



The moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and cultural aspects of each pupil's development is at the heart of the Spiritan vision of Education.

The Trustee body of Willow Park Junior School

The Des Places Educational Association

The Trustee body of Willow Park Junior School is The Des Place Educational Association (DEA). The DEA, as a limited Company, was set up in 1999 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, designated to act as Patron of the Holy Ghost schools and colleges in Ireland.

(Up to that time the official Patron was the Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in Ireland, assisted by the Provincial Council).

Structure

The DEA consists of two bodies, the Members of the Company and a Board of Directors. The Members of the Company are the Provincial Council of the Congregation together with other co-opted Spiritans.

The affairs and business of the Company are managed by the Board of Directors, who are members of the Congregation and lay persons.

An Education Officer and Faith Development Officer are employed by the Board, subject to approval by the Members. The Chairman and all other Directors of the Board give of their time and expertise voluntarily.

Ethos

The Memorandum and Articles of the Des Places Educational Association state the two main objects to which the Association is committed.

They are:

1. To ensure and foster the advancement of education.
2. To further the aims and purposes of Roman Catholic education.

The Memorandum directs that these main objects are to be pursued in accordance with the ethos and educational philosophy of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

The ethos and educational philosophy of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit is therefore an integral part of the ethos and vision of the Des Places Association. Moreover, since the DEA, by its main objects, is committed to the advancement of education in general and of Catholic education in particular, there are two further sources for its ethos and vision. The first is the ethos and tradition of the Irish education system; the second is the ethos and tradition of Roman Catholic education philosophy.

The Spiritan ethos is a particular expression of the Catholic ethos.

It is worth noting that "Catholic education" does not mean education for Catholics only. Spiritan colleges in Ireland and elsewhere have always welcomed students of other religions. Parents are attracted by the caring community ethos of the schools which respects the religious beliefs of all students and bridges ethnic differences.



Spiritan Schools in Ireland.

Spiritan schools under the trusteeship of the DEA include:

Willow Park Junior School
Willow Park 1st Year
Blackrock College

St. Michael's School
St. Michael's College

St. Mary's School
St. Mary's College

Rockwell College

Templeogue College

Holy Faith Community School



Seven Core Values

The Spiritan Schools in Ireland are a vibrant learning community consisting of over 5000 pupils and 700 Staff. Through the trusteeship of the Des Places Educational Association, these schools share and foster a common ethos based on seven core values:

1. Openness to the Spirit.
2. A sense of Community.
3. Concern for the poor.
4. Commitment to Service.
5. Global Vision
6. High Educational Standards.
7. Personal and Faith Development.





An ethos only becomes reality when it is lived and when it facilitates and encourages growth and transformation in the individual person and the community to which they belong. Our ethos then is an invitation to believe and have faith; To belong and participate; to become and reach one's potential.

