

New primary Schools 2012/2013

Location	Carpenterstown
Year Required	2013
School Size required	24
Applications Received	Educate Together – Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, English medium An Foras Patrúnachta – Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, Irish medium

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)

- **A.** Is willing to accept and open special education facilities
- **B.** Is willing to have up to three streams subject to demand for the school
- **C.** Is willing to enter into the standard lease agreement with DES (or otherwise provide their own site)
- **D.** Is willing to operate by the rules and regulations laid down by various DES circulars and operating procedures and to follow the prescribed curriculum
- **E.** Is willing to operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the DES
- **F.** Is willing to be part of a campus development with other primary or second level schools as identified by the Department
- **G.** Is willing to enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school

Educate Together has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as set out above. They have been very comprehensive in how they will meet the requirements.

An Foras Pátrúnachta has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as 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)

Roll No	School Name	Ethos	Patron	Medium of Instruction	2010/11 Total Enrolment
19769W	SCOIL THOMAS	Catholic	Catholic Archbishop	English	670
20241K	SCOIL CHOILM NS	Multi-Denom	County Dublin VEC	English	265
Total					935

Patron	% of total by patron
Catholic Archbishop	72%
County Dublin VEC	28%

Ethos	% of total by ethos
Catholic	72%
Multi Denominational	28%

Roll No	School Name	2010-2011	2006-2007	2001-2002
19769W	SCOIL THOMAS	670	678	854
20241K	SCOIL CHOILM NS	265	0	0

Roll_No	School_Name	Jnr_Inf	Snr_Inf	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
19769W	SCOIL THOMAS	71	80	92	91	83	78	90	85
20241K	SCOIL CHOILM COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL	52	64	63	86	0	0	0	0

Scoil Choilm NS RN 20241K was established to serve the demographic need in this area in September 2007. This school currently has two junior infant streams, and is planned to grow (via an extension) to 4 streams. This extension project is planned for delivery for 2013.

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

As can be seen from the above table there is a 2 stream multi-denominational school in the area, planned to grow to four streams – this is the ethos proposed by both applicant patrons. However there is no all Irish medium school in the immediate area.

(c) The proximity of schools of similar ethos to those proposed by the applicant patrons.

There are only two schools in the specified area, one Catholic, and one Multi-denominational. The nearest other Multi-denominational primary school is in the neighbouring area of Castleknock – Castleknock Educate Together, with 2 streams at junior infant level, and no room to expand on the site. This school is approximately 3-4 km distant from Scoil Choilm. The nearest Irish-medium primary school to this area is in the neighbouring area of Blanchardstown Village – SN Oilibheir RN 19505L, approximately 2km from the area in question. In addition, there is a new gaelscoil due to commence operation in Mulhuddart in September 2012 under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta, circa 6 km from the area in question.

According to the 2006 Census, of the 448,367 5-12 year olds in school, 256,378 or 57% of the total travelled 4km or less to school, while 73% of the total travelled under 9km.

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

28% of children attending schools in the Carpenterstown area are in a Multi-denominational school. Both Patron models for a multi-Denominational school would therefore extend and strengthen the diversity of provision.

72% of children attending schools in the Carpenterstown area are in Christian ethos primary schools.

It should also be noted, the nearest Irish-medium primary school to this area is in the neighbouring area of Blanchardstown Village – SN Oilibheir RN 19505L. This school seems to be at capacity on its current site.

(e) Has the applicant patron demonstrated that there is a demand for this type of school in the area.

According to the Child Benefit Data there are a potential 271 children in the Carpenterstown feeder area who could start school in 2013.

ET numbers:

Total	289
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Approx Outside Area	139
Approx Of those 139 in surrounding D15 wider area	125
Total in area specified for school	150

Carpenterstown						
	2008 - 2011 (already in school)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Unassigned to class group	124					
JNR INFANT		22	2	2	0	0
Outside Carpenterstown Area						
JNR INFANT	115	19	4	1	0	0

An Foras numbers:

Carpenterstown					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
JNR INFANT	1	6	7	9	1
Outside Carpenterstown area					
JNR INFANT	4	7	5	5	0

Educate Together has expressions of interest equating to 50 junior infants between 2012 and 2016 – of those 26 are within the specified area, and 2 are in wider Dublin 15 area. The data provided indicates 22 Junior infants in the area in 2012.

An Foras Patrúnachta has expressions of interest equating to 45 junior infants between 2012 and 2016 – 24 of those within the specified area, and 21 in the wider Dublin 15 area.

(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).

The majority of the expressions of interest provided by Educate Together are from addresses within the specified area – 150 out of the 289 provided. 26 of those relate to children to start between 2012 and 2014 – those listed as in school between 2008 and 2011 cannot be considered for this exercise.

The majority of the expressions of interest provided by An Foras Patrúnachta are also from addresses within the specified area – 24 of the 45 provided.

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

Not applicable for this area.

3. Other Information

Please see in the appendix, two representations received in relation to the establishment of a new school in Carpenterstown in 2013, from the principal of Scoil Choilm Community National School Ms Treasa Lowe, and from Dr Marie Griffin CEO of County Dublin VEC. These representations express reservations regarding the need to establish this new school, in advance of delivering the final building phase for Scoil Choilm (which will provide 2 additional junior infant streams), and the possible negative impact this may have on enrolments in Scoil Choilm.

On foot of this correspondence, officials from Forward Planning Section have met with a delegation of local school principals and also visited the area with a view to discussing their concerns. On foot of these meetings Forward Planning Section agreed to carry out a further analysis of projected requirements in the area.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Both of these patrons agree to conform to the conditions as set out in section 1, though the Educate Together submission did elucidate each of the criteria in greater detail. Under the “Requirements” there is little to choose between the applicants though Educate Together have been more comprehensive in how the new school will meet them. Only An Foras offer an Irish language school though the expressions of interest provided indicate more demand among local parents for an English speaking school.

An Foras has shown evidence of future demand through their list of parents and the presence of Naíonraí in the area. According to the submission made by An Foras, there are 80 children attending those Naíonraí. An Foras also point to the growth in the number of Irish language speakers between 2002 and 2006 in the Dublin 15 area (from 394,240 to 410,669 according to Census data).

Educate Together has very strong parental demand, and their pre-enrolment list indicates that the school would be a viable entity from the outset. They have also clearly expressed a willingness to facilitate parental choice through co-operation in campus development and by taking on board an Irish stream if necessary and if numbers indicate that there would be local demand.

In terms of offering diversity – The An Foras Patrúnachta proposed model of a multi-denominational Irish-medium school will strengthen the provision of multi-denominational education in the area, while also providing a further choice to parents, for all-Irish education. Educate Together would also provide multi-denominational ethos in the area, and would cater for an Irish-language stream if required.

Recommendation

An Foras Patrúnachta has produced a list of proposed attendees at the schools, which suggests a demand for an Irish medium school in the area. There is a Gaelscoil in neighbouring Blanchardstown Village which would appear to be at capacity. However, there is a new Gaelscoil scheduled to open in Mulhuddart in September 2012, which is very adjacent to Carpenterstown. There does not appear to be a sufficient level of demand for all-Irish provision in the area to justify the establishment of a second new all-Irish school in such close proximity. The new all-Irish school in Mulhuddart should be allowed to grow to capacity before consideration is given to the opening of another gaelscoil in the area.

Educate Together has shown very strong demand for their type of school, and they refer to the historic demand in the area for the type of school proposed – in the wider Dublin 15 area, many of the new schools opened have been Educate Together schools, and these schools have grown significantly. Therefore, they are recommended as patron of the new school.

However, given the local principals’ unease about the accuracy of Child Benefit Data for the area and the mobile population evident in the area, while it is felt prudent to progress with plans for the appointment of a patron, the opening date for a new school in the area should be kept under review pending the geo-coding of the most up-to-date Child Benefit Data.

*Forward Planning Section
26th January 2012*