



CCMS
Council for Catholic
Maintained Schools

Area Plan for Primary Education

Roan St Patrick's Primary School, Eglish (503-2591)

**Pre-publication Consultation Response Booklet for
Parents, Staff and Members of the Board of Governors**

Closing Date: 30 January 2023 at 4pm

INTRODUCTION

What is contained in this consultation response booklet?

CCMS consults with parents/guardians; governors; and staff, on any proposed change to a school before it makes a final decision on the proposal. If a decision is made to proceed with the proposal it will go to public consultation which is another opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Department of Education has produced detailed guidance on development proposals, which is how changes to schools are made. The guidance is available on the DE's website.¹

This booklet outlines issues facing the school and potential options to address the issues. It describes the proposal CCMS believes will ensure the future of high-quality primary education in the area. The booklet contains relevant information for consultees. Consultees can contact CCMS if they require further information.

Pupils may also be consulted on the proposal. If pupils are to be consulted, it will be in a manner determined by the school. This will ensure that the consultation is undertaken in an age-appropriate manner and delivered by professionals who know the needs of the pupils.

What is the proposal for the school?

The proposal for the school is as follows.

Roan St Patrick's Primary School will increase its approved admissions number from 12 to 22 and its enrolment number from 83 to 154 from 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Where did this proposal come from?

The proposal has come from discussions between representatives of the school, CCMS and the Armagh Diocesan Trustees. The proposal is focused on the challenges facing the area, such as population changes as well the best way to address the educational needs of the area.

The school is consistently above its approved admissions/enrolment number and consistently applies for temporary variations (see table 2).

What happens once this pre-publication consultation finishes?

Once the consultation finishes the responses will be reviewed. A decision will then be made on whether or not to proceed with the proposal. If any consultee provides an alternative option this will be considered.

If CCMS makes a decision to progress the proposal, it does not necessarily mean the proposal will be accepted by the DE. The Education Authority (EA) will carry out a consultation on the proposal with local schools and an 8-week public objection period on the proposal. The DE will take into account all information received from consultees during this time and make a proposal to the Education Minister who will make the decision on the proposal.

¹ <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201709-guidance-publication-development-proposal-updated-september-2018>

What is the government's policy on area planning?

The aim of the DE Area Planning Strategy is to ensure the development of a network of sustainable schools across Northern Ireland. It states that schools should be able to provide access to a range of education provision that is appropriate to the needs of pupils.² Its strategy 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 his/her needs;
- access to quality teaching delivered in a caring and supportive environment; and
- an education delivered in modern, well-resourced facilities, suitable for the provision of education in the twenty-first century.

Are there any primary school planning issues in the area?

Within the parish of Eglisish in the Archdiocese of Armagh there are two Catholic maintained co-educational primary schools, namely Derrylatinee St. Francis Primary School (503 2387) and Roan St. Patrick's Primary Schools (503 2591).

Derrylatinee St. Francis PS is approximately 2.5 miles east from Roan St. Patrick's PS. The 2021/22 intake at Derrylatinee PS was 14 and the enrolment is 106, both lower than for Roan St Patrick's (22 and 158 respectively).

BACKGROUND TO SCHOOL

What is the background to the school?

Roan St Patrick's is a Catholic Maintained co-educational primary school in a rural setting 4 miles south-west of Dungannon on the Killyliss Road in the village of Eglisish, 170 metres from St Patrick's Church. The school was established in 1912.

What is the pattern of enrolment at the school?

The approved admission and enrolment numbers for Roan St Patrick's PS are 12 and 89 respectively.

The following table show that the enrolment in Roan St Patrick's Primary School over the last 10 years has been significantly over-subscribed.

² <https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/providing-pathways-strategic-area-plan-2017-2020>

*Approved Admissions/Enrolment Numbers for Roan St Patrick's Primary School = 12/89
No of full-time teacher equivalents = 8.0*

School Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Total (Y1-Y7)
2013/14	11	20	16	19	20	12	18	116
2014/15	19	12	21	16	19	20	12	119
2015/16	17	20	13	21	17	19	20	127
2016/17	15	18	20	12	21	17	18	121
2017/18	30	14	19	18	23	20	17	131
2018/19	19	29	14	19	18	12	20	131
2019/20	28	19	30	14	19	17	13	140
2020/21	22	29	19	30	14	20	17	151
2021/22	22	23	30	19	30	14	20	158
2022/23	26	23	23	31	19	31	15	168

Table 1: Roan St Patrick's PS Enrolment Statistics *Source: DE Census*

* The enrolment figure includes supernumerary pupils (which are pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs).

The table below shows the TVs granted to Roan St Patrick's PS in the last 5 school years.

	Approved Admissions Number	Approved Enrolment Number	Admissions Places Requested	Enrolment Places Requested	Admissions Places Approved	Enrolment Places Approved
2018/19	12	83	8	-	7	-
2019/20	12	83	16	5	16	3
2020/21	12	83	9	3	9	3
2021/22	12	83	10	3	10	2
2022/23	12	83	15	4	14	4

Table 2: Temporary Variations: *DE Normalising – Primary and Post-Primary Schools TVs approved for denominational maintained sector*

*Excludes stated pupils and those admitted by appeal

What are the main reasons why this proposal is being brought forward?

1. Ministerial Priority

On 9th August 2021, the Education Minister set the priorities for the current Regional Area Plan.

It is incumbent upon the managing authorities and sectoral body representatives to scope and bring forward proposals to address the issue of primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups. Despite the best efforts of teachers, it becomes more difficult to deliver a high-quality education if pupils are taught in composite classes of more than two year-groups. I would like to see shared solutions coming forward which maintain education provision in communities where unsustainable schools exist and this focus should be on creating a vibrant sustainable primary school where each pupil is in a class with a single year group.³

³ Setting the Priorities for the Next Regional Area Plan for the Education Sector in Northern Ireland. 9 August 2021.

The Department of Education has specified a preference, across the system to consolidate provision to provide where possible 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s).

Roan St Patrick’s PS is currently operating a 7 individual class base school in 2022/23 and this proposal therefore maintains the strong educational provision within Eglisish and meets the Minister’s priority. In addition, the proposed increase in numbers in Roan St Patrick’s PS is conservative, to ensure it does not impact on the sustainability of Derrylatinee PS.

2. Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020

This proposal addresses the objectives of the SSP and in particular it “aims to ensure all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs in sustainable schools within a diverse system of education.”⁴ This proposal addresses the sustainability issues in the area, as determined by the DE’s Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP).

3. Population

What might the numbers in Roan St Patrick’s PS be in the future?

The annual number of live births within the local electoral ward area(s) is helpful in predicting trends in a school’s future enrolments. The enrolment may be impacted on by various factors including parental choice. As one or more of the wards used may extend beyond the school’s traditional catchment area, some children may attend a primary school in a neighbouring ward, some children from outside the ward(s) may attend the primary school, some children may leave the ward(s) before reaching compulsory school age and some children born outside the ward(s) may take up residence in the ward(s)

Electoral Ward (Pre 2014)	Resident Live Births in Each Academic Year										
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Caledon		41	53	35	53	39	49	41	39	36	44
Year Group in Oct. 2022			Yr.1	Yr.2	Yr. 3	Yr. 3	Yr. 5	Yr.6	Yr. 7		
Electoral Ward (Post 2014)	Resident Live Births in Each Academic Year										
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Caledon	77	67	60	53	64	61	65	65	55		
Year Group in Oct. 2022			Yr.1	Yr.2	Yr.3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Yr.6	Yr. 7		
Year Group Enrolments in Roan St. Patrick’s PS Oct. 2022			26	23	23	31	19	31	15		

Table 3: Resident Live Births by Academic Year in the Caledon Ward Area

⁴ The Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 p6.

Roan St Patrick’s has been operating for many years significantly in excess of its approved intake and enrolment numbers with a steadily increasing admissions and enrolment (see Table 1). Enrolment is predicted by the school to grow further in 2022-23 from 168 (2021-22) to 175. CCMS are proposing an increased admissions figure from 12 to 22 and enrolment number from 83 to 154.

Given the proximity to Roan St Patrick’s PS, within 2.5 miles of Derrylatinee St. Francis PS, analysis was carried out on the overall need in the area.

Enrolments at October 2021 School Census

The enrolments by year group (including stated pupils) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and in Roan St. Patrick’s PS at the school census date in October 2021 in Table 4

DENI Ref. No.	Primary School	Enrolments Including Stated Pupils								Enrolment Number	Spare Capacity
		Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Yr. 6	Yr. 7	Total Yrs. 1-7		
5032387	Derrylatinee St. Francis PS	14	16	13	13	14	9	11	90	106	16
5032591	Roan St. Patrick’s PS	22	23	30	19	30	14	20	158	83	-75
Total		36	39	43	32	44	23	31	248	189	-59

Table 4 Enrolment By Year Group in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and in Roan St. Patrick’s PS at the October 2021 enrolment census

The average combined enrolment in Years 1-3 (i.e. 39.3) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick’s PS is higher than the average combined enrolment in Years 5-7 (i.e. 32.7), suggesting that the schools are operating within an area with an increasing primary school age population.

While the combined year group enrolment in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick’s PS at the October 2021 school census was 35.4, the combined Year Group 3 enrolment (43) and the combined Year Group 5 enrolment (44) both exceeded 40 pupils.

Spare Capacity

At the October 2021 school census date, Derrylatinee St. Francis PS was operating with a pupil enrolment (90) lower than the school’s enrolment number (106), while Roan St. Patrick’s PS was operating with an enrolment (158) significantly in excess of its enrolment number (83). The total number of pupils in the two primary schools exceeded the schools’ combined enrolment number (106 + 83) by 59 pupils (i.e., 31.2%).

Long Term Enrolments

The estimated combined Long-Term Enrolment (LTE) for Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick’s PS, based on the Year 1-3 enrolments at the October 2021 school census, is 275.3 (i.e. (36+39+43) x7/3), significantly higher than their combined enrolment (248) at the October 2021 school census.

The estimated Long-Term Enrolment for each of the two primary schools is;

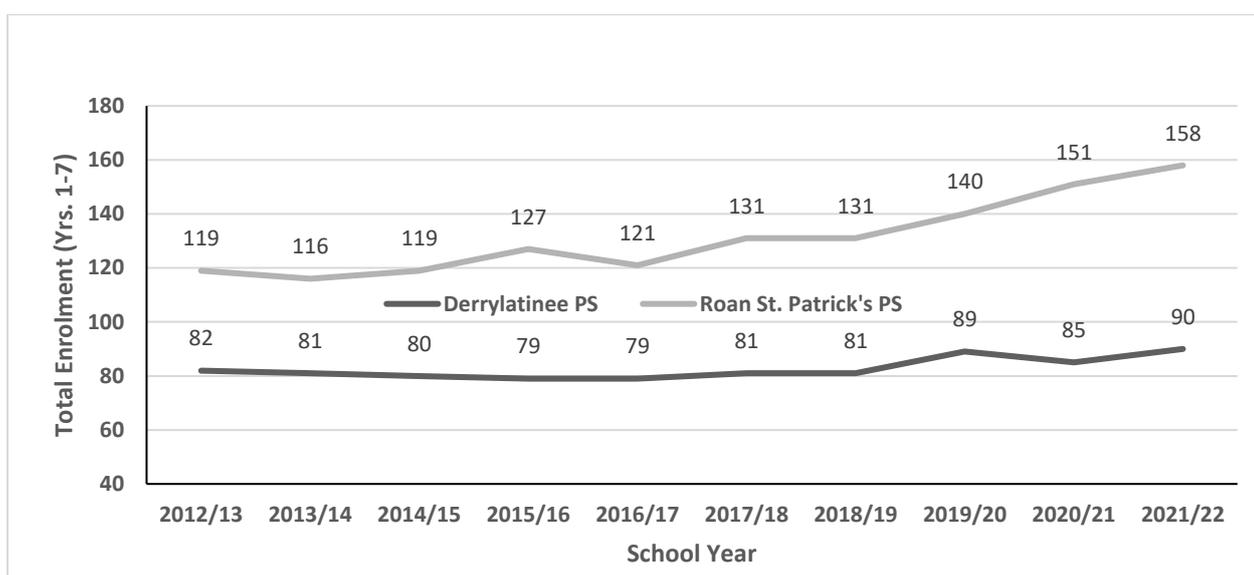
Derrylatinee St. Francis PS: Est. LTE = (14+16+13) x 7/3 = 100.3

Roan St. Patrick's PS:

$$\text{Est. LTE} = (22+23+30) \times 7/3 = 175$$

Change in Comparative Total Pupil Enrolments by School Year

Graph 1 provides a profile of the change in the total pupil enrolments (Years 1-7) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS over the 10 years from 2012/13 school year. Over the seven years from the 2012/13 school year the average pupil enrolments (Yrs. 1-7) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS were 80.4 and 123.4 respectively. Over the following three years to the 2021/22 school year, the average pupil enrolments (Yrs. 1-7) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS were 88.0 and 149.7 respectively (i.e. the average enrolments in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and in Roan St. Patrick's PS increased by 9.4% and 21.3% respectively from the seven years to the 2018/19 school year to the three years to the 2021/22 school year).



Graph 1 Total Enrolments (Yrs. 1-7) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS

Location of Pupils' Homes

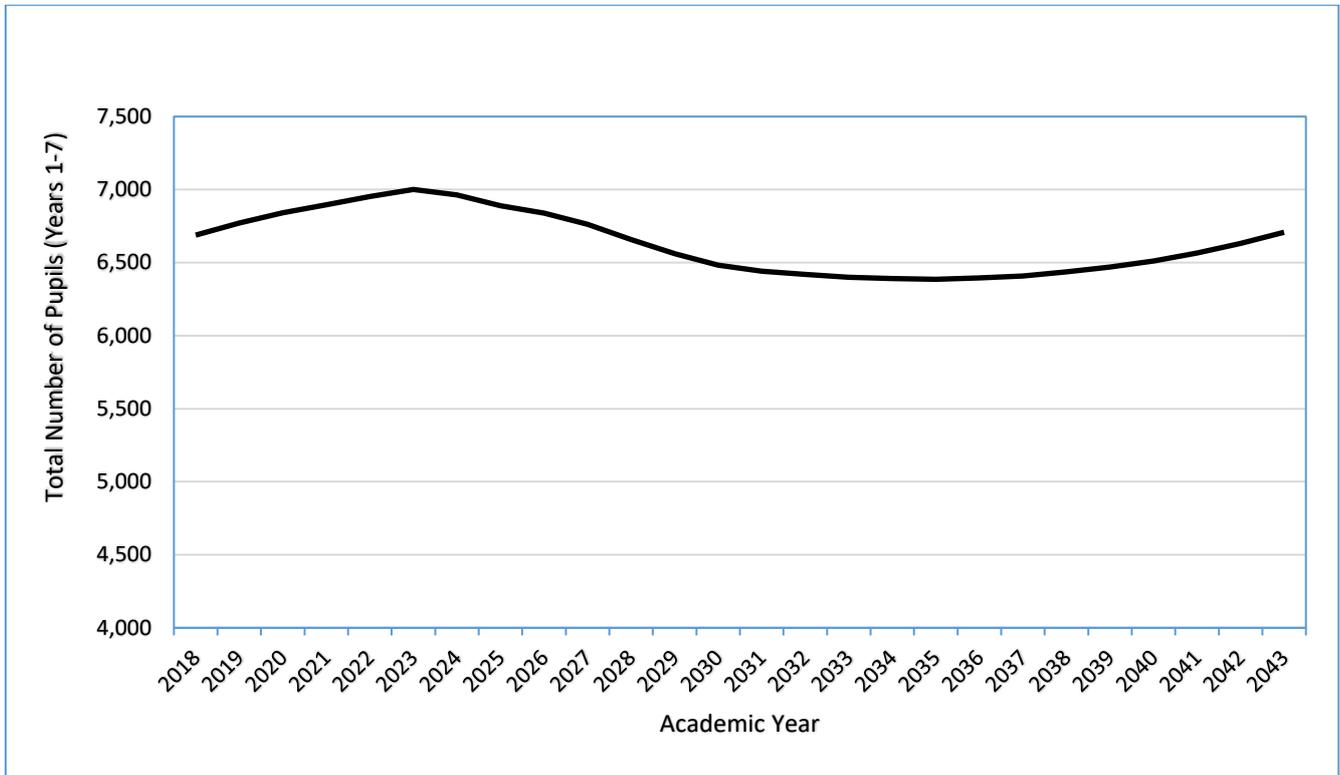
Admissions Criteria

Within their published criteria for admission to Year 1 in Sept. 2022, both Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS are giving priority to those children for whom their respective school is the Catholic maintained primary school nearest to the children's homes. As such it would be expected that each school would cater mainly for children living within its local area.

Area Pupil Population Projections

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency: 2018 Based Population Estimates

As stated in the previous section, prior to the reorganisation of local government districts, both Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS were in the former Dungannon LGD. The profiles of the anticipated demand for primary school places (all denominations) in the former Dungannon LGD, derived using population estimates provided by Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), are presented in Graph 2.



Graph 2 Est Primary Age Population (Years 1-7) in the Former Dungannon LGD -2018 Based

The total primary school population (all denominations) in the former Dungannon Local Government District is projected to increase from 6688 pupils in the 2018 academic year to a maximum of 7001 pupils in the 2023 academic year, to drop to a minimum of 6396 pupils in the 2036 academic year (i.e. 8.64% fall), and then to rise to 6708 pupils in the 2043 academic year.

Live Births in Electoral Wards Observations

1. The two Catholic maintained coeducational primary schools, that provide primary education for children living within the Parish of English, are located 2.5 miles of each other.
2. The average combined enrolment in Years 1-3 (i.e. 39.3) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS is higher than the average combined enrolment in Years 5-7 (i.e. 32.7), suggesting that the schools are operating within an area with an increasing primary school age population.
3. At the school census in October 2021, Roan St. Patrick's PS was operating with a total enrolment (158) that significantly exceeded the school's enrolment number (83) and Derrylatinee St. Francis PS was operating with spare capacity (16 places).
4. The estimated LTE for Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and for Roan St. Patrick's PS, based on each school's Year 1-3 enrolments are 100.3 and 175.0 respectively.
5. Over the 10-year period from the 2012/13 school year, the enrolment (Years 1-7) in Derrylatinee St. Francis PS increased from 82 to 90 (9.8% increase) and the enrolment (Years 1-7) in Roan St. Patrick's PS increased from 119 to 158 (32.8%)

6. The number of pupils admitted to Year 1 in the Derrylatinee St. Francis PS and Roan St. Patrick's PS decreased from Sept. 2019 to Sept. 2021 (i.e. from 44 to 36), but the schools received a total of 40 first preference applications for admission to Year 1 in Sept. 2022.
7. Given the analysis carried out, it is reasonable to consider an amended admissions/enrolment of 22/154 for Roan St Patrick's PS to also ensure there is a large enough population to facilitate Derrylatinee St Francis to grow to a sustainable number.

Finances

Schools receive delegated budgets and have the authority to determine expenditure from these budgets. Guidance for schools requires that they should not accumulate surpluses or deficits in excess of 5% of their delegated budget or £75,000, whichever is the lesser. A copy of the Annual Area Profile for 2021 is attached at Appendix 1.

Table 3 provides information from Roan St Patrick's PS's 3-year financial plan 2022/23-2024/25. A financial surplus of £115,277 at the end of the 2021/22 financial year is projected to decrease to a surplus of £67,261 in 2023/24. The plan indicates the surplus will fall to £48,794 at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. These calculations are based on pupil enrolments of 163 in October 2022, 169 in October 2023 and 159 in October 2024 (Yr. 1– Yr. 7).

Roan St Patrick's PS: 3 Year Financial Plan 2022-25			
Year	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25
Projected Enrolment	163	169	159
Planned Pupil/Teacher ratio	20.38	25.61	24.09
Total Budget	532,336	545,569	561,448
Total Expenditure	616,519	593,584	579,916
Closing Balance	115,277	67,261	48,794
% Carry over	15.8%	10.2%	7.8%

Table 3 School Financial Plan 2022-24

The teaching complement has been increased to 8 FTE staff to create a 7 class school but will revert to 6.6 FTE in September 2023.

Quality Educational Provision (ETI Inspection Reports)

The inspection outcomes for Roan St Patrick's in September 2013 were:

Overall Performance Level	Outstanding
Achievements and Standards	Outstanding
Provision	Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Outstanding

The report concluded:

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

Subsequently, a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (SII) conducted in November 2016 concluded that:

Roan St Patrick Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained self-improvement in the interest of the children. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement⁵.

More recently, in January 2020, a further inspection was carried out. However, as it was conducted during Action Short of Strike and non-cooperation by the teachers in inspection, the report was unable to give an overall effectiveness level for the school.

The report stated, however:

A group of year 6 and year 7 children met with the inspector. They spoke positively about the variety of learning and cultural experiences made available by the school including project-based activities, football, camogie and cookery. The children reported that they are benefitting from the school's focus on supporting their well-being and mental health and they expressed clearly how the school promotes an inclusive ethos. The children reported that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership skills through, for example, membership of the school council, the house system and the eco-committee.

The children report that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. They are well-informed about how to stay safe online and about safety on a farm.

Furthermore, the school has furnished a comprehensive statement of at least sixteen initiatives reflecting the very broad extent of the involvement of the school within the local community.

⁵ This report is based on a note compiled by Peter P Mc Alister of CCMS on 23rd November 2016. According to the ETI website, the SII report does not appear and *may not* have been officially published.

RATIONALE

The proposal to increase admissions and enrolment in Roan St Patrick's PS will support an area planning solution in addressing issues of sustainability and ensuring that school places are located as required. This is consistent with Every School a Good School (ESaGS), the SSP and 'Providing Pathways'.

An increase in the approved enrolment will enable access for children whose nearest school is Roan St Patrick's Primary. It will thus assist the school in promoting "good relationships that facilitate engagement and communication between the school and its parents and the wider community that it serves" (ESaGS indicator).

The resources at the school can be managed properly and effectively with an increase in enrolment. The increase in enrolment allows for greater peer interaction and affords the opportunity for management to provide the children with a greater range of teacher specialisms within appropriate school accommodation to meet their needs.

Roan St Patrick's PS has been deemed to already provide an outstanding quality education and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement over time. An increase in enrolment will assist management in meeting effectively the educational needs of every child in an appropriate learning environment.

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

What would the educational impact of the proposed change be?

CCMS is proposing to increase the admission and enrolment numbers at Roan St Patrick's Primary School. Roan St Patrick's PS is already a sustainable and growing school. Pupils will have sustained access to a broad and balanced curriculum, be in larger classes, mixing with their peers.

IMPLEMENTATION

What happens if the Department of Education approves the change proposed?

Staffing

Staffing levels would remain commensurate with the number of pupils attending the school.

Buildings

An assessment would need to be carried out to ensure the accommodation meets the needs of a school with an enrolment of 154.

What is the timeline for the consultation and approval process?

CCMS is required to publish a development proposal outlining the proposed changes to a school. The timetable below is provisional and is subject to approval from CCMS to proceed

to public consultation. The timeline can also be impacted on by the Department of Education’s decision-making process.

Development Proposal Timeline	
Proposal: Consultation on the future of	Proposed Timeline
Consultation with Governors, Staff, Parents/Guardians	December 2023
Consultation Responses to be forwarded to the CCMS	January 2023
Responses will be considered and presented to CCMS Education Provision Committee along with a recommendation	April 2023
CCMS forward a case for change with a proposal to the EA for publication.	April 2023
4 weeks affected schools consultation	TBC
Case for Change to be taken to the Education Authority’s Education Committee for consideration. If approved, a development proposal will be published in the local newspapers commencing a two-month statutory objection period.	TBC
Statutory Objection Period (2 months) Objections/comments to be forwarded to the Department of Education	TBC
Await Ministerial/Department of Education Decision	TBC
Implementation If approved, the Development Proposal would take effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.	

Table 4: Development Proposal Timeline

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Duty

Equality screening of this proposal has been carried out. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities advises “*The first duty is the Equality of Opportunity duty, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without*” (p7). The evidence received to date suggests that there are no major impacts on the protected groups within Section 75 Northern Ireland Act 1998. The final screening document will be available, if the proposal progresses and reaches the public objection period.

The information above is presented as part of the consultation with staff, the Board of Governors, parents/carers and pupils of Roan St Patrick’s PS. This ensures information is received from the impacted stakeholders on all matters. CCMS will review feedback from stakeholders, and give them due regard, prior to the decision on whether to proceed with this proposal.

Rural Needs Act

Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 ('the Act') requires public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or reviewing a policy, strategy or plan and when designing or delivering a public service. The areas from which Roan St Patrick's PS attracts pupils is, according to the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group, defined as rural. Therefore, CCMS must take "due regard".

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.

The intention of this proposal is to advance the aspirations, aims and objectives of the SSP: "It is important that children in rural communities have access to a quality education in cost effective provision."⁶

HOW TO RESPOND

CCMS is seeking your views on the proposal with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. CCMS would encourage you to respond by using the online version of the pre-publication consultation questionnaire via:

[Click here to access the questionnaire.](#)

Or alternatively, you can e-mail written responses to:

consultation.roanstpatricks@ccmsschools.com

⁶ Schools for the Future – A Policy for Sustainable Schools (DENI 2009) p27.

APPENDIX 1 - Roan St Patrick's PS Annual Area Profile 2021

DE Ref No	School Name	Status	Council Area
5032591	Roan St Patrick's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	MID ULSTER

Annual Census Information			
Year	Total pupils Y1-Y7	IMU	FSME % ¹
2017/18	131	0	12.2%
2018/19	131	0	12.2%
2019/20	140	0	15.0%
2020/21	151	0	13.9%
Approved Reception-Year 7 enrolment number			83
Approved Reception-Year 7 admissions number			12
Year 1 Pupils 2020/21			22
First Preferences Applications 2020/21			20

Formal Intervention	
In formal intervention any period 1 April 2020-31 March 2021	

Budgets			
Year	Available Delegated Resources £	Surplus/Deficit £	Surplus/Deficit %
2017/18	411,582	-250	-0.06%
2018/19	399,445	19,127	4.79%
2019/20	439,300	51,669	11.76%

KEY TO SYMBOLS & TEXT USED IN DATA ABOVE	
Symbol/Text	Definition
*	Relates to fewer than 5 cases
**	Includes IMU
#	Means that a figure greater than or equal to 5 had been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere
-	School not open in the relevant academic year
1	Includes pupils in year 1-year 7 classes only