

For immediate release:
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40 new schools to be established in next six years – Minister Quinn

New arrangements for the recognition of new schools also announced

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn T.D., today announced that 20 new primary schools and 20 new post-primary schools are to be established in the next six years.

Announcing the new schools, the Minister said: "My Department is forecasting an increase of over 45,050 primary pupils and 24,900 post-primary pupils by the start of the 2017/18 school year.

"In order to meet the needs of our growing population of school going children, we will have to establish 40 new schools, as well as extending a number of existing schools."

Of the 40 new schools, 17 will be in the Dublin area with a further twelve in the commuter belt of Wicklow, Kildare, Meath and Louth.

There will be six new schools established in Cork, three in Galway, and one each in Wexford and Cavan. (Please see attached map showing the locations of the new schools)

These new schools will be in addition to the seven new primary schools opened in autumn 2010. The new schools will generally be sixteen-classroom primary schools and up to 1,000-student post-primary schools. The estimated capital cost of the establishment of the new schools is in the region of €380m and the programme of delivery will include some PPP projects. There will also be additional school extension projects which will be needed to cater for the growing school going population.

The Minister also announced the establishment of new arrangements for the recognition of new primary and second-level schools. Minister Quinn said: "With the significant number of new schools, there will be an opportunity for patrons to seek to apply for patronage of these schools.

"The new arrangements published by my Department today, provide a balanced approach to allow for applications to be made from prospective patrons for the establishment of schools.

"The criteria to be used in deciding on patronage of the new schools place a particular emphasis on parental demand for plurality and diversity of patronage."

The announcement further emphasises the Minister's commitment to ensure speedy implementation of the commitments in the Programme for Government on moving towards a more pluralist system of patronage at second level.

It also builds on the establishment by the Minister of Forum on Patronage and Pluralism in the Primary Sector.

"Parental preferences should be at the centre of considerations about the type of school to be recognised," said Minister Quinn.

"The new arrangements will provide that patron bodies proposing schools at either primary or second level will be asked to provide evidence of demand."

The Minister also announced the establishment of a New Schools Establishment Group which will advise him on the patronage of the new schools following its consideration of a report on the applications to be prepared by the Department. The Group is to be chaired by Dr. Seamus McGuinness (retired senior lecturer in the Education Department at Trinity College Dublin) and also includes Ms. Sylva Langford (retired Director of the Office of the Minister for Children) and Prof. Seán Ó Riain (Sociology Department, NUI Maynooth).

The next steps in the process of establishing these new schools are:

- The Department will shortly inform patron bodies of the details of the first schools which are to be established.
- The patron bodies can then make applications for consideration.
- Department officials will draft a report based on these applications to be considered by the New Schools Establishment Group and it will submit a report with recommendations for consideration of the Minister.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Details on the new arrangements are available on the Department's website:

Country wide map -

www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/pr_new_school_maps_pri_pp_ireland.pdf

Dublin area map –

www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/pr_new_school_maps_pri_pp_dublin.pdf

Cork area map –

www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/pr_new_school_maps_pri_pp_cork.pdf

The new primary schools already announced to be established are as follows:

County	Area	Patron	Date Required
Dublin Fingal	Blanchardstown West	Educate Together	2011
Dublin Fingal	Mulhuddart	Educate Together	2011
Dublin Fingal	Mulhuddart	An Foras Patrúnachta	2012
Meath	Ashbourne	An Foras Patrúnachta	2011
Meath	Ashbourne	Educate Together	2012

The following new primary schools are to be established between 2012 and 2015.

County	Area
Cork	Midleton/Carrigtwohill
Cork	South Suburbs (Grange/ Douglas)
Cork	Mallow
Cork	Riverstown/Glanmire
Dublin City	Sandymount/Ringsend
Dublin Fingal	Swords
Dublin Fingal	Carpenterstown
Dublin South	Tallaght (City West)
Dublin South	Tallaght (City West)
Dublin South	Ballinteer (Stepaside)
Dublin South	Ballinteer
Dublin South	Firhouse/Oldbawn
Dublin South	Lucan
Galway	Galway City (West)
Kildare	Kildare

The new second-level schools are to be established between 2012 and 2017.

The new second-level schools already announced to be established are as follows:

County	Area	Patron
Wexford	Gorey	Co Wexford VEC – opening September 2011

Galway	Doughiska	Co Galway VEC – opening September 2013
Dublin	Lucan/Clonburris	Co Dublin VEC in partnership with Educate Together
Meath	Navan	
Kildare	Naas	
Galway	Claregalway	
Dublin	Mulhuddart	
Dublin	West Blanchardstown	
Kildare	Maynooth	
Louth	Drogheda	
Meath	Ashbourne	
Cavan	Kingscourt	
North County Dublin/ South County Louth		

The seven areas identified as requiring new second-level schools are as follows:

County	Area
Dublin	Rush/Lusk
Dublin	South Dublin (Ballinteer/ Stepside)
Louth	Dundalk
Wicklow	Greystones
Kildare	Celbridge
Cork	Cork city south/Carrigaline
Cork	Cork Middleton/Carrigtwohill