



## **New Primary Schools 2014**

### **Patronage Assessment Report to the New Schools Establishment Group**

**Assessment report for: Swords, Dublin (Fingal) – Attachment no. 2 to Report**

**Forward Planning Section, Department of Education and Skills  
September 2013**

## New primary Schools 2014 – Assessment of Applications for Patronage

**Location:** Swords, Co. Dublin. See attached map of area to be served.

**Year Required:** 2014

**School Size required:** Long term projected need up to 16 Classrooms (2 stream junior infant intake)

**Applications Received:** Two applications have been received to establish the new school in Swords. A brief profile of each of the applicants together with a synopsis of the school types proposed is set out hereunder:

### **Educational Society of Ireland - Profile of applicant**

Educational Society of Ireland commenced operation in 2004. It comprises people from various different backgrounds and ethnic origins familiar with the educational system either professionally, academically, as business people or as parents.

The legal status of the organisation is not known.

It is involved in a home school study program and core and enrichment classes. The organisation supports high achievers.

The Educational Society of Ireland is not a recognised patron currently.

### **School type proposed**

The Educational Society of Ireland proposes a multid denominational, multi-cultural, co-educational, English medium school.

### **Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (original application made by Co. Dublin VEC) - Profile of applicant**

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (original application from Co. Dublin VEC) is a statutory body providing second level and further and adult education. As County Dublin VEC, it was responsible for 26 schools (including 4 Community National Schools, with a further such school opening in 2013) and community colleges, including 3 Colleges of Further Education and 4 Gaelcholáistí (which deliver post-primary education through the Irish language). It also ran 8 Youthreach Centres, 4 Senior Traveller Training Centres and 5 Adult Education Services. It also works in partnership with a range of local groups and agencies, to provide basic education and leisure courses that are complementary to the formal education sector.

### **School type proposed**

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board proposes a multid denominational, Community National School teaching through the medium of English.

## Demographic information

Child Benefit Data indicates that 988 children could start primary school in the Swords feeder area in 2014. This compares with a junior infant enrolment of 837 pupils for the 2012/13 school year. This is a difference of 151 pupils.

## Assessment of applications

### 1. Requirements

**Has the applicant Patron(s) confirmed that they will comply with the requirements as set out: (comment if necessary in regard to any requirement)**

- Is willing to accept and open special education facilities
- Is willing to have up to three streams subject to demand for the school
- Is willing to enter into the standard lease agreement with DES (or otherwise provide their own site)
- Is willing to operate by the rules and regulations laid down by various DES circulars and operating procedures and to follow the prescribed curriculum
- Is willing to operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the DES
- 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

**Educational Society of Ireland:** - The applicant has confirmed that it will meet all of the requirements set out above.

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** - The applicant has confirmed that it will meet all of the requirements set out above.

### 2. Examination of current provision in the area versus school type proposed by applicant patron(s)

**(a) Outline details of current number of schools in the area, ethos of schools, total number of pupils in existing schools, percentage of pupils by school type in existing schools, what percentage of children already attending school in the area attend a school of the same patronage as the applicant patron? (need to take into account the development already achieved by recently established schools of a particular patronage in the identified area and the potential for future growth of these schools, and the extent to which schools of similar patronage have already expanded to three streams subject to space on existing site etc)**

There are a total of 14 primary schools in the Swords feeder area

This comprises 9 catholic schools (one of which is an all-Irish school), 1 Church of Ireland School, 3 Educate Together schools and 1 inter denominational, all-Irish school under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta.

See details of these schools set out in the tables below.

### Details of Current Schools in the Swords feeder area (14)

Roll No	School Name	Ethos	Patron	2012/13 Total Enrolment	% in school of Total Area Enrolment	Medium of Instruction
12358M	Swords Borough N S	Church Of Ireland	Church of Ireland Archbishop	107	2%	English
17820J	Brighde Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	274	5%	English
18976W	S N Cholmcille B	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	408	8%	English
18977B	S N Cholmcille C	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	468	9%	English
19456B	St Cronan	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	613	12%	English
19535U	Brackenstown Senior N S	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	599	11%	English
19693P	Mary Queen Of Ireland N S	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	58	1%	English
19721R	Holy Family Junior N S	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	622	12%	English
19877C	Holy Family Senior N S	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	579	11%	English
19898K	Gaelscoil An Duinninigh	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	338	6%	Irish
20095C	Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe	Inter Denominational	An Foras Pátrúnachta	385	7%	Irish
20145O	Swords Educate Together NS	Multi Denominational	Educate Together	437	8%	English
20302E	Thornleigh Educate Together National School	Multi Denominational	Educate Together	208	4%	English
20348F	Holywell Educate Together National School	Multi Denominational	Educate Together	215	4%	English
<b>Total</b>				<b>5311</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Table summary: 75% of pupils attend Catholic schools with 6% of these attending an all-Irish Catholic school. 16% attend multid denominational schools, 7% attend an all-Irish interdenominational school and 2% attend a Church of Ireland school.**

**By class group - 2012/13 Enrolments**

<b>Roll No</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>Jnr</b>	<b>Snr</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>Total</b>
12358M	Swords Borough N S	15	14	12	14	12	15	13	12	107
17820J	Brighde Naofa	49	43	39	30	30	25	29	29	274
18976W	S N Cholmcille B	52	48	42	49	53	48	56	60	408
18977B	S N Cholmcille C	58	54	40	56	60	73	58	69	468
19456B	St Cronan	167	149	151	134	0	0	0	0	613
19535U	Brackenstown Senior N S	0	0	0	0	147	147	147	136	599
19693P	Mary Queen Of Ireland N S	8	7	11	11	4	7	7	3	58
19721R	Holy Family Junior N S	180	164	142	136	0	0	0	0	622
19877C	Holy Family Senior N S	0	0	0	0	163	132	131	133	579
19898K	Gaelscoil An Duinninigh	62	60	53	29	54	28	25	27	338
20095C	Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe	61	61	61	56	45	50	25	26	385
20145O	Swords Educate Together Ns	58	59	54	49	59	53	59	46	437
20302E	Thornleigh Educate Together National School	42	44	36	37	25	24	0	0	208
20348F	Holywell Educate Together National School	85	45	28	14	9	14	4	4	215
<b>Totals</b>		<b>837</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>5311</b>
<b>Jnr V Snr</b>		<b>2869</b>				<b>2376</b>				

### Historic 5 and 10 year enrolment trend

Roll Number	School Name	2003/04	2008/09	2012/13	Historic 5yr trend	Historic 10 yr trend
12358M	Swords Borough N S	93	110	107	-3	14
17820J	Brighde Naofa	242	266	274	8	32
18976W	S N Cholmille B	471	475	408	-67	-63
18977B	S N Cholmille C	504	502	468	-34	-36
19456B	St Cronan	616	618	613	-5	-3
19535U	Brackenstown Senior N S	560	625	599	-26	39
19693P	Mary Queen Of Ireland N S	85	63	58	-5	-27
19721R	Holy Family Junior N S	503	551	622	71	119
19877C	Holy Family Senior N S	589	523	579	56	-10
19898K	Gaelscoil An Duinninigh	240	243	338	95	98
20095C	Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe	116	264	385	121	269
20145O	Swords Educate Together Ns	95	379	437	58	342
20302E	Thornleigh Educate Together National School	0	27	208	181	208
20348F	Holywell Educate Together National School	0	0	215	215	215
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,114</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1,197</b>

**(b) Will the applicant patron(s) provide a school with an ethos not already catered for in the area?**

**Educational Society of Ireland:** There is no school in the area to be served under the patronage of the Educational Society of Ireland. There are, however, 3 multi-denominational, English medium schools in the area under the patronage of Educate Together.

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** – Although there are already 3 multi-denominational, English medium schools in the area under the patronage of Educate Together, none are Community National Schools as proposed by Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board.

**(c) The proximity of school(s) of similar ethos to those proposed by the applicant patron(s)**

**Educational Society of Ireland:** - There is no other Educational Society of Ireland school in the feeder area, or indeed in the country, however, there are 3 Educate Together multi-denominational, English medium schools in the feeder area.

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** – There is no other Community National School in the feeder area, however, there are 3 Educate Together multi-denominational, English medium schools in the feeder area.

**(d) Will the proposed school or schools under the prospective patron(s) provide for extending or strengthening diversity of provision in each area having regard to the views of parents?**

**Educational Society of Ireland:** -Yes, 16% of the school places in the area are in schools with a multi-denominational ethos, 75% of school places in the area have a Catholic Ethos

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** – Yes, as above, only 16% of school places currently in the Swords area are in schools that have a multi-denominational ethos and 75% of school places in the area are in schools that have a Catholic Ethos, In addition, this patron is proposing a Community National School model of Multi-Denominational provision, which is not already available in the area.

**(e) Has the applicant patron demonstrated that there is a demand for this type of school in the area (Comment on the applicant's demonstration of parental demand for the school type proposed? Take into consideration the extent or range of diversity offered across existing schools in the identified area, having regard to the views of parents)**

The details of parental demand for the various models are set out below.

## Educational Society of Ireland

Educational Society of Ireland - Expressions of Interest					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
<b>Swords Feeder Area</b>					
Jnr Inf	23	11	13	10	57
<b>Total No of Children</b>					<b>57</b>

### Comment on parental expressions of interest;

The level of demand presented is weak showing potential for only two classes, which would comprise mixed grades, (Pupil Teacher Ratio 28:1) after 4 years of operation. It is clear, therefore, from the level of demand demonstrated that there would not be sufficient parental interest to establish a viable Educational Society of Ireland school model.

## Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board

Co. Dublin VEC- Expressions of Interest					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
<b>Swords Feeder Area</b>					
Jnr Inf	5	4	6	3	18
<b>(Finglas East/Ballymun Feeder)</b>					
Jnr Inf	1	1	2	2	6
<b>Total No of Children</b>					<b>24</b>



**Comment on parental expressions of interest;**

It is clear from the level of demand submitted for the Community National School Model that there would not be sufficient interest to establish a viable school. In this regard, some of the demand presented is from outside the feeder area and these have not been included by the Department when establishing actual demand for the school.

**(f) Has the applicant patron demonstrated that the school will, as a priority, cater for children in the area in which the school is located (or an area defined by the DES)?**

**Educational Society of Ireland:** The applicant has confirmed that it will enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board:** The applicant has confirmed that it will enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school.

**(g) If this area is to be served by a single school, can proposed school meet the needs of all pupils in the area?**

N/A

**Additional information provided by applicants:**

**Educational Society of Ireland**

This applicant is not yet patron of any school in Ireland. It has provided some detail regarding its advisory board, educational vision, ethos and also proposed curriculum, school policies and staffing structure. However, detail in relation to its legal status have not been provided.

**Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board**

The applicant has stated that it is proposing to provide a new and diverse model of primary school patronage for parents/guardians in the Swords area. It states that the Community National School model would allow for a multi-belief approach to primary school education already a proven model in many areas of County Dublin and elsewhere.

**Conclusions:**

- Both patron bodies have agreed to comply with the relevant Department's requirements set out in Section 1
- Both of the proposed models would strengthen diversity in the Swords feeder area.

- The Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board has not demonstrated viable parental demand for its model type even including children from outside the feeder area
- The Educational Society of Ireland has demonstrated the greater level of demand for its model type. Its expressions of interest do not include prospective pupils from outside the feeder area. However, the demand for the model proposed is not strong enough for a viable school.
- The demand for a viable new multid denominational, English-medium school under the patronage of either applicant has not been demonstrated.

**Recommendation:**

It is clear that the models proposed by the applicants do not have sufficient parental support to sustain either a school of the size required to cater for the increasing demographics of the area (16 classrooms i.e. a two stream junior infant intake) or two individual eight-classroom schools with a single junior infant intake each. The establishment of a school on foot of the applications received could, therefore, leave a large level of unmet demand for school places in this area.

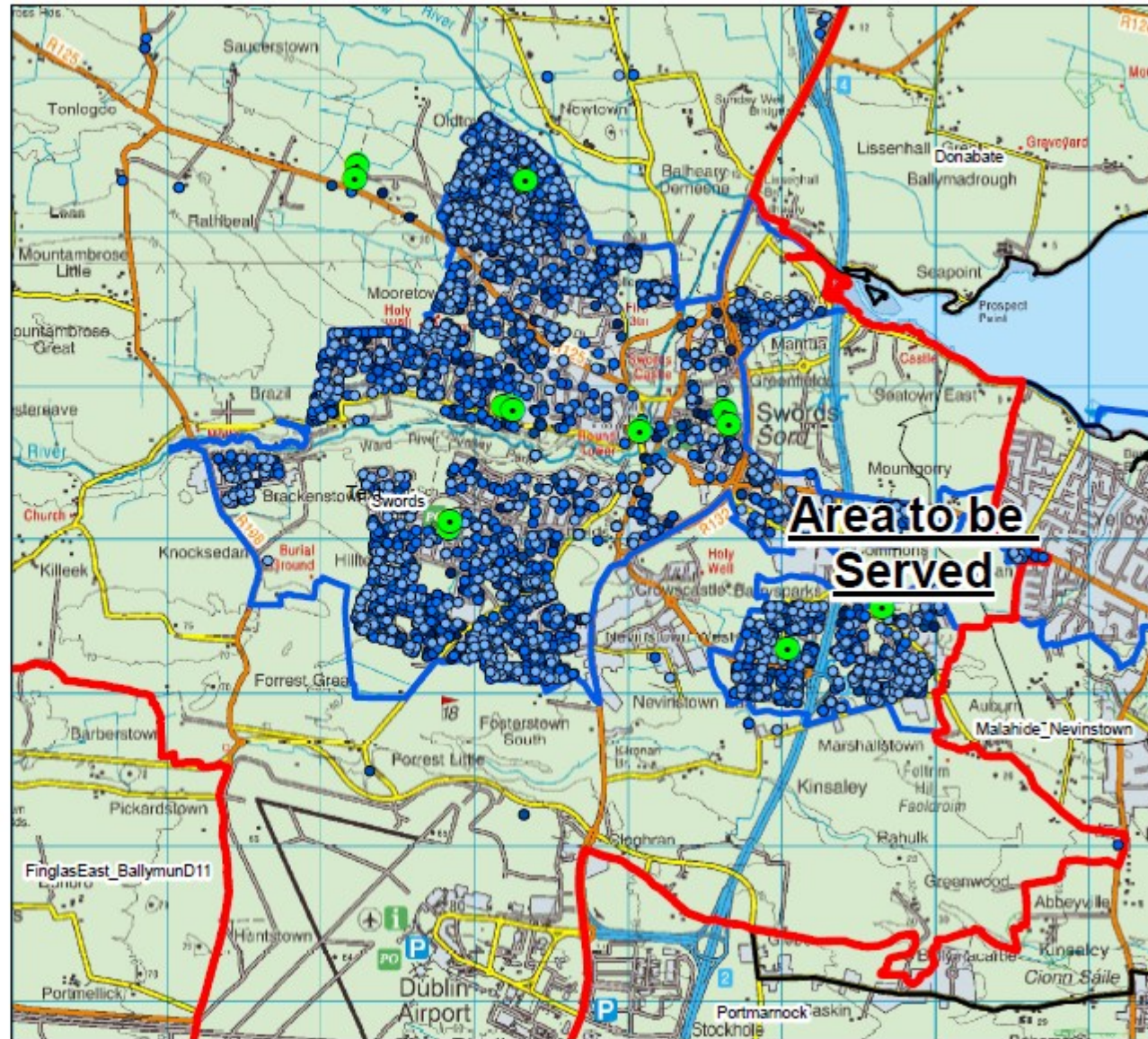
In the circumstances, the Department recommends that a review of the need to establish the school in 2014 should be carried out with existing patrons in the area.

If deemed necessary, the patronage determination process should be re-run for the establishment of the school in 2014, otherwise defer until 2015. In re-running the process the Department will discuss, with prospective patrons, possible means of promoting greater awareness of and participation in the process among parents.

## Proposed Primary School Swords

**Legend**

- Primary Schools
- Junior Infants 2012
- Junior Infants 2013
- Junior Infants 2014
- Junior Infants 2015
- Junior Infants 2016
- Swords FA
- CSO Town Boundaries



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

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Kilometers

Ordnance Survey Copyright EN0045608



