

MEETING WITH CCMS - 15 APRIL 2002

Present

Bishop McAreavey (Chairman)	Minister
Bishop McKeown	Aidan McAteer
Mgr McInteggart	Stephen Peover
Canon O'Byrne	Mark Browne
Mrs Pat Carville	Leslie Ashe
Ivan Davidson	Des Whyte
Dr Margaret Reynolds	Conor McParland
Donal Flanagan	
Eddie McArdle	
Gerry Lundy	

ISSUES

- Council policy is that selection should end as soon as possible.
- While there appeared to be consensus on the abolition on the current 11+ test, there was still support for selection within parts of the community and the education sector, and some political parties
- The status quo in respect of school structures is not an option
- Catholic schools are ideally placed to make a unique contribution to the development of an education system which fosters justice, social cohesion and reconciliation
- Trusteeship and ethos are inextricably linked and any diminution of the role of the Trustees is not acceptable
- Examinations at 11 or 14 had the potential to skew the curriculum and learning processes
- Schools operating as autonomous units and in competition with each other is no longer sustainable either educationally or economically
- Concerns about the different level of the debate in the controlled and maintained sectors and that the voices of controlled schools were not being heard
- Concern that a Unionist/Nationalist split was developing politically

THE WAY FORWARD

- Need an initial decision on academic selection at 11+
- School providers should then be asked to develop proposals within agreed core principles
- Collegiates are undesirable and unworkable
- CCMS envisage local solutions through campus arrangements which would embrace a number of Catholic schools (including grammar) operating as a single unit but on different sites
- Each campus would have its own Board of Governors, budget and admissions policy

- There would be one “Headteacher” for the campus with a principal for each site
- Campuses would be funded directly by the Department (as with VGS and GMIS at present) and budgets would be fully delegated
- Opportunities for shared 6th form facilities with the controlled sector