### **COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

### **Cover Note**

DP No.	DP 282	? (SELB)		
School(s)	St Patri	ck's Primary School 503-1697		
Proposal	Increas	e Enrolment		
Minister's Decision	Approv	е		
Date of Decision	20/08/2	2013		
Minister's Comments	Agreed			
Additional Notes	-			
Information Redacted	remove	nformation and personal data may have been ed in line with the principles of the Freedom of ation 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: **ANGELA KANE** TRIM Ref: DE1/13/56593

**Area Planning Policy Team** 

Date: 16 August 2013

To: JOHN O'DOWD MLA copy distribution below

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO. 282 - TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY IN ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAYOBRIDGE, FROM 284 TO 350 PUPILS.

The proposed increase in capacity of St Patrick's Issue:

> Primary School, Mayobridge, from 284 to 350 pupils from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible

thereafter.

Timescale: Urgent an early decision will help clarify the position for

interested parties.

Financial / Resource **Implications** 

An increased number of pupils at St Patrick's would have minimal impact on the Aggregated Schools Budget, as it involves a redistribution of pupils, whose

funding will follow them.

It will cost approximately £150,000 to provide a double mobile at the school. If the proposal is approved these capital costs will need to be met from the DE minor

works budget.

**FOI Implications:** This submission is fully disclosable.

Legislation Implications: Presentational N/A

Issues:

It is likely that there will be local media interest in your decision. If you are content, the Communications Office will issue the attached press release to announce your

decision.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposal should be approved, subject to a phased increase in the approved enrolment number at St Patrick's PS, up to a maximum revised total of 342 pupils, in line with the revised figure calculated by SAT if two additional classrooms are

provided.

This recommendation is subject to you also approving DP290 which proposes the closure of the nearby

Clontifleece PS.

It is also recommended that you agree the wording of the draft approval letter (Appendix D) and press release (Appendix E) attached.

### Background

The Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) published Development Proposal No. 282 on 18 February 2013. This proposes an increase in capacity at St Patrick's Primary School from 284 to 350 pupils, with effect from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter. The two month consultation period ended on 18 April 2013. A copy of the proposal is attached at **Appendix A.** 

2. St Patrick's Primary School was established in 1926 under the auspices of the Sisters of St Clare and was reformed in 1960 as a co-educational parish school to serve the needs of the families of Mayobridge and District. It occupies a central site in the village, adjacent to the Parish Church and Convent. The school currently has 299 pupils enrolled in P1 to P7 and a further 4 children in its reception class.

### **Development Proposal**

- 3. Statistical information relating to the proposal is contained in **Appendix B**. The key issues are outlined below:-
  - The total enrolment at St Patrick's PS has increased steadily in recent years, from 247 in 2008 to 299 in 2012.
  - The school's current approved enrolment number, 284, is in the 10 class base range (261-290)
  - The schools approved admissions and enrolment numbers increased on a temporary variation for 2013/14 to 46 & 313 respectively.
  - The ETI support the proposal
  - CCMS advise that a double mobile would be need if the DP is approved, this will cost approximately £150,000.
  - SAT advise that 2 additional classrooms would support an increase of the enrolment and admissions numbers to 342 and 49.

### **ETI Input**

- 4. The ETI recommend that the proposal is accepted for the following reasons:
  - the Department has, for the past three years, granted a variation in the school's enrolment and admissions numbers;
  - the school is currently exceeding its enrolment number by 12 children and has requested a further variation in admissions for September 2013:
  - all of the children who are enrolled or seek to be enrolled in the school live within the immediate school environment:
  - in September 2013, 32 children will transfer from St Patrick's to post primary education and 52 children will be admitted into year 1. The parish records, local playgroup enrolments and building development within the area suggest that this trend is set to continue over the foreseeable future;

- the CCMS has already applied to the Department for additional mobile accommodation to meet the demands within the immediate area; and
- ETI carried out a follow-up inspection in St Patrick's Primary School in June 2011. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

### **Southern Education and Library Board Input**

- 5. The SELB advised the following:
  - At its meeting on 30 January 2013, the Board's Advisory Sub-committee for Controlled Schools considered the Development Proposals for Catholic Maintained primary schools forwarded for publication by CCMS as the managing authority for these schools (DPs 282-286). The Advisory Sub-committee identified no impact on other schools in the area and noted the Board's statutory obligation to publish the proposals for consultation. It was agreed that the five Development Proposals would be tabled for comment at the next meeting of the Board.
  - At the Board meeting on 13 February 2013, members noted the views expressed by neighbouring schools in relation to proposals. No impact on other schools in the area was highlighted by Board members and it was noted that the proposals would proceed to publication.
  - Each of these Development Proposals was included for the respective schools in the Board's draft Area Plan for Primary Provision (January 2013).
- 6. In the case of DP282 for St Patrick's PS, the SELB also provided an extract from their February Board minutes which stated that, "Mr Mackin supported this proposal,"

### **Support / Objection**

7. The Department received no letters of support or objection for the proposal during the two-month consultation period.

#### Consultation

8. The SELB has confirmed that it has fulfilled its statutory duty in relation to consultation and has provided proof of publication.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

9. The ETI support the proposal and note that the most recent follow-up inspection in St Patrick's Primary School in June 2011 in the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is very good.

- 10. There has been a steady increase in the total enrolment at St Patrick's PS in recent years, from 247 in 2008/09 to 299 in 2012/13, and the school has an approved TV for this to rise to 313 in September 2013.
- 11. There are 4 maintained primary schools within 5 miles of St Patrick's PS by road. The nearest, Carrick PS in Warrenpoint, is over 3 miles away. Enrolments at 3 of the 4 alternative schools are healthy and they only had a total of 17 unfilled places in 2012/13 school year. The other alternative primary school in the area, Clontifleece PS, had an enrolment of 34 pupils and 47 unfilled places in the 2012/13 school year. A separate DP has been published proposing the closure of Clontifleece PS from 31 August 2013. The proposal has also been passed for your consideration.
- 12. It is not envisaged that an increase in St Patrick's PS enrolment will have any significant adverse impact on the 3 other schools in the area as all 3 schools, along with St Patrick's have been oversubscribed with P1 applications for September 2013.
- 13. The proposal is included in the SELB 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. It is therefore recommended that the proposal is approved. 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 Wording for 'Approval' Letter

Appendix E: Draft Press Release

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### THE SOUTHERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION No 282

In pursuance of Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, as amended by Article 145 of the Education Reform Order 1989, and by Article 89 of the Education Order 1998, and by Article 24 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, the SELB has been requested by the Board of Governors of St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge to publish a development proposal. Notice is hereby given that the Proposal detailed below has been submitted to the Department of Education for approval:

It is proposed that St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge increases its capacity number from 284 to 350. This would permit the school to increase the admissions number from 41 pupils to 50 pupils with effect from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

A copy of the Proposal may be inspected at the Headquarters of the Southern Education and Library Board, 3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, ARMAGH, BT61 9AX during normal office hours.

Any comments or objections to the Proposal should be made in writing, within a period of two months from the date of publication to the Department of Education, as detailed below.

Area Planning and Policy Team 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 of Education or the Southern Education and Library Board are open to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (A fee may be charged for supplying the information)

Mr A P Murphy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Southern Education and Library Board
3 Charlemont Place
The Mall
Armagh
BT81 9AX

### **Statistical Information**

### **2012/13 Enrolment at St Patrick's PS (5031697)**

	Rec	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-P7
Number of pupils	4	46	47	57	39	41	36	33	299

#### **Historical Enrolments**

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
P1 Intake	42	38	55	48	46
Enrolment (P1-P7)	247	255	275	287	299

The schools approved enrolment number is 284 which is in the 10 class base range (261-290). The schools approved P1 admission number is 41. The SELB advised that St Patrick's PS received 45 applications for P1 in September 2013.

PS Total includes 6 children with Statements of Educational Need (SEN) who are supernumerary to the approved enrolment number of 284 pupils.

For the 2011/12 school year, the approved admissions and enrolment numbers were 41-45 and 284 (45 being the number of pupils the school is permitted to admit provided they remain within their approved enrolment number of 284). The Principal used her admissions variance 'in error' and admitted 4 pupils to the school when she didn't have the room within her approved enrolment number to do so. This had a knock on effect to the school's enrolment for the 2012/13 school year for which admissions and enrolment numbers of 41 and 284 were approved. That, coupled with the number of P7 pupils leaving, resulted in the school needing a temporary variation to their enrolment number to 296 for the 2012/13 school year in order to admit applicants up to their published admissions number. It is noted that the actual enrolment is now below that approved by way of temporary variation.

### **New Nursery Unit**

A development proposal (no. 261) was approved in February 2012 to establish a new 26 place part-time nursery unit at the school, subject to the condition that the school cease its practice of admitting pupils to their reception class. The nursery unit is being established in September 2013.

### **Enrolment changes based on increased admission**

If the DP is approved, this would support an increase in the enrolment and admissions numbers to 350 and 50 respectively. The revised admissions number would apply from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter. SAT will phase in increases to the enrolment number annually. 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.

Enrolment and admissions numbers are set by the Department having regard to the teaching accommodation available. Two additional classrooms would support an increase of the enrolment and admissions numbers to 342 and 49. Three classrooms would give figures of 371 and 53. School Access Team will however be guided by the numbers that are approved, and when they will take effect (presumably when the accommodation is available to cater for those numbers).

The table below shows the enrolment changes at St Patrick PS based on a projection of the current enrolment and the revised P1 admission number of 50.

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	17/18	18/19
P1 Intake	46	50	50	50	50	50	50
P7 leavers	33	36	41	39	57	47	46
Enrolment (P1-P7)	312	326	335	346	339	342	346

The table below shows the enrolment changes at St Patrick PS based on a projection of the current enrolment and the revised P1 admission number of 49. (Revised admissions number noted by SAT if 2 additional classrooms provided).

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	17/18	18/19
P1 Intake	46	49	49	49	49	49	49
P7 leavers	33	36	41	39	57	47	46
Enrolment (P1-P7)	312	325	333	343	335	337	340

### **Open Enrolment - School Admissions**

Departmental policy on admission numbers is to maximise parental preference within the related responsibility to maintain a viable estate of schools.

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.

Whilst 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.

#### Permitted variation to admissions without recourse to DE

Under paragraph 25 of Circular 2012/12 *Open Enrolment in Primary Schools*, the Department permits schools to exceed their admissions number in any one year, subject to class size policy, by a specified percentage without recourse to the Department. This is to enable them to deal with peaks in admissions numbers, particularly where alternative schools are not available. A school can only make use of this mechanism provided pupils admitted in this way do not cause the school to exceed the overall approved enrolment number.

In the case of this school, the variation permitted is 10%, allowing a maximum admissions number of 45. However, the enrolment at St Patrick's PS, for 2013/14 school year, is already projected to exceed its approved enrolment number of 284.

### Temporary Variations (TV) in admissions subject to DE approval

Schools can request a <u>temporary</u> increase of their admissions number from the Department for one year only, to cater for particular demographic pressures in an area e.g. 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.

School Access Team advise that the school's approved admissions and enrolment numbers of 41 & 284 for the 2013/14 school year, increased on a temporary variation to 46 & 313 respectively.

### Historical enrolments at alternative primary schools (within a 5 mile radius)

School Ref	School Name	Distance (Miles)	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Approved Enrolment	Unfilled Places
5031697	St Patrick's PS	-	247	255	275	287	299	284	0
	Maintained								
5031609	Carrick PS	3.1	377	393	403	410	401	406	5
5031301	Clontifleece PS	3.9	54	42	46	39	34	81	47
5031558	Ballyholland PS	4.6	209	213	224	219	232	244	12
5036572	St Colman's PS	4.7	146	156	153	166	177	174	0
5036605	St Patrick's PS	5.3	71	81	77	76	86	84	0
5031576	St Colman's Abbey PS	5.4	206	212	213	204	221	360	139
5036409	St Ronan's PS	5.4	384	390	383	391	398	391	0
5033025	St Patrick's PS	5.5	271	268	289	281	288	280	0
5031213	St Clare's Convent PS	5.8	219	211	205	180	179	459	280
5033004	St Mary's PS	6.1	107	101	100	102	103	115	12
5031340	St Joseph's Convent PS	6.2	461	431	400	395	420	470	50
5031158	St Patrick's PS	6.6	298	307	305	318	325	483	158
5036433	St Malachy's PS	8.2	290	262	263	252	272	477	205
	Controlled								
5016451	Windsor Hill PS	5.5	162	163	156	144	153	243	90
	Irish Medium								
5046597	Bunscoil an luir	6.5	104	109	109	92	86	129	43

### Historical intakes at alternative primary schools (within a 5 mile radius)

School Ref	School Name	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Approved admission	Unfilled P1
5031697	St Patrick's PS	42	38	55	48	46	41	0
	Maintained							
5031609	Carrick PS	58	54	60	61	50	58	8
5031301	Clontifleece PS	7	1	8	5	3	12	9
5031558	Ballyholland PS	30	36	36	25	42	30	0
5036572	St Colman's PS	20	27	24	27	29	25	0
5036605	St Patrick's PS	14	14	9	10	17	12	0
5031576	St Colman's Abbey PS	30	37	37	22	36	51	15
5036409	St Ronan's PS	55	50	52	57	61	56	0
5033025	St Patrick's PS	32	40	57	36	45	40	0
5031213	St Clare's Convent PS	26	28	17	20	33	66	33
5033004	St Mary's PS	19	11	15	16	15	16	1
5031340	St Joseph's Convent PS	58	51	41	61	65	67	2
5031158	St Patrick's PS	40	42	46	55	53	60	7
5036433	St Malachy's PS	40	31	42	40	51	68	17
	Controlled							
5016451	Windsor Hill PS	16	28	17	26	27	35	8
	Irish Medium							
5046597	Bunscoil an luir	21	21	12	13	13	18	5

### **September 2013 – Applications**

The applications for St Patrick's and the 4 alternative maintained primary schools within 5 miles (by road) are provided in the table below.

School Ref	School Name	Approved admission	First preference	Second preference	Applications accepted
5031697	St Patrick's PS	41	45	3	45
5031609	Carrick PS	58	59	59	59
5031301	Clontifleece PS	12	4	4	4
5031558	Ballyholland PS	30	33	1	31
5036572	St Colman's PS	25	29	26	26

### **Population Projections – Newry and Mourne District Council Area**

The 'needs model' used within the area planning process forecasts school pupil populations over the period 2013 to 2025. The latest projections enable the Department to calculate the number pupils expected to enrol in controlled primary schools in the Newry and Mourne DC area in each year up to 2025.

The forecast total enrolment number at the maintained primary schools in the Newry and Mourne DC area increases steadily in future years until it peaks at 10,377 pupils in 2022/23 school year. The current total approved enrolment number at the 45 maintained primary schools is 10,236 pupils.

The total approved enrolment figure (10,236) is not exceeded by the forecast enrolment in the maintained sector until the 2020/21 school year. However, the area planning guidance provides for an additional 10% in the forecast pupil population figure to facilitate parental preference. When this is added to the forecast enrolment the approved enrolment number would be exceeded in the 2016/17 school year. This would indicate a potential shortfall in places in the medium-long term but not in the immediate future. (Supporting tables provided below).

### Possible future changes

It should be noted that there is a development proposal under consideration that proposes the closure of Clontifleece PS. If the DP is approved this would remove 81 places (current approved enrolment) from the system.

There is also a project in planning for a new build to amalgamate St Clare's and St Colman's PSs. It is currently proposed that the new school will cater for a maximum enrolment of 435 pupils – this would remove 384 places from combined capacity at two schools of 819 places. St Clare's (459 places) and St Colman's (360 places)

New build accommodation planned for St Joseph's Convent PS will also remove 75 places as capacity will be reduced from 470 to 395.

Potentially 540 primary school places could be removed from the area if the above plans proceed as proposed. This would reduce the approved enrolment numbers to 9,696 pupils (10,236 - 540).

The revised total approved enrolment figure (9,696) would be exceeded by the forecast enrolment in the maintained sector in the 2018/19 school year. When the additional 10% to facilitate parental preference is included this figure would be exceeded in the 2014/15 school year.

However, there is also a current development proposal under consideration proposing an increase in the approved enrolment number at St Mary's PS Mullaghbawn from 230 to 315 pupils. The combined effect of the DPs for St Mary's and St Patrick's being approved would increase the total approved enrolment in the area by 151 places, although this would be on a phased basis.

### Forecast enrolment 2013-2025

Year	Controlled	Maintained	Integrated	Total
2013	1333	8618	96	10047
2014	1376	8892	99	10367
2015	1414	9145	102	10662
2016	1452	9391	105	10947
2017	1496	9681	108	11285
2018	1528	9891	110	11529
2019	1553	10058	112	11723
2020	1579	10231	114	11925
2021	1592	10315	115	12022
2022	1600	10361	115	12076
2023	1602	10377	116	12094
2024	1590	10296	115	12001
2025	1575	10200	114	11889

Maintained
plus 10%
9480
9782
10060
10331
10650
10881
11064
11255
11347
11398
11415
11326
11220

Note: The needs model figures may be changed across the Sectors, District Council areas or ELBs by agreement providing the control total plus 10% for parental preference is not breached.

### Actual enrolment 2012/13

School ref	School name	2012/13 Enrolment	Approved Enrolment	Unfilled Places
5031146	Anamar PS	41	91	50
5031558	Ballyholland PS	232	244	12
5031609	Carrick PS, Warrenpoint	401	406	5
5031130	Cloghogue PS	394	406	12
5031086	Clonalig PS	150	168	18
5031301	Clontifleece PS	34	81	47
5031088	Dromintee PS	170	174	4
5031589	Grange PS	97	145	48
5031694	Holy Cross PS, Attical	130	116	0
5036122	Jonesborough PS	105	174	69
5031154	Killean PS	120	131	11
5031318	Killowen PS	100	116	16
5031516	Moneydarragh PS	72	108	36
5031169	St Brigid's PS, Drumilly	89	97	8
5031163	St Brigid's PS, G'drummond	170	140	0
5036673	St Bronagh's Rostrevor	157	203	46
5031213	St Clare's Convent PS, Newry	179	459	280
5031576	St Colman's Abbey PS, Newry	215	360	145
5036545	St Colmans' PS, Kilkeel	182	454	272
5036572	St Colman's PS, Saval	177	174	0
5036583	St Dallan's PS, Warrenpoint	446	697	251
5031340	St Joseph's Convent PS, Newry	390	470	80
5031325	St Joseph's PS, Ballymartin	84	128	44
5036110	St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook	234	362	128
5031188	St Joseph's PS, Meigh	184	195	11
5036130	St Laurence's PS, Belleeks	61	81	20
5030975	St Malachy's PS, Ballymoyer	85	112	27
5036433	St Malachy's PS, Carnagat	272	477	205
5036064	St Malachy's PS, C'croppan	246	254	8
5031695	St Mary's PS, Barr	136	105	0
5036001	St Mary's PS, G'drumman	60	116	56
5036087	St Mary's PS, Mullabawn	296	230	0
5031070	St Michael's PS, N'hamilton	51	101	50
5030972	St Oliver Plunkett's PS, Forkhill	127	145	18
5031135	St Olivers' PS, C'rovaddy	58	54	0
5033025	St Patrick's PS, Ballymaghery	288	280	0
5031148	St Patrick's PS, C'maglen	297	305	8
5036099	St Patrick's PS, Cullyhanna	190	198	8
5036605	St Patrick's PS, D'greenagh	86	84	0
5031697	St Patrick's PS, Mayobridge	299	284	0
5031158	St Patrick's PS, Newry	325	483	158
5033003	St Paul's PS, Cabra	70	77	7
5031176	St Peter's PS, Cloughreagh	317	313	0
5036409	St Ronan's PS, Newry	398	391	0
5031107	St Teresa's PS, Tullyherron	38	47	9
	Total	8253	10236	2167

Note: St Patrick's PS, C'maglen, enrolment includes 102 pupils at Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa

### **Financial Implications**

### **School Budget**

St Patrick's PS, Mayobridge had a deficit of -£1,894, or -0.24% of available delegated resources at March 2012, the most recent set of finalised data.

The school had a provisional surplus of £12,120 at March 2013.

Please note that this figure is unconfirmed until receipt of audited outturn statements from the Board.

In its Workbook 2012 assessments, the relevant Funding Authority (the SELB) considered the school's financial plans unacceptable, with a forecast surplus at March 2015 of £113,000, or 12% of delegated resources. The surplus was only forecast to become unacceptably large in Year 3 of the plan.

### **Common Funding Scheme allocation**

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

### **Staffing**

CCMS advise that the school has a sound financial plan to continue to employ the existing 12 permanent teachers (includes nursery teacher). The Governors also have plans to increase their teaching compliment to 13 in 2013/14 and then 14 in 2014/15.

#### Accommodation

The schools approved enrolment number is 284 which is in the 10 class base range (261-290).

CCMS advise that school was extensively refurbished and an additional classroom provided in 1987. A new purpose build Foundation Stage block was also provided in 2007. The present capacity is based on 10 classrooms, (sizes ranging from 45.2m<sup>2</sup> to 60m<sup>2</sup>). Classes in 2012/13 school year were configured as follows:

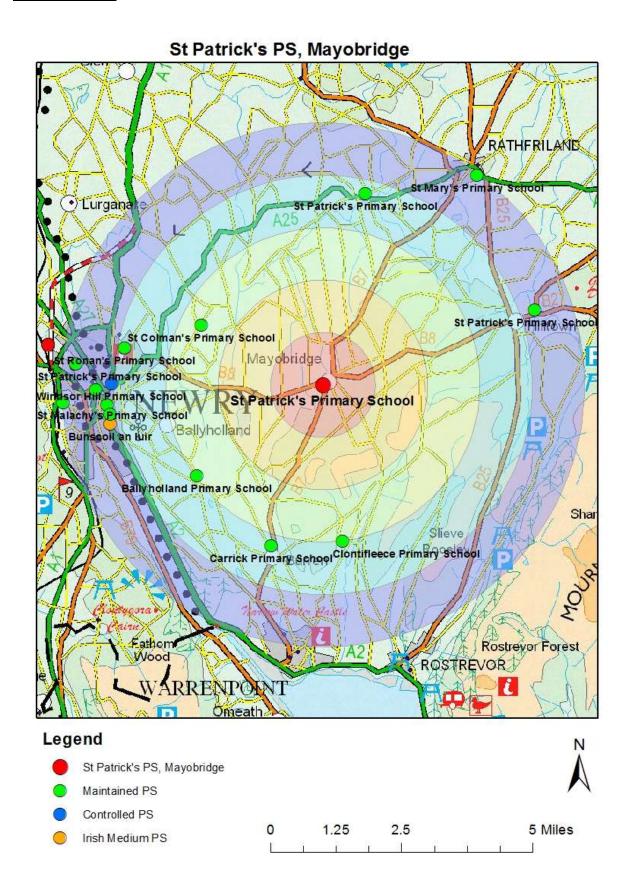
Year group	Number of pupils	Room / size
P1	26	53.1m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P1+Rec	24	60m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P2	25	52.88m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P2	23	Conversion room
P3	29	53.01m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P3	28	49.14m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P4	29	45.35m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P4/5	27	45.35m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P5/6	29	49.4m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P6	31	49.9m <sup>2</sup> classroom
P7	33	50.92m <sup>2</sup> classroom

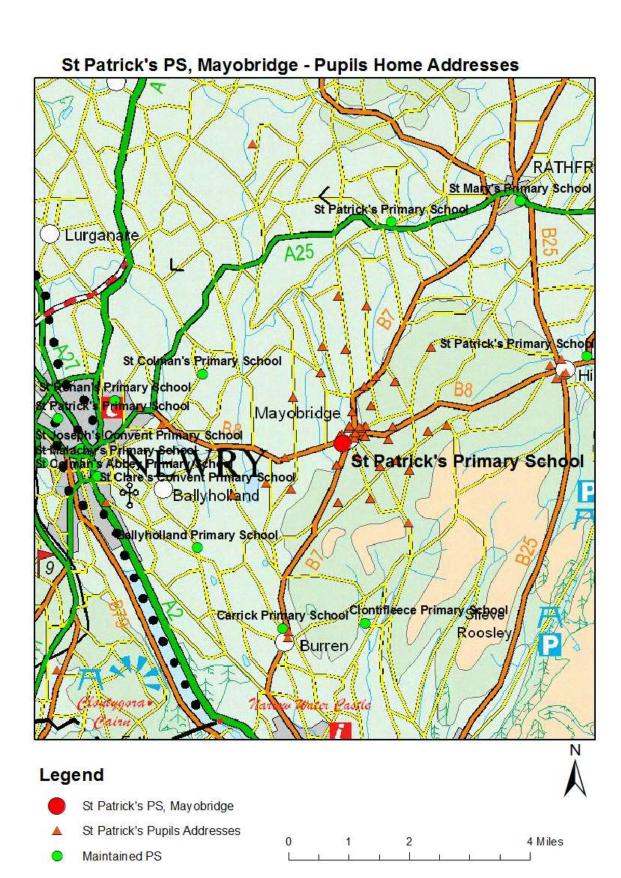
#### Note

- 1. Number of pupils is based on enrolment figures provided by CCMS not 2012/13 school census data
- 2. The foundation stage classroom (of 60m<sup>2</sup>) has been converted for use as a Nursery unit.

CCMS/the school has stated that an additional double mobile and associated toilet facilities are needed and that the school site will be able to facilitate the additional accommodation.

It is estimated that the additional accommodation could cost approximately £150,000





### **Draft Approval letter**

## DP282 (SELB) – PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY IN ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAYOBRIDGE, FROM 284 TO 350 PUPILS

I refer to the above Development Proposal which proposes an increase in capacity at St Patrick's Primary School from 284 to 350 pupils, with effect from 1 September 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Minister has given very careful consideration to this proposal and has decided that it should be approved, subject to a phased increase in the approved enrolment number up to a maximum revised total of 342 pupils.

The Department's School Access Team will consult on proposed numbers annually with CCMS and the school.

### **Draft Press Release**

# O'DOWD APPROVES PROPSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAYOBRIDGE

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

Commenting on the decision, Mr O'Dowd said: "St Patrick's Primary School is a popular school and enrolment has grown steadily in recent years. In approving this proposal St Patrick's will have the opportunity to grow gradually to a maximum enrolment of 342 pupils.

"The proposal forms part of the Southern Education and Library Board's longterm plans for provision in the area and is consistent with the area planning work currently being undertaken. In this context I am content to approve this development proposal."

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- On 18 February 2013, the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) published Development Proposal No. 282 which proposed to increase the capacity at St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge, from 284-350 pupils, with effect from 1 September 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2. St Patrick's Primary School is a maintained, co-educational primary school located in the village of Mayobridge. The school currently has a P1 admission number of 41 pupils and an approved enrolment number (capacity) of 284 pupils.
- 3. Media queries, contact the Department of Education Press Office on 028 9127 9701.