



# Welcome Booklet

Roll number: 20384J

**Tá fáilte romhaibh chuig Powerstown E.T.N.S!**

Powerstown Educate Together N.S. promotes inclusiveness and celebrates diversity. Children explore all cultures as is relevant to modern Ireland today. There is a strong emphasis in the school on the Irish culture and language. Teachers, staff and students teach and learn in a safe environment. All children receive a broad and balanced education which will enable them to reach their potential in a positive learning environment. Each student is encouraged to progress at the level that is appropriate to them. Powerstown ETNS acknowledges and respects the relationship between home, the school and the community.

I believe that your child will be very happy in our school and that we will have a successful united relationship together.

*Helena Trench (Prionhoide)*

*"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."*  
(John Dewey, 1859-1952, Psychologist and Educational Reformer)

## School Day



School begins at 8.30am. Junior & Senior Infants go home at 1.10pm. First class to sixth class pupils go home at 2.10pm

Please ensure that your child is **punctual**. Children miss out on essential social elements of the school day if they are late.

Children congregate in the basketball court in the morning from 8.20am & are met by their teacher at 8.30am, who escorts them into class.

**Morning Break** is at 10.10am – 10.20am

**Lunch Time** is at 12noon – 12.30pm

*Please note that Junior Infants pupils have an induction timetable for the first three weeks of term 1.*

School calendar is available on school website and in your pack.

## Attendance



Your child **should** attend school every day. Schools have an obligation to report absences of twenty days or more to the National Education Welfare Board. Please phone or email the school or write a note to the class teacher when your child is absent.

For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parents/guardians.

Children should only be collected early if it is absolutely necessary. If your child is ill, please do not send them to school.

Take your doctor's advice regarding rashes and infections.



## **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children**



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY,  
INTEGRATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

# Child Protection

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Each one of us has a duty to protect children and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011) notes that teachers, who are the main care givers to children outside of the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse.

In response to this, the Department of Education and Skills published Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2011) in relation to child protection and welfare. These procedures promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed. The Board of Management of Powerstown Educate Together has adopted these procedures as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse (neglect, emotional, physical and/ or sexual abuse) they are obliged to refer the matter to Children and Family Service of the HSE. The HSE will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned.

In our school the Designated Liaison Person for dealing with Child Protection is *Helena Trench*.

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is *Cróna Glynn*.

Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of children may be accessed on the website of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs ([www dcya ie](http://www dcya ie)) and the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools can be read on the Department's website ([www education ie](http://www education ie)). Parents/guardians are also welcome to look through the procedures and Child Protection Policy here at the school.

# Uniform



Children in Powerstown Educate Together National School do not wear a school uniform as we encourage children's individuality.

*However, we would ask that considerations be made:*

**Please ensure that children wear suitable footwear** and clothing that allows for safe and free movement during sports activities. It is also

very important that the children feel comfortable and confident in their own clothes. Long hair should be tied back.

**Minimal jewellery** such as a watch or stud earrings is permitted. Other items such as bracelets and drop earrings can cause the child an injury or distress when broken or lost.

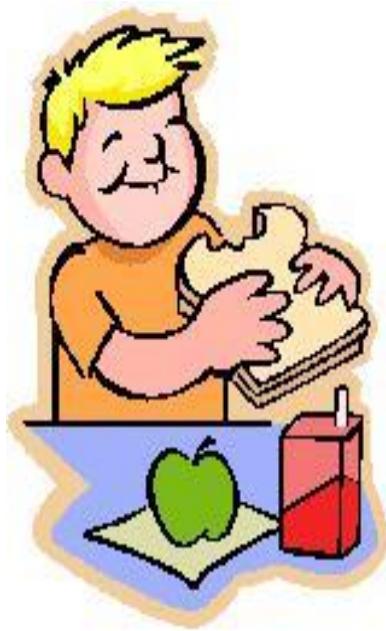
**Please label all jackets/coats/sweaters:** Have your child practice putting on and taking off their coats. Velcro fastened runners are ideal for young children and they promote their independence.

**Trolley bags are dangerous.** Back packs are a better option.

**School Tracksuit & Jacket:** Parents/guardians in the school have organised a school tracksuit (€45) and school jacket (€30 – €35 *depending on size*) that can be ordered through the school.

**School Crests:** School crests are available throughout the school year from the office and cost €4 each or 3 crests for €10.

## Lunches



The school day is short and we want your child to receive the best education that they can. Diet plays a big part in your child's behaviour. Treats can be given outside of school time. We promote a healthy eating policy in our school.

**The following are not allowed:** Crisps, chocolate, chocolate bars/biscuits, sweets, winders, fizzy drinks, chewing gum, nuts (due to allergies) and popcorn. There is a very high sugar content in cereal bars. While we do not disallow them, please read the labels on these as often they may be misleading.

### **An example of a healthy lunch:**

- Sandwiches/crackers/breadsticks/ wraps/rice cakes.
- Fruit (which the child can easily manage) e.g. grapes, raisins, bananas, peeled oranges, apple slices.
- Salad, tomatoes, rice/pasta dishes.
- Vegetable sticks e.g. carrot sticks/celery.
- Water, milk, juice, smoothies
- Yoghurts – please ensure that they are set yoghurts and that your child has a spoon.

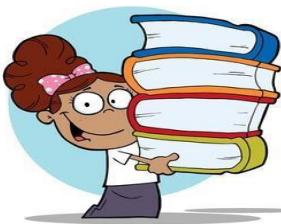
### **Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled**

Don't give your child a big lunch as they only have a short time to eat. If your child does not finish their lunch, we will leave it in their lunch box.

Powerstown ETNS promotes healthy lunches at all times.

Please note that children are asked to bring their uneaten food and waste home in their lunch boxes.

## Books



Your child's books, copies and portfolios are kept in the school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework. Parents/guardians will be invited into the class during the school year to see their child's progress.

## Contact Numbers/ Mobile Phones



It is very important that you keep us up to date with contact numbers in case of an emergency. Remember to let us know if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

While we understand there is a need for mobile phones, if your child has a phone in school, it must be turned off and left in your child's school bag. Children are not permitted to use mobile phone on school grounds. We take no responsibility for lost phones. We also discourage children from bringing in toys or games from home unless the teacher asks them to do so. They can be the cause of conflict in the class. Also, the school takes no responsibility for any toys or games that a child brings into school.

## Birthday Parties



Teachers do not take responsibility for distributing invitations to birthday parties or hosting birthday parties in class. This is the parent/guardian's responsibility. Please do not come into the class and distribute invitations or birthday treats as it can upset other children and cause conflict and hurt in the class. Each class has a parent representative. If agreed by parents, these reps will have access to email addresses and contact numbers for each child. This may help you when wishing to contact other parents/guardians.

## Allergies/Administration of Medication



The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, teachers do not personally undertake the administration of medication (e.g. inhalers, injections, application of creams and ointments [Health & Safety and Child Protection Issue]).

**The Board of Management requests that parents/guardians make the school aware, in writing, of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date.**

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents/guardians should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.

Head Lice is unfortunately common in all primary schools. Where possible tie your child's hair back. Check your child's hair weekly. If infected, inform the school and treat your child.

## Accidents in School



If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted by the school.

## Parent Teacher Meetings



Teachers will meet with parents/guardians during the first term as a group, through a Parent Information Meeting. Individual parent teacher meetings occur in November and also in late May/early June.

Parents/guardians and teachers will obviously meet on an informal basis daily before 8.30am and at home time.

If you have concerns or questions in relation to your child and the school, please make an appointment to meet the class teacher. You can phone the office or email the class teacher directly. We can meet to discuss these at an appropriate time that suits both parties and does not interfere with classroom teaching.

We will send home reports in May each year. This reports can be discussed with the teacher during the May/June Parent Teacher Meetings.

## Parental Involvement



We believe that parents/guardians, the school and the community working together enhance the education of our students. Parental involvement in Powerstown Educate Together is encouraged, welcomed and appreciated.

We have an active **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** in the school. This year they were involved in organising the school events, the Winter Fair, the Open Day and parent activities. We welcome parental involvement in policy formation, fundraising and general events in the school (such as school outings, school celebrations, parents/guardians' meetings). Please sign up for the PTA if you are interested in becoming a member.

We have a **Parents' Room** in the school in which parents/guardians can meet for coffee, become familiar with the school community and build friendships with other parents/guardians.

We have established our **Board of Management**. There are two parent nominees on the Board.

Parent representatives are invited to join and assist in policy formation and in dealing with general school matters.

In Powerstown Educate Together, we have an “**open door policy**.” Parents/guardians can meet with the teachers at any time before or after school time, and also on more formal settings such as introductory nights in September and Parent/Teacher meetings.

We understand that parents/guardians have different schedules. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved in school life throughout the year. All activities will be shared on our school website and with parents via our newsletter.

### **Parent/Child Projects**

During the year we will be inviting parents/ guardians to help in the school with the following parent/child projects: **Literacy Programme/Shared Reading**, **Maths for Fun**, **Science for Fun** etc.

### **Clubs for Parents / Guardians**

To develop a sense of community within Powerstown Educate Together we have developed a range of clubs for our adult school community. This year we had the following activities: cookery classes, English classes and a parenting group. If you have any suggestion of what clubs you would like to see in P.E.T.N.S. please let us know.



## Recycling



We will be encouraging your child to have an understanding and to engage in recycling. We would ask that lunches are placed in lunchboxes and also that you will promote recycling in your home. Any packaging brought in by students will be brought home to recycle.

We have set up a Green School Committee to monitor our waste management. This should assist us in our “Green Flag Programme”

## Subjects

The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the education of children in Ireland. Under the curriculum laid down by the Department all students will be taught the following subjects – English, Gaeilge, Maths, Science, Drama, Geography, Music, History, Physical Education, Science, SPHE, and Visual Arts. An ethics programme will also be taught to all children.



### ***Ethics-Learn Together Programme***

In Powerstown Educate Together we respect all cultures, belief systems and traditions. Children learn about all main festivals and celebrations- e.g. Christmas, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Ramadan etc. Belief Systems are only a small part of our programme. Other strands include– Moral & Spiritual, Equality and Justice and Ethics and the Environment.

### ***Gaeilge***

The Irish language and culture plays an important role in the everyday life of Powerstown ETNS. We encourage staff and children to speak Irish informally during the day. If you have any basic Irish please use it as much as possible informally at home.

## Continuum of Support (COS) Team



**Continuum of Support Model:** In Powerstown Educate Together we implement the Continuum of Support Model.

Our Continuum of Support (COS) Team delivers an inclusive model of support to all children in the school. Our COS team consists of Resource teachers, learning support teachers and English as an Additional Language teachers.

**Classroom support:** All children receive classroom support within our in-class support model. Assessments take place to determine the strengths of each child (e.g. BIAP, Jolly phonics checklist, PM Benchmarking). These assessments are analysed by the teachers and they highlight areas that each child would benefit from focussing on.

COS teachers and class teachers then co-plan English and Maths lessons. All pupils in all classes receive support through this model three days per week for English and Maths. This allows us to have children working in groups of approximately 6 children and one adult (6:1 Ratio). This ensures we deliver a differentiated curriculum and all children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

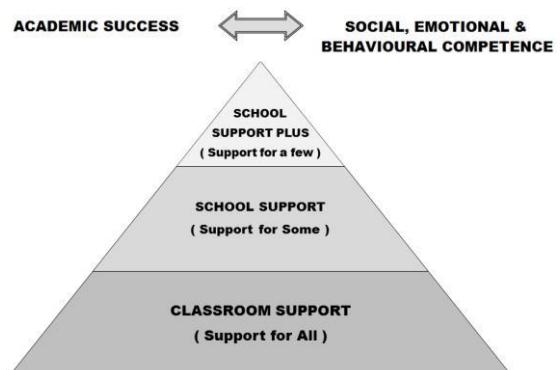
Through **classroom support**, some children may have an individual plan. This plan is discussed with parents/guardians, teachers and the child. The aim of this plan is to help support the child and class teacher work co-operatively, with set targets, to ensure the child is reaching his/her true potential.

**School support:** Some pupils may benefit from extra support from the COS team to ensure they are challenged and are reaching their potential socially, emotionally and academically. After formal and informal assessments are complete, the COS teacher and class teacher meet with parents/guardians and the child to discuss the child's strengths and challenges and the benefits of extra tuition during school. A plan is devised and targets are set. The child is then supported by the COS teacher. This may involve withdrawal to the COS room in small groups with peers, or one-to-one lessons with a member of the COS team.

**School Support Plus:** Some children are granted resource hours and Special Need Assistant (SNA) access by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). This is usually for children who have been assessed and require specific support. Children with resource hours may include: children who have been assessed as having hearing difficulties, autism spectrum disorder, speech and language difficulties, dyspraxia etc.

The COS teacher will work with parents/guardians, pupils, SNA and class teacher to devise a plan and targets for the child. Support may be given to the child in the classroom or COS teacher may complete one-to-one work in the COS room.

Some children may be going through an assessment process while in school. During this time, if parents/guardians and staff feel it would benefit the child, a school support plus programme may be developed for the child.



## Special Education Needs



We welcome all children into our school. However, in relation to applications for the enrolment of children with special needs, we do request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report, or where such a report is not available, to request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to provide the support services required. Following the report, the board assesses how the school could meet the needs specified in the report.

If you notice that your child is struggling with any aspect of school-life, let us know. Likewise, we will inform you if we have any concerns regarding your child's educational, physical or emotional development. If this occurs, please don't panic. It is better to find out if there are any concerns at an early stage in order to provide support.

## Assessment of Need



The HSE now provides a team assessment for free for children who were born after 2002. This may alleviate any concerns you have and also will help us support your child. Please contact your local Health Centre or drop into the school for further information.

## Homework



Homework given to your child should reinforce the work that your child has completed in school. Try and have your child complete their homework when they come home from school, as they are still in school mode. Leaving homework until late means your child will be tired and may find it extra challenging.

## Language Acquisition

If English is not your child's first language, we encourage him/her to speak as much English as possible at school. We do have older children and staff who are "translators" to assist children if/when the need may arise.

**We encourage parents/guardians to use their native language at home as this enhances language acquisition.**

## Behaviour



We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected.

We encourage children to take a positive and pro-active role within the school.

All students, staff and parents/guardians are expected to follow our Code of Behaviour. We like to affirm and empower our students.

All children may misbehave at some stage during school life, but if there is an ongoing issue regarding misbehaviour, parents/guardians will be informed.

## Assembly



Each Friday all the children meet together for assembly. At assembly issues linked with Ethics strands are discussed, and the children get together to sing songs. Parents/guardians and local agencies are often invited to give input – for example parents/guardians can give input regarding belief systems e.g. at Ramadan, Easter, Holi, Chinese New Year. Parents/guardians are invited in to discuss occupations such as a fireman, a doctor, a builder etc. Agencies who have been involved in school assemblies include Give Racism the Red Card, Community Gardaí, Dogs' Trust, Public Health Nurse.

## Student Council



The Student Council is elected in the school each September. Upcoming events in the school term are discussed or ideas that the students want to bring up. All the children vote for the school President and the Vice President from Junior Infants upwards and this is taken very seriously by all. Canvassing takes place a week before the election and the candidates visit each class.

## Home Issues



If there are issues at home such as separation, family bereavement, etc. it can be helpful to both the child and the teacher to have an awareness of the situation. Parental separation or family bereavement can be traumatic for the child(ren) concerned if not supported. Any information is treated confidentially. Teachers can then support the student at school or help link the family with suitable services. Teachers approach the issue with sensitivity and with a focus on the well-being of the children.

## Tours

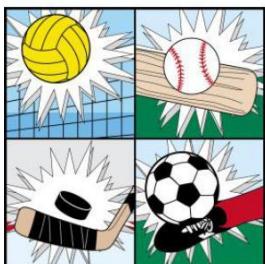


Parents/guardians are asked for permission when we are going on school tours and using public transport. However, for local tours, example, going outside in the local area, permission is not sought once

parents/guardians sign the permission slip in the Student Information Form. Children are often engaged in active learning and leave the school to support the curricular objectives.

We also ask for signed permission for photographs/use of photos of your child to be taken for the school website. Photos may be taken when children are on school trips or involved in school activities

## Extra Curricular Activities



We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our pupils. Activities run from 1.10pm – 2.10pm for infants and 2.10pm – 3.10pm for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

After School Clubs currently in the school are Mixed Sports, Dance, Yoga, Polish, Basketball and Drama.

GAA and football are currently taught during the school day.

## Enrolment Policy



Our Enrolment policy has recently been updated. We have included a sibling clause to ensure all your children can attend one school.

A copy of our policy can be downloaded from our website.

## How Can I Help the School?

As you have chosen Educate Together you want to be involved in your child's education. There are numerous ways in which you can become involved.

The Parent Teacher Association always need support – at meetings or simply support for events.

Examples of support –



- Parents/guardians who have trades– can help us on Open Day, events and with general work around the school
- I.T.– help us with the development of our website, the purchase of IT equipment.
- Yoga – Come in and work with the children
- Support and help for the Open Day/help with setting up etc.
- Board of Management – Parents/guardians are invited to become members of the Board of Management
- Art – parents/guardians can help out on art days in the school and help with backdrops for the plays
- Participate in parent/child classes
- Field Trips – accompany classes on outings.

Any ideas and suggestion you might have for becoming involved in the school are welcome. Please contact the school.

## Ways in which you can prepare your child for school



- 1) Talk about school, concentrate on the positive aspects of school, such as the friends your child will make and the activities they will do such as painting, making jigsaws and going on trips. Ask them about their day. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in school as often they don't realise that they are learning. Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.
- 2) Give your child an input into their school life such as buying a new school bag, pencil case, new school shoes.
- 3) Practice nursery rhymes at home and read some well known fairy tales. Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence. Reading readiness is the key skill to introduce your child to the mechanics of reading, reading direction, the conventions of writing, awareness of text and most importantly nurturing a motivation to read and a love for books.
- 4) Play helps a child develop motor skills, oral language skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills in order to establish friendships. Games such as snap, matching, jigsaws etc have much educational value.
- 5) Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be traumatic and exciting, and also very tiring.



- 6) Each morning try not to stay too long in the classroom. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you encourage your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into the school. If there are any concerns we will contact you.
- 
- 7) Encourage independence where your child hangs up their own jacket, carries in their own bag and takes down their own chair. If you need to stay close by, go and have a coffee in the school before you leave.

- 8) Limit television viewing, especially before your child comes to school and before they go to bed.
- 9) Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.
- 10) Become involved in school life!

Remember, schools are happy places! Let your child have fun and enjoy school. Children learn long term social skills at school that will impact on their adult life.



# Powerstown E.T.N.S. School Charter

We have the right to....

be respected

a voice

learn

be safe

a clean and comfortable learning environment

be confident in asking for help

be happy and enjoy school

We have the responsibility to....

respect ourselves, others and our environment.

express our opinion when appropriate, in an appropriate way, and listen to the opinion of others.

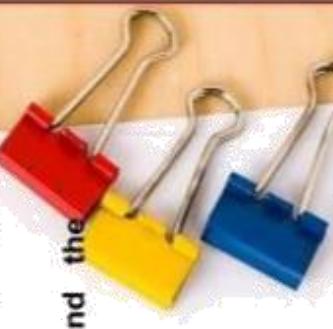
come to school prepared, ready to learn and do our best.

have kind hands, kind feet, kind words, kind actions and share our concerns with an adult we trust.

keep our school clean, tidy and treat it, and the equipment, with respect.

ask for help when we need it and help others.

actively engage in daily school life.



# Powerstown Educate Together National School



- We are respectful
- We are organised
- We are persistent
- We get along with others
- We are active participants in mediation and restorative practices



## Powerstown Educate Together National School Mediation Script

*Who would like to speak first?*

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at this time?
- What have you thought about it since?
- How do you feel?
- Who has been affected and in what way?
- What do you need (to do) so that things can be put right and everyone can move on?
- Do you agree?



*Thank each child*

Remember:

- Be Fair: Everything will work much better.
- Engage with everyone who is affected.
- Explain why the decision needs to be made and any contributing factors.
- Make sure everyone knows what is expected of them in the future.



## Powerstown Educate Together National School



Children are given homework which is work that supports and complements the work being carried out at school.

The type of homework and amount will vary from time to time and from class to class. Homework will increase as the child progresses through the school. Parents/guardians are informed at the class meeting at the start of the year how much homework to expect, and what kind and form it will take. Individual class teachers will correspond with parents/guardians outlining homework details in their child's class.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to help their children to develop a positive approach to homework by setting aside a time in the day when children can complete their tasks. Parents/guardians are also asked to sign homework journals daily.

### Recommended Daily Homework

Class	Time
Junior Infants and Senior Infants	10 - 15 minutes
First and Second Class	Up to 30 minutes
Third and Fourth Class	Up to 45 minutes
Fifth and Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour

This policy was written by staff in conjunction with parents. It works in tandem with all other existing policies in the school

# Mission Statement



## Powerstown Educate Together National School

Powerstown Educate Together provides a friendly, safe, inclusive and equality-based learning environment that welcomes pupils of all ethnic, social, religious, non-religious and cultural backgrounds. Children are encouraged to respect and welcome diversity in our school and in our wider community. A variety of cultures, traditions and festivals are recognised and explored by all pupils throughout the school year through our ethical programme.

Staff work collaboratively to enable children to develop to their full potential physically, intellectually, linguistically, emotionally and socially through a child-centred curriculum. Pupils are active participants in the learning process and are encouraged to become responsible, respectful and confident citizens.

At Powerstown Educate Together, parents/guardians are recognised as the primary educators of the pupils. Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in daily school life, through Parent Groups, the Parent Teacher Association, the Board of Management, adult classes and pupil-parent workshops and activities.

Powerstown Educate Together National School endeavours to encapsulate our ethos in a democratic partnership, uniquely combining the involvement of parents/guardians, community members and pupils with the professional role of staff.

*"Tell me and I'll forget; Show me and I may remember; Involve me and I'll understand".*



# Powerstown E.T.N.S. Ethos

The Educate Together Charter of 1990 affirms that children of all social, cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds have a right to an education that reflects their individual identity while exploring the different values and traditions of the world in which they live.

The four main principles outlined in the Educate Together Charter are to guide the delivery of a Learn Together Curriculum in our school and inform our culture and ethos. These are as follows:

## 1. **Equality-Based**

All children have equal rights of access to Powerstown E.T.N.S. Children of all social, cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds are equally respected.

## 2. **Co-Educational**

Powerstown E.T.N.S. is co-educational and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities. Boys and girls learn and socialise together in our school environment. This approach delivers the best educational and social development for children and encourages children to achieve their full potential.

## 3. **Child-Centred**

Powerstown E.T.N.S. promotes a child-centred approach to education in which the teacher guides and facilitates the child's learning. We are committed to active learning techniques that encourage children to interact with their peers and teachers while they learn. We are focused on helping each individual child reach his/her full academic and social potential. There is a consistent striving for excellence in all areas of school life.

## 4. **Democratic**

Powerstown E.T.N.S. is democratically run with active participation by parents/guardians in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the staff.



## Useful Contacts

Powerstown Educate Together: **Helena Trench**

(01) 8272018/ [Helena@powerstownet.com](mailto:Helena@powerstownet.com)

Powerstown Educate Together Secretary : **Ann Dunne**

(01) 8272018 between 9am and 2pm/ [info@powerstownet.com](mailto:info@powerstownet.com)

Health Centres & Emergency Dental Clinics

- Hartstown (01) 6464500
- Roselawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15 Tel: (01) 6464500.

Garda Station: **Blanchardstown (01) 6667000**

Citizen's Information [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

Department of Social and Family Affairs [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Department of Education and Skills [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

Educate Together [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie)

NCCA [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

SESS [www.sess.ie](http://www.sess.ie)



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Email: [info@powerstownet.com](mailto:info@powerstownet.com)

Web: [www.powerstownet.com](http://www.powerstownet.com)

*“Tell me and I'll forget; Show me and I may remember;  
Involve me and I'll understand.”*

(Chinese Proverb)