

COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Cover Note

DP Nos.	546
School	Belfast Model School for Girls
Proposal	Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.
Permanent Secretary's Decision	Approved
Date of Decision	15 May 2019
Permanent Secretary's Comments	<p>In many respects this Development Proposal shares many of the features of the Development Proposal for the Boys' Model School which I approved last week. The school is popular with strong admissions and enrolment trends and growth in the enrolment at its feeder primary schools. The school's location, and the availability of places to meet demand, are central to efforts to tackle educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas. Strong links with the local community are important in this regard.</p> <p>As with the Boys' Model, I note the availability of places in schools in the same sector approximately six miles away, though once again the location of these schools would not be deemed to be within reasonable travelling distance for many of the children seeking admission to the Girls' Model.</p> <p>I note there were no objections to the proposal during the statutory two month objection period.</p> <p>In conclusion, I am content to approve the recommendation set out at paragraph 9.1 of the submission.</p>
Additional notes	
Information redacted	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and the General Data Protection Regulation.

	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: Eamonn Broderick
Area Planning Policy Team

Date: 07 May 2019

To: Derek Baker
Permanent Secretary

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DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) 546 – TO INCREASE THE ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT AT BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Issue: DP 546 published by the Education Authority (EA) on 19 April 2018 proposes that :

“Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.”

Timescale: Routine

Financial/Resource Implications: School Budget

The school received a delegated budget of £4,376,334 in the 2018-19 financial year for 945 post primary pupils (per capita £4,631) which compares to an average for all post primary schools of £4,326.

If DP 546 is approved and the enrolment is increased there would be only a marginal impact on the Aggregated Schools' Budget as the funding allocation for any registered pupils is simply being redistributed. All other financial considerations (including any in-year costs for pupil growth) would be for the EA to consider as the Funding Authority for the school.

Accommodation

The school was built under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract.

The EA has confirmed that the school site is capable of housing the additional accommodation and has completed provisional site plans accordingly.

An extension to provide additional teaching accommodation will have a total estimated cost of £740k if modular build for a six classroom block, or £945k if traditional build for a six classroom block. The estimates assume that the EA will provide the capital funding for the provision of the additional accommodation.

The accommodation requirements from 2019/20 to 2022/23 include extending the dining room provision, reconfiguration of the Business Information classroom to a Home Economics room and the construction of the six classroom block.

The EA has advised that the estimated annual revenue cost for additional Soft Facilities Management Services (SFMS) for the additional accommodation is £20k per annum for the remaining twenty one year term of the contract and lifecycle replacements are excluded.

Staffing

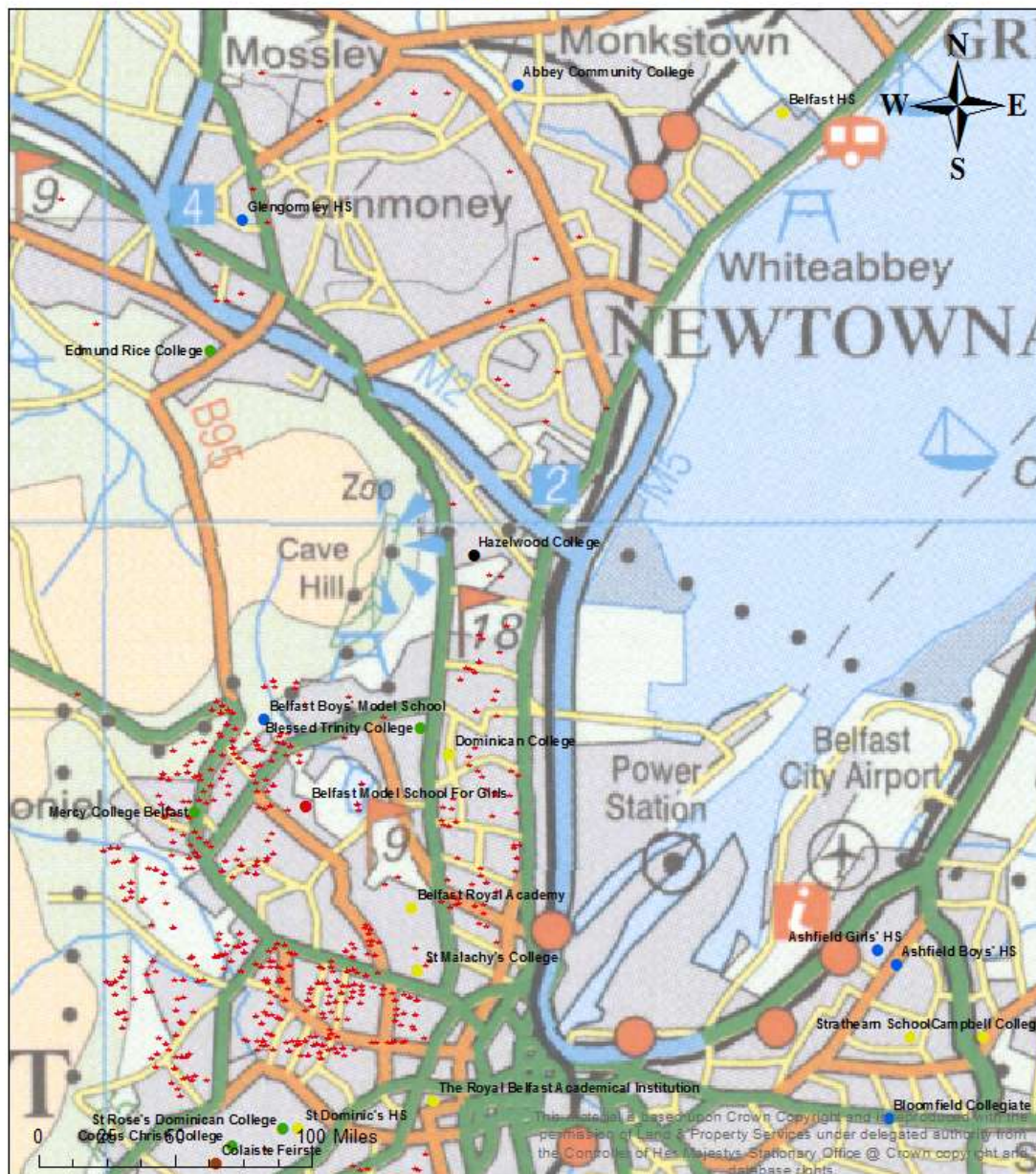
The Board of Governors will conduct a review of the staffing compliment in early 2019 and these additional costs would be met from the school's delegated budget.

FOI Implications:	The contents of this submission are likely to be fully disclosable.
Statutory Duty Implications:	None
Presentational Issues:	It is likely that there will be local stakeholder and media interest in your decision. If approached, the Press Office can draw from this submission.
Recommendation:	<p>It is recommended that you consider the evidence and information in this submission and attachments and agree to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Approve DP 546 to increase the admissions number at Belfast Model School for Girls from 160 to 200 with a phased annual increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

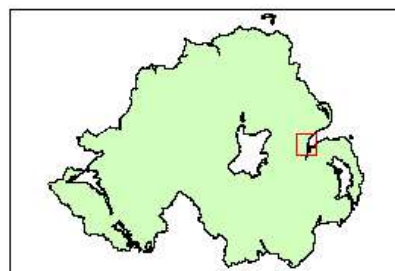
- ii. Agree that this submission (with the appropriate redactions) will be published on the Department's website once the EA and the school have been informed.

Map 1: Belfast Model School for Girls location and pupil location

Belfast Model School for Girls

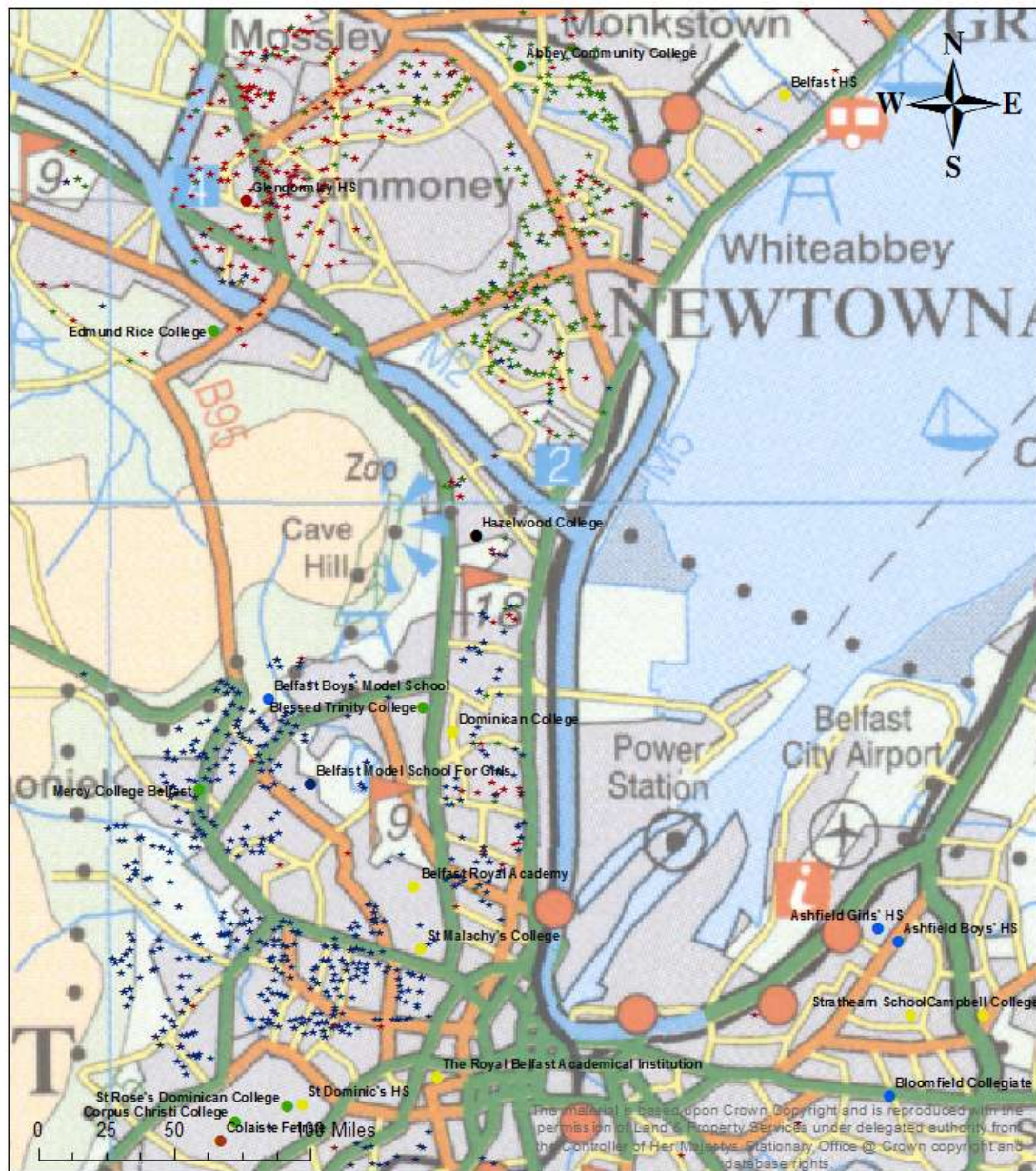


- Key
- Belfast Model School for Girls
 - Belfast Model School for Girls Pupil Location
 - Controlled
 - Controlled Integrated
 - GMI
 - Other Maintained
 - Catholic Maintained
 - Voluntary

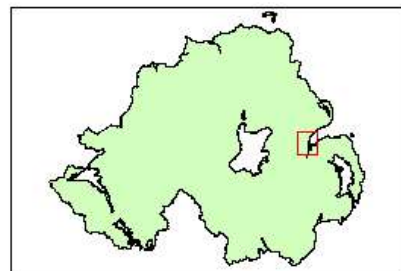


Map 2: Belfast Model Schools for Girls and Alternative Secondary Provision

Belfast Model School for Girls



- Key
- Belfast Model School for Girls'
 - * Belfast Model School for Girl's Pupil Location
 - Abbey Community College
 - * Abbey Pupil Location
 - Glengormley High School
 - * Glengormley Pupil Location
 - Controlled
 - Controlled Intergrated
 - GMI
 - Other Maintained
 - Catholic Maintained
 - Voluntary



1. BACKGROUND

Introduction

1.1 On the 19 April 2018 the Education Authority (EA) published a Development Proposal (DP) 546 for Belfast Model School for Girls which states:

“Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.”

1.2 The two month statutory objection period for the proposal ran from 19 April 2018 until 19 June 2018. A copy of the published proposal and the proposer’s Case for Change are attached at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** respectively.

1.3 In terms of impact, **Table 1** below shows that, based on current approved enrolment numbers a total of 300 additional post-primary places would be created through this proposal. This translates as an additional 40 places at Year 8, an additional 200 places between Years 8-12 and 100 additional places at post-16.

Table 1: Impact of the proposal

Table 1	A	B	C	B+C
	Year 8	Years 8-12	Post-16	Total Enrolment
Current Approved Enrolment	160	800	150	950
Proposed Approved Enrolment	200	1000	250	1250
Difference	+40	+200	+100	+300

School and area

1.4 Belfast Model School for Girls’ (Girls’ Model) is a single sex, non-selective, controlled post-primary school situated in the Cliftonville area of North Belfast (see **Map 1**). Alternative secondary provision is shown in **Map 2**. The Girls’ Model was founded in 1953 with the first pupils enrolled on the Dunkeld Gardens site in 1954 where it continued until 2009 when a state of the art new school opened at Dunowen Gardens in 2009.

1.5 The School has an approved admissions number of 160 and an approved enrolment of 950. In 2018/19 the Girls’ Model had:

- 983 pupils enrolled of which 175 were in Year 8; 794 in Years 8-12 and 189 at Post-16;

- 315 (32.0%) pupils at Special Education Need (SEN) stage 1-4 and 26 (2.6%) pupils at SEN stage 5 of the assessment process;
- 601 (61.1%) pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM);
- there are 23 newcomer pupils; and
- no available places as the school is oversubscribed.

Area Context

1.6 The Girls' Model is in the Belfast Local Government District (LGD). On the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 Cliftonville 2 where the school is located is placed 515 out of 890 (1 being the most deprived and 890 being least deprived).

Strategic Area Plan (2017-2020) & Annual Action Plans

1.7 The '*Providing Pathways*' - *Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-20* and the *Annual Action Plan for School Provision April 2017–March 2018* were published by the EA on 28 April 2017. The Area Plan notes that in the Belfast LGD the population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to increase by 7.6% by 2024 and the population in the age range 16-19 years is expected to decrease by 1.4% by 2024.

1.8 The strategic priorities for action identified within the plan for the Belfast area include ensuring school places are located as required, ensuring equitable access to Entitlement Framework pathways at Key Stage 4 (KS4), reconfigure post-16 provision to give pupils equitable access to the Entitlement Framework pathways in collaboration with the Further Education sector; and establishing learning support provision in mainstream schools.

1.9 The EAs current Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2018/19, published in April 2018, details the work programme of the respective school planning and managing authorities and includes the proposals for the Girls' Model "*Managing authority to consult on increase to enrolment number in relation to post-16 by March 2018; and Managing Authority to consult on the establishment of Autistic Spectrum Disorder Centres for children at Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) and General Learning Support Centres for children at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 by March 2019*".

1.10 The AAP 2018/19 also notes "*school managing authorities to develop options for post-primary provision in the Greater Belfast area by March 2019*". Several schools (listed in Appendix ii of the plan) have expressed an interest in being involved including the following post-primary schools from the North Belfast area – St Malachy's College and the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI).

Alternative Provision in the Area

1.11 A snapshot of education provision in the area, detailing the admission and enrolment data and the latest Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) inspection assessment, is attached at Table 2. It highlights the following:

- There are 13 alternative post-primary schools within seven mile radius of the Girls' Model in North Belfast. This gives a total of six Controlled secondary schools, three Catholic Maintained secondary schools, four Voluntary Grammar schools and one Integrated college. Together these schools have an approved enrolment of 13295 places and in 2018/19 there were 1276 available places.
- In the Controlled secondary sector the Girls' Model was oversubscribed with no available places. The Boys' Model had 1003 pupils enrolled for 905 approved places but due to the high number of supernumerary pupils had 13 available places. Ashfield Boys' High School (HS) and Ashfield Girls' HS, which are in the East of the city, were both oversubscribed and had no available places. Glengormley HS and Abbey Community College were both significantly undersubscribed (with 617 and 220 available places respectively) resulting in a total of 850 available places across the Controlled sector.
- The Catholic Maintained schools in the North Belfast and Glengormley area were recently restructured with changes being implemented from 1 September 2017. Blessed Holy Trinity College formed following an amalgamation of Little Flower Girls' School and St Patrick's College (DP 440-DP 442). Admissions have been increased at Mercy College (DP443) and Edmund Rice College (DP 444) and they have become co-educational. There are currently 2458 pupils in the 2620 approved places resulting in 312 available places in the Catholic Maintained schools.
- There are four Voluntary Grammar schools in the area – Belfast Royal Academy (BRA), RBAI, Domician College and St Malachy's College. BRA and St Malachy's College accepted pupils above their approved enrolments numbers resulting in 20 available places across the two schools and no available places at Year 8. RBAI and Dominican College had enrolments below their 1050 approved enrolment figure, accepting 1031 and 1004 respectively. Therefore across the four Voluntary Grammar schools there are 114 available places in 2018/19.
- There is one Integrated College in this area. Hazelwood Integrated College had a DP 480 approved in February 2017 to increase the admissions from 140 to 160 and the enrolment from 850 to 1010 from 1 September 2017. The school currently has 1001 pupils in the 930 approved places and has no available places.

Table 2 Belfast Model School for Girls – Neighbouring Provision

Belfast Model School for Girls - Neighbouring Provision																			
Sch Ref		Distance in Miles	2018/19 Approved Enrolment	2016/17 Total Enrolment*			2017/18 Total Enrolment*			2018/19 Total Enrolment*			2018/19 Super numerary	2018/19 available places	2018/19 Actual Adm	2018/19 approved Adm	2018/19 Yr 8 First Pref Appl @ 18 May	Over/Under subscribed at First Preference	ETI report assessment of overall quality of education provision
	Controlled Secondary			Years 8 - 12	Post 16	Total	Years 8 - 12	Post 16	Total	Years 8 - 12	Post 16	Total							
121-0021	Belfast Model School for Girls BT14 6NQ	-	950	742	212	954	749	197	946	794	189	983	26	0	175	160	147	u 13	Jan 2017 - Action Short of Strike
121-0022	Belfast Boys' Model School BT14 6RB	0.9	905	817	174	991	832	165	997	850	153	1003	111	13	181	151	154	o 3	Dec 2018 - Demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.
321-0202	Glengormley High School BT36 5HP	4.5	1250	667	83	750	639	86	725	557	108	665	32	617	83	210	58	u 152	Mar 2017 - Action Short of Strike Jan 2008 - Follow up Inspection - Some areas require improvement
121-0015	Ashfield Boys High School BT4 2LY	6.9	600	589	139	728	596	144	740	622	143	765	72	0	137	110	161	o 51	Mar 2018 - Follow-up Inspection - Demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. Sept 16 - Needs to address important areas for improvement.
121-0014	Ashfield Girls High School BT4 2LY	6.9	660	581	115	696	581	110	691	595	104	699	25	0	130	113	103	u 10	Jan 2017 - Has not demonstrated sufficiently the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.
321-0313	Abbey Community College BT37 0EA	6.1	820	488	92	580	495	96	591	569	75	644	44	220	153	140	102	u 38	Jan 2017 - Has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about the necessary improvement in the quality of education.
Sub-total			5185	3884	815	4699	3892	798	4690	3987	772	4759	310	850	859	884	725		
Integrated																			
126-0269	Hazelwood College** BT36 7ES	2.6	930	763	173	936	785	169	954	838	163	1001	69	0	204	160	195	o 35	Feb 2016 - Demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.
Sub-total			930	763	173	936	785	169	954	838	163	1001	69	0	204	160	195		
Catholic Maintained																			
123-0321	Blessed Trinity College*** BT15 4DZ	1	1300	1013	274	1287	993	278	1271	961	278	1239	78	139	165	195	116	u 79	
123-0104	Mercy College# BT14 7QR	0.7	650	345	107	452	362	88	450	426	130	556	25	119	118	115	82	u 33	Feb 2018 - Action Short of Strike Oct 2011 - Good
323-0203	Edmund Rice College# BT36 7AU	3.8	670	462	107	569	503	90	593	545	118	663	47	54	128	115	120	o 5	Feb 2018 - Action Short of Strike Nov 2010 - Very good demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.
Sub-total			2620	1820	488	2308	1858	456	2314	1932	526	2458	150	312	411	425	318		
Grammar Schools																			
142-0028	Belfast Royal Academy BT14 6JL	1.8	1410	1040	381	1421	1052	409	1461	1059	384	1443	38	5	212	200	260	o 60	Mar 2013 - Good identified aspects for continued improvement, and has demonstrated the capacity to address.

142-0027	Royal Belfast Academical Institute (RBAI) BT1 6DL	3.4	1050	772	253	1025	782	230	1012	796	235	1031	21	40	157	150	139	u 11	Feb 2017 - continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement
142-0082	Dominican College BT15 4AQ	1.7	1050	747	258	1005	751	250	1001	756	248	1004	8	54	152	150	167	o 17	Jan 2018 - Action Short of Strike Oct 2010 - Good an area for improvement has been identified which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.
142-0030	St Malachy's College BT15 2AE	2.4	1050	816	262	1078	822	272	1094	819	269	1088	53	15	157	150	229	o 79	Mar 2014 - Demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.
Sub-total			4560	3375	1154	4529	3407	1161	4568	3430	1136	4566	120	114	678	650	795		
Grand Total			13295	9842	2630	12472	9942	2584	12526	10187	2597	12784	649	1276	2152	2119	2033		

* Enrolments include SEN Stage 5 pupils

** Hazelwood College DP 480 – increase adm/enrol to 160/1010

*** Combined enrolments 2015/16 & 2016/17 of former Little Flower/St Patrick's, Bearnagheeha schools which amalgamated on 1/9/17 DP 440 - 442

Mercy College DP 443 approved increase 115/750 Edmund Rice College DP 444 approved increase 115/750

2.0 SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Educational Disadvantage

2.1 Wards served by the Girls' Model school, including the Greater Shankill and North Belfast, appear high in the list of areas of multiple deprivation and these areas also have a history of underachievement amongst girls. The EA states that the need to provide places within the developing immediate community served by the school, as part of a wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas, presents a strong case for the growth of this school as evidenced by the increase in the local demand for places in recent years.

Single Sex Schooling

2.2 The Case for Change states that the school provides a single sex education, desired by parents, and alternatives would result in girls' attending a co-educational school.

3. CASE FOR CHANGE

3.1 The Case for Change presented by the EA in support of DP 546 is attached at **Appendix B**. The rationale for the proposal includes the following key points:

- The increase in applications for admission to the school which has been 28% over recent years;
- The proposal to increase the enrolment and admission numbers is to meet an evidenced increasing enrolment in the school. The school is seeking to provide education for girls within the area that includes the Greater Shankill and has entrance criteria that focus in the provision of places for girls living in the local community;
- The Greater Shankill and North Belfast that are served by the school are inner city areas displaying high levels of social deprivation and the allied challenges that this brings to ensuring educational achievement and enabling young people to reach their potential. A report "Educational Disadvantage and the Protestant Working Class – A Call to Action" (March 2011) highlighted the particular issues confronting these pupils. The report and the work of the Greater Shankill Children and Young People Zone focus on enabling the people to have access to local high quality educational provision to ensure that they realise their potential. This proposal, along with the work that is currently being done to ensure that children get the best start in sustainable primary schools in the area, will ensure that there is access to educational pathways in the local community from 4 to 19;

- The upward trend in live births in the main wards that the school serves and potential increase in housing developments in the area will also increase demand for school places;
- While it is acknowledged that there are controlled post-primary places available in Glengormley High School which is 5.7 miles from the school, the need to provide places within the developing immediate community served by the school as part of the wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas presents a strong case for growth of this school, as evidenced by local demand for places in recent years;
- The displacement of pupils to a school outside the community served by the Belfast Model School for Girls would be detrimental to community development;
- This school provides a single sex education environment, desired by parents, and displacement to Glengormley High School would require girls who wish to attend a single sex school to enrol in a co-educational school;
- The school has a high reputation and, as indicated by the examination results and the Education and Training Inspectorate, provides a high standard of education to its pupils; and
- Pupils from the community would have sustainable access to the high quality educational facilities available in the current school building and any additional accommodation provided in the future and provide adequate education provision in the community which the school serves.

4. STATUTORY DP PROCESSES

Pre-publication consultation

4.1 The Case for Change confirms that pre-publication consultation on the Girls' Model proposal was undertaken with Board of Governors (BoG) on 30 January 2018 and with staff and parents by questionnaire on 31 January 2018. It also confirms that Equality screening of the proposal has been carried out. A total of 44 responses were received and these were all in support of the proposal and a summary of responses are shown below in **Table 3:-**

Table 3: Summary of pre-publication responses.

	Agree	Disagree	TOTAL
Governors	1	0	1
Teaching Staff	38		38
Anonymous	5		5
TOTAL	44	0	44

4.2 The EA also invited comments from 201 schools which might be impacted by the proposals and no responses were received from schools. The EA advise that one response was received from the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) in

support of the proposal. Details of the pre-consultation are included in the Case for Change at **Appendix B**.

EA Comments

4.3 The EA supports the proposal to increase the admissions and enrolment numbers at the Girls' Model and full details can be found in the Case for Change at **Appendix B**. The EA highlighted the following points:

- The proposal to increase the enrolment and admissions numbers is to meet an evidence increasing enrolment in the school. The school is seeking to provide education for girls within the area that includes the Greater Shankill and has entrance criteria that focus on the provision of places for girls living in the local community;
- The upward trend in the enrolment numbers of the vast majority of the main feeder primary schools explains the current increase in demand for places and indicates potential future pressures resulting from this trend;
- To meet the potential demand as a consequence of the upward trend in live births in the main wards that the school serves;
- While it is acknowledged that there are controlled post-primary places in schools six miles from the school, the need to provide places within the developing immediate community served by the school as part of a wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas presents a strong case for the growth of this school; and
- The school provides a single sex education environment desired by parents.

Two-month Statutory Objection Period

4.4 The two month statutory objection period on the proposals ran from 19 April 2018 until 19th June 2018. During the objection period the Department received no objections to the proposal and one letter of support from the CSSC a copy of which is attached at **Appendix C**.

4.5 The CSSC provided the following comments in support of the DP to increase the admission and enrolment numbers for the Belfast Model School for Girls':

"There is evidenced demand for this increase and CSSC would emphasise that the stable enrolment trends at the school, its sound financial position, the quality of educational provision and the strong leadership and management indicate that the school is well placed to manage this proposal which is in the best

interest of girls in the local community and will further develop the sustainability of the school.”

5. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

5.1 The Department’s Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) sets out six criteria which have quantitative and qualitative indicators and provide a framework for consideration of a school’s longer term sustainability. An assessment of the Girls’ Model as measured against the SSP is provided below:

Criterion 1: Quality Education Experience

Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) Assessment

5.2 The ETI carried out an inspection at the Girls’ Model in January 2017. Owing to the impact of the action short of strike stance being taken by teachers, the ETI was unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for pupils.

5.3 The ETI was however able to evaluate partially some aspects and noted the following points:

- Over the past three years, the percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, has increased from 25% to 36% which is now in line with the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar non selective schools. It is of note that a similar percentage for pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM) has almost tripled from 12% in 2014 to 32% in 2016.
- Most of the subjects at GCSE grade A* to C are below the corresponding three-year average for similar schools; a significant minority of the subjects are more than 20 percentage points below their respective subject average.
- At GCE A level while one-quarter of the subjects are in line with or above the subject average, three-quarters are below the subject average.
- Over the past three years, the percentage of pupils attaining three or more GCE A level or equivalent at grades A* to C has fluctuated but is now in line with the average for non-selective schools.
- The proportion of pupils progressing to higher education courses is well above the NI average.

- Through a range of effective strategies the school has begun to address underperformance and improve the outcomes attained by pupils.

5.4 The ETI also noted that the Girls' Model is a full service extended school and that it also proposes to bring forward a DP to establish an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit.

Examination Achievements

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

5.5 At the threshold of 5+ GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent, performance of Year 12 pupils has been consistently below the NI average for non-grammar schools over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. **Table 4** shows that over the same period performance of Year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSEs in English and mathematics was also below the NI average for non-grammar schools. However, there has been a year on year increase in the proportion of the cohort of eligible pupils achieving this benchmark (25% in 2013/14 rising to 42% in 2017/18 although it did fall slightly in 2016/17 to 34%). It should be noted that the attainment is in line with similar schools in the same FSM category for 2017/18.

Table 4: GCSE outcomes in the period 2013/14 to 2017/18.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Proportion achieving 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A*- C					
Belfast Model School for Girls	55%	35%	46%	44%	57%
NI Non-grammar Average	71%	72%	73%	74%	77%
NI Non-grammar similar FSM Band average	67%	71%	71%	70%	75.3%
Proportion achieving 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A*- C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics					
Belfast Model School for Girls	25%	33%	36%	34%	42%
NI Non-grammar Average	44%	47%	47%	50%	52%
NI Non-grammar similar FSM Band average	34%	39%	42%	43%	44.6

General Certificate of Education (GCE) 'A' Level

5.6 In the four years from 2013/14 to 2016/17 the school has been at or above the NI non-grammar average for those pupils achieving 2+ GCE 'A' Level grades A*-E or equivalent. However 2017/18 performance saw a drop to below the NI non-grammar average to 88%. Performance at GCE Level 3+ A*-C or equivalent has been

consistently below the NI average for similar schools but it is noteworthy that the figure has increased from 19% to 45% over the past four years (see **Table 5**).

Table 5: GCE A Level or equivalent qualifications 2013/14 to 2017/18

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Proportion achieving 2+ A-levels or equivalent at Grades A* - E					
Belfast Model School for Girls	92%	98%	94%	98%	88%
NI Non-grammar Average	95%	96%	96%	97%	96%
Proportion achieving 3+ A-levels or equivalent at Grades A* - C					
Belfast Model School for Girls	38%	19%	35%	43%	45%
NI Non-grammar Average	48%	48%	52%	55%	57%

Curricular Offer

5.7 For the academic year 2017/18, in order to meet the statutory requirements of the Entitlement Framework (EF) schools were required to provide access to a minimum of 21 courses at Key Stage 4 (KS4) and 21 at Post-16; of which at least one third must be general and one third applied.

5.8 **Table 6** below sets out the data for academic year 2017/18. **Green indicates the school met these requirements and Red indicates the school did not meet the requirements.** The Girls' Model provides access to the following courses at KS4 & post-16.

Table 6: Belfast Model School for Girls' Curricular Offer

2017/18	Key Stage 4 (Year 11)	Post-16 (Year 13)
Applied courses	15	19
General courses	9	14
Total	24	33

5.9 **At KS4** the Girls' Model offered access to 24 courses, where all of the applied and general courses were delivered within the school.

5.10 **At post-16** the Girls' Model offered access to 33 courses, five of the applied courses were delivered through collaboration with Boys' Model and St Malachy's College; four of the general courses were delivered through collaboration with the Boys' Model, Mercy College and St Malachy's College.

5.11 The compliance rates for 2017/18, shown above, identifies that the school is fully EF compliant and that the curricular offer exceeds the new statutory EF requirement which took effect from September 2017, with 21 courses at both Key Stage 4 and post-16. However, the Department is currently considering a request for

a significant number of pupils to undertake a ‘large size’ qualification (equivalent to four GCSEs). While it would be reasonable to assume that the Girls’ Model offers a broad and balanced curriculum too many pupils taking the ‘large size’ qualification in the future has the potential to narrow the curriculum for any pupil who is capable of studying a broader range of individual subjects.

Special Educational Needs

5.12 The ETI Report (January 2017) noted that pupils who require additional support with their learning benefit from early identification and intervention. There is highly effective liaison with parents and effective partnership arrangements with a range of external agencies to help the staff, the pupils and their families in addressing the barriers to learning and progression. A safe and inviting nurture centre has been established to meet the needs of pupils.

Physical Environment

5.13 The current building was opened in 2010 as a new facility designed for a 950 pupil enrolment capacity. The building is predominantly two story based around a central courtyard with a small section having three floors. The school has a sports complex located at the rear of the building.

Criterion 2: Stable Enrolment Trends

5.14 The SSP recommends a minimum enrolment threshold of 500 pupils in Years 8-12 and 100 pupils in Years 13-14 for a sustainable and viable 11-18 post-primary school.

5.15 The current approved admissions and enrolment numbers at the Girls’ Model are 160 and 950 respectively. This equates to an enrolment of 800 pupils in Years 8-12 and 150 pupils in Years 13-14. Table 7 below shows enrolments over the past five years.

Table 7: Admission and enrolment figures including SEN Stage 5

Admissions & Enrolment (SEN stage 5 pupils included)	Approved	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number of pupils in year 8	160	130	165	165	167*	181
Total Year 8 to Year 12	800	691	708	742	749	794
Total Year 13 to Year 14	150	193	202	212	197	189
Total pupils	950	884	910	954	946	983

- Number of year 8 pupils and total pupils include approved Temporary Variation requests and successful Appeals.
- Total year 8-12 figures should be considered in the context of the schools approved admissions and enrolment numbers.

* The approved admissions number was increased to 170 for the 2017/18 year only

5.16 Statemented pupils (SEN Stage 5) are supernumerary to the admissions and enrolment numbers under the open enrolment procedures. In the past five years the number of pupils at the Girls' Model with a statement of SEN Stage 5 has remained relatively stable as detailed in Table 8.

Table 8: Number of Pupils at SEN Stage 5

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Pupils at SEN stage 5	23	23	27	24	26

5.17 The data in the tables above show that the Girls' Model did not achieve its approved enrolment number in four of the last five years when statemented pupils were not included although it did in 2018/19. The school enrolment number is significantly above the SSP threshold. The approved admissions number of 160 has been achieved since 2015/16. A temporary increase to the approved enrolment to 170 was approved in 2017/18 however only 167 pupils were admitted.

5.18 The Girls' Model has received 147 first preference applications for Year 8 admissions for September 2018 and has accepted 174 pupils in total. The school has exceeded its approved enrolment of 160 in four of the past five years as shown in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Belfast Model School for Girls' Admissions 2014/15 to 2018/19

YEAR	Approved	1 st Preference	Other Preference	Admissions
2014/15	160	114	10	124
2015/16	160	153	26	163
2016/17	160	144	18	162
2017/18*	170	148	14	167
2018/19	160	147	31	174

*Increase in admissions agreed by Minister, Peter Weir, for 2017/18 year only

Temporary Variations

5.19 If a school receives more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a Temporary Variation (TV) of its admissions and/or enrolment 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.

5.20 Table 10 below shows that the Girls' Model had TVs approved for 2015/16 and 2016/17. In 2017/18 the Principal of the school requested that the admissions number be raised by 10 to 170 due to the pressure of post-primary places in the North Belfast area. The increase was approved by the then Minister, Peter Weir, for **one year only** and reverted to 160 in 2018/19. In 2018/19 a further temporary

variation has been approved to accept 174 pupils, this figure does not include statemented children or children who have been admitted by appeal or by the Exceptional Circumstances Body (year of admissions only).

Table 10: TVs approved for the academic years 2014/2015 to 2018/2019

School Year	Approved Admissions Number	Approved Enrolment Number	Temporary Variations Approved	
			Admissions	Enrolment
2014/2015	160	950	–	–
2015/2016	160	950	164	–
2016/2017	160	950	165	–
2017/2018	170	950	–	–
2018/2019	160	950	174	–

Criterion 3: Sound Financial Position

5.21 At 31 March 2018 the Girls' Model held a cumulative 2017-18 closing surplus of £340,178.

5.22 The Girls' Model received a total delegated budget of £4,376,334 in the 2018-19 financial year for 945 post-primary pupils (per capita £4,631) which compares to an average for all post-primary schools of £4,326.

5.23 The EA confirmed that the school was projecting a surplus and as the Girls' Model currently operates within the Department's financial guidelines there are no major financial issues at present. Increased enrolment for an individual school has limited impact on the overall Aggregated Schools Budget (ASB) as the funding allocation for any registered pupils is simply being redistributed.

Criterion 4: Strong Leadership and Management

5.24 The ETI met with the newly appointed Principal in January 2018. The ETI report of January 2017 (involving action short of strike) states that:

“The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been re-structured appropriately with team members taking on clearly defined roles, responsibilities and accountability. The highly effective leadership by the SLT is characterised by a collegial ethos and a clear, shared strategic vision for school improvement”.

5.25 The governors are committed to the life and work of the school and they are highly supportive of the positive impact of the new principal. ETI commented that *“The governors need to develop further their capacity to provide appropriate accountability and challenge to the variability in outcomes attained by the pupils”.*

Criterion 5: Accessibility

5.26 The Girls' Model is situated in the urban setting of North Belfast and as is shown in **Map 1** most of the pupils live within a three mile radius. Transport links in the area are good and there are no apparent accessibility issues for students.

Criterion 6: Strong Links with the Community

5.27 The Case for Change identifies a number of organisations that support the school on a regular basis providing counselling; health checks; information sessions on suicide and self-harm; drugs awareness and employment opportunities.

5.28 The January 2017 ETI Inspection Report stated that the pupils have excellent opportunities to engage in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities.

5.29 The school is involved in the local Area Learning Partnership and is actively involved in Shared Education partnership with local Catholic Maintained schools.

5.30 The Girls' Model has operated as a Full Service Extended School (FSES) since 2006 which involves significant community engagement including providing evening classes and engaging with community partners/ agencies. It consists of a range of different programmes, designed specifically to meet the individual pupil's needs.

5.31 A report published by the ETI in 2013 investigated the effectiveness of the FSES and concluded that the quality of the extensive support provided was very good.

Sustainability Assessment

5.32 The indicators in relation to the Quality Education Experience criterion show a mixed position at the Girls' Model. The number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, has been significantly below the NI non grammar average. However there has been a year on year increase in the number of pupils achieving this (25% in 2013/14 rising to 42% in 2017/18, although it did reduce to 34% in 2016/17). The Girls' Model attainment level (42% in 2017/18) is now getting closer to similar schools (44.6% in 2017/18) in the same FSM category.

5.33 GCE A level performance for 3+ A Levels at Grades A* to C has also been below the NI average for similar schools however it should be noted that the figures has increased from 19% to 43% achieving this target over the past three years.

5.34 The ETI noted that through a range of strategies the school has begun to address underperformance and improve outcomes attained by pupils. In relation to leadership, a new Principal was appointed in January 2018 and the restructured Senior Leadership Team has clearly defined roles, responsibilities and a clear, shared strategic vision for school improvement.

5.35 The Girls' Model is EF compliant at KS4 and post-16 which provides its pupils access to a broad and balanced curriculum. However, the school has submitted a request for a significant number of pupils to take a 'large size' qualification (equivalent to 4 GCSE's) if this continues in the future it has the potential to narrow the curriculum offer. The school has good procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of pupils who require additional support.

5.36 The school has been filling above its approved admissions (160) since 2015/16, with the assistance of temporary variations the school now exceeds the approved enrolment number of 950 with 957 pupils (excluding SEN) enrolled in 2018/19. The Girls' Model has been above the minimum enrolment levels recommended in the SSP for Years 8 – 12 (500) and at post-16 (100) in each of the past five years.

5.37 At the 31 March 2018 the Girls' Model held a closing surplus of £340,178. The school has demonstrated good financial control and there are no financial concerns.

5.38 In relation to strong links with the community the Girls' Model has operated as a Full Service School since 2006 which involves significant community engagement and working with parents, agencies and others to support the pupils.

5.39 In conclusion, having examined the evidence available the Girls' Model is an integral part of the controlled non-selective education provision in Belfast and the Department is assured that the school has the ability to address the quality education experience issues identified in the assessment. Overall the Department is satisfied that the Girls' Model is a sustainable school as measured against the criteria in the SSP.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Educational Disadvantage

6.1 Another consideration highlighted in the Case for Change is that this proposal will address issues of underachievement amongst girls in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas by providing a post-primary experience rooted in the local community. The school has an entrance criteria that focuses on the provision of places for girls' living in the local community.

6.2 The Department notes that the Girls' Model has strong links with the community and has operated the FSES Programme since 2006. This consists of a range of different programmes, specifically designed to meet the individual pupil's needs and includes provision based around five key themes:

- **Pupil Engagement** (e.g. a range of additional out of hours activities, Easter school, behavioural support, counselling, attendance officer etc.);
- **Parental Engagement** (e.g. home visits, parents group);
- **Community Engagement** (e.g. evening classes, engaging with wide range of external community partners/agencies);
- **Transition** (the schools work closely with 26 feeder primary schools across Belfast/Newtownabbey offering a range of activities such as outreach programmes, taster days, team building activities, peer reading etc. to help welcome prospective incoming Year 8 pupils); and
- **Health and Well Being** (e.g. therapeutic clinic, healthy breakfast club, mental health workshops, sports programmes etc.)

6.3 The collaborative arrangements for supporting the diverse pastoral needs of the learners are a particular strength of the full service programme and are recognised as such by the parents and the young people. Independent evaluation findings reveal a range of positive impacts associated with FSES provision including enhanced pupil achievement and attitudes to learning, greater pupil confidence and self-esteem and improved relationships with parents and wider community.

6.4 A report published by ETI in 2013 which investigated the effectiveness of Girls' Model service as part of the Full Service Community Network (FSCN) in West Belfast concluded that ***“the quality of the extensive support provided by the FSES and FSCN is very good. The organisations involved are meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners and their families, and have demonstrated their capacity for sustained self-improvement.”***

Single sex Schooling

6.5 Article 44 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 provides that “so far as is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils shall be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents”. However, Article 44 does not confer an unfettered choice of school for parents and does not extend an entitlement to access a particular form of education provision, in the context of this proposal, a single-sex education.

6.6 The Department also notes that its admission and enrolment policy refers to parental 'preference' for the school and that no pupil is guaranteed a place at any school as defined in Article 9 of the Education (NI) Order 1997.

6.7 The Department has no preferred model of delivery. The Department's priority is to ensure that pupils have equality of opportunity to access the statutory curriculum; which is designed to ensure that regardless of management type or model of delivery all pupils, regardless of the school they attend, can have clear expectations of what will be delivered.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Demand from Local Primary Schools

7.1 The Case for Change states that there has been an increase in applications for admissions to the school of 28% in recent years, the increasing primary school population and the market share of the school in respect of girls transferring at Year 8 is given as the key reason. They expect the upward trend to continue given the growth in the main feeder primary schools.

7.2 Table 11 on the next page shows that in schools where four or more pupils have transferred to the Girls' Model there has been a 12.2% increase in enrolment over the past six years although many of the schools are below their approved enrolment number. It shows an increasing pattern of enrolment from 3119 in 2013/14 to 3501 in 2018/19 however it is still significantly below the approved enrolment for the area of 4405 places.

Table 11: Belfast Model School for Girls' Feed Primary Schools (more than 4 pupils)

School Ref.	School Name	Approved Enrolment 2017/18	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
1010063	Currie Primary School	193	152	166	175	175	178	187
1010205	Forth River Primary	210	209	211	208	205	206	209
1010221	Springfield Primary	172	142	158	174	175	179	188
1010266	Seaview Primary	420	348	369	385	389	395	411
1010282	Carr's Glen Primary	420	342	367	371	385	378	396
1010323	Edenbrooke Primary	408	223	250	263	300	319	329
1010325	Ligoniel Primary	171	160	168	185	185	183	178
1010831	Cavehill Primary	406	404	408	408	412	412	412
1016060	Donegall Road Primary	316	199	213	225	252	256	244
1016485	Glenwood Primary	630	509	513	530	531	516	516
1016498	Malvern Primary	336	112	99	98	105	109	100
1016532	Wheatfield Primary	348	147	140	131	133	126	118
1016604	Harmony Primary	375	172	192	181	200	208	213
	Total	4405	3119	3254	3334	3447	3465	3501

7.3 The Area Plan for the Belfast LGD states that the population in the 0-15 age range is projected to increase by 7.6% by 2024 and the population in the age range 16-19 years is expected to decrease by 1.4% by 2024. The Case for Change also highlights a Housing Investment Plan which includes plans for the Greater Shankhill and North Belfast area which may also add increased enrolment pressures.

7.4 As part of the Transfer 2019 process it was recognised that further capacity would be required in North Belfast transferring into Year 8, given a large increase in the numbers leaving controlled primary schools and preparatory schools, and integrated primary schools. As a result an additional 20 Year 8 places were provided at the Girls' Model and 40 Year 8 places at Hazelwood Integrated College as part of a one off exercise.

Post 16 Enrolment Trends

7.5 The Department sets one overall enrolment number, it does not set a separate enrolment number for sixth form. In the case of the Girls' Model they have an approved enrolment of 950 and an approved admissions of 160. This allows 800 places in Years 8-12 and 150 places for post-16 provision although the school can allocate more places to sixth form if they are not oversubscribed. Table 12 shows the total number

of post-16 pupils at the Girls' Model in each of the past five years. The average number over that period (2013/14 to 2017/18) was 199, including SEN stage 5 pupils.

Table 12: Post 16 Enrolments at the Girls' Model School 2014/15 to 2018/19

Total Year 13 / Year 14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Average
SEN stage 5 pupils included	193	202	212	197	189	199

Retention Rates

7.6 Table 13 shows the percentage of Year 12 pupil numbers progressing to post-16 provision is between 80% and 93% (averaging around 85% over six years). This is significantly above the NI average. The number of pupils staying on to Year 14 are also included to show the retention rate although this falls to 61%. In all six years post-16 enrolment is higher than the expected 150 pupils. If the school enrolment is increased to 200 per year group then a sixth form of 250 pupils is likely to be achievable.

Table 13: Post-16 Retention Rates at Belfast Model School for Girls'

Enrolment - includes Statemented pupils.	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Average
Year 12 pupils	158	150	136	159	121	138	
Year 13 pupils (% of year 12 previous year)	120 (83%)	127 (80%)	132 (88%)	115 (85%)	127 (80%)	112 (93%)	85%
Year 14 pupils (% of year 13 previous year)	63 (62%)	66 (55%)	70 (55%)	97 (73%)	70 (61%)	77 (61%)	61%
Total Year 13/14 enrolment	183	193	202	212	197	189	

Table 14 Predicted Post-16 Retention Rates at the Belfast Model School for Girls' for New Five Years

Enrolment - includes Statemented pupils.	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Year 12 pupils	138	159	155	167	
Year 13 pupils (85% of year 12 previous year)	112	117	135	132	142
Year 14 pupils (61% of year 13 previous year)	77	68	71	82	81
Total Year 13/14 enrolment	189	185	206	215	225

7.7 The impact of the proposed change on local sixth form providers also needs to be taken into consideration. However, over the past three years from 2016/17 to 2018/19 the Girls Model has only accepted three pupils from other schools into Year 13. The comments on **Table 15** below should be read in conjunction with the Snapshot at Table 2 and the Maps 1 & 2.

Table 15: Post-16 Form Provision at Local Controlled Secondary Schools

(The Post-16 places figure is based on approved enrolment number less the calculated total in years 8-12 and the Year 8-12 total is based on five times the schools approved admissions number).

Ref.	Controlled Secondary Schools	Approved Adm.	Approved Enrol.	Years 8 - 12	Post-16 Places	15/16 Actual Post-16	16/17 Actual Post-16	17/18 Actual Post-16	18/19 Actual Post-16	18/19 Variance Post-16
1210021	Belfast Model School for Girls'	160	950	800	150	202	212	197	189	-39
1210022	Belfast Boys' Model School	151	905	755	150	174	174	165	153	-3
1210015	Ashfield Boys' HS	110	600	550	50	161	139	144	143	-93
1210014	Ashfield Girls' HS	113	660	565	95	133	115	110	104	-9
3210202	Glengormley HS	210	1250	1050	200	117	83	86	108	+92
3210313	Abbey Community College	140	820	700	120	80	92	96	75	+45
1260269	Hazelwood Int. College	160	930	800	130	173	173	169	163	-33
1230321	Blessed Trinity College	195	1300	975	325	277	274	278	278	+47
1230104	Mercy College	115	650	575	75	105	107	88	130	-55
3230203	Edmund Rice College	115	650	575	75	113	107	90	118	-43
	TOTAL	1469	8715	7345	1370	1535	1476	1423	1461	-91

Within the area there is currently a shortfall of 91 post-16 places.

Controlled Schools

7.8 Ashfield Boys' HS and Ashfield Girls' HS are single sex schools located in East Belfast and both have post-16 provision above the SSP minimum recommended threshold of 100 pupils. Ashfield Boys' HS has recently had a DP (547) approved to increase their enrolment from 600 to 750 to allow them to extend the post-16 provision.

7.9 As shown in Map 1 the pupil locations of those attending the Girls' Model does not extend to this part of East Belfast and it therefore unlikely that the proposed increase would have any impact on the Ashfield schools.

7.10 Post-16 enrolments at Glengormley HS have fallen significantly over the past five years from 208 in 2013/14 to 108 in 2018/19. Abbey Community College opened in 2015/16, following the amalgamation of Newtownabbey Community College and Monkstown Community High School, the post-16 provision here was growing and reached 96 in 2017/18 however it has fallen slightly in 2018/19 to 75 pupils. Map 2 shows that a number of the pupils attending the Girls' Model are coming from this area and it is recognised that a proposed increase of 100 pupils in sixth form provision could draw pupils from outside the North Belfast area.

Integrated Schools

7.11 Hazelwood Integrated College is a co-educational school that has been oversubscribed and has a strong post-16 enrolment with 163 pupils in the 130 available places. The school is within four miles of the Girls' Model therefore any significant increase in places for sixth form could potentially impact on the current provision.

Catholic Maintained Schools

7.12 The Catholic Maintained schools have recently been reorganised and the three schools have a relatively stable sixth form provision with 526 pupils in the 475 places. It is unlikely that these schools would be impacted by an increase in sixth form provision at the Girl's Model.

Staffing

7.13 The Case for Change states that the Board of Governors (BoG) will conduct a review of the staffing complement and seek to conduct any recruitment, if required, in early 2019. Whilst the school may be included in the Strategic Cost Reduction Programme the EA in 2018/19 gave a commitment to schools that development proposals will be fully funded through contingency for those schools that need it.

Accommodation

7.14 In 2010 the Girls' Model was opened in a new facility designed for a 950 pupil enrolment capacity. The school building is predominantly two story based around a central courtyard with a small section of the property being split over three floors. Key features of the school are two additional facilities that have been funded by other bodies, these are the Early Years Unit and the Hair and Beauty Department, both situated at the right hand side to the main school entrance.

7.15 The Girl's Model was built under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract. The EA is the contract signatory to the PPP contract and the Girls' Model and the Belfast Boys' Model School are the first PPP schools to potentially require significant additional accommodation.

7.16 The EA has carried out an accommodation assessment, in consultation with the school, to establish what would be required, on a year by year basis, to eventually allow implementation of DP 546.

7.17 The accommodation requirements from 2019/20 to 2022/23 include:

- extending the dining room provision;
- reconfiguration of Business Information classroom to an Home Economics room; and
- construction of 6 class block (4 general classroom, 1 ICT room and 1 Business Information room).

7.18 Total estimated accommodation cost is £740k (modular build for 6 classroom block or £945k (traditional build for 6 classroom block). The estimates assume that the EA will provide the capital funding for the provision of the additional accommodation. Given that both options will require planning permission the Department would view it as extremely unlikely that such accommodation would be ready in time for the 2019/20 school year. The accommodation assessment does not provide any alternative, should the block not be ready in time.

7.19 It is not possible to ascertain if the capital cost estimates are reasonable not least because this school is a PPP build and procurement rules may differ from a normal construction project.

7.20 The EA has advised that the estimated annual revenue cost for additional 'soft' Facilities Management Services (SFMS) for the additional accommodation is £20k per annum for the remaining twenty-one year term of the contract and lifecycle replacements are excluded. The EA has confirmed that the SFMS includes facilities management; security / fire safety systems; caretaking and portering; energy and utilities management; building fabric and services maintenance; grounds maintenance; contractor cleaning; pest control; waste management; and health and safety management.

7.21 The Department notes that the current PPP contract may have to be revised to include the additional accommodation which could incur additional SFMS payments to be included in the overall unitary payments for the Department, EA and the school.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Girls' Model is a popular, highly regarded all girls' school based in North Belfast. Recent admission and enrolment trends show pressures on the admissions at Year 8 and this is starting to impact on overall enrolment of the school. The projected increase in the population in the 0-15 age range and growth in the enrolment at feeder primary schools from 3119 in 2013/14 to 3501 in 2018/19 means that this pressure on school places will not only prevail but may increase in the years ahead.

8.2 While the performance of the Girls' Model in external examinations has been

significantly below the NI non grammar average, based on 5+ GCSEs including English and mathematics, there has been a year on year increase in the number of pupils achieving this target. The ETI reported in January 2017 that *“through a range of effective strategies the school has begun to address underperformance and improve the outcomes attained by pupils.”*

8.3 The proposal is seeking to increase in the Girls’ Model admissions number from 160 to 200 and the enrolment from 950 to 1250. The Case for Change indicates that this proposal is to meet an evidenced increasing enrolment at the school. It also acknowledges that there are controlled co-educational post-primary places available at Glengormley HS however, it states that parents have shown a desire for a single sex education environment. There is also a need to provide school places within the immediate local area to support wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas.

8.4 The Department notes that there are available controlled places available at Glengormley HS and Abbey Community College which are approximately 6 miles away from the area and this would necessitate a journey through the city centre, which in accordance with current Departmental guidance would not be within reasonable travelling distance for many of the children seeking admission to the Girls’ Model (journey from home to school that can be completed each way, in total in one hour or less and is no further than 15 miles travelling distance based on travelling by public transport).

8.5 The school has been exceeding the admissions number in the last four years if the pupils with SEN are included and in 2018/19 the school had 175 pupils. The retention rate of Year 12 pupils progressing to post-16 provision averages 85% over a six year period and is significantly above the NI average. The average actual enrolment at post-16 over the last five years from 2014/15 to 2018/19 is 199 pupils if the pupils with SEN are included, and the actual enrolment from 2016/17 has decreased from 212 pupils to 189 pupils in 2018/19 if the pupils with SEN are included. The predicted post-16 enrolment increases from 189 in 2018/19 to 225 in 2022/23.

8.6 The Girl’s Model was built under a PPP contract. The EA has advised that the school site is capable of housing the additional accommodation and has completed provisional site plans. An extension to provide additional teaching accommodation will have a total estimated cost of £740k if modular build for a six classroom block, or £945k if traditional build for a six classroom block. The estimates assume that the EA will provide capital funding for the provision of the additional accommodation.

8.7 The Department understands that the current PPP contract may have to be revised to include the additional accommodation which could incur additional ‘soft’ FSM payments estimated by the EA to be £20k per annum for the remaining twenty-

one year term of the contract and lifecycle replacements are excluded. The SFMS includes facilities management; security / fire safety systems; caretaking and portering; energy and utilities management; building fabric and services maintenance; grounds maintenance; contractor cleaning; pest control; waste management; and health and safety management. The SFMS payments are to be payable by the Department, EA and the school.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Taking into account all of the evidence and information provided it is recommended that you:-

- (i) Approve DP 546 which states that:

“Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.”

- (ii) Agree that this submission (with appropriate redactions) will be published on the Department’s website once the EA and the school have been informed of your decision.

9.2 I attach the following appendices for your consideration.

Appendices:

A: Copy of published DP 546

B: Case for Change in support of DP 546

C: Controlled Schools’ Support Council Comments

D: Education and Training Inspectorate Comments

E: DE Policy Team Comments

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Appendix A: Copy of Published Development Proposal

EDUCATION AUTHORITY
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 546
BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Notice is hereby given that a proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 has been submitted by the Education Authority to the effect that:

Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

A copy of the Proposal and Case for Change may be inspected at the offices of the Education Authority, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.45 pm and www.eani.org.uk (Schools).

Any objections or support to this Proposal should be lodged with the Area Planning Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7PR or emailed to dps@education-ni.gov.uk within two months of the date of publication of this notice. Any letters of objection or support may be published on the Department of Education's website, with appropriate redactions, if they are included in full in the submission on which the outcome of the proposal is decided.

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

Gavin Boyd
Chief Executive

Appendix B: Case for Change and Supporting Information

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

AREA PLANNING DISTRICT	Belfast
DP NUMBER	DP 546
PROPOSER	John Collings Director of Education Education Authority 028 9041 3151
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Belfast Model School for Girls
SCHOOL REFERENCE	121-0021
TYPE	Post-Primary (11-19)
MANAGEMENT	Controlled
DP PUBLICATION DATE	Week commencing 16 April 2018
PROPOSAL	Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.


STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Note: It may be necessary for documentary evidence to be provided to show that the statutory procedures have been followed. It is essential that relevant parties retain this information.

The following is to be completed by the Proposer and signed off by them.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTARY ON PRE-PUBLICATION STATUTORY CONSULTATION

<p>PROPOSER</p> <p>Provide detail of consultation with the BOGs, teachers and parents of the affected school(s) – dates of meetings/letters. Good practice suggests all staff (including non-teaching) should be consulted as well as pupils.</p> <p>Summary and assessment of views received – how were these taken into account before publication of the DP?</p>	<p>The Education Authority undertook consultation with governors on 30 January 2018 and with staff and parents by questionnaire on 31 January 2018.</p> <p>Forty four responses were received and a summary is given below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Agree</th> <th>Disagree</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Governors</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching Staff</td> <td>38</td> <td>0</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anonymous</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>44</td> <td>0</td> <td>44</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The emerging themes/comments from the responses received included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governors of the Belfast Model School for Girls' welcome the opportunity to progress this proposal in the interests of the girls, their parents and the local community. Over several years there has been an increase in demand for places within the school and it has only been with the application of temporary variations that the school has been able to satisfy that demand. <p>The school is highly regarded within the local community as evidenced by the increasing demand for non-selective, single sex education. This is the only school that provides this option in the North Belfast area.</p> <p>The governors feel that this proposal to increase the admissions and enrolment numbers for the school will allow the school to grow and to continue to provide quality education for the girls of North Belfast (and beyond!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal would be of great benefit to students and potential students in North Belfast. 		Agree	Disagree	Total	Governors	1	0	1	Teaching Staff	38	0	38	Anonymous	5	0	5	Totals	44	0	44
	Agree	Disagree	Total																		
Governors	1	0	1																		
Teaching Staff	38	0	38																		
Anonymous	5	0	5																		
Totals	44	0	44																		


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the school is necessary as there are increasing numbers applying. • Hopefully proposal would mean access for pupils to a more varied curriculum at GSCE and A level, particularly at KS5. • Opportunity to increase jobs available and job security. • Essential that additional accommodation is provided to provide for the increase in pupils and include teaching and social space. • School is already at capacity and it would be difficult to accommodate an additional 300 pupils. • Concern about increase in pupil numbers would impact on class sizes. • Concern of year 8 pupils developing friendships. <p>Section 75 comments received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the proposal would not impact either positively or negatively on any of the Section 75 categories. • Increased enrolment would lead to greater diversity and impact positively on good relations in school and the community. • Help the school grow and progress. • Current pupils are generally more tolerant than in the past of different faiths, political beliefs, sexual orientation, disability and gender.
<p>CONFIRMATION BY THE PROPOSER</p>	<p>I confirm that the school's Board of Governors, Staff and Parents of pupils were consulted and Equality Screening of the proposal has been carried out.</p> <p>NAME: John Collings</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 12 April 2018</p>

ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

DP XXX	N/A
Published DD/MM/YY	

The following is to be completed and signed off by the EA.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTARY ON PRE-PUBLICATION STATUTORY CONSULTATION

<p>THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>I confirm that the schools which the EA consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 1 March 2018.</p> <p>NAME: John Collings</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 12 April 2018</p>
<p>Provide detail of consultation with schools that may, in the EA's opinion, be affected by the proposal - list of schools, dates of letters issued to schools/meetings.</p> <p>Summary of views received (number of responses, recurring themes, petitions, community support or opposition).</p> <hr/> <p>Responses/Assurances in respect of issues raised during consultation.</p> <hr/> <p>Dates of EA meetings e.g. Education Committee/ Board etc.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Details of issues raised by members of EA Board</u></p>	<p>The Authority, before submitting a proposal to the Department, is obliged to consult with the Trustees and managers of any school or schools which would, in the opinion of the Authority, be affected by the proposal. Comments were invited from 201 schools which might be affected by the proposal on 1 March 2018 (157 in the Belfast District Council area, 31 in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area and 13 in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council area) to be returned to the Education Authority by 30 March 2018.</p> <p>No responses were received from schools.</p> <p>A response to the proposal was received from the Controlled Schools' Support Council. It stated that there is evidenced demand for the increase in the school's admissions and enrolment numbers which would emphasise the school's stable enrolment trends, its sound financial position, the quality of educational provision and its strong leadership and management and be in the best interests of the local community and further develop the sustainability of the school.</p> <p>This development proposal was discussed by the EA's Education Committee at its meeting on 12 April 2018.</p>

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY
COMMENTS**

In the context of planning on an area basis - what is the EA's view of the proposal, taking into account any pre-publication consultation. Does the EA support the proposal?

NAME: John Collings

OFFICE HELD: Director of Education

SIGNED:



DATE: 12 April 2018

The proposal is being taken forward by the Education Authority and the proposal is in accordance with the Education Authority's Strategic Area Plan and Annual Action Plan 2017/18.

The Education Authority supports the proposal as the proposer.

The proposal to increase the enrolment and admissions numbers is to meet an evidenced increasing enrolment in the school. The school is seeking to provide education for girls within the area that includes the Greater Shankill and has entrance criteria that focus on the provision of places for girls living in the local community.

The upward trend in the enrolment numbers in the vast majority of the main feeder primary schools explains the current increase in demand for places and indicates potential future pressures resulting from this trend.

The need to meet the potential demand is a consequence of the upward trend in live births in the main wards that the school serves.

While it is acknowledged that there are controlled post-primary places available in schools six miles from the school, the need to provide places within the developing immediate community served by the school as part of a wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas presents a strong case for the growth of this school, as evidenced by the increase in the local demand for places in recent years. The displacement of girls to a school outside the community served by the Belfast Model School for Girls would be detrimental to community development.

The school provides a single sex education environment, desired by parents, and displacement would require girls who wish to attend a single sex school to enrol in a co-educational school.

BACKGROUND

Brief Description of the School

Belfast Model School for Girls is a controlled post-primary school for girls situated in the Ballysillan area of North Belfast. The school was founded in 1953 with the first pupils enrolled on the Dunkeld Gardens site in 1954 where it continued to serve pupils until 2009 when a state of the art new school building received pupils for the first time.

The school's motto is 'Achievement for All'. The Board of Governors and staff have very high expectations of all members of the school community and together share an ambition for Belfast Model School for Girls to be seen as one of Northern Ireland's best schools, recognised as a happy school where the quality of provision supports and develops students who strive to be the best they can be. The school has an ethos of hard work, aspiration and success delivered through a culture of nurture, support and encouragement.

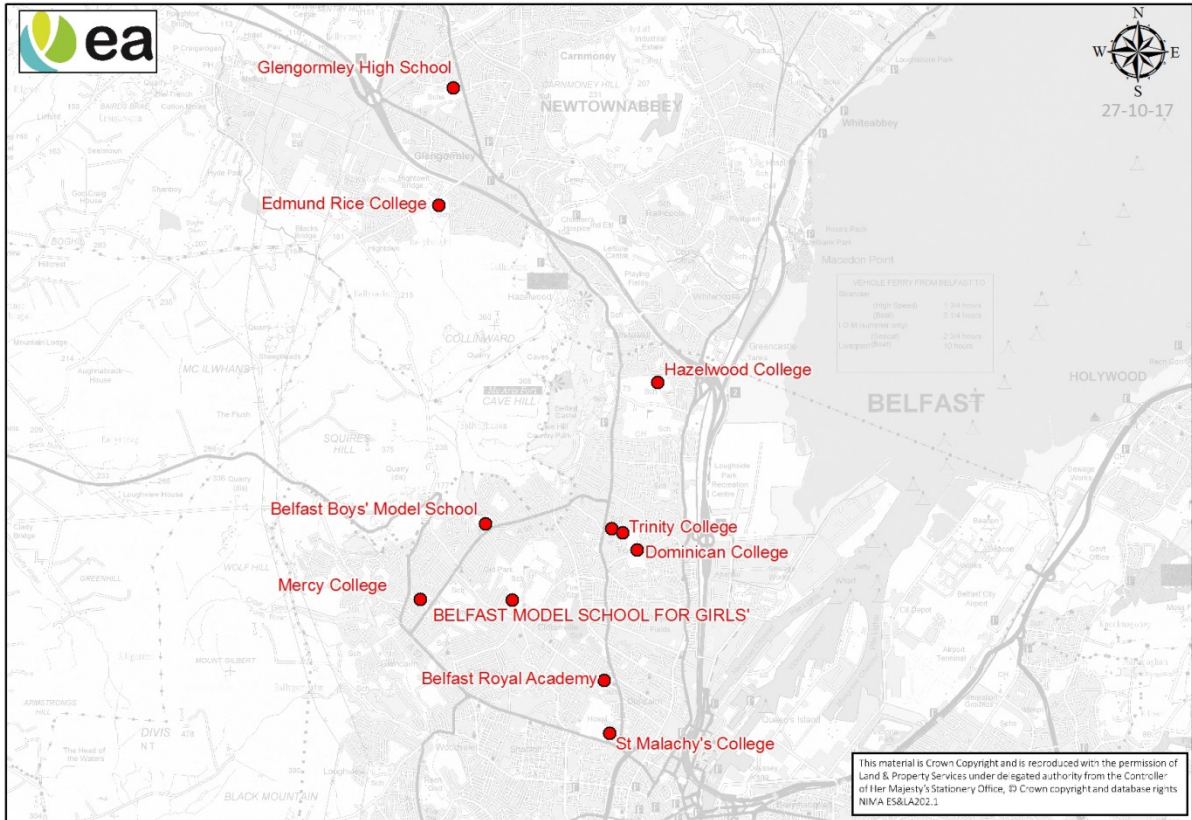
The Belfast Model School for Girls is one of four Controlled Post Primary schools serving the city of Belfast, the others being; Belfast Boys' Model School, Ashfield Boys' School and Ashfield Girls' School. The Controlled Post Primary schools serving Belfast are single sex schools. This configuration of Controlled schools in the city was the result of previous area planning work completed by the former Belfast Education and Library Board.

The enrolment number of the school is 950 pupils. Recent years have seen an increasing demand for places in the school with the number of pupils in 2016/17 being 954. There has been an upward trend in the number of pupils applying for a place in over the past three years with the number of applications exceeding the number of places available. The Board of Governors has to seek Temporary Variation approval from the Department of Education.

Within the school in 2016/17 there were 357 pupils with identified Special Educational Needs.

The number of pupils taking Free School Meals in 2016/17 was 572.

The map below indicates the location of the school:



Statistical Information

Application and Admissions 2013-2017

Admissions Number 160 (170 in 2017/18*)

Year	Total Applications	1 st Preference Applications	Admitted
2013/14	118	107	118
2014/15	126	115	124
2015/16	181	155	164
2016/17	169	149	165*
2017/18	162	148	162

- Temporary Variation

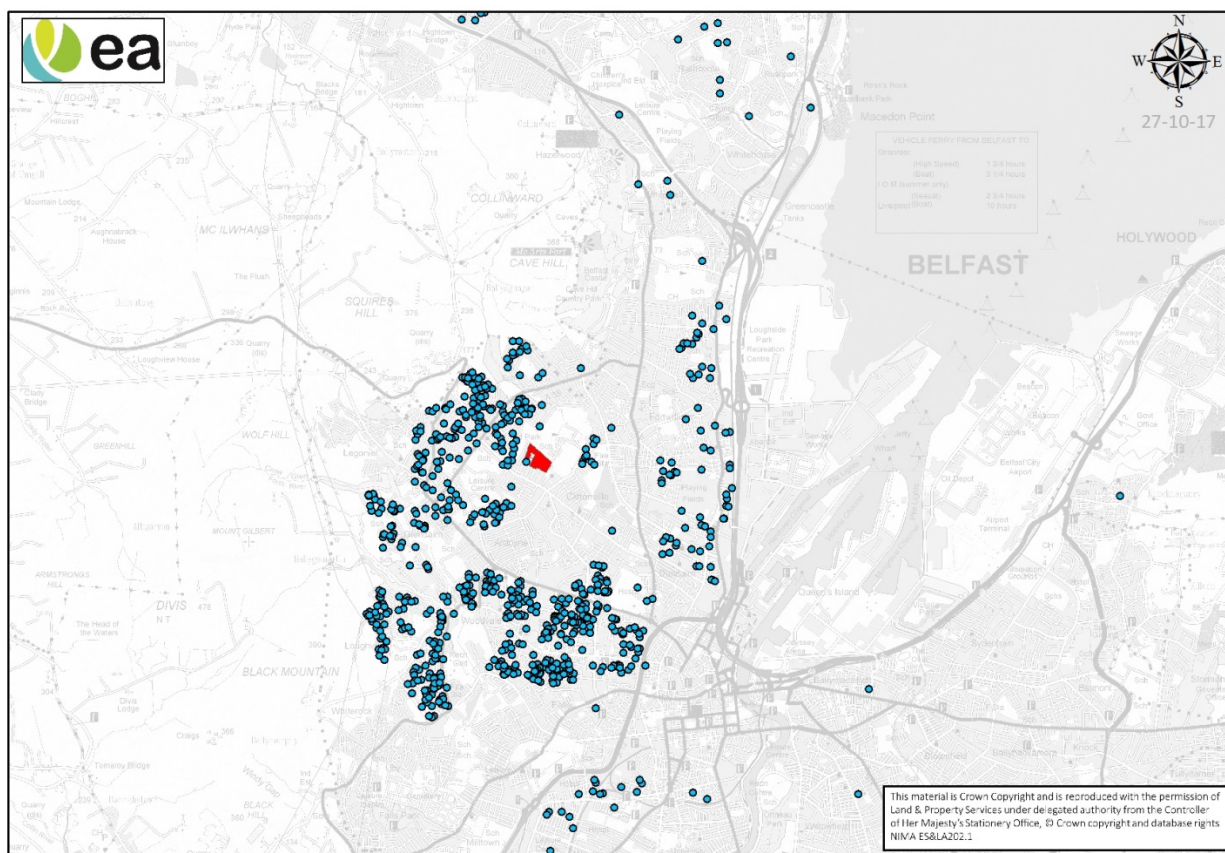
There has been a 28% increase in applications since 2013/14.

School Enrolment 2012/13-2016/17 (includes pupils with SEN Statement)

Enrolment Number 950

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
930	916	884	910	954

A map showing the pupil distribution for the school is shown below:



Alternative Post-Primary Schools

School	Distance	Approved Enrolment	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Available Places 16/17
Abbey CC	6.1 mls	820	-	-	613	580	240
Boys' Model	1 ml	905	943	969	968	991	0
Glengormley HS	5.7 mls	1250	873	838	790	750	500
Hazelwood College	2.7 mls	850	894	916	900	936	0
Little Flower*	1.4 mls	650	684	644	637	633	17
Our Lady of Mercy*	0.7 mls	650	423	433	446	452	198
St Patrick's*	1 ml	780	705	679	674	654	126
Edmund Rice* School		600	604	605	592	569	31

*Schools to be re-organised following approval of Development Proposals

Glengormley HS (nearest Controlled School)-Co-Educational
Enrolment Number 1250

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
877	873	838	790	750

Admissions Number 210

Year	Total Applications	1 st Preference Applications	Admitted
2013/14	140	118	140
2014/15	138	131	138
2015/16	128	99	128
2016/17	115	86	115
2017/18	96	65	96

Belfast Model School for Girls

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Stage	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
SEN Stage 1-4	325	281	288	320	330
SEN Stage 5	20	22	23	23	27

Enrolment Trends in Main Feeder Primary Schools 2012/13-2016/17 (providing 10+ pupils)

School	2012/13 Enrolment	2016/17 Enrolment
Harmony PS	166	200
Glenwood PS	495	531
Edenbrooke PS	214	300
Cavehill PS	396	412
Carr's Glen PS	317	385
Ballysillan PS	94	148
Forth River PS	208	205
Wheatfield PS	152	133
Black Mountain PS	114	140
Seaview PS	324	389

Local Ward Live Births 2012-2015

Ward	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ballysillan	61	82	74	74
Bellevue	85	60	69	72
Castleview	56	64	49	54
Cavehill	41	58	60	46
Chichester Park	85	71	79	65
Cliftonville	78	81	69	88
Crumlin	88	58	59	95
Duncairn	85	81	79	91
Fortwilliam	54	55	47	47
Legioniel	125	117	101	91
Shankill	75	75	76	81
Waterworks	92	101	131	107
Woodvale	66	62	54	76

Multiple Deprivation Measures (NISRA 2010)

Over one third of the Super Output Areas in Belfast are in the most deprived decile in Northern Ireland in terms of levels of multiple deprivation. The majority of these are in North and West Belfast and include areas that the school serves such as: Shankill, Crumlin (Belfast), New Lodge, Upper Springfield, Water Works and Woodvale.

Local Area Housing Growth

The Belfast Housing Investment Plan 2015/19 indicates that there is a growing demand for housing stock in Belfast including pressures in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas. The plan sets out intentions in terms of the delivery of additional housing units and the upgrading of existing housing stock.

The context for this development includes a projected increase in the overall population of the city from 335,133 in 2013 to a projected population of 345,336 in 2023. This increase includes a growth in the number of children from 69,849 in 2003 to a projected 72,463 in 2023. The current growth in school enrolments in the primary sector in Belfast is reflective of this increase in the number of children living in the city.

The Housing Investment Plan has as one of its key strategies Urban Regeneration with a particular focus on areas suffering Multiple Deprivation such as Greater Shankill and North Belfast. The plan indicates a potential capacity for 19,131 new housing units in Belfast by 2019. It also indicates that 542 new social housing units were completed in 2014/15 with a further 433 new social houses commenced building in 2016. These figures are set against a housing need for the period 2015/19 of 5664 dwellings. Over the period covered by the plan there will be 91 housing schemes in Belfast delivering 1052 housing units.

In respect to the catchment area for the Belfast Model School for Girls there is a major focus on regeneration of the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas. During the period of the plan 181 new housing units will be delivered in this area. It is estimated that the average population per unit will be 2.32 per unit. It is recognised that social housing population sizes per unit are often higher.

It is clear from population projections, growth in the enrolment in feeder primary schools, and increased housing that is being developed in the area served by the school that the present pressure on school places will not only prevail but will increase in the years ahead.

Examination Performance

Year 12 Pupils

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
5+ GCSE A*-G	97%	91%	88%	95%
5+ GCSE A*-C	76%	55%	35%	46%
5+ GCSE A*-C inc English and Maths	21%	25%	33%	36%
No Qualifications	0%	0%	1%	0%

Year 12 and 13 Pupils

Year	2112/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
2+ A Levels A*-E	98%	92%	98%	94%
3+ A Levels A*-E	41%	38%	19%	35%

The statistical information provided above reinforces the need for an increase to the admissions and enrolment numbers of the Model School for Girls:

- The granting of temporary variations to accommodate additional pupils
- The criteria for entry which seeks to facilitate pupils from the community served by the school
- The lack of suitability of the available places in Glengormley High School which sits outside the community of Greater Shankill and North Belfast
- The specific nature of the provision in the school to address a defined community with high levels of social deprivation and Special Educational Needs
- The growth in the number of local housing units, particularly in social housing
- The plans for regeneration of the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas
- The upward enrolment trends in the main feeder primary schools

- Potential increasing future demands for places in the school given the upward trend in live births in wards within the school's community
- The desire in the community to access the high standard and appropriateness of the educational provision at the school.

Current Accommodation

In 2010, Belfast Model School for Girls was re-constructed and opened in a new facility designed for a 950 pupil enrolment capacity. The school building is predominantly two story based around a central courtyard with a small section of the property being split over three floors. Key features of the school are two additional project facilities that have been funded by other bodies, these are the Early Years Unit and the Hair and Beauty Department, both situated at the right hand side to the main school entrance. The facility also has landscaped car parking situated to the front and sides of the property and a sports complex located to the rear of the building.

SCHOOL AREA ANALYSIS

The below analysis can be found in the Authority Requirements, Schedule 3, Part 1 – Construction Proposals, 2.0 Schedule of Accommodation.

	Proposed Area	% of TIA
Total Education Area (teaching spaces & support spaces)	7,482	58.2%
Circulation	2,183	17%
Pupil Cloaks/Lockers	0	0%
Toilets	222	1.7%
Other Ancillary	2,147	18.8%
Remainder (Partitions)	542	4.2%

TOTAL INTERNAL AREA	12,846	100%
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Additional Accommodation

School Meals Accommodation	563
Additional Project Facilities funded by other bodies	1,060
Facilities Management Facilities	37
Plant Areas in attics	265
Garage	108
Sprinkler Tank	29
Pump House	11

GROSS INTERNAL FLOOR AREA (including plant areas/sprinkler tanks/garage etc.	14,919
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

The school is highly sustainable and is considered by the Education Authority to be a core school in the pattern of education provision in the city of Belfast.

Quality of Education

The performance of the school in public examinations is outlined in the Background section above. It is important to read the results in the context of a rapid increase in the number of pupils taking Free School Meals.

The report of an inspection of the school by the Education and Training Inspectorate, which was conducted in January 2017, indicated that there had been an improvement in examination results, particularly noted in the context of the tripling of the number of pupils taking free school meals. The inspection report also highlighted the highly effective leadership of the senior leadership team.

The school was fully compliant with the post 16 requirements of the Entitlement Framework in 2015/16.

Stable Enrolment Trends

The school enrolment has increased steadily year on year over the past 5 years (see table above).

Enrolments are consistently above the sustainability threshold, with a year on year upwards trend since 2012/13.

Sound Financial Position

School finances are in a healthy position. Analysis of the annual budget outturn over the past three years indicates that the school is operating with a budget surplus which in the 2015/16 was £25,702, 0.56% of available resources.

Strong Leadership and Management

The school is well led and managed by the Board of Governors and Principal. In the most recent Inspection Report of January 2017 the Education and Training Inspectorate concluded that leadership and management in the school is highly effective.

Accessibility

The situation of the school in the urban setting of North Belfast means that it is very accessible to parents. Transport links are good.

Strong Links with the Community

The involvement of the school with the local community is set out in the tables below:

External			Access to supports/information
Social Services	Gateway	110 Saintfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	UNOCINI referrals made as required through Designated Teacher (School Counsellor, Pastoral VP or FSES Coordinator)
ISCYP Counselling and family support service Services and FAMILY HUBS		Spectrum Centre 331-333 Shankill Road Belfast BT13 3AA	Information on external counselling services provided to pupils by Personal Development Mentor and other FSES team members in addition to referral to School Counsellor. Referral through FSES Coordinator.
Streetbeat Counselling		97-99 Woodvale Road Belfast BT13 3BP	Youth Counselling service for girls at school provided 2 mornings per week (currently Mon & Wed) on an appointment basis. Girls referred to service after initial assessment with School Counsellor. Referred to FSES Coordinator to organise. Adult and family counselling also available on school site at Streetbeat.
Education Welfare Officer		Cliftonville Primary School	Pupils with 80% attendance or below referred through school Attendance Coordinator.
Family Works Counselling		25 Ardoyne Road Belfast BT14 7HX	Youth Counselling service for girls at school, provided 1 day per week on an appointment basis. Girls referred to service after initial assessment with School Counsellor. Referred to FSES Coordinator to organise

Nursing Team	School Nursing team in the Belfast Trust.	Belfast Girls Model 35 Dunowen Gardens Belfast BT14 6NQ	Belfast Trust Nursing team visit school on regular basis for implementation of inoculation programmes and year 8 health checks They also attend school or conduct home visits to provide information on/address specific health as they are identified. Referral made by FSES Coordinator.
External			Access to supports/information
Pathways		Shankill Road Belfast BT13	Alternative Education Project with spaces for approximately 6 pupils per year. Identified through the school pastoral support systems and based on pupil and parental consent in the term prior to entering yr 12. Pupils offered places at Pathways will generally have been engaged with a range of supports offered within school in Year 11.
School Counsellor		Belfast Girls Model 35 Dunowen Gardens Belfast BT14 6NQ	Young person's counselling service available to all pupils on request. Parents are also made aware of the Counselling service and can refer their daughter if they feel they would benefit from counselling through contacting any member of the school pastoral care team.

Group Work/One Off type activities			Access to supports/information
Extern		North Belfast	Group work activities organised – proactively in relation to specific issues for various year groups and also in relation to current issues as identified for specific groups of pupils. Organised by FSES Coordinator Crisis 'drop-in' centre with trained counsellors available.
Love For Life			Group work activities organised in relation to specific issues for various

			<p>year groups Organised by FSES Coordinator</p> <p>Organised for Years 10, 11, 13 and 14 Consists of a 3 week programme looking at sexual health and also personal safety.</p> <p>Sexual Health</p>
Opportunity Youth		Hildon House 30-34 Hill Street Belfast BT1 2XB	<p>Group work activities organised for various year groups.</p> <p>Suicide and self-harm, drugs awareness, employment</p>

AREA PLANNING IMPACT

The proposal aligns with the Key Themes of Area Planning as set out in “Providing Pathways- Strategic Area Plan for School provision 2017-2020”.

Securing Parity of Access for All to Appropriate Pathways

The regularisation of sixth form provision at the school will ensure that all girls in the non-selective sector in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas will have full and equitable access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the Entitlement Framework curriculum.

Enhancing Choice

Girls will have sustainable access to a wide range of appropriate curricular choices at Key Stages 3 and 4 and through the Entitlement Framework at Post 16.

Promoting Sharing/Collaboration

Stable availability of places at the school will facilitate the further building of collaborative arrangements with other schools and the further education sector to the benefit of the girls. The school is involved in the local Area Learning Partnership and has long standing collaborative working with the Boys’ Model School that enhances curricular provision. The school is also actively involved in Shared Education partnership with local Catholic Maintained schools

Maximising Resources and Sustainability

The proposal will further develop the sustainability of the Model School for Girls” as a core controlled school in Belfast. It will meet the increasing demand for non-selective controlled education in the area through an existing and established school thereby maximizing the investment and use of resources in an effective and efficient manner.

Informing Strategic Infrastructure Planning

The proposal will ensure that the existing facilities at the school building that was opened in 2009 will be used to maximum effect, particularly given the need to ensure best value from the public private partnership under which the new building has been provided.

The proposal also addresses the key areas in “providing pathways” as it will:

- Configure school provision to provide equitable access for students to the Entitlement Framework pathways;
- Match provision to population trends; and
- Potentially further improve the quality of provision.

The proposal forms part of the actions set out in the Area Plan Action Plan 2017/18.

The plan highlights the issue of ensuring that school places are located as required.

It is likely that there will be little or no detrimental impact on the enrolment of other schools due to the community focus of this proposal and the existing demand from local girls for places at the school.

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL

Reason for the Change

The increase in applications for admission to the school which has been 28% over recent years, the increasing primary school population and the market share of the school in respect to girls transferring to Year 8.

The increasing primary school population.

The Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas that are served by the school are inner city areas displaying high levels of social deprivation and the allied challenges that this brings to ensuring educational achievement and enabling young people to reach their potential. These issues were at the centre of a report entitled “Educational Disadvantage and the Protestant Working Class - A Call to Action” which was issued in March 2011 highlighted the particular issues confronting education for these pupils and set out a vision that at its heart had equitable access to high quality educational opportunities and resources in inspiring and challenging schools that will enable young people to achieve their potential. The work of the Greater Shankill Children and Young People Zone also focuses on enabling the young people to have access to local high quality educational provision to ensure that they realize their potential. This proposal along with other work that is currently being done to ensure that children get the best

start in sustainable primary schools in the area will ensure that there is access to educational pathways in the local community from age 4-19.

The rationale for the proposal to increase the enrolment and admissions numbers is to meet an evidenced increasing enrolment in the school. The school is seeking to provide education for girls within the area that includes the Greater Shankill and has entrance criteria that focus on the provision of places for girls living in the local community. The table above indicates the admissions and enrolment statistics for the school over recent years.

The upward trend in the enrolment numbers in the vast majority of the main feeder primary schools explains the current increase in demand for places and indicates potential future pressures resulting from this trend.

The need to meet the potential demand is a consequence of the upward trend in live births in the main wards that the school serves.

The increase in housing units and the upgrading of existing dwellings in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas will increase the demand for school places.

While it is acknowledged that there are controlled post-primary places available in Glengormley High School which is 5.7 miles from the school, the need to provide places within the developing immediate community served by the school as part of a wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas presents a strong case for the growth of this school, as evidenced by the increase in the local demand for places in recent years. The displacement of pupils to a school outside the community served by the Belfast Model School for Girls would be detrimental to community development. The school provides a single sex education environment, desired by parents, and displacement to Glengormley High School would require girls who wish to attend a single sex school to enrol in a co-educational school.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Approval of the proposal would enable the school meet the demand for places from girls in the local community. The school has a high reputation and, as indicated by the examination results and the findings of the Education and Training Inspectorate, provides a high standard of education to its pupils. This is particularly significant given the high levels of social deprivation in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas that it serves, as evidenced, for example, by the level of Free School Meal provision.

Approval of this proposal would increase the educational opportunities for children and young people in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas. Pupils from the community would have sustainable access to the high quality education facilities available in the current school building and any additional accommodation provided in the future and provide adequate education provision in the community which the school serves.

Wards that are served by the school appear high in the list of the areas with Multiple Deprivation as evidenced by the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure Report 2010 (Ref NISRA 2010).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)

If the Development Proposal is approved the school would be in a position to implement the increased admissions number for the 2019 admission cohort. This would result in a regularisation of the admission position meaning that no further temporary variations would be required to be approved by the Department of Education.

The enrolment number of the school will increase by 15 pupils per year, commencing in September 2019, on a phased basis until the newly approved enrolment number is achieved.

The Board of Governors will conduct a review of the staffing compliment and seek to conduct any required recruitment, if required, in early 2019, the timing of which will be dependent on the date of DP approval.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The extension of the size of the school will require additional teaching accommodation that will need to be addressed within the existing PPP contract through which the school has been provided. The contract allows for an expansion to the school building within the current contractual arrangement as it is within the 10 year period following the initial opening of the facility without further open procurement processes.

Appendix C: Controlled Schools' Support Council Comments



Controlled Schools' Support Council
2nd floor, Main Building
Stranmillis University College
Belfast, BT9 5DY
T: 028 9531 3030
E info@csscni.org.uk

31 May 2018

CSSC response to Development proposal no 546 Belfast Model School for Girls

Dear sir/madam

The Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) has consulted with schools in the controlled sector in respect of development proposal 546 and welcomes the opportunity to make comment in this context.

The CSSC is in support of the Development Proposal to increase the admission and enrolment numbers for Belfast Model School for Girls. There is evidenced demand for this increase and CSSC would emphasise that the stable enrolment trends at the school, its sound financial position, the quality of educational provision and the strong leadership and management indicate that the school is well placed to manage this proposal which is in the best interests of girls in the local community and will further develop the sustainability of the school.

Yours faithfully



Barry Mulholland
Chief Executive

Appendix D: Education and Training Inspectorate Comments

ETI Development Proposal Commentary Paper

Date of last ETI report:

January 2018 (inspection visit as part of youth inspection); November 2015.

January 2017 (Belfast Model School for Girls)

Web link:

https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/youth-inspection-north-belfast-area-project-belfast_0.pdf

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-belfast-boys-model-school.pdf>

https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/asos-post-primary-inspection-belfast-model-school-for-girls-121-0021_1.pdf

1. Update on relevant/contextual information since the last published inspection report.

DI visit to Girls' Model January 31 2018 to meet newly-appointed principal.
The latest ETI inspection of the Girls' Model was impacted by action short of strike taken by some of the teaching unions.

2. Knowledge of **any contextual information on the quality of education** in the wider local area.

There are no other post-primary controlled non-selective schools in the Belfast B4 district.
This proposal may impact upon Hazelwood Integrated College's enrolment.

3. Potential benefits/concerns associated with the claims of **educational** benefits for pupils made in the Case for Change.

Increasing the enrolment of a school does not necessarily equate with future improvements in the quality of education.

4. Any concerns about the **implementation date or phasing of implementation** should this be applicable (i.e. curricular, EF, accommodation, LSCs, etc).

None

5. The **SSP Criteria** indicators requiring ETI input (if known and/or for which information is available).

Sustainable Schools Criterion	Indicator	Meets criterion		
		Yes	No (include reason(s))	Information not available
	1.1 Attainment levels of pupils, Key Stage tests	√		

Quality Educational Experience	pending development of new indicators for Primary Schools, GCSE results for Post-Primary Schools.			
	1.2 No more than <u>two</u> composite year groups in a single classroom at primary school level.	N/A		
	1.3 A <u>minimum</u> of four teachers at a primary school. This recognises both the needs of pupils and the demands on teachers.	N/A		
	1.4 The ability of the school to cater for children with Special Educational Needs.		Both schools are Full Service Extended Schools. Both schools have development proposals for ASD units.	
	1.5 The ability at post-primary level to be able to provide suitable access to the entitlement framework including, where appropriate, linkages with other schools, the FE sector or other providers.	√		
	1.6 The standards and the quality of learning and teaching at the school.		Boys' Model ETI report based on first-hand evaluations of learning. Girls' Model ETI <u>not</u> based on first-hand evaluations of learning.	
	1.7 The range of curricular and extra-curricular activities available for children including career guidance, physical education, music, art, drama and science.	√		
	1.8 The quality of the <u>physical</u> environment for learning and teaching i.e. the condition, energy and water efficiency and suitability of the buildings.	√		
	1.9 The quality of, and arrangements for, pastoral care including the active promotion of the principles of social justice in all areas of the formal and informal curriculum.	√		
Strong Leadership and Management by Boards of	4.1 Governors' views on the school based on quantitative and qualitative evidence.	√		
	4.8 There is a school development plan in place	√		

Governors and Principals	and progress is being made to achieve the plan's aims and objectives.			
	4.9 Pupil behaviour, expulsions, suspensions and non-attendance as well as positive behaviours such as involvement in school management (e.g. buddying and mentoring schemes).	√		
Strong links with the Community	6.1 Degree and quality of parental involvement (schools will be asked to provide evidence on this).	√		
	6.3 Contribution of the school to the community (schools will be asked to provide evidence on this).	√		
	6.4 Presence of other features of provision, e.g. nursery or specialist unit.		Both schools are Full Service Extended Schools. Both schools have development proposals for ASD units.	

6. Overall conclusion of impact of the proposal

Increasing the enrolment of any school does not necessarily equate with future improvements in the quality of education.

Appendix E: DE Policy Team Comments

Schools' Access Team

SAT input to DP 546– Belfast Model School for Girls

- 1. Development Proposal (DP)**
 - DP 546 proposes to increase the admissions number from 160 to 200 for Belfast Model School for Girls (121-0021) with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 2. Rationale for DPs**
 - The Case for Change (CfC), page 17, notes the proposal aligns with the Key Themes of Area Planning as set out in “Providing Pathways-Strategic Area Plan for School provision 2017-2020”.

- 3. Current Approved Enrolment and Admissions Numbers**
 - The current approved admission number is 160 and enrolment number is 950.

- 4. School Admissions / Temporary Variations**
 - If a school receives more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a Temporary Variation (TV) of its admissions and / or enrolment 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.

 - When considering a TV request from a school the Department will look at the availability of places in that sector in the area within a reasonable travelling distance of each pupil's home address. For post-primary schools, in relation to TV requests, DE defines 'reasonable travelling distance' as a journey from home to school that can be completed each way, in total, in one hour or less and is no further than 15 miles travelling distance. Journey time will be based on travelling by public transport.

 - It should be noted that a TV is granted on the condition that no additional accommodation will be involved. TVs are not granted to address anticipation of demand, nor a long term desire to increase the size of a school within an area.

Approved Admissions and Enrolment numbers detailing TVs approved for the academic years 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 are as follows:

School Year	Approved Admissions Number	Approved Enrolment Number	Temporary Variations Approved	
			Admissions	Enrolment
2014/2015	160	950	–	–
2015/2016	160	950	164	–
2016/2017	160	950	165	–
2017/2018	170	950	-	–
2018/2019	160	950	174	–

N.B. Figures do not include statemented children (all year groups) or any children who have been admitted by appeal or by the Exceptional Circumstances Body (year of admission only)

5. Post Primary Analysis of Preferences for Belfast Model School for Girls

Year	Totals Applications	1 st Preference
2018/2019	175 (to date)	148
2017/2018	162	148
2016/2017	162	147
2015/2016	181	155

6. Other Issues

SAT are not aware of any contentious issues regarding the school.

Curriculum, Qualification and Standards Division

DP 546: Belfast Model School for Girls will increase its admissions number from 160 to 200 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 950 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Examination Results

At the threshold of 5+ GCSEs at A*-C or equivalent, performance of Year 12 pupils has been consistently below the NI average for non-grammar schools over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. Over the five year period from 2013/14 performance of Year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSEs in English and maths showed performance below the NI average for non-grammar schools however, within school, there has been an increase in the proportion of the cohort of eligible pupils achieving this benchmark (25% in 2013/14 rising to 42% in 2017/18.) It should be noted that the attainment is in line with similar schools in the same Free school meal category.

The table below shows the GCSE outcomes in the period 2013/14 to 2017/18.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Proportion achieving 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A*- C					
Belfast Model School for Girls	55%	35%	46%	44%	57%
NI Non-grammar Average	71%	72%	73%	74%	77%
NI Non-grammar Average for similar FSM Band	67%	71%	71%	70%	75.3%
Proportion achieving 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A*- C including GCSE English and GCSE mathematics					
Belfast Model School for Girls	25%	33%	36%	34%	42%
NI Non-grammar Average	44%	47%	47%	50%	52%
NI Non-grammar Average for similar FSM Band	34%	39%	42%	43%	44.6%

In the four years from 2013/14 to 2016/17 the school has been at or above the NI non-grammar average for those pupils achieving 2+ GCE 'A' Level grades A*-E or equivalent. However 2017/18 saw a drop to below the NI non- grammar average to 88%.

Performance at GCE Level 3+ A*-C or equivalent has been below the NI average for similar schools but it is noteworthy that the figure has increased from 19% to 45% over the past four years.

Outcomes at GCE A-Level or equivalent qualifications between 2013/14 and 2017/18 are detailed in the table below.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Proportion achieving 2+ A-levels or equivalent at Grades A* - E					
Belfast Model School for Girls	92%	98%	94%	98%	88%
NI Non-grammar Average	95%	96%	96%	97%	96%
Proportion achieving 3+ A-levels or equivalent at Grades A* - C					
Belfast Model School for Girls	38%	19%	35%	43%	45%
NI Non-grammar Average	48%	48%	52%	55%	57%

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection in January 2017, which was impacted by action short of strike being taken by the teachers. The ETI were unable to evaluate fully the quality of education provided by the school. However the inspection noted that “through a range of effective strategies the school has begun to address underperformance and improve the outcomes attained by the pupils.”

Curricular Offer

For the academic year 2017/18, in order to meet the statutory requirements of the Entitlement Framework (EF) schools were required to provide access to a minimum of 21 courses at Key Stage 4 (KS4) and 21 at Post-16; of which at least one third must be general and one third applied.

The tables below set out the data for academic year 2017/18. **Green indicates the school met these requirements and Red indicates the school did not meet the requirements.** Belfast Model School for Girls provides access to the following courses at KS4 & post-16.

2017/18	Key Stage 4 (Year 11)	Post-16 (Year 13)
Applied courses	15	19
General courses	9	14
Total	24	33

At KS4 Belfast Model School for Girls offered access to 24 courses, where all of the applied and general courses were delivered within the school.

At Post-16 Belfast Model School for Girls offered access to 33 courses, five of the applied courses were delivered through collaboration with Belfast Boys Model mainly, and St Malachy's College; four of the general courses were delivered through collaboration with Belfast Boys Model mainly, Mercy College and St Malachy's College.

The case for change correctly states that the school was EF compliant at post-16 in 2015/16, CT would like to add that the school was also EF compliant at post-16 in 2016/17.

The compliance rates for 2017/18, shown above, identifies that the school is fully EF compliant and that the curricular offer exceeds the new statutory EF requirement which took effect from September 2017, with 21 courses at both Key Stage 4 and post-16.

However, it is worth noting the Department is currently considering a request for a significant number of pupils to undertake a 'large size' qualification (equivalent to four GCSEs). Therefore, while it would be reasonable to assume that Belfast Model School for Girls, offers its pupils access to a broad and balanced curriculum, too many pupils taking the 'large size' qualification in the future, has the potential to narrow the curriculum for any pupil who is capable of studying a broader range of individual subjects.

Investment and Infrastructure Division

Belfast Model School for Girls is a controlled post-primary school situated in the Ballysillan area of North Belfast. The enrolment number of the school is 950 pupils. Recent years have seen an increasing demand for places in the school with the number of pupils in 2016/17 being 954

In 2010 the school was opened in a new facility designed for a 950 pupil enrolment capacity. The school building is predominantly two story based around a central courtyard with a small section of the property being split over three floors. Key features of the school are two additional facilities that have been funded by other bodies, these are the Early Years Unit and the Hair and Beauty Department, both situated at the right hand side to the main school entrance.

This school was built under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract.

Estate Operations Team Comments

The Case for Change document did not provide any detail on the additional accommodation required other than to say it would be via an extension to the school.

However the EA have subsequently carried out an accommodation assessment, in consultation with the school, to establish what would be required, on a year by year basis, to eventually allow implementation of DP 546.

The accommodation requirements from 2019/20 to 2022/23 include extending the dining room provision, reconfiguration of Business Information classroom to an HE room and construction of 6 class block (4 general classroom, 1 ICT room and 1 Business Information room). Total estimated accommodation cost £740k (modular build for 6 class block or £945k (traditional build for 6 classroom block) .Given that both options will require planning permission EOT would view it is as extremely unlikely that such accommodation would be ready in time for the 2019/20 school year. The accommodation assessment does not provide any alternative, should the block not be ready in time.

The EA have advised that the school site is capable of housing the additional accommodation required and has completed provisional site plans accordingly. It is not possible to ascertain if the capital cost estimates are reasonable not least because this school is a PPP build and procurement rules may differ from a normal construction project.

The EA provided further information in April 2019 regarding PPP costs for the Girls' Model:

Estimated capital costs for provision of additional accommodation - £0.95m
Estimated annual revenue costs for Soft FM Services - £20K which would apply for the remaining 21 year term of the contract.

The estimates assume EA will provide the capital funding for the provision of the additional accommodation. Lifecycle replacements are excluded.

The estimated annual revenue costs for Soft FM include the following services:

- Security / Fire Safety Systems
- Caretaking and Portering
- Energy and Utilities Management
- Building Fabric and Services Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Contractor Cleaning
- Pest Control
- Waste Management
- Health and Safety Management

Finance Division

121-0021 Belfast Model School for Girls

At 31 March 2017, Belfast Model School for Girls held a cumulative 2016-17 closing surplus of £90,348. The EA's Provisional Outturn shows that as at 31 March 2018 Belfast Model School for Girls hold a cumulative 2017-18 closing surplus of £269,095. (The EA's provisional outturn is not final and therefore is subject to change)

The school received a total delegated budget of £4,376,334 in the 2018-19 financial year for 945 post primary pupils (per capita £4,631) which compares to an average for all post primary schools of £4,326. Details of budget allocation in 2018-19 to the school shown in the table below.

Increased enrolments for an individual school typically has limited impact on the ASB for schools – as these pupils would be educated and funded elsewhere.

All other financial considerations (including any in-year costs for pupil growth, in the context of a school with an approved DP to increase its enrolment) would be for the EA to consider as Funding Authority for the school.

Factor	2018-19
Pupil AWPU	£3,465,081
TSN - Social Deprivation	£306,435
TSN - Additional Social Deprivation	£168,876
TSN - Educational Attainment	£131,662
Premises Area	£111,724
Premises FTE	£161,721
Small Schools Support	
Teachers Salary Protection	
Service Personnel Pupils	
Traveller Children	£1,028
Looked After Children	£12,334

Newcomer Pupils	£17,473
IM - Curricular Support	
IM Units - Administrative Support	
Special Units	
Landlord Maintenance	
Administrative Costs	
Transitional Funding	
Budget Addition Funding	

Total School Funding	£4,376,334
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Pupil FTE	945.00
Per Capita	£4,631

Update at April 2019

The closing position for the **Girls' Model**, at 31 March 2018 was a surplus of **£340,178**, while the closing position for the **Boys' Model**, at 31 March 2018 was a surplus of **£560,272**.

Provisional figures for the closing position, as at 31 March 2019 are not yet available to our Team.

Access Inclusion and Well-being Division

DP 546: from a SEN policy perspective, SET would not have any objection to this DP, subject to assurances being given that the specific requirements for pupils with SEN will be addressed and that any impact on pupils with SEN will be managed effectively.

Education Workforce Directorate

EWD has reviewed the Case for Change (CfC) and note that the Board of Governors will conduct a review of the staffing compliment and consider any required

recruitment, in early 2019, but dependant on the date the development proposal is approved.

Assurance should be sought from the Education Authority that any potential impact on the terms and conditions of teaching staff are managed in accordance with

- TNC 2011/8 – Workload Agreement: should the Case for Change result in an increase to enrolment in a school, or surrounding schools, assurance should be provided regarding how potential impact on teacher workload, as a result of increased class size, will be managed.

Promoting Collaboration Tackling Disadvantage

Both schools (Belfast Boys' Model and the Belfast Model School for Girls') have demonstrated that they work in tandem with the families and communities they serve to tackle the underlying issue of educational disadvantage. We know from our own research that being able to make connections with the communities from which the pupils come is vital to those pupils reaching their full potential. This is delivered by both schools through the Full Service Extended School Programme, in place since 2006, which consists of a range of different programmes, designed specifically to meet the individual pupil's needs and include provision based around 5 key themes:

- Pupil Engagement (e.g. a range of additional out of hours activities, Easter School, Behavioural Support, Counselling, Attendance officer etc.)
- Parental Engagement (e.g. home visits, parents group)
- Community Engagement (e.g. evening classes, engaging with wide range of external community partners/agencies)
- Transition (the schools work closely with 26 feeder primary schools across Belfast/N'Abbey offering a range of activities such as outreach programmes, taster days, team building activities, peer reading etc. to help welcome prospective incoming year 8 pupils)
- Health and Well Being (e.g. Therapeutic Clinic, healthy Breakfast Club, mental health workshops, sports programmes etc.)

Previous independent evaluation findings reveal a range of positive impacts associated with Full Service Extended School provision including enhanced pupil achievement and attitudes to learning, greater pupil confidence and self-esteem and improved relationships with parents and wider community. A report published by ETI in 2013 which investigated the effectiveness of both Full Service projects (including the Full Service Community Network in West Belfast) concluded that *the quality of the extensive support provided by the FSES and FSCN is very good. The organisations involved are meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners and their families, and have demonstrated their capacity for sustained self-improvement.*

The most recent data available (16/17) demonstrates a long term trend of improved attendance, GCSE and A level attainment at the Full Service Extended Schools during the life of the programme.

Since 2012/13 both schools have achieved around a 14 percentage point improvement in pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C (including equivalents) including English & Maths. In 2016/17 Boy's Model achieved 48.1% at this benchmark, against a NI Average for boys attending non-Grammars of 45.3%; while Girl's Model achieved 33.8%, against a NI average for girls attending non-Grammars of 54.5% (SAER data).

Children and Young People's Services

Given the urban nature of the proposal it would not result in any significant implications for the school transport budget. Therefore, a nil return.

Equality

None of the responses disagreed with the proposals. It is part of a wider strategy to address educational underachievement in the Greater Shankill and North Belfast areas.