

COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Cover Note

DP No.	234 (SEELB)	
School(s)	St Ita's PS 403-6642	
Proposal	To increase the capacity of St Ita's Primary School from 525 to 574 (with the admissions number increased from 75 to 82).	
Minister's Decision	Approve	
Date of Decision	17/04/2013	
Minister's Comments	Agreed	
Additional notes	Implementation date 1 September 2013	
Information redacted	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.	
	Key	Details
	■	redaction
	*	refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive
	#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure

FROM: LORRAINE FINLAY
Area Planning Policy Team

TRIM Ref: DE1/13/56815

DATE: 17 April 2013

To: JOHN O'DOWD MLA

copy distribution below

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO. 234 – TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY IN ST
ITA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARRYDUFF FROM 525 TO 574.**

Objective:	To decide on Development Proposal 234.
Issue:	The proposed increase in capacity of St Ita's Primary School from 525 to 574 (with the admissions number increased from 75 to 82).
Timescale:	Urgent - Wednesday 17 April 2013 is the date that the school/boards issue letters advising parents of the primary school for which their child has been accepted/not accepted for September 2013.
Financial / Resource Implications	CCMS has indicated that an application will be made for 3 mobiles with an estimated capital cost of up to £250,000. If the proposal is approved, these capital costs will need to be met from the Department's minor works budget. One additional teacher will be required initially at a cost of approximately £42,000 but this may increase to 2 teachers over time.
FOI Implications:	The content of this submission is likely to be fully disclosable.
Presentational Issues:	It is highly likely that there will be local media interest in your decision. A draft Press Release has been prepared, the content of which has been agreed with the Communications Team.
Recommendation	It is recommended that you approve development proposal No.234 to increase the capacity of St Ita's Primary School from 525 to 574 on the basis of the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All 3 maintained schools in the area are oversubscribed with P1 applications;• The proposal is in accordance with the draft SEELB draft Primary Area Plan; and• There has been significant support for the

	<p>proposal.</p> <p>It is also recommended that you agree the wording of the press release (Appendix D) attached.</p>
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Background

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) published Development Proposal No 234 on 12 February 2013, at the request of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) proposing that St Ita's Primary School, Carryduff increases its capacity number from 525 to 574. This would permit the school to increase the admissions number from 75 to 82 pupils with effect from 1 September 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter. The 2-month objection period ended on 12 April 2013. A copy of the proposal is attached at **Appendix A.**

2. St Ita's PS is a maintained co-educational primary school situated off the main Saintfield Road on a semi rural site at Alderwood Hill, Purdysburn. The school opened in 2005 in a new building with a Nursery Unit in its grounds. In the 2012/13 academic year, the school has 508 pupils enrolled in P1 to P7 and a further 53 children in part-time places in its nursery unit.

School Admissions

3. Admissions to individual schools are limited by their approved admissions and enrolment numbers (which take account of the physical capacity of the accommodation available). This is necessary to maintain a viable schools estate.

4. While Open Enrolment Policy enables parents to express their preferences for the schools they wish their children to attend, if oversubscribed with applications, the Board of Governors is required to apply its published admissions criteria to decide which pupils to admit.

5. Should St Ita's Primary School receive more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a temporary variation (TV) in its admissions number from the Department. The Department may approve TVs to a school's numbers to respond to particular demographic pressures in an area in a particular year, for example a larger than normal cohort of children seeking admission could lead to insufficient places being available in all schools of a particular type in the area.

6. St Ita's PS did not requested a temporary variation for the 2013/14 school year. The school was significantly oversubscribed, receiving 105 first preference applications for the 80 places it is able to admit (the school is allowed to admit up to 5 applicants above the approved admissions number of 75 provided the school would not thereby exceed the school's overall enrolment number of 523). To date, the school is admitting 80 applicants and has not applied for a temporary increase of the admissions number.

Development Proposal

7. Statistical information relating to the proposal is contained in **Appendix B.** The key issues are outlined below:-

- The total enrolment at St Ita's PS has steadily increased in recent years, from 397 in 2008/09 to 508 in 2012/13, however, the school has a calculated physical capacity of 523 and is working towards this level.
- The school's capacity of 523 is just under the upper limit of the 18 class base range (496-525). The school's current approved P1 admission number is 75. If the DP is approved School Access Team would grant an increase in the approved P1 admissions to 82 pupils. This would immediately increase the enrolment to the 19 class base range (526-555) from September 2013.
- Although St Josephs and St Bernard's are not filled to capacity, all 3 schools in the area have been oversubscribed with first preference applications each year since 2011.
- The approval of the proposal will result in additional costs for mobile accommodation. If 3 mobiles are approved the estimated cost would be up to £250,000. Teaching costs of approximately £42,000 for one teacher will also apply.

ETI Comment

8. The ETI support the proposal. Full ETI comments are supplied in **Appendix B**.

South Eastern Education and Library Board Comment

9. The SEELB has indicated that it supports this proposal due to the continued demand for places at the school and the increase in the population in the Carryduff area. Full SEELB comments are supplied in **Appendix B**.

Support / Objection

10. The Department received 21 letters of support for the proposal during the two-month consultation period. Only one letter of concern was received from St Bernard's PS and this related to the impact of the proposal on their school. The main issues raised in the consultation are included in **Appendix B**.

Consultation

11. Proof of both the SEELB consultation and the CCMS consultation has been supplied.

Conclusion and Recommendation

12. There has been a steady increase in the total enrolment at St Ita's PS in recent years, from 397 in 2008/09 to 508 in 2012/13, the school currently has a calculated capacity of 523.

13. It is not envisaged that an increase in St Ita's PS enrolment will have any adverse impact on any other school in the area as all 3 maintained schools are oversubscribed with P1 applications.

14. There has been significant support for the proposal particularly from parents and Anna Lo, MLA. Only one letter of concern was received from St Bernard's PS and this related to the impact of the proposal on their school.

15. The proposal is included in the SEELB draft Primary Area Plan and approval of the proposal would demonstrate support for the new process and be in keeping with allowing popular oversubscribed schools to grow providing there is no adverse impact on other schools in the area and in support of the area plan.

16. It is therefore recommended that the proposal is approved and that you agree the press release attached at Appendix D.

17. Attached for your consideration are the following:

- Appendix A: Published Development Proposal
- Appendix B: Statistical information relating to the proposal
- Appendix C: Location Map
- Appendix D: Draft Press Release



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SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**In accordance with Article 14 of the
Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986**

PROPOSAL NO. 234

AREA NO. 13 Castlereagh

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools proposes St. Ita's Primary School, Carryduff increases its capacity from 525 to 574. This would permit the school to increase the admissions number from 75 pupils to 82 pupils with effect from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

This proposal has been submitted to the Department of Education. Any comments or objections to the proposal should be made in writing to the Department of Education, as detailed below, within two months of the date of publication.

Schools Development Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Bangor BT19 7PR

The Department of Education and the Education and Library Boards operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act and letters of objection and information supplied to the Department are open to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

A copy of the proposal may be inspected at the offices of the South Eastern Education and Library Board at Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast BT16 2HS during normal office hours.

Gregory Butler
Chief Executive
SEELB

Enrolment**Table 1: 2012/13 Enrolment at St Ita's PS (403-6642)**

	NU	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	PS Total
Number of pupils	53	84	83	80	62	69	74	56	508

Table 2: Historical Enrolments

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
P1 enrolment	71	68	79	81	84
Enrolment (P1-P7)	397	427	453	483	508

The schools approved enrolment number is 525 which is the upper limit of the 18 class base range (496-525). The schools current approved P1 admission number is 75.

Table 3: Alternative Provision

Ref No	Primary School	Distance in miles	Enrolment October 2012	Physical Capacity	Unfilled Places
403-1660	St Joseph's	2.5	392	436	44
403-1676	St Bernard's	3.3	406	446	40
			798	882	84
BELB	3 - 4 miles				
103-6140	St Michael's	3.5	416	409	0
103-0327	Holy Rosary	3.6	312	508	196
103-6075	St Bride's	3.8	817	809	0
			1545	1726	181
	4.1 - 5 miles				
103-6466	St Malachy's	4.6	263	350	87
103-0868	St Anne's	4.9	811	860	49
103-6688	St John the Baptist	5.0	425	425	0
			1499	1635	126
	5.1 - 6 miles				
103-6505	St Matthew's	5.3	214	388	174

103-6565	St Kevin's	5.6	496	610	114
103-6246	St Joseph's	5.7	310	423	113
103-6621	St Joseph's	5.9	192	340	148
			1212	1761	
Grand Total			5054	6004	

Distance as per multi-map Route Finder

Table 4: Enrolment in Alternative Provision

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Approved Enrolment
St Joseph's	388	392	378	381	392	436
St Bernard's	393	400	393	403	406	446
	781	792	771	784	798	882
3 - 4 miles						
St Michael's	417	413	415	416	416	409
Holy Rosary	276	260	273	255	312	508
St Bride's	786	776	788	807	817	809
	1479	1449	1476	1478	1545	1726
4.1 - 5 miles						
St Malachy's	211	202	230	248	263	350
St Anne's	800	768	794	804	811	860
St John the Baptist	269	245	218	415	425	425
	246	239	215			
	1526	1454	1457	1467	1499	1635
5.1 - 6 miles						
St Matthew's	224	226	204	199	214	388
St Kevin's	443	441	449	478	496	610
St Joseph's	202	234	251	272	310	423
St Joseph's	231	226	212	181	192	340
	1100	1127	1116	1130	1212	1761
	4886	4822	4820	4859	5054	6004

Table 5: Admissions in Alternative Provision

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Approved Admission
St Joseph's 52 p/t	60	50	59	60	61	60
St Bernard's	56	52	55	61	61	60
	116	102	114	121	122	120
3 - 4 miles						
St Michael's	60	60	60	60	60	58(60)
Holy Rosary	37	36	41	43	56	73(78)
St Bride's 52 f/t	109	109	113	111	115	116(120)
	206	205	214	214	231	247
4.1 - 5 miles						
St Malachy's 52 f/t	24	32	41	50	40	50(55)
St Anne's 52 f/t	90	98	119	117	121	120
St John the Baptist	26	31	25	63	65	60(66)
	30	29	21			
	170	190	206	230	226	230
5.1 - 6 miles						
St Matthew's 52 f/t	30	30	18	31	38	55(60)
St Kevin's	59	81	59	90	77	87(90)
St Joseph's	35	49	47	53	61	60
St Joseph's	28	37	27	22	40	49(54)
	152	197	151	196	216	251
	644	694	685	761	795	848

NU = Nursery Unit R = Reception f/t = full-time p/t = part-time

Figure in brackets denotes variance allowed in admissions number subject to enrolment number not being exceeded.

Table 6: 1st Preference Applications

School	Admissions No	2013	2012	2011	2010
St Ita's	75	105	82	78	80
St Joseph's	60	63	60	71	56
St Bernard's	60	60	71	75	58

Area Plan

The SEELB draft Primary Area Plan identifies St Ita's PS as a sustainable school but states that a critical issue for the school is the pattern of increasing enrolment. The plan specifies that the school managing authority's proposed action is the development proposal to increase the school's capacity from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The plan also states that in the maintained sector in the Castlereagh area, there is a need to reduce the number of places by 46 by 2025. It also states that the demand for places will largely remain at the 2012/13 level.

Population Projections

The figures used in the area planning process are generated using the 'needs model' which forecasts school pupil populations over the period 2011 to 2025. The latest projections enable the calculation of the number of pupils expected to enrol in primary schools in each DC area in each year up to 2025. Table 7 below shows that the forecast total enrolment number for maintained primary schools in the Castlereagh DC area is at its highest of 1394 pupils in 2018. The table shows that enrolments for the maintained sector in the Castlereagh area steadily increase to 2018 but then steadily reduce to 1346 by 2025. Table 8 shows that the current enrolment at the 3 maintained primary schools is 1306 and total approved enrolment number is 1392.

Table 7: Forecast enrolment 2011-2025

Castlereagh Council Area – Needs Model – Primary Pupils				
Year	Controlled	Maintained	Integrated	Total - Castlereagh Council Area
2013	3543	1318	631	5492
2014	3574	1330	638	5542
2015	3630	1351	647	5628
2016	3692	1374	657	5723
2017	3719	1384	664	5767
2018	3744	1394	668	5806
2019	3719	1385	665	5769

2020	3681	1371	660	5712
2021	3688	1373	660	5721
2022	3688	1373	659	5720
2023	3679	1370	657	5706
2024	3650	1359	652	5661
2025	3616	1346	646	5608

Table 8: Actual enrolment 2012/13

DENI Ref:	School Name	School Type	Enrolment 2012/13	Approved Enrolment
4031676	St Bernard's	Maintained	406	446
4036642	St Ita's	Maintained	508	510
4031660	St Joseph's	Maintained	392	436
Total			1306	1392

Current Accommodation

St Ita's PS has 18 designated classrooms. CCMS advises that the school is currently using a resource room and the school library as classrooms to alleviate accommodation problems but the Building Handbook schedules of accommodation specify that 18 classrooms can accommodate 496-525 pupils.

Enrolment changes based on increased admission

If the DP is approved, this would support an increase in the enrolment and admissions numbers to 575 and 82 respectively. The revised admissions number would apply from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter. School Access Team will then phase in increases to the enrolment number annually towards a figure up to the maximum approved. The Department consults on proposed numbers annually with schools and with the appropriate Education and Library Board and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools in the case of maintained schools so any phased increase would be agreed with the school concerned.

Based on a projection of the current enrolment and the revised P1 admission number, St Ita's PS would enter the 19 class base range (526-555) in September 2013 and the 20 class base range (556-585) in September 2016.

Table 9: School Enrolment Forecast

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
P1 Intake	82	82	82	82	82
P7 leavers	56	74	69	62	80
Enrolment (P1-P7)	508	534	542	555	575

CCMS Rationale

In their case for the proposed increase in enrolment for St Ita's, CCMS cite the substantial growth in the Catholic population in this area.

They detail that admissions at the school are made up of pupils baptised in the parish plus between 30 and 50% of pupils living in the parish but not baptised there. They state that in the last 4 years St Ita's and St Joseph's have been unable to accommodate all of the children applying from the parish and the baptism figures suggest that this will continue for the next 5 years.

They comment that although it would appear that both schools have spare capacity, the real problem lies with the admissions numbers. The school is under considerable pressure from parents who do not understand why the school cannot accommodate all the local parish children.

Financial Implications

School Budget

St Ita's PS had a budget surplus of £109,368, or 7.64% of available delegated resources at 31 March 2012.

The SEELB's financial forecasts for the school for the next 3 years to March 2015 are surpluses of £73k, £35k and £54k respectively.

The SEELB have no concerns with this school's finances.

Common Funding Scheme allocation

An increased number of pupils at St Ita's PS would have minimal impact on the Aggregated Schools Budget as it involves a redistribution of pupils whose funding will follow them.

Schools Finance advise that they support the expansion of existing schools as opposed to opening new, small, stand alone schools.

Teaching Costs

CCMS has advised that one additional teacher would be required if the development proposal was approved. An average salary equates to £34,181 pa. Adding 24% employers costs = £42,384 pa.

Accommodation

Additional accommodation would be required if the proposal was approved. CCMS have advised that an application will be made for 3 mobiles. There is no guarantee, however, that this application would be successful as accommodation is not provided

in advance of need and is based on the number of pupils at the school. If 3 mobiles are approved the estimated cost would be up to £250,000.

CCMS advise that the school is situated on extensive grounds with ample opportunities for the placement of temporary accommodation. In line with the Building Handbook requirements, the school site is 1.65 hectares which is the recommended size for 18 class bases.

ETI Comments

Along with St Joseph's Primary School, St Ita's Primary School offers educational provision to its local parish. The immediate Carryduff area has seen a substantial increase in the Catholic population including proposed new housing in the lower parish which St Ita's serves.

It would be sensible to reflect this burgeoning demographic in a corresponding increase in St Ita's capacity which will necessitate additional accommodation.

St Ita's was inspected in February of this year and the overall finding was 'outstanding'. This evaluation was arrived at despite the fact that the school has had to convert its central library and an ICT/resource room into two classrooms to accommodate its increasing enrolment. This latter room was too small to accommodate a large class.

Given these restraints, ETI would be in favour of the proposal as it will enable the school to maintain the excellent standards its children achieve and allow the opportunity for more children to avail of this high level provision.

School Access Team Full Comments

Enrolment and admissions numbers are set by the Department having regard to the teaching accommodation available. One additional classroom would support an increase of the enrolment and admissions numbers to 552/79. Two classrooms would give figures of 581/83. School Access Team will however be guided by the numbers that are approved by Area Planning Policy Team (APPT), and when they will take effect (presumably when the accommodation is available to cater for those numbers).

The revised admissions number would apply from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter and School access Team (SAT) will then phase in increases to the enrolment number annually towards a figure up to the maximum approved. The Department consults on proposed numbers annually with schools and with the appropriate Education and Library Board (and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools in the case of maintained schools) so any phased increase would be agreed with the school concerned.

School Admissions

It is the sole responsibility of the Board of Governors to define the criteria, they wish to prioritise in terms of admission to the school within the school's approved admissions number in order to select between applicants down to the last available place.

Should St Ita's Primary School receive more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a temporary variation (TV) in its admissions number from the Department. The Department may approve TVs to a school's numbers to respond to particular demographic pressures in an area in a particular year, for example a larger than normal cohort of children seeking admission could lead to insufficient places being available in all schools of a particular type in the area.

In practice this means that the Department will generally approve a TV to a school's numbers for children who otherwise do not have a primary school of the same type, with places, available to them within a reasonable distance of the child's home address.

A TV does not take account of statemented pupils, or pupils admitted on appeal as they remain over and above that number and should any applicant subsequently withdraw their application for admission or receive a Statement of Special Educational Needs during that school year the addition to the admissions number is correspondingly reduced. It should be noted that a TV is granted on the condition that *no additional accommodation will be involved*.

School Access Team advise that when considering a TV request, DE must:

- take account of the availability of places at other schools of the same type within a reasonable travelling distance of home addresses;
- the accommodation available at the school; and
- be mindful of class size policy, however, ultimately it is for schools themselves to ensure that they comply with class size policy.

TVs are not granted to address:

- anticipation of demand, nor
- a long term desire to increase the size of a school within an area.

St Ita's PS has not requested a temporary variation for the 2013/14 school year. SAT is aware that the school was significantly oversubscribed, receiving 105 first preference applications for the 80 places it is able to admit (the school is allowed to admit up to 5 applicants above the approved admissions number of 75 provided the school would not thereby exceed the school's overall enrolment number of 523). The school is admitting 80 applicants and has not applied for a temporary increase of the admissions number.

The number of unsuccessful applicants has generated a number of AQWs, COR cases, Invites to the Minister to meet and other Treat Officially correspondence. At the present time only 4 first preference applicants remain unplaced (with the possibility of 1 more).

Details of previous TV applications are as follows:

School Year	Approved Admissions Number	Temporary Variations	
		Places Requested	Places Approved
2013/14	75	N/A	N/A
2012/13	75	7	4
2011/12	75	6	6

School Access Team has no reason to oppose approval of the DP to increase capacity at St Ita's Primary School.

SEELB Full Comments



SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

Chief Executive: Mr Gregory P Butler B Ed M Ed MPA

Area Planning Policy Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR BT19 7PR

Ref: DP233 & 234

Date: 9 April 2013

Dear Sir

RE : DP 234 – Increase capacity at St. Ita’s Primary School , Carryduff from 525 to 574 by 1 September 2013

DP 233 – Increase capacity at Christ the Redeemer Primary School from 570 to 700 by 1 September 2013.

I refer to the above development proposals which were published on 12 February 2013.

The Board undertook formal consultation amongst the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal which closed on the 4 February 2013. A copy of the report on the consultation process is enclosed for your information along with copies of responses received.

In accordance with relevant Education Orders I write to inform you of the Board’s view of this proposal. The Board, after considering the relevant information, has decided to support both of these proposals. This view is based on consideration of the following points.

The continued demand for places at the two schools, together with the increase in the population in the Lagmore area which has directly impacted on the Christ the Redeemer Primary School and a similar increase in population in the Carryduff area which has impacted on St. Ita’s Primary School, has resulted in over subscription at both schools and some local parents failing to obtain places at their nearest primary school.

It is hoped that the Minister will give careful consideration to the above issues and support the increase in capacity at Christ the Redeemer Primary School and St. Ita’s Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Martin
Development Officer
Property Services

AREA PLANNING

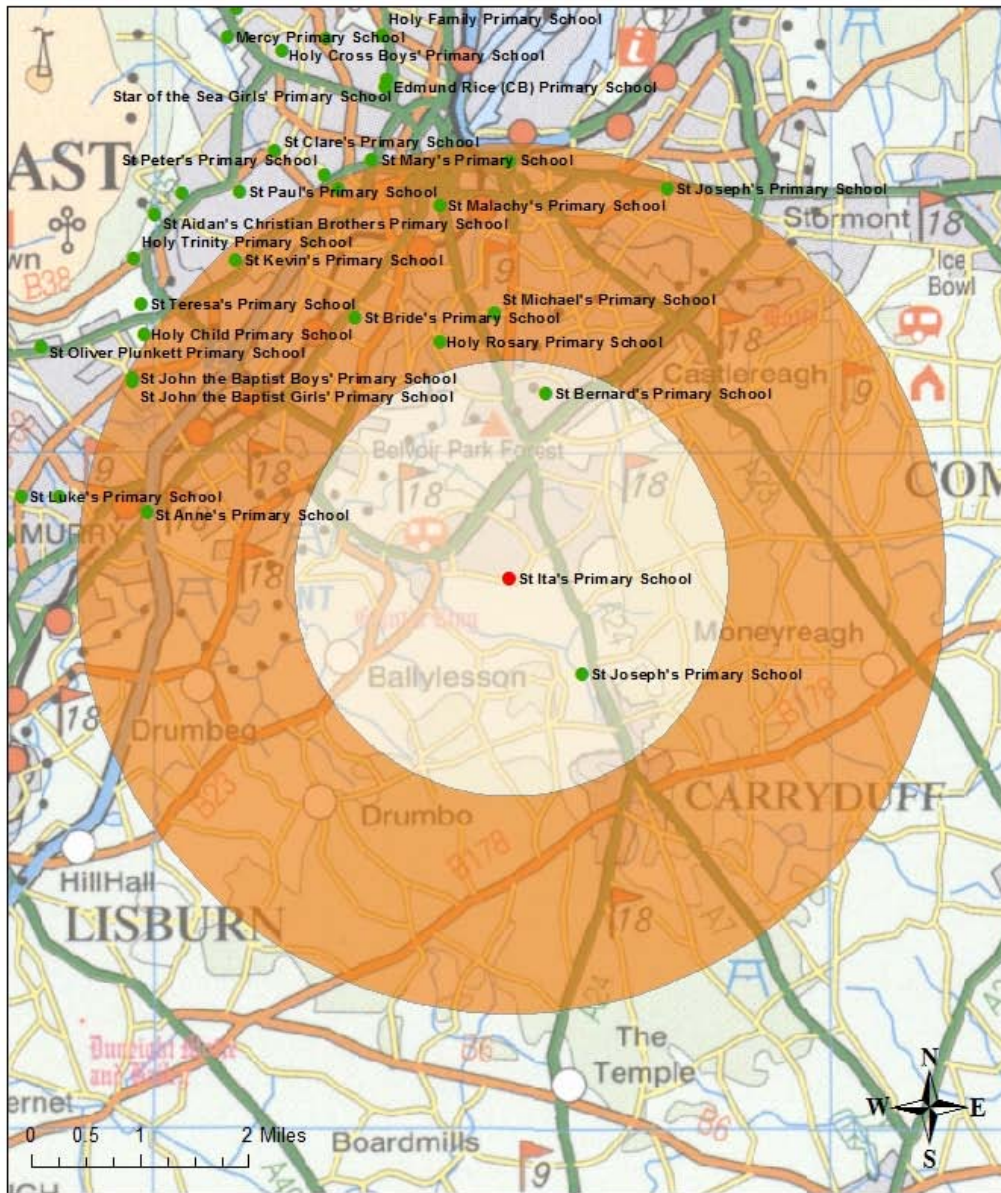
11 APR 2013

POLICY TEAM

Main issues from consultation responses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are insufficient places to meet the needs of pupils in the parish.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic schools in neighbouring parishes are also at full capacity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a sustained growth in population within this area – in particular a Catholic predominance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of parental preference. Parents are being forced to opt for a school outside of their local school and outside of their preferred sector.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister has given a commitment to allow popular schools to grow within the area planning context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister’s promise in Putting Pupils First: Shaping our Future that ‘my priority is to create an education service that ensures that all our young people receive a high quality education which enriches both their lives and grows the economy respectively’ has not been delivered in the Carryduff community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased housing recently constructed and proposed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversubscription of both nursery and primary provision in the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Ita’s is the hub of an ever growing community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Accommodation required – 3 mobiles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has had to convert a library and a resource room for classroom usage. These need to be reinstated. Additional toilets cloaks and storage need to be provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No negative impact on the other local Catholic primary schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of a decision on the proposal is critical for finalisation of places.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term review required to address the mismatch between supply and demand in this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School assessed as ‘outstanding’ – school should be recognised for its exceptional quality and encouraged to educate as many children in the parish/area. • John O’Dowd has said “so I will support governors who set high standards for themselves and for their schools, who are not afraid to challenge, and who put the interests and education of their pupils first”. • The apparent child-centred approach of the school’s ethos was a primary consideration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Bernard’s PS is concerned about the long term affect on their school.

St Ita's Primary School , Carryduff



- Key**
- St Ita's Primary
 - Maintained Primary
- St Ita's Primary**
- Buffer Distance**
- 0.00 - 2.00
 - 2.00 - 4.00



**DECISION ON INCREASED CAPACITY AT ST ITA’S PRIMARY SCHOOL,
CARRYDUFF**

Education Minister John O’Dowd has approved a development proposal to increase capacity at St Ita’s Primary School, Carryduff.

Commenting on the decision, Mr O’Dowd said: **“St Ita’s Primary School is a popular school and enrolment has grown steadily since it opened in 2005. The proposal is for an increase in the school’s capacity from 525 pupils to 574 to meet the immediate need for places in Carryduff and to help cater for the projected future demand.**

“The proposal is consistent with the area planning work currently being undertaken and features in the South Eastern Education and Library Board’s Area Plan”.

“In this context, I am content to approve this development proposal.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. On 12 February 2013, the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) published Development Proposal No. 234, which proposed to increase the capacity at St Ita’s Primary School, from 525 to 574, with effect from 1 September 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. St Ita’s PS is a co-educational maintained primary school located situated off the main Saintfield Road on a semi rural site at Alderwood Hill, Purdysburn in the Parish of Drumbo and Carryduff. The school opened in 2005 in a new building with a Nursery Unit in its grounds.
3. Media queries, contact the Department of Education Press Office on 028 9127 9701. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.