



**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna**
Department of
Education and Skills

Patronage Assessment Report

School: Dunshaughlin

Level: Primary

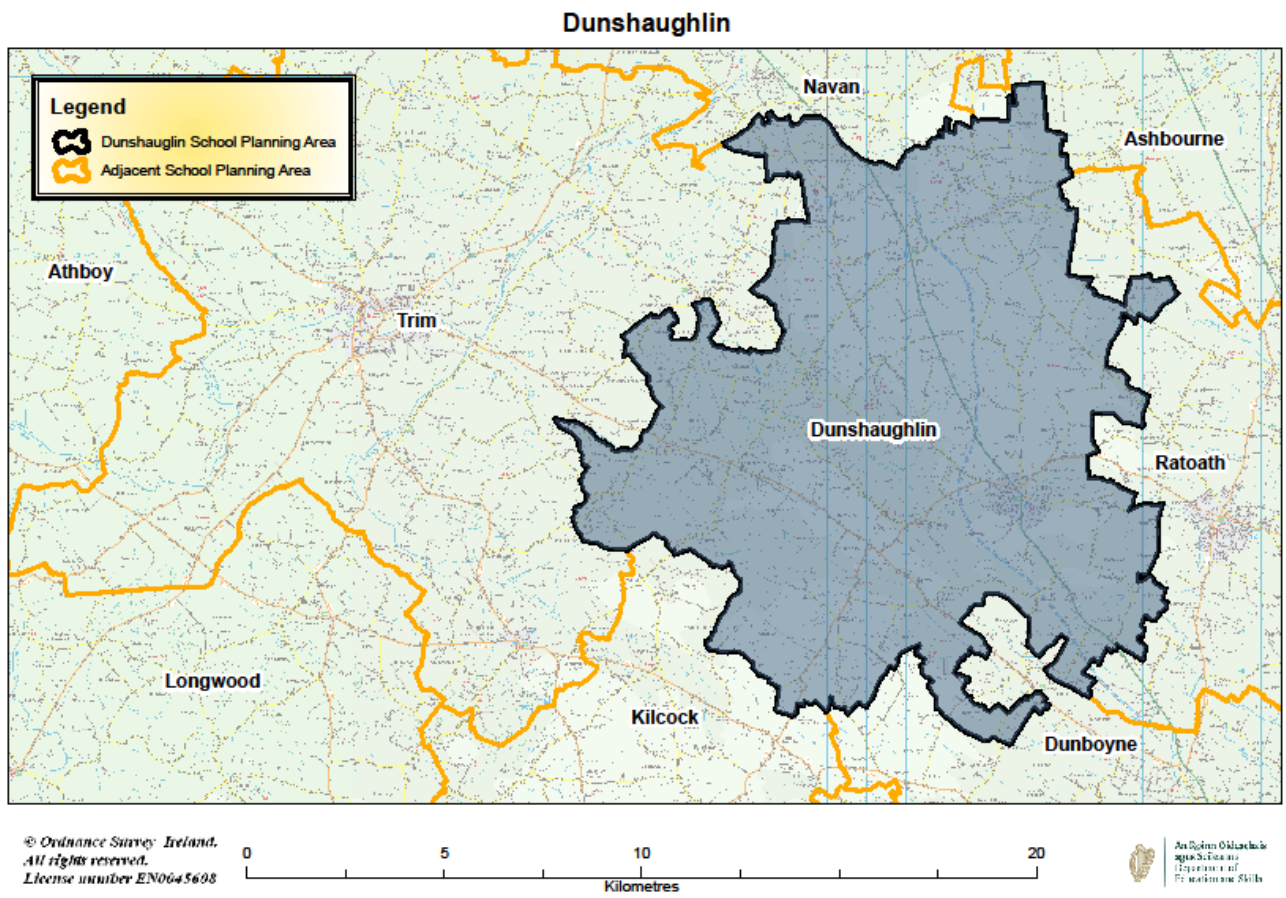
Year: 2019

Size: 8 classrooms

**Report to the New Schools Establishment Group
Department of Education & Skills
February 2019**

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1. School Planning Area Map



2. Applications Received

Four applications were received from applicant patrons in respect of this school. A brief profile of the applicants together with a synopsis of the school type proposed is set out in the following table.

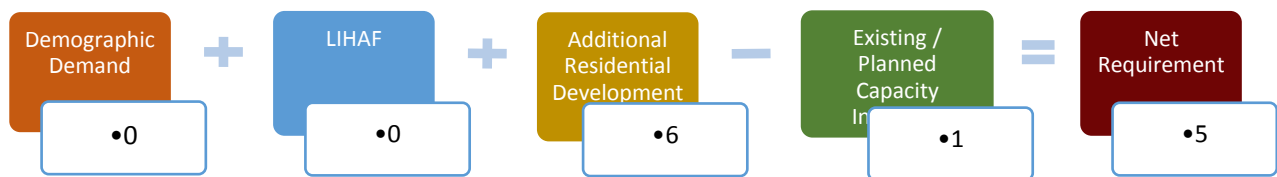
Applicant Patrons	Profile of Applicant	School type proposed		Number of primary schools currently under this patronage
An Foras Pátrúnachta	An Foras Pátrúnachta is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron of a number of Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools throughout the country.	Ethos:	Multi-denominational	66
		Language of Instruction proposed:	Irish	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	n/a	
Educate Together	Educate Together is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron or representative organisation of 84 primary schools and nine post-primary schools throughout the country.	Ethos:	Multi-denominational	73
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	Irish	
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)*	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) is a statutory authority which has responsibility for managing and operating a range of education services including second-level schools and is patron of a number of primary and post-primary schools.	Ethos:	Multi-denominational	2
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	n/a	
Scoil Sinéad Ltd	Scoil Sinéad Ltd is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and is a new patron body for one primary school and a trustee partner in the management of one post-primary school.	Ethos:	Multi-denominational	1
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	Irish	

*It is noted that LMETB as part of their application proposed a European Community National School as a variation to the Community National School model. The Department advised LMETB that parents should be informed that this had not been approved by the Department.

3. Demographic details

There are currently 6 primary schools in the Dunshaughlin school planning area. Demographic analysis shows that the average actual intake pattern¹ at primary level is currently 116%. The total provisional enrolment in primary schools in the area for the 2018/19 school year was 1,258 pupils.

The demographic exercises for this school planning area identified the following net requirement taking into account demographic demand, additional places required as a result of significant additional residential development (including any development arising from the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund- LIHAF) and the current and planned capacity increases in existing primary schools in the area:



Based on the above analysis, there is a net requirement for 5 classrooms, which will reduce to 3 by 2019. As there is a clear indication of a substantial increase at junior infant level from 138 in 2017 to 171 pupils by September 2021, this factor must be taken into consideration. It was decided to establish 1 x 8 classroom primary school in 2019.

¹ **Average Actual Intake Pattern:** if all children resident in the relevant school planning area attended primary school in that school planning area, the intake pattern would be 100%. If the intake pattern is less than 100%, it would suggest that some children are travelling to schools outside the school planning area. If the intake pattern is greater than 100%, it would suggest that a number of children are travelling into schools in the school planning area from other school planning areas. The average intake pattern over a number of years allows the Department to project the likely demand over the coming years assuming a continuation of the same pattern.

4. Assessment of applications

All patrons have agreed to the Patronage Commitments as set out in the Section D of the Patronage Application Form attached to main report.

The invitation letter to patrons, also attached to the main report, sets out in detail the:

- Arrangements for the Establishment and Patronage of New Primary Schools due to open in September 2019.
- General Information for Prospective Patrons; and
- Patron Code of Conduct

➤ 4.1 Multiple Provider Areas

There are currently six primary schools in the Dunshaughlin school planning area:

Roll No	School Name	Patron	Ethos	Language of Instruction	Gender	DEIS	2017/18 Enrolments*
16790V	SN Naomh Seosamh	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	85
17312N	SN Cul an Mhuilinn	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	89
17521W	SN Colmcille	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	221
17742P	Scoil Nais Mhuire Naofa	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	99
17930Q	SN Seachnaill Naofa	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	494
19867W	Scoil Na Rithe	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	Irish	Mixed	N	225

*Latest confirmed enrolments, 2018/19 are provisional.

All six primary schools in the school planning area are Catholic.

All proposed models would increase diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.

There are eight Educate Together National Schools in the vicinity of Dunshaughlin, ranging from approximately 13km to 23km. There are three Community National Schools ranging in distance from 16km to 19km.

➤ 4.2 Parental Preferences

○ 4.2.1 Patronage Preference

The table below sets out the first preferences received by each applicant patron:

Applicant Patron	Valid First Preferences
An Foras Pátrúnachta	14
Educate Together	54
Louth Meath Education & Training Board	56
Scoil Sinéad	2
Total Valid First Preferences	126

○ 4.2.2 Language Preferences

Breakdown of first preferences by preferred language of instruction

Language of Instruction Preferences	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Educate Together	LMETB	Scoil Sinead	Total Preferences
English-medium	1	44	48	2	95
Irish-medium	10	1	3	0	14
No Preference	3	9	5	0	17
Total First Preferences	14	54	56	2	126

The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction is relatively low 14 (or 11.1% of first preferences) compared with 95 (or 75.4%) of preferences for English-medium instruction while 17 (or 13.5%) of parents did not specify a preference for language of instruction.

An Foras Pátrúnachta is the only applicant patron to propose an Irish-medium school while some other applicant patrons proposed English-medium but indicated their willingness to offer an Irish-medium school if demand exists for same.

Gaelscoileanna within the School Planning Area

Roll No	School Name	Total Enrolment 2017/18	Ethos
19867W	Scoil na Rithe	225	Catholic

Gaelscoileanna in 10km radius of the centre point of the school planning area

Roll No	School Name	Total Enrolment 2017/18	Ethos	School Planning Area
20382F	Gaelscoil na Mí	236	Multi-Denominational	Ashbourne

Note that there is one additional gaelscoil within 11.5km of the centre point of the school planning area.

Language preferences and current provision in the school planning area

Applicant Patron	No of Irish Language Preferences	% of Irish Language Preferences	Current Irish Medium Provision	
Louth Meath ETB	3	21.4%	Number of primary schools in SPA	6
Educate Together	1	7.1%	Total Enrolment	1,213
An Foras Pátrúnachta	10	71.4%	Of which are Gaelscoileanna	1
Scoil Sinéad	0	0.0%	Enrolments in Gaelscoileanna	225
	14	11.1%	% Current Irish Provision in SPA	18.6%

5. Conclusions

- All parents expressed a preference for multi-denominational patronage and 95 parents (75%) expressed a preference for English-medium provision.
- All patrons have confirmed that they will satisfy the requirements as set out by the Department for the patronage of new schools.
- All proposed models would increase diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.
- Louth and Meath Education & Training Board received the highest number of valid first preference votes i.e. 56 or 44.4%.
- The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction was 14 of 126 valid first preferences (11.1%) compared with 95 of 126 valid first preferences (75.4%) for English-medium instruction.
- Based on the results of the parental preferences and broader analysis, including the extent of diversity currently available in this and the adjoining school planning areas, the analysis indicates that the patronage of the new primary school for the Dunshaughlin school planning area should be awarded to Louth Meath Education & Training Board to provide a multi-denominational primary school with English as the language of instruction.

Forward Planning Section
Department of Education and Skills
February 2019