

Mr Ruairi Quinn TD  
Minister for Education and Skills  
Department of Education and Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

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19/09/2013

**Report of the New Schools Establishment Group on the Patronage of Primary Schools Scheduled to Commence in September 2014**

Dear Minister Quinn

As members of the above named group, we are pleased to present you with our report on the patronage of new primary schools due to open in September 2014.

Our role was outlined in your announcement of June 27, 2011 where you stated that 20 new primary and post-primary schools are to be established up to 2017. At that time you also announced the criteria and arrangements for the recognition of the new schools and the membership of the New Schools Establishment Group to advise you on the patronage of the schools, following its consideration of a report prepared by the Forward Planning Section of your Department.

The Forward Planning Section informed patrons/prospective patrons of the details of the primary schools to be established in 2014 and invited them to make applications for consideration. The closing date for receipt of these applications was 14th June 2013.

The Forward Planning Section carried out an assessment of the applications received and on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013 an initial draft report on these assessments was forwarded to our Group for consideration. A meeting was convened on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 with the officials from Forward Planning Section. At this meeting discussions took place on the process of examining the submissions and arriving at assessments. In the course of further discussion we recommended that a small number of amendments and clarifications be made to the report and the assessments. It was agreed that a revised report would be forwarded for our consideration.

A revised report was forwarded to the Group on the 17th of September 2013.

The Group has considered the revised report and assessments made in regard to the patronage of the new primary schools to be established in 2014. The Group now confirms that the criteria set out by you were applied in a fair and transparent manner to the applications received and on that basis we are satisfied that the following recommendations regarding patronage of the new schools are in accord with these requirements and criteria, and give due regard to the levels of parental demand demonstrated in the applications.

The recommendations for patronage for new schools to commence in September 2014 are as follows:

**Knocknacarra, Galway City West – Educate Together.** However, approval should initially be given for an 8 classroom school for this patron body. Consider the establishment of a further 8 classroom school in 2015 under the patronage of Lifeways Ireland subject to further prior confirmation that parental demand will support this model and size of school adequately at that time.

**Middleton/Carrigtohill –** Defer establishment of the school and monitor the area with a view to re-running the patronage determination process in 2015 if this is appropriate.

**Sandymount/Ringsend – Educate Together.**

**Swords –** Review the need to establish the school in 2014 in consultation 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.

The Group would like to thank the officials in Forward Planning Section for the assistance given throughout this process.

  
Séamus McGuinness, Chairperson