

Mr Ruairi Quinn TD
Minister for Education and Skills
Department of Education and Skills
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

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26/02/12

Report of the New Schools Establishment Group on the Patronage of Primary Schools
Scheduled to Commence in September 2012 and 2013

Dear Minister Quinn

As members of the above named group, we are pleased to present you with our report on the patronage of new primary schools due to open in 2012/2013.

Our role was outlined in your announcement of June 27, 2011 where you stated that 20 new primary and post-primary schools are to be established up to 2017. At that time you also announced the criteria and arrangements for the recognition of the new schools and the membership of the New Schools Establishment Group to advise you on the patronage of the schools, following its consideration of a report prepared by the Forward Planning Section of your Department.

The Forward Planning Section informed patrons/prospective patrons of the details of the primary schools to be established in 2012 and 2013 and invited them to make applications for consideration. The closing date for receipt of these applications was 7th October 2011.

The Forward Planning Section carried out an assessment of the applications received and on the 3rd January 2012 the report on these assessments was forwarded to our Group for consideration. A meeting was convened on the 11th January 2012 with the officials from Forward Planning Section. At this meeting extensive discussions took place on the process of examining the submissions and arriving at assessments. We independently examined the documentation submitted in support of the applications and checked this against the assessment made by the officials. In the course of further discussion we recommended that a number of amendments and clarifications be made to the report and the assessments. It was agreed that a revised report would be forwarded for our consideration.

A revised report was forwarded to the Group on the 27th of January 2012, upon which we sought further clarification on the reasoning leading to the selection of a patron, particularly in cases where the differences between applications was very close. In light of this, Forward Planning Section re-examined the assessments and amended the reports regarding the rationale underpinning the recommendations in these particular cases.

The Group has considered the revised report and assessments made in regard to the patronage of the new primary schools to be established in 2012 and 2013. The Group now confirms that the criteria set out by you were applied in a fair and transparent manner to the applications received and on that basis we are satisfied that the following recommendations regarding patronage of the new schools are in accord with these requirements and criteria, and give due regard to the levels of parental demand demonstrated in the applications.

The recommendations for patronage are as follows:

New Schools 2012

Ballinteer 2012 – Educate Together

Stepaside 2012 – Educate Together

Tallaght - City West / Fortunestown 2012 – 2 new schools - Educate Together and County Dublin VEC

Kildare Town 2012 – County Kildare VEC, and subject to confirmation of demand a second school should be opened in 2014 under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta.

New Schools 2013

Tallaght West 2013 – County Dublin VEC

Firhouse / Oldbawn 2013 – An Foras Pátrúnachta and Educate Together

Stepaside 2013 – An Foras Pátrúnachta

Mallow 2013 – Educate Together

Riverstown / Glanmire – Defer opening a new school for one or two years and continue to monitor junior infant enrolments in the area.

Cork South Suburbs - Douglas/ Rochestown 2013 – Educate Together

Carpenterstown – Educate Together. Appoint the patron but keep the opening date of a new school under review pending geo-coding of the most up-to-date Child Benefit Data.

Lucan 2013 – County Dublin VEC

Galway - Knocknacarra Area 2013 – The school will be Irish medium. However, further clarification is required from An Foras Pátrúnachta and Co. Galway VEC before a decision can be made on patronage.

The Group would like to thank the officials in Forward Planning Section for the assistance given throughout this process.

Séamus M^o McGuinness
Séamus McGuinness, Chairperson

Sylda Langford
Sylda Langford

Seán Ó Riain
Seán Ó Riain