An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

# Patronage Assessment Report

**School:** Dublin 2 _ Dublin 4
(Designated Gaelscoil)

**Level:** Primary

**Year:** 2021

**Size:** 8 classrooms

**Report to the New Schools Establishment Group
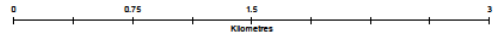Department of Education
February 2021**

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# 1. School Planning Area Map

Dublin2_Dublin4

## 2. Applications Received

Two 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 following table.

| Applicant Patrons | Profile of Applicant | School type proposed | | Number of primary schools currently under this patronage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | An Foras Pátrúnachta is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron of a number of Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools throughout the country. | **Ethos:** | Multi-Denominational | 70 |
| | | **Language of Instruction proposed:** | Irish | |
| | | **Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):** | N/A | |
|  | City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) 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 post-primary schools. | **Ethos:** | Multi-Denominational | 0 |
| | | **Language of Instruction proposed:** | Irish | |
| | | **Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):** | N/A | |

## 3. Demographic details

The decision to announce a new school in this school planning area was on the basis of the demographic exercises carried out in 2018 as set out below.

The analysis which informed the decision to establish the new school was predicated on the 2017 enrolment base, being the most recent available enrolment data at the time of the exercise. The 2017 enrolment across the 11 primary schools in this school planning area was 2,456.

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 including any development arising from the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF); and
- current or planned spare capacity in existing primary schools in the area.

### Demographics:
The estimated peak year was 2021 with projected enrolments of 2,799. Based on the demographic projection, it was estimated that there would be a need for an additional 13 classrooms between 2017 and 2021 (peak year).

### Additional Residential Development:
Based on information on planned residential development in the area which was received from the local authority, a demand for 14 mainstream primary classes was estimated to be associated with Additional Residential Development in the school planning area and a further requirement for an estimated 19 mainstream primary classes was associated with an approved LIHAF project.

### Spare Capacity:
Existing or planned capacity increases totalling 33 mainstream primary classes were identified within the school planning area.

### Net Primary Class Requirement:
Based on the above analysis, including additional residential development planned in the area, there was a net requirement for 13 classrooms which could not be accommodated in existing schools or through temporary accommodation / expansion of existing schools.

| Demographic Demand | | LIHAF | | Additional Residential Development | | Existing / Planned Capacity Increases | | Net Requirement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| •13 | ✚ | •19 | ✚ | •14 | ➖ | •33 | ＝ | •13 |

### Determination:
Having considered the net school class requirements a new 16 classroom school was announced in 2018 to be established in 2021.

However, 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 projected a peak gross requirement for an additional 10 mainstream classes by 2024. This reduction is largely associated with the pace of additional residential development (the LIHAF project in particular) being slower than originally anticipated.

While current projects for existing schools in the school planning area are delivering some additionality that will contribute to addressing the 10 classroom requirement, current location and capacity constraints limit their scope to meet these emerging school place needs.  Furthermore, there is a lack of Irish-medium provision in the area.  Having considered all of the foregoing, it was determined that the new school due to be established in 2021 should proceed, but be restricted to 8 classrooms.

# 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 and each applicant patron has confirmed that it will comply with the Patronage Code of Conduct.

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

- Arrangements for the Establishment and Patronage of New Primary Schools due to open in September 2020; and
- General Information for Prospective Patrons.

## 4.1 Patronage

### 4.1.1 Existing Primary Provision

There are currently 10 primary schools in the Dublin 2_Dublin 4 school planning area.

| Roll No | School Name | Patron | Ethos | Language | Gender | DEIS | Total Enrolments 2019/20 |
|---------|-------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|------|--------------------------|
| 03917V | Naomh Padraig Boys | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Boys | Y | 137 |
| 11578V | City Quay N S | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Mixed | Y | 155 |
| 11894I | Scoil Mhuire | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Girls | N | 278 |
| 15253N | St Patricks Girls NS | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Girls | Y | 162 |
| 15995L | Star of the Sea | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Boys | N | 325 |
| 18282M | SN Paroiste Maitiu NFA | Archbishop of Dublin & Bishop of Glendalough COI | Church of Ireland | English | Mixed | N | 223 |
| 19896G | Scoil Caitríona Na Mbraithre | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Mixed | Y | 162 |
| 20103V | John Scottus NS | The John Scottus Education Trust Company Limited by Guarantee | Multi-D | English | Mixed | N | 190 |
| 20441S | Shellybanks Educate Together National School | Educate Together | Multi-D | English | Mixed | N | 277 |

| 20545H | St Christophers NS | Archbishop of Dublin | Catholic | English | Mixed | Y | 626 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

*Ethos : Multi-D = Multi-denominational

Of the 10 primary schools in the school planning area seven are Catholic, one is Church of Ireland and two are multi-denominational.

All proposed models would increase multi-denominational provision in the area.

### 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 | 18 |
| City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) | 4 |
| **Total Valid First Preferences** | **22** |

### 4.2  Language

On 3 September 2019, the Minister for Education announced measures to increase access to Irish-medium education as part of the patronage process for new schools.  As part of these measures the Minister amended the criteria which are considered in determining the ethos and language of instruction of new primary schools as part of the patronage process for new schools.

In this regard, the following applies:

- If there is no existing Irish-medium provision in a school planning area, and a new primary school is being established to meet demographic demand, the new school will be designated as a gaelscoil before the Online Patronage Process System for that area opens. This will happen unless there are particular local circumstances where this would not be appropriate.

- Where a number of new primary schools are due to be established in the same school planning area during the period 2019-2022, at least one of these schools in that school planning area will be Irish-medium, unless there are particular local circumstances where this would not be appropriate.

In cases other than the above, the language of instruction will be determined following a patronage process.

In this context, the Minister announced that five of the new primary schools to be established over the period 2020 to 2022, including the new school for Dublin 2_Dublin 4, are designated as Irish-medium gaelscoileanna.
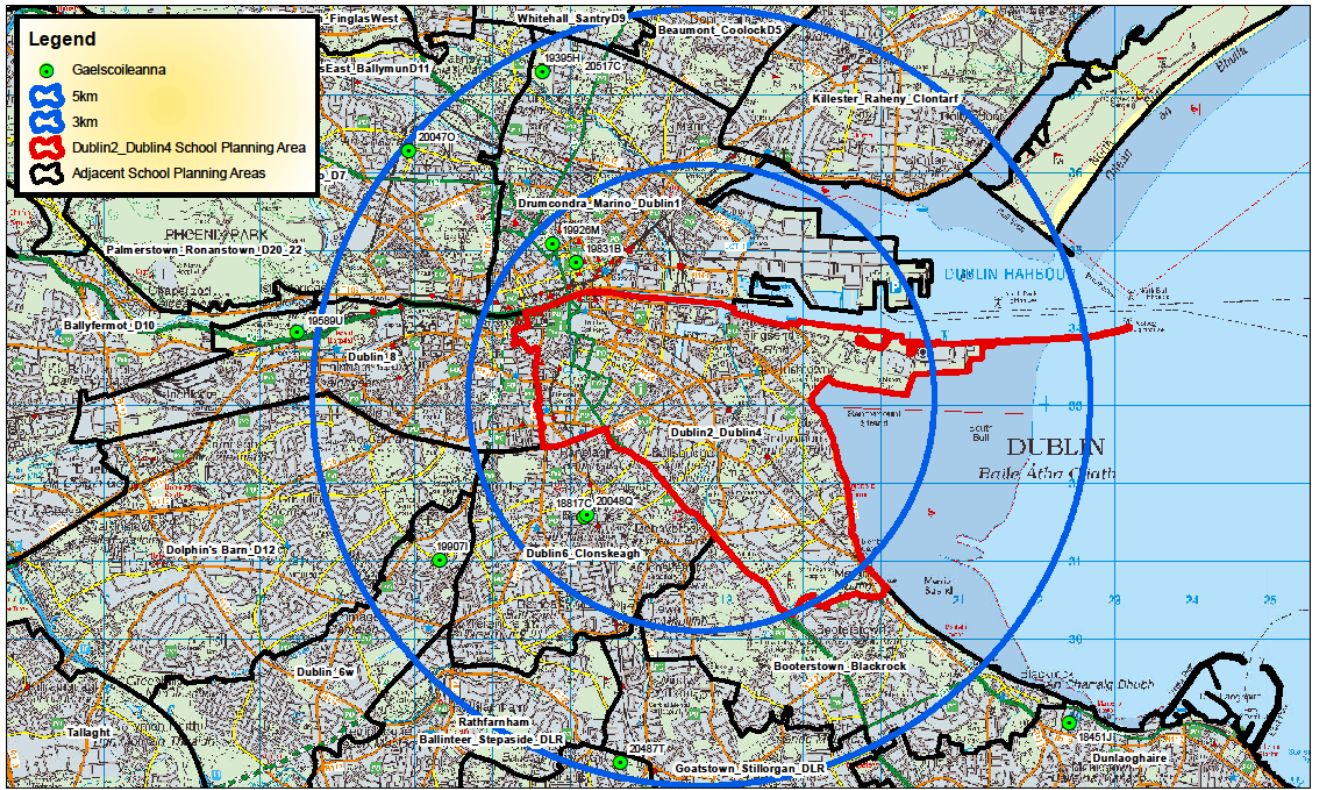
In the case of Dublin 2_Dublin 4, there is currently English-medium educational provision only in this school planning area, and accordingly this school has been designated as an Irish-medium gaelscoil.
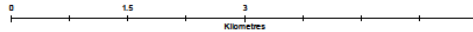

## 5.  Conclusions

➢ All patrons have confirmed that they will satisfy the requirements as set out by the Department for the patronage of new schools.

➢ All proposed models would increase diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.

➢ This school has been designated as a gaelscoil and this will provide an Irish-medium option for parents in the area.

➢ An Foras Pátrúnachta received the highest number of valid first preference votes i.e. 18 or 81.8%.

➢ 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 gaelscoil for the Dublin 2_Dublin 4 school planning area should be awarded to An Foras Pátúnachta to provide a multi-denominational primary school with Irish as the language of instruction.


**Forward Planning Section**
**Department of Education**
**February 2021**

# Appendix A - Map of Gaelscoileanna in the area

Dublin2_Dublin4