

New primary Schools 2012/2013

Location: Firhouse/Oldbawn

Year Required: 2013

School Size required: 16 Classrooms

Applications Received:

- 1) **Educate Together- Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, English Medium**
- 2) **Co Dublin VEC - Co-Educational, Multi-Denominational, English Medium**
- 3) **An Foras Pátrúnachta – 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)

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

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

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	Ethos/Medium	2010/11	% in school of Total Area Enrolment	2006/07	2001/02	Jnr	Snr	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
17899C	Scoil Carmel	Catholic/English	431	10%	432	439	105	101	111	108	0	0	0	0
17996A	Glen Na Smol N S	Catholic/English	71	2%	61	44	12	8	10	7	6	10	14	4
19462T	Naomh Maolruain	Catholic/English	352	8%	352	285	83	95	87	87	0	0	0	0

19463V	Naomh Maolruain Senior	Catholic/English	357	8%	300	303	0	0	0	0	89	87	91	90
19464A	SN Naomh Colmcille	Catholic/English	33	1%	36	19	3	6	8	2	4	4	6	0
19543T	Scoil N An Croi Ro Naofa	Catholic/English	284	7%	254	290	0	0	0	0	76	61	68	65
19565G	Scoil Treasa Firhouse	Catholic/English	423	10%	413	411	0	0	0	0	92	109	98	113
19613O	Scoil Cnoc Mhuire Sin	Catholic/English	162	4%	151	202	0	0	0	0	29	41	26	32
19617W	St Martin De Porres N S	Catholic/English	427	10%	322	276	50	60	62	56	55	33	63	41
19646G	Scoil Santain	Catholic/Irish	357	8%	308	291	52	56	46	45	51	36	35	36
19652B	An Chroi Ro Naofa Sois	Catholic/English	273	6%	292	257	74	61	69	63	0	0	0	0
19775R	Scoil Cnoc Mhuire Junior	Catholic/English	150	3%	166	166	42	27	32	37	0	0	0	0
19872P	Scoil Chaitlin Maude	Catholic/Irish	215	5%	228	185	40	34	24	24	16	13	29	25
19878E	Holy Rosary Primary School	Catholic/English	551	13%	460	301	64	72	74	72	80	66	69	52
19950J	St Dominics N S	Catholic/English	209	5%	194	233	22	26	26	30	24	24	28	27
			4295	100%	3969	3702	547	546	549	531	522	484	527	485

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

Currently all the schools in the area are catholic

- 1) Educate Together – Yes, there are no other no other multid denominational schools in the area.
- 2) Co Dublin VEC – Yes, there are no other no other multid denominational schools in the area.
- 3) An Foras Pátrúnachta – Yes, there are 2 other Irish medium schools but their ethos is catholic, the ethos of the proposed new school will be multid denominational.

(c) The proximity of school(s) of similar ethos to those proposed by the applicant patron(s)

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

It is therefore unlikely for children to travel further than this to a similar type school if it is greater than this distance

There are only catholic schools in the feeder area. The closest multidenominational school is Rathfarnham Educate Together it is approximately 6km away.

The 2 existing all-Irish schools in the feeder area have a catholic ethos and are 3km or more from the area to be served by the new school.

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

- 1) Educate Together – Yes, the proposed school is multidenominational
- 2) Co Dublin VEC – Yes, the proposed school is multidenominational
- 3) An Foras Pátrúnachta – Yes, while there are other Irish medium schools in the area they are catholic, An Foras propose a multi-denominational school.

(e) Has the applicant patron demonstrated that there is a demand for this type of school in the area (Comment on the applicant’s demonstration of parental demand for the school type proposed. Take into consideration the extent or range of diversity offered across existing schools in the identified area, having regard to the views of parents)

According to the Child Benefit Data there are a potential 772 children who could start school in this feeder area in 2013

Composite table showing the level of parental interest demonstrated by each of the applicant patrons for each of the areas:

Applicant Patron	Tallaght/ City West/ Fortunestown Area – 2012 start	Tallaght West Area – 2013 start	Firhouse/Oldbawn Area – 2013 start	Total
Educate Together				
Jl 2012	1	1	0	2
Jl 2013	5	3	5	13
Jl 2014	7	4	5	16
Jl 2015	14	1	8	23
Jl 2016	10	8	3	21

Total	37	17	21	75
An Foras Pátrúnacha				
Jl 2012	3	4	2	9
Jl 2013	3	1	6	10
Jl 2014	4	0	1	5
Jl 2015	1	1	2	4
Jl 2016	0	0	0	0
Total	11	6	11	28
County Dublin VEC				
Jl 2012	22	0	0	22
Jl 2013	0	23	21	44
Jl 2014	0	0	0	0
Jl 2015	2	3	1	6
Jl 2016	1	1	2	4
Total	25	27	24	76
The Redeemed Christian Church				
Jl 2012	0	1	0	1
Jl 2013	0	0	0	0
Jl 2014	0	1	0	1
Jl 2015	0	0	0	0
Jl 2016	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	2

1) Educate Together

Educate Together				
Feeder Area	2013 Junior Infants	2014 Junior Infants	2015 Junior Infants	2016 Junior Infants
Firhouse/Oldbawn	5	5	8	3
Outside Firhouse/Oldbawn but in Tallaght, Citywest or Tallaght West	8	11	15	17
Completely outside Tallaght	5	1	5	1

Educate Together supplied a list of 179 children which covers all of Tallaght with their dates of birth and the year which they will start school. There were 24 to start in 2013. Only 1 of these 24 children has a date of birth in 2008 or 2009 which would mean they would potentially start school in 2013. The rest all have dates of births in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and 11 of these children are from outside the catchment. However there are 18 children on the list with dates of birth applicable to starting school in 2013, 5 are in the locality 8 are in the Tallaght area and 5 are from outside the Tallaght area. In all there are 179 names on the list however there are 63 children with dates of birth between 06/2012 and 08/2015 and 18 children already in school

2) Co Dublin VEC

County Dublin VEC				
Feeder Area	2013 Junior Infants	2014 Junior Infants	2015 Junior Infants	2016 Junior Infants
Firhouse/Oldbawn	21	0	1	2
Surrounding Areas	0	0	0	0

The list of 21 names provided in the VEC application relates to children whose parents expressed an interest for enrolling in junior infants in 2013.

3) An Foras Pátrúnachta

An Foras Pátrúnachta			
Feeder Area	2013 Junior Infants	2014 Junior Infants	2015 Junior Infants
Firhouse/Oldbawn	6	1	2
Outside Firhouse/Oldbawn but in Tallaght, Citywest or Tallaght West	4	4	2

There was one child listed with no date of birth but the address given would appear to be outside the greater Tallaght area.

An Foras Pátrúnachta also provided information on details of Irish language activities in the area. There are 3 naíonraí catering for 90 children, a number of various Irish speaking clubs for adults and Seachtain na Gaeilge the largest Irish language festival in the country is held every year in the 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).

- 1) Educate Together has indicated that it will enrol students from the area as set by the DES. The list provided is hard to follow, but it is stated that Educate Together expect demand for places to increase once the word gets out about the proposal.
- 2) Co Dublin VEC provided the most comprehensive list of 2013 enrolments all in the locality of the proposed school.
- 3) An Foras Pátrúnachta say in their application that the two catholic gaelscoileanna in the area were not able to meet the demand for places this year due to lack of capacity.

(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 in this instance.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Educate Together and An Foras Pátrúnachta each submitted one list of expressions of interest covering the three areas of Tallaght City West/ Fortunestown, Tallaght West and Firhouse/ Oldbawn. This required a detailed examination of the lists by Forward Planning Section to determine what addresses were appropriate to what area and to ensure that children were not double counted for any particular area.

Based on the assessment of the applications received, confirmation of compliance with the criteria, assessment of existing school provision and taking into account parental demand make a recommendation on patronage for the proposed new school/ schools in the area.

- All applicants have confirmed they will comply with the criteria
- All applicants will strengthen diversity of provision
- In the case of the applications from Educate Together and Co Dublin VEC it is noted that there is no existing multi-denominational school in the area
- In the case of the application from An Foras Pátrúnachta it is noted that the existing gaelscoileanna in the wider area are Catholic in ethos

The Department looked at this region as a whole when assessing applications in the greater Tallaght area, both in regard to applications received and in regard to optimising parental choice and strengthening of diversity in the area as a whole.

In assessing the applications the Department was mindful of the fact that there were very similar levels of demand overall demonstrated by both Educate Together and the VEC, albeit that the demonstrated demand for the VEC model was stronger in the year of opening in all cases. The overall parental demand demonstrated in both the Educate Together application and the VEC application were at significantly higher levels than the demand demonstrated in the other applications.

An Foras Pátrúnachta has given evidence of future demand through their list of parents and the presence of naíonraí in the area. It is also worth noting that the current all-Irish catholic ethos schools in that general area are a barometer of the strength of demand for all-Irish education across the broader area. Educate Together has also demonstrated parental demand, particularly for future years. They have also expressed a willingness to facilitate parental choice through co-operation in campus development and by taking on board, an Irish stream if necessary. County Dublin VEC has demonstrated very strong parental demand especially in the first year of operation.

Looking at the Firhouse/ Oldbawn, Tallaght/ Citywest/Fortunestown and Tallaght West areas as a whole, it is recommended that patronage be awarded in Firhouse/ Oldbawn to both Educate Together and An Foras Patrúnachta to each form a new school in the Firhouse/ Oldbawn area for 2013 having regard to the levels of parental demand demonstrated in the applications.

It should also be noted that it is recommended that the new schools to commence in the Tallaght/ Citywest/ Fortunestown area in 2012 be under the patronage of Educate Together and Co. Dublin VEC and that it is recommended that the new school to commence in the Tallaght West area in 2013 be under the patronage of Co. Dublin VEC.

These recommendations serve the broader Tallaght and Firhouse/Oldbawn areas as a whole and reflect the range of parental preferences and demand and serve to strengthen the diversity of provision across the broader area.

*Forward Planning Section
16th February 2012*