



**An Roinn Oideachais**  
Department of Education

## **Patronage Assessment Report**

**School:** Dunshaughlin

**Level:** Post-Primary

**Year:** 2021

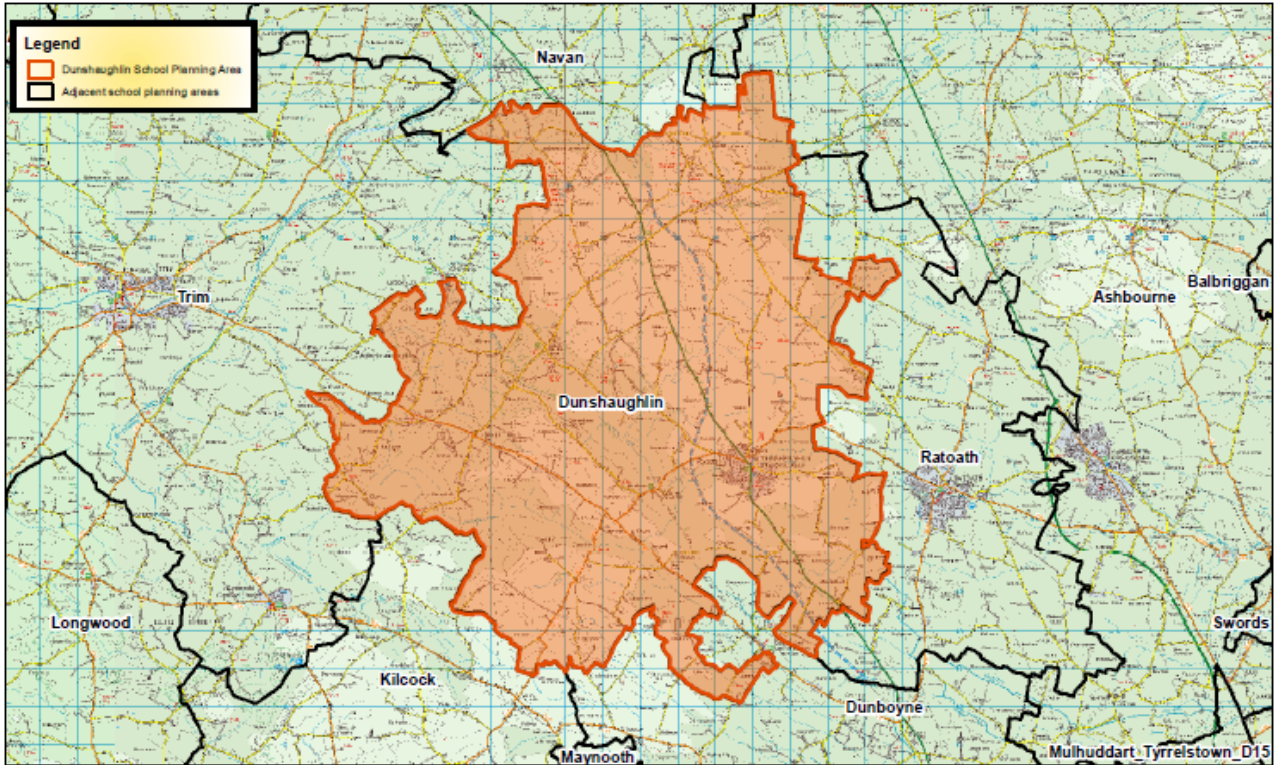
**Size:** 600 pupils

**Report to the New Schools Establishment Group**  
**Department of Education**  
**December 2020**

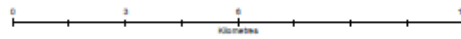
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# 1. School Planning Area Map

## Dunshaughlin



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## 2. Applications Received

Three applications were received from applicant patrons in respect of this school. A brief profile of the applicants together with a synopsis of the school type proposed is set out in the follow table.

Applicant Patrons	Profile of Applicant	School type proposed		Number of Post-primary schools
	<p>An Foras Pátrúnachta is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and is the patron of a number of Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools throughout the country.</p>	<b>Ethos:</b>	Multi-denominational	6
		<b>Model:</b>	Voluntary Secondary School	
		<b>Language of Instruction proposed:</b>	Irish	
		<b>Also willing to offer:</b>	n/a	
	<p>CEIST is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron of an number of post-primary schools with a Catholic ethos throughout the country.</p>	<b>Ethos:</b>	Denominational	107
		<b>Model:</b>	Voluntary Secondary School	
		<b>Language of Instruction proposed:</b>	English	
		<b>Also willing to offer:</b>	Irish	
	<p>Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) is a statutory authority which has responsibility for managing and operating a range of education services including second-level schools and is patron of a number of primary and post-primary schools.</p>	<b>Ethos:</b>	Multi-denominational	17
		<b>Model:</b>	Community College	
		<b>Language of Instruction proposed:</b>	English	
		<b>Also willing to offer:</b>	Irish	

### 3. Demographic details

Demographic exercises undertaken in 2018 identified a requirement for 42 new schools to be established between 2019 and 2022. New school requirements have continued to be kept under review in the interim and an update of the demographic projections for all school planning areas was undertaken in 2020. This refreshed data indicated a requirement for a new post-primary school to serve the Dunshaughlin school planning area to be established in 2021.

The analysis which informed the decision to establish the new school was predicated on the 2019 enrolment base, being the most recent available enrolment data at the time of the exercise. There is one public post-primary school in this school planning area. The 2019 enrolment was 1,071.

In order to identify additional school accommodation requirements analysis was undertaken in respect of:

- underlying demographic trends in the existing population;
- potential school place requirements associated with Additional Residential Development (ARD) in the area; and
- current or planned spare capacity in existing post-primary schools in the area.

#### Demographics:

The estimated peak years are 2023 and 2024, both with projected enrolments of 1,241. On that basis it was estimated that there will be a need for an additional 170 places by 2024.

#### Additional Residential Development:

A total additional requirement for 335 school places was estimated to arise from current or planned Additional Residential Development in the school planning area, as notified to the Department by the Local Authority.

#### Gross School Place Requirements:

The peak gross additional school place requirements in the school planning area were, therefore, projected to be 505, being peak demographics and total ARD requirements combined, as the total ARD was expected to materialise by the peak demographic year.

#### Spare Capacity:

There was identified current or planned spare capacity for circa 200 school places in the school planning area which comes from a planned extension project for the existing Dunshaughlin CC.

#### Net School Place Requirements:

Having considered the spare capacity in the school planning area, a net school place requirement of circa 300 was determined to remain to 2024.

#### Determination:

Given the net post-primary school place requirement to 2024, the interim accommodation needs pending the delivery of the planned extension project at Dunshaughlin CC and the expected longer-term growth in the area, it was determined that a new 600 pupil school should be established in Dunshaughlin in 2021.

## 4. Assessment of Applications

All patrons have agreed to the Patronage Commitments as set out in the Section D of the Patronage Application Form attached to main report.

The invitation letter to patrons, also attached to the main report, sets out in detail the:

- Arrangements for the Establishment and Patronage of New Post-Primary Schools due to open in September 2021; and
- General Information for Prospective Patrons.

### 4.1.1 Patronage

#### 4.1.1 Existing Post-Primary Provision

##### Dunshaughlin

Roll No	School Name	School Planning Area	Patron	Ethos*	Language	Gender	Fee Paying	Total Enrolment 2019/20
71960I	Community College Dunshaughlin	Dunshaughlin	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	Inter - D	English	Mixed	N	1071

\*Ethos : Inter-D = Inter-denominational

There is only one post-primary school in the school planning area and it has an inter-denominational ethos.

Two of the proposed models would provide multi-denominational schooling in the area and one of the proposed models would provide denominational schooling in the area.

##### Adjoining School Planning Areas

There are six school planning areas adjoining the Dunshaughlin school planning area, with 12 post-primary schools as set out in the table below:

Roll No	School Name	School planning area	Patron	Ethos*	Language	Gender	Fee Paying	Total Enrolment 2019/20
91495T	Ashbourne Community School	Ashbourne	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board & Bishop of Meath	Inter-D	English	Mixed	N	983
76196W	De Lacy College	Ashbourne	Louth and Meath Education and	Multi-D	English	Mixed	N	553

			Training Board					
76088T	Ratoath College	Ratoath	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	Inter-D	English	Mixed	N	1069
71950F	St Peter's College	Dunboyne	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	Inter-D	English	Mixed	N	1214
64350N	St Patrick's Classical School	Navan	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	English	Boys	N	905
64450R	Scoil Mhuire	Trim	CEIST	Catholic	English	Girls	N	820
64360Q	St. Joseph's Secondary School	Navan	CEIST	Catholic	English	Girls	N	734
72010I	Beaufort College	Navan	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	Multi-D	English	Mixed	N	574
91508C	Boyne Community School	Trim	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board & Bishop of Meath	Inter-D	English	Mixed	N	825
76173K	Colaiste na Mí	Navan	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board	Multi-D	English	Mixed	N	727
64370T	Loreto Secondary School	Navan	Loreto Education Trust	Catholic	English	Girls	N	806
61691B	Scoil Dara	Kilcock	CEIST	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	922

*\*Ethos : Multi-D = Multi-denominational, Inter-D = Inter-denominational*

## 4.1.2 Parental Preferences

The table below sets out the valid first preferences received by each applicant patron:

Applicant Patron	Valid First Preferences
An Foras Pátrúnachta	48
Catholic Education An Irish Schools Trust (CEIST)	87
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)	167
<b>Total Valid First Preferences</b>	<b>302</b>

## 4.2 Language

### 4.2.1 Existing Provision

#### (i) Gaelscoileanna (Primary Level)

The following are the details of the Irish-medium gaelscoileanna located within the school planning area, and in the adjoining school planning areas.

#### A) Within the school planning area

Roll No	School Name	School planning area	Patron	Ethos	Enrolment 2019/20		Approx. distance from nearest existing gaelcholáiste	Approx. distance from the centre of Dunshaughlin
					TOTAL	6th		
19867W	Scoil Na Rithe	Dunshaughlin	Bishop of Meath	Catholic	226	28	23.7km (Coláiste Cois Life)	0.5Km

#### B) In adjoining school planning areas

Roll No	School Name	School planning area	Patron	Ethos*	Enrolment 2019/20		Approx. distance from nearest existing gaelcholáiste	Approx. distance from the centre of Dunshaughlin
					TOTAL	6th		
19725C	Gaelscoil Eanna	Navan	Bishop Of Meath	Catholic	203	26	15.7km (Coláiste Pobail Rath Cairn)	19.7km
19779C	Gaelscoil Na Cille	Ashbourne	Bishop Of Meath	Catholic	232	29	18.1km (Scoil Chaitriona)	12.6km
19897I	Scoil Uí Riada	Kilcock	Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin	Catholic	523	67	19km (Coláiste Cois Life)	20.2km
20051F	Gaelscoil Na Boinne	Trim	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Catholic	227	31	12km (Coláiste Pobail Rath Cairn)	18.3km
20082Q	Gaelscoil Thulach Na Nóg	Dunboyne	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Inter - D	336	33	10.5km (Coláiste Cois Life)	14.3km
20382F	Gaelscoil Na Mí	Ashbourne	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Multi - D	325	19	19.7km (Scoil Chaitriona)	12.1km

\*Ethos : Multi-D = Multi-denominational, Inter-D = Interdenominational



**(ii) Gaelcholáistí/Irish-medium Aonaid (Post-Primary Level)**

The following are details of any Irish-medium Gaelcholáistí or, where relevant, English-medium schools with an Irish-medium Unit (Aonad) within the school planning area, and in the adjoining school planning areas.

**A) Within the school planning area**

There are no Gaelcholáistí/Irish-medium Aonaid within the school planning area.

**B) In adjoining school planning areas**

There are no Gaelcholáistí/Irish-medium Aonaid within the adjoining school planning areas.

Attached at Appendix A to this report is a map of the school planning areas and surrounding areas, including the locations of the above Irish-medium schools for information. The centre of Dunshaughlin was chosen as the mid-point of the map given the proposed location of the new school.

**4.2.2 Parental Preferences**

**Breakdown of valid first preferences by language preference**

Language Preference	An Foras Pátrúnachta		Catholic Education An Irish Schools Trust (CEIST)		Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)		Total Preferences	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
English	5		75		161		241	
Irish	40		5		2		47	
Aonad*	29	11	5	0	2	0	36	11
No Preference	3		7		4		14	
<b>Total first preferences</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>87</b>		<b>167</b>		<b>302</b>	

\*In order to have more clarity in relation to a parental preference for Irish-medium education at post-primary level, an additional question was added to this OPSS survey. For those parents who indicated a preference for Irish-medium in response to the question on their preferred language for the new school, the following question was also asked: “If you selected Irish as your language preference, would you consider sending your child to an Aonad (Irish-language unit) in an English-language school in the event that a Gaelcholáiste (Irish-language school) was not established in the area?”. The options were “yes” or “no”. An information box providing a short description of Aonaid was also provided.

The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction is relatively low (47 or 15.56% of first preferences) compared with 241 (79.80%) of preferences for English-medium while 14 (or 4.64%) of parents did not specify a preference in relation to language. Of those who expressed a preference for Irish, 36 of 47 (76.59%) indicated that they would consider sending their child to an Aonad in the event that a Gaelcholáiste was not established in the area.

The only gaelscoil in the Dunshaughlin school planning area is located *circa*. 0.5km from the centre of Dunshaughlin and is located *circa*.23.7km from Coláiste Cois Life in Lucan. This gaelscoil had an enrolment of 28 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils in 2019/20.

There were 205 pupils in sixth class in total in the six gaelscoileanna located in the adjoining school planning areas in 2019/20. Four of these are located nearer to an existing gaelcholáiste than they are to Dunshaughlin.

An Foras Pátrúnachta is the only applicant patron to propose an Irish-medium school while the two other applicant patrons propose an English-medium school with Louth and Meath Education and Training Board and CEIST expressing their willingness to offer an Irish-medium school if demand exists for same. All applicants who propose an English-medium school have confirmed they are willing to open an Aonad should the demand require it.

## 5. Conclusions

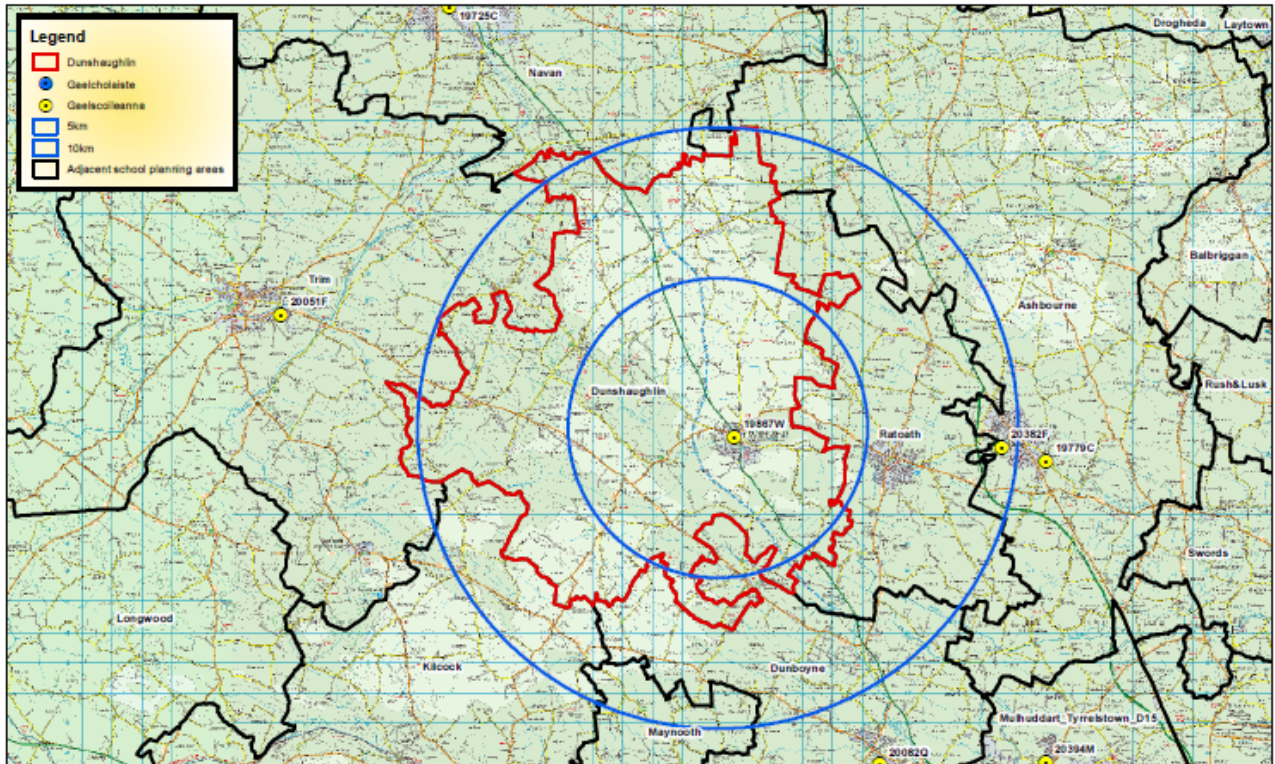
- All patrons have confirmed that they will satisfy the requirements as set out by the Department for the patronage of new schools.
- The single school in the area is a designated Community College, which is classified as inter-denominational. Two of the three models would increase provision for diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.
- Louth and Meath Education and Training Board received the highest number of valid first preference i.e. 167. The total first preferences for multi-denominational provision amounted to 215 of 302 preferences.
- The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction was 47 of 302 valid first preferences (15.56%) compared with 241 of 302 valid first preferences (79.80%) for English-medium instruction. For the duration that the new school is in interim accommodation it would be unlikely that an Aonad would be feasible. However, the successful school patron should keep under review the demand from parents in the area for Irish-medium provision and consideration be given to whether an Aonad should be established in the new school when it is in its permanent accommodation and the timing of same.
- Based on the results of the parental preferences and broader analysis, including the extent of diversity currently available in this and the adjoining school planning areas, the analysis indicates that the patronage of the new post-primary school for the Dunshaughlin school planning area should be awarded to Louth and Meath Education and Training Board to provide a multi-denominational Community College with English as the language of instruction. (see note above in relation to possible Aonad provision).
- Given that the outcome of the analysis indicates that the new school would be under the same patron as the existing designated Community College, which has an inter-denominational ethos, the patron should be cognisant of the need for an appropriate balance between the schools to cater for the needs of the community, in light of the outcome of the OPPS in terms of the level of preferences expressed for denominational provision.

**Forward Planning Section  
Department of Education**

**December 2020**

# APPENDIX A

## Dunshaughlin



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