

Shaping the future of Catholic Education

Dioceses of Clogher and Kilmore

A pre - consultation paper on the future of Post-Primary Education
in the Clogher and Kilmore Dioceses

June 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Commission for Catholic Education
Post-Primary Review

FOREWORD

by Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Duffy DD



As Chair of the Project Board for the Post-Primary Review of the Dioceses of Clogher and Kilmore, I would like to express my support and gratitude for the work currently being undertaken in the review of post-primary provision within the Dioceses.

Schools within the two Dioceses have been challenged to review the delivery of both primary and post primary education and to design options and plans for the future. Catholic education, as you know, promotes the values of justice, peace, reconciliation, truth and understanding and it is vital that we continue to work together to provide academic excellence and competence, as well as moral, social and spiritual development and empowerment for all our pupils.

The project must address the need to work collaboratively with other education providers in the region for the mutual benefit of all pupils and with the ultimate aim of

improving choice for all parents and pupils who attend our schools. Catholic schools have a vital role to play in the continued development of a truly pluralist society in the North of Ireland and they are open and inclusive centres of learning.

The review has already clarified significant challenges for all of us if we are to maintain the pivotal role of the school in our parish communities. It is clear from the ongoing work that we need to meet these challenges with the ultimate aim of securing the long-term future of a sustainable and vibrant Catholic education community. I value this work and have asked the Review Group to develop solutions in conjunction with the Post-Primary Review Team.

We are now at a stage where decisions need to be made on a complex range of issues. The education of our young people affects us all, so it is very important that we consult as widely as possible to ensure that all options are considered. The options within this document represent a potential way forward but no decision has been made on a preferred option. Through this process we are keen to gather the views of the community on these options and to identify other options that can address the challenges we are facing. I would encourage you to consider these options carefully and to have your say on this vital issue.

Bishop Duffy

Background

Post-primary schools in the dioceses are facing a number of significant challenges that will require a fundamental review of the way we deliver post-primary education. These challenges include:

- A sustained reduction in pupil numbers leading to significant reductions in school funding
- 1200 spare places in the post-primary sector with a potential for the increase in this number by a further 600
- Significant curriculum changes including the requirement to increase access to a wider choice of subjects for all pupils through the Entitlement Framework which requires all post-primary schools to deliver access to 24 subjects at Key Stage 4 (14-16) and 27 subjects at post-16, at least one third of these subjects must be academic and at least one third vocational.
- Government policy on sustainable schools which indicates that post-primary schools should operate with a minimum number of 500 at 11-16, 100 at post-16.

As well as addressing curriculum change and government policy this consultation process must look at the future size of schools and whether there should actually be fewer schools. A number of schools within the two dioceses are already facing the prospect of significant rationalisation in the next few years and this will impact across the whole of the Catholic post-primary sector. It is essential therefore to ensure that any changes are planned in a structured and inclusive way in order to ensure optimal educational outcomes for all pupils into the future without the loss of the strengths of our current system.

Schools involved in the Project

The schools involved in the project:

Mount Lourdes Grammar School, Enniskillen

St Aidan's High School, Derrylin

St Comhgall's High School, Lisnaskea

St Eugene's College, Roslea

St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen

St John's High School, Dromore*

St Joseph's College, Enniskillen

St Mary's High School, Brollagh

St Mary's College, Irvinestown

St Michael's College, Enniskillen

*Given its proximity to Omagh, St John's Dromore will become part of an upcoming post-primary project in the Omagh area. However, the school will still remain within the trusteeship of the Diocese of Clogher and will have a significant role to play in Post Primary Education within the Diocese.

Management of the Project

A Project Board - which provides the overall direction for the Clogher and Kilmore Project:

- Rev Dr Joseph Duffy, Bishop of Clogher
- Rev Dr Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore
- Trustees from across the two Dioceses

A Review Group - which reviews the activities of the project and provides professional comment on potential outcomes:

- Principals of all post-primary schools in the Dioceses of Clogher and Kilmore
- Board of Governor representatives from all post-primary schools in the Dioceses of Clogher and Kilmore
- Representatives of primary sector in Dioceses of Clogher and Kilmore

A Project Support Team

The project has been supported by staff from the **Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education** which represents the senior trustees of all Catholic-managed schools in Northern Ireland.

What are we looking to achieve?

The Review Group has been assessing the impact of financial, demographic and curriculum change on the ten schools within the two dioceses and attempting to develop options for future provision which will deliver sustainable Catholic-managed schools with a strong Catholic ethos which can work with other sectors to deliver:

- An 11-19 framework of quality provision which guarantees access to a curriculum which will meet the needs of all pupils within the context of the Entitlement Framework
- An education framework which facilitates an effective education continuum from primary through post-primary to third level education and employment
- A framework which enjoys the full support of all key stakeholders

This work has involved research into different structures of delivery, study visits to other areas where the challenges have been successfully addressed, consultation with other education sectors, and production of papers on innovative delivery models.

Too many of our schools are facing financial difficulties which are impacting negatively on the ability to deliver the required range of subjects. Consequently the Review Group and Project Board have produced a range of new delivery options which they believe may address the challenges the schools are facing. These include

- 11-14 and 14-19 schools
- 4-14 schools in some rural areas
- 11-16 schools and a potential 6th form college
- 11-19

Greater detail on these options is provided within this document and more detailed information on the project and the work of the Commission can be found at www.pprce.org

Key Principles of Project

The following principles must underpin all of the options for consideration:

Pupil comes first

The fundamental principle underlying the Clogher/Kilmore project has been that the child should be at the centre of all future post-primary provision.

Consistency

The agreed option must provide for a consistent system across the two dioceses in terms of admission criteria, school transfer age etc.

Ethos

The agreed option should preserve and develop the Catholic ethos. Schools will also be encouraged to collaborate in a professional and appropriate manner with other sectors in a process which underpins the Catholic ethos and which recognizes the benefits of collaboration.

Equality of opportunity

All pupils, regardless of location, must have equal access to resources - teaching, curriculum, financial, administrative and pastoral.

Shared Future

All options considered will take account of the key principles underpinning a Shared Future and will, where possible, encourage trust and good relations between all communities and ethnic backgrounds.

OPTION 1

11-14/14-19

St Michael's/Mount Lourdes

14-19

(Enrolment: 1100)

11-14 College 1 - Lisnaskea

St Comhghall's High School, Lisnaskea
St Eugene's High School, Roslea
St Aidan's High School, Derrylin

(Enrolment:400)

11-14 College 2 - Enniskillen

St Fanchea's College
St Joseph's College
St Michael's College (11-14)
Mount Lourdes (11-14)
St Mary's High School, Irvinestown
St Mary's High School, Brollagh

(Enrolment:750)

Summary Explanation

Within this option two **11-14 non-selective colleges** would be developed. One college would be based at the St Comhghall's site in Lisnaskea, (which has the capacity for increased numbers and the potential for further development) and would admit all pupils from the current feeder primary schools for St Comhghall's, St Eugene's, Roslea and St Aidan's, Derrylin.

The Enniskillen college would cater for all pupils in Enniskillen and the current feeder primary schools for St Mary's Irvinestown and St Mary's Brollagh.

At age 14 (end of Key Stage 3) all pupils would transfer to a **14-19 college** in Enniskillen based around the two sites of St Michaels and Mount Lourdes. **There are a number of options for the location of the Enniskillen 14-19 site and we are seeking your views on these options.**

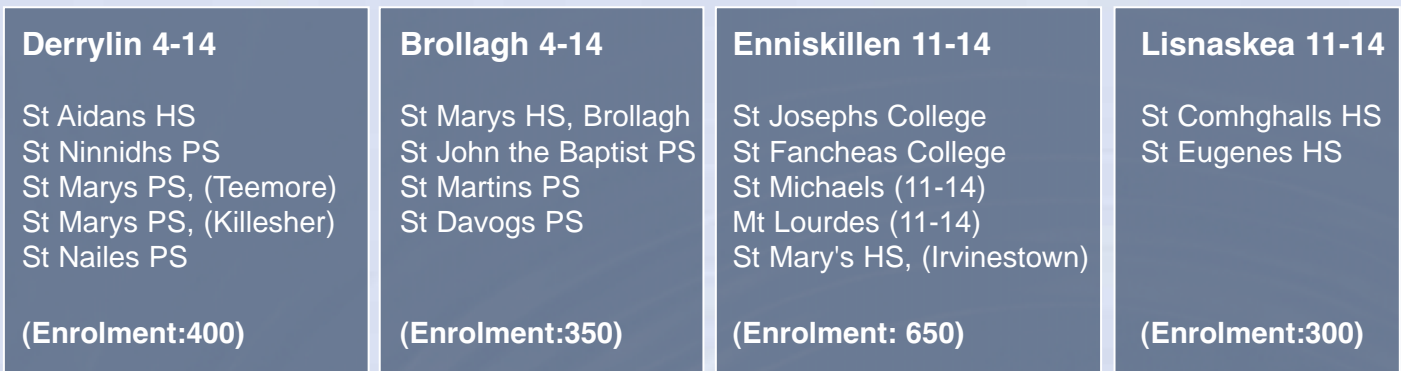
Key points to note

- At 11-14 (Key Stage 3) all pupils would have access to a common curriculum which would focus on developing learning skills and identifying pupils' strengths and areas for improvement.
- At the end of Key Stage 3, based on skills and learning developed in the previous 3 years pupils, parents and teachers would take decisions on choices for 14-16 (Key Stage 4). Pupils would be offered access to 24 subjects and could opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both. At Key Stage 4 all options would be delivered by the 14-19 college, although there may be an element of collaboration with other sectors.
- All post-16 pupils would be offered access to 27 subjects and could opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both. Options would be delivered by the 14-19 college, although there may be an element of collaboration with other sectors.

OPTION 1A 11-14/14-19 (Incorporating 4-14)

St Michael's/Mount Lourdes 14-19

(Enrolment: 1100)



Summary Explanation

This option differs from Option 1 in that it includes the potential for developing a 4-14 model. The 4-14 model brings together primary and post-primary into a single institution. 4-14 is an innovative model of schooling, but is actually the norm in many European countries. We are still carrying out research on the curriculum and financial viability of the 4-14 model in Clogher and Kilmore. Within this project we have focused initial research on Derrylin and Brollagh. However, if the outcome of our research indicates that the 4-14 model can deliver a viable and sustainable school which delivers the Key Stage 3 curriculum, consideration would be given to developing this model in other areas of the Dioceses.

Key points to note

- A 4-14 model would require rationalisation of the primary sector. In the option above the 4 primary schools in the Derrylin area would merge with St Aidan's High School and the three primary schools in Brollagh would merge with St Mary's High School.
- As with Option 1, all pupils would transfer to the 14-19 college at the end of Key Stage 3 and 14-19 arrangements would be the same as Option 1.

OPTION 2 11-16/16-19

16-19 delivery in Enniskillen

Option 1 - Single 6th Form College
Option 2 - Joint delivery in Mt Lourdes and St Michaels
(Enrolment: 450)



11-16 College 1 - Lisnaskea

St Comhghall's HS, Lisnaskea
St Eugene's HS, Roslea
St Aidan's HS, Derrylin

(Enrolment:650)

11-16 College 2 - Enniskillen

St Fanchea's College
St Joseph's College
St Michael's College
Mount Lourdes
St Mary's HS, (Irvinestown)
St Mary's HS, (Brollagh)

(Enrolment:1200)

Summary Explanation

Implementation of this option would result in the establishment of two **non-selective 11-16 colleges**, with the development of a **6th form centre or 6th form college** in Enniskillen. St Comhghall's site in Lisnaskea (which has the capacity for increased numbers and the potential for further development) would admit all pupils from the current feeder primary schools for St Comhghall's, St Eugene's Roslea and St Aidan's Derrylin. The Enniskillen college would cater for all pupils in Enniskillen and the current feeder primary schools for St Mary's Irvinestown and St Mary's Brollagh. At post-16 (end of Key Stage 4) all pupils who wish to do so would transfer to a 16-19 college in Enniskillen based around the two sites of St Michael's and Mount Lourdes. This could be part of the 11-16 Enniskillen college or a separate 6th Form college. **There are a number of options for the location of the Enniskillen 11-16 and post-16 sites and we are seeking your views on these options.**

Key points to note

- The two 11-16 colleges would be separate institutions. However, in order to deliver access to the 24 subject choices at Key Stage 4, both colleges would collaborate fully with each other and with other education sectors. All pupils can opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both.
- All post-16 pupils would be offered access to 27 subjects and can opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both. Options would be delivered by the college in Enniskillen, although there may be an element of collaboration with other sectors.

OPTION 3 11-19

11-19 College 1 - Lisnaskea

St Comhghall's HS, (Lisnaskea)
St Eugene's HS, (Roslea)
St Aidan's HS, (Derrylin)

(Enrolment:800)

11-19 College 2 - Enniskillen

St Fanchea's College
St Joseph's College
St Michael's College
Mount Lourdes
St Mary's HS, (Irvinestown)
St Mary's HS, (Brollagh)

(Enrolment:1500)

Summary Explanation

Implementation of this option would result in the establishment of two **non-selective 11-19 colleges**. St Comhghall's site in Lisnaskea (which has the capacity for increased numbers and the potential for further development) would admit all pupils from the current feeder primary schools for St Comhghall's, St Eugene's Roslea and St Aidan's Derrylin. The Enniskillen college would cater for all pupils in Enniskillen and the current feeder primary schools for St Mary's Irvinestown and St Mary's Brollagh. **There are a number of options for the location of the Enniskillen 11-19 College and we are seeking your views on these options.**

Key points to note

- The two 11-19 colleges would be separate institutions. However, in order to deliver access to the 24 subject choices at Key Stage 4, both colleges would collaborate fully with each other and with other education sectors. All pupils can opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both.
- All post-16 pupils will be offered access to 27 subjects and can opt for academic or vocational subjects or a mix of both. Options would be delivered by both colleges working in collaboration, although there may be an element of collaboration with other sectors.

What will happen next?

The Project Board believes that the options detailed in this document will deliver sustainable schools which will meet the many challenges facing the Catholic-managed post-primary sector in the two dioceses. This pre-consultation process provides an opportunity for the community and other key stakeholders to influence the development of these options and to identify other options.

The Project Board will consider any alternative options which address the challenge of developing sustainable post-primary education which meet the needs of all children within the two Dioceses. Any final decision on future structures will only be made after a further formal consultation process with parents, pupils and other key stakeholders within the community and in the context of clear direction from government on the future of post-primary education across Northern Ireland.

Greater detail on all aspects of the project can be found at the www.pprce.org

How to give us your views

You can respond to this consultation in a number of ways:

- Complete the detachable sheet and return it to the address below:

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

- Email - clogherkilmore@pprce.org
- Download the pre-consultation document from www.pprce.org

To order a further copy of the pre-consultation document please phone **028 8775 1500**. Responses to the consultation process must be received by **Friday 28th September 2007**. Acknowledgements will only be sent upon request with your full contact details supplied.

This document is available in different formats and languages upon request.

Commission for Catholic Education

Post-Primary Review

Please complete, detach and return to:

Clogher/Kilmore Post Primary Review
Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education
1 Killyman Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DE

In this **pre-consultation** stage we would like to have your views on the issues set out in this booklet. This is **NOT** a vote on options, but we will use your responses to shape the way forward for the consultation and ultimately any recommendations we make.

Are you responding to this consultation as a:

Parent / Teacher (Please cross out one)

Primary **Which school?** _____

Secondary **Which school?** _____

Please tick if you are

Governor **Which school?** _____

School Staff **Which school?** _____

Other (please specify) _____

Your postcode please: _____

Please provide your comments on each of the options presented, in particular identifying any particular strengths and weaknesses or areas of concern.

OPTION 1

General Comments

Views on location of colleges:

11-14 in Lisnaskea

11-14 in Enniskillen

14-19 in Enniskillen

OPTION 2 11-16/16-19

General Comments including the potential for development of a 6th form college

Views on location of colleges:

11-16 in Lisnaskea

11-16 in Enniskillen

16-19 in Enniskillen
