



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

Report for New Schools Establishment Group

Patronage Determination for New Post-Primary Schools Opening in 2015 and 2016

October 2013

Contents

	Page
Foreword	3
Recommendations (summary)	4
Basis for recommendations	5
Appendices	
Appendix	9
New arrangements for patronage of new post-primary schools	
Attachments – Assessment Reports	
Attachment 1 – Kingscourt, Cavan	
Attachment 2 – Carrigaline, Cork	
Attachment 3 – Middleton/Carrigtohill, Cork	
Attachment 4 – Balbriggan, Dublin	
Attachment 5 – Ballinteer, Dublin	
Attachment 6 – Kingswood, Tallaght, Dublin	
Attachment 7 – Celbridge, Kildare	
Attachment 8 – North Wicklow	

Foreword

Mr, Seamus McGuinness,
Chairperson,
New Schools Establishment Group.

Dear Mr. McGuinness,

On 10 May, 2013 the Minister for Education and Skills 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. The eight areas to be served by the new post-primary schools are:

County	Area to be Served	Year Required	School Size
Cavan	Kingscourt	2016	Up to 400 pupil places
Cork	Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline	2016	Up to 500 pupil places
Cork	Midleton/Carrigtohill	2016	Up to 1,000 pupil places
Dublin	Balbriggan	2016	Up to 700 pupil places
Dublin	Ballinteer/Stepaside	2016	Up to 1,000 pupil places
Dublin	Kingswood, Tallaght	2016	Up to 1,000 pupil places
Kildare	Celbridge	2015	Up to 1,000 pupil places
Wicklow	North Wicklow	2016	Up to 1,000 pupil places

The establishment of these new schools is the continuation of a process which began in June 2011 when the Minister announced that 20 new primary schools and 20 new post-primary schools were to be established up to 2017 across a number of locations to cater for increasing pupil numbers.

The criteria for recognition of new schools was also set out by the Minister at that time, details of which, as they relate to new post-primary schools, are contained in the Appendix to this Report.

Consistent with the arrangements announced by the Minister in June 2011 for determining patronage of new schools, the Department has completed its assessment of the applications received for patronage of the new post-primary schools to be established in 2015 and 2016. This is the resulting report for the New Schools Establishment Group, which is submitted for consideration by the Group please. A detailed assessment of each individual application, by area, is attached and forms part of this report.

Jacky Hynes,
Assistant Principal,
Department of Education and Skills
October, 2013.

Recommendations - summary

A summary of the Department's recommendations for patronage of the new post-primary schools due to open in 2015 and 2016 is as follows:

County	Area	Recommended Patron Body /other recommendation
Cavan	Kingscourt	Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board
Cork	Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline	Establish two schools to cater for 600 pupils each when fully developed. Award patronage for one of the schools to the Edmund Rice Schools Trust and patronage of the other to Educate Together
Cork	Midleton/Carrigtohill	Cork Education and Training Board (involving the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne)
Dublin	Balbriggan	Educate Together
Dublin	Ballinteer/Stepaside	Educate Together
Dublin	Kingswood, Tallaght	Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board
Kildare	Celbridge	Before a decision on patronage is taken, 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. 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.
Wicklow	North Wicklow	Educate Together

Basis for the Department's recommendations

Kingscourt, Cavan

There was one application for patronage of this post-primary school – Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB). A strong level of parental demand was presented for the model proposed by the CMETB, which will result in a viable school. In addition, the establishment of a new post-primary school under the model proposed, which is a multi-denominational, non-designated community college, would result in greater diversity and plurality of patronage at post-primary level in the feeder area. Accordingly the Department recommends that patronage for the proposed new school for Kingscourt should be awarded to the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.

Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline, Cork

There were two applications for patronage of this post-primary school – one from the Edmund Rice Schools Trust and the other from Educate Together.

Both of the applicants submitted strong parental demand for their school models. Each in their own right would support a viable school. That being the case, it was clear that a significant level of unmet parental demand would arise if patronage was awarded to one applicant over the other.

The demographics support the development of two new schools, suggesting that each school should be able to accommodate up to 600 pupils when fully developed. This solution ensures that the significant level of parental demand for each of the models proposed can be addressed.

Taking this into consideration, the Department recommends that two new post-primary schools be established to meet the demand for extra post-primary pupil places in the Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline feeder areas and that the Edmund Rice Schools Trust be awarded patronage of one of the schools with Educate Together being awarded patronage of the other.

While the patronage model proposed by the Edmund Rice Schools Trust would not result in a widening or strengthening of diversity in the Carrigaline feeder area or in adjoining feeder areas, there is still a significant demand for further Catholic places in Carrigaline, and, as the Cork South Suburbs feeder area has no post-primary school, the establishment of a Catholic post-primary school to serve that area would meet demand for Catholic post-primary school places there.

The school type proposed by Educate Together will result in greater diversity of provision in the area as there is no English medium multi-denominational school in the Carrigaline feeder area and there are only 4 such schools (2 of which are predominantly Post leaving Certificate Course providers) in the adjoining feeder areas.

The Department is conscious that the proposed new Educate Together school is likely to meet some unmet demand for this type of provision from beyond the immediate Cork South Suburbs/Carrigaline feeder area, including potentially some demand from the Midleton/Carrigtohill area.

Midleton/Carrigtohill, Cork

Two applications were received for patronage of this school – a joint application from the Cork Education and Training Board and the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne and an application from Educate Together

The Department is satisfied that the level of parental demand for a new Catholic post-primary school would support a viable school in Midleton/Carrigtohill. The Department is further satisfied that the demand for Catholic places presented by the Cork Education and Training Board and the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne is additional demand, which will not displace pupils from existing schools. Furthermore, the level of unmet demand for Catholic places would far outweigh the level of unmet demand for Educate Together post-primary school places. While the establishment of a further Catholic school will not result in greater diversity and plurality of patronage in the area, the extent of the parental demand for additional Catholic places will support a viable school and the new school will widen co-educational provision in the area. In the circumstances, the Department recommends that the patronage of the new post-primary school for Midleton/Carrigtohill should be awarded to the Cork Education and Training Board (with the involvement of the Catholic Bishop of Cloyne).

Balbriggan, Dublin

Two applications were received for patronage of this school – one from Educate Together and the other from the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board.

The level of parental demand submitted by Educate Together significantly outweighs the parental demand submitted by the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board. In addition, provision of a multi-denominational, co-educational post-primary school under the patronage of Educate Together will result in greater diversity and plurality of second level patronage in the area. On this basis, the Department recommends that the patronage of the proposed new school for Balbriggan be awarded to Educate Together.

Ballinteer/Stepaside, Dublin

Two applications were received for patronage of this school – from the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board and from Educate Together.

The parental preferences submitted with the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board application are not sufficient to result in a viable school. The parental preferences submitted with the Educate Together application are sufficiently strong to

result in a viable school and the enrolment pattern strengthens as the years progress, suggesting an organic growth for the school. In addition, the establishment of a multi-denominational, co-educational post primary school under the patronage of Educate Together will provide for greater diversity and plurality of patronage at post-primary level in the Ballinteer/Stepaside area.

The Department, therefore, recommends that patronage for the proposed new school for Ballinteer/Stepaside be awarded to Educate Together.

Kingswood, Tallaght, Dublin

One application was received for patronage of this school – from the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board.

The Department recommends that, as only one patron body has applied for patronage of the new school for Kingswood and that, as the model proposed by the applicant, which is a non-designated, multi-denominational, community college, would provide for greater diversity and plurality of patronage in the feeder area, patronage of the new school for Kingswood be awarded to the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board.

Celbridge, Kildare

Three applications were received for patronage of this school – from Educate Together, from the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board and jointly from Educate Together and the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.

The Department recommends that, before a decision on patronage for the new post-primary school for Celbridge is taken, both prospective patrons should be asked to confirm that the parental preferences presented by them with their individual applications may, following consultation with parents, be amalgamated for the purposes of demonstrating parental support for their joint application.

In the event of sufficient parental support for a viable school under the joint patronage model proposed, which would be of a community school type thereby resulting in greater diversity and plurality of second level patronage in the feeder area, the Department recommends that approval for patronage of the new post-primary school for Celbridge be awarded jointly to Educate Together and the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.

North Wicklow

Three applications were received for patronage of this school – from Educate Together, from the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board and from Educate Together and the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board jointly.

The parental preferences submitted with the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board are not sufficient to result in a viable school. The parental preferences

submitted with the Educate Together application are, however, sufficiently strong to result in a viable school. The joint application from Educate Together and the Kildare and Wicklow Educate Education and Training Board would support a viable school subject to confirmation of sufficient parental preferences for a joint model under these patrons. In this regard, both applications have a combined demand for 315 pupils for the first 6 years. However, of this combined demand, 95% represents demand for the Educate Together model on its own.

As the Educate Together application demonstrates sufficient parental demand for a viable school and the model proposed, which is a multi-denominational, co-educational post-primary school, will result in greater diversity and plurality of second level patronage in the area, the Department recommends that patronage for the new post-primary school for North Wicklow be awarded to that patron body.

Appendix

New Arrangements for patronage of new post-primary schools

The following key elements will apply to the establishment of a new second-level school:

- The demographics of the area must support the need for the establishment of a new school– a new school would not impact negatively on the enrolment of schools in the catchment, other than perhaps the establishment of an all-Irish school and the impact of this on an existing Aonad.
- If the demographics require the establishment of a school, then the process for the selection of the type of school should allow for different patrons/bodies to be considered as the patron of a new school.

Most new schools must have the capacity to operate schools in the size range of 800 to 1,000 pupils. A lower threshold of 400 would apply for Gaelchólaistí having regard to the alternative of establishing an Aonad within a school.

The following requirements will have to be satisfied by prospective school patrons:

- Confirmation that the prospective patron is willing to accept and open special education facilities
- Confirmation that the prospective patron is willing to enter into the standard lease agreement with the Department of Education and Skills or that the prospective patron will provide their own school site.
- Confirmation of willingness to operate by the rules and regulations laid down in various Department of Education and Skills circulars and operating procedures
- Confirmation of willingness to operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the Department of Education and Skills
- Confirmation of willingness to share school buildings with other schools as may be determined by the Department should the school building not be in full use
- Confirmation of willingness to be part of a campus development with other primary or second-level schools as identified by the Department
- Confirmation of willingness to enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school
- Confirmation of willingness to follow the prescribed curriculum
- Confirmation that the prospective patron is willing to expand/operate in the size range of 800 to 1,000 pupils
- Confirmation of willingness to establish an Aonad where there is a demand for it (for a school where the primary medium of instruction is to be English)

An initial decision will be made by the Department before seeking applications on whether the school would operate through the medium of Irish or English and that applications would be sought from patrons when this decision is made.

Most new school provision will be co-educational in nature and patronage decisions will be made on that basis. There may be a small number of instances where single-gender provision will need to be made if there is an identified imbalance between the capacities of single-gender schools. Any such identification would be made in advance of seeking applications from patrons.

The main criterion for the decision on patronage in an area where there is already at least one second-level school will be the following:

- Whether the establishment of the proposed school model would result in greater diversity and plurality of second-level school patronage and provision in the area (having regard to neighbouring areas) where there is demand for such diversity and plurality. In this context individual patron bodies from the one faith group will be regarded as representing the same school patronage type for assessing plurality.

As part of the examination of this criterion regard would be had for:

- Whether there is a school of the same or similar patronage in the same catchment area (having regard to neighbouring areas) and whether there is additional demand for such patronage
- The extent to which the establishment of the school would result in greater diversity and plurality of patronage in the area (having regard to neighbouring areas) where there is demand for such plurality and diversity
- Effectiveness of mechanisms planned to ensure that the proposed school will expand to the size range of 800 to 1,000 pupils, including:
 - Planned possible measures if expansion is not happening as fast as planned
 - Planned collaboration with existing second level schools in the catchment area.

Where an area is to be served by a single new school, the key criteria will be the following:

- Whether the school can cater for the needs and requirements of all of the pupils in the area.
- Having regard to neighbouring areas, whether the establishment of the proposed school model would result in greater diversity and plurality of second-level school patronage and provision where there is demand for such diversity and plurality. In this context individual patron bodies from the one faith group will be regarded as representing the same school patronage type for assessing plurality.

As part of the examination of these criteria regard would be had for:

- The effectiveness of the manner in which the patron proposes to determine the requirements of all pupils / groups of pupils regarding pupils of a particular faith; pupils of no faith
- The extent to which these requirements are to be met

- Effectiveness of the manner in which a comprehensive and broad curriculum is proposed to be offered during the start-up phase
- Effectiveness of the manner in which a comprehensive and broad curriculum is proposed to be offered when the school is past the start-up phase
- Effectiveness of the manner to which a comprehensive and broad curriculum is proposed to be offered to all students e.g. supporting gender integration into all subjects
- The extent of demand in the area for the applicant patrons
- Having regard to neighbouring areas, whether the establishment of the proposed school model would result in greater diversity and plurality of second-level school patronage and provision where there is demand for such diversity and plurality.

The process will involve the following steps at second level:

- Identification of locations of new schools and sizes of new schools by the Department
- Decision by the Department in relation to whether the school would operate through the medium of Irish or English
- Written applications from prospective patrons addressing all of the criteria
- Consideration of the applications by Department officials and report drafted for consideration by the News Schools Establishment Group
- Consideration by Group of report and endorsement by Group or identification of need for further analysis by Department and subsequent consideration by Group
- Report from the Group submitted to the Minister for consideration
- Decision by the Minister

Parental Preferences

Patron bodies proposing schools will be asked to provide evidence of parental demand. Patrons will be asked to sign up lists of parents who indicate interest in having their children educated in their new school. These lists are to be broken down by the age of the children, including year of proposed entry to school, and by where they are living, having regard for the area to be served by the school. A template for submission of parental demand will be provided for this purpose, and all information must be presented in this format only.