Patron Appointment Process for New Primary Schools to open in September 2017 and September 2018
Outline

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Timelines

- 28 November: Process announced
- 1 December: Meeting with patrons/prospective patrons
- 6 January: Closing date for receipt of completed applications
- January/February: Preparing assessment reports
- Mid to late Feb: Draft report to NSEG
  Ministerial decision

Timescale also depends on the quality of information received from patron bodies
Overview of the four schools

- Three schools to be established in 2017
  - Cork: Ballincollig
  - Co Dublin: Dun Laoghaire
  - Dublin: Pelletstown, Dublin 7 (Scribblestown/Finglas West school planning area)

- One school to be established in 2018
  - Dublin South City: Dublin 2, 4 and Dublin 6/Clonskeagh
Ballincollig, Co Cork

8 classroom school

2017

Ballincollig is the largest town in County Cork and is located 9km West of Cork City. The school planning area is located south of Blarney, north west of the Carrigaline school planning area and north of the Bandon school planning area. The overall feeder area also includes the towns of Ovens.
Proposed Primary School to serve the Ballincollig Area

Legend
- Primary Schools
- Ballincollig
- Feeder Areas

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS
An tOileán Oideachais Agus Scoláireas
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin
16 classroom school
2017

The Dun Laoghaire school planning area is bounded by the sea to the north-east from Seapoint Station to Coliemore Harbour approximately. To the West it takes in the areas of Carysfort Park, Avoca Park, Priory Hall Treesdale, as far as Oatlands College on the Stillorgan Road. Moving South it is bounded by the Stillorgan Road (to the west) down to Kill Lane and Kill Avenue onto Glenageray Road Upper to Sharavogue. Onto Barnhill Road Dalkey, Castle Street and Coliemore Road down to Coliemore Harbour.
Pelletstown, Dublin 7
16 classroom school
2017

The Scribblestown/Finglas West school planning area takes in the Finglas West and Finglas South areas. These areas are more highly populated than the Scribblestown area. However, developments are planned for the Scribblestown area in the near future.

In general the areas included are to the west of North Road, South of the Tolka River with the exception of Pelletstown itself, to the East of Snugborough Road with the exception of parts of Waterviille and Scariff and south of Ballycollin Road.
Proposed Primary School to serve the Pelletstown Dublin 7 Area

Legend

- Primary Schools
- Pelletstown Dublin 7
- Feeder Areas

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS
An Roinn Oideachais Agus Scileanna
Dublin South City Centre

24 classroom school

2018

The school planning area of Dublin 2_Dublin 4 and Dublin 6_Clonskeagh includes Ringsend, Sandymount, Merrion, Ballsbridge, Donnybrook, Clonskeagh, Terenure, Harold’s Cross, Rathgar, Rathmines, Ranelagh, and parts of the city including Merrion Square, Trinity College area and St Stephens Green area.

It is bordered by the R114, Harold’s Cross Road and Terenure Road on the West, the Dodder River to the South, Dublin Bay on the East and is bordered by the River Liffey at the North.
Criteria used in assessment process

- Development achieved by recently-established schools of a particular patronage in the area and their potential for future growth.
- Extent of diversity of patronage offered across existing schools in the area, having regard to the views of parents.
- Proximity of schools of similar ethos to those proposed.
- How the proposed schools would provide for extending or strengthening diversity in the area, having regard to the views of parents.
- Parental demand for the school that a patron is willing to establish.
Patronage Functions

- Appointment of the school’s board of management.
- Suspension, if necessary, of the board of management.
- Responsibility for the school’s characteristic spirit, for which the board of management is accountable to the patron.
- Ultimate responsibility/liability for industrial relations.
- Responsibility for school property (and insurance).
- Financial matters – annual budgets and reports.
- Decisions on school status such as extension, amalgamation, closure.
Information for Groups that are not already School Patrons

- For an individual or group that is not a statutory body or otherwise formed with a constitution providing satisfactorily for succession and continuity it would be considered necessary to establish a corporate entity, such as a company limited by guarantee.

- It should articulate its educational philosophy and educational objectives in a memorandum and articles of association or other constitutional documentation.

- Three persons should be provided as directors or trustees.

- A patron body should have charitable status.

- No automatic right to become a patron of a new school.
Patronage Commitments

- Specific commitments are required to state that the patron/prospective patron is willing to:
  - Operate by the rules and regulations laid down in various Department circulars and operating procedures and follow the prescribed curriculum;
  - Operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the Department;
  - Prioritise enrolment of children in the area for which the Department has identified the need for a school;
  - Accept and open special education facilities;
Patronage Commitments (contd.)

- Have up to three streams, subject to demand for the school;
- Enter into the appropriate standard lease agreement with the Department;
- Be part of a campus development with other primary or second-level schools as identified by the Department;
- Where deemed necessary by the Department, identify and source suitable interim accommodation within the parameters set by the Department.
Application for Patronage

When making an application for patronage, patrons/prospective patrons must agree to all of the eight commitments listed above.

Applications received that do not explicitly agree to each of the eight patronage commitments will be deemed invalid.

Applications must also clearly state the ethos, gender and medium of instruction which is intended to apply to the school.
Template for Parental Preferences

- A template must be used for each separate area application.

- For the three schools due to open in 2017 only children from within the school planning area that are due to enrol in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 will be accepted.

- For the school due to open in 2018 only children from within the school planning area that are due to enrol in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 will be accepted.

- Parents to indicate their preferred medium of instruction.
Each template must be accompanied by a declaration which can be scanned and attached in an email.

No abbreviations in the address fields.

All fields for each parental preference must be completed.

Eircode must be supplied at [https://finder.eircode.ie/](https://finder.eircode.ie/)
Declaration to accompany template

- Declaration confirms that:
  - Children listed live within the school planning area which the Department has identified;
  - Children listed are not already enrolled (attending) in another post-primary school;
- Declaration to be signed and stamped with the official stamp of the patron body.
- Email completed template and declaration form to: liz_marriott@education.gov.ie by 5pm on 6 January, 2017.
Code of Conduct

- Code of Conduct is mandatory.
- The role of representatives of patrons is to provide factual public information on their own form of patronage.
- Code relates to communication on social media, e.g. facebook pages, twitter etc.
- Any suggestion by a patron that they have secured patronage in advance of the process is regarded as a breach and will be brought to the attention of the NSEG.
Contentious commentary, value statements or descriptions of schools under other forms of patronage will not be made.

Expenditure limit €300 per patron in each area.

Agree to provide/publish audited statements of expenditure.

Patrons may seek to directly canvass parents to establish their patronage preference.

Patrons must require schools and other groups affiliated to them to abide by the spirit and the letter of the code of conduct.
Breach of Code of Conduct

- An alleged breach may be brought to the attention of the Department.
- The relevant patron will be given an opportunity to respond and remedy the situation as appropriate.
- Any breach and the patron’s response will be dealt with in the relevant area assessment report.
- The New Schools Establishment Group (NSEG) will consider the matter in the context of the report.
Conclusion of Process

- Preparation of patronage report
- Submission of report to the NSEG
- Examination by NSEG including for Code of Conduct issues
- NSEG Recommendations to Minister
- Decision made by the Minister
- Announcement of school patronage
- Then the real work begins.....
Thank You

Brian Power
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Head of Forward Planning
Department of Education and Skills