

Mr Joe McHugh, T.D.
Minister for Education and Skills
Department of Education and Skills
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

26th February 2020

**Report of the New Schools Establishment Group on the Patronage of
Primary Schools to be established in September 2020**

Dear Minister McHugh,

As members of the above named Group, we are pleased to present you with our report on the patronage of five new primary schools due to open in September 2020.

Our role was outlined in a Ministerial announcement of 27th June 2011. That announcement also included the criteria and arrangements for the recognition of new schools and the role of the New Schools Establishment Group to advise the Minister on the patronage of new schools, following its consideration of an assessment report prepared by the Forward Planning Section of your Department.

On the 19th November 2019, an invitation was issued for applications in respect of the patronage of the four new primary schools due to be established in September 2020. The closing date for receipt of applications from applicant patron bodies was 22nd November 2019. On 28th November 2019, the Online Patronage Process System (OPPS) website went live for parents to express their parental preferences and closed on 12th January 2020.

On the 20th December, an additional new primary school was announced to serve the Newcastle_Rathcoole school planning area to be located in Rathcoole and the Online Patronage Process System (OPPS) website went live for parents to express their parental preferences that day and closed on 26th January 2020.

The Forward Planning Section of your Department carried out an assessment in respect of each of the five areas, including an assessment of the parental preferences received. A meeting was convened on 25th February 2020 with the officials from Forward Planning Section to examine the initial draft assessments that had been forwarded to our Group for consideration.

The Group has considered the assessments made with regard to the patronage of the new primary schools to be established in 2020. The Group is satisfied to confirm its view that the criteria as set out in 2011 by your Department were applied in a fair and transparent manner to the applications received.

On that basis we are satisfied that the following recommendations regarding patronage of the new schools are in accordance with these requirements and criteria, including the extent of diversity regarding both ethos and language of instruction currently available or planned in the relevant/adjointing school planning areas (where applicable), and give due regard to the levels of

parental preferences received. The Group is satisfied to make the following recommendations to you in relation to the patronage and language of instruction (where applicable) of the new schools to commence in September 2020.

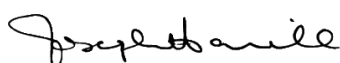
Area	Proposed Patron	Proposed Language of Instruction
Carrigaline	Educate Together	English
Donabate	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Designated Irish
Newcastle_Rathcoole/Saggart – Citywest	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Designated Irish
Sallynoggin_Killiney_DLR/Cherrywood	Educate Together	English
Newcastle_Rathcoole/Rathcoole	Educate Together	English

The Group notes that the Department continues to make good progress in relation to consideration of Irish-medium preferences and a number of measures were recently announced to increase access to Irish-medium education as part of the patronage process for primary schools, including the designation for Irish-medium education of five new primary schools being established from 2020-2022, including two of the above schools. The Group welcomes the commitment by the Department to keep Irish language demand and provision under active review.

The Group acknowledges the positive outcome from the patron workshop carried out in 2019 and welcomes the commitment by the Department to offer an additional patron workshop in 2020.

The Group would like to thank your Department's Forward Planning Section for its positive engagement on these matters and to again acknowledge the expert and professional manner in which it presented its assessments to the Group in the cases under review.

Yours sincerely



Joe Hamill
Chairperson
New Schools Establishment Group