

## Country Specific Information for Ireland

**Pupils belonging to religious minorities**



**Erasmus+**

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### Pupils belonging to religious minorities

**EQUATE** is a children and family rights organisation which works for greater equality in primary and secondary school education in Ireland.

**The Department of Education and Skills** is a department of the Irish state with responsibility for education and training. The mission of the Department is to facilitate individuals through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland's social, cultural and economic development.

#### [Social Personal and Health Education \(SPHE\)](#)

The SPHE programme reflects the unique ethos of each school. The attitudes, skills and values fostered in the SPHE classroom can only truly flourish in a school where all members of the school community are treated with respect and dignity.

#### **Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)**

The PDST is Ireland's largest single support service offering professional learning opportunities to teachers and school leaders in a range of pedagogical, curricular and educational areas.

#### **TUSLA**

The Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. It represents the most comprehensive reform of child protection, early intervention and family support services ever undertaken in Ireland. The Agency operates under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013.

#### **Children First**

Provides the national guidance for the protection and welfare of children in Ireland. The guidance is the roadmap to help parents, professionals, organisations and the general public to identify and report child abuse and welfare concerns.

#### Links

<https://www.equateireland.ie/>

<https://www.education.ie>

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/PR17-16-01.html>

[www.sphe.ie](http://www.sphe.ie)

[www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie)

<http://www.tusla.ie/>

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children [2011]

Child and Family Agency Act 2013

**Useful Links Provided by the Department of Education and Skills**

[Role of Religion in School Admissions - Consultation Process](#)

[Press Release 16-01-2017 \(Plans to reform school admission system\)](#)

[Press Release 30-01-2017 \(Plans to accelerate provision of multi- and non-denominational schools\)](#)

[Circular 0009\\_2016 \(Rescinding of Rule 68 of the Rules for National Schools\)](#)