



Area Plan for Primary Education

Ballynure Primary School Pre-Publication Consultation

Original Consultation Period: 11 March 2020 – 21 May 2020

Restart Consultation Period: 6 May 2021 – 1 July 2021

1 INTRODUCTION

Before arriving at the final recommendation on the increase of admission and enrolment numbers at Ballynure Primary School (PS), the Education Authority is seeking the views of those most directly involved at a local level. The Education Authority is seeking to engage in consultation with the Board of Governors, parents/guardians and staff of Ballynure PS and Trustees, Board of Governors and other interested parties in the local community.

1.1 Vision

The aim of the Education Authority is to facilitate the development of a network of viable and sustainable schools that can deliver the NI Curriculum effectively and provide access to a range of education provision that is appropriate to the needs of children and young people. 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.

1.2 Education Authority Position

On 28 April 2017, the Education Authority published *Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020*. When reviewing the requirements for the Action Plan 2018/2019 and April 2019 – March 2021, in line with the Sustainable Schools Policy, it was agreed to include the following within the Antrim and Newtownabbey and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council areas:

Area	Key Issue	Action
Antrim and Newtownabbey Area Straid PS	Address school provision where sustainability is an issue	Managing Authority to consult on options for future provision of Straid PS by February 2020
Mid/East Antrim Area Upper Ballyboley PS	Address school provision where sustainability is an issue	Managing Authority to consult on options for future provision of Upper Ballyboley PS by February 2020

In considering the aspect of 'addressing school provision where sustainability is an issue', it was identified that any actions would potentially impact on three schools namely Straid PS, Upper Ballyboley PS and Ballynure PS. Therefore, whilst the sustainability issues are considered separately in Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS, it is important that should education discontinue in Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS, there will be the need to increase the number of available places in the nearest school to both Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS, ie Ballynure PS, also acknowledging parental preference and the need to account for the overall number of available places in the area. The Education Authority sought approval to consult on the following Development Proposals and engage in pre-publication consultation.

At the January 2020 meeting of the Education Authority's Education Committee, it was agreed to initiate consultation with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Ballynure PS, and with the Trustees and Managers of other schools likely to be affected by the proposal that:

Ballynure Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 22 to 30 and from 154 to 210 respectively with effect from 1 September 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter.

In addition, at the January 2020 meeting of the Education Authority's Education Committee, it was agreed to initiate consultation on the following proposals:

To discontinue Straid Primary School with effect from 31 August 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter; and

To discontinue Upper Ballyboley Primary School with effect from 31 August 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Re-Start Pre-Publication Consultation: 6 May 2021 – 1 July 2021

Pre-publication consultation commenced on 11 March 2020 closing on 21 May 2020. However, on 18 March 2020, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister announced that schools would close to pupils at the end of the school day on Friday 20 March 2020. This resulted in area planning activity being stood down. Area planning activity was given permission to resume by the Department of Education on 8 October 2020, and, as a result, the Education Authority is re-starting the pre-publication consultation.

All responses received during the pre-publication consultation 11 March 2020 – 21 May 2020 have been carried forward.

The Education Authority will re-start pre-publication consultation, running for a full 8 weeks, from 6 May 2021 to 1 July 2021, with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Ballynure Primary School and with the managers of other schools likely to be affected by the proposal that:

Ballynure Primary School will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 22 to 30 and from 154 to 210 respectively with effect from 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Note: the effective date of the proposal has been revised in light of the information above to 1 September 2023.

The Education Authority will also re-start pre-publication consultation on the following proposals:

To discontinue Straid Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter; and

To discontinue Upper Ballyboley Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

1.3 Nature of the Education Authority's Recommendation

Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 describes the process regarding a change to a school's size. This process requires the publication of a development proposal.

Therefore, as part of the pre-publication consultation on the development proposal the Education Authority is seeking any objections and/or other comments on the proposed increase in admission and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS 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.

The Education Authority has met with the school to discuss the proposal and based on available information the Education Authority is taking forward a development proposal to increase the admission and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS.

2 BACKGROUND

Ballynure is a village near Ballyclare in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. It is part of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and had a population of 968 people in the 2011 Census. The development of the A8 by-pass in 2015 facilitated the unification of the village and the Larne Road is now primarily used by access traffic to Ballynure Primary School, Church Road, Lismenary Road and the surrounding rural area.

Ballynure PS is currently a 5 class base, operating as a 6 classroom school. This includes one mobile in the grounds of the school.

2.1 Statistical Information

Over recent years Ballynure PS has experienced an increase in enrolment numbers, operating at almost full capacity, with a current enrolment of 148 pupils. The school has an approved admissions number of 22 and an approved enrolment number of 154 pupils – Table 1 below.

Table 1: Enrolment Statistics – Ballynure PS								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Total
2013/14	21	21	16	18	14	14	20	124
2014/15	16	21	21	15	19	15	14	121
2015/16	22	19	20	22	16	19	15	133
2016/17	24	20	17	20	22	17	19	139
2017/18	15	28	21	19	23	26	18	150
2018/19	22	16	29	23	19	23	25	157
2019/20	23	20	16	28	25	19	23	154
2020/21	19	24	20	15	26	25	19	148

Table 2 lists the schools closest to Ballynure PS. Map 1 shows the next nearest primary schools to Ballynure PS as being Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS. There is some capacity within the local schools as detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Local Schools – Distance from Ballynure PS

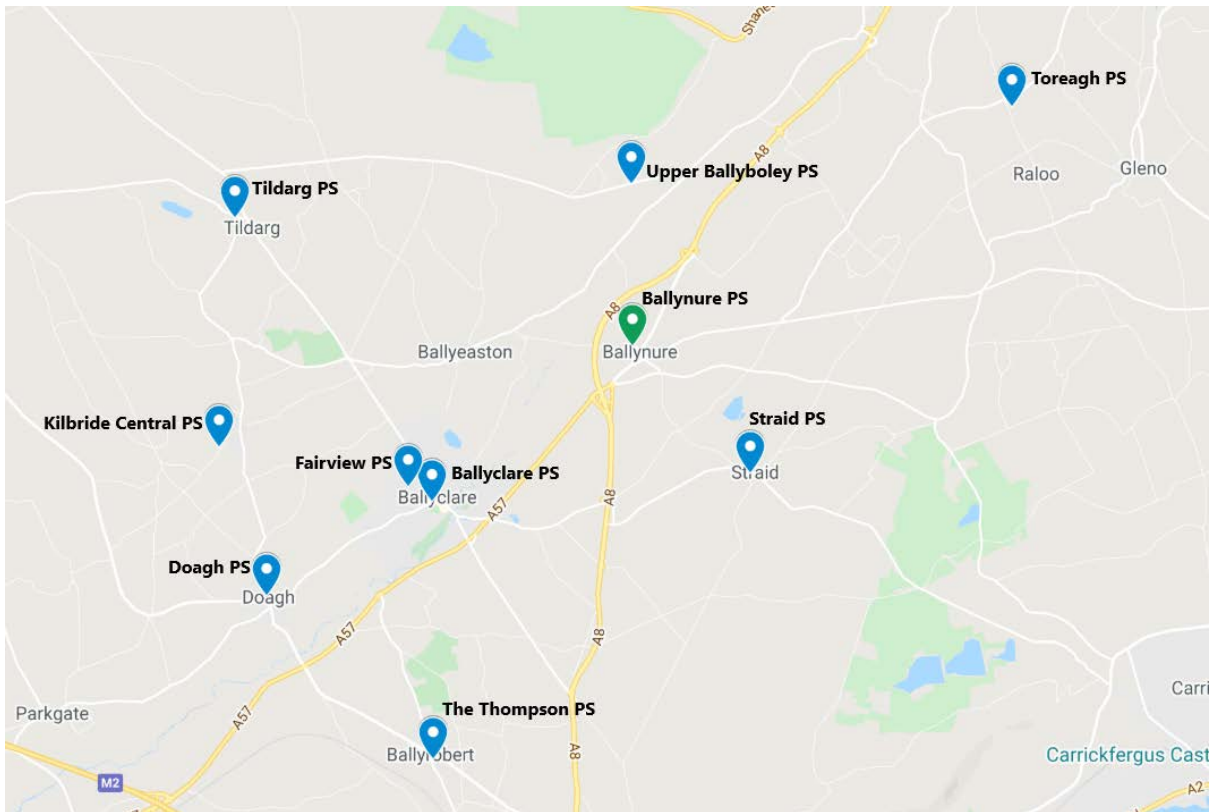
	Distance (miles) From Ballynure PS	Sector	Enrolment 2020/21	Approved Enrolment Number 2020/21	Available Places
Ballynure PS	-	Controlled	148	154	6
Straid PS*	1.9	Controlled	53	119	66
Upper Ballyboley PS**	2.6	Controlled	28	100	72
Ballyclare PS	3.3	Controlled	555	572	17
Fairview PS	3.5	Controlled	501	525	24
Tildarg PS	4.8	Controlled	61	80	19
Toreagh PS	4.9	Controlled	111	105	0
Kilbride PS	4.9	Controlled	126	135	9
Thompson PS	5.3	Controlled	183	194	11
Doagh PS	5.4	Controlled	115	138	23

* Proposal to discontinue Straid Primary School is being brought forward by the Education Authority

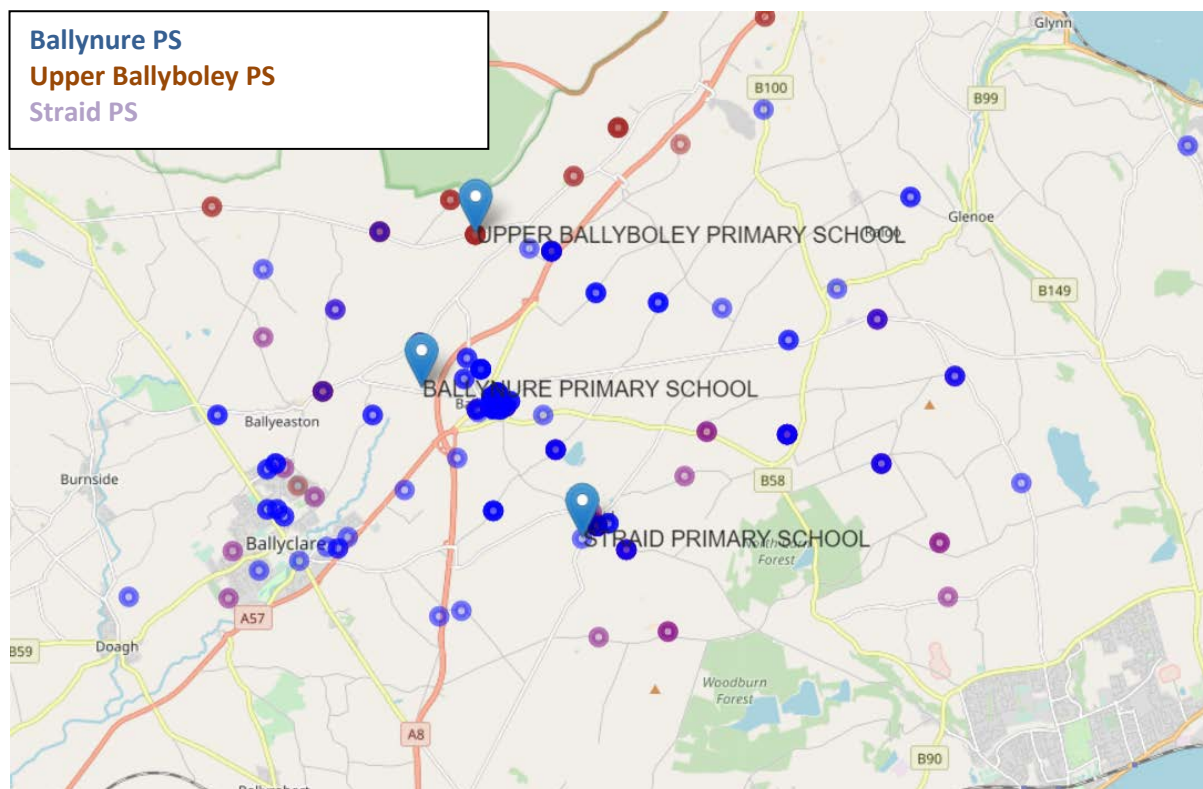
** Proposal to discontinue Upper Ballyboley Primary School is being brought forward by the Education Authority

In consideration of the distance of the local schools, home-to-school transport arrangements will be implemented within transport regulations.

Map 1: Highlights the schools within the surrounding area



Map 2: Highlights the current pupils attending Ballynure Primary School, Straid Primary School and Upper Ballyboley Primary School



Upper Ballyboley PS and Straid PS are the next nearest schools to Ballynure PS. The Education Authority is taking forward two separate development proposals for the discontinuance of education at Upper Ballyboley PS and Straid PS. In taking forward a development proposal to increase the admission and enrolment numbers Ballynure PS, to ensure places are available should the proposal to discontinue Upper Ballyboley PS and Straid PS be approved, this will provide for a 7 class base school. A single entry (7 class base school) will remove the composite classes within the area and be consistent with Ministerial priorities and Sustainable Schools Policy.

3 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

The main focus of the Area Planning process is embedded in the Sustainable Schools Policy first published in 2009 and applies to primary and post-primary schools. The policy outlines the criteria that school Managing Authorities should consider when making decisions affecting the best use of resources in order to deliver an excellent education to children and young people. The policy sets out 6 sustainability criteria, and associated indicators, which are identified as the key references for assessing existing and future education provision to ensure it adequately meets the needs of pupils.

3.1 Quality of Education

As Ballynure PS is being considered as part of an area solution, the findings of its most recent inspection were as follows in October 2014:

Overall Performance Level	Very good
Achievements and Standards	Very good
Provision	Very good
Leadership and Management	Very good

“In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this primary school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated the capacity for sustained self-improvement.”(Pg4)

An increase to admissions and enrolment numbers in Ballynure PS will provide sustainable education going forward, reducing the number of composites and creating a 7 class base.

3.2 Stable Enrolment Trends

Ballynure PS, has grown by approximately 30 pupils in the last 5 years and the proposal for Ballynure PS is to increase admissions and enrolment numbers - the current approved admissions number is 22 which equates to an approved enrolment number of 154.

3.3 Population Change

Table 3 indicates a projected population reduction of children aged 0-15 years within the Mid and East Antrim LGD of 3.1% between mid-2016 and mid-2026. In Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD there is also a reduction of 3.7% between mid-2016 and mid-2026. In addition the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency predicts the population of children (4-11 years), in the Mid and East Antrim LGD, to decrease by 5.9% (mid-2016 to mid-2026) and similarly the prediction for the reduction of 4-11 year olds in the Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD is 9.4%. Table 4 shows the live birth information for the area which while showing a slight upturn for available admission numbers for September 2020, shows a downturn for September 2021.

Table 3: Projected Population Change

Projected Change in Number of Children (i.e. those aged 0-15) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026) (Source: NISRA)

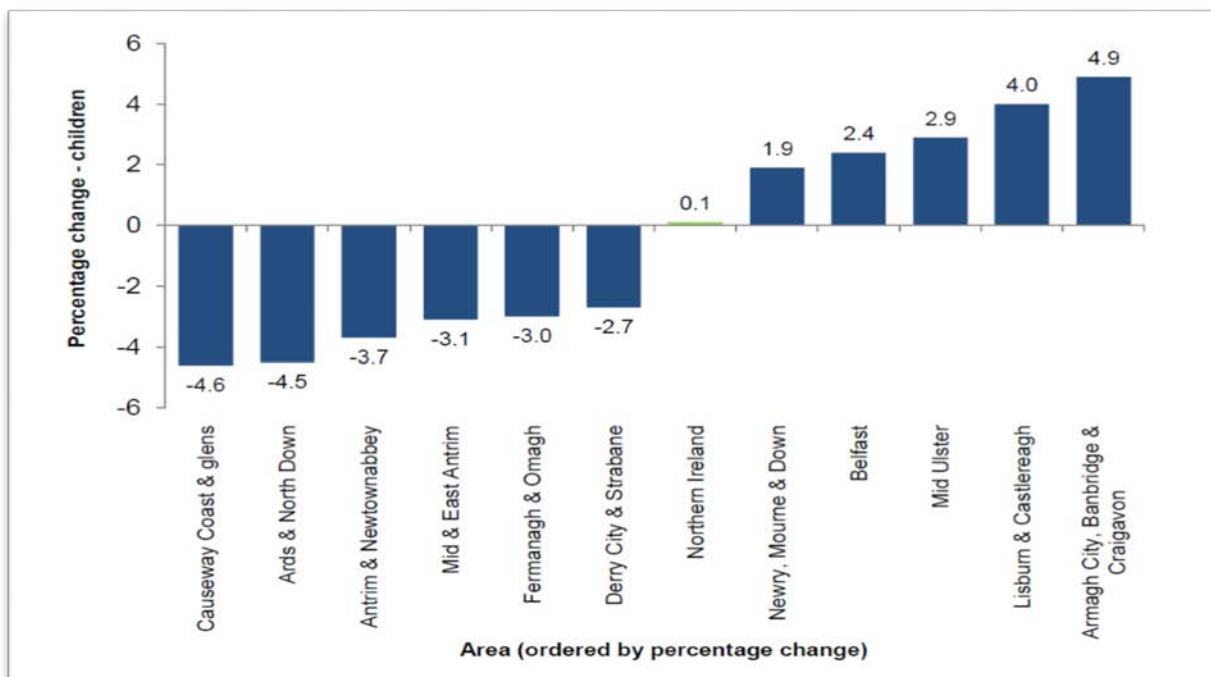


Table 4 – Live Births (Source: NISRA)

Ward Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change from 2010 to 2018
Ballynure*	33	27	27	29	34	34	40	35	35	+6%
Kilwaughter	87	93	93	95	88	93	60	74	89	+3%
Glenwhirry	37	28	36	22	36	36	40	29	29	-22%
Doagh	51	46	51	39	52	46	42	53	34	-33%
Ballyclare Nth	51	60	49	44	52	68	49	44	61	+19%
Ballyclare Sth	71	42	63	64	42	47	41	34	42	-40%
Gynn	20	12	20	18	9	16	18	15	17	-15%
Woodburn	32	22	31	23	23	25	24	15	25	-22%
Total	382	330	370	334	336	365	314	299	332	
Year 1 - Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	

*Ballynure PS is located in the Ballynure Ward

Even though there was a significant reduction in live births at the time of Year 1 entry in 2018/19, there was a significant rise in the number of primary one admissions to Ballynure PS. They have remained consistent, matching the live births in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

3.4 Sound Financial Position

Ballynure PS began the 2019/20 financial year with a £17,960 surplus. However, it is expected that the school will have a -£61,383 deficit (14.4%) by the end of 2021/22. Despite a projected rising enrolment, the school will be challenged to manage the in-year budget during years 2 and 3 of their plan.

Table 5 shows the school is operating in accordance with the sectoral average: position compared to the sector average:

Table 5: Sector Averages				
Ballynure PS	Sector Average*	Year 1 (2019-2020)	Year 2 (2020-2021)	Year 3 (2021-2022)
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	22.2	22.0	22.1	22.9
Expenditure per Pupil	£3,110	£3,063	£3,074	£3,046
Staff Costs per Pupil	£3,032	£3,008	£3,072	£3,041

*Planning assumptions include Cost of Living Pay Award Estimate at 1% each year and estimated rate of inflation for Other Costs as 2% each year

Under the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Common Funding Formula, the level of funding is determined by pupil numbers. An increase in admissions and enrolment will contribute to greater financial efficiency and sustainability in Ballynure PS.

3.5 Strong Leadership and Management

Ballynure PS operates with 7.0 teachers, including a non-teaching principal. Therefore, there is only a cost of one teacher if the development proposal to increase admissions and enrolment was approved.

The ETI Report from October 2014 found that Leadership and Management was 'very good'. It outlined:

'The principal's effective strategic leadership sets realistic and achievable goals for the school's ongoing development. The principal, staff, parents, governors and children work collaboratively in bringing about continuous improvement in all aspects of the provision.'

- *The school's processes for self-evaluation include rigorous consultation with the children, staff, parents and governors. The staff make effective use of all of the available information, including the assessment data, to evaluate aspects of the school's provision and to prioritise future areas for improvement. The action plans are appropriately detailed and indicate how the school will monitor and evaluate their impact.*
- *The governors are well informed about all aspects of school life, including the standards which the children attain and they exercise their challenge function rigorously and supportively. Based on the evidence presented at the time of inspection, the ETI's evaluation is that there can be a high degree of confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated.'*

These findings were further supported in a Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection conducted in November 2017:

'Ballynure Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.'

3.6 Accessibility

The school can be accessed by foot, car and bus. The majority of pupils already attending Ballynure PS come from the local area. Accessibility has been enhanced since the creation of a new main road to Larne.

3.7 Strong Links with the Community

The school sits on an open site with a large senior playground and several grassed areas which are used by the children throughout the year. This area is large enough to safely accommodate playtimes for four senior classes of approximately 120 children. The large playground is marked out for hockey, cycling proficiency and playground games. Neighbouring schools request to play their home matches at Ballynure PS. Football matches usually take place on the community area at the War Memorial Park, where there is ample space for a large pitch with permanent goal posts and for spectators from both Ballynure PS and visiting schools.

The Year 3 children use the playground at the front of the school at playtimes. The Year 1 and Year 2 children use the playground which fronts the Lismenary Road, where there is also a grassed area which the children use in the spring and summer terms. There is scope to extend this playground while preserving the orchard area.

The school currently operates a breakfast club and after schools' clubs include: choir, football, hockey, Bible club, ICT club, ECO club, Cycling Proficiency and Art club.

The school has made contact with Sustrans with a view to improving cycle paths throughout the village, in particular the roads radiating from the school and the development of the existing cycle path in the village which is currently not part of the Sustrans network. This development is now much more feasible following the construction of the A8 by-pass and the unification of the village. The plan will also include application for a Sustrans safe crossing area from the school to the War Memorial Park recreational area.

Ballynure PS has links with the local churches, support from local businesses (Co-op, Spar, Jackson's Butchers, local garage Spar, ASDA, Tesco's, Ballynure Greengrocers, Woodside's Retailers - Larne, Newtownabbey Borough Council, Forestry Commission, RSPB), Ballynure Playgroup and the post-primary schools including Ballyclare High School, Ballyclare Secondary School and Larne Grammar School.

The school supports the work with the Ballyclare District Community Association and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council plan to implement the Community Plan to develop the War Memorial Park area opposite the school where planned facilities include a multi-use games area, playground equipment for the very young children, a sports pitch, walking and running paths, cycle track, garden and meeting room. These facilities would serve the school during the day/term-time (sports day, football, hockey, play park equipment for the younger children) and provide a base for the young people and the community during holiday periods and evenings.

4 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

As detailed above, Area Planning is focused on the Sustainable Schools Policy. In October 2016, in the publication of the draft Education Authority's Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for School provision 2017-2020, the Minister of Education, Peter Weir, MLA, stated:

'The Sustainable Schools Policy, which is implemented through the Area Planning process, focuses on providing children and young people with high quality education that meets their needs and enables them to achieve their full potential...'

The educational experience of our children and young people is greatly enhanced when they attend schools that are educationally and financially viable. The Sustainable Schools Policy is a framework for assessment of the sustainability of primary and post-primary schools. The six criteria and supporting indicators clearly illustrate what a sustainable educational experience should look like. Schools must: deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, offer extensive extracurricular activities, have high quality pastoral care systems and have the confidence of the communities they serve.

In primary schools pupils should be in a class with no more than two year groups but ideally they should be in single year group classes. They should be able to interact with peer groups and have the best chances to prepare for successful transition to post primary school...However there are still a significant number of schools that are struggling, for a wide range of reasons, to deliver the best for their pupils. This is particularly evident in the primary sector and, despite the best effort of teachers, it becomes harder to deliver a high quality education if pupils are taught in composite classes. We have too many small primary schools with more than two year groups in a single class...'

The Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools April 2018 – March 2019 and April 2019 – March 2021 identified a key issue for Straid PS to 'address school provision where sustainability is an issue' with the action 'Managing Authority to consult on options for future

provision at Straid PS by February 2020'. Similarly, in Upper Ballyboley PS, a key issue was to 'address school provision where sustainability is an issue' with the action 'Managing Authority to consult on options for future provision of Upper Ballyboley PS by February 2020'.

As a result the Education Authority engaged with the Board of Governors of Straid PS, Upper Ballyboley PS and more recently Ballynure PS. To consolidate primary school provision within the area Ballynure PS was considered as part of the area planning solution, hence the three development proposals. Engagement and discussions focused on the current position of the schools and sustainable options for the schools and the surrounding area.

An increase in admissions and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS will support the provision of a seven class base school.

This is part of the strategic area solution for the Antrim/Newtownabbey and Mid/East Antrim Council areas, matching requirements for 'ensuring places are located as required,' consistent with the Annual Action Plan.

5 RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL

The proposed discontinuance of education in Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS with the proposal to increase admissions and enrolment in Ballynure PS will support an area planning solution for the Antrim and Newtownabbey and Mid/East Antrim Council areas in addressing issues of sustainability and ensuring that school places are located as required and is consistent with ESaGS, the Sustainable Schools Policy and 'Providing Pathways'.

The discontinuation of Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS will result in the redistribution of approximately 81 pupils (53 pupils in Straid PS and 28 pupils in Upper Ballyboley PS), supported by one further Development Proposal to increase admissions and enrolments in Ballynure PS.

The proposal will meet the outcomes for all including additional support to those who require it, ensuring those children with Special Educational Needs realise their full potential. Pupils with SEN will continue to have their special educational requirements met within local schools, supported by Children and Young People Services.

Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 places a statutory duty on the EA to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and designing and delivering public services. The areas from which Ballynure PS attracts pupils is, according to the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group, defined as rural. The provision of home-to-school transport will provide for the safe transportation of pupils from the area to their nearest school. Transport will be provided for children who meet eligibility criteria.

In the case of any proposal to discontinue education in Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS, the Education Authority has to consider the likely impact of removing controlled provision from the area and the increase of admissions and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS will consolidate controlled provision in a rural area.

In consideration of the distance of the local schools, home-to-school transport arrangements will be implemented within transport regulations.

6 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

The Education Authority in taking forward proposals for the discontinuance of Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS has identified both schools as not sustainable. Consistent with the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP), in order to have a quality education experience, indicators show that there should be no more than two composite year groups in a single classroom; a minimum of four teachers in a school to recognise the needs of the pupils and demand on teachers. There is no indication that this pattern of enrolment will change in the near future for Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS.

As a consequence and to ensure planning for primary school places in the area, the Education Authority is proposing to increase the admission and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS. Ballynure PS an already sustainable and growing school. Children will have better opportunities to engage in education and a broad and balanced curriculum in larger classes, mixing with their peers, in a 7 class base school with no composites. Account should be taken of all children who would move and particularly the impacts on those with Special Needs. This may be enhanced in a larger school with teachers responsible for one area of co-ordination eg SENCO, which is not the case in schools with 2 or 3 teachers who have to fulfil a number of roles and carry many curriculum responsibilities.

An increase to admissions and enrolment numbers in Ballynure PS will provide sustainable education going forward.

Approval of the proposal for Ballynure PS would enable the school to operate on an appropriate admission and enrolment number, with the need for appropriate accommodation and infrastructure investment.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposal is for an increase in admissions and enrolment for Ballynure PS. There are currently unfilled places within the local schools, although there will be a requirement for some additional accommodation to facilitate the relocation of pupils, to be identified by parental preference).

Finance The increase to the admissions and enrolment numbers in Ballynure PS will increase financial sustainability.

Staffing In creating 2 additional class bases, there is the requirement for one additional teacher in Ballynure PS (as they currently have 6 teachers and a non-teaching Principal) at a cost of approximately £53,000.

Transport Most of the pupils attending Straid PS and Upper Ballyboley PS live within close proximity to the school and do not receive home-to-school transport. The discontinuance of both primary schools would require the provision of home-to-school transport for a larger number of pupils. Communication with the Education Authority transport service is ongoing. Any transport arrangement will be in accordance with transport regulations and identified preference school, based on eligibility.

Accommodation It is anticipated that the cost of providing the enhanced accommodation - modular detached classroom units, would be approximately £200,000. Accommodation will be provided, subject to all necessary approvals etc, by the date of commencement.

8 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)

The proposals are being brought forward under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The implementation date for the proposal is 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter. The timetable, pending approval from the Education Committee, for the consultation process is:

Development Proposal Timeline	
<p>Proposal: Ballynure Primary School will increase its admissions number from 22 to 30, with an increase in the enrolment number from 154 to 210 with effect from 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>Associated Development Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straid Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter. • Upper Ballyboley Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter. 	Proposed Timeline
<p>Consultation with Governors, Staff, Parents – (8 weeks)</p> <p>Consultation Responses to be forwarded to the Education Authority.</p> <p>Responses will be considered and a Case for Change document compiled before submission to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee. A deputation from the Board of Governors may also choose to attend the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee or the Board meeting.</p>	6 May 2021 – 1 July 2021
<p>Consultation with other affected Schools- (8 weeks)</p> <p>Consultation Responses to be forwarded to the Education Authority</p> <p>Responses will be considered and a Case for Change document compiled before submission to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee.</p>	6 May 2021 – 1 July 2021
<p>Strategic Planning and Policy Committee to seek Approval To Publish</p> <p>Case for Change to be taken to the September 2021 Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for consideration.</p> <p>If approved to publish, a Development Proposal will be published in the local newspapers which begins the start of a two month statutory objection period.</p>	7 September 2021
<p>Statutory Objection Period (2 months)</p> <p>Objections/Comments to be forwarded to the Department of Education</p>	September 2021 – November 2021
<p>Await Ministerial/Department of Education Decision</p>	January 2022
<p>Implementation</p> <p>If approved, the Development Proposal would take effect from 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	

9 PRE-PUBLICATION CONSULTATION

“Effective consultation is a key part of the policy-making process. People’s views can help shape policy developments and set the agenda for better public services.”
(Code of Practice on Consultation, 2004)

Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 describes the process ‘to make a significant change in the character or size of a controlled school’. This process requires the publication of development proposals.

Therefore, as part of the pre-publication consultation on the development proposals, the Education Authority is seeking any objections and/or other comments on the proposed increase in the admissions number from 22 to 30, with an increase in the enrolment number from 154 to 210 with effect from 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter in Ballynure Primary School from the Board of Governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents of children attending the schools, as well as from other schools that may be affected by this proposal.

The Education Authority will observe the principles of the Consultation Charter (Consultation Institute), which are:

Integrity	Honest intention, willing to listen and be prepared to be influenced.
Visibility	Stakeholders should be aware of the consultation exercise.
Accessibility	Methods that meet the needs of the intended audience.
Confidentiality	Ensure all stakeholders are aware as to the level of information that will be made public.
Disclosure	Disclosure of information that can influence the exercise and disclosure on behalf of consultees, for example, if the consultee represents an organisation.
Fair Interpretation	Objective collation and assessment of information and viewpoints.
Publication	Publication of both the output and the outcomes of the exercise.

By observing these principles, the Education Authority is demonstrating its commitment to best practice and to assisting stakeholders to participate fully in the process.

9.1 How to Respond

The Education Authority is seeking your views on the proposal to increase in the admissions number from 22 to 30, with an increase in the enrolment number from 154 to 210 with effect from 1 September 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter in Ballynure Primary School.

The Education Authority would encourage you to respond using the online version of the Pre-Publication Consultation questionnaire by following the link below:

[Online Pre Publication Response Form](#)

Should you be unable to respond online, the Consultation Questionnaire is attached, Annex A.

Alternatively you can e-mail written responses to: areaplanning3@eani.org.uk

Or by post to:

Education Authority
Area Planning Section
17 Lough Road
Antrim, BT41 4DH

Responses must be received by the Education Authority by midnight on 1 July 2021.

Copies in other formats, including Braille, large print, etc may be made available on request. Please contact us using the link below if you need copies in an alternative format or a language other than English, and Education Authority officers will do their best to assist you:

areaplanning3@eani.org.uk or to the above address.

Please use the space below to comment further or provide alternative options (continued):

[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 Education Authority shall, in carrying out all its 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 Education Authority 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 opinion.
- 3 Between persons of different racial groups.

In light of these obligations do you consider that the area planning solutions in the Antrim/Newtownabbey and Mid/East Antrim Council areas, including the increase in admission and enrolment numbers at Ballynure PS 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 have 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 July 2021 by post to:

Education Authority
Area Planning Section
17 Lough Road
ANTRIM BT41 4DH

Or by email to: areaplanning3@eani.org.uk

Source of Response (Please specify)

	Please Tick	Name of School Representing
Board of Governors	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Teaching Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Non-Teaching Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Child/Young Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Union	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Data Protection Statement

The information provided by you in this form is required by the Education Authority (EA) to seek the views expressed by those most directly involved in the consultation and a Case for Change document. The Case for Change will be forwarded to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for approval to publish a Development Proposal and then to the Department of Education for consideration.

EA is obliged to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 when processing personal information. Where that the information you provide is your personal information, we will process such personal information on the legal basis that it is part of our public task to do so for the purpose referred to above.

We have published detailed Privacy Notices on our website [here](#) which provide further information on how EA processes your personal information as well as detail on how to contact us if you have any questions in this respect.