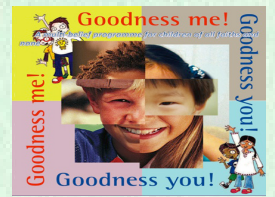


GMGY! INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



The Goodness Me, Goodness You! curriculum aims to enable each child to develop;

- a confident and positive sense of **self- and group-identity**, as well as a sense of **belonging**, while having respect for, and understanding of, the identity and belonging of others.
- an understanding of their **own and others values** and in doing so develop as an individual and as a social being and contribute to the good of society.
- their psychological and emotional **wellbeing** and a positive outlook through critical, creative, collaborative and caring **thinking** and participation in philosophical inquiry, **dialogue** and reflection.
- an understanding of the **diversity of the beliefs** that inform their own and other people's ways of living and respect and appreciate people's right to express their beliefs.

HOW OFTEN IS GMGY! TAUGHT?

GMGY! is a **patron's curriculum**. The Primary School Curriculum (1999) proposes **2 hours and 30 minutes** for the teaching of such a curriculum per week. The GMGY! curriculum provides schools with the autonomy and flexibility for negotiating the curriculum in line with the needs of the school community. To this end, schools may spend more or less time teaching particular aspects of the curriculum in their individual contexts.

SUPPORT MATERIALS - GMGY!

WHY DO CNSs TEACH GOODNESS ME, GOODNESS YOU?

Goodness me, Goodness You! is a **multi-belief and values education curriculum** that aims to increase children's sense of **identity and belonging** to the local community and wider world.

It is the **patron's curriculum** for **Community National Schools (CNSs)**, under the **patronage of the Education and Training Boards (ETBs)**.

GMGY! is the curricular expression of schools' **multidenominational characteristic spirit and core values; Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect**.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN THROUGH GMGY?

GMGY! enables children to encounter identity education, values education, philosophy and multi-denominational religious education. Each of these are addressed in the following four strands;



WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD'S LEARNING IN GMGY!?

Parents/Guardians can support their child in all areas of GMGY!, but primarily in the **Beliefs and Religions** strand of the curriculum. The Beliefs and Religions strand takes a **multi-denominational approach to religious education (RE)** where children learn “about” and “from” religious and non-religious conceptions of life and the world. Teachers take a **3 Step approach** to this strand, and parents/guardians can directly support their child at **Step 2, The Family Project**.

WHAT IS THE FAMILY PROJECT, AND WHY DO CNSs USE IT AS PART OF THE BELIEFS AND RELIGIONS STRAND?

The Family Project offers parents/guardians the opportunity to discuss the topics of Beliefs and Religions lessons with their child at home from their **own belief perspective**. Together with the child, families complete a project which the child can use during inter-belief conversations/dialogue in school.

This approach seeks to acknowledge the diversity of experiences, viewpoints, understandings and ideas within the class and schools. It acknowledges that there are differences both between and within belief traditions. It is an opportunity for children to learn more about themselves and their classmates.

Please note, this is a voluntary activity which families may opt. in or out of.

HOW IS THE FAMILY PROJECT USED IN SCHOOLS?

The Family Project is part of the 3 Step approach to multi-denominational RE used in CNSs. Firstly, teachers introduce a common topic or theme from a variety of belief perspectives to the class. Then, children and their families complete the project by reflecting on the common theme from their own belief perspective. Once the project is completed and returned to school, children and their teachers use the project to facilitate inter-belief dialogue/conversations.

BELIEFS AND RELIGIONS - 3 STEP APPROACH



WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT GMGY! IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

As with any other school matter, your child's **class teacher** is the first port of call for questions which may arise regarding Goodness Me, Goodness You! However, each Community National School has a **GMGY! Coordinator** whose role is to support the class teacher and school community with the implementation of this curriculum. If your child's class teacher requires further support with your query, they may contact this individual for advice.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT GMGY!?

If you would like to learn more about Goodness Me, Goodness You!, you can visit the **CNS website** at <https://cns.ie/goodness-me-goodness-you-new/>.