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OIDEACHAIS | EDUCATION
AGUS SCILEANNA | A N D S K I L L S

Report on the pilot surveys regarding parental preferences on primary school patronage.

December 2012

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Report to the New Schools Establishment Group on the pilot surveys regarding parental preferences on primary school patronage.

Background:

The Minister for Education and Skills outlined his action plan in response to the report of the Advisory Group to the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector in June of this year. As part of the action plan the Minister announced that surveys of parental preferences in 44 areas would be undertaken, beginning with five pilot areas in the autumn of 2012.

All of the areas to be surveyed under this process fit the following criteria:

- Population of between 5,000 and 20,000 inhabitants according to the 2011 census
- Population has increased by less than 20% during the inter-censal period 2006 to 2011

Surveys were undertaken on a pilot basis initially in five areas. The surveys were open for a total of three weeks from Monday 22nd October to Friday 9th November 2012 inclusive. This report has been prepared for the New Schools Establishment Group regarding the five pilot surveys and the analysis of the outcomes in each area. The report is comprised of this overall summary document and the separate detailed analysis documents in respect of each of the five areas that were surveyed and which are contained in Appendices 1 to 5. Appendix 6 is a sample of the paper survey which is similar to the on-line survey.

The areas where the pilot surveys were undertaken were as follows:

- Arklow
- Castlebar
- Tramore
- Trim
- Whitehall

The aim of the surveys is to establish the level of parental demand for a wider choice in the patronage of primary schools within these areas. The areas concerned have relatively stable populations and in these circumstances there is little prospect that new schools will be established there over the next number of years for demographic reasons. Therefore the only mechanism for alternative patrons to become involved in school provision in these areas is through the possible divestment of some existing school provision in the areas provided there is sufficient parental demand for wider choice of patronage.

The surveys in the five pilot areas were conducted mainly through an online facility that was developed specifically for this purpose. Paper survey forms were also available for parents in the areas concerned through the provision of a free phone help line for anyone who wished to request a paper survey form. The percentage of responses to the survey received online was 98.9% while 1.1% of the responses were returned on paper survey forms.

In order to inform parents, a self description of school ethos was provided by each of the patron bodies for inclusion in general information material. These descriptions were circulated to each of the patron bodies to allow for any observations in advance of publication. The patron bodies also agreed a code of conduct in respect of canvassing and promotional spend during the survey period.

Validation of survey responses:

Responses to the survey have been considered invalid if they do not contain the PPS number of the respondent. The survey responses have been checked against data held by the Department of Social Protection to ensure that the children listed in each response are linked to the PPS number given in the survey and that the address held for that PPS number relates to the relevant area. A total of 165 survey responses were deemed invalid because no PPSN or names were supplied and also some were duplicates.

A data protection protocol was published to govern the use of personal information including PPS numbers. This was to provide assurances to respondents in respect of the protection of their confidentiality and data protection rights.

Summary of survey responses:

Table 1 below indicates the response levels to the survey in each of the five pilot areas. It will be noted that the total number of valid survey responses of 1,788 represents the preferences of the parents/guardians of almost 3,500 children across the five areas. Almost 73.5% of the overall numbers of children concerned are primary school pupils while the remaining 26.5% of the cohort are pre-school children. While there are some variations in the ratio of primary school pupils to pre-school children in each of the five surveys, the variations are not very significant.

Table 1:

| Area | Number of valid survey responses | Total number of children referred to by the responses | Number of Primary school children referred to by the responses | Number of pre-school children referred to by the responses |
|---------------|---|--|---|---|
| Arklow | 336 | 628 | 447 | 181 |
| Castlebar | 428 | 864 | 667 | 197 |
| Tramore | 240 | 483 | 350 | 133 |
| Trim | 273 | 543 | 403 | 140 |
| Whitehall | 511 | 941 | 677 | 264 |
| Totals | 1788 | 3459 | 2544 | 915 |

Tables 2 & 3 below indicate the levels of response by reference to a number of indicators such as population aged 0-12 years, number of primary school pupils and the number of pre-school children in the areas. The aim of the surveys was to establish the preferences of parents/guardians of primary school children and of pre-

school children. In this regard it is noted that the response levels in relation to primary school children in all of the five areas ranged from 21.3% in the case of Tramore to 29.5% in the case of Castlebar. The level of response from parents/guardians of pre-school children ranged from 16.1% in the case of Arklow to 27.9% in the case of Trim. The percentage response rate was greater from parents/guardians of primary school children in four of the five surveys while in the case of Trim the percentage response rate was greater from parents/guardians of pre-school children.

Table 2:

| Area | Responses as % of the population aged 0-12 years in the area*(see note below) |
|-----------|---|
| Arklow | 23.5% |
| Castlebar | 43.1% |
| Tramore | 26.0% |
| Trim | 43.1% |
| Whitehall | 23.5 % |

* Note: The percentages in this column are illustrative – it was open to parents/guardians within the general survey areas but from outside the legally defined CSO town boundary to complete the surveys.

Table 3:

| Area | Responses as % of primary school enrolments in the area | Responses as % of the number of pre-school children in the area |
|-----------|---|---|
| Arklow | 22.7% | 16.1% |
| Castlebar | 29.5% | 23.5% |
| Tramore | 21.3% | 16.7% |
| Trim | 26.7% | 27.9% |
| Whitehall | 27.6% | 16.4% |

Table 4 below outlines the preferences that were expressed regarding Irish and English language medium of instruction. It is noted that the preferences expressed for English medium instruction ranged from 70.4% to 79.7% of overall responses while the preferences expressed for Irish medium instruction ranged from 9.7% to 20.9% of the overall responses.

Table 4:

| Area | Number of responses with expressed preferences for English medium tuition | Responses with expressed preferences for English medium tuition as % of overall responses | Number of responses with expressed preferences for Irish medium tuition | Responses with expressed preferences for Irish medium tuition as % of overall responses |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| Arklow | 499 | 79.5% | 61 | 9.7% |
| Castlebar | 664 | 76.9% | 135 | 15.6% |
| Tramore | 340 | 70.4% | 101 | 20.9% |
| Trim | 411 | 75.7% | 78 | 14.4% |
| Whitehall | 750 | 79.7% | 106 | 11.3% |

Table 5 below indicates the level of parental support that was expressed in relation to the provision of greater choice in primary school patronage in the survey areas. The number of preferences expressed in support of the provision of a wider choice of primary school patronage ranged from 37.0% to 50.1% of the overall responses. The number of preferences expressed that stated they would avail of a wider choice of primary school patronage, if it were available, ranged from 25.4% to 35.2% of the overall responses. The number of preferences expressed that were not in support of the provision of a wider choice of primary school patronage ranged from 34.8% to 44.0%.

Table 5:

| Area | Number of responses in support of a wider choice of patronage in the area | Responses in support of a wider choice of patronage as % of overall responses | Number of responses that would avail of a wider choice of patronage in the area | Responses stating they would avail of a wider choice of patronage as % of overall responses | Number of responses not in support of a wider choice of patronage | Responses not in support of a wider choice of patronage as % of overall responses |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arklow | 279 | 44.4% | 192 | 30.6% | 234 | 37.3% |
| Castlebar | 320 | 37.0% | 228 | 26.4% | 353 | 40.9% |
| Tramore | 242 | 50.1% | 170 | 35.2% | 168 | 34.8% |
| Trim | 206 | 37.9% | 138 | 25.4% | 239 | 44.0% |
| Whitehall | 356 | 37.8% | 292 | 31.0% | 374 | 39.7% |

Table 6 indicates the level of parental preferences expressed for patron bodies that applied to be considered for primary school patronage in the five areas. This table outlines only the 1st preferences that were expressed in each area. Full details on all the preferences expressed in this regard are included in the separate detailed analysis documents in respect of each of the five areas which are contained in Appendices 1 to 5. There were two other patron applicants in the case of Castlebar that are not included in the table below. These patrons are the Redeemed Christian Church of God and the National Learning Network and the 1st preferences expressed for these were 9.4% and 7.0% respectively in relation to the overall preferences returned in the Castlebar survey.

Table 6:

| Area | 1 st preferences in support of Educate Together | Educate Together 1 st preferences as % of overall responses supporting wider choice | 1 st preferences in support of VEC | VEC 1 st preferences as % of overall responses supporting wider choice | 1 st preferences in support of An Foras Patrunachta | An Foras Patrunachta 1 st preferences as % of overall responses supporting wider choice |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Arklow | 114 | 59.4% | 19 | 9.9% | 50 | 26.0% |
| Castlebar | 132 | 57.9% | 32 | 14.0% | 14 | 6.1% |
| Tramore | 95 | 55.9% | 31 | 18.2% | 35 | 20.6% |
| Trim | 105 | 76.1% | 19 | 13.8% | 9 | 6.5% |
| Whitehall | 214 | 73.3% | 29 | 9.9% | 40 | 13.7% |

Conclusions:

The purpose of the surveys is to establish the level of local parental demand for a wider choice of primary school patronage. The separate detailed analysis documents in respect of each of the five areas that were surveyed, contained in Appendices 1 to 5, concentrate on analysing the questions in the survey which deal with the desire for change in school patronage. Those reports also examine the expressed demand for the provision of primary education through the medium of the Irish language in each of the five areas.

The detailed analysis of the parental preferences expressed in each of the five areas surveyed as part of the pilot exercise indicates that there is sufficient parental demand supporting some changes in school patronage in each of the five areas. The levels of parental demand for a wider choice of school patronage and the number of children have been quantified for each area. In absolute numbers terms, there is sufficient demand to sustain the establishment of multi-denominational schools of at least a half-stream of 4 mainstream classrooms in four of the five areas (Arklow, Castlebar, Tramore and Trim) and the establishment of a single stream multi-denominational school of 8 mainstream classrooms in the case of Whitehall. Educate Together is the multi-denominational patron that achieved both the greatest level of 1st preferences and also the highest level of combined parental preferences overall among parents who expressed a preference for change in patronage in each of the five areas surveyed.

Given the overall response rates in respect of both primary and pre-primary children, it would be reasonable to assume that the ultimate level of demand, in absolute numbers, is likely to grow from the level quantified through these surveys. In this regard it might be useful to note the experience of the rate of growth and development of the new schools that were established during the period between 2002 and 2008, many of which were either English medium multi-denominational schools or were all-Irish schools. During that period the minimum pupil numbers required to commence a new school was 17 junior infants rising to a total of 51 pupils after 3 years. Many of those new schools were commenced with just the minimum pupil numbers and within a number of years subsequently grew incrementally to become full single stream schools accommodating up to 224 pupils. In some other cases the new schools subsequently expanded to become two stream schools that catered for up to 448 pupils. In the areas of the pilot surveys, the number of primary school pupils and pre-school children whose parents/guardians have stated they will avail of a wider choice of school patronage, if such is provided, is greater in all cases than the minimum numbers that were required to commence a new school during the period 2002 to 2008.

The level of expressed parental preferences for the provision of primary education through the medium of Irish in each of the survey areas is very close to the level of current all-Irish provision in these areas. It may be necessary to monitor enrolments in the all-Irish schools in these areas to ensure that the schools have sufficient capacity to cater for the level of demand presenting over the coming years.

Detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools in the five survey areas and their possible reconfiguration will need to be undertaken to see what scope exists for school buildings to be freed up for a new patron(s) commensurate with the level of expressed parental demand. In some instances, for example, the reorganisation of

schools within the survey areas into fully vertical (junior infant to sixth class) co-educational schools might create sufficient spare capacity or free up school buildings to provide for a new patron body. Some of the considerations that might apply in the case of each of the survey areas are provided in the detailed survey analysis reports contained in the Appendices. These considerations may be of value when the detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools and their possible reconfiguration is being undertaken by Patrons in the five survey areas. Any examination of the options to free up school buildings (or parts thereof) for new patrons should also take into account the likely future long-term size of any such school and not just the size of the new patron school at its commencement date.

In this regard, it is proposed that the main patron (Catholic Bishop) in each area should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would free up accommodation for at least one full stream for provision by the first choice alternative Patron (Educate Together in each case).

Appendix 1: Arklow

Response Rate

There were a total of 373 responses to the survey in the Arklow area and of these 368 were online while 5 paper surveys were returned representing a total of 689 children. Thirty seven surveys were found to be invalid because they did not contain a valid PPSN, did not return a name or did not have children in pre-school or primary school. The valid preferences represented 628 children of whom 181 are pre-school children while 447 attend primary school. Of the total number of valid preferences 426 are from within the town boundary as defined by the CSO, 126 are from within 5km of the town, 52 are between 5km and 10km from the town while 15 are from between 10km and 15km of the town boundary and 9 are 15km or more from the town.

Demographic Situation

Enrolments in Arklow over the last decade have increased from 1,566 pupils in 2001 to a total of 1,965 in 2011/2012. At the moment there are 932 pupils in the four senior class groups compared to 1,004 in the four junior class groups in the area. Child benefit data indicates that junior infant enrolments will remain relatively stable over the next four years. Data from the Department of Social Protection indicated that there would be in the region of 296 five year olds in September 2012 and this number would grow to 312 five year olds there by 2015. An analysis of the 2011 census indicates that the number of children aged 0 to 12 years old living within the town boundary is 2,668 while there are 1,126 children aged 1 to 5 years old and 894 children aged 8 to 12 years old which indicates a relatively stable school going population.

Current Schools

There are 5 schools within the town and three more within a 5km range of the town. Six of the eight schools are Catholic English speaking schools with a total enrolment of 1,510 or 77% of the total enrolment. There is one Church of Ireland school with approximately 180 pupils enrolled representing 9% of total enrolments in the town. The other school in the area is an inter-denominational gaelscoil with approximately 245 pupils. The gaelscoil seems to be at or near capacity while over the last ten years enrolments in the Catholic English speaking schools has grown from 1,381 in 2006 to 1,539 in 2011.

Of the three Catholic schools in the town one is a junior boys school with 6 classrooms and approximately 140 pupils, one is a boys school with 200 pupils and 11 classrooms while the third is a girls school with almost 400 pupils.

Survey Analysis

Of the 560 preferences expressed for a particular language of instruction there was an overwhelming preference in the area for English language education with 499 preferences for English and 61 for Irish. It would seem therefore that there is sufficient provision for the Irish language in Arklow given that there is currently a single stream gaelscoil in the town.

With regard to the issue of a wider choice of patronage in the area 279 of the 628 preferences stated that they would welcome a wider choice of patronage while 192 stated that they would avail of that choice. Of these 192 there were 76 pre-school children and 116 school going children. Of these 116 there are 70 in junior infant to second class while the remainder are in the senior class group of third class to sixth

class. In total 152 of those who would avail of a change in patronage live within the town, 23 are from within 5km of the town boundary, 9 are from between 5km and 10km while the balance live further than 10km from the town boundary.

There were 114 first preferences for Educate Together, 50 for An Foras Pátrúnachta and 19 for the VEC which is also proposing an English speaking multi-denominational school. In total there were 166 preferences for Educate Together, 97 for the VEC and 98 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. Educate Together and the VEC are proposing an English language multi-denominational school and their first preferences combined total 133. There seems to be a strong cohort of parents locally who would avail of an English language multi-denominational school if it was available.

Of the 359 valid preferences who stated that they would not avail of the option of a new patron in the town 210 stated that they would like to see the current schools restructured as they would prefer co-educational education to single sex education. This question was only asked of those who said they would not avail of additional choice in the area if it was offered.

Analysis Conclusion

Given the number of respondents who have stated they would avail of a further choice of patron it is clear that there is a viable demand for change in the area. Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the area could result in it being possible to offer greater choice. It should be noted that any change would not increase the overall number of pupils to be accommodated in the existing school buildings in the area.

There were expressions representing 80 school going children that stated they would avail of an English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of support would provide sufficient pupils to immediately fill about 3 classrooms. There were expressions of parental preferences representing 53 pre-school children that stated they would avail of English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of potential pupil intake indicates a long term projected size of at least half a single stream school (comprising of 4 classrooms) being required to accommodate such a level of demand.

Detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools in the town and their possible reconfiguration could result in a building being freed up for a new patron.

The main patron (Catholic Archbishop) should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would provide accommodation for an Educate Together school in the area. Taking account of likely long-term requirements, accommodation options for a full stream of provision should be considered.

Appendix 1.A

| School | Distance* | 2001 Enrol | 2011 Enrol | Ethos | Gender | Patron |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| S N Cul Greine | 2km | 123 | 82 | Catholic | Mixed | Archbishop |
| S N Naomh Padraig | 5km | 58 | 93 | Catholic | Mixed | Archbishop |
| St Josephs N S | 5km | 501 | 638 | Catholic | Mixed | Archbishop |
| An T Inbhear Mor B N S | CSO | 229 | 201 | Catholic | Boys | Archbishop |
| S N Naomh Michael | CSO | 341 | 389 | Catholic | Girls | Archbishop |
| Carysfort Mxd N S | CSO | 131 | 182 | Church Of Ireland | Mixed | Col Archbishop |
| St Peters Infts | CSO | 87 | 136 | Catholic | Boys | Archbishop |
| Gaelscoil An Inbhir Mhoir | CSO | 96 | 244 | Inter-Denominational | Mixed | An Foras Pátrúnachta |

* This refers to the schools distance from the town and CSO means that the school is within the town boundary.

Appendix 1.B

Detail of responses

| Question | Pre School Children | School Children | Total Preferences |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| How many children - | 181 | 447 | 628 |
| I would prefer English - | 129 | 370 | 499 |
| I would prefer Irish - | 20 | 41 | 61 |
| I have no language preference - | 29 | 36 | 65 |
| I would prefer a wider choice - | 96 | 183 | 279 |
| I would avail of a wider choice - | 76 | 116 | 192 |
| I do not want a wider choice - | 55 | 179 | 234 |
| I would not avail of a wider choice - | 87 | 272 | 359 |
| I have no preference on a wider choice | 28 | 77 | 105 |
| I have no preference on availing of a wider choice if available | 16 | 55 | 71 |
| My first preference is ET - | 48 | 66 | 114 |
| My first preference is VEC - | 5 | 14 | 19 |
| My first preference is An Foras - | 19 | 31 | 50 |
| My second preference is ET - | 20 | 11 | 31 |
| My second preference is VEC - | 16 | 23 | 39 |
| My second preference is An Foras - | 10 | 14 | 24 |
| My third preference is ET - | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| My third preference is VEC - | 16 | 23 | 39 |
| My third preference is An Foras - | 10 | 14 | 24 |
| Current patron first preference An Foras - | 7 | 21 | 28 |
| Current patron first preference Catholic - | 65 | 207 | 272 |
| Current patron first preference CoI - | 8 | 36 | 44 |
| Current patron second preference An Foras - | 5 | 12 | 17 |
| Current patron second preference Catholic - | 23 | 61 | 84 |
| Current patron second preference CoI - | 8 | 22 | 30 |
| Current patron third preference An Foras - | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Current patron third preference Catholic - | 13 | 31 | 44 |
| Current patron third preference CoI - | 6 | 13 | 19 |
| I would like current schools reorganised - | 50 | 160 | 210 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences ET | 78 | 88 | 166 |
| Total Preferences VEC | 37 | 60 | 97 |
| Total Preferences An Foras (Multid) | 39 | 59 | 98 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences An Foras - Catholic | 15 | 44 | 59 |
| Total Preferences Catholic | 101 | 299 | 400 |
| Total Preferences Church of Ireland | 22 | 71 | 93 |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| | | | |
| Location Analysis | | | |
| First Preference Educate Together | Preschool | School | Total |
| Within Town | 41 | 50 | 91 |
| 0 to 5 KM from town | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| 6 to 10 KM from town | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 11 to 15 KM from town | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 16 to 20 KM from town | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over 20KM from town | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 48 | 66 | 114 |
| | | | |
| Location of All Valid Preferences | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 125 | 301 | 426 |
| 0 to 5 | 35 | 91 | 126 |
| 6 to 10 | 13 | 39 | 52 |
| 11 to 15 | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| Over 15 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Location of Those who would avail of Change | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 64 | 88 | 152 |
| 0 to 5 | 6 | 17 | 23 |
| 6 to 10 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 11 to 15 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Over 15 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Appendix 2: Castlebar

Response Rate

There were a total of 464 responses to the survey in the Castlebar area and of these 456 were online while 9 paper surveys were returned. The combined total responses represented a total of 933 children. Thirty six surveys were found to be invalid because they did not contain a valid PPSN, did not return a name or did not have children in pre-school or primary school. The valid preferences represented 864 children of whom 197 are pre-school children while 667 of the children attend primary school. Of the total number of valid preferences 450 are from within the town boundary as defined by the CSO, 316 are from within 5km of the town, 70 are between 5km and 10km from the town while 12 are from between 10km and 15km of the town boundary and 16 are 15km or more from the town.

Demographic Situation

Enrolments in Castlebar over the last decade have increased from 2,023 pupils in 2001 to a total of 2,261 pupils in 2011/12. The total number of pupils in the junior classes (Junior Infant to Second Class inclusive) in the area is 1,147 pupils while there are 1,094 pupils in the four senior class groups. Child benefit data indicates that junior infant enrolments will remain stable over the next four years given that there were approximately 280 five year olds in 2012 and this will grow to 287 five year olds by 2015. An analysis of the 2011 census indicates that the number of children aged 0 to 12 years old living within the town boundary is 2,005 children while there are 838 children aged 1 to 5 years old and 675 children aged 8 to 12 years old. All of the data indicates that a new school will not be necessary in this area for demographic reasons in the coming years.

Current Schools

There are 3 schools within the town boundary, 4 within 2km of the town boundary and a further 4 within a 5km range of the town. All eleven schools have a Catholic ethos and all but one teach through the medium of English. The Irish language school has an enrolment of approximately 220 pupils which represents less than 10% of the total of 2,260 pupils in the 11 schools. Over the past 10 years enrolments in the Catholic English speaking schools have increased from 1,805 pupils in 2006 to 2,043 pupils in 2011.

One of the Catholic English speaking schools in the town is an all boys' school while another other is an all girls' school. The 4 schools situated within 2km of the town boundary are mixed schools.

Survey Analysis

Of the 799 preferences expressed for a particular language of instruction there were 664 expressions for English medium of instruction and 135 expressions for Irish medium of instruction. From within the cohort of pre-school preferences the number of expressions for Irish medium instruction relates to 35 children. There is currently a gaelscoil in the town and it should be capable of accommodating this level of intake over the coming years and it would seem therefore that there is sufficient existing capacity to meet the demand for Irish language medium provision in the Castlebar area.

Of the 864 valid preferences received, 320 stated that they would welcome a wider choice of patronage while 228 expressions stated that they would avail of that choice. Of these 228 expressions 68 related to pre-school children and 160 related to primary school going children. Of the 160 primary school going children there are 81 children in junior infant to second classes inclusive while the remainder are in the senior class groups of third to sixth classes inclusive. Of those who stated that they would avail of additional choice 115 live within the town, 85 are from within 5km of the town boundary, 17 are from between 5km and 10km while the balance live further than 10km from the town boundary.

There were 132 first preferences for Educate Together, 32 for the VEC, 14 for An Foras Pátrúnachta, 16 for the National Learning Network and 18 for the Redeemed Christian Church of God. In total there were 197 preferences for Educate Together, 120 for the VEC, 59 for An Foras Pátrúnachta, 75 for the National Learning Network and 30 for the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Three of these patrons are proposing a multi-denominational English speaking school and their first preferences combined total 180. It would seem therefore that there is a feasible cohort of parents locally who would like to see additional patron choice in the area and who would avail of that choice.

Of the 503 who said that they would not avail of a wider choice if it was offered in Castlebar 310 were in support of seeing the current schools being restructured as they would prefer co-educational education to single gender education.

Analysis Conclusion

Given the number of respondents who have stated they would avail of a further choice of patron it is clear that there is a viable demand for change in the area. Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the area could result in it being possible to offer greater choice. It should be noted that any change would not increase the overall number of pupils to be accommodated in the existing school buildings in the area.

There were 228 preferences who stated that they would avail of a wider choice and 160 of these children are currently in school. There were expressions representing 130 school going children that stated they would avail of an English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of support would provide sufficient pupils to immediately fill about 5 classrooms. There were expressions of parental preferences representing 50 pre-school children that stated they would avail of English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of potential pupil intake indicates a long term projected size of at least half a single stream school (comprising of 4 classrooms) being required to accommodate such a level of demand.

Detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools in the town and their possible reconfiguration would need to be undertaken to see if this could result in a building being freed up for a new patron. For example if the schools in or near the town are reorganised into fully vertical (junior infant to sixth class) co-educational schools sufficient capacity or a building might be freed up to provide for a new patron body.

Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the town and within 2km of the town could result in it being possible to offer choice.

The main patron (Catholic Bishop) should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would provide accommodation for an Educate Together school in the area. Taking account of likely long-term requirements, accommodation options for a full stream of provision should be considered.

Appendix 2.A

| School | Distance* | 2001 Enrol | 2011 Enrol | Ethos | Gender |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| St. Josephs NS | 2km | 86 | 92 | Catholic | Mixed |
| St. Peters NS | 2km | 260 | 297 | Catholic | Mixed |
| Breaffy NS | 2km | 255 | 435 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N B Curnanool | 2km | 37 | 38 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N Beal Atha na Hein | 5km | 57 | 61 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N Oilean Eadaigh | 5km | 50 | 58 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N Beal Caradh | 5km | 66 | 130 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N Naomh Brid C | 5km | 67 | 74 | Catholic | Mixed |
| S N Naomh Padraig | CSO | 436 | 462 | Catholic | Boys |
| Convent of Mercy NS | CSO | 480 | 396 | Catholic | Girls |
| Scoil Raifteiri | CSO | 229 | 218 | Catholic | Mixed |

* This refers to the schools distance from the town and CSO means that the school is within the town boundary.

Appendix 2.B
Detail of valid responses

| Question | Pre School Children | School Children | Total Preferences |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| How many children - | 197 | 667 | 864 |
| I would prefer English - | 143 | 521 | 664 |
| I would prefer Irish - | 35 | 100 | 135 |
| I have no language preference - | 13 | 43 | 56 |
| I would prefer a wider choice - | 83 | 237 | 320 |
| I would avail of a wider choice - | 68 | 160 | 228 |
| I do not want a wider choice - | 64 | 289 | 353 |
| I would not avail of a wider choice - | 98 | 405 | 503 |
| I have no preference on a wider choice | 45 | 133 | 178 |
| I have no preference on availing of a wider choice if available | 25 | 99 | 124 |
| My first preference is ET - | 36 | 96 | 132 |
| My first preference is VEC - | 4 | 28 | 32 |
| My first preference is An Foras - | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| My first preference is NLN | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| My first preference is RCCG | 7 | 11 | 18 |
| My second preference is ET - | 16 | 32 | 48 |
| My second preference is VEC - | 18 | 33 | 51 |
| My second preference is An Foras - | 9 | 16 | 25 |
| My second preference is NLN | 7 | 15 | 22 |
| My second preference is RCCG | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| My third preference is ET - | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| My third preference is VEC - | 8 | 19 | 27 |
| My third preference is An Foras - | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| My third preference is NLN | 8 | 23 | 31 |
| My third preference is RCCG | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| My fourth preference is ET - | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| My fourth preference is VEC - | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| My fourth preference is An Foras - | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| My fourth preference is NLN | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| My fourth preference is RCCG | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| My fifth preference is ET - | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| My fifth preference is VEC - | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| My fifth preference is An Foras - | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| My fifth preference is NLN | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| My fifth preference is RCCG | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| I would like current schools reorganised - | 65 | 245 | 310 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences ET | 62 | 135 | 197 |
| Total Preferences VEC | 34 | 86 | 120 |
| Total Preferences An Foras (Multid) | 22 | 37 | 59 |
| Total Preferences NLN | 27 | 48 | 75 |
| Total Preferences RCCG | 11 | 19 | 30 |
| | | | |
| Location Analysis | | | |
| First Preference Educate Together | Preschool | School | Total |
| Within Town | 16 | 51 | 67 |
| 0 to 5 KM from town | 12 | 34 | 46 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| 6 to 10 KM from town | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| 11 to 15 KM from town | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 16 to 20 KM from town | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Over 20KM from town | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 36 | 96 | 132 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Location of All Valid Preferences | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 104 | 346 | 450 |
| 0 to 5 | 69 | 247 | 316 |
| 6 to 10 | 14 | 56 | 70 |
| 11 to 15 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| 16 to 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Over 20 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| | | | |
| Location of Those who would avail of Change | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 32 | 83 | 115 |
| 0 to 5 | 24 | 61 | 85 |
| 6 to 10 | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| 11 to 15 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 16 to 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Over 20 | 1 | 4 | 5 |

Appendix 3: Tramore

Response Rate

There were a total of 276 responses to the survey in the Tramore area and of these 271 were online while 5 paper surveys were returned representing a total of 563 children. Thirty six surveys were found to be invalid because they did not contain a valid PPSN, did not return a name or did not have children in pre-school or primary school. The valid preferences represented 483 children of whom 133 are pre-school children while 350 attend primary school. Of the total number of valid preferences 359 are from within the town boundary as defined by the CSO, 92 are from within 5km of the town, 24 are between 5km and 10km from the town while 2 are from between 10km and 15km of the town boundary and 6 are 15km or more from the town.

Demographic Situation

Enrolments in Tramore over the last decade have increased from 1,152 pupils to a total of 1,644 in 2011/2012. The total number of pupils in the junior classes (Junior Infant to Second Classes inclusive) in the area is 849 pupils while there are 795 pupils in the four senior class groups. Child benefit data indicates that junior infant enrolments will remain stable over the next four years given that there were approximately 223 five year olds in 2012 and this is projected to be 221 five year olds in 2015. An analysis of the 2011 census indicates that the number of children aged 0 to 12 years old living within the town boundary is 1,855 while there are 797 children aged 1 to 5 years old and 742 children aged 8 to 12 years old. All this data indicates a relatively stable school going population which will not necessitate a new school for demographic purposes.

Current Schools

There are 3 schools within the town boundary and 2 within 5km of the town. All five schools have a Catholic ethos and all but one teach through the medium of English. The Irish language school has an enrolment of approximately 220 which represents fewer than 15% of the total of 1,644 in the 5 schools. Over the past 10 years enrolments in the Catholic English speaking schools have gone from 1,224 in 2006 to 1,425 in 2011. All of the schools except Killea Boys NS are mixed schools.

Survey Analysis

Of the 441 preferences expressed for a particular language of instruction there was a preference for English language education with 340 preferences for English and 101 for Irish. Within the pre-school cohort the number of preferences for Irish language education was 29 while it should be noted that the current Gaelscoil is a single stream school and therefore should be capable of taking in these pupils over the next three to four years. It would seem therefore that there is sufficient provision for the Irish language in Tramore at the moment.

With regard to the issue of a wider choice of patronage in the area 242 of the 483 valid preferences stated that they would welcome a wider choice of patronage while 170 stated that they would avail of that choice. Of these 170 there were 61 pre-school children and 109 school going children. Of these 109 there are 61 in junior infant to second class while the remainder are in the senior classes of third class to sixth class. Of those who stated that they would avail of additional choice 122 live within the town, 26 are from within 5km of the town boundary, 15 are from between 5km and 10km while the balance live further than 10km from the town boundary.

There were 95 first preferences for Educate Together, 31 for the VEC and 35 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. In total there were 167 preferences for Educate Together, 105 for the VEC and 75 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. Two of these patrons are proposing a multi-denominational English speaking school and their first preferences combined total 126 though clearly the strong preference is for the Educate Together model. It would seem therefore that there is a strong cohort of parents locally who would like to see additional patron choice in the area and who would avail of that choice.

Of the 260 preferences who stated that they would not avail of a wider choice in the area even if it was offered 187 stated that they would like to see the current schools restructured as they would prefer co-educational education to single sex education. It should be noted that this question was only asked of those who said they would not avail of additional choice in the area if it was offered.

Analysis Conclusion

Given the number of respondents who have stated they would avail of a further choice of patron it is clear that there is a viable demand for change in the area. Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the area could result in it being possible to offer greater choice. It should be noted that any change would not increase the overall number of pupils to be accommodated in the existing school buildings in the area.

There were 170 preferences who stated that they would avail of a wider choice and 109 of these children are currently in primary school. There were expressions representing 80 school going children that stated they would avail of an English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of support would provide sufficient pupils immediately to fill about 3 classrooms. There were expressions of parental preferences representing 46 pre-school children that stated they would avail of English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of potential pupil intake indicates a long term projected size of at least half a single stream school (comprising of 4 classrooms) being required to accommodate such a level of demand.

Detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools in the town and their possible reconfiguration would need to be undertaken to see if this could result in a building being freed up for a new patron. It is noted in this area that both Catholic English language schools in the town are large schools with in excess of 650 pupils and 440 pupils respectively. It might be difficult to provide for choice within the current building stock while also catering for those who do not want change. The examination of the organisation of the schools in the area may also need to include schools outside the town boundary.

The main patron (Catholic Bishop) should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would provide accommodation for an Educate Together school in the area. Taking account of likely long-term requirements, accommodation options for a full stream of provision should be considered.

Appendix 3.A

| School | Distance* | 2001 Enrol | 2011 Enrol | Ethos | Gender | Patron |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| Killea Boys NS | 5km | 93 | 101 | Catholic | Boys | Bishop Waterford & Lismore |
| Fionnabhair NS | 5km | 96 | 198 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Waterford & Lismore |
| Holy Cross School | CSO | 466 | 681 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Waterford & Lismore |
| Gaelscoil Philib Barun | CSO | 99 | 219 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Waterford & Lismore |
| Glor na Mara NS | CSO | 398 | 445 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Waterford & Lismore |

* This refers to the schools distance from the town and CSO means that the school is within the town boundary.

Appendix 3.B
Detail of valid responses

| Question | Pre School Children | School Children | Total Preferences |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| How many children - | 133 | 350 | 483 |
| I would prefer English - | 87 | 253 | 340 |
| I would prefer Irish - | 29 | 72 | 101 |
| I have no language preference - | 12 | 23 | 35 |
| I would prefer a wider choice - | 74 | 168 | 242 |
| I would avail of a wider choice - | 61 | 109 | 170 |
| I do not want a wider choice - | 40 | 128 | 168 |
| I would not avail of a wider choice - | 53 | 207 | 260 |
| I have no preference on a wider choice | 14 | 50 | 64 |
| I have no preference on availing of a wider choice if available | 14 | 32 | 46 |
| My first preference is ET - | 34 | 61 | 95 |
| My first preference is VEC - | 12 | 19 | 31 |
| My first preference is An Foras - | 12 | 23 | 35 |
| My second preference is ET - | 22 | 38 | 60 |
| My second preference is VEC - | 14 | 27 | 41 |
| My second preference is An Foras - | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| My third preference is ET - | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| My third preference is VEC - | 17 | 16 | 33 |
| My third preference is An Foras - | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| I would like current schools reorganised - | 41 | 146 | 187 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences ET | 59 | 108 | 167 |
| Total Preferences VEC | 43 | 62 | 105 |
| Total Preferences An Foras (Multid) | 34 | 41 | 75 |
| | | | |
| Location Analysis | | | |
| First Preference Educate Together | Preschool | School | Total |
| Within Town | 27 | 49 | 76 |
| 0 to 5 KM from town | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 6 to 10 KM from town | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 11 to 15 KM from town | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 to 20 KM from town | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Over 20KM from town | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 34 | 61 | 95 |
| | | | |
| Location of All Valid Preferences | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 101 | 258 | 359 |
| 0 to 5 | 22 | 70 | 92 |
| 6 to 10 | 6 | 18 | 24 |
| 11 to 15 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Over 15 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Location of Those who would avail of Change | Preschool | School | Total |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| In Town | 46 | 76 | 122 |
| 0 to 5 | 9 | 17 | 26 |
| 6 to 10 | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| 11 to 15 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Over 15 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Appendix 4: Trim

Response Rate

There were a total of 294 responses to the survey in the Trim area and all but one of these was online representing a total of 584 children. Twenty one surveys were found to be invalid because they did not contain a valid PPSN, did not return a name or did not have children in pre-school or primary school. The valid preferences represent 543 children of whom 140 are pre-school children while 403 attend primary school. Of the total number of valid preferences 303 are from within the town boundary as defined by the CSO, 161 are from within 5km of the town, 53 are between 5km and 10km from the town while 14 are from between 10km and 15km of the town boundary and 11 are 15km or more from the town.

Demographic Situation

Enrolments in Trim over the last decade have increased from 1,099 pupils in 2001 to a total of 1,540 in 2011/2012. The total number of pupils in the junior classes (Junior Infant to Second Class inclusive) in the area is 756 pupils while there are 725 pupils in the four senior class groups. Child benefit data indicates that junior infant enrolments will remain stable over the next four years. Information from the Department of Social Protection indicates approximately 207 five year olds in 2012 growing to 212 five year olds in 2015. An analysis of the 2011 census indicates that the number of children aged 0 to 12 years old living within the town boundary is 1,259 while there are 501 children aged one to five years old and 488 children aged eight to twelve years old. All of this data indicates an area where a new school will not be required in the area for demographic purposes.

Current Schools

There are 4 schools within the town and 3 others within a 5km range of the town. Six of the seven schools have a Catholic ethos while the seventh is Church of Ireland. One of the Catholic schools is a gaelscoil with an enrolment of approximately 220 pupils which represents about 14% of the total of 1,540 pupils in the 7 schools. Over the past 5 years enrolments in the Catholic English speaking schools have gone from 1,069 in 2006 to 1,277 in 2011 representing 84% of the total enrolments. Of the 2 Catholic English speaking schools in the town one is all boys while the other has mixed infant classes but the senior classes are all girls. The schools surrounding the town are mixed.

Survey Analysis

Of the 489 preferences expressed for a particular language of instruction there was a preference for English language education with 411 preferences for English and 78 for Irish. Within the pre-school cohort the number of preferences for Irish was 22 while it should be noted that the current gaelscoil is a single stream school and therefore should be capable of taking in these pupils over the next three to four years. It would seem therefore that there is sufficient provision for the Irish language in Trim at the moment.

With regard to the issue of a wider choice of patronage in the area 206 of the 543 preferences stated that they would welcome a wider choice of patronage while 138 stated that they would avail of that choice. Of these 138 there were 57 pre-school children and 81 school going children. Of these 81 there are 37 in junior infant to

second class while the remainder are in the senior class groups of third class to sixth class. Of those who stated that they would avail of additional choice 85 live within the town, 29 are from within 5km of the town boundary, 16 are from between 5km and 10km while the balance live further than 10km from the town boundary.

There were 105 first preferences for Educate Together, 19 for the VEC and 9 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. In total there were 142 preferences for Educate Together, 86 for the VEC and 66 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. The Educate Together and the VEC proposal are both for multi-denominational English language schools and their first preferences combined total 124 with the majority of these favouring Educate Together. It would seem therefore that there is a strong cohort of parents locally who would like to see additional patron choice in the area and who would avail of that choice.

Of the 349 preferences who stated that they would not avail of a wider choice of patronage in Trim if it was offered 211 stated that they would like to see the current schools restructured as they would prefer co-educational education to single sex education. It should be noted that this question was only asked of those who said they would not avail of additional choice in the area if it was offered.

Analysis Conclusion

Given the number of respondents who have stated they would avail of a further choice of patron it is clear that there is a viable demand for change in the area. Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the town and within 5km of the town could result in it being possible to offer choice. It should be noted that any change would not increase the overall number of pupils to be accommodated in the existing school buildings in the area.

There were 138 preferences who stated that they would avail of a wider choice and 81 of these are currently in primary school. There were expressions representing 71 school going children that stated they would avail of an English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of support would provide sufficient pupils immediately to fill about 3 classrooms. There were expressions of parental preferences representing 53 pre-school children that stated they would avail of English medium multi-denominational school if that choice was available. That level of potential pupil intake indicates a long term projected size of at least half a single stream school (comprising of 4 classrooms) being required to accommodate such a level of demand.

Detailed examination of the reorganisation of the schools in the town and their possible reconfiguration would need to be undertaken to see if this could result in a building being freed up for a new patron. It is noted in this area that there are only 2 Catholic English language schools in the town and therefore it might be difficult to provide for choice within the current building stock while also catering for those who do not want change. The examination of the organisation of the schools in the area may also need to include schools outside the town boundary.

The main patron (Catholic Bishop) should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would provide accommodation for an Educate Together school in the area. Taking account of likely long-term requirements, accommodation options for a full stream of provision should be considered.

Appendix 4.A

| School | Distance* | 2001 Enrol | 2011 Enrol | Ethos | Gender | Patron |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| S N Cill Bhrighde | 5km | 37 | 97 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Meath |
| S N Mhuire | 5km | 68 | 196 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Meath |
| S N Seosamh Naomtha | 5km | 101 | 131 | Catholic | Mixed | Bishop Meath |
| Scoil Mhichil na Buachailli | CSO | 231 | 296 | Catholic | Boys | Bishop Meath |
| St. Patricks NS | CSO | 29 | 43 | Church of Ireland | Mixed | Col Bishop |
| St. Marys Convent NS | CSO | 491 | 557 | Catholic | Senior Girls/Infants Mixed | Bishop Meath |
| Gaelscoil na Boinne | CSO | 142 | 220 | Catholic | Mixed | An Foras |

* This refers to the schools distance from the town and CSO means that the school is within the town boundary.

Appendix 4.B

Detail of valid responses

| Question | Pre School Children | School Children | Total Preferences |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| How many children - | 140 | 403 | 543 |
| I would prefer English - | 94 | 317 | 411 |
| I would prefer Irish - | 22 | 56 | 78 |
| I have no language preference - | 19 | 30 | 49 |
| I would prefer a wider choice - | 70 | 136 | 206 |
| I would avail of a wider choice - | 57 | 81 | 138 |
| I do not want a wider choice - | 49 | 190 | 239 |
| I would not avail of a wider choice - | 75 | 274 | 349 |
| I have no preference on a wider choice | 18 | 77 | 95 |
| I have no preference on availing of a wider choice if available | 5 | 48 | 53 |
| My first preference is ET - | 46 | 59 | 105 |
| My first preference is VEC - | 7 | 12 | 19 |
| My first preference is An Foras - | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| My second preference is ET - | 14 | 17 | 31 |
| My second preference is VEC - | 22 | 32 | 54 |
| My second preference is An Foras - | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| My third preference is ET - | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| My third preference is VEC - | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| My third preference is An Foras - | 15 | 22 | 37 |
| Current patron first preference An Foras - | 8 | 25 | 33 |
| Current patron first preference Catholic - | 57 | 223 | 280 |
| Current patron first preference CoI - | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Current patron second preference An Foras - | 4 | 18 | 22 |
| Current patron second preference Catholic - | 10 | 51 | 61 |
| Current patron second preference CoI - | 7 | 15 | 22 |
| Current patron third preference An Foras - | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Current patron third preference Catholic - | 1 | 19 | 20 |
| Current patron third preference CoI - | 3 | 12 | 15 |
| I would like current schools reorganised - | 45 | 166 | 211 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences ET | 64 | 78 | 142 |
| Total Preferences VEC | 36 | 50 | 86 |
| Total Preferences An Foras (Multid) | 30 | 36 | 66 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences An Foras - Catholic | 15 | 52 | 67 |
| Total Preferences Catholic | 68 | 293 | 361 |
| Total Preferences Church of Ireland | 13 | 38 | 51 |
| | | | |
| Location Analysis | | | |
| First Preference Educate Together | Preschool | School | Total |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| Within Town | 25 | 38 | 63 |
| 0 to 5 KM from town | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| 6 to 10 KM from town | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| 11 to 15 KM from town | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 16 to 20 KM from town | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Over 20KM from town | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 46 | 59 | 105 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Location of All Valid Preferences | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 79 | 224 | 303 |
| 0 to 5 | 42 | 119 | 161 |
| 6 to 10 | 11 | 42 | 53 |
| 11 to 15 | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| 16 to 20 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Over 20 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| | | | |
| Location of Those who would avail of Change | Preschool | School | Total |
| In Town | 31 | 54 | 85 |
| 0 to 5 | 14 | 15 | 29 |
| 6 to 10 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| 11 to 15 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 16 to 20 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Over 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Appendix 5: Whitehall

Response Rate

There were a total of 546 responses to the survey in the Whitehall area and of these 543 were online while 3 paper surveys were returned representing a total of 987 children. Thirty five surveys were found to be invalid because they did not contain a PPSN, had no name or did not have children in pre-school or primary school. The valid preferences represented 941 children of whom 264 are pre-school children while 677 attend primary school. Of the total number of valid preferences 563 are from within the three parishes of Whitehall, Kilmore West and Beaumont, 278 are from the parishes immediately adjoining these three and 94 are from outside this area but still within Dublin.

Demographic Situation

Enrolments in Whitehall over the last decade have decreased from 2,551 pupils in 2001 to a total of 2,449 in 2010/2011. At the moment if the total numbers in the junior classes (Junior Infant to Second Class inclusive) are combined it gives 1,252 pupils while at the moment there are 1,176 pupils in the four senior class groups. Child benefit data indicates that junior infant enrolments will increase slightly between 2012 and 2015. Data indicates that there were in the region of 344 five year olds in the area in 2012 and this is expected to grow to approximately 374 five year olds by 2015. An analysis of the 2011 census indicates that the number of 0 to 12 year olds living within the area is 3,997 while there are 1,606 children aged 1 to 5 years old and 1,488 children aged 8 to 12 years olds, again indicating that this is an area where a new school will not be required for demographic purposes in the coming years.

Current Schools

There are 7 schools within the Whitehall area for the purposes of this survey. All of the schools in the area have a Catholic ethos while one is a gaelscoil with an enrolment of approximately 220 pupils which represents less than 10% of the total of 2,449 pupils in the 7 schools. Over the past 10 years enrolments in the Catholic English speaking schools have gone from 2,399 to 2,237.

As appendix 5.A outlines there are a range of types of schools in the area with most being either boys or girls or junior / senior schools.

Survey Analysis

Of the 856 preferences expressed for a particular language of instruction there was a preference for English language education with 750 preferences for English and 106 for Irish. Within the pre-school cohort the number of preferences for Irish was 28 while it should be noted that the current gaelscoil is a single stream school and therefore should be capable of taking in these pupils over the next three to four years. It would seem therefore that there is sufficient provision for the Irish language in Whitehall area at the moment.

With regard to the issue of a wider choice of patronage in the area 356 of the 941 preferences stated that they would welcome a wider choice of patronage while 292 stated that they would avail of that choice. Of these 292 there were 124 pre-school children and 168 school going children. Of these 168 there are 77 in junior infant to

second class while the remainder are in the senior class groups of third class to sixth class. Of those who stated that they would avail of additional choice 139 live within the three parishes of Whitehall, Kilmore West or Beaumont, 107 live in one of the adjoining parishes while the remainder live outside this area but within Dublin.

There were 214 first preferences for Educate Together, 29 for the VEC and 40 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. In total there were 291 preferences for Educate Together, 154 for the VEC and 175 for An Foras Pátrúnachta. The Educate Together and the VEC proposal are both for multi-denominational English language schools and their first preferences combined total 243 with the great majority of these favouring Educate Together. It would seem therefore that there is a strong cohort of parents locally who would like to see additional patron choice in the area and who would avail of that choice.

Of the 510 preferences who stated that they would not avail of a wider choice 255 stated that they would like to see the current schools restructured as they would prefer co-educational education to single sex education.

Analysis Conclusion

Given the number of respondents who have stated they would avail of a further choice of patron it is clear that there is a viable demand for change in the area. Exactly how this change could be facilitated would need to be examined further but the reorganisation of the schools within the area could result in it being possible to offer greater choice. It should be noted that any change would not increase the overall number of pupils to be accommodated in the existing school buildings in the area.

There were 292 expressed preferences that stated that they would avail of a wider choice. Given that 129 of these children are currently in primary schools but with expressed parental preferences for English medium multi-denominational schooling, it would seem that there are sufficient pupils available to immediately fill almost 5 classrooms. There are also expressed parental preferences for English medium multi-denominational schooling in relation to 114 pre-school children. That level of potential pupil intake indicates a long term projected size of at least a single stream school of 8 classes being required to accommodate such a level of demand.

The organisation of the existing schools in the area would need to be examined in detail to see if their reconfiguration as fully vertical (junior infant to sixth class) co-educational schools would free up sufficient capacity to provide for those pupils whose parents want additional choice in school provision.

The main patron (Catholic Archbishop) should now be asked to consider re-configuration options that would provide accommodation for an Educate Together school in the area. Taking account of likely long-term requirements, accommodation options for up to two full streams of provision should be considered.

Appendix 5.A

| School | 2001 Enrol | 2011 Enrol | Ethos | Gender | Patron |
|---|------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| SCOIL AN LEINBH IOSA B | 275 | 211 | Catholic | Boys | Archbishop |
| CROMCASTLE GREEN BNS | 231 | 236 | Catholic | Boys | Archbishop |
| SCOIL NAIS IDE CAILINI | 183 | 190 | Catholic | Girls | Archbishop |
| SCOIL FHIACHRA SOISIR | 661 | 632 | Catholic | Mixed | Archbishop |
| ST FIACHRA'S SEN NS | 611 | 644 | Catholic | Mixed | Archbishop |
| GAELSCOIL CHOLMCILLE | 152 | 212 | Catholic | Mixed | An Foras Pátrúnachta |
| Holy Child National School (2001 enrolments are from amalgamated schools) | 438 | 324 | Catholic | Senior Girls/Infants Mixed | Archbishop |

Appendix 5.B
Detail of valid responses

| Question | Pre School Children | School Children | Total Preferences |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| How many children - | 264 | 677 | 941 |
| I would prefer English - | 199 | 551 | 750 |
| I would prefer Irish - | 28 | 78 | 106 |
| I have no language preference - | 32 | 44 | 76 |
| I would prefer a wider choice - | 138 | 218 | 356 |
| I would avail of a wider choice - | 124 | 168 | 292 |
| I do not want a wider choice - | 70 | 304 | 374 |
| I would not avail of a wider choice - | 100 | 410 | 510 |
| I have no preference on a wider choice | 51 | 151 | 202 |
| I have no preference on availing of a wider choice if available | 35 | 95 | 130 |
| My first preference is ET - | 109 | 105 | 214 |
| My first preference is VEC - | 5 | 24 | 29 |
| My first preference is An Foras - | 9 | 31 | 40 |
| My second preference is ET - | 13 | 48 | 61 |
| My second preference is VEC - | 16 | 39 | 55 |
| My second preference is An Foras - | 55 | 44 | 99 |
| My third preference is ET - | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| My third preference is VEC - | 32 | 38 | 70 |
| My third preference is An Foras - | 13 | 23 | 36 |
| Current patron first preference An Foras - | 9 | 26 | 35 |
| Current patron first preference Catholic - | 85 | 371 | 456 |
| Current patron second preference An Foras - | 7 | 35 | 42 |
| Current patron second preference Catholic - | 49 | 185 | 234 |
| I would like current schools reorganised - | 51 | 204 | 255 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences ET | 125 | 166 | 291 |
| Total Preferences VEC | 53 | 101 | 154 |
| Total Preferences An Foras (Multid) | 77 | 98 | 175 |
| | | | |
| Total Preferences An Foras - Catholic | 16 | 61 | 77 |
| Total Preferences Catholic | 134 | 556 | 690 |
| | | | |
| Location Analysis | | | |
| First Preference Educate Together | Preschool | School | Total |
| Parishes | 28 | 64 | 92 |
| Adjoining Parishes | 55 | 34 | 89 |
| Rest of Dublin | 26 | 7 | 33 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | 109 | 105 | 214 |
| | | | |

| Location of All Valid Preferences | Preschool | School | Total |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|
| Centre | 132 | 431 | 563 |
| Next | 89 | 189 | 278 |
| Rest | 41 | 53 | 94 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Location of Those who would avail of Change | Preschool | School | Total |
| Centre | 37 | 102 | 139 |
| Next | 59 | 48 | 107 |
| Rest | 28 | 18 | 46 |

Appendix 6: Sample of Survey

Survey Ref No:



A N R O I N N | D E P A R T M E N T O F
O I D E A C H A I S | E D U C A T I O N
A G U S S C I L E A N N A | A N D S K I L L S

Arklow Parental Survey

Parent/Guardian Details:

The details supplied here will be used to confirm that you live in the area and have children in the relevant age groups. This is to ensure that only parents sending or about to send children to school in your area have a say as to what happens in your area. If you have pre-school children and primary school children we are asking for your preferences for them separately as we want to report them as individual categories. Either Parent/Guardian may complete the survey. To allow us to confirm residence in the relevant area, the PPSN of the Parent/Guardian in receipt of child benefit payment must be provided. By supplying your details you agree to allow the Department of Education & Skills to validate your preference as outlined below. Further detailed information on the use of the information you supply is outlined in our data protection policy which is available at www.education.ie .

Q1. First Name Mother/Guardian

Q4. First Name Father/Guardian

Q2. Surname Mother/Guardian

Q5. Surname Father/Guardian

Q3. PPSN Mother/Guardian.

Q6. PPSN Father/Guardian.

The PPSN will be used for the validation purposes described above only, and will not be distributed or used outside of this survey. The purpose of this survey is to establish the views of local parents with regard to additional school types in this area.

Therefore we will be validating the information given in this survey against demographic data held by the Department of Social Protection principally. Validation will primarily take place using the parent/guardian PPSN in receipt of child benefit payment for the children listed. If the detail in this return cannot be validated then the preferences may not be counted in our analysis. If you have any concerns please call our Freephone number 1800 303 621.

Child(rens) Details:

We require this information to verify that the child(ren) listed in this return will be in a position to go to school locally.

Q7. Please enter your child(rens) home address.

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Q8. How many children do you have in total?
 How many are attending: Pre-School: Primary School:

Date(s) of Birth – (Required Format: DD/MM/YYYY)

Child 1: Child 4:
 Child 2: Child 5:
 Child 3: Child 6:

Q9. What Primary school(s) is/are your child(ren) attending?
 (Please insert an X in the relevant box)

| | Child1 | Child2 | Child3 | Child4 | Child5 | Child6 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Schools Within the Town Boundary | | | | | | |
| An T Inbhear Mor BNS, Arklow | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carysfort NS, Carysfort | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhoir, Fernbank Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Saint Peters Infant School, Arklow | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scoil Naisuinta Naomh Michael, Arklow | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools Within 2km of the Town Boundary | | | | | | |
| Scoil Naisuinta Cul Greine, Coolgreany | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools Within 5km of the Town Boundary | | | | | | |
| Saint Josephs N S, Templeraíne | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Barnacleagh | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify below | | | | | | |

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Q10. What Class Group(s) is/are your child(ren) attending:
 (Please insert an X in the relevant box)

| | JI | SI | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Child 1: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child 2: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child 3: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child 4: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Child 5:
 Child 6:

Choice of Patron/School Type: .

Q11. Please state the preferred language of instruction. (Please insert an X in the relevant box)

If you have Pre-School Children: English Irish
 If you have Primary School Children: English Irish

Q12. Would you prefer to have a wider choice of patronage provision/school type in Arklow?(Please insert an X in the relevant box)

If you have Pre-School Children: Yes No No Preference
 If you have Primary School Children: Yes No No Preference

Q13. If there was a wider range of school types in Arklow would you avail of one of the new school types for your child(ren)?(Please insert an X in the relevant box)

If you have Pre-School Children: Yes No No Preference
 If you have Primary School Children: Yes No No Preference

Only applies if you answered Yes to Q13.

Q14. Prospective Patrons have expressed an interest in providing alternative provision in the Arklow area. Please select below in order of preference the patron body of your choice: (e.g. 1, 2, 3 etc)

If you have Pre-School Children:

- An Foras Pátrúnachta (Multidenominational)
- Educate Together
- Wicklow VEC
- Other: please specify below

If you have Primary-School Children:

- An Foras Pátrúnachta (Multidenominational)
- Educate Together
- Wicklow VEC
- Other: please specify below

Only applies if you answered No to Q13.

Q15. If you do not want additional patrons, of the current Patrons please select your preferred patron by order of preference: (e.g. 1, 2, 3 etc)

If you have Pre-School Children:

- An Foras Pátrúnachta (Interdenominational)
- The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin
- The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough

If you have Primary School Children:

- An Foras Pátrúnachta (Interdenominational)
- The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin
- The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough

Only applies if you answered No to Q13.

Q16. If the current schools were reorganised, would you send your child to a coeducational (mixed) school, in preference to a single sex school?

(Please insert an X in the relevant box)

- If you have Pre-School Children: Yes No
If you have Primary School Children: Yes No

Travel Distance:

Q17. How far does your child(ren) currently travel to school? (approx km)

Q18. What is the greatest distance you are willing to allow your child(ren) to travel to school? (approx km)

Declaration:

I hereby state that the details I have provided are accurate.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for completing this survey.