

## New primary Schools 2012/2013

**Location: Kildare Town**

**Year Required: 2012**

**School Size required: 16 Classrooms**

### **Applications Received:**

- 1) *An Foras Pátrúachta* – Co-Educational, Multi-denominational, Irish Medium
- 2) *County Kildare VEC*- Co-Educational, Multi-denominational, English Medium
- 3) *Educate Together*- Co-Educational, Multi-denominational, English 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
- h.

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

*Co. Kildare 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***

While all applicants have agreed that they will comply with the above. It should be noted that only Educate Together have gone into any detail on how these 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>
16345A	SCOIL BHRIDE (M)	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin	English	212	19%
12747A	KILDARE MONASTERY N S (B)	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin	English	363	32%
15599D	ST BRIGIDS PRIMARY SCHOOL (Inf.M/Snr.G)	CATHOLIC	Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin	English	547	49%
<b>Total</b>					<b>1122</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Roll Number</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Junior Infant</b>	<b>Senior Infant</b>	<b>1st Class</b>	<b>2nd Class</b>	<b>3rd Class</b>	<b>4th Class</b>	<b>5th Class</b>	<b>6th Class</b>	<b>Total</b>
12747A	KILDARE MONASTERY N S	0	0	64	67	73	56	52	46	<b>358</b>
15599D	ST BRIGIDS PRIMARY SCHOOL	125	119	56	59	53	42	52	52	<b>558</b>
16345A	S N NAOMH BRID	25	31	32	29	24	33	22	26	<b>222</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,138</b>
	<b>Jun vs Sen</b>	<b>607</b>				<b>531</b>				

All schools in Kildare Town have a Catholic Ethos and provide education through the medium of English.

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

All schools are currently catholic 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.

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

**1) An Foras Pátrúachta**

The nearest school of a similar (multi-denominational) ethos is the South Kildare Educate Together (20177E), Newbridge, Co. Kildare,9km from Kildare Town

The nearest Irish medium school is Gaelscoil Chill Dara (20023A) Newbridge, Co. Kildare.-(Catholic Ethos) -9km from Kildare Town

**2) County Kildare VEC**

The nearest school of a similar (multi- belief) ethos is the Naas Community National School (RN20351R), Piper's Hill, Naas, Co. Kildare-20km from Kildare Town

### ***3) Educate Together***

The nearest school of a similar ethos (multi-denominational) is the South Kildare Educate Together (20177E), Newbridge, Co. Kildare, -9km from Kildare Town

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.

Kildare town is circa 9km from Newbridge and circa 20km from Naas. While each type of proposed school is therefore represented in the region the town or its immediate hinterland does not have a multi denominational or Irish language school. It would not be typical for children to travel from Kildare town to Naas (20km) or Newbridge (9km). Thus any of the proposed schools will equally improve access to additional choice of school provision

(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) An Foras Pátrúachta***

A multi-denominational Gaelscoil will provide diversity in two ways, in the area, as currently all primary schools in Kildare Town have a Catholic ethos and teach through English. An Foras have shown in their application that there is a demand for their proposed school though it seems they would be taking almost half of their intake from outside the catchment. An Foras have also held a meeting with local parents and have demonstrated the requirement for Irish language education in the area, quoting supporting census details and travel of pupils from Kildare town to the Gaelscoil in Newbridge.

#### ***2) County Kildare VEC***

A Community National school will provide diversity in the area as currently all primary schools in Kildare Town have a Catholic ethos. The VEC have shown that parents want the diversity offered by their school as they have had a wide ranging consultative process involving parents and community leaders including a public meeting. The junior infant intake would include 77% from inside the catchment.

#### ***3) Educate Together***

An Educate Together national school will provide diversity in the area as currently all primary schools in Kildare Town have a Catholic ethos. Educate together have stated that there is strong historic interest among local parents for an Educate Together school in Kildare. They have also stated that they are willing to enter into a campus development to increase diversity and they will support an Irish medium stream if required.

(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 246 children in the Kildare feeder area who could start school in 2012.

***1) An Foras Pátrúachta***

*An Foras Pátrúachta* has provided evidence of demand as follows;

<b>Kildare Catchment</b>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
JNR INFANT	8	6	3	6
<b>Outside Kildare Catchment</b>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
JNR INFANT	6	0	2	1

<b>*Children born Pre 1/7/2006</b>	
<b>Kildare Catchment</b>	<b>Outside Kildare</b>

	<b>Catchment Area</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**2) County Kildare VEC**

*Kildare VEC* has provided evidence of demand as follows;

<b>Kildare Catchment</b>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
JNR INFANT	24	2	5	7
<b>Outside Kildare Catchment</b>				
JNR INFANT	7	1	3	

**3) Educate Together**

*Educate Together* has provided evidence of demand as follows;

<b>Kildare Catchment</b>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jnr Infant	16	8	6	6

<b>Outside Kildare Catchment</b>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015

Jnr Infant	5	2	5	4
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<b>*Children born Pre 1/7/2006</b>	
<b>Kildare Catchment</b>	<b>Outside Kildare Catchment Area</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>

\*Under the Education (Welfare) Act, attendance at school (or receiving an education) is compulsory from the age of 6. Thus, children born before July 2006 will already be in school before September 2012.

(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) *An Foras Pátrúachta***

The majority of the expressions of interest provided by the *An Foras Pátrúachta* are from addresses within the specified area – 23 out of the 32 provided.

**2) *County Kildare VEC***

The majority of the expressions of interest provided by the *VEC* are from addresses within the specified area – 38 out of the 49 provided.

**3) *Educate Together***

Of the expressions of interest provided by the *Educate Together*, 36 out of 52 are from addresses within the specified area – (22 addresses were provided for children that will already be in school before September 2012)

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

This is not applicable in this area.

### **3. Conclusions**

Forward Planning Section's figures suggest that the new school will have at least one stream and possibly two streams. There are currently 4.5 Catholic English speaking streams in the town. Given the level of demand demonstrated by each of the applicants it seems that a two stream multi denominational school will cater for those who want that type of school in the area. The applications suggest that there is a greater demand from parents in the area for the English speaking models.

Under the 'Requirements' there is little to chose 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 preferences of the patrons indicates more demand for an English speaking school if only one school is to be opened.

The VEC have given evidence of strong demand especially in the first year of operation. This is an indication that the school would get off to a strong start. 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 and the presence of a naíonraí in the area. However, it is not clear how many children attend these naíonraí.

Educate Together have also demonstrated strong parental demand and their pre-enrolment list indicates that the school would be a viable entity from the outset and provided evidence of future demand. They have also 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**

In assessing the applications for patronage of the new schools being established in 2012 and 2013 the Department was mindful of the fact that the VEC-proposed Community National School and the Educate Together proposed schools have many similar elements to their ethos and that they are therefore broadly in a similar space in relation to multi-denominational school provision, albeit with particular differences of approach in the area of faith formation.

The criteria established were used in assessing the applications in all cases. In the case of Kildare, it was very difficult to come to a view between the applications from the VEC and Educate Together.

In assessing the applications for Kildare, the Department was mindful that there was a very similar level of demand demonstrated for the schools proposed by both Educate Together and the VEC. On balance the Department recommends that, given the closeness of each of the applications, the evidence of demand in the first 2 years of the school being established could be used to differentiate between the applications. Therefore, on balance, the Department recommends the VEC as patron in Kildare.

It is therefore recommended that in 2012 a single stream school should be established under the patronage of County Kildare VEC to meet the demand for multi-denominational provision. It is also recommended that, subject to confirmation of sufficient demand for all-Irish provision, a second school should be opened in 2014 under the patronage of An Foras Patrúnachta.

### ***Forward Planning Section***

10th February 2012