

# FERGAL O'DOWD

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5 Caoin Dara,  
Ballindereen,  
Kilcolgan,  
Co. Galway

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## PROFILE

I arrived in Galway from Clare in 1996 and since 2008 my wife Cathy and I have made Ballindereen home. We have three boys. I work as an Architect with a practice based in Galway City.

## EDUCATE TOGETHER

Our interest in the Educate Together Movement had an influence in us moving to Ballindereen. A new Educate Together Primary School for South Galway was being planned around 2007 at a time we were looking to move out of the city. We attended the preliminary meeting and were very impressed. The child centred equality based ethos together with the ethical education curriculum was ideal for us. We particularly like initiatives like Green Schools and School Student Council, encouraging the children to have an input in the world around them and to believe they can make a difference.

## CHILDREN

Our eldest boy, Dara, has passed through the school already and is in 2nd year in secondary school. His ability to question has been a benefit to him. Ross is currently in 6th class and Hugh is in 2nd class. So the Educate Together ethos has had a significant influence on our house. All three boys have had the opportunity to participate as Student Council representatives, which is of great benefit to them and to their classes hopefully!

## INVOLVEMENT

Having an interest in the beginning I was able to assist in the premises selection and procurement of the first school in Kilcolgan. The school grew out of that of course and I was glad to be of assistance to the Board again with dealings with the Department of Education in the procurement of the new premises. Like many other parents I have been involved in many great social days with the school, like the concert and international day. Hopefully we will see these days again soon.

## BOARD

I would welcome the opportunity to participate on the board and help in further development of the school. I hope to bring my experience , professionally, and in life to the table. To contribute to this school which has been so good our family is important to me.