



SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
2000–2005



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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE



I am pleased to have this opportunity to report on the key achievements delivered under the school building programme for the period 2000 to 2005.

Modernising the educational infrastructure in over 3,200 primary and 750 post-primary schools is not an easy task given the legacy of decades of under-investment in this area as well as the need to respond to emerging needs in areas of new and/or increasing population. However, I am determined to ensure that every child in this country is educated in a suitable and comfortable environment. Our commitment to this goal can be judged by an expenditure in excess of €2 billion that was spent on school buildings during the period 2000 to 2005. The purpose of this report is to illustrate what has been achieved with this investment. The key achievements include completion of 76 new schools, 380 large-scale refurbishment/extension projects, 6,055 small-scale refurbishment/extension projects and the payment of 4,000 grants for furniture and equipment. Taking 2005 as an example, it is very encouraging to note that in addition to the minor works grant that is paid annually to all schools, my Department invested in projects in over a quarter of all primary schools throughout the country.

This Government has put particular emphasis on devolving the delivery of school building projects to a local school management level. I am pleased to note that since the start of 2004 all small-scale projects, and in an ever increasing way a significant number of the large-scale projects, are now delivered in this manner.

Our infrastructural investment needs will continue into the future. In the last budget, the Minister for Finance provided €3.9 billion in capital funding for the education sector over the next five years. This increased funding will allow us to greatly improve our education infrastructure at all levels over that period. To date in 2006 I have already announced the first tranches of this programme and this roll-out will continue with further announcements in the months ahead. 1,300 projects being delivered in schools in the current year clearly illustrates the level of commitment and progress on the infrastructural investment in the primary and post-primary sectors. I have also announced plans to provide 23 new post-primary schools and 4 new primary schools under a major expansion of the Government's Public Private Partnership Programme (PPP) from 2006 to 2009.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of so many parents, teachers and school authorities for their commitment and dedication in working with my Department to deliver new or refurbished learning environments for students.

Mary Hanafin TD
Minister for Education and Science
August 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 2000 and 2005, over €2 billion was spent on educational infrastructure on over 6,500 individual school building projects.

At **primary** level this has delivered:

- 57 new schools with construction underway at a further 10 new schools;
- 251 large-scale refurbishment/extension projects with construction underway at a further 37 schools;
- 4,598 small-scale projects typically involving upgrading works in schools and some small-scale extensions.

At **post-primary** level this has delivered:

- 19 new schools with construction underway at a further 13 new schools;
- 129 large-scale refurbishment/extension projects with construction underway at a further 17 schools;
- 1,457 small-scale projects typically involving upgrading works in schools and some small-scale extensions.

In addition it has also delivered:

- Thousands of other small-scale works in primary schools under the devolved minor works grant which is paid on an annual basis to all primary schools;
- 4,000 grants for the provision of furniture and equipment in schools;
- Asbestos, radon and remediation projects.

Notwithstanding an investment of over €2 billion over the last five years further large-scale investment is still required to continue the process of modernising our school infrastructure. The main reasons for this are:

- The Department is playing catch-up following decades of underinvestment in school buildings;
- Additional accommodation requirements to cater for increases in teacher numbers – over 5,000 since 1997;
- Specialist accommodation provision to cater for pupils with special needs – over 100 such special classes set up throughout the country since 1998;
- Requirement for new school provision in rapidly developing areas, particularly in the greater Dublin area;
- Demands to cater for diversity from both the Educate Together and Gaelscoileanna sectors;
- Investment to facilitate amalgamations and rationalisations particularly at post-primary level due to the changing role of the church in relation to trusteeship;
- Expansion of the further education sector through the delivery of PLC courses and right of access to second chance education also contribute to the demands for school places, accommodation and equipment.

Building on the increased investment in recent years, the Government's decision to provide a €3.9bn multi-annual capital funding envelope for the education sector over the next 5 years is proof of our continued commitment to modernising school buildings.

SECTION ONE

1.1 FUNDING AND OWNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

1.1.1 HOW MUCH FUNDING HAS BEEN INVESTED IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS?

Between 2000 and 2005 over €2 billion has been invested in school building projects.

The table below sets out the allocation and spend on an annual basis from 2000 to 2005.

Year	Allocation from Government (€m)	Amount spent (€m)
2000	255.70	255.51
2001	319.02	317.69
2002	356.37	344.14
2003	333.17	326.96
2004	388.00	333.12*
2005	444.53	501.26*
Total	2,096.79	2,078.68

* €50m not spent in 2004 was carried forward to 2005 under the provisions of the multi-annual funding agreement with the Department of Finance and expended in that year.

1.1.2 WHAT WAS THE FUNDING SPENT ON?

The following chart illustrates the various sub-elements of the building programme that the €2bn funding was spent on:



While the expenditure on school building projects spans a number of years from initial design to final completion, the pie chart shows the breakdown in the expenditure for the period 2000 to 2005:

- €320m on new schools - completion of 76 new schools, commencement of construction on 23 new schools and design work on a further 56 new schools. This also includes the purchase of sites for new schools.
- €948m on large-scale refurbishments/extensions at existing schools - completion of 380 such projects, commencement of construction on 54 projects and design work on a further 216 projects.
- €502m on 6,055 small-scale refurbishments/extensions at existing schools and 4,000 grants for the provision of furniture and equipment in schools.
- €109m on the devolved grant that is issued on an annual basis to all primary schools.
- €80m on the purchase of prefabricated accommodation to meet urgent additional accommodation requirements in schools.
- €120m on remediation programmes in schools and on the health and safety issues in the technological sector at post-primary level.

1.1.3 WHO OWNS THE SCHOOLS?

Most school properties are not in the ownership of the State but are in fact privately owned by local diocesan trusts and/or patron bodies. Grants for capital works are provided by the Department to enable school authorities to pay for school improvements or replacement buildings. School management authorities retain the services of private sector consultants to design the required works.

Privately owned primary and post-primary schools that are provided with funding by the Department for a new school building must arrange a local contribution of 5% of cost up to a maximum of €63,000 and where an extension or refurbishment work is funded by the Department a local contribution of 10% up to a maximum of €31,500 must be in place.

For special schools or schools in disadvantaged areas that are privately owned the local contribution is 5% of the cost up to a maximum of €12,500 whether the project is a new school, extension or refurbishment.

SECTION TWO

2.1 NEW SCHOOLS

2.1.1 WHY ARE NEW SCHOOLS REQUIRED?

The Department funds the provision of new schools to:

- Provide school accommodation for pupils in rapidly developing areas where no school provision already exists and also to cater for demands for diversity in the provision of education. The traditional Department policy in making provision for school accommodation, particularly in rapidly developing areas, had been to provide prefabs initially to meet immediate needs and to provide the permanent school building at a later stage. Following the introduction of the multi-annual funding for school buildings, the Department is now better positioned to proactively plan for school provision. 31 such new schools were constructed between 2000 and 2005.
- Facilitate amalgamations/rationalisations of a number of existing schools. Amalgamations typically arise where a number of schools with falling enrolments come together to form one single school. This is particularly prevalent at post-primary level due to the changing role of the church in relation to trusteeship. If none of the existing schools are capable of catering for the newly formed amalgamated school then a new school is built. While this leads to an initial capital cost to the Department it does, over the long term, lead to better educational facilities for students and lower recurring costs for the Department. 10 new schools were provided to facilitate amalgamations/rationalisations between 2000 and 2005.
- Replace existing school buildings that are in such poor condition or are incapable of being extended that it provides better value for money to build a new school rather than refurbish/extend an existing school. 35 new schools were constructed between 2000 and 2005 to replace existing schools.

2.1.2 WHAT IS PROVIDED IN A NEW SCHOOL?

Using the experience gained in developing schools over the years, the Department has developed guidelines for determining the appropriate level of accommodation to be provided in new schools. At primary level, most new school buildings are 8 to 16 classrooms in size but some are up to 32 classrooms. The precise level of accommodation is tailored to each school's needs but as an example a typical 8 classroom primary school comprises:

- 8 en-suite classrooms;
- 2 specialist rooms for learning support and resource teachers to facilitate the teaching of pupils with special needs;
- General Purpose room for PE facilities etc.;
- Library;
- Principal's office, administration area and staff room;
- External play areas including junior and senior ball courts.

At post-primary level most new schools cater for varying pupil levels of up to 1,000 pupils. Again the accommodation is tailored to the needs of each school but as an example a typical 800 pupil post-primary school comprises:

- 24 general classrooms;
- PE Hall for PE facilities etc.;
- Specialist rooms for teaching subjects such as sciences, home economics, woodwork, metalwork, art, technical drawing etc.;
- Computer rooms and multi-media language laboratory;
- Library;
- Principal's office, administration area and staff room;
- External play areas including 6 ball courts.

2.1.3 HOW MANY NEW SCHOOLS WERE BUILT AND WHAT DID THEY COST?

A total of 76 schools were fully completed with a further 23 schools underway and due to be completed in 2006. The expenditure on these new schools spans a number of years from initial design phase to final completion. For the period 2000 to 2005 the total amount spent on new schools was €320m.

The new primary schools range in size from 2 classrooms to 16 classrooms with most being on average 8 classrooms in size.

The new post-primary schools cater in size from approximately 200 pupils to 1,100 pupils with most being on average 700 pupils.

The table below sets out the average cost for the design, construction, furnishing and equipping of new schools:

New School	Average Cost (€m)
8 classroom primary school	3,000,000
16 classroom primary school	4,400,000
800 pupil post-primary school	15,000,000
1000 pupil post-primary school	17,200,000

2.1.4 RECENTLY COMPLETED NEW SCHOOLS

SCHOOL

Lucan Educate Together National School in Lucan, County Dublin is accommodated in a new 16 classroom school building that was completed in 2003. Enrolment at the school is currently 452. The staffing at the school consists of the Principal, 15 mainstream teachers, 1 developing post, 2 special teachers, 1 resource teacher and a language support teacher.

Accommodation prior to the provision of the new school

The school was set up in 1997 and was initially located in rented accommodation formerly used by the Scouts Den in Lucan. In 1999 the school was relocated to prefabricated accommodation on the site for the new school.

Accommodation in the new school

The accommodation at the school now provides modern school facilities which include 16 classrooms with ensuite and storage facilities, 2 specialist classrooms catering for pupils with ASD, GP Room, library, learning support and resource rooms and administrative area including Principal's office. The external sports facilities include junior and senior ballcourt and play areas.

Feedback from school

Ms. Helena Murphy, School Principal is delighted with the new accommodation the school now occupies. She is particularly pleased that the school now has the facilities available to implement the new primary curriculum in full – something not possible while they resided in temporary accommodation. She added that she is delighted with the ancillary accommodation in particular as there was a shortage of resource rooms in the prefabs to cater for the learning support and resource hours in the school.



Above: Lucan Educate Together National School – Completed in 2003

SCHOOL

Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada, Tullamore, County Offaly is accommodated in a new 8 classroom school building that was completed in 2003. Enrolment at the school is currently 201. The staffing at the school consists of the Principal, 8 mainstream teachers and 1 shared learning support teacher.



Above: Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada – new 8 classroom school completed in 2003

Accommodation prior to the provision of the new school

The school was initially located in rented accommodation in Church Street in Tullamore. The accommodation consisted of a number of small classrooms located in a residential type building. The main problems with the rented accommodation included difficulty with lack of bus pull-in and parking facilities and overcrowding due to the small size of the classrooms. There were 5 flights of stairs in the school which meant that access for disabled was a major issue. There was no office for the principal to meet with pupils, staff or visitors to the school.

How was the new school delivered?

The school was one of two “green” schools that were built as part of a pilot project in 2003. The second school is located at Raheen in County Laois.

The school was designed by the Department’s architectural staff with a strong emphasis on the sustainability of the materials used in the school. Following completion of the design phase, tenders were sought in the traditional manner for the construction of the new school. Construction commenced in late 2002 and was completed in 2003.

Accommodation in the new school

The accommodation at the school now provides modern school facilities which include 8 classrooms with en-suite and storage facilities, GP Room, library, learning support/resource rooms, administrative area including Principal’s office and external play spaces.



Above: Tobar an Léinn, Raheen, Mountrath, Co. Laois – new 3 classroom school completed in 2003

Feedback from school

Donna Ní Mhairtín, School Principal is very pleased with the new accommodation for the school. She stated that there is much additional accommodation that was not previously available such as GP room, staff room and toilets, library and a proper administration area. She said that it has made a huge difference to school life and that it is so much easier to teach the primary curriculum especially with the large classrooms and GP Room. She is especially glad that the school is on one level and therefore students with disabilities can have access to all areas of the school.

SCHOOL

Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole, County Wicklow is a new community college completed in 2003 and catering for an enrolment of 560 pupils. The school operates under the aegis of Co. Wicklow VEC. The current enrolment in the school is 304 and is expected to rise to 560 over the coming years.



Above: Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole – completed in 2003

Accommodation prior to the provision of the new school

As this is a new school in a developing area without post-primary provision, the school did not exist prior to the provision of the new school. Post-primary students in the area travelled to schools in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow Town.

Accommodation in the new school

The new school has an area of over 5000m² and has accommodation to offer a broad range of subjects. The school has 10 general classrooms, lecture rooms, specialist rooms such as science labs, art/craft rooms, home economics rooms, mechanical drawing rooms, woodwork and engineering rooms. Other accommodation includes computer rooms, library, administration area, meeting room, first aid room and general purpose dining area. The school also has a full size PE hall with showers and changing area.

Feedback from school

Hugh O'Brien, former CEO of Co. Wicklow VEC commented that all associated with the school are delighted with the range of facilities available. He said the school building was the envy of all of the schools in Wicklow.

2.1.5 INNOVATION

In recent years the Department has begun to use:

- (a) Generic Repeat Design
- (b) Design and Build Contracts
- (c) Public Private Partnerships

to augment the traditional way new school buildings were procured.

(a) Generic Repeat Design (GRD)

What are GRDs?

The GRD project involves the development of a two-storey 8-classroom primary school that can be situated in a range of locations to which additional modules of 4-classrooms can be added to give either a 12-classroom or 16-classroom option and can facilitate the inclusion of a specialist suite such as an autistic unit.



Above: GRD project at Archbishop Ryan National School, Balgaddy, Co. Dublin – completed in 2005

Why are we developing GRDs?

The main reasons are:

- Speedier delivery of projects
- Land use savings arising from the use of two-storey generic repeat primary schools
- Savings on design fees.

Where are we building them?

- 2 GRD projects have been completed in Lucan and Kilbarrack while a third is under construction in Carlow since the beginning of 2006. The Department has plans in place for GRD projects at over 10 other schools as part of its current building programme.

(b) Design Build Contracts

Griffeen Valley Educate Together School, Lucan, Co Dublin

The challenge for the Department here was to provide a new 16 classroom school on a green-field site in this rapidly developing area within a 13 month timescale.

In order to meet the challenge the Department opted to use a design and build contract. This meant that tenders for both the design and building of the school were obtained in one single process. The school was delivered on time and within budget through a combination of traditional and modern system build technologies executed on a fast track 5 month building programme.

The main advantage of design and build contracts is that there is better transfer of risk in relation to time or cost overruns over to the private sector rather than leaving the exchequer open to the potential for additional costs on projects. However it is more suitable to new schools rather than refurbishment/extensions as projects need to be very well defined to avoid contractors factoring in unforeseen additional costs into their tender prices. The Department has now moved forward with this approach at other primary schools and also at post-primary level to deliver a new post-primary school in Dublin 15.



Above: Griffeen Valley Educate Together – completed in 2004

(c) Public Private Partnerships

In parallel to the conventional approach to the delivery of major capital works in schools, the Department procured five post-primary schools through the Public Private Partnership arrangements (PPP) envisaged in the National Development Plan. Similar to design and build contracts, the main benefit of PPP projects is that there is a better transfer of risk in relation to time or cost overruns over to the private sector rather than leaving the exchequer open to the potential for additional costs on projects. In addition, the capital and operating costs of the PPP projects are spread over a period of approximately 25 years. Drawing on the experience gained in relation to the first pilot education PPP in Ireland, the Department recently announced plans to provide 23 new post-primary schools and 4 new primary schools under a major expansion of the Government's Public Private Partnership Programme (PPP) from 2006 to 2009.



Above: St. Attracta's Community School, Tubbercurry, Sligo – built as a PPP project in 2002

2.2 EXISTING SCHOOLS

2.2.1 WHY ARE BUILDING PROJECTS REQUIRED AT EXISTING SCHOOLS?

Building projects are undertaken at existing schools because many schools have outgrown their original school buildings. Many school buildings were built decades ago and are unable to cope with the demands of modern school life. In addition, the school curriculum has changed and schools may need more space to teach the curriculum in full.

2.2.2 WHAT IS PROVIDED AS PART OF A BUILDING PROJECT AT AN EXISTING SCHOOL?

An extension or refurbishment project at an existing school is a complex undertaking as the design must maximise use of existing accommodation, integrate any extensions and construction work must be managed in such a way as to allow the school to remain open. When complete, schools should have sufficient classroom/PE/specialist rooms to enable the curriculum to be delivered in full.

Small-scale projects at existing schools usually involve an element of refurbishment such as works required to deal with health and safety issues, making provision for access for all, replacement of old doors/windows and upgrading of electrical and heating systems. These projects are typically carried out during summer holiday periods. In 2004, the Department put in place the Summer Works Scheme which is a more structured process for dealing with such works.

2.2.3 HOW MANY BUILDING PROJECTS WERE CARRIED OUT AT EXISTING SCHOOLS AND WHAT DID THEY COST?

Between 2000 and 2005 a total of 380 large-scale refurbishment/extension projects were fully completed with construction underway at a further 54 schools. The expenditure on these projects spans a number of years from initial design phase to final completion. For the period 2000 to 2005 the total amount spent on these projects was €948m.

In addition, between 2000 and 2005, a total of 6,055 grants were sanctioned for small-scale building projects. The total amount spent on these small-scale projects during the period in question was €502m.

The pie chart below for 2005 illustrates the size of the grants at primary level together with the number of primary schools awarded such grants during a specific year.



The figures from the chart give a breakdown of the investment levels in refurbishment/extension projects at existing primary schools in 2005. The levels of investment were as follows:

- 412 schools awarded grants less than €50,000
- 90 schools awarded grants of €50,000 to €99,999
- 250 schools awarded grants of €100,000 to €499,999
- 71 schools awarded grants of over €500,000

What were these grants used for?

An analysis of the grants approved for primary schools in 2005 shows that they were used for the following purposes:

■ Large-scale refurbishment/extensions

Of the 89 large scale primary projects announced in 2005 to proceed to tender and construction over a 12 to 15 month period, 67 were large-scale refurbishment/extension at existing primary schools. Much of the work on these projects in 2005 involved the completion of the design process, applications for planning permission, preparation of tender documents and the commencement of the procurement process for the engagement of contractors. The majority of these projects are advancing to construction phase during 2006.

■ Small-scale refurbishment/extensions

A total of 84 primary schools, ranging in size from 2 to 4 classrooms, were approved for funding on a devolved basis under the Small Schools Initiative. This initiative is aimed at modernising, on a devolved basis, the accommodation in such primary schools.

■ Refurbishment works

A total of 470 refurbishment projects were approved in 2005 under the Summer Works Scheme. This scheme is aimed at enabling schools undertake refurbishment works on a devolved basis mainly during the summer holiday periods. The types of works approved in 2005 include:

- 83 roof replacement projects;
- 97 window replacement projects;
- 39 toilet refurbishment projects;
- 68 electrical projects;
- 49 mechanical projects;
- 33 structural projects;
- 21 access for all projects;
- 80 external projects.

■ Provision of additional accommodation

A total of 66 projects were approved for additional accommodation in 2005 under the Permanent Accommodation Initiative. This initiative enables schools to provide a permanent accommodation solution to their accommodation needs rather than relying on prefabs as an interim measure.

■ Emergency works

The Department has a small contingency fund to deal with emergencies that arise in schools throughout the year. In 2005, 136 such projects were approved and these were mainly for urgent repairs/replacement of heating systems, roof repairs, provision of urgently required accommodation for special needs pupils etc.

In addition, it should be noted that all primary schools receive a minor works grant each year from the Department to enable them undertake minor capital works on a devolved basis. An analysis of this grant is set out in Section 4 of this report.

2.2.4 FOCUS ON SOME RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS AT EXISTING SCHOOLS

St Declan's Community College Kilmacthomas Co Waterford

SCHOOL

St. Declan's Community College, Kilmacthomas, County Waterford is a post-primary school operating under the aegis of Co. Waterford VEC. The current enrolment is 698 pupils.



Above: St. Declan's Community College, Kilmacthomas, Co Waterford – extension/refurbishment completed 2002

Accommodation prior to the building project

The original school was opened in 1969 with an enrolment of 80 pupils. An extension was provided in 1984 to bring the capacity of the school to 300 pupils. In the 5 years preceding the provision of the extension in 2002, the enrolments at the school consistently exceeded 660 pupils. As a result there was a heavy reliance on prefabs and a lack of specialist rooms. Some of the rooms in the school were also in need of major refurbishment.

Accommodation since the building project was completed?

The project, which was completed in 2002, included the refurbishment of the existing home economics and computer rooms and a major extension providing rooms for construction studies, art, technical drawing, science, music as well as a large general purpose area, general classrooms and office accommodation.

Feedback from school

Paddy Lavelle CEO of Co. Waterford VEC commented that the environment of the school has totally changed with the extension. Both students and staff alike have immense pride in the school. The school now has the most up-to date facilities in a bright and modern building and this allows a comprehensive range of subjects to be offered.

2.2.5 INNOVATION

In recent years the Department responded to requests from schools who sought to manage their own building projects by introducing several initiatives which devolved responsibility for the delivery of smaller capital works to Boards of Management. A range of innovative methods have been introduced to facilitate this which include:

- (a) Small schools initiative
- (b) Permanent accommodation initiative
- (c) Summer Works Scheme
- (d) In addition another of the recent innovative methods used by the Department to provide modern facilities in schools is the development and use of template PE Halls

(a) Small Schools Initiative

This initiative is aimed at funding renovation and/or extensions in primary schools up to 4 classes in size. When the initiative commenced in 2003 funding was provided at €200,000 for a 2-classroom school; €275,000 for a 3-classroom school and €350,000 for a 4-classroom school. These rates were increased by 25% for 2005 and further increased in 2006. Responsibility for the delivery of the project is entirely devolved out to the school and their design team.

20 schools participated in the initiative in 2003 and 46 in 2004. 61 of these schools had completed their projects by the end of 2005 while the remaining 5 schools had progressed their projects to the construction phase. A further 84 schools participated in the 2005 Small Schools Initiative and while 2 were completed in that year the majority will progress to construction during 2006. The total cost of this initiative for the years 2003 to 2005 is in excess of €48m.

Example of Small Schools Initiative project – Cooneal N.S., Co. Mayo



Above: Cooneal National School, Mayo – pictured before works took place



Above: Cooneal National School, Mayo – works completed 2004

Feedback from Cooneal National School

Sean Clarke, Chairperson of the Board of Management is delighted with the new accommodation for the school. While the devolved project involved hard work for the Board of Management, it was ultimately all very worthwhile in the end. He commented that the great thing about this initiative is that the school is in control of its project and does not have to go back and forth to the Department every step along the way. It also meant that, provided they remained within the general priorities set by the Department, the school could decide themselves how best to spend the grant on improving the accommodation at the school.

(b) Permanent Accommodation Initiative

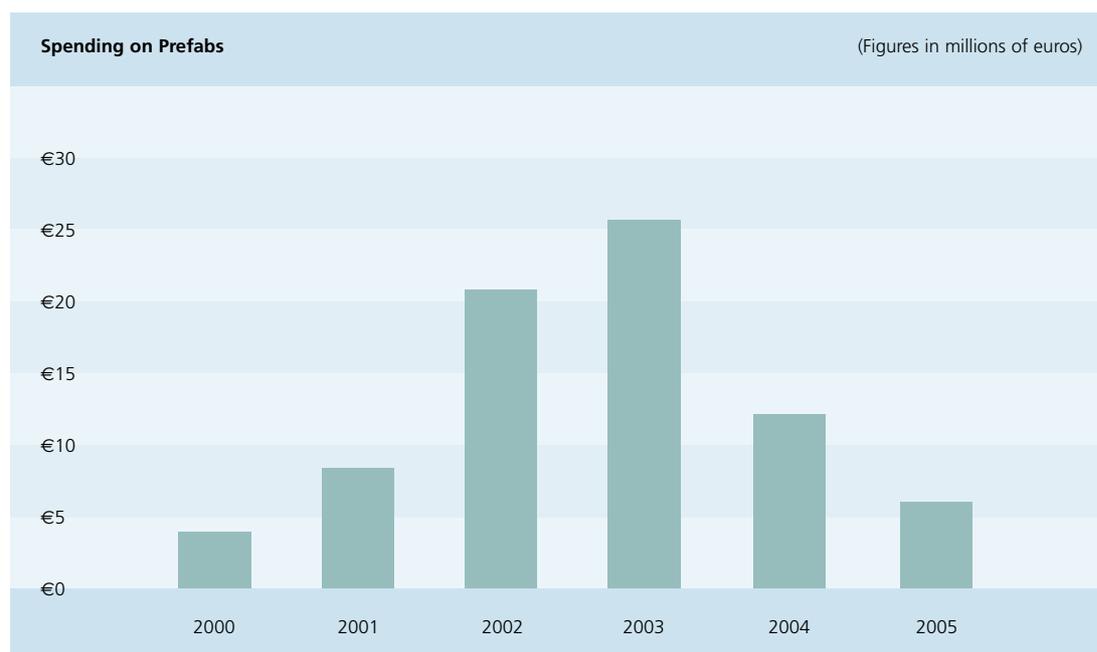
The demand for additional accommodation in schools has risen significantly over the last number of years mainly due to the rapid expansion in teacher numbers particularly in the area of special needs, the growth in the school-going population in rapidly developing areas and the demands to cater for diversity through the recognition of new Gaelscoileanna and Educate Together schools.

The Department has relied heavily in the past on temporary accommodation to meet the immediate accommodation needs of many schools. €80 million was spent on the purchase of such accommodation over the years as the priority was to put in additional teaching resources without delay and not to make the allocation of additional teachers contingent on the availability of spare permanent accommodation. While this amount is less than 5% of the total spent, the Department would prefer to maximise investment in permanent building solutions.

A new initiative was launched in 2003, in order to achieve this at primary level. This initiative provides funding to schools in need of additional mainstream classroom accommodation. Funding of €100,000 per mainstream classroom is made available and schools must undertake to provide permanent accommodation rather than resorting to prefabs. The level of this funding was increased in 2006 to €120,000 per mainstream classroom.

19 schools participated in 2003 and 40 in 2004. 52 of these schools had completed their projects by the end of 2005 while the remaining 7 schools had progressed their projects to construction. A further 66 schools participated in the 2005 permanent accommodation initiative and while 3 schools had completed their projects in that year the majority will progress to construction during 2006. The total cost of initiative for the years 2003 to 2005 is in excess of €22m.

The graph below illustrates the effect of the introduction of the initiative in 2003 on the spend on the purchase of prefabricated buildings. The Department intends to continue to provide innovative solutions to further reduce the reliance on temporary accommodation in future years.



(c) Summer Works Scheme

This scheme is aimed at funding small scale refurbishment works in primary and post-primary schools that can typically be carried out during the summer holidays. Funding is provided to school authorities who manage the project based on the costs provided by the schools' design team at application stage.

- Devolved scheme commenced in 2004 – feedback to date is very positive;
- €31m spent on the 2004 Summer Works Scheme involving 290 primary projects and 157 post-primary projects;
- €71m spent on the 2005 Summer Works Scheme involving 470 primary projects and 293 post-primary projects.

(d) Template PE Halls

Another of the recent innovative methods used by the Department to provide modern facilities in schools is the development and use of template PE Halls.

What are Template PE Halls?

The template PE Hall project concerns developing a standard PE Hall design for the 2 Hall sizes for post-primary schools that can be replicated in a range of locations. The sizes are 604m² for schools under 450 pupils and 806m² for schools of over 450 pupils.

Why are we developing Template PE Halls?

The main reasons are:

- Speedier delivery of projects
- Savings on design fees

Where are we building them?

- 4 projects already completed Kilkenny, Hacketstown, Thurles and Raheny.
- 2 projects in Navan and Ballyshannon commenced construction early in 2006.



Above: Template sports hall (604m²) at Coláiste Eoin Hacketstown Co. Carlow – completed construction in 2005

SECTION THREE

3.1 LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS: DELIVERY PROCESSES & COST FACTORS

3.1.1 WHAT IS THE PROCESS INVOLVED IN THE DELIVERY OF LARGE-SCALE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS?

The Department has a structured process in place for dealing with school building projects from application stage right through design and ultimately to completion of construction. The timescale involved for moving projects through all stages varies significantly. While many factors can contribute to this variance there are two key factors involved which are (1) priority afforded to the project and (2) availability of funding to deliver the project.

The Department's Design Team Procedures apply to the building of an extension or new school and a design team is normally engaged to address the architectural, structural, services and cost control aspects of proposals. The Design Team Procedures are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to the architectural planning of school buildings, with a view to ensuring that robust school buildings are built at a cost that represents value for money.

During the early stages of architectural planning of projects (stages 1 to 3) the design and planning of the project is developed from the assessment of site suitability, through to the detailed design. Stages 1, 2 and 3 are combined for many projects.

The more advanced stages of architectural planning (stages 4/5) involve the obtaining of planning permission and the preparation of pre-tender documentation (Bills of Quantities). Stages 4 and 5 are combined for the vast bulk of projects.

The Department is moving to a model whereby its interaction with schools is focused on the early stages of design of projects and thereafter responsibility for the completion of design, obtaining planning permission, tendering and construction is devolved out to school management authorities. As a further measure to speed up the design phase for projects, the Department has recently commenced the evaluation of stage submissions by way of meetings with schools and their Design Teams rather than the traditional way through correspondence. Feedback to date from this change is very positive.

The Department's technical staff has developed extensive technical guidance documentation for the delivery of projects from initial design to final completion. This documentation is available on the Department's website at www.education.ie

3.1.2 WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE COST OF SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS?

Cost of construction has risen considerably in recent years

The Department manages this in a number of ways:

- Fixed price contracts for school building projects. All school building projects are tendered on a fixed price basis. This means that additional costs are not added to contract amounts to deal with wages or construction price inflation.
- School building projects are extensively advertised in an open and transparent manner in order to encourage maximum competition amongst contractors. All projects are advertised on the government's e-tenders website with shortened versions of advertisements also included in national newspapers
- Devolved grants are given to school authorities. Since 2003 the Department has piloted new initiatives that give fixed amounts of funding to school authorities to undertake building projects on a devolved basis without interaction with the Department. The feedback to date would indicate that these schools are creative at maximizing the amount of works possible from the Department's fixed devolved grant. The Department's policy is to devolve the delivery of all school building projects to the greatest extent possible.

Costs of sites

The size of sites vary depending on the sizes of the proposed schools but at primary level they are usually 2 to 3 acres with post primary sites being up to 10 to 12 acres. The Department tries to maximise land use with the construction of 2 and 3 storey school buildings.

Specifications/standards

In order to cater for the needs of modern school life the Department has in place guidelines for providing the appropriate level and standard of accommodation in schools. This guidance includes:

- Room sizes and layouts. The Department has guidelines in place in terms of the appropriate sizes and layout of rooms in schools. This guidance ultimately necessitates that most old schools require extensions to be brought up to modern standards;
- Type of construction. While the Department does not specify an approved type of construction, guidance is in place in terms of the robustness required to cater for modern school life;
- Mechanical and Electrical building services in schools. The Department's guidance ensures that systems comply with legal requirements and are sufficiently capable of meeting needs in schools, many of which are quite large buildings;
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provision. Pupils and teachers in modern school life require access to computers and the internet. The cost of the infrastructure required for this is usually dealt with as part of school building projects.

Planning Conditions and Planning/Development levies

As with any development school projects are subject to the imposition of planning and development levies by local authorities.

SECTION FOUR

GRANT SCHEME FOR MINOR WORKS TO NATIONAL SCHOOL PROPERTIES (DEVOLVED GRANT)

This grant is paid on an annual basis to all primary schools and is made up of two parts – a standard amount of €3,809.21 per school plus a per pupil rate of €12.70.

Schools can use this grant, without any interaction with the Department, for small-scale works such as emergency repairs, minor refurbishments such as roof repairs, re-painting, re-wiring or replacing boilers.

The scheme was reviewed in 2004 and the feedback was broadly positive, with most schools surveyed welcoming the introduction of the scheme and recommending that it be continued.

The following table illustrates the grants payable to different sizes of primary schools over the period 2000-2005:

School Size	No. of Pupils (Average)	Standard element of grant 2000-2005 (€)	Per-capita element of grant 2000-2005 (€)	Total grant 2000-2005
2 classroom	50	22,855	3,810	26,665
4 classroom	110	22,855	8,382	31,237
8 classroom	220	22,855	16,764	39,619
16 classroom	440	22,855	33,528	56,383
24 classroom	650	22,855	49,530	72,385

Commencing in 2004, additional support was provided for special schools and mainstream recognised schools catering for pupils with special education needs in special classes under the Grant Scheme for Minor Works to National Schools. The annual rate of this support is €50.80 per pupil. This higher level of funding was introduced on the basis that the special schools and special classes catering for children with special educational needs had, up to that time, a lesser benefit from the grant due to lower pupil numbers per class, yet operated in schools of the same physical size and required the same level of investment for small capital works as mainstream schools.

The following photographs give examples of works undertaken by schools using their minor works grant.



Above: Shinrone National School, Shinrone, Co. Offaly – Resurfacing of ball-court and play area



Above: Dunkerrin NS, Dunkerrin, Co. Offaly – Painting of exterior wall and gates

SECTION FIVE

REMEDIATION PROGRAMMES

The Department is to the fore-front in pro-actively implementing the following remediation programmes in schools throughout the country:

Asbestos

This programme commenced in 1999 and is managed for the Department by the Office of Public Works (OPW). The programme involves the testing of all schools for asbestos and carrying out, where appropriate, remediation works. The programme which is 100% funded by the Department has cost €87m to date. The OPW envisage that the surveys should be largely completed by end of 2006.

Radon

This programme commenced in 1998 and is done in consultation with the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). The programme involves surveying radon levels in schools and carrying out, where appropriate, mitigation works. The programme which is 100% funded by the Department has cost approx €6m to date.

All the schools which participated in the original programme have been monitored and, where excess radon levels were located, fully remediated. Follow-up monitoring is now taking place to ensure remediation action has been successful. The remaining handful of schools who have not yet agreed to participate in the survey are again being contacted.

In relation to the provision of new accommodation for schools, the Department's Building Unit ensures that radon barriers are included in the design of all such buildings.

Dust Extraction

The Department has an on-going dust remediation process in place, which is steadily providing or upgrading all dust extraction facilities in wood work rooms and in the case of the larger equipment with dust extraction problems, replacing them completely. The Circular Letter M45/01 dealing with Dust Extraction Systems in second level schools which was originally issued in June 2001 is being up-dated and as recommended in the report on the Review of Occupational Health and Safety in Technologies in Post-Primary Schools will be issued to all schools in 2006. The programme since its inception in 2002 has cost approx €5m to date.

SECTION SIX

CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD

The education landscape does not stand still. The building programme is continually adapting to meet new and emerging curricular and other needs. The programme to date has delivered better accommodation, improved the specifications for school buildings and ancillary accommodation, provided accommodation for pupils with special needs, made provision for new and refurbished Science Laboratories and PE Halls and facilitated the expanded choice of subjects.

However, despite an investment of over €2 billion during the last five years further large-scale investment is still required to continue the process of modernising our school infrastructure. The main reasons for this are:

- The Department is playing catch-up following decades of underinvestment in school buildings;
- Additional accommodation requirements to cater for increases in teacher numbers – over 5,000 since 1997;
- Specialist accommodation provision to cater for pupils with special needs – over 100 such special classes set up throughout the country since 1998;
- Requirement for new school provision in rapidly developing areas particularly in the greater Dublin area;
- Demands for catering for diversity from both the Educate Together and Gaelscoileanna sectors;
- Need to facilitate amalgamations and rationalisations particularly at post-primary level due to the changing role of the church in relation to trusteeship;
- Expansion of the further education sector through the delivery of PLC courses and right of access to second chance education also contribute to the demands for school places, accommodation and equipment.

Building on the increased investment in recent years, the availability of a €3.9bn multi-annual capital funding envelope for education (primary, post-primary and third level) over the next 5 years will enable a continuous programme of modernising school buildings.

This investment must continue to be targetted in a planned manner and to this end the Department has introduced a new planning model for educational infrastructure. In future, school provision will be decided after a transparent consultation process. The main feature of the new model, to be introduced initially on a pilot basis, is the publication of Area Development Plans which will set out a blueprint for schools' development in an area into the future. Following publication of draft plans, the Commission on School Accommodation will conduct a public engagement process to which all interested parties can make submissions. All of these submissions will be published. The process will culminate in the publication of a final development plan for an area against which all capital funding decisions will be made over the next decade. This ground breaking approach to school planning will ensure that capital funding is allocated in a structured and clearly identifiable manner into the future.

APPENDIX ONE

BRIEF GUIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANNING AND BUILDING UNIT

The Department's Planning and Building Unit is based in Tullamore and comprises 121 staff.

ORGANISATION CHART – PLANNING AND BUILDING UNIT				
MARTIN HANEVY – ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL				
SCHOOL PLANNING SECTION Role is to assess and plan the projects for inclusion in school building programme	SCHOOL BUILDING SECTION Role is to manage the delivery of the school building programme	PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL UNIT Role is to provide professional and technical advice	PPP UNIT Role is to assess and manage delivery of PPP projects on building programme	THIRD LEVEL BUILDING UNIT /FINANCE UNIT Role is to manage delivery of projects at Third Level and process payments for all levels
<i>Section headed by 2 Principal Officers</i> TONY DALTON & JASON KEARNEY	<i>Section headed by</i> HUBERT LOFTUS PRINCIPAL OFFICER	<i>Unit headed by 3 Technical Managers</i> TONY SHEPPARD, MARTIN HEFFERNAN & LARRY MCEVOY	<i>Unit headed by</i> DAVID GORDON PRINCIPAL OFFICER	<i>Section headed by</i> JOHN RIGNEY PRINCIPAL OFFICER
30 support staff	35 support staff	26 support staff	2 support staff	19 support staff

APPENDIX TWO

LIST OF SOME RECENTLY COMPLETED LARGE-SCALE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Carlow	Drumfeigh N.S.	New 3-Classroom School
Carlow	Holy Family Boys & Girls, Askea	Roof Replacement
Cavan	Killinkere N.S.	Extension of 2 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Clare	Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 950 pupils
Clare	St. Flannan's College, Ennis	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 850 pupils
Cork	C.O.M. Mallow	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 575 pupils
Cork	Christ the King Secondary School	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 900 pupils
Cork	Douglas C.S.	Refurbishment of PE Hall
Cork	Dunmanway Model School	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Cork	Gaelscoil De Hide	Refurbishment of school including provision of fire escape
Cork	GrangeFrankfield N.S.	New 16-Classroom School
Cork	Gaelscoil an tAthar Tadhg Ó Murchú	Extension of 8 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Cork	Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 650 pupils
Cork	Rathpeacon N.S.	New 7-Classroom School
Cork	Schull V.S.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 375 pupils
Cork	Scoil An Croí Ró-Naofa	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Cork	Scoil Bernadette	Extension of 2 classrooms
Cork	Scoil Mhuire Banrion	Mechanical & Electrical upgrade
Cork	Walterstown N.S.	New 4-Classroom School

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Donegal	Conc Na Naomh N.S.	Extension of 3 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Donegal	Illistrin N.S.	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Donegal	Loreto S.S. Letterkenny	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 950 pupils
Donegal	Moville C.C.	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 500 pupils
Donegal	Rosses C.S. Dungloe	Provision of a PE Hall
Dublin	Archbishop Ryan N.S., Balgaddy	New 16-Classroom School
Dublin	Ballyboghil N.S.	New 6-Classroom School
Dublin	Ballymun C.S.	Refurbishment of PE Hall
Dublin	Castaheany – Mary Mother Of Hope N.S.	New 16-Classroom School
Dublin	Central Remedial Clinic	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Dublin	Coláiste Eoin Bóthar Stigh Lorgan	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 800 pupils
Dublin	Coláiste Mhuire	Refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	Coláiste Phadraig C.B.S. Lucan	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 875 pupils
Dublin	Finglas V.S.	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Dublin	Georges Hill Convent	Mechanical & Electrical upgrade
Dublin	Griffen Educate Together N.S.	New 16-Classroom School
Dublin	Inchicore V.S.	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Dublin	Kill O' The Grange N.S.	New 9-Classroom School
Dublin	Lucan Educate Together	New 16-Classroom School & Autistic Unit
Dublin	Maryfield College, Drumcondra	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 650 pupils
Dublin	Our Lady Of Consolation	Extension of 1 classroom and refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	Our Lady Of Mercy College Beaumont	Provision of Science Labs, Lift Installation and M&E upgrade
Dublin	Pobalscoil Neasain Baldoyle	Provision of a PE Hall
Dublin	Pope John Paul 2	Extension of 5 classrooms and ancillary accommodation

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Dublin	Rathcoole C.S.	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Dublin	Scoil Chiaráin, Donnycarney	Refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	Scoil Naomh Áine	Mechanical & Electrical upgrade
Dublin	Senior College Ballyfermot	Provision of performing arts block
Dublin	Skerries C.C.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 950 pupils
Dublin	St. Catherine's Girls N.S.	Mechanical & Electrical upgrade
Dublin	St. Canice's G.N.S.	Window replacement
Dublin	St. Catherine's N.S.	Provision of ancillary accommodation /refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	St. Finian's N.S.	Refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	St. Joseph's College Lucan	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 725 pupils
Dublin	St. Joseph's N.S.	Extension of 2 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Dublin	St. Maelruans	Security fencing and Resurfacing
Dublin	St. Thomas Jnr. N.S.	Roof Replacement
Dublin	St.Philip's Jnr. N.S.	Refurbishment of existing building
Dublin	Tallaght Community School	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Dublin	Virgin Mary Schools	Mechanical & Electrical upgrade
Galway	Calasanctius College, Oranmore	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 625 pupils
Galway	SN Uí Cheitearnaigh, Ballinasloe	New 10-Classroom School
Galway	Dunmore N.S.	Refurbishment of existing building
Kerry	Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Kerry	Derryquay Mixed N.S.	Provision of ancillary accommodation and refurbishment of existing building
Kerry	Kenmare C.S.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 500 pupils
Kerry	Meanscoil an Leithriúigh	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 150 pupils
Kildare	C.B.S. Athy (Scoil Eoin Rathstewart)	Provision of a PE Hall
Kildare	Killashee N.S.	New 5-Classroom School
Kildare	North Kildare School Project	New 8-Classroom School

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Kildare	Scoil Dara Kilcock	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 875 pupils
Kildare	Scoil Mhuire Jnr./Snr. N.S.	Provision of ancillary accommodation and refurbishment of existing building
Kildare	Scoil Mhuire N.S.	Extension of 4 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Kildare	Rathmore N.S.	New 8-Classroom School
Kilkenny	St. Patrick's Special School	Extension of 4 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Kilkenny	St. Colman's N.S.	Extension of 4 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Laois	Raheen N.S.	New 3-Classroom School
Laois	Rosenallis N.S.	New 3-Classroom School
Leitrim	St. Clare's C.S. Manorhamilton	Extensive roof repairs
Limerick	Adare Girls	Provision of GP room and ancillary accommodation
Limerick	Donoughmore N.S.	Extension of 1 classroom, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Limerick	Dromcollogher C.C.	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 350 pupils
Limerick	Knockea N.S.	Extension of 3 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Limerick	Scoil Íosagáin	Provision of ancillary accommodation and refurbishment of existing building
Limerick	Tineteriffe N.S.	Extension of 1 classroom, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Longford	Killasonna N.S.	Extension of 2 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Longford	St. Gussacht's N.S.	Extension of 1 classroom and ancillary accommodation
Louth	St Oliver Plunkett N.S.	Extension of 6 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Louth	St. Laurence's C.C.	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 500 pupils
Louth	Tullyallen N.S.	Extension of 2 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Mayo	Ardagh N.S.	Extension of 3 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Mayo	Kiltimagh C.S.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 400 pupils

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Mayo	St. Anthony's Special	New 5-Classroom School
Meath	St. Mary's Convent N.S.	Roof Replacement
Meath	Yellow Furze	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Meath	Ratoath Mixed N.S.	New 16-Classroom School
Monaghan	Knockconnon N.S.	New 3-Classroom School
Monaghan	Corcaghan N.S.	New 3-Classroom School
Monaghan	Gaelscoil Rois, Carrickmacross	New 8-Classroom School
Monaghan	St. McCartan's College, Monaghan	Provision of a PE Hall
Offaly	Gaelscoil An Eiscir Riada	New 8-Classroom School
Offaly	Kilcormac V.S.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 400 pupils
Offaly	St. Joseph's/Scoil Eoin Pol 2	Refurbishment of existing buildings
Roscommon	Ballyfeeney N.S.	Extension of 2 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Roscommon	Clooneyquinn N.S.	Extension of 1 classroom, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Roscommon	Roxboro N.S.	Extension of 5 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Roscommon	Summerhill N.S.	New 12-Classroom School
Sligo	Geevagh N.S., (St. Patrick's)	New 4-Classroom School
Sligo	St. Edward's N.S., Ballytivnan	Extension of 4 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Sligo	Summerhill College	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Tipperary	Annacarthy N.S.	New 4-Classroom School
Tipperary	Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann	New 8-Classroom School
Tipperary	Ballyporeen Boys & Girls N.S.	New 6-Classroom School
Tipperary	Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 450 pupils
Tipperary	Mullinahone N.S.	Refurbishment of existing building
Tipperary	St. Mary's Secondary School, Newport	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 550 pupils.
Waterford	Cappoquin N.S.	New 8-Classroom School
Waterford	Lismore C.S. Waterford	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 650 pupils

COUNTY	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Westmeath	C.B.S. Mullingar	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 600 pupils
Westmeath	Castlepollard V.S.	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 200 pupils
Westmeath	Gaelscoil An Muilinn	New 8-Classroom School
Westmeath	Kilbeggan N.S.	Provision of GP room and ancillary accommodation
Wexford	Gaelscoil Loch Gorman	New 8-Classroom School
Wexford	Ramsgrange C.S.	Refurbishment of existing accommodation
Wicklow	Carnew V.S.	Extension to cater for an overall enrolment of 500 pupils
Wicklow	Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole	New school to cater for an overall enrolment of 560 pupils
Wicklow	Marino Special School	Extension of 3 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Wicklow	St. Fergal's Snr. N.S.	Roof Replacement
Wicklow	St. Joseph's N.S., Templeraíne	Extension of 10 classrooms, GP room, ancillary accommodation and autistic unit
Wicklow	St. Kevin's, Greystones	Extension of 10 classrooms, GP room and ancillary accommodation
Wicklow	St. Patrick's Loreto N.S.	Extension of 6 classrooms and ancillary accommodation
Wicklow	St. Thomas' C.C. Bray	Electrical upgrade



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