



Review of Controlled Education Provision

in

Castlewellan Primary School

Consultation Response

Closing Date: 28 June 2019

Introduction

Before arriving at the final recommendation on the future provision of Castlewellan 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 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

At the EA Education Committee meeting on 11 April 2019 it was agreed to initiate consultation with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Castlewellan Primary School, as well as those schools in the area, that may be affected on the following proposals:

- **Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.**
- **The Moderate Learning Difficulties class at Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 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 nature of a school. This process requires the publication of a development proposal.

Therefore, as part of the pre-publication consultation on these development proposals, the EA is seeking any views from the Board of Governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents of children attending Castlewellan Primary School and Moderate Learning Difficulty class, as well as from other schools that may be affected by these proposals. (Objections may also be made to DE during the two-month statutory objection period immediately following the development proposal's publication.)

2. The Authority believes that the only viable option is close Castlewellan Primary School and the Moderate Learning Difficulty class.

Context

The Education Authority brought forward a suite of proposals in 2018 for Castlewellan Primary School and Annsborough Integrated Primary School which would have resulted in the closure of both settings and the establishment of a new controlled integrated primary school with specialist provision attached.

The Authority carried out pre-publication consultation with the staff, parents and Governors of both schools and, prior to bringing forward papers to the Education Committee to move to the next stage, a number of parents of pupils attending Castlewellan Primary School decided to relocate their children to alternative primary providers in the area.

The result of this was a decline in the enrolment of Castlewellan Primary School to a point where the potential establishment of a new controlled integrated primary school was no longer viable. Therefore the Authority has reassessed the options available, see Appendix B, and now proposes the following:

- (a) To move forward with the closure of Castlewellan Primary School and Moderate Learning Difficulty class, and
- (b) To retain Annsborough Integrated Primary School – the Authority is committed to working in partnership with NICIE to find an area planning solution for sustainable integrated provision in the area.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Castlewellan Primary School is a controlled primary provider located on a 0.94 hectare site within the village of Castlewellan. It has an approved enrolment of 110 and an admission figure of 16. The school has been operating with significant unfilled places for a number of years as shown on Table 1 overleaf and Graph 1 overleaf. The school has a Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) class which can accommodate up to a maximum of 10 pupils – the historic number attending the specialist provision is also provided in the table below. In addition there are a number of pupils in the mainstream classes with either statements or at stages 1 to 4 of the special educational needs code of practice. A breakdown of the accommodation is provided in Table 2.

1.2 Castlewellan Primary School's accommodation is as follows:

Table 2- Castlewellan PS Accommodation		
Castlewellan Accommodation		
Classification	Area	Comment
Classroom	64m ²	Permanent Classroom
	40m ²	Permanent Classroom
	57m ²	Permanent Classroom
	57m ²	Permanent Classroom
	40m ²	Permanent Special Ed. Classroom
Resource Area	-	No resource areas at school
Multi-Purpose Hall	87m ²	Permanent Multi-Purpose Hall
Multi-Purpose Room	-	No multi- purpose rooms at school
Staffroom	17m ²	
Principal's Office	13m ²	
General Office	10	

1.3 Map 1 details the positions of primary providers in the area. Due to the community balance the majority of primary provision is met by way of six catholic maintained schools. Newcastle, Cumran and Castlewellan Primary Schools provide the controlled provision, Annsborough and All Children's Integrated Primary Schools providing for integrated requirements and Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche fulfilling Irish medium education needs.



1.4 Based on the 2018/19 enrolment data, as provided in Appendix A:

- Total controlled available places in the area (Cumran / Castlewellan / Newcastle) – 164. The majority of the available places are at Castlewellan Primary School (92) followed by Newcastle Primary School (63).
- Total maintained available places in the area (St. Malachy's Castlewellan / St. Mary's Newcastle / Sacred Heart / St. Mary's Aughlinnafin / St. Patrick's Burrenreagh / St. Joseph's Carnacaville) – 124.
- Total integrated available places in the area (All Children's / Annsborough) – 60. All of these are at Annsborough IPS.
- Total IME available places in the area (Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche) - 0

1.5 Table 3 overleaf details the applications history of the primary providers in the area from 2015/16 to 2018/19.

1.6 In addition to the mainstream provision there is alternative special education provision at St Malachy's Primary School in Castlewellan and at Downpatrick Primary School. The enrolment breakdown provided in Appendix A also details the current special education provision at these schools.

Table 3 – Application History																			
School Name	Type	Adm No	Enr No	School year 2015/16				School year 2016/17				School year 2017/18				School year 2018/19			
				1st pref apps	1st pref admitted	Total apps	Total admitted	1st pref apps	1st pref admitted	Total apps	Total admitted	1st pref apps	1st pref admitted	Total apps	Total admitted	1st pref apps	1st pref admitted	Total apps	Total admitted
All Children's Integrated P S	Controlled Integ.	29	203	34	29	35	23	28	28	29	30	34	25	38	28	20	20	20	31
Annsborough P S	Controlled Integ.	12	85	7	7	9	6	5	5	5	4	2	2	4	3	5	5	5	5
Total		41	288				29				34				31				36
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	Other Maint.	15	87	17	17	17	16	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	20	14	14	14	15
Total		15	87				16				22				20				15
Castlewellan P S	Controlled	16	110	not provided by school			4	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	1
Cumran P S	Controlled	29	203	19	19	19	20	29	29	29	31	33	33	33	34	33	32	33	32
Newcastle P S	Controlled	28	198	21	21	21	20	31	30	31	30	19	19	19	19	14	14	15	16
Total		73	511				44				66				56				49
Sacred Heart P S, Dundrum	Catholic Maint.	19	136	4	4	4	3	10	10	10	11	7	7	8	12	17	17	17	16
St Joseph's P S, Carnacaville	Catholic Maint.	28	194	33	29	34	30	38	28	39	29	26	21	29	22	19	19	19	28
St Mary's P S, Aughlisnafin	Catholic Maint.	24	169	27	24	27	24	25	25	26	29	15	15	16	13	5	5	5	15
St Mary's P S, Newcastle	Catholic Maint.	46	319	52	52	52	50	58	56	59	56	61	53	61	55	50	50	50	51
St Patrick's P S, Castlewellan (Burrenreagh)	Catholic Maint.	14	95	not provided by school			6	not provided by school			11	12	12	12	6	3	3	3	9
St Malachy's P S, Castlewellan	Catholic Maint.	50	350	50	50	50	56	50	50	50	56	53	53	53	53	50	50	50	49
Total		181	1263				169				192				161				168

1.7 The data shows that:

- Within the integrated providers the uptake of available places at All Children's IPS has been consistently high with a significant level of 1st preference applications however Annsborough IPS has been struggling to attract pupils.
- The data shows that Castlewellan PS has also been struggling to attract pupils and that Newcastle PS admission has improved from the low figures in 2014 but there is still a number of unfilled places at the school. Cumran PS continues to be the main provider of controlled education in the area with some places in the key stage 2 part of the school.
- The MLD class attached to Castlewellan Primary School has been operational for a number of years and would normally cater for up to 10 pupils. There are, based on the October census, 6 pupils accommodated in 2018/19 however this figure now stands at 9 pupils after in year placements. There is alternate provision in others schools.
- Within the maintained schools, when compared to their approved enrolments, Sacred Heart PS and St. Patricks PS have the highest percentage of available places.

1.8 Castlewellan Primary School attracts the majority of their mainstream pupils from within Castlewellan village and the immediate surrounding countryside – Map 2 below shows the area from which the schools draw their pupils. There are a small number of pupils that reside outside of this area however the bulk of the pupils reside within this zone. The pupils attending the MLD class largely reside in the Newcastle, Castlewellan and Dundrum areas.



2.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

2.1 Castlewellan Primary School

1. Quality of Education – Castlewellan Primary School was last inspected in October 2016. The inspection found that the primary school needed to urgently address the following:

- Develop further the planning across all areas of the curriculum to better meet the learning needs of all the children and improve the standards they attain,
- Improve the quality of provision for the reception aged children.
- Review the distribution of roles and responsibilities at senior and middle leadership level as a matter of urgency to effect improvement in, and to provide rigorous evaluation of, the provision and attainment, and
- Strengthen the governance of the school.

This inspection resulted in the school entering the Formal Intervention Process (FIP) in which it still remains.

2. Stable enrolment Trends – the school has an approved enrolment of 110 and an admission figure of 16. In 2018/19 the school had 18 pupils enrolled – the school's enrolment is well below the 105 threshold as defined in the SSP criteria for a rural school.

3. Sound Financial Position – the school had a deficit of -£37,100 as at March 2017 which increased to -£102,579 by the end of March 2018. The school's 3 year plan is provided overleaf which shows the deficit will grow to -£387,732. This level of deficit is well above the 5% detailed in the Sustainable Schools Criteria.

4. Strong Leadership and Management – the last inspection report noted that there were significant issues around the ineffective distribution of roles and responsibilities within the school. This was impeding the ability of the school to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and improve key curricular areas.

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

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

Only complete cells in grey

	Prior Year October 2017	Year 1 October 2018	Year 2 October 2019	Year 3 October 2020
Full Time Equivalent Enrolment (excluding Spec Unit pupils)	36	18	17	16
Planned Teaching Complement (after amendment to Variables as below)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Planned Pupil/Teacher Ratio	12.00	6.00	5.67	5.33
Variables - Teaching Staff - To assist in budget forecasting		Year 1 Change In Staff (Enter as Positive Fig.s)	Year 2 Change In Staff (Enter as Positive Fig.s)	Year 3 Change In Staff (Enter as Positive Fig.s)
Increase in Permanent Teachers				
Increase in Temporary Teachers				
Decrease in Permanent Teachers				
Decrease in Temporary Teachers				

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Cost of Living Pay Award Estimate
Other Costs - estimated rate of inflation

	Year 2	Year 3
Cost of Living Pay Award Estimate	1%	1%
Other Costs - estimated rate of inflation	2%	2%

	YEAR 1 (2018-2019)	YEAR 2 (2019-2020)	YEAR 3 (2020-2021)
Expenditure Summary			
Staff - Pay Teaching	£173,332	£175,773	£177,514
Staff - Pay Non Teaching	£73,038	£73,769	£74,500
Staff - Other Costs	£265	£270	£276
Premises, Fixed Plant and Grounds	£15,864	£16,181	£16,505
Operating Costs	£22,214	£22,658	£23,112
Non Capital Purchases	£0	£0	£0
Capital Expenditure	£0	£0	£0
Stock Adjustment	£0	£0	£0
Less Income (enter as negative figure)	-£10,725	-£10,725	-£10,725
Estimated Savings (enter as a negative figure)			
Reduction in Teaching Staff (as per Variables)	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
Estimated Additional expenditure (enter as a positive figure)			
Increase in Teaching Staff (as per Variables)	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
Please specify	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURE	£273,988	£277,928	£281,181
CFF BUDGET SHARE PER CAPITA	£5,902	£9,381	£9,800
Budget Summary Allocation			
Common Formula Funding (CFF) Budget Share	£212,487	£168,849	£166,607
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0
Total Delegated Budget	£212,487	£168,849	£166,607
Carry-over from Previous Year	-£102,579	-£164,080	-£273,159
Total BUDGET	£109,908	£4,769	-£106,551
less PROPOSED EXPENDITURE	£273,988	£277,928	£281,181
ANTICIPATED CARRY-OVER	-£164,080	-£273,159	-£387,732
% CARRY-OVER	(149.29%)	(5,727.68%)	363.89%

3.0 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

- 3.1 Within the 2017/18 Action Plan the Education Authority put forward the following action for Annsborough Integrated Primary School and Castlewellan Primary School:

Managing authority to consult on options for future provision in Castlewellan area by March 2018.

- 3.2 The Education Authority consulted, previously, in 2018 with Castlewellan Primary School and Annsborough Integrated Primary School parents, staff and Governors on a set of proposals which, if implemented, would have resulted in the closure of both schools and the establishment of a new controlled integrated primary school, with a specialist provision attached.

However, this proposal became unsustainable once a number of Castlewellan Primary School parents decided to move their children to other provision at the end of the 2017/18 academic year, leaving the school with a very low enrolment figure of 18 mainstream pupils.

- 3.3 Therefore, the Education Authority now wishes to bring forward a proposal to discontinue the school.
- 3.4 Given the Education Authority's obligation to support the Department of Education in its duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education, the Authority is not proposing any change to Annsborough Integrated Primary School at this time. However, the Authority is committed to working in partnership with NICIE to find an area planning solution for sustainable integrated provision in the area.

The closest alternative integrated provision is in Newcastle - All Children's Integrated Primary School. This school is oversubscribed for Year 1 on a consistent basis and the confined site does not lend itself for an expansion of the school and there are no available places to accommodate those pupils from Annsborough IPS.

- 3.5 Development proposals have been approved in recent years to establish a nursery unit at Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche as well as an increase in the schools admission and approved enrolment. Apart from this there are no other active proposals.
- 3.6 The closest controlled providers to Castlewellan Primary School is Cumran Primary School in Clough which has some availability in-year places and Newcastle Primary School has a number of unfilled places in most year groups Combined there is sufficient unfilled controlled places in the area to accommodate the pupils from Castlewellan Primary School. Table 4 overleaf details the 2018/19 enrolments at these schools.

Other Providers	Admission	Approved Enrolment	NU	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl sp)	Sp	Distance to Castlewellan PS
Cumran Primary School	29	203	0	32	32	30	23	27	22	28	194	16	5.1 miles
Newcastle Primary School	28	198	52	16	19	29	18	13	15	23	133	0.00	3.9 miles

- 3.7 Castlewellan Primary School also has a MLD class attached which is set up to accommodate a maximum of 10 pupils. In 2018/2019 there are a total of 9 pupils within the class and the Authority would anticipate that all 9 pupils remaining for the 2019/20 academic year. By the end of the 2019/20 academic year 3 pupils will transfer to post primary leaving 6 of the current pupils requiring continued primary specialist provision.

In the immediate Castlewellan area there is specialist provision located at St. Malachy's Primary School which would have sufficient capacity to accommodate these six pupils. Should the parents of the Castlewellan Primary School pupils want their children accommodated in specialist provision in a controlled setting there is likely to be capacity within the classes located at Downpatrick Primary School by the beginning of the 2020/21 academic year. The Downpatrick alternate provision is approximately 11.5 miles from Castlewellan.

Mainstream pupils that have special education needs will continue to receive support at the school they relocate to.

- 3.8 Overall the proposed closure of Castlewellan Primary School will have no impact on the wider controlled, maintained, integrated or Irish medium provision in the area. There is sufficient unfilled provision at neighbouring controlled primary schools to accommodate the pupils from the school and those pupils with special educational needs will continue to have the required support. In addition there are alternative specialist provisions either within Castlewellan village or at provision approximately 11.5 miles from the village in Downpatrick.

4.0 RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Authority has to consider the needs of people in rural areas as laid down in the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. The Act requires the Authority to have due regard to the impact of any strategies or plans it intends to implement on a rural community. The areas from which Castlewellan PS and Annsborough IPS attract pupils from are, according to the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group, defined as rural therefore the Authority must take “due regard”.

The level of ‘regard’ that is ‘due’ will depend on the circumstances and, in particular, on the relevance of rural needs to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact for people in rural needs, the greater the regard required by the duty.

The Act defines ‘rural needs’ as “the social and economic needs of rural areas”. In general terms, a need can be considered to be something that is essential to achieve a standard of living comparable with that of the population in general. For example, it can relate to the ability to access key public services such as health and education, the ability to access suitable employment opportunities, and the ability to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

- 4.2 In the proposed closure of Castlewellan Primary School the Authority has to consider the likely impact of removing controlled provision from the area.

While the Authority recognises the important role the only controlled primary school in Castlewellan plays in the community the Authority has an obligation to ensure the children who are taught in controlled schools are given the best opportunity to get the most from their primary school education. In the case of Castlewellan Primary School there are clear indicators, documented within this paper, that the children’s educational needs would be best met at another setting.

- 4.3 There are places within alternative controlled primary providers as detailed in Table 5 and the Authority will work with the parents of children at Castlewellan Primary School to ensure their needs are met within their new schools.

- 4.4 There are alternative specialist provisions either within Castlewellan village or at provision approximately 11.5 miles from the village in Downpatrick.

5.0 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

- 5.1 The purpose of area planning is to contribute to school improvement.
- 5.2 The Authority believes that not only should schools attract sufficient resources to enable them to employ staff to deliver the full Northern Ireland Curriculum, but they should have, in each year group, sufficient pupils to promote the personal, development and mutual understanding between children. If schools do not attract enough pupils in each year group their holistic development may suffer and the extracurricular activities available to them may be significantly curtailed.
- 5.3 Based on its current and forecasted financial position Castlewellan Primary School will be unable to afford to continue to employ their current level of staff and a reduction of staff would make it very difficult in the future to provide the breadth and depth of curriculum which should be enjoyed by the pupils. As a result the school's financial position is projected to steadily worsen within the lifespan of its 3 year plan.

The Authority believes the closure of Castlewellan Primary School, and providing the pupils places in neighbouring controlled schools, is in the best interests of the pupils. It would mean the relocated Castlewellan pupils would be taught in larger classes and will allow for improved social interaction between the pupils.

- 5.4 All pupils that have identified special educational needs will continue to have their assessed needs met at either the mainstream school they relocate to or, if they relocate to another specialist provision at either St Malachy's Primary School or Downpatrick Primary School.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)

Note: The timeline should be considered in advance of DP publication, this will impact on when the DP should be published to allow sufficient time from decision to implementation.

Anticipated Date	Proposed Action
! May 2019	Undertake direct consultation with parents, staff and Governors of Castlewellan Primary School.
2 May 2019 to 28 June 2019	8 week written consultation with parents, staff, Governors of Castlewellan Primary School. During same period consult with affected schools in the area and other bodies.
September 2019	Report to Education Committee on consultation exercise – seeking approval to publish the development proposal.
1 week after Education Committee	Publication of development proposal and start of 2 month statutory objection period.
December 2019	End of 2 month objection period
January 2020 - onwards	Earliest date for decision on development proposal. Authority officers continue to liaise with staff and parents.
September 2020	Subject to a decision being made to close the school. Former Castlewellan PS pupils start at new school or specialist setting.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The budget history of Castlewellan Primary School is detailed below

School	March 2018	March 2017	March 2016	March 2015	March 2014	March 2013
Castlewellan Primary School	-102,579	-£37,100	£13,133	£19,491	£21,579	£13,160

7.2 There will be cost savings in relation to staff and accommodation costs and the budget deficit of Castlewellan Primary School will be eliminated.

7.3 The closure of Castlewellan Primary School may result in redundancy costs, as below.

7.4 The teaching staff is afforded employment protection under the School Re-Organisation Agreement 2013/2 for two years. Teaching staff are eligible for redeployment under the transfer redundancy procedure. Redundancy costs will apply to those staff wishing to take voluntary redundancy at the time of closure, or those teachers who avail of the transferred redundancy, or to those teachers at the end of the two year protection who have not been successful in obtaining permanent employment. Those teachers not redeployed to other schools under transferred redundancy or gain permanent employment elsewhere are treated as supernumerary during the two year employment protection period will be treated as a centre cost.

7.5 For those non-teaching staff made redundant a similar School Re-Organisation Agreement is in place for a period of one year. The staff can also avail of a transferred redundancy procedure. Redundancy costs will apply to those staff wishing to take voluntary redundancy at the time of closure, or those teachers who avail of the transferred redundancy, or to those staff at the end of the one year protection who have not been successful in obtaining permanent employment. Those staff not redeployed to other schools under transferred redundancy or who gain permanent employment elsewhere are treated as supernumerary during the one year employment protection period will be treated as a centre cost.

7.6 Those parents who fulfil the criteria stated in the Authority's transport policy can apply for transport assistance.

Appendix A

Castlewellan PS

Approved Enrolment - 110

Available Places - 92

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl su)	SU
2018/2019	1	3	2	4	6	1	1	18	6
2017/2018	2	3	6	9	3	5	8	36	8
2016/2017	3	4	8	4	5	8	8	40	9
2015/2016	4	6	4	4	8	7	8	41	9
2014/2015	6	4	4	9	8	7	6	44	10
2013/2014	5	4	10	9	6	6	14	54	8
2012/2013	5	11	8	8	6	14	11	63	8

Cumran PS

Approved Enrolment - 203

Available Places - 9

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl su)	SU
2018/2019	32	32	30	23	27	22	28	194	16
2017/2018	31	31	20	22	19	25	29	177	18
2016/2017	31	20	23	18	25	29	27	173	19
2015/2016	20	20	19	21	28	25	20	153	16
2014/2015	21	18	20	26	23	20	19	147	15
2013/2014	27	28	38	30	25	22	23	193	14
2012/2013	29	40	30	26	22	23	19	189	11

Newcastle PS**Approved Enrolment - 196****Available Places -63**

Year	NU	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl nu)
2018/2019	52	16	19	29	18	13	15	23	133
2017/2018	52	19	28	19	13	16	22	13	130
2016/2017	52	30	20	13	16	22	13	21	135
2015/2016	52	20	13	18	24	14	25	18	132
2014/2015	52	12	18	24	15	22	18	23	132
2013/2014	52	17	20	17	20	17	24	24	139
2012/2013	52	17	14	15	15	21	20	13	115

2018/19 Total Controlled Unfilled in the area- 164

Downpatrick PS**Approved Enrolment - 200****Available Places -9**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl su)	SU
2018/2019	23	23	29	23	31	28	34	191	24
2017/2018	23	27	22	28	29	31	31	191	24
2016/2017	25	22	30	26	31	31	24	189	24
2015/2016	24	29	24	30	28	23	23	181	25
2014/2015	27	25	30	29	23	22	23	179	24
2013/2014	23	31	25	23	25	23	32	182	22
2012/2013	29	25	21	26	23	32	20	176	28

St Malachy's PS**Approved Enrolment - 350****Available Places -**

Year	NU	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl nu & SU)	SU
2018/2019	26	49	54	55	48	56	48	49	359	26
2017/2018	27	52	52	47	43	49	48	51	342	26
2016/2017	26	52	47	52	47	47	49	32	326	23
2015/2016	28	46	48	46	46	48	34	43	311	22
2014/2015	27	49	46	47	49	34	46	39	310	18
2013/2014	27	46	47	47	35	45	38	36	294	15
2012/2013	26	51	44	37	44	37	34	36	283	17

St Mary's PS Newcastle**Approved Enrolment - 319****Available Places - 0**

Year	NU	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total (excl nu)
2018/2019	50	51	55	54	51	47	62	50	370
2017/2018	53	55	55	51	47	62	49	55	374
2016/2017	53	56	50	50	61	47	54	41	359
2015/2016	56	50	52	57	47	51	40	38	335
2014/2015	52	54	59	47	51	39	37	34	321
2013/2014	52	57	47	48	34	37	36	42	301
2012/2013	52	48	46	31	34	36	42	50	287

Sacred Heart PS**Approved Enrolment - 136****Available Places - 55**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	16	11	16	4	12	12	10	81
2017/2018	12	14	3	11	10	9	8	67
2016/2017	11	0	8	8	8	9	1	45
2015/2016	3	11	11	11	10	3	9	58
2014/2015	11	10	11	10	3	11	13	69
2013/2014	11	13	12	4	10	13	11	74
2012/2013	13	13	4	11	15	14	7	77

St Mary's PS Aughlisnafin**Approved Enrolment - 169****Available Places - 34**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	15	12	25	13	24	23	23	135
2017/2018	13	25	16	25	23	24	23	149
2016/2017	27	19	25	24	24	23	21	163
2015/2016	19	26	25	23	22	21	15	151
2014/2015	27	25	23	25	21	16	23	160
2013/2014	24	22	25	22	15	24	27	159
2012/2013	23	26	22	15	24	27	15	152

St Patrick's PS Burrenreagh		Approved Enrolment - 95				Available Places - 31			
Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total	
2018/2019	3	6	14	6	12	10	13	64	
2017/2018	6	13	6	10	11	13	5	64	
2016/2017	11	6	10	10	13	5	12	67	
2015/2016	6	10	10	11	6	12	10	65	
2014/2015	10	10	10	8	11	9	3	61	
2013/2014	9	9	6	12	8	4	4	52	
2012/2013	9	5	13	7	6	5	5	50	

St Joseph's PS Carnacaville		Approved Enrolment - 194				Available Places - 4			
Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total	
2018/2019	28	23	29	22	29	34	25	190	
2017/2018	22	28	20	30	34	25	24	183	
2016/2017	29	24	31	34	24	24	20	186	
2015/2016	24	28	34	25	25	21	19	176	
2014/2015	29	34	25	25	21	20	22	176	
2013/2014	34	23	24	22	20	22	20	165	
2012/2013	22	23	20	20	21	20	26	152	

2018/19 Total Maintained Available - 124

Annsborough IPS**Approved Enrolment - 85****Available Places- 60**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	5	3	3	5	4	3	3	25
2017/2018	3	3	5	4	3	2	3	27
2016/2017	4	6	5	5	5	9	4	38
2015/2016	6	5	5	5	9	4	8	42
2014/2015	5	7	6	10	6	8	9	51
2013/2014	7	6	10	6	9	9	6	53
2012/2013	4	9	5	6	8	5	3	40

All Children's IPS**Approved Enrolment – 203****Available Places- 0**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	31	29	29	21	32	30	33	205
2017/2018	28	29	20	31	30	32	33	203
2016/2017	30	20	30	29	30	33	31	203
2015/2016	23	30	29	28	33	32	41	216
2014/2015	31	30	28	32	30	41	32	224
2013/2014	29	26	30	28	40	31	25	209
2012/2013	26	30	30	41	32	24	33	216

2018/2019 Total Integrated Unfilled - 60

Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche**Approved Enrolment - 87****Available Places - 0**

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	15	19	18	15	13	10	12	102
2017/2018	20	22	15	13	9	12	14	105
2016/2017	22	15	15	9	12	14	11	98
2015/2016	16	15	9	13	14	11	8	86
2014/2015	14	11	15	16	11	8	10	85
2013/2014	12	15	18	11	9	11	7	83
2012/2013	16	19	12	9	11	7	10	84

2018/2019 Total IME Unfilled - 0

Appendix B

Options Considered

Option 1: No change at either school

At this time both Annsborough Integrated Primary School and Castlewellan Primary School have significant unfilled provision and fail to meet the SSP criteria for number of teachers employed and, in the case of Castlewellan PS, there is an issue around the quality of education.

The Authority has a duty to support the Department of Education to support and encourage integrated education (1989 Education Order) therefore the retention of some form of integrated provision in the area, or putting in place mitigating measures to offset the removal of Annsborough IPS, has to be borne in mind when taking any action at Annsborough IPS.

Officers have been investigating the potential to establish a satellite of another larger integrated primary school, i.e. the larger school would have a smaller version of itself operating in Castlewellan with the Governors and principal of the larger school being responsible for the Castlewellan campus. Unfortunately this investigation failed to identify a workable solution.

Option 2: Shared Education

The Shared Education Act (NI) 2016 came into effect in May 2016 and provides a legislative definition of shared education. It confers a duty on DE to encourage, facilitate and promote shared education and confers a power on relevant arms-length bodies of the Department to encourage and facilitate shared education. The Act also commenced the duty specified in the Education Act (NI) 2014 for the Education Authority (EA) to encourage, facilitate and promote shared education.

Both schools would have to show they are able to meet the SSP criteria and due to the sustainability issues impacting both schools this option is not viable.

Option 3: Discontinue Education

Closing Annsborough IPS

Under the 1989 Education Order the Department has an obligation to encourage and facilitate integrated education and the Education Authority has a duty to support the Department in this endeavour. Prior to moving forward with the closure of the school the Authority will have to provide the Department of Education with details on mitigation measures it plans to bring forward to offset the removal of integrated provision in the area. This will normally take the form of adding provision to the next nearest school however the closest alternative integrated provider is All Children's IPS which is based in Newcastle, approximately 6.3 miles away. All Children's IPS does not have any spare capacity to accommodate the pupils from Annsborough IPS and the current site is landlocked with limited scope for extension.

The next closest is Cedar IPS which is 12.4 miles away in Crossgar followed by Drumlins IPS which is 13.8 miles away in Ballynahinch. Both of these schools are grant maintained integrated schools and both are operating at or above capacity.

Closing Annsborough IPS will result in parents of children who indicated integrated education as their preferred educational environment being entitled to transport assistance.

Officers have investigated the potential to establish a satellite of another larger integrated primary school, i.e. the larger school would have a smaller version of itself operating in Castlewellan with the Governors and principal of the larger school being responsible for the Castlewellan campus. Unfortunately this investigation failed to identify a workable solution.

While it is recognised Annsborough Integrated Primary School's enrolment is well below the 105 threshold as required under the SSP the Education Authority cannot find adequate mitigation to offset the closure of the school, i.e. all neighbouring schools are at or past their approved enrolments with limited potential for increases. As stated previously the Authority has to support the Department in encouraging and supporting integrated education and moving forward with the closure of the school without adequate alternative provision being in place would be contrary to the Authority's duty in relation to integrated provision.

Closing Castlewellan PS & MLD class

The closure of Castlewellan PS will result in parents who want their children taught in controlled settings having to enrol their child in alternative controlled settings.

If the child lives more than 2 miles from the alternative controlled school they will be eligible for transport assistance – subject to application and approval.

Castlewellan is defined as a rural area and the Authority must ensure it has paid “due regard” on the impact the closure of all controlled provision would have on the area (Rural Needs Action (NI) 2016).

However the Authority also has a duty of care towards the children in the area with regard their education and whilst the closure of the school may have an impact on a portion of the community alternative provision is available within a reasonable travelling time.

The school also has a MLD class which can accommodate up to 10 pupils – there are presently 9 pupils enrolled at the provision. The closure of the school would also result in the closure of the MLD class – there is alternative provision in St Malachy's PS in Castlewellan and in Downpatrick PS. The closure of the class would require places being found for these pupils and CYPS staff will have to work closely with the families to ensure their children are catered for.

Option 4: Federation

There are three variants of a federation, i.e. hard, soft and informal. The soft and informal variants can be discounted as neither would resolve the issue of the underlying sustainability issues impacting both schools.

In one format a hard federation is where two or more schools combine to have one principal and one BoG but each constituent part retains its own ethos and identity at their own site however this approach for Castlewellan PS and Annsborough IPS is not viable given the underlying low numbers at each school.

Another possible approach is to close Annsborough IPS and Castlewellan PS but retain a controlled integrated presence at the Castlewellan PS site – this controlled integrated provision would come under the control of a sustainable controlled integrated primary school in the area. Under this arrangement the sustainable school would operate on a split site basis – each site would continue as a KS1 / KS2 provider but would be controlled by a single principal and BoG.

Officers have been investigating the potential to establish the above structure with unfortunately no workable solution has been found.

Option 5: Close Annsborough IPS and Castlewellan PS and establish a new controlled integrated primary school.

Under this option Annsborough IPS and Castlewellan PS would close and a new school would be established. The Governors from both schools have indicated that they would support the new school being controlled integrated.

The enrolment history of both schools is as follows:

Enrolment History									
Annsborough Integrated Primary School									
Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total	
2018/2019	5	3	3	5	4	3	2	25	
2017/2018	3	3	5	4	3	2	6	26	
2016/2017	4	6	5	5	5	9	4	38	
2015/2016	6	5	5	5	9	4	8	42	
2014/2015	5	7	6	10	6	8	9	51	
2013/2014	7	6	10	6	9	9	6	53	
2012/2013	4	9	5	6	8	5	3	40	
Castlewellan Primary School									
Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total	SU
2018/2019	1	3	2	4	6	1	1	18	6
2017/2018	2	3	6	9	3	5	8	36	8
2016/2017	3	4	8	4	5	8	8	40	9
2015/2016	4	6	4	4	8	7	8	41	9
2014/2015	6	4	4	9	8	7	6	44	10
2013/2014	5	4	10	9	6	6	14	54	8

2012/2013	5	11	8	8	6	14	11	63	8
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Combining the enrolments of both schools over the past 5 years gives the following enrolment pattern.

Combined Enrolment History								
Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2018/2019	6	6	5	9	10	4	3	43
2017/2018	6	7	12	14	8	7	16	70
2016/2017	7	10	13	9	10	17	12	78
2015/2016	10	11	9	9	17	11	16	83
2014/2015	11	11	10	19	14	15	15	95
2013/2014	12	10	20	15	15	15	20	107
2012/2013	9	20	13	14	14	19	14	103

The total enrolment falls well short of the 105 threshold as defined by the SSP criteria.

The issue for this option is sustainability – even when the enrolments of both schools are combined they sit at 43, which falls short of the 105 threshold as defined by the SSP. Using the methodology to calculate long term enrolments, i.e. take the last three year 1 intakes of each school, combine, multiply by 7 and divide by three, gives an enrolment of 44.

The Education Authority has to be mindful of the impact the removal of controlled provision might have on the local Protestant community however the Authority also has a duty of care towards the educational needs of the children in the area and a requirement to make effective and efficient use of the resources available to it.

Option 6 – Close Castlewellan PS and retain Annsborough IPS.

The arguments under Option 3 are still valid for this option.

However, given the Education Authority's obligation to support the Department of Education in its duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education, the Authority is not proposing any change to Annsborough Integrated Primary School at this time. However, the Authority is committed to working in partnership with NICIE to find an area planning solution for sustainable integrated provision in the area.

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 in September 2019, for their consideration.

Development Proposal Timetable

Stage 1

Pre-Publication Consultation will run until the 28 June 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 in September 2019.

Subject to this approval publication of the Development Proposal in the local press one week after approval at the September 2019 Committee meeting.

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 after publication in September 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

- **Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.**
- **The Moderate Learning Difficulties class at Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Education Authority – Development Proposal Consultation Response

The Education Authority is proposing:

Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 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

Option 1 – Agree with the proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Option 2 – Disagree with the proposal	<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 close Castlewellan 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 28 June 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

Source of Response (Please specify):

Governor _____

Parent _____

Teacher _____

Non-Teaching Staff _____

Teacher Union _____

Other (Please specify) _____

Education Authority – Development Proposal Consultation Response

The Education Authority is proposing:

The Moderate Learning Difficulties class at Castlewellan Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 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

Option 1 – Agree with the proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Option 2 – Disagree with the proposal	<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.]

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- 10 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 11 Between persons of different political opinion.
- 12 Between persons of different racial groups.
- 13 Between persons of different age.
- 14 Between persons of different marital status.
- 15 Between persons of different sexual orientation.
- 16 Between men and women generally.
- 17 Between persons with a disability and persons without.
- 18 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:

- 4 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 5 Between persons of different political opinions.
- 6 Between persons of different racial groups.

In light of these obligations do you consider that the proposal to close the Moderate Learning Difficulty class at Castlewellan 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:

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**Stephen Martin
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Grahamsbridge road
Dundonald
BT16 2HS**

Or email your comments to Stephen.Martin2@eani.org.uk

Source of Response (Please specify):

Governor _____

Parent _____

Teacher _____

Non-Teaching Staff _____

Teacher Union _____

Other (Please specify) _____