

## Galway Educate Together 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Start-up Group



### Preliminary Information

1. This submission to the National Planning Framework is made by the Galway Educate Together Second Level Start-up Group.
2. The Galway Educate Together Second Level Start-up Group was established in 2012 and comprises members who are campaigning for a post primary school under the patronage of Educate Together to be established in Galway.
3. The address for any correspondence arising from this submission is Galway Educate Together Second Level Start-up Group, 42 Cherry Park, Newcastle, Galway.

### This is the submission of the Galway Educate Together Second Level Start-up Group:

The Department of Education and Skills published its Action Plan for Education in September 2016, which included as a commitment ‘the establishment of 400 multi and non-denominational schools to give greater choice in the type of school available’.

There are currently 5 Educate Together primary schools in the Galway area, in Newcastle, Knocknacarra, Claregalway, Kilcolgan and Tuam, with a total of 836 pupils. However, there is no post primary school in Galway where students can avail of their second level education under the Educate Together ethos. There is huge demand for such a school. This Group has collected Expressions of Interest for 1,500 children whose parents want them to have the choice of an Educate Together post primary education.

The demographic situation supports the provision of a new post primary school in Galway, as the post primary numbers have increased by 300 each year in each of the past 4 years and current capacity will be exceeded in September 2018.

In the interests of the children of Galway and to fulfill the objectives of the Action Plan for Education, this Group calls for the provision of a new post primary school in Galway under the patronage of Educate Together.