

NORTHERN IRELAND  
Commission for Catholic Education  
Post Primary Review

# Catholic Education For All

Shaping the future of Post-primary Catholic  
education in the **Clogher and Kilmore** Project



## Introduction

This document is important to you, your family and to the future generations of people who will be educated in Catholic schools in Northern Ireland.

At the beginning of March the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE) published an overview of the challenges facing Catholic education as we plan for the future of the sector. That paper re-stated the values which the Catholic sector aims to uphold in order to meet the challenges facing all of those involved in the planning and delivery of education for 11-19 year olds.

### These challenges are far-reaching and include:

- significant changes made to the curriculum by the Department of Education;
- the introduction of Area Based Planning of education provision;
- our policy on gradually moving away from academic selection at age 11;
- an increase in the number of surplus places;
- the requirement to increase access to a wider choice of subjects for all pupils through the Entitlement Framework by 2013; and
- the Sustainable Schools policy which indicates that post-primary schools should operate with a minimum number of 500 pupils at 11-16 and 100 at Post-16.

We have a very successful Catholic school system, and we want to ensure it is appropriately planned and managed so that future generations of children across the community can continue to avail of high quality education. Our aim as providers of Catholic education is the development of faith communities alongside the provision of education and pastoral support, allowing all young people to reach their full potential in life.

## NICCE Post-primary review

The review has been guided at all times by the Commission's Core Principles which state that any arrangement for post-primary education should:

- optimise high quality education provision and excellence in outcomes for all pupils;
- actively promote justice, reconciliation, mutual understanding, solidarity, inclusive communities and be part of genuinely pluralist provision;
- contribute to the provision of education choices for parents and pupils; and
- be the result of transparent consultative processes.

Our regional policy document can be downloaded at [www.pprce.org](http://www.pprce.org)

## Consultation – we want your views

This document examines in detail the provision of post-primary Catholic education in the Clogher and Kilmore area. The proposals contained herein have been drawn up over a lengthy period by working closely with school principals, Governors and Trustees in the Clogher and Kilmore area. There are no recommended solutions but a set of proposals we would ask you to consider. We are also interested to consider any alternative options or proposals which you may wish to offer.

We want to hear the views of all those with an interest in the long-term provision of education in Clogher and Kilmore. You can find details of how to submit at the end of the document.

The consultation period for each project will remain open until the 31st May 2010.

Once this consultation process is completed all responses will be analysed and a report provided to Trustees to facilitate the identification of their preferred option for post-primary education in the Catholic-managed sector and for each local project area. It is anticipated that the reports will be completed and made available by early autumn.

A preferred option in a local area will then go forward to a further stage of consideration and consultation with the individual schools, their key stakeholders and our other educational partners.



## A vision for post-primary education in the Clogher and Kilmore Diocesan project area

In 2007 we consulted on a range of options to try and find a preferred model for the future of Catholic post-primary education in the Clogher and Kilmore Diocesan areas. Having considered the responses to that consultation and the implications of the Department of Education's Sustainable Schools criteria, we have decided to consult further on the following focus for this area.

### Current provision

This review focuses on post-primary provision in the Clogher and part of the Kilmore Dioceses, with the aim of identifying options for future provision. The schools included in this review are:

	Capacity	Enrolment
Mount Lourdes Grammar School, Enniskillen (Girls 11-19)	820	783
St Aidan's High School, Derrylin (Co-ed 11-18)	330	167
St Comhghall's High School, Lisnaskea (Co-ed 11-18)	430	346
St Eugene's College, Rosslea (Co-ed 11-18)	300	180
St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen (Girls 11-18)	350	331
St Joseph's College, Enniskillen (Boys 11-16)	370	243
St Mary's College, Irvinestown (Co-ed 11-16)	310	164
St Mary's High School, Brollagh (Co-ed 11-16)	230	137
St Michael's College, Enniskillen (Boys 11-18)	770	719
	<b>3,910</b>	<b>3,070</b>

Currently we provide for just over 3,000 young people in our post-primary schools. By 2018 we expect that this will reduce to around 2,900 pupils. At the moment we have over 800 surplus places and we expect that that this will increase to 1,000 places during the next ten years.

### Key features

- A total of nine schools.
- School enrolments ranging from 130 pupils to 800 pupils.
- Five co-educational schools, two boys' schools, two girls' schools.
- Six schools currently offer 11-19 provision.
- New and recently refurbished schools in Enniskillen.

### The challenges

In developing a vision for the whole area we must address certain local challenges.

#### How can we work together to ensure that:

- all children receive quality education through a network of vibrant and sustainable Catholic schools?
- schools provide a curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils and the demands of the new curriculum?
- more students stay on at school beyond age 16?
- our schools assist the development of a successful local economy?
- we address the problem of surplus places?
- we make best use of the schools' infrastructure?
- all schools will be sustainable into the future?
- we respond to the challenges that financial constraints are having on many of our schools at the present time?



## A vision for all pupils

Our vision seeks to ensure that the education in each of our schools will continue to be rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice. It aims to harmonise faith and culture, build a better society and pursue the Common Good.

Through this vision, our 11-19 schools will work together to:

- develop a strong shared sense of Catholic identity, ethos and vision;
- provide an agreed pastoral ethos;
- enhance the quality of learning and teaching for all students;
- provide access to a wide range of vocational and academic qualifications that will take account of the strengths, interests and abilities of all students;
- develop and provide a curriculum which will attract and retain pupils beyond 16;
- support all young people who have special educational needs;
- strengthen and develop the existing links with our local Primary Schools;
- strengthen and develop the existing collaborative arrangements in the Fermanagh Learning Community, with other post-primary schools, the Special Schools and the further education providers;
- tackle disadvantage and underachievement and support each other in responding to the needs of those pupils who are disaffected, dropping out or being excluded from our schools.

## Proposals for the area

### PROPOSAL

We propose that there should be a maximum of three 11-19 schools located in Enniskillen together with one new 11-19 school in rural South East Fermanagh. This would be subject to each school meeting fully the requirements of the entitlement framework.

We propose that all of these schools will be part of a formal collaborative and mutually supportive partnership of 11-19 schools which between them shall provide an education for all 2,900 pupils.

### The collaborative partner schools will:

- a) each provide a curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils and the demands of the statutory curriculum



- b) each be viable and sustainable [i.e. with a minimum number of 500 pupils at 11-16 and 100 at post-16]
- c) develop and operate agreed common admissions policies.
- d) work together to identify priorities and respond to areas of mutual benefit eg Chaplaincy, resource management etc;
- e) maximise the use of the available resources for the benefit of all pupils;
- f) seek to secure, with other agencies, an Education Access Service to support us in responding to the needs of those pupils who are disaffected, dropping out or being excluded;
- g) strengthen and develop the collaborative arrangements that already exist within the Area Learning Community.

We would also welcome proposals on any other alternative arrangements which might have the potential to secure education provision in other parts of the Dioceses, e.g. in Brollagh and Irvinestown.



## Glossary Of Terms

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#### **Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education.**

*This is the representative body for diocesan and religious Trustees of all Catholic schools in Northern Ireland. Trustees set the general policy for Catholic schools, especially where that policy touches on ethos, the definitive character of Catholic schools and planning for the whole Catholic sector.*

**Website: [www.catholiceducation-ni.com](http://www.catholiceducation-ni.com)**

### Entitlement Framework.

*The Entitlement Framework is an integral part of young peoples' education within the Revised Curriculum for ages 14-19. The target date for full implementation of the Entitlement Framework is September 2013. From this date schools will be required to provide pupils with access to a minimum number of courses at age 14-19 [currently 24] and a minimum number of courses at post-16 [currently 27]. In both cases at least one third of the courses must be general [academic], at least one-third of the courses must be applied [vocational, professional, technical] and the remaining one-third is at the discretion of the school.*

**Website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)**

### Area Learning Communities.

*Schools working with other schools and with further education colleges in the development of learning communities to plan and co-ordinate collaborative provision [particularly for 14-19 students]. There are currently 29 area learning communities across Northern Ireland. **Website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)***

### Area Based Planning.

*Area based planning is about anticipating the future needs of an area and planning to meet those needs. Its central objective is to provide sufficient educational places through the appropriate mix of facilities of the right size, in the right locations. Area based planning has a broader focus than just schools and colleges. It covers youth services, early years provision, and can potentially include other community provision.*

### Sustainable Schools Policy.

*The Sustainable Schools policy 2009 sets out six criteria and associated indicators that provide a framework for helping to consider issues of school sustainability. These are quality education experience; stable enrolment trends which should be a minimum of 500 in an 11-16 school and 600 in an 11-19 school; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility and strong links with the community. **Website: [www.deni.gov.uk/a\\_policy\\_for\\_sustainable\\_schools](http://www.deni.gov.uk/a_policy_for_sustainable_schools)***

## How to give us your views

The views of all pupils, parents, staff and Governors on these proposals are very important.

Let us know how you view the proposals or whether you consider there are appropriate alternatives.

Your comments will ensure we have as broad a range of perspectives as possible before any final decisions are made.

### You can respond to this consultation:



#### **In writing**

Complete the consultation response form at the back of this document and return it to:

Clogher and Kilmore  
Post-primary Review  
Northern Ireland Commission  
for Catholic Education  
1 Killyman Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DE

#### **On-line**



Complete and submit the consultation response form for this project area at [www.pprce.org](http://www.pprce.org)

We will also accept written responses to the Post-primary Review address or by email to **[clogherkilmore@pprce.org](mailto:clogherkilmore@pprce.org)**

## What will happen next?

Once this consultation process is completed all responses will be analysed and a report provided to Trustees to facilitate the identification of their preferred option for post-primary education in the Catholic-managed sector and for each local project area. It is anticipated that the reports will be completed and made available by early autumn.

A preferred option in a local area will then go forward to a further stage of consideration and consultation.

**The consultation process will remain open for responses until the 31st May 2010.**