

## CASE for CHANGE – Supporting Information

### SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

AREA PLANNING DISTRICT	Newry, Mourne and Down
DP NUMBER	DP 575
PROPOSER	Kim Scott Acting Director of Education Education Authority  028 9041 3151
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Academy Primary School
SCHOOL REFERENCE	401 - 6201
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Controlled
DP PUBLICATION DATE	Week commencing 20 May 2019
PROPOSAL	<b>Academy Primary School will increase its admissions number from 56 to 58, with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 395 to 406, 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>In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 a copy of the proposal was sent, on 7 January 2019, to Governors, staff and parents of pupils of Academy Primary School to be returned to the Education Authority by 1 March 2019. Due to the administrative error this phase of consultation with the school was extended to 20 April 2019.</p> <p>The Education Authority received 1 response from a parent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned the increase will place added pressure on the schools facilities (parking/play space) plus it will mean an increase in class sizes.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>EA response:</u></b></p> <p>The proposed increase is a relatively minor adjustment in the school's admission/approved enrolment and reflects the demand for places at the school. The EA has invested capital money into the school over recent years which has improved the size of teaching spaces and associated spaces throughout the school, which will accommodate the phased increase.</p>
<p><b>CONFIRMATION BY THE PROPOSER</b></p>	<p>I confirm that the BOGs, Staff and Parents of pupils of Academy Primary School were consulted on 7 January 2019 and Equality Screening of the proposal has been carried out and the statutory requirements of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 (where appropriate) have been considered.</p> <p>NAME: Kim Scott</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 16 May 2019</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><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 7 January 2019 with a return date of 1 March 2019.</p> <p>NAME: Kim Scott</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 16 May 2019</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>In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 a copy of the proposal was sent, on 7 January 2019, to schools which might be affected by the proposal. Comments were invited from the Boards of Governors and Trustees to be returned to the Education Authority by 1 March 2019.</p> <p>A total of 15 schools were asked for their views.</p> <p>No responses from the schools were received.</p> <p><b><u>CSSC response</u></b></p> <p>The CSSC are in support of the proposal as it will not have a significant impact any other school in the area and more families in the area will benefit from education in their local community.</p> <p><b><u>EA response</u></b></p> <p>The proposed increase in the school's admission/approved enrolment is a reflection of the ongoing demand for places at the school and the recent improvements in the school's accommodation.</p> <p>This development proposal was discussed by the EA's Education Committee at its meeting on 16 May 2019.</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: Kim Scott

OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of  
Education

SIGNED: 

DATE: 16 May 2019

The Education Authority supports the proposal as the proposer.

The increase in the admission and approved enrolment of Academy Primary School reflects the ongoing demand for places at the school and the improvements in the accommodation at the school over recent years.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Academy Primary School is a controlled co-educational primary school and is situated on Listoder 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 which resulted in a number of the permanent classrooms being increased in size. An assessment of the school's current teaching accommodation is provided in Table 1 below. The table also provides a calculation of the capacity of the building, 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

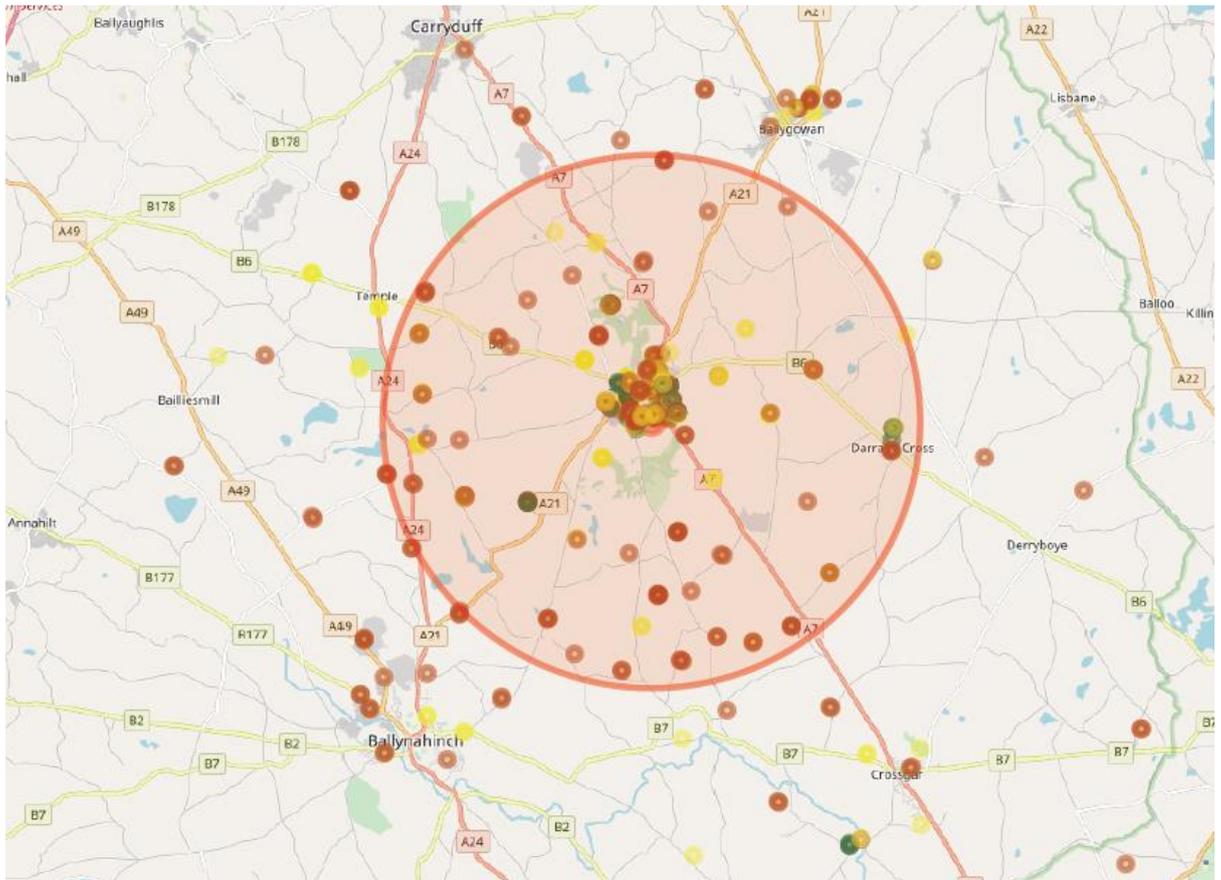
Table 1 gives an approved enrolment of 403 which equates to an admissions figure of 57.57 which when rounded up equates to 58. This figure does not match the approved enrolment of 403 therefore this figure should be increased to reflect an admission of 58, ie an approved enrolment of 406.



There are a number of non-controlled primary schools also within this area – the details of all schools irrespective of sector, and their proximity to Academy Primary School, is detailed in Table 4 overleaf.

- 1.4 Map 2 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 2 – Distribution**



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

**Table 2 – School Enrolment History**

<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>2018/2019</b>	53	59	57	60	59	56	56	56	403
<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

**Table 3 – Applications History**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1st Preferences</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Admitted</b>
2018	61	61	56
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>2018/19 Admission</b>	<b>2018/19 Enrolment</b>	<b>Available Places</b>
Carrickmannon	100	14	3.8	12	98	11
Derryboy	95	15	5.2	13	61	34
Alexander Dickson	145	21	4.1	10	92	53
Carryduff	333	48	4.9	29	189	144
Glasswater	97	14	5.3	8	101	0
Ballynahinch	438	60	6.2	23	191	247
Carr	100	14	5.9	14	71	29
St Mary's Saintfield	87	12	0.4	3	57	30
St Caolan's	90	17	3.6	11	72	18
St Patrick's, Ballynahinch	332	47	5.5	36	230	102
St Joseph's, Crossgar	163	23	5.1	18	89	74
Cedar Integrated	196	28	5.3	27	200	0
Millennium	315	56	3.3	59	347	0
Drumlins	203	29	5.3	31	201	2

- 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 higher admission and approved enrolment.

## 2.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

2.1 Academy Primary School is viewed as a 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 2018/19 the school had 403 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

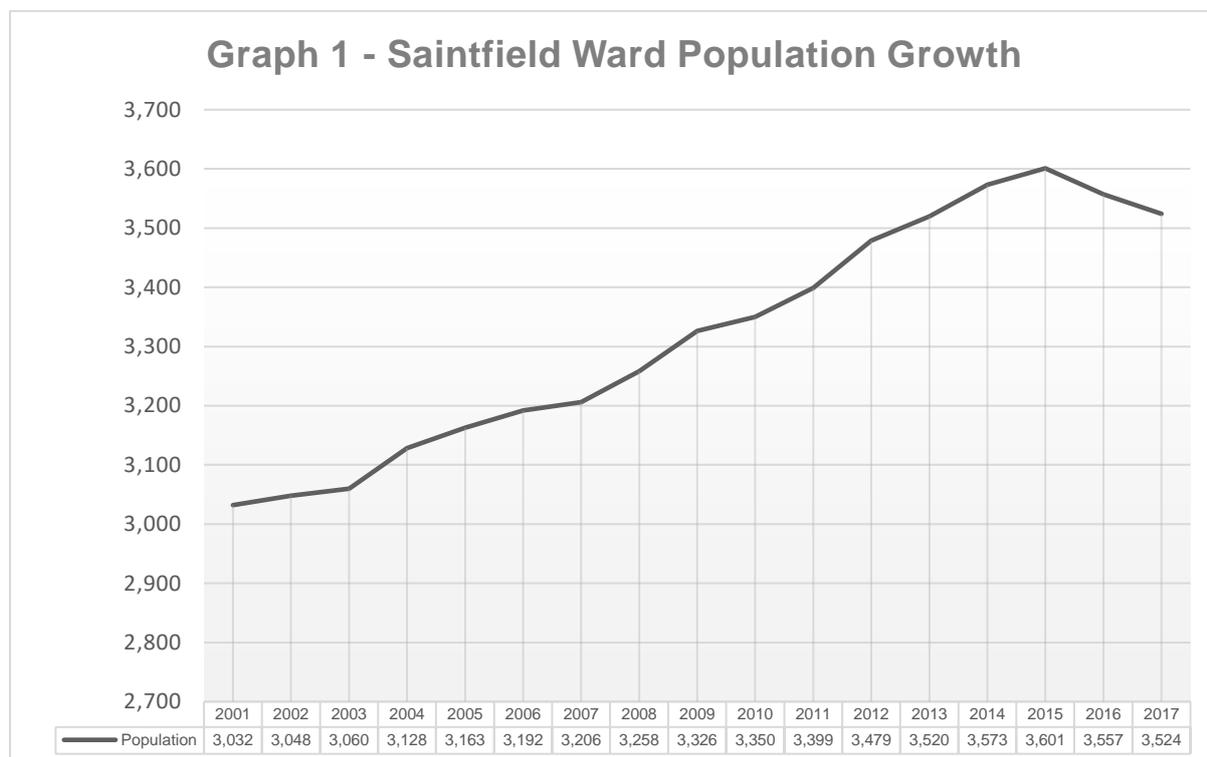
3.1 Within the 2018/19 Action Plan the Authority undertook the following:

*“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 sustainable 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.