



Mulroy College is excited to announce the school's participation in the Belong To Quality Mark programme 2023/2024.

Through the Quality Mark programme we aim to make sure Mulroy College is a safe and welcoming place for all students, in line with the core values of the ETB Ethos (Care, Respect, Equality, Excellence in Education, Community). The LGBTQ+ Quality Mark is designed to help us create a safe and supportive environment that is fully inclusive of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) young people. We want to work and learn in a school free from homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia.

Why is the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark Important?

In Ireland, 76% of LGBTQ+ young people reported that they do not feel safe at school. However, research shows that effective school-based interventions can improve the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ students.

In 2022, 57 schools embarked on the 18-month journey to become an accredited LGBTQ+ safe and supportive school.

This year, we are excited to partner with a limited number of new post-primary schools nationwide to support them in working towards achieving the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark.

Speaking about their participation in the programme, Ben Condon, the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark Coordinator from Marino College Dublin said:



"Taking part in the LGBTQ+ quality mark was an amazing experience for us as a school. By getting a team of passionate teachers together, working with our students, and support from Belong To; we have been able to work towards creating a school that is safe, supportive, inclusive, and representative of all of our students.

It will always be a continuous process that requires attention and is by no means a destination – but we are immensely proud that parents of LGBTQ+ students, and more importantly the students themselves, know that they are warmly welcomed and well looked after in our care."

Niamh Sheridan (she/her), Deputy Principal from St. Joseph's Secondary School in Westmeath speaking on her school's participation said:

"The LGBTQ+ Quality mark has been an invaluable asset to our school community. It has provided us with the tools to assess where we are in relation to becoming a fully LGBTQ+ safe and supportive school. The resources provided are excellent in helping to educate staff and students alike.

The mark itself ensures that we are providing the conditions needed to ensure that all of our students can attend a school wherein they feel respected and supported. It has helped us to reach highly effective practice in this area and is a benchmark for excellence."

The Process



1. Recognise

Recognise and promote existing supports for your LGBTQ+ school community. Together we will identify the key strengths in your existing approach to LGBTQ+



inclusion. Belong To will provide training and resources on how to do this including a user friendly toolkit which you can use to identify your strengths and areas for development.

2. Build & Grow

Build on these existing supports, and grow as an LGBTQ+ Safe and Supportive School through inclusive practice and policies. Once the areas for development have been identified, together we can create a bespoke plan with key action areas for your school. Belong to will provide best practice recommendations in line with the Department of Education and practical ideas, suggestions and templates to support you every step of the way.

3. Achieve

Celebrate your commitment by attaining the Belong To LGBTQ+ Quality Mark.

Once your schools has demonstrated best practice across the key actions areas, you can apply for your LGBTQ+ Quality Mark and become recognised across Ireland as an LGBTQ+ Safe and Supportive School.

The LGBTQ+ Quality Mark is a whole school approach which focuses on the four key areas of wellbeing promotion from an LGBTQ+ perspective:

- Creating an LGBTQ+ culture and environment
- Resourcing an LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum
- Nurturing LGBTQ+ inclusive relationships and partnerships
- Supporting LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and planning

Resources and Supports:

Belong to will provide the following supports to schools embarking on this journey of inclusion:



Belong To LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland



Figure 2: Whole School Approach - Four Key Areas Wellbeing Promotion

