

## **Attachment No. 4 to Report**



# **Forward Planning Section Report To The New Schools Establishment Group New Post-Primary Schools 2015/2016**

**Location: Balbriggan Dublin (map attached)**

**Year Required: 2016**

**School Size required: Long term projected need up to 700 pupil places**

**Medium of Instruction: English**

## **Applications Received**

Two applications were received to establish the new post-primary school for Balbriggan Co. Dublin. A brief profile of each applicant together with a synopsis of the school type proposed is set out hereunder:

## **Profile of Applicants**

### **Educate Together**

Educate Together is the representative organisation for 58 Educate Together National Schools throughout the Country, and it is patron of 45 of these schools. Educate Together is advanced in its plans to open its first second-level school in Hansfield, Dublin 15 in 2014. In addition, Educate Together is involved in a co-patronage model with Louth & Meath Education Training Board for a community school due to open in Drogheda, Co. Louth in 2014, and in a partnership model with Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board in a community college due to open in Clonburris, Lucan, Co. Dublin in 2014. A Blueprint for Educate Together's second-level schools has been developed called "Taking the Next Steps". The organisation became a company limited by guarantee in 1998 and has charitable status.

### **School type proposed**

Multi-Denominational, co-educational post-primary school.

### **Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (former Co. Dublin VEC and Dun Laoghaire VEC)**

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) is a new entity, established on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 through the amalgamation of County Dublin VEC and Dun Laoghaire VEC. DDLETB provides education services and supports for children, young people and adults. Its administrative area covers Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown. The application states that DDLETB has 35 schools under its patronage currently. 25 of these schools are said to be at post-primary level, however, 24 post-primary schools are listed in the application. The remainder of the schools are post leaving certificate course providers and primary schools. The DDLETB is also joint patron of 17 community schools.

### **School type proposed**

Non-designated, multi-denominational, co-educational community college.

## Demographic details

The total enrolment in post-primary schools in the Balbriggan feeder area for the 2012/13 school year is 2,142 pupils. Enrolment for the feeder area is projected to grow to 3,322 pupils by 2023 based on a 100% intake in the feeder area. **This is a potential 1,180 extra pupils.**

However, the current intake pattern at post-primary level in the Balbriggan feeder area is 143%. At this level of intake, enrolment would increase to 4,765 pupils by 2023. **This is a potential 2,623 extra pupils.**

While 2 new 1,000 pupil post-primary schools are being provided in adjoining feeder areas – one in Rush/Lusk and one in Ashbourne – and another new 1,000 pupil post-primary school is being provided in Drogheda, the demographics indicate that pressure is likely to continue for pupil places in these adjoining feeder areas over the coming years. This, in turn, means that the level of pupil intake at post-primary level in Balbriggan is likely to continue to exceed 100% for the foreseeable future and it would be prudent to plan provision in the Balbriggan feeder area on this basis.

### Assessment of applications

#### 1. Requirements - has the applicant patron confirmed that it will comply with the requirements as set out (tick if yes)?

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

## **2. Multiple Provider Areas - Criteria for deciding on patronage where there is currently at least one second level school**

**Will the establishment of the proposed school 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.**

There are currently three post-primary schools in the Balbriggan feeder area. One Catholic, single-sex girls' school and two non-designated, multi-denominational, co-educational schools.

A fourth school, a 700 pupil Gaelchóláiste is due to open in Balbriggan in September 2014. This will be a multi-denominational, co-educational, voluntary secondary school teaching through the medium of Irish under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta. This school is being centred in Balbriggan to provide regional accessibility to post-primary provision through the medium of Irish for the north Dublin/south Louth areas.

**Educate Together:** The provision of a multi-denominational, co-educational post-primary school will result in greater diversity and plurality of second level patronage in Balbriggan as the feeder area has no post-primary school under Educate Together patronage currently. However, the feeder area does have two post-primary schools with a multi-denominational ethos.

**Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** While the provision of a non-designated, multi-denominational, co-educational post-primary school will further strengthen multi-denominational provision at post-primary level in the Balbriggan feeder area, it is noted that the feeder area has two such schools operating under DDLETB patronage currently.

### Details of Current Post-Primary Schools in the Balbriggan Feeder Area

Balbriggan Feeder Area								Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013						
Current Transfer Rate 143%														
Roll No	Name	Ethos	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1 <sup>st</sup> Yr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Yr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr	TY	5 <sup>th</sup> Yr	6 <sup>th</sup> Yr	Total Mains tream
60010P	Loreto Secondary School	Catholic	1027	1170	1223	53	196	197	230	202	209	193	192	1223
70010V	Balbriggan Community College	Multi denominational	430	576	511	-65	81	103	97	82	0	106	123	511
76129H	Ardgillan Community College	Multi denominational	0	0	408	408	408	121	116	106	65	0	0	408
Totals			1457	1746	2142	396	685	421	443	390	274	299	315	2142

Roll No	School Name	Ethos		Patron	Medium of Instruction	2012/13 Total Enrolment	% in school of Total Area Enrolment
60010P	Loreto Secondary School	Denominational	Catholic	Loreto Order	English	1223	57%
70010V	Balbriggan Community College	Non designated community college	Multi denominational	Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB	English	511	24%
76129H	Ardgillan Community College	Non designated community college	Multi denominational	Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB	English	408	19%
<b>Total</b>						<b>2142</b>	

% of Total Enrolment by Ethos	
Catholic	57%
Multi denominational	43%
% of Total Enrolment by Patron	
Loreto Order	57%
Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB	43%

### **Primary School Details – Balbriggan Feeder Area**

There are 11 primary schools in the Balbriggan feeder area. The total enrolment of these schools has grown by 2,114 pupils since 2003/04. 6 of these schools have a Catholic ethos, 1 school has a Church of Ireland ethos, and 4 schools have a multi-denominational ethos. Ten schools are teaching through the medium of English and one is an all-Irish provider.

Primary Schools Balbriggan PP Feeder Area									Detailed Enrolment 2012/13								
Roll No	Name	Ethos	Language	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	Junior Infant	Senior Infant	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	4th Class	5th Class	6th Class	Tot
01170G	S N Na hAille	Catholic	English	64	96	109	13	45	15	15	12	14	15	15	9	14	109
09492W	Balscadden NS	Catholic	English	228	235	222	-13	-6	28	27	25	30	29	28	27	28	222
15315J	St George's NS	Church of Ireland	English	41	194	384	190	343	62	46	47	57	57	62	27	26	384
16970A	St Mologa's Senior NS	Catholic	English	297	433	475	42	178	0	0	0	0	110	112	109	126	457
16972E	Sn Peadar agus Pol N	Catholic	English	376	481	452	-29	76	120	113	110	109	0	0	0	0	452
17569E	Blessed Oliver NS	Catholic	English	321	346	341	-5	20	42	47	38	46	42	45	42	39	341
19515O	SN Naomh Treasa	Catholic	English	380	476	484	8	104	56	56	54	56	56	84	55	56	473
20202A	Balbriggan Educate Together NS	Multi Denominational	English	0	263	404	141	404	45	48	47	48	47	47	57	65	404
20252P	Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigin	Multi Denominational	Irish	0	113	348	235	348	66	64	53	61	45	30	22	7	348
20269J	Scoil Chormaic Community NS	Multi Denominational	English	0	0	190	190	190	91	58	41	0	0	0	0	0	190
20282B	Bracken Educate Together N.S.	Multi Denominational	English	0	169	412	243	412	49	48	47	48	72	51	47	47	409
		<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,707</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>3,789</b>
		<b>Jun vs Sen</b>							<b>2,039</b>				<b>1,750</b>				

**Note:** The discrepancy in the total enrolment for 12/13, and the total figure for the Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013 figures for some schools may be explained by the exclusion of certain categories of student from figures under each class group.

### Post-primary school details – post-primary feeder areas adjoining Balbriggan feeder area

#### **Are there post-primary schools of the same or similar patronage in neighbouring catchment areas?**

Balbriggan is adjoined by 5 feeder areas. All of these areas have experienced some growth in enrolments in recent years.

There are 11 post-primary schools in the adjoining feeder areas, 8 have a Catholic ethos (one of which is a fee-charging school), 2 have a non-designated, multi-denominational ethos and 1 has a Quaker ethos.

**Educate Together:** The provision of a multi-denominational post-primary school will increase and strengthen diversity at post-primary level in the wider region.

**Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board:** The provision of a non-designated, multi-denominational post-primary school will strengthen diversity at post-primary level in the wider region.

Surrounding Feeder Areas											Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013						
Skerries																	
Current Transfer Rate 88%																	
Roll No	Name	Ethos		Patron	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	TY	5th Yr	6th Yr	Total M'stre am	Distance to Balbriggan (approx)
76078Q	Skerries Community College	Designated community college	Catholic	Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB	871	938	908	-30	37	171	176	171	61	172	157	908	7 km
		Totals			871	938	908	-30	37	171	176	171	61	172	157	908	



Surrounding Feeder Areas										Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013							
Rush & Lusk																	
Current Transfer Rate 57%																	
Roll No	Name	Ethos		Patron	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	TY	5th Yr	6th Yr	Total M'steam	Distance to Balbriggan (approx)
60343T	St Joseph's Secondary School	Denominational	Catholic	Mercy Sisters	371	475	673	198	302	171	132	116	57	101	96	673	14 km
		Totals			371	475	673	198	302	171	132	116	57	101	96	673	

Surrounding Feeder Areas										Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013							
Ashbourne																	
Current Transfer Rate 89%																	
Roll No	Name	Ethos		Patron	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	TY	5th Yr	6th Yr	Total M'steam	
91495T	Ashbourne Community School	Inter denominational	Catholic	Louth & Meath ETB & Bishop of Meath	901	998	1028	30	127	208	201	202	90	161	166	1028	24 km
		Totals			901	998	1,028	30	127	208	201	202	90	161	166	1,028	

Surrounding Feeder Areas										Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013							
Drogheda																	
Current Transfer Rate 102%																	
Roll No	Name	Ethos		Patron	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	TY	5th Yr	6th Yr	Total M'steam	Distance to Balbriggan (approx)
63840C	St. Joseph's C.B.S.	Denominational	Catholic	Christian Brothers	630	654	613	-41	-17	101	114	132	24	124	118	613	17 km
63841E	St Mary's Diocesan School	Denominational	Catholic	Bishop of Meath	701	783	753	-30	52	136	158	144	44	112	159	753	
63850F	Our Ladys College	Denominational	Catholic	Presentation Sisters	876	896	963	67	87	198	166	179	96	175	149	963	
63860I	Sacred Heart Secondary School	Denominational	Catholic	Mercy Sisters	540	548	585	37	45	115	120	117	24	106	103	585	
63870L	Drogheda Grammar School	Denominational	Quaker	Religious Society of Friends	206	277	253	-24	47	43	51	45	37	48	29	253	
71761C	St Oliver's Community College	Non designated community college	Multi denominational	Louth & Meath ETB	1032	1035	1176	141	144	239	271	237	60	191	178	1176	

Surrounding Feeder Areas											Detailed Enrolment 2012/2013						
Laytown																	
Current Transfer Rate 110%																	
Roll No	Name	Ethos		Patron	03/04 Enr	08/09 Enr	12/13 Enr	5 Year Trend	10 Year Trend	1st Yr	2nd Yr	3rd Yr	TY	5th Yr	6th Yr	Total M'steam	Distance to Balbriggan (approx)
64420I	Franciscan College (Fee-charging school)	Denominational	Catholic	Franciscan Community	575	486	256	-230	-319	30	38	50	19	59	60	256	14 km
76103M	Laytown Community College	Non designated community college	Multi denominational	Meath & Louth ETB	0	79	611	532	611	171	150	124	48	88	30	611	

**Has the patron/ prospective patron provided detail on planned mechanisms to ensure that the proposed school will expand to the size range of 500 pupils (or 400 pupils for a Gaelchóláiste), including:**

- **planned possible measures if expansion is not happening as fast as planned**
- **planned collaboration with existing second-level schools in the catchment areas**

**Educate Together:** The applicant states that it will work with the school, other schools and patrons in the area and the Department to address the issue of expansion if necessary. It states that it would consider a number of measures including:

- review of enrolment policy and procedures
- review of any catchment area regulations
- outreach campaigns
- review of school communications
- if necessary, shared usage.

The applicant states that partnership and community involvement are at the core of its ethos and it supports the idea of positive and constructive engagement with schools and other organisations in the community.

The applicant states that the level of demand presented in its parental preferences suggests that a school with capacity for 700 pupils will not be sufficient to meet demand.

**Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:**

The applicant refers to partnerships with major stakeholders in its administrative area, public bodies, students, parents and local primary schools. It advises that as joint patron of existing community schools, it already collaborates with other patron bodies involved on an on-going basis. It refers to its years of experience in the education sector and collaboration with the Department, and advises that the services provided by DDLETB in its existing schools will be extended to the new school if it is established under the patronage of DDLETB. It states that it proposes to offer a broad curriculum to students from the outset. The possibility of using teachers for some hours from other DDLETB schools for the provision of specialist subjects (music, technology, science etc.) has already been used for new and developing schools in particular. Other DDLETB schools will be available to share facilities should the need arise in the start-up phase.

### **3. Parental Preferences**

**Details of parental demand demonstrated by each applicant patron**

#### **Educate Together - 1,770 Children on List**

**Table A:**

<b>Balbriggan Feeder Area</b>								
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Post 2021</b>
<b>First Year</b>	151	124	138	167	137	85	802	217

**Table B:**

<b>Adjoining areas</b>								
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Post 2021</b>
<b>First Year</b>	15	11	16	21	22	19	104	43

**Table C:**

<b>Outside both</b>								
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Post 2021</b>
<b>First Year</b>	36	35	29	30	35	11	176	8

Notes:

The following records have not been included;

- **361** of the children on the list, from within and outside the feeder area, are **already in school, or will be in school by 2016**. These have been excluded because the development of a new school is not intended to impact on existing schools.
- The data contained in Table B have not been included for the purposes of establishing the valid parental preferences for the school because provision for these pupils is made within their own feeder areas. The data were analysed to distinguish between the demand in the Tallaght feeder area and outside of it.
- **35** invalid as no dates of birth provided.
- **24** invalid as invalid dates of birth provided

### **Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board – 73 Children on List**

<b>Balbriggan area</b>							
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>First Year</b>	13	8	8	9	6	44	4

Notes:

The following records have not been included;

- **21** of the children on the list, from within and outside the feeder area, are **already in school**. These have been excluded because the development of a new school is not intended to impact on existing schools;
- **4** invalid as no address provided.

### **4. Conclusions**

**Based on an assessment of the applications received, confirmation of compliance with the criteria, assessment of existing school provision and how the proposed school would result in greater diversity, and taking into account parental demand make a recommendation on patronage for the proposed new school in the area.**

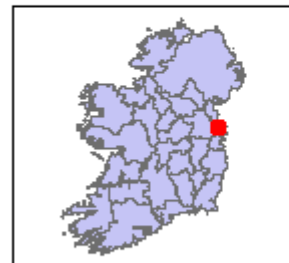
- Educate Together has demonstrated a viable parental demand for its school type.
- The level of parental demand presented by Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board would not be sufficient for a viable school.
- The school type proposed by both applicants would result in an expansion of diversity in the area in terms of ethos, however, the DDLETB already operates two non-designated, multi-denominational post-primary schools in the feeder area, which is the same type of school now being proposed by the DDLETB for the new school.

### **5. Recommendation**

As the level of parental demand submitted by Educate Together would clearly support a viable school, the Department recommends that the patronage of the proposed new post-primary school for the Balbriggan feeder area be awarded to Educate Together.

**Forward Planning Section  
October, 2014**

## Proposed Post-Primary School Balbriggan



### Legend

- Post-Primary Schools
- Primary Schools
- CSO Town Boundary
- Post-Primary Feeder Area

0 0.30.6 1.2 Kilometers

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
*An Roinn Oideachais Agus Seikemara*

Ordnance Survey Copyright EN045608

