

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY

### DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No 575

#### ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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:

**Academy Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 56 to 58 and 395 to 406 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

A copy of the Proposal may be inspected at offices of the Education Authority located at Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 2HS between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.30 pm and [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) (under 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](mailto: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**

## CASE for CHANGE – Supporting Information

### SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

AREA PLANNING DISTRICT	Newry, Mourne and Down
DP NUMBER	DP 575
PROPOSER	John Collings Director of Education Education Authority
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Academy Primary School
SCHOOL REFERENCE	401 - 6201
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Controlled
DP PUBLICATION DATE	Date: TBA
PROPOSAL	<b>Academy Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 56 to 58 and 395 to 406 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.</b>

## 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><b>PROPOSER</b></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><u>To be progressed</u></p>
<p>CONFIRMATION BY THE PROPOSER</p>	<p>I confirm that the school(s) BOGs, Staff and Parents of pupils were consulted on <b>TBA</b> and Equality Screening of the proposal has been carried out.</p> <p>NAME:</p> <p>OFFICE HELD:</p> <p>SIGNED:</p> <p>DATE:</p>

## ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

<p>DP XXX</p> <p>Published DD/MM/YY</p>	<p><b>Proposed to ... with effect from ... or as soon as possible thereafter</b></p>
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The following is to be completed and signed off by the EA.

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTARY ON PRE-PUBLICATION STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

<p><b>THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY</b></p>	<p>I confirm that the schools which the EA consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on <b><u>TBA</u></b></p> <p>NAME:</p> <p>OFFICE HELD:</p> <p>SIGNED:</p> <p>DATE:</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> <p><u>Details of issues raised by members of EA Board</u></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:

OFFICE HELD:

SIGNED:

DATE:

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Academy Primary School is a controlled co-educational primary school and is situated on Listooder Road on a 1.33 hectare site. It was opened in 1976 to replace the old Saintfield Academy and four rural schools in a re-organisation programme of primary education in the area. The school serves the town of Saintfield and the immediate surrounding country area.

The school has 14 classrooms currently in use, 13 in permanent accommodation and one in temporary accommodation plus a nursery unit housed in temporary accommodation.

The school has had minor works schemes completed at the school which resulted in a number of the permanent classrooms being increased in size. An assessment of the schools current teaching accommodation is provided in Table 1 below. The table also provides a calculation of the capacity of the building is provided, based on the methodology applied by the Department of Education.

<b>USE</b>	<b>Area m2</b>	<b>&gt;= 50</b>	<b>&lt; 50</b>	<b>Total</b>
CLASSROOM	59	y		
CLASSROOM	59	y		
CLASSROOM	58	y		
CLASSROOM	68	y		
CLASSROOM	68	y		
CLASSROOM	60	y		
CLASSROOM	68	y		
CLASSROOM	58	y		
CLASSROOM	58	y		
CLASSROOM	58	y		
CLASSROOM	68	y		
CLASSROOM	68	y		
CLASSROOM (mobile)	44		y	
CLASSROOM (mobile)	61	y		
<b>Totals</b>		13	44	
		x 29	÷ 1.72	
<b>No. pupils</b>		377	26	403

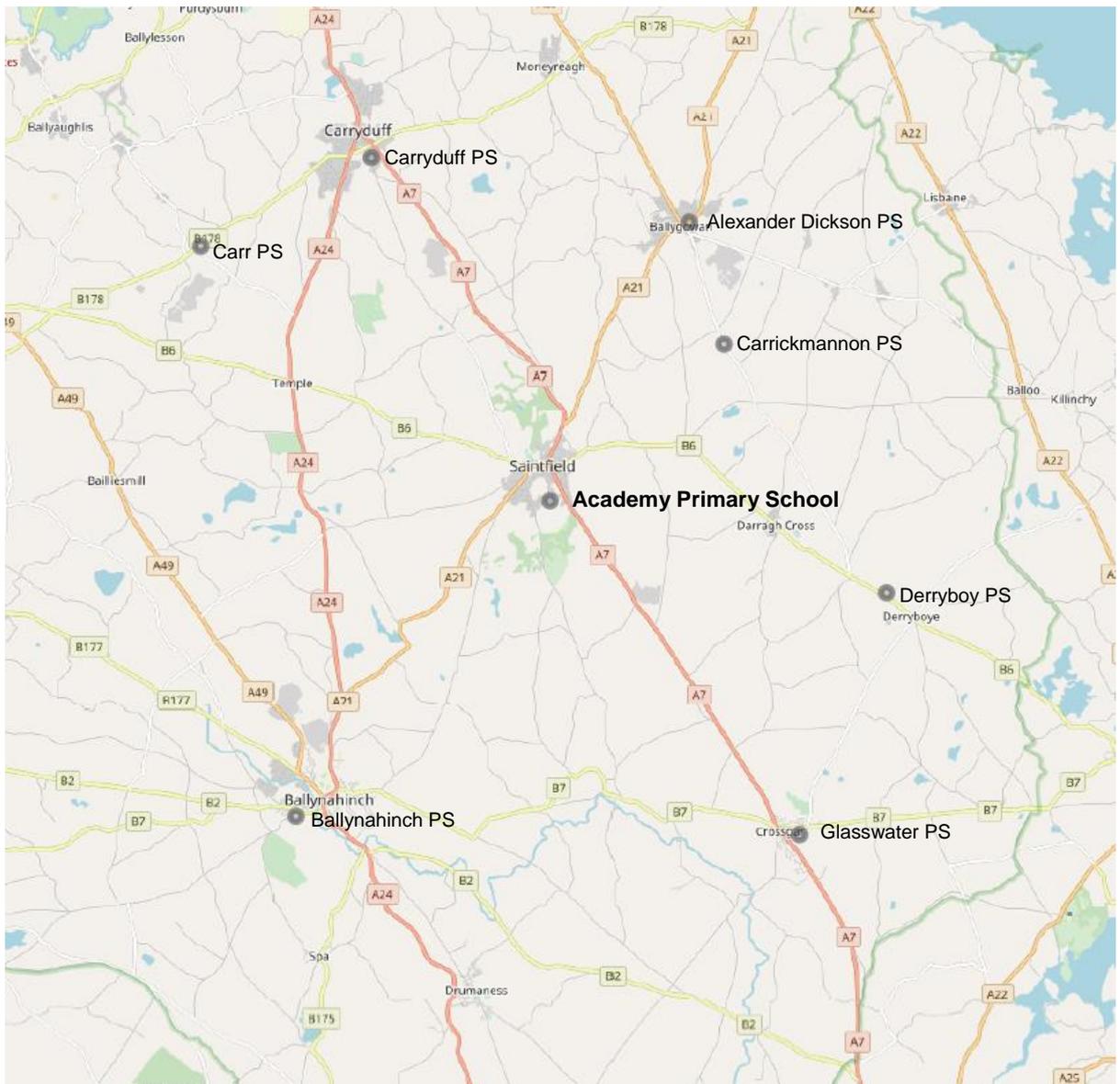
Table 1 gives an approved enrolment of 403 which equates to an admissions figure of 57.57 which when rounded up equates to 58. This figure does not match the approved enrolment of 403 therefore this figure should be increased to reflect an admission of 58, ie an approved enrolment of 406.

- 1.2 At present the school has an approved enrolment of 395 and an admissions figure of 56 – as indicated under table 1 the current approved enrolment/admissions figure does not reflect the available accommodation at the school.

In addition the enrolment has been steadily increasing, as detailed in Table 2.

- 1.3 Map 1 below shows the location of Academy Primary School and its relative proximity to other controlled primary provision in the area.

**Map 1 – Location**





<b>Year</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>Year1</b>	<b>Year2</b>	<b>Year3</b>	<b>Year4</b>	<b>Year5</b>	<b>Year6</b>	<b>Year7</b>	<b>Total (excl NU)</b>
<b>2017/2018</b>	52	56	60	58	57	57	58	56	402
<b>2016/2017</b>	52	59	57	56	55	58	58	48	391
<b>2015/2016</b>	52	55	53	55	54	56	47	58	378
<b>2014/2015</b>	52	53	51	51	53	43	56	54	361
<b>2013/2014</b>	52	53	50	55	42	57	55	49	361
<b>2012/2013</b>	52	51	52	43	57	55	50	46	354
<b>2011/2012</b>	46	52	44	57	52	50	47	58	360
<b>2010/2011</b>	52	41	55	53	46	46	56	50	347
<b>2009/2010</b>	52	57	54	45	45	57	49	63	370
<b>2008/2009</b>	47	52	42	42	56	44	58	58	352

<b>Year</b>	<b>1st Pref</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Admitted</b>
2018	61	61	TBC
2017	60	62	56
2016	54	55	59
2015	53	53	55
2014	53	53	53
2013	55	55	53
2012	50	52	51
2011	52	53	52

<b>Table 4 – Closest Alternative Providers</b>						
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment</b>	<b>Approved Admission</b>	<b>Distance from Academy PS</b>	<b>2017/18 Admission</b>	<b>2017/18 Enrolment</b>	<b>Available Places</b>
Carrickmannon	100	14	3.8	10	95	5
Derryboy	95	15	5.2	5	62	33
Alexander Dickson	145	21	4.1	18	93	52
Carryduff	333	48	4.9	23	193	140
Glasswater	97	14	5.3	16	104	0
Ballynahinch	438	60	6.2	27	211	227
Carr	100	14	5.9	13	65	35
St Mary's Saintfield	87	12	0.4	2	49	38
St Caolan's	90	17	3.6	12	72	18
St.Patrick's, Ballynahinch	332	47	5.5	28	228	104
St.Joseph's, Crossgar	163	23	5.1	8	89	74
Cedar Integrated	196	28	5.3	30	201	0
Millennium	315	56	3.3	64	322	0
Drumlins	203	29	5.3	30	190	13

- 1.7 The majority of pupils attending Academy Primary School reside within three miles of the school, as shown under Map 2. The remaining pupils reside in a mixture of urban settlements, ie Ballynahinch, Ballygowan, Crossgar and Darragh Cross, and the surrounding countryside.
- 1.8 As stated previously the school's current approved enrolment does not reflect the accommodation presently available and the Authority believes the approved enrolment and admissions figure should be adjusted to the figures detailed under paragraph 1.1. This would mean the school would remain a 14 class base primary school but with a slightly high admission and approved enrolment.

## 2.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

2.1 Academy Primary School is viewed as sustainable school, the only issue of note is the finance criterion which shows the school breaches the 5% tolerance however they are making inroads to rectify this issue. Each SSP criteria is as follows:

1. Quality of Education – the ETI inspection of March 2014 noted that

*“the quality of education provided by this school and nursery unit is very good. The school and nursery unit are meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and have demonstrated the capacity for sustained self-improvement.”*

2. Stable enrolment Trends – the school has an approved enrolment of 395 and an admissions figure of 56. In 2017/18 the school had 402 primary aged pupils enrolled – the school’s enrolment is well above the 105 threshold as defined in the SSP criteria for a rural school.

3. Sound Financial Position – the school has maintained a healthy financial position for a number of years and remains in surplus - in March 2018 the school had a surplus of £12,874.

4. Strong Leadership and Management - the March 2014 ETI report noted that

*“The leadership and management provide effective strategic leadership and set ambitious and achievable goals for the school’s ongoing development. The principal inspires confidence among the staff, children and parents; he is ably supported by the vice-principal, the senior leadership team and co-ordinators who are empowered to lead and manage their areas of responsibility cohesively.”*

5. Accessibility – the school is located in an area which can be accessed by foot, private car and bus. The majority of the pupils live within the village.

6. Strong Links with the Community – Academy Primary School has been located within the village of Saintfield for a number of years and has strong links with the local community and local schools. The parents are an active part of the school and contribute to the overall school community.

### 3.0 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

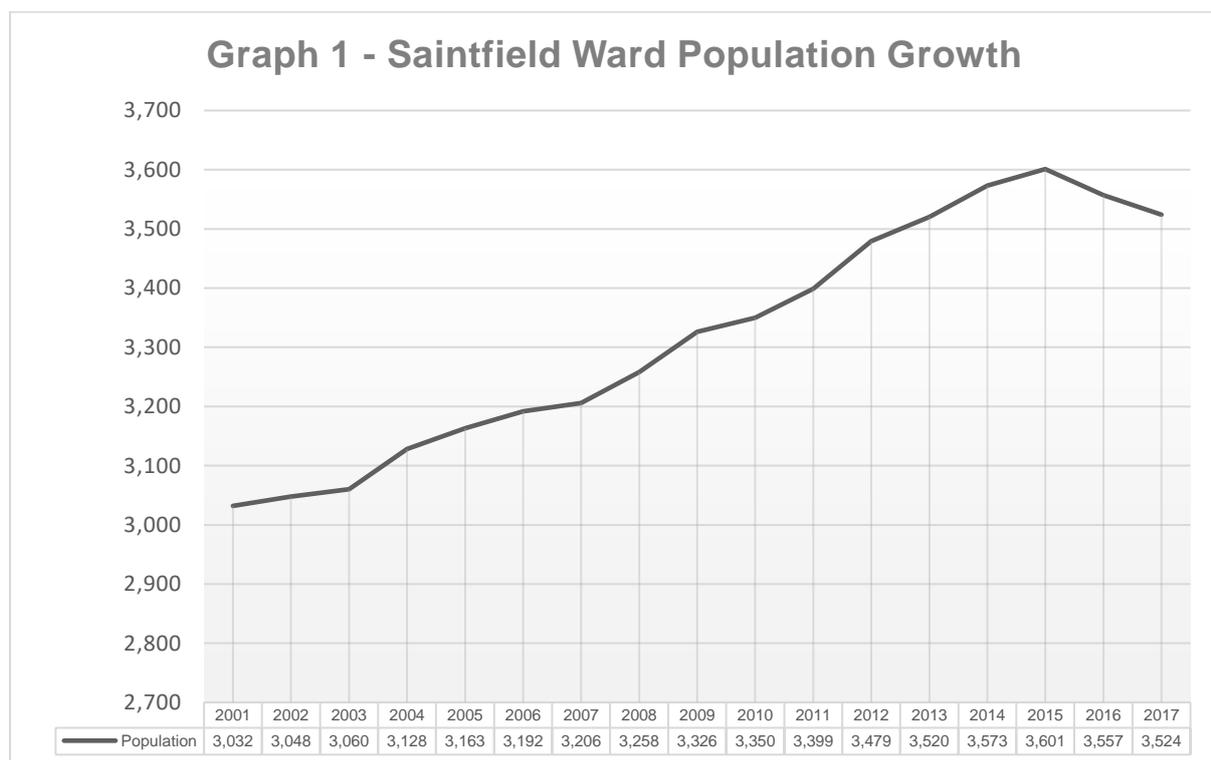
3.1 Within the 2018/19 Action Plan the Authority undertook the following:

*“Managing authority to consult on increase in admissions and enrolment numbers by March 2019”*

3.2 The accommodation at Academy Primary School has been significantly modified over the past few years and the historic approved enrolment figure of 395 does not give a true reflection of the capacity of the school building. Table 1 details the current accommodation and the Authority believes an approved enrolment of 406 with an admissions figure of 58 would be more appropriate.

3.3 In addition the school has maintained a strong enrolment, as detailed in Table 2, and the proposed small increase will have little impact on other provision in the area.

3.4 Saintfield village is located within Saintfield ward which has been growing over the years, as shown in Graph 1, with a total growth of approximately 14% between 2001 and 2017. This population growth is anticipated to grow with ongoing development of housing in and around the village of Saintfield.



- 3.5 Table 4 below shows the number of live births within the Saintfield ward as well as the immediate ward adjoining Saintfield from where the primary school would attract some of its pupils. The table also shows the years the children sought, or will be seeking, a primary 1 place most likely at one of the schools in the area.

<b>Table 4 – Live Births</b>					
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Resident Live Births</b>				
Saintfield	39	39	61	56	35
Kilmore	33	24	35	26	26
<b>Primary 1 Year</b>	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21

- 3.6 In the context of area planning an increase in the approved enrolment at Academy Primary School is not expected to have a significant impact on other schools in the area as the majority of pupils tend to live within the 3 miles of Academy Primary School. Saintfield village has been subject to sustain housing development overall the years which has increased the overall population of the village and demand for places at Academy Primary School. There continues to be development within the area which will continue to add pressure to the primary school.

#### **4.0 RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Demand for places at Academy Primary School has resulted in the school's actual enrolment being over the approved enrolment as indicated under Table 2. In addition development of the school building has resulted in increased classroom floor areas which means the current approved enrolment of 395 does not reflect the actual capacity of the school building.
- 4.2 An increase in the enrolment and admissions number would enable Academy Primary School to meet the increasing demand for places from the community in which the school sits and seeks to serve and would reflect the accommodation available.

#### **5.0 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**

- 5.1 Approval of the proposal would enable the school to admit local pupils into their local school.
- 5.2 The impact of the establishment and facilitation of the enlarged school will contribute positively to the quality of education being provided to the pupils.
- 5.3 If the development proposal is approved it will allow the approved enrolment to increase to 406 pupils which will in turn allow more families from the immediate area to benefit from a good quality education resource in their local area.

#### **6.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)**

- 6.1 The proposal has an effective date of September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 6.2 The school already has the requisite number of classrooms required to meet the needs of a school with an approved enrolment of 406 pupils therefore no additional expenditure would be required in terms additional accommodation or staff.

#### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 If the proposal is approved there would be no additional costs incurred.



**Review of Controlled Education Provision**

**in**

**Academy Primary School**

**Consultation Response**

**Closing Date: 1 March 2019**

## Introduction

Before arriving at the final recommendation on the future provision of Academy Primary School, the Education Authority (EA) is seeking the views of those most directly involved at a local level. Therefore, the EA is seeking to engage in consultation with the Trustees, the Board of Governors, staff, parents of current pupils and other interested parties in the local community.

## Vision

The Education Authority is committed to excellence in the delivery of education so that every pupil can realise their potential and contribute to a caring, inclusive and progressive society. In striving to realise this aspiration, the Education Authority aims to ensure that every pupil has:

- access to a broad and balanced curriculum with opportunities to realise his or her potential;
- an education in which the learning outcomes are appropriate to their needs;
- access to quality teaching delivered in a caring and supportive environment; and
- education delivered in modern, well-resourced facilities, suitable for the delivery of education in the twenty-first century.

## Education Authority Position

On 28 April 2017 the Education Authority published Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools, April 2018 – March 2019 – see link: <https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/annual-action-plans>

Within the actions for the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area the Authority included the following:

*Managing authority to consult on increase in admissions and enrolment numbers by March 2019.*

At the EA Education Committee meeting on 8 November 2018 it was agreed to initiate consultation with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Academy Primary School, as well as those schools in the area, that may be affected on the following development proposal:

***Academy Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 56 to 58 and 395 to 406 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.***

## **Nature of the Education Authority's Recommendation**

1. Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 describes the process regarding the change in the enrolment of a school. This process requires the publication of a development proposal.

Therefore, as part of the pre-publication consultation on this development proposal, the EA is seeking any objections and/or other comments on the proposed increase in the admission and approved enrolment of Academy Primary School from the Board of Governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents of children attending the school, as well as from other schools that may be affected by this proposal. (Objections may also be made to DE during the two-month statutory objection period immediately following the development proposal's publication.)

2. Officers have met with the principal and obtained the views of the Governors to discuss all options and based on all available information the Authority believes that the only viable option is to increase the enrolment of the school in keeping with the level of demand.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Academy Primary School is a controlled co-educational primary school and is situated on Listooder Road on a 1.33 hectare site. It was opened in 1976 to replace the old Saintfield Academy and four rural schools in a re-organisation programme of primary education in the area. The school serves the town of Saintfield and the immediate surrounding country area.

The school has 14 classrooms currently in use, 13 in permanent accommodation and one in temporary accommodation plus a nursery unit housed in temporary accommodation.

The school has had minor works schemes completed at the school which resulted in a number of the permanent classrooms being increased in size. An assessment of the schools current teaching accommodation is provided in Table 1 below. The table also provides a calculation of the capacity of the building is provided, based on the methodology applied by the Department of Education.

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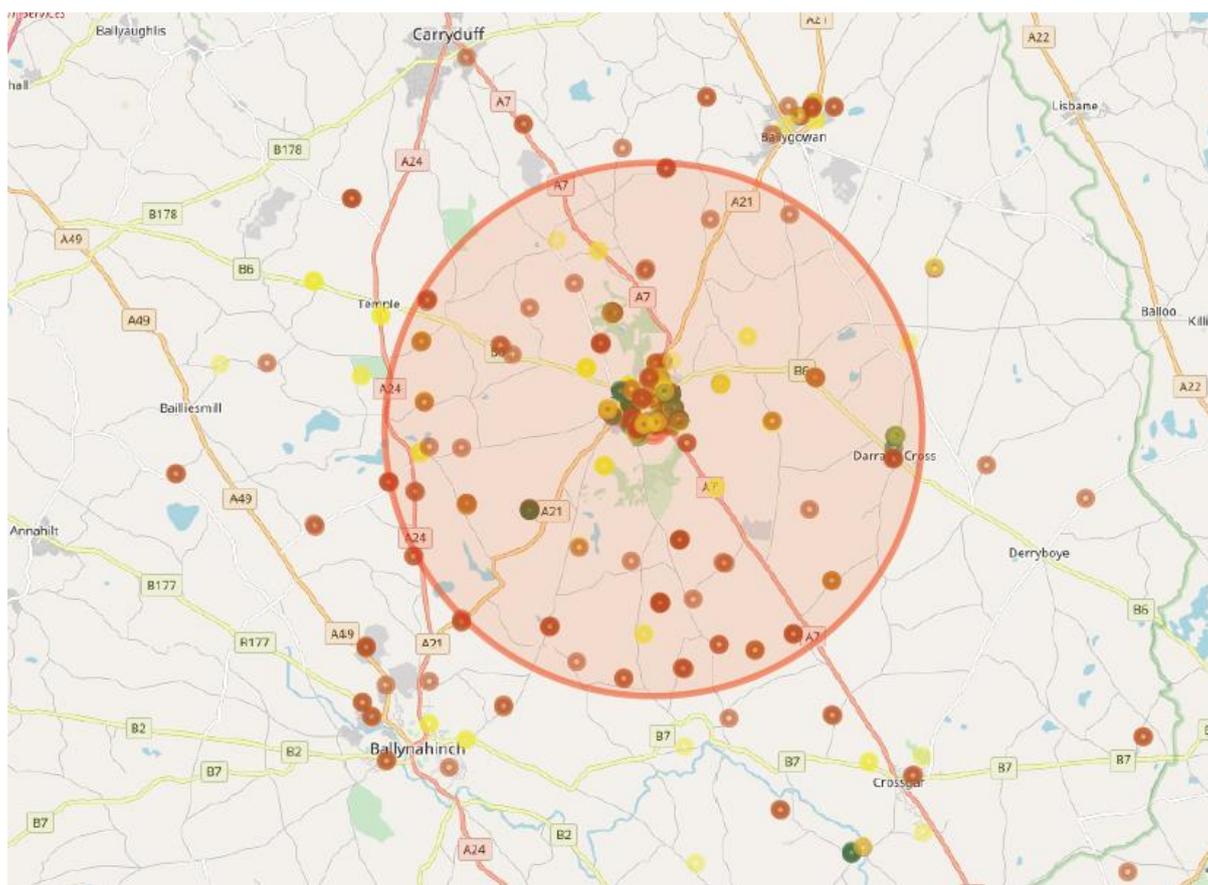
Table 1 gives an approved enrolment of 403 which equates to an admissions figure of 57.57 which when rounded up equates to 58. This figure does not match the approved enrolment of 403 therefore this figure should be increased to reflect an admission of 58, i.e. an approved enrolment of 406.

- 1.2 At present the school has an approved enrolment of 395 and an admissions figure of 56 – as indicated under table 1 the current approved enrolment/admissions figure does not reflect the available accommodation at the school.

In addition the enrolment has been steadily increasing, as detailed in Table 2.

- 1.3 Map 1 below shows the distribution of the pupils that attend Academy Primary School, based on the 2016/17 census data. The majority of the pupils that attend the school live within the village with the majority of the remaining pupils residing within three miles of the school (as shown by the red circle).

**Map 1 – Distribution**



- 1.4 Table 3 overleaf shows that the application history for Academy Primary School.
- 1.5 Table 4 overleaf lists the alternative primary schools within a 5–6 mile radius of the school.

<b>Year</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>Year1</b>	<b>Year2</b>	<b>Year3</b>	<b>Year4</b>	<b>Year5</b>	<b>Year6</b>	<b>Year7</b>	<b>Total (excl NU)</b>
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### 3.0 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

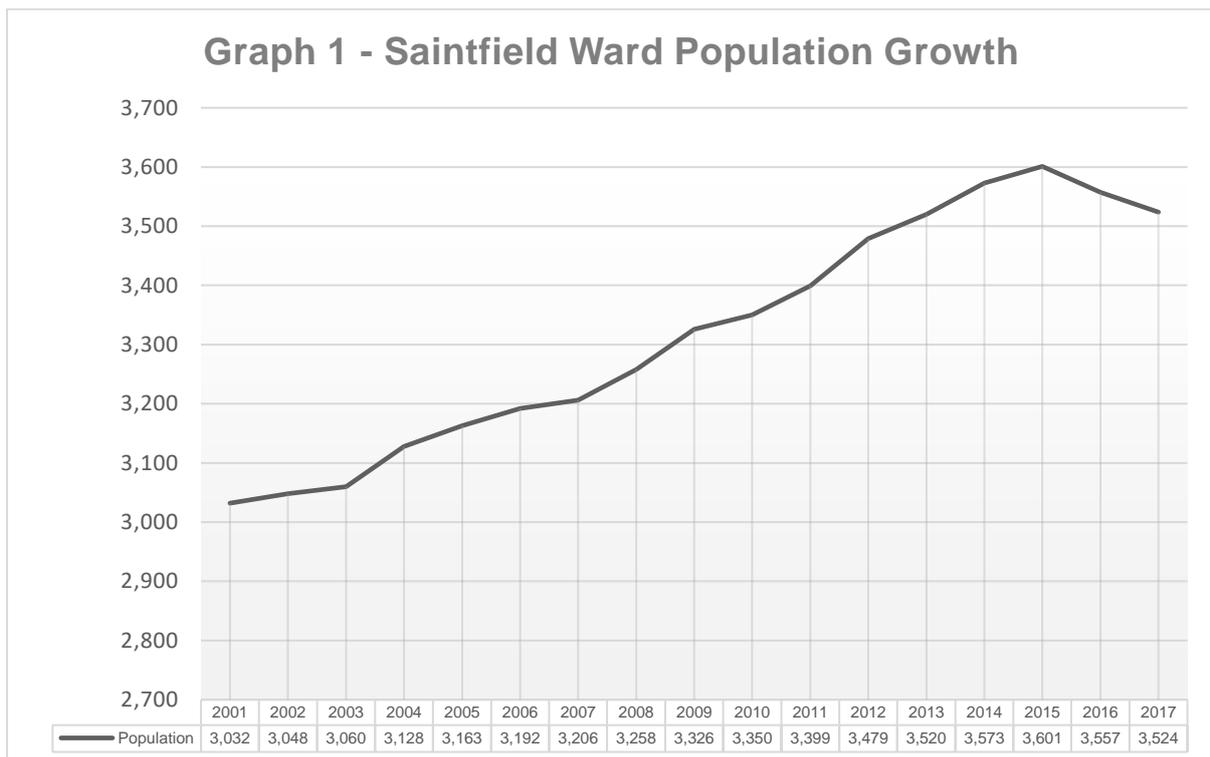
3.1 Within the 2018/19 Action Plan the Authority undertook the following:

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- 3.6 In the context of area planning an increase in the approved enrolment at Academy Primary School is not expected to have a significant impact on other schools in the area as the majority of pupils tend to live within the 3 miles of Academy Primary School. Saintfield village has been subject to sustain housing development overall the years which has increased the overall population of the village and demand for places at Academy Primary School. There continues to be development within the area which will continue to add pressure to the primary school.

#### **4.0 RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Demand for places at Academy Primary School has resulted in the school's actual enrolment being over the approved enrolment as indicated under Table 2. In addition development of the school building has resulted in increased classroom floor areas which means the current approved enrolment of 395 does not reflect the actual capacity of the school building.
- 4.2 An increase in the enrolment and admissions number would enable Academy Primary School to meet the increasing demand for places from the community in which the school sits and seeks to serve and would reflect the accommodation available.

## **5.0 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**

- 5.1 Approval of the proposal would enable the school to admit local pupils into their local school.
- 5.2 The impact of the establishment and facilitation of the enlarged school will contribute positively to the quality of education being provided to the pupils.
- 5.3 If the development proposal is approved it will allow the approved enrolment to increase to 406 pupils which will in turn allow more families from the immediate area to benefit from a good quality education resource in their local area.

## **6.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)**

- 6.1 The proposal has an effective date of September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 6.2 The school already has the requisite number of classrooms required to meet the needs of a school with an approved enrolment of 406 pupils therefore no additional expenditure would be required in terms additional accommodation or staff.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 If the proposal is approved there would be no additional costs incurred.

## **Publication of a Development Proposal**

The EA is required to publish a Development Proposal outlining the proposed changes to the school. The views expressed in this consultation will be forwarded to EA Education Committee members prior to the Education Committee meeting, for their consideration.

## **Development Proposal Timetable**

### **Stage 1**

Pre-Publication Consultation will run until the 1 March 2019.

EA compiles Case for Change document: including comments received from consultation, and EA response to consultation issues.

It is planned to seek approval to publish the Development Proposal at the EA Education Committee meeting on 14 March 2019.

Subject to this approval publication of the Development Proposal in the local press one week after approval given, week commencing 18 March 2019.

EA submits completed Case for Change document to DE Area Planning Policy Team.

EA writes to affected schools detailing likely impact of the approved proposal.

### **This concludes the EA Consultation Process.**

### **Stage 2**

Once the Development Proposal is published the DE two month Statutory Period for Objections begins w/c 18 March 2019.

DE Area Planning Policy Team (APPT) compile its business case, including consideration of objections received: APPT submit its business case to the Minister with a recommendation to approve or reject. (This is a 4-6 week period.)

The Minister considers the proposal on the basis of the business case forwarded by APPT and announces his decision.

## **Implications**

If approved, implementation of this Development Proposal to increase provision at Academy Primary School would take effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

## Education Authority – Development Proposal Consultation Response

The Education Authority is proposing:

***Academy Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 56 to 58 and 395 to 406 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.***

The EA, in consulting on this important issue, would welcome your comments on these proposals.

**Option 1: Agree with the proposal**

**Option 2: Disagree with the proposal**

<b>Option 1 – Agree with the proposal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Option 2 – Disagree with the proposal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please use the space below to comment further or provide alternative options:**

[It should be noted that this process cannot be used to consider specific issues as they currently relate to any individual pupil or adult associated with the school. If for example as a parent you have concerns relating to your child's present education you are advised to contact the Principal. Every effort will be made to address your concerns.]

### Equality Consideration

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 all public bodies are obliged to consider the implications of any decisions on nine different groupings before decisions are implemented. The two duties within this Equality legislation include promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between all communities. The equality of opportunity duty requires that the EA shall, in carrying out all their functions, powers and duties, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- 1 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 2 Between persons of different political opinion.
- 3 Between persons of different racial groups.
- 4 Between persons of different age.
- 5 Between persons of different marital status.
- 6 Between persons of different sexual orientation.
- 7 Between men and women generally.
- 8 Between persons with a disability and persons without.
- 9 Between persons with dependants and persons without.

The Good Relations Duty requires that the EA shall, without prejudice to their equality obligations, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations:

- 1 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 2 Between persons of different political opinions.
- 3 Between persons of different racial groups.

In light of these obligations do you consider that the proposal to increase provision at Academy Primary School will impact positively or negatively on either Equality of Opportunity or the Promotion of Good Relations in any way?

Section 75 Category	Positive	Negative	Don't Know
Religious Belief			
Political Opinion			
Racial Group			
Age			
Marital Status			
Sexual Orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependants			

If you ticked any of the above boxes please clarify your reason:

**Arrangements for returning your completed questionnaire**

Please return the completed questionnaire **no later than 1 March 2019** by post to

Stephen Martin  
Area Planning Officer  
Education Authority  
Grahamsbridge road  
Dundonald  
BT16 2HS

Or email your comments to [Stephen.Martin2@eani.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.Martin2@eani.org.uk)

**Source of Response (Please specify):**

Governor \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Teaching Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Union \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_