcome in Aston Village (ref. Yellow Flag Programme, Anti-Racism Programme)*
- *That students should be encouraged to explore and express their opinions and ideas.*
- *That each member of the school body has a sense that they have a positive contribution to make.*

- *That each student should be encouraged to develop a sense of self-worth.*
- *That there is no place in Aston Village for gender discrimination of any kind (Equality of Opportunity Policy to follow)*
- *That each student should get opportunities for social participation.*
- *That a sense of being on a team should permeate throughout the school.*
- *That the students should understand the importance of their school in the estate and in greater Drogheda.*
- *That the students should be aware of the high, yet attainable, expectations of the community for their school.*
- *That the students appreciate the integral part that the school plays in the life of their community.*

### **School Philosophy: Student Version**

**See also Yellow Flag Document: ‘Our Difference is our Strength’**

*Compiled by: Children of school*

*Special Responsibility: John Kelleher*

*Updated: November, 2011*

*The following will be displayed in all areas where students congregate.*

- *We need to come to school to learn things.*
- *We are all important.*

- *We are all different.*
- *We can all say what we think.*
- *We should see the good things in each boy and girl.*
- *Girls and boys are equal.*
- *Some students are better at some things.*
- *We need friends and we should take care of each other.*
- *Working together is cool.*
- *Our school is very important in Aston Village*
- *We should work hard and allow others to work hard.*
- *We should never be afraid in school. We should speak up if we are upset about something.*
- *Aston Village is our school.*
- *Our teachers are here to help us.*

### **Aims of Aston Village ETNS**

*Compiled by:                      The Staff (in consultation with the BOM)*

*Special Responsibility:    John Kelleher*

*Updated:                              October, 2011*

*The following aims outline the educational purposes and goals which Aston Village ETNS hopes to attain. This is seen as an ongoing,*

*dynamic process. In formulating these aims, the authors drew on their own experience and values, material from the Report of the Review Body on the Primary Curriculum, Children First-Child Protection Guidelines, Learn Together Curriculum, Curaclam na Bunscoile and The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.*

**Aston Village ETNS seeks to achieve the following:**

- **to develop an understanding and appreciation of the moral, spiritual, religious, social and cultural values which shape Irish society-Learn Together as main resource**
- **to generate in students respect for these core values and to seek to apply them in school life and, by extension, in other parts of their lives**
- **to develop in each student a sense of pride in him/herself, to encourage self-esteem and an awareness of abilities, aptitudes and limitations**
- **to nurture respect for the rights and beliefs of others, irrespective of social background, race, religion, ethnic background, intellectual ability or physical appearance**
- **to recognise and develop the potential of all students irrespective of the above**
- **to impart knowledge, skills and attitudes, a love of learning and a desire to inquire**
- **to develop the ability of critical analysis with the emphasis on the constructive element**
- **to foster in each student an imaginative disposition**
- **to foster initiative and self-reliance**
- **to encourage the use of innovative practices in their daily work**
- **to develop creative and artistic abilities in each individual**

- to enable each student to see herself as an important asset to the school, village and country, and to provide the necessary knowledge and skills to continue into further education with a view to her making a particular contribution to Irish and European society
- to create tolerant, caring members of society
- to foster an appreciation of their local, national and European heritage (ethnic if applicable)
- to foster an awareness of the need to be responsible for the care of their environment
- to create in each student a feeling of belonging to a unique organisation and to enable them to understand that with this sense of belonging come responsibilities towards ensuring the ongoing success of Aston Village

**Roles and Responsibility:** John Kelleher will have responsibility for supporting, developing, implementing and evaluating this policy.

**Implementation Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

**Timetable for Review:** 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

***Ratification and Communication:*** The Board of Management and Parents Association will receive this policy document in December, 2011

