

Forward Planning Section  
Department of Education & Skills

- 5 NOV 2013

Mr Ruairi Quinn TD  
Minister for Education and Skills  
Department of Education and Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

1<sup>st</sup> November, 2013

**Report of the New Schools Establishment Group on the Patronage of Post-Primary Schools Scheduled to Commence Operation in September 2015 and 2016**

Dear Minister Quinn,

As members of the above named group, we are pleased to present you with our report on the patronage of new post-primary schools due to open in 2015 and 2016.

Our role was outlined in your announcement of 27 June, 2011. At that time you also announced the criteria and arrangements for the recognition of the new schools and the membership of the New Schools Establishment Group to advise you on the patronage of the schools, following its consideration of a report prepared by your Department.

On 10 May, 2013 you invited applications for the patronage of new post-primary schools due to commence operation between 2015 and 2016. The closing date for receipt of applications from patron/prospective patron bodies was 12 July, 2013.

Your Department carried out an assessment of the applications received and on the 25 September 2013 draft Assessment Reports for each area were forwarded to our Group for consideration. The Group examined the assessment reports in detail. It was subsequently agreed at a meeting with Department officials on 27 September 2013 that the assessments would be amended to reflect the comments, observations and recommendations of the Group.

A formal Report with revised assessments was forwarded to the Group on 30 October 2013. The Group has now completed its consideration of the Report and the revised assessments. We can confirm that the criteria set out by you were applied in a fair and transparent manner to the applications received. On that basis, we are satisfied that the following recommendations regarding patronage of the new post-primary schools are in accord with these requirements and criteria, and give due regard to the levels of parental demand demonstrated in the applications.

The recommendations for patronage for your consideration and decision under Section 10 of the Education Act 1998 are as follows:

### New Post-Primary Schools 2015

County	Area	Recommended Patron Body/other recommendation
Kildare	Celbridge	<p>Before a decision on patronage is taken for this school, both prospective patrons should be asked to confirm that the parental preferences presented by them with their individual applications may, following consultation with parents on an agreed model of patronage, be amalgamated to support their joint application.</p> <p>In the event of sufficient parental support being demonstrated for a viable school under the joint patronage model proposed, approval for patronage should be awarded jointly to Educate Together and the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.</p>

### New Post-Primary Schools 2016

County	Area	Recommended Patron Body /other recommendation
Cavan	Kingscourt	Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
Cork	Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline	<p>Establish two schools to cater for 600 pupils each when fully developed.</p> <p>Award patronage for one of the schools to the Edmund Rice Schools Trust and patronage of the other to Educate Together</p>
Cork	Midleton/Carrigtohill	Cork Education and Training Board and the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne jointly
Dublin	Balbriggan	Educate Together
Dublin	Ballinteer/Stepaside	Educate Together
Dublin	Kingswood, Tallaght	Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board
Wicklow	North Wicklow	Educate Together

In the course of its examination of the Assessment Reports, the Group noted the large number of parental preferences submitted by the applicants from outside the area to be served by the school. This is evident in all of the Assessment Reports submitted.

Apart from creating unrealistic expectations among the parents concerned, a failure by applicants to submit eligible parental preferences adds unnecessarily to the Department's workload and inevitably creates delays in the preparation of Assessment Reports for the New Schools Establishment Group and an announcement of the Minister's decision. To avoid this, we suggest that patron bodies be reminded of the importance of following and applying the criteria in these surveys.



Séamus McGuinness  
Séamus McGuinness, Chairperson