

### New primary Schools 2012/2013

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cork South Suburbs – Douglas/Rochestown Area</b>
<b>Year Required</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>School Size required</b>	<b>24 Classrooms</b>
<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>County Cork VEC – Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, English medium</b> <b>Educate Together – Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, English Medium</b> <b>An Foras Patrúnachta – Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, Irish medium</b>

#### 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

*An Foras Pátrúnachta has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as set out above.*

*Co. cork VEC has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as set out above.*

*Educate Together has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as set out above.*

All applicants have agreed that they will comply with the above. It should be noted that Co. Cork VEC have gone into great detail on how these will be met e.g. they point out that they have a strong record in catering for students with special education needs and that they are currently operating in a shared campus (applies mainly at post primary level). Educate Together also provide detail as to how the criteria will be met e.g. they point out who they share campuses with.

**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)

**Details of Current Schools in the Area**

<b>Roll No</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Ethos</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>Medium of Instruction+</b>	<b>2010/11 Total Enrolment</b>	<b>% in school of Total Area Enrolment</b>
05508O	ST COLUMBAS N.S	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Cork & Ross	English	547	24%
12012W	ST LUKES N S DOUGLAS	COI	Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross COI	English	219	10%

13828F	DOUGLAS B N S	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Cork & Ross	English	531	23%
20106E	SCOIL NIOCLAIS	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Cork & Ross	English	821	36%
20335T	SCOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Cork & Ross	English	151	7%
<b>Total</b>					<b>2269</b>	<b>100%</b>

Roll Number	School Name	Junior Infant	Senior Infant	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	4th Class	5th Class	6th Class	Total
05508O	ST COLUMBAS N.S (G)	39	55	70	66	57	72	75	85	519
12012W	ST LUKES N S DOUGLAS (M)	28	27	25	31	28	27	30	26	222
13828F	DOUGLAS B N S (B)	44	65	73	56	67	64	85	83	537
20106E	SCOIL NIOCLAIS (M)	117	143	118	113	85	87	59	75	797
20335T	SCOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA (M)	54	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>2,167</b>
	<b>Jun vs Sen</b>	<b>1,162</b>				<b>1,005</b>				

Patron	% of total by patron
Catholic Bishop	90%
COI Bishop	10%

Ethos	% of total by ethos
Catholic	90%
COI	10%

**All schools are considered to be at capacity at Junior Infant level in their current locations.**

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

All schools are currently denominational and the three applicants are essentially providing multi denominational schools. Therefore each will provide equally for additional choice on religious grounds, though of course An Fóras offers the additional element of language diversity. As all the schools are of the same Ethos and Language Medium, enrolment data has not been provided as it would not indicate any particular trend of preference.

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

**The nearest gaelscoil is Gaelscoil an Athar Tadhg O Murchú (GS na Dúglaise) RN 19882S, Douglas, circa 3km distant.**

**The nearest multi-denominational school is Cork NS Project 9(an Educate Together School), circa 5 km distant.**

According to the 2006 census, of the 448,367 5 to 12 year olds in school, 256,378 or 57% of them travelled 4km or less to school while 73% of them 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?

**90% of children attend schools of Catholic Ethos, 10% attend Church of Ireland Ethos schools. As such, all applicant patrons represent a strengthening of diversity of provision in the area.**

(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 432 children in this feeder area who could start school in 2013.

**VEC Expression of interest**

<b>SthSub Douglas/Roch Area</b>				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
JNR INFANT	3	6		
<b>Outside SthSub Douglas/Roch Area</b>				

JNR INFANT		4	
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Children already in primary school	
SthSub Douglas/Roch Area	Outside SthSub Douglas/Roch Area
1	0

**ET Expressions of interest**

SthSub Douglas/Roch Area				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant	9	6	9	4
No class group given	2			

Outside SthSub Douglas/Roch Area				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant	3	9	3	2
No class group given			2	1

Children already in primary school	
SthSub Douglas/Roch Area	Outside SthSub Douglas/Roch Area
3	6

**An Foras Patrúnachta expressions of interest**

SthSub Douglas/Roch Area				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
JNR INFANT	2	3	1	1

Outside SthSub Douglas/Roch Area				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
JNR INFANT	1		1	

ET has the greatest number of expressions of interest – 59 collected in all. Of those 33 are within the area specified, and of those 33, 28/30 represent junior infants between 2013 and 2016 (2 children were not listed with a class group, so are assumed to be junior infants in those years). 26 are from outside the specified area, and of those 17/20 represent junior infants between 2013 and 2016 (3 children were not listed with a class group, so are assumed to be junior infants in those years). 9 of those children listed are already in primary school – 3 within the specified area, and 6 outside of that.

Cork County VEC provided 15 expressions of interest in total. Of those, 10 are within the area specified, and of those 10, 9 represent junior infants between 2013 and 2014. 4 expressions of interest are from outside the specified area, listed as junior infants for 2014. One expression of interest was provided for a child already in primary school.

An Foras Patrúnachta provided 9 expressions of interest in total. Of those, 7 are within the specified area, and all represent junior infants between 2013 and 2016. Two expressions of interest were provided from outside the specified area, both representing junior infants between 2013 and 2015.

(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 all applicant patrons are from within the specified area.**

(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. Additional information**

Please see attached at Appendix 1 a letter received from the nearest Gaelscoil to the proposed area – GS an Athar Tadhg O Murchú (GS na Dúglaise) RN 19882S – from the chairperson of the Board of Management. This representation points out that they are very close to the school in question, have no capacity issues and feel that their school can cope with the demand for Gaelscoil provision in the area.

#### **4. Conclusions and recommendations**

Forward Planning Section's figures suggest that the new school will have at least three streams.

Under the 'Requirements' there is little to choose between the applicants though Educate Together and Co. Cork VEC have been more comprehensive in how the new school will meet them. Only An Foras offer an Irish language school though the list of expressions of interest provided by the patrons indicates more demand for an English speaking school if only one school is to be opened.

The VEC have provided evidence of future demand through their list of parents. The VEC have also clearly undertaken a very strong consultative process locally, to advise on their school.

An Foras have given evidence of future demand through their list of parents. They have also provided information on a strong Gaelic tradition in the area; however this may not translate into a demand for a gaelscoil.

Educate Together have demonstrated very strong parental demand and their pre-enrolment list indicates that the school would be a viable entity from the outset. They have also stated that there has been a campaign in the area for an Educate Together school in the area since 2008.

Additionally, Educate Together clearly expressed a willingness to facilitate parental choice through co-operation in a campus development and by taking on board an Irish stream if necessary.

#### **Recommendation**

**Educate Together** has produced a list of proposed attendees at the schools, which suggests a high demand for this patronage model for the school among the age cohort the school would be intended to serve, and in the specified area. In comparison to other applications Educate Together has identified a very strong parental demand in the area for a school under their patronage. This in tandem with the fact that they will meet all requirements and comply with all criteria, leads to the conclusion that Educate Together's application for patronage should be granted in this instance.

*Forward Planning Section  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2012*