

New primary Schools 2012/2013

Location: Galway West, Knocknacarra Area

Year Required: 2013

School Size required: 16 Classrooms

Applications Received:

Lifeways Ireland Ltd (LIL) – Co-educational, Multi Denominational, English Medium.

City of Galway VEC (CGVEC) – Co-educational, Multi-denominational, Irish Medium

Educate Together (ET) – Co-educational, Multi Denominational, English Medium

An Foras – (AF) – 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

LIL: - has indicated that they are willing to comply with six of the above requirements. They did not respond in relation to the requirement “Is willing to operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the DES” and therefore are not being assessed further as part of this analysis.

CGVEC: - The applicant has stated that it is “committed to meeting all the requirements of the DES and confirms its willingness to cater for all the children of the area and to operate the school within the resources and policy parameters as laid down by DES”.

ET: - has confirmed that it will meet all the requirements as set out above. They have been very comprehensive in how the new school will meet the requirements.

AF: - 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)

There are a total of thirty four schools in the Galway City feeder area. There are fifteen schools within the immediate area to be served, the ethos of which is predominantly Catholic (93%) 35% of which are all-Irish provision, one Church of Ireland (2%) and one Multi Denominational Educate Together (5%). The ethos of the remaining nineteen schools in the wider Galway City feeder area is 98% Catholic, 33% of which are all-Irish provision and 2% Multi Denominational Educate Together. Please see details set out in the tables below.

Details of 15 Schools in the immediate Area to be Served

Roll No	School Name	Ethos	Patron	2010/11 Total Enrolment	% in school of Total Area Enrolment	Medium of Instruction
13856K	Bushy Park N S	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	411	10%	English
13914V	Scoil Naomh Iosef	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	106	3%	Irish
16750J	Parochial N S	COI	COI Bishop	97	2%	English
16943U	Niochlas N S	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	323	8%	English
17759J	S N Brighde	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	135	3%	Irish
17782E	S N Bride Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	343	8%	English
17784I	S N Padraic Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	295	7%	English
18634R	Scoil Ide	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	278	7%	English
18929N	Scoil Naomh Einde	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	81	2%	English
19241D	Dominican Covent	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	433	10%	English
19371Q	S N Iognaid	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	531	13%	Irish
19803T	SN Seamus Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	258	6%	Irish
19994G	Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	441	10%	Irish
20000L	*Galway Educate Together N.S.	Multi Denom	ET	225	5%	English
20108I	St.John the Apostle Knocknacarra	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	264	6%	English
Total				4221	100%	

* It is planned to extend this school to 16 MCR's, this has been agreed with the Patron Body

Catholic	93%
Church of Ireland	2%
Multi Denom	5%

35% All Irish

Patron

Catholic Bishop	93%
COI Bishop	2%
Educate Together	5%

35% All Irish

Details of 15 Schools in the immediate Area To Be Served - By Standard

Roll No	SCHOOL	Jnr	Snr	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total
13856K	BUSHY PARK N S	51	52	51	55	55	46	51	50	411
13914V	SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	11	11	11	15	19	10	19	10	106
16750J	PAROCHIAL N S	12	15	13	11	9	13	13	11	97
16943U	NIOCHLAS N S	34	31	36	33	43	49	38	37	301
17759J	S N BRIGHDE	19	14	19	17	15	22	14	15	135
17782E	S N BRIDE NAOFA	25	22	31	43	29	37	35	27	249
17784I	S N PADRAIC NAOFA	0	0	0	37	54	53	78	64	286
18634R	SCOIL IDE	52	31	54	26	26	28	31	30	278
18929N	SCOIL NAOMH EINDE	0	0	0	16	17	22	13	13	81
19241D	DOMINICAN CONVENT	36	58	52	42	54	66	56	56	420
19371Q	S N IOGNAID	69	88	71	58	64	60	61	60	531
19803T	SN SEAMUS NAOFA	28	34	29	33	28	31	40	35	258
19994G	GAELSCOIL MHIC AMHLAIGH	62	55	60	61	55	59	31	58	441
20000L	GALWAY EDUCATE TOGETHER N.S.	24	28	28	29	29	27	26	27	218
20108I	St. John the Apostle N S	82	50	51	53	28	0	0	0	264
Totals		505	489	506	529	525	523	506	493	4076
Jnr V Snr		2029				2047				

Details of 15 Schools in the immediate Area To Be Served - 5 &10 Year Trends

Roll Number	School Name	2001/02	2006/07	2010/11	5yr trend	10 yr trend
13856K	BUSHY PARK N S	343	363	411	48	68
13914V	SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	107	115	106	-9	-1
16750J	PAROCHIAL N S	98	105	97	-8	-1
16943U	NIOCHLAS N S	180	251	323	72	143
17759J	S N BRIGHDE	120	119	135	16	15
17782E	S N BRIDE NAOFA	276	365	343	-22	67
17784I	S N PADRAIC NAOFA	252	300	295	-5	43
18634R	SCOIL IDE	308	301	278	-23	-30
18929N	SCOIL NAOMH EINDE	122	61	81	20	-41
19241D	DOMINICAN CONVENT	572	532	433	-99	-139
19371Q	S N IOGNAID	514	520	531	11	17
19803T	SN SEAMUS NAOFA	262	282	258	-24	-4
19994G	GAELSCOIL MHIC AMHLAIGH	279	352	441	89	162
20000L	GALWAY EDUCATE TOGETHER N.S.	218	235	225	-10	7
20108I	St. John the Apostle N S	0	52	264	212	264
	Total	3,651	3,953	4,221	268	570

Details of 19 other Schools in the wider Galway City Feeder Area

Roll No	School Name	Ethos	Patron	2010/11 Total Enrolment	% in school of Total Area Enrolment	Medium of Instruction
01013N	Scoil Croi Iosa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	108	2%	English
04515G	Scoil an Linbh Iosa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	178	4%	English
09069L	S N An Bhain Mhoir	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	153	3%	English
16804G	SN Chlair Na Gaillimhe	Catholic	Catholic	350	8%	All Irish

Roll No	School Name	Ethos	Patron	2010/11 Total Enrolment	% in school of Total Area Enrolment	Medium of Instruction
			Bishop			
16937C	S N Fhursa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	254	6%	All Irish
17221K	SN Colmcille	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	90	2%	English
17668G	S N Na Bhforbacha	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	182	4%	All Irish
17845C	SCOIL MHUIRE Scoil Mhuire	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	256	6%	English
18163E	SN N Breandain	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	152	3%	All Irish
19225F	Scoil Michil Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	197	4%	English
19226H	Scoil Na Trionoide Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	399	9%	English
19401W	S N Caitriona Sois	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	395	9%	English
19468I	SN Caitriona Sinsear	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	398	9%	English
19795A	Tirellan Heights N S	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	488	11%	English
19828M	SN Cearn Mor	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	169	4%	All Irish
19858V	Gaelscoil Dara	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	340	8%	All Irish
19997M	Scoil Bhrige & Bhreandain Naofa	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	280	6%	English
20211B	* Claregalway ET N.S.	Multi Denom	ET	88	2%	English
20350P	Merlin Woods Primary School	Catholic	Catholic Bishop	27	1%	English
Total				4504	100%	

* It is planned to extend this school to 16 MCR's subject to agreement with the Patron Body.

Ethos

Catholic	98%	33% All Irish
Multi Denom	2%	

Patron

Catholic Bishop	98%	33% All Irish
Educate Together	2%	

Details of 19 other Schools in the wider Galway City Feeder Area – By Standard

Roll No	SCHOOL	Jnr	Snr	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total
01013N	SCOIL CROI IOSA	9	16	23	4	7	10	12	7	88
04515G	SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA	35	30	28	21	15	11	11	9	160
09069L	S N AN BHAIN MHOIR	19	28	13	23	17	16	19	18	153
16804G	SN CHLAIR NA GAILLIMHE	40	41	42	47	49	40	45	46	350
16937C	S N FURSA	29	31	30	35	35	33	29	32	254
17221K	SN COLMCILLE	11	8	12	4	17	6	9	10	77
17668G	S N NA BHFORBACHA	31	24	18	31	22	25	16	15	182
17845C	BRIARHILL NS	28	28	37	41	28	30	29	29	250
18163E	SN N BREANDAIN	24	25	24	20	16	17	13	13	152
19225F	SCOIL MICHIL NAOFA	0	0	0	40	27	28	30	29	154
19226H	SCOIL NA TRIONOIDE NAOFA	31	48	42	32	41	21	38	31	284
19401W	S N CAITRIONA SOIS	91	94	100	87	0	0	0	0	372
19468I	SN CAITRIONA SINSEAR	0	0	0	0	100	105	85	90	380
19795A	TIRELLAN HEIGHTS N S	53	44	59	36	57	59	43	45	396
19828M	SN CEARN MOR	19	18	17	20	27	21	21	26	169
19858V	GAELSCOIL DARA	53	42	57	45	31	48	39	25	340
19997M	SCOIL BHRIGE AGUS BHREANDAIN NAOFA	36	40	35	38	31	27	35	38	280
20211B	CLAREGALWAY EDUCATE TOGETHER N S	15	14	15	9	8	14	6	7	88
20350P	MERLIN WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Total		546	536	552	533	528	511	480	470	4156
Jnr V Snr		2167				1989				

Details of 19 other Schools in the wider Galway City Feeder Area – 5 & 10 Year Trends

Roll Number	School Name	2001/02	2006/07	2010/11	5yr trend	10 yr trend
01013N	SCOIL CROI IOSA	154	169	108	-61	-46
04515G	SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA	175	144	178	34	3
09069L	S N AN BHAIN MHOIR	138	129	153	24	15
16804G	SN CHLAIR NA GAILLIMHE	280	328	350	22	70
16937C	S N FURSA	276	271	254	-17	-22
17221K	SN COLMCILLE	64	71	90	19	26
17668G	S N NA BHFORBACHA	121	152	182	30	61
17845C	BRIARHILL NS	203	234	256	22	53
18163E	SN N BREANDAIN	82	86	152	66	70
19225F	SCOIL MICHIL NAOFA	171	164	197	33	26
19226H	SCOIL NA TRIONOIDE NAOFA	411	444	399	-45	-12
19401W	S N CAITRIONA SOIS	332	393	395	2	63
19468I	SN CAITRIONA SINSEAR	356	380	398	18	42
19795A	TIRELLAN HEIGHTS N S	456	458	488	30	32
19828M	SN CEARN MOR	164	175	169	-6	5
19858V	GAELSCOIL DARA	230	270	340	70	110
19997M	SCOIL BHRIGE AGUS BHREANDAIN NAOFA	227	277	280	3	53
20211B	CLAREGALWAY EDUCATE TOGETHER N S	0	61	88	27	88
20350P	MERLIN WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL	0	0	27	27	27
	Total	3,840	4,206	4,504	298	664

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

CGVEC: – Yes – All-Irish Community National School – Multi Denominational

ET: – No – there is a Galway ET N.S. Thomas Hynes Road, Newcastle which is 3.3 km from Knocknacarra. Roll No: 20000L. The total enrolments in 2010 was 218 pupils. This school is to the east of the area to be served. There is also another ET school in the feeder area in Claregalway. Claregalway ET N.S. Cloonbiggan Road, Claregalway. This is 15.07km from Knocknacarra. Roll No: 20211B. The total enrolment in 2010 was 88 pupils.

AF: – Yes – Irish-medium School with Multi-Denominational characteristic spirit. Currently all Irish-Medium schools are under Catholic Patronage.

(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.

CGVEC: – there is no other All-Irish Community National School Model in the feeder area.

ET: – there are two ET Multi-Denominational schools in the feeder area, one on Thomas Hynes Road, Newcastle 3.3km away from Knocknacarra, and one on Cloonbiggan Road, Claregalway which is 15.07km away.

AF: – there is no other Irish-medium Multi-Denominational school in the feeder area.

(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?

CGVEC: – Yes – Community National School – Multi Denominational

ET: – Yes – while there are two ET schools in the area the applicant has produced a list of expressions of interest from parents. However, there are two ET schools in the feeder area, (one in Newcastle which is 3.3km from the area to be served and the other in Claregalway which is 15.07km from the area to be served) both of which are planned to be extended to P+16 schools. The applicant states their willingness, should the demand arise, to the provision of an Irish medium stream within the ET school.

AF: – Yes – in terms of an Irish-medium School Multi-Denominational characteristic spirit.

(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 1,312 children in the Galway City feeder area who could start school in 2013.

CGVEC: – applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest. Names and addresses are provided for 29 homes and 37 children. In 2013, 9 would be Junior Infants (plus 3 from outside the feeder area).

**City of Galway
VEC**

Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant	9	6	7	3

Outside Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant	3	3	2	0

*Children born Pre 1/7/2007	
Galway City Feeder	Outside Galway City Feeder
4	

ET: – applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest. Names and addresses are provided for 35 homes and 45 children (one would appear to be a duplicate). In 2013, 13 would be Junior Infants. However, there are two ET schools in the feeder area, (one in Newcastle which is 3.3km from the area to be served and the other in Claregalway which is 15.07km from the area to be served) both of which are planned to be extended to 16 classroom schools, both schools currently have 8 classrooms. (There is not yet a site for Claregalway.)

Educate Together

Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant	13	6	9	2

Outside Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr Infant				

*Children born Pre 1/7/2007	
Galway City Feeder	Outside Galway City Feeder
14	

AF: – applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest for five children only, only two of which would be due to start school in 2013. The applicant states that in Knocknacarra, Naíonraí can be availed of through the medium of Irish.

The applicant’s submission provides a copy of a letter circulated by Colaiste na Coiribe (which is a City of Galway VEC school) to parents in Knocknacarra. The letter states that “*It is envisaged that the VEC primary school students would automatically transfer over to post-primary education in Colaiste na Coiribe*”. The applicant feels that this left parents no other choice but to support the application of the VEC, and thus has had a negative impact on their own campaign. (a copy of this letter is attached).

An Foras

Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr				
Infant	2	1	2	

Outside Galway City Feeder				
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jnr				
Infant				

*Children born Pre 1/7/2007	
Galway City Feeder	Outside Galway City Feeder

(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).

CGVEC: the applicant has confirmed its willingness to cater for all the children of the area, in addition to agreeing to point 7 of the requirements.

ET: – has stated that the ET Charter requires that all children have equal rights of access to the school, with children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds being equally respected. They confirm that enrolment in the proposed school will be open to all children from Knocknacarra who wish to apply, in addition to agreeing to point 7 of the requirements.

AF: – has confirmed a willingness to enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school.

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

CGVEC: – N/A

ET: – N/A

AF: – N/A

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions:

LIL: – The applicant has not confirmed a willingness to point 5 of the requirements which is “Is willing to operate the school within the resourcing and policy parameters established by the DES” and therefore was not assessed as part of this analysis.

CGVEC: –The applicant has stated that it is “committed to meeting all the requirements of the DES and confirms its willingness to cater for all the children of the area and to operate the school within the resources and policy parameters as laid down by DES”. The applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest from parents, and has projected ahead with junior infant numbers for 2014, 2015 and 2016. Applicant suggests campus with Coláiste na Coiribe.

This application not only provides for extending diversity of provision in the area, but it also provides the Department an opportunity to further fulfil its obligation to the provision of Irish-medium education under the Education Act 1998 and the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.

ET: – the applicant has indicated that they are willing to comply with all seven of the requirements as set out. They state that while the ethos proposed is already available in the area it is oversubscribed (there is an ET school in Newcastle which is 3.3km from the area to be served, and another in Claregalway which is 15.07km from the area to be served). The applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest from parents, and has projected ahead with junior

infant numbers for 2014, 2015 and 2016. They also state their willingness, should the demand arise, to the provision of an Irish medium stream within the ET school.

This application provides for strengthening diversity of provision in the area.

DES plans to extend both of these ET schools to 16 classrooms each (both currently have 8 classrooms each). There is not yet a site for Claregalway. Schools Capital Appraisal Section has advised that a letter confirming same will issue to the Schools BOM/Patrons on 3.11.11

AF: – The applicant has indicated that they are willing to comply with all seven of the above requirements. However, the applicant has provided a list of expressions of interest for five children only, only two of which would be due to start school in 2013, one in 2014 and two in 2015– **please see AF information at (e) above.** The Applicant suggests a campus with Coláiste na Coiribe.

The list of expressions of interest is weak, however this application provides for extending diversity of provision in the area.

With regard to Junior Infant numbers for 2013, with the exception of AF the other applicants are almost on a par. Taking into consideration the projected numbers of Junior Infants up to 2016, CGVEC and ET make a strong case.

Recommendation:

Lifeways Ireland Ltd has not agreed to comply with all the requirements so therefore they cannot be recommended as patron in this instance.

Educate Together schools in the area are going to be extended to provide extra streams, and this should provide for ET demand in the area, and strengthen diversity.

An Foras have not shown evidence of strong parental demand. They have however detailed a very strong interest in Irish language education in the area in their application and have said that the actions of the VEC may have had a detrimental impact on their list of parental preferences. An Foras has provided a list of expressions of interest for five children only, only two of which would be due to start school in 2013.

City of Galway VEC will meet the criteria, strengthen diversity and have demonstrated that there is parental demand for their school.

Applications from An Foras and City of Galway VEC would indicate that there is strong parental demand for a Gaelscoil.

However, as An Foras have raised the issue highlighted above at (e) in regard to the City of Galway VEC consultant process i.e.

(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)

The applicant's submission provides a copy of a letter circulated by Colaiste na Coiribe (which is a City of Galway VEC school) to parents in Knocknacarra. The letter states that "*It is envisaged that the VEC primary school students would automatically transfer over to post-primary education in Colaiste na Coiribe*". The applicant feels that this left parents no other choice but to support the application of the VEC, and thus has had a negative impact on their own campaign. (a copy of this letter is attached).

Given the strong demand for an Irish language education in this area demonstrated by both the VEC and An Foras applications and the enrolment patterns of the local all Irish schools it is felt that the new school in this area should be through the medium of Irish. An Foras have raised issues with regard to the VEC application and therefore these two patrons should be asked to review their applications and to again give the parents in the area an opportunity clearly express their preference for patronage of the new school after clarifying to situation regarding transfer of pupils to Colaiste Na Coiribe. The patronage of the new school will have no impact of the rights of transfer to post primary schools in the area.

*Forward Planning Section
26th January 2012*