

## **RECORD £380 MILLION INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

Education Minister, Angela Smith, today announced a record £380 million school building programme.

Making her announcement at Kilmaine Primary School in Bangor, which has just opened its new school, the Minister said that the investment highlighted the Government's commitment to improving education facilities for children and young people. She said:

**“Today’s announcement of almost £380 million is a major commitment to the schools’ estate on an unprecedented scale and underlines the value this Government places on education for Northern Ireland’s future.**

The Minister gave a strong message that there were some major challenges to be faced, including falling pupil rolls, which meant that there were already 50,000 empty desks across Northern Ireland.

**“We must ensure that schools are sustainable and can provide high quality education in a cost effective manner for the benefit of both children and teachers. We are challenged therefore with the need to be smarter in our longer term planning, so that we use all the resources available to best effect.**

At the end of January, Secretary of State Peter Hain, in a speech to the Fabian Society, signalled the Government's commitment to explore new models of schooling, sharing across sectors to help achieve higher standards, better facilities, and a better use of resources. Angela Smith said today's announcement should be seen in that context.

**“It is imperative that we take a more strategic approach than before to the development of the schools’ estate, looking at the overall needs of schools in an area. The Strategic Review of Education announced by the Secretary of State will examine this issue and will inform our future planning of the estate”, she said.**

The Minister made it clear that this was not a policy for shutting schools or challenging their ethos, but one that recognises that resources are limited.

Highlighting that education authorities are examining the future building needs across the region and all sectors are strongly encouraged to explore the option of sharing. She said:

**“It is crucial that all our children have the best facilities possible and this will inevitably mean some rationalisation. The capital programme has a role to play in improving accommodation for amalgamations and it is my intention that such proposals coming forward should receive a high priority.**

Concluding, Angela Smith said: **“My announcement today holds the promise for thousands of children to learn, and teachers and other staff to work, in modern facilities. More than 22,000 pupils at 48 schools will benefit. Considerable effort has been undertaken by school authorities on developing schemes for funding support and I congratulate them on the work done to get the schemes ready.”**

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

The 48 schools to benefit include:

- 2 nursery schools
- 24 primary schools
- 20 post-primary schools
- 2 special schools

The procurement route for the schools is still to be confirmed. The Department of Education and the Strategic Investment Board will be addressing this shortly and schools will be advised in the near future.

The list of major works schemes that are being funded are:-

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DETAILS OF PROJECT</b>	<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST £m</b>
Artigarvan Primary School, Strabane	New replacement school on new site	2.5
Arvalee Special School, Omagh	New replacement school on existing site	3.6
Ballykelly Primary School, Limavady	New replacement school and Nursery unit on existing site	3.7
Bangor Grammar School	New replacement school on new site	16.1
Colaiste Feirste, Belfast	Extension and refurbishment	13.5
Convent of Mercy Primary School / St Mary's Boys' Primary School, Rostrevor	Amalgamation in a new school	3.4
Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore	New replacement school on new site	9.4
Ebrington Primary School, Londonderry	New replacement school on new site	3.7
Edendork Primary School	New replacement school on new site	6.7
Eglinton Primary School, Londonderry	New replacement school on existing site	2.2
Enniskillen Model Primary School	New replacement school on existing site	4.0
Foyle & Londonderry College	New replacement school on new site	28.5
Glastry College, Ballyhalbert	New replacement school on extended site	11.7
Glendhu Nursery School, Belfast	New replacement school on existing site	0.3
Glenwood Primary School / Edenderry Nursery School, Belfast	New replacement school and Nursery unit on existing site	4.4
Hollywood Primary School / Redburn Primary School and Hollywood Nursery School	Amalgamation in a new school / New Nursery School on a new site	3.8
Knockbreda High School, Belfast	New replacement school on existing site	13.3
Knockevin Special School, Downpatrick	Extension & refurbishment of existing school and new build Junior school on a new site	4.4
Little Flower Girls' Secondary School, Belfast	New replacement school on existing site	12.4

Lurgan College	New replacement school on existing site	10.0
Magherafelt High School	New replacement school on existing site	11.4
Methodist College, Belfast	Extension and refurbishment	41.0
New Buildings Primary School Londonderry	New replacement school on existing site	2.3
Parkhall College, Antrim	New replacement school on existing site	12.4
Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn	New replacement school on extended site	5.2
Portadown College	New replacement school on existing site	14.9
Priory College, Holywood	New replacement school on new site	8.7
Ravenscroft Nursery School, Belfast	New replacement school on existing site	0.5
Scoil Na Fuisseoige, Twinbrook, Belfast	New replacement school on existing site	1.9
St Catherine's College Armagh	Extension to Irish Medium Unit	0.6
St Columbanus College, Bangor	New replacement school on existing site	11.1
St Columba's Primary School, Straw, Draperstown	New replacement school on new site	1.9
St Conor's Primary School, Omagh	New replacement school on extended site	4.0
St Joseph's Primary School, Madden, Armagh	New replacement school on existing site	1.5
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	New replacement school on existing site	10.1
St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge	New replacement school and Nursery Unit	4.2
St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle	New replacement school and Nursery unit on existing site	2.9
St Patrick's College, Banbridge	New replacement school on existing site	10.2
St Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh	Extension and refurbishment	18.2
Strandtown Primary School, Belfast	Extension & refurbishment	8.3
Tannaghmore Primary School, Lurgan	New replacement school on existing site	5.9
Templepatrick Primary School	New replacement school and Nursery unit on existing site	2.8
The High School, Ballynahinch	New replacement school on existing site	11.9

Towerview Primary School, Bangor	New replacement school and Nursery Unit	4.5
Victoria College, Belfast	Extension and refurbishment	18.5
Victoria Primary School, Ballyhalbert	New replacement school on extended site	2.2
Waringstown Primary School	Extension and refurbishment	1.4
Whitehouse Primary School, Newtownabbey	New replacement school and Nursery unit on existing site	3.3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>379.4</b>

Footnote:

The relocation of Foyle and Londonderry College and Ebrington Primary School to the Clooney lands in Londonderry, with support from the Schools' Capital Programme, was confirmed by the Secretary of State on 13 December 2005.