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## APPENDIX A – Rathcoole Patronage Report February 2020



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**An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills**

## **Patronage Assessment Report**

**School:** Newcastle\_Rathcoole/Rathcoole

**Level:** Primary

**Year:** 2020

**Size:** ~~8~~ classrooms

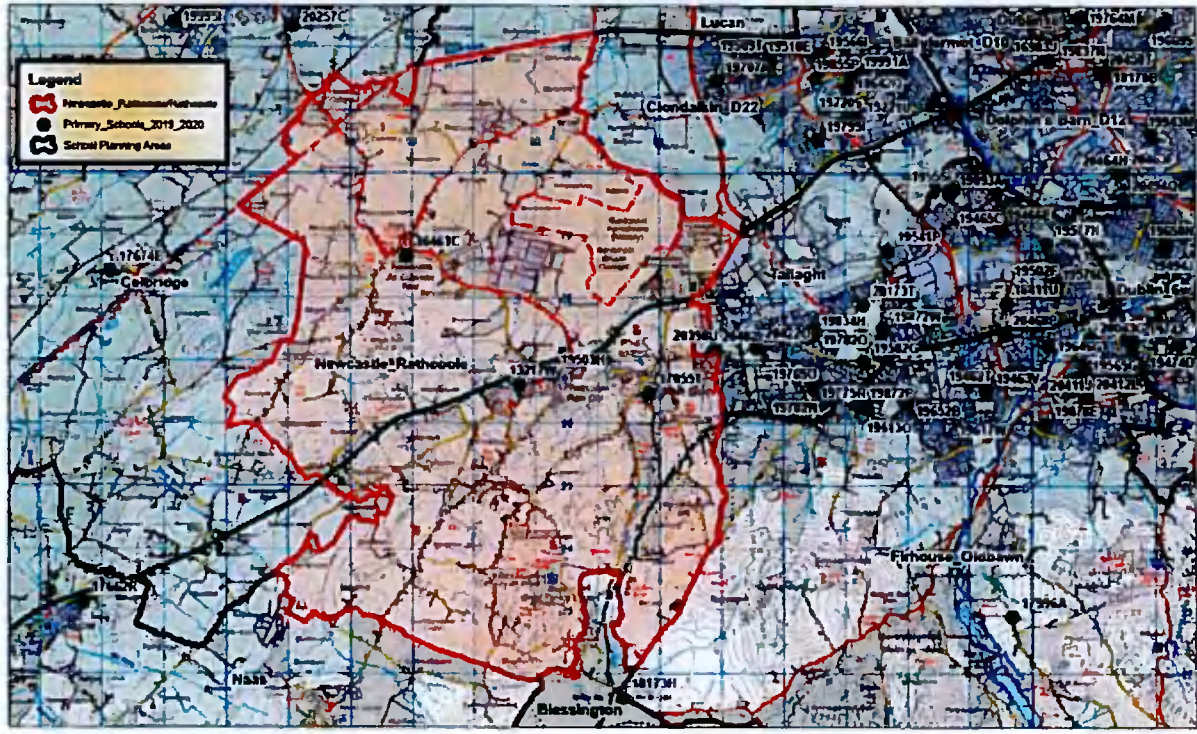
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**Report to the New Schools Establishment Group  
Department of Education & Skills  
February 2020**

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# 1. School Planning Area Map

Newcastle\_Rathcoole/Rathcoole School Planning Area







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An tSúil Éireannach  
Department of  
Education and Skills

## 2. Applications Received

Four applications were received from applicant patrons in respect of this school. A brief profile of the applicants together with a synopsis of the school type proposed is set out in the following table.

Applicant Patrons	Profile of Applicant	School type proposed		Number of primary schools currently under this patronage
	<p>An Foras Pátrúnachta is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron of a number of Irish-medium primary and post-primary schools throughout the country.</p>	Ethos:	Multi-Denominational	69
		Language of Instruction proposed:	Irish	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	N/A	
	<p>Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) is a statutory authority which has responsibility for managing and operating a range of education services including second-level schools and is patron of a number of primary and post-primary schools.</p>	Ethos:	Multi-Denominational	7
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	Irish	
	<p>Educate Together is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and the patron or representative organisation of a number of primary schools and post-primary schools throughout the country.</p>	Ethos:	Multi-Denominational	92
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	Irish	
	<p>Scoil Sinéad Ltd is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and is a new patron body for a primary school and a trustee partner in the management of a post-primary school.</p>	Ethos:	Multi-Denominational	1
		Language of Instruction proposed:	English	
		Also willing to offer (if sufficient demand):	Irish	

### **3. Demographic details**

As part of the 2018 demographic exercises it was projected that, arising from existing demographic demand, there would be a net requirement for 7.7 classrooms in the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area which could be accommodated in existing schools or through temporary accommodation / expansion of existing schools. Information received from the local authority on additional residential development in the school planning area indicated a potential requirement of some 4.7 classrooms and this was included in the overall net requirement of 7.7 classrooms.

In April 2018, the Government announced plans for the establishment of 42 new schools over the next four years (2019 to 2022), including a new 8 classroom primary school to serve the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area. The school was to be near Saggart/Citywest given the location of additional residential development in the school planning area.

It was announced in September 2019 that the new school for Newcastle\_Rathcoole/Saggart to be located in Citywest was to be pre-designated as a gaelscoil. As part of this announcement, the Department also indicated that as Rathcoole is an area of growing demographic demand and additional residential development, the potential need to establish an additional new primary school in Rathcoole was being actively reviewed.

Updated information which had been provided by the local authority in 2019 indicated a sharp increase in additional residential development in the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area which could lead to an additional requirement of some 35 additional primary classrooms, on the basis of some 2,700 additional residential units with current planning permission only, i.e. not including developments in the pre-planning phase.

It is not possible to determine precisely how many of these developments with planning permission will be delivered within the four year projection horizon of the demographic exercises or the timing of their delivery, or how many of the additional developments currently in pre-planning will proceed in the same period. However, should even half of those with current planning permission come to fruition within the period, this would equate to a need for an additional 17 primary classrooms, which could not be accommodated in the existing schools or in the new school in Citywest.

Information from patron bodies of schools in the area indicated that the Citywest school was unlikely to serve the population of Rathcoole from both a proximity perspective as well as a language perspective. There is a large gaelscoil already located in Rathcoole, but there is no gaelscoil in the Tallaght school planning area which is adjacent to Citywest/Saggart. Accordingly, it was anticipated that the Citywest school would be required to absorb demand coming from the Saggart area as well as the significant oncoming demand from the Citywest area, but would be unlikely to also absorb the oncoming demand in Rathcoole.

In light of the forecasted demand from demographics and planned additional residential development, and given that there is no scope to further expand existing schools in Rathcoole, in December 2019 an additional new primary school (8 classrooms) was announced to serve the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area to be established in 2020 and to be located in Rathcoole.

## 4. Assessment of applications

All patrons have agreed to the Patronage Commitments as set out in the Section D of the Patronage Application Form attached to main report.

The invitation letter to patrons, also attached to the main report, sets out in detail the:

- Arrangements for the Establishment and Patronage of New Primary Schools due to open in September 2020.
- General Information for Prospective Patrons; and
- Patron Code of Conduct

### 4.1 Patronage

#### 4.1.1 Existing Primary Provision

There are currently four\* primary schools in the Newcastle Rathcoole Rathcoole school planning area

Roll No	School Name	Patron	Ethos	Language	Gender	DEIS	Total Enrolments 2019/20
13217W	Holy Family National School	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	708
16461C	Caisleain Nua Liamhna	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	582
17055T	SN Naomh Mhuire	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	English	Mixed	N	703
19503H	Scoil Chronain	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	Irish	Mixed	N	409

\*An additional new primary school (designated Gaelscoil) is due to be established in the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area in Saggart/Citywest in 2020.

All of the four primary schools in the school planning area are Catholic.

All proposed models would increase diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.

#### 4.1.2 Parental Preferences

The table below sets out the valid first preferences received by each applicant patron:

Applicant Patron	Valid First Preferences
An Foras Pátrúnachta	10
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)	11
Educate Together	48
Scoil Sinéad Patron	4
<b>Total Valid First Preferences</b>	<b>73</b>

## 4.2 Language

### 4.2.1 Existing Provision

The following are the details of the Irish-medium gaelscoileanna located within the school planning area, and in the adjoining school planning areas.

#### A) Within the school planning area

There is currently 1 gaelscoil within the school planning area.

Roll No	School Name	School Planning Area	Patron	Ethos	Enrolment 2019/2020	Approx. distance from Rathcoole
19503H	Scoil Chrónáin	Newcastle_Rathcoole	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	409	1 km

A new Gaelscoil is due to be established in the school planning area in Saggart in 2020 (separate report is available on this school).

#### B) In adjoining school planning areas

There are 9 gaelscoileanna in the adjoining school planning areas.

Roll No	School Name	School planning area	Patron	Ethos*	Enrolment 2019/2020	Approx. distance from Rathcoole
19646G	Scoil Santain	Firhouse_Oldbawn	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	330	11 km
19855P	Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin	Clondalkin	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	441	8 km
19872P	Scoil Chaitllín Maude	Firhouse_Oldbawn	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	344	7 km
19940G	Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig	Lucan	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	454	11 km
19991A	Gaelscoil na Camóige	Clondalkin	Archbishop of Dublin	Catholic	244	8 km



20159C	Gaelscoil Nás na Ríogh	Naas	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Inter-D	419	18 km
20223I	Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada	Lucan	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Catholic	457	10 km
20243O	Gaelscoil na Lochanna	Blessington	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Inter-D	198	18 km
20412L	Gaelscoil Teach Giúise	Firhouse_ Oldbawn	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Multi-D	170	12 km

*\*Ethos : Multi-D = Multi-denominational, Inter-D = Interdenominational*

Attached at Appendix A to this report is a map of the school planning area and surrounding areas, including the locations of the above Irish-medium schools. The centre of Rathcoole is the centre point of the map, given the proposed location of the new school has yet to be confirmed.

#### 4.2.2 Parental Preferences

##### Breakdown of first preferences by preferred language of instruction

Language of Instruction Preferences	An Foras Pátrúnachta	Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)	Educate Together	Scoil Sinéad Patron	Total Preferences
English-medium	1	9	43	1	54
Irish-medium	7	0	0	1	8
No Preference	2	2	5	2	11
<b>Total First Preferences</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>73</b>

The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction is relatively low (8 or 11% of first preferences) compared with 54 (or 74%) of preferences for English-medium instruction while 11 (or 15%) of parents did not specify a preference for language of instruction. While the percentage of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction was relatively low, the actual number of parents that indicated a preference for Irish-medium is particularly low at 8 parents.

A new school in the Newcastle\_Rathcoole school planning area has been designated as an Irish medium Gaelscoil. This school will be established in 2020 in Saggart/Citywest (A separate report is available on this school). In addition, Scoil Chaitlín Maude in the adjoining school planning area of Firhouse\_ Oldbawn is located 7km from Rathcoole and is transferring patronage to An Foras Pátrúnachta during the 2019/2020 school year, which will provide another multi-denominational option for parents from the 2020/2021 school year.

An Foras Pátrúnachta is the only applicant patron to propose an Irish-medium school while all other applicant patrons proposed English-medium but indicated their willingness to offer an Irish-medium school if demand exists for same.

Applicant Patron	No of Irish Language Preferences	% of Irish Language Preferences	Current Irish Medium Provision	
An Foras Pátrúnachta	7	87.5%	Number of primary schools in SPA	4
Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board (DDLETB)	0	0%	Total enrolments	2,402
Educate Together	0	0%	Of which are Gaelscoileanna	1
Scoil Sinéad Patron	1	12.5%	Enrolments in Gaelscoileanna	409
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.95%</b>	<b>% Current Irish Provision in SPA</b>	<b>17.02%</b>

## 5. Conclusions

- All patrons have confirmed that they will satisfy the requirements as set out by the Department for the patronage of new schools.
- All proposed models would increase diversity in the area by providing multi-denominational provision in the area.
- Educate Together received the highest number of valid first preferences i.e. 54 or 74%.
- The level of parental preferences for Irish-medium instruction was 8 of 73 valid first preferences (11%) compared with 54 of 73 valid first preferences (74%) for English-medium instruction. It is noted that a new Irish-medium gaelscoil is being established in Saggart to serve this school planning area in September 2020. With this new gaelscoil and the existing gaelscoil in Rathcoole, there are sufficient Irish-medium school places to accommodate this level of demand.
- Based on the results of the parental preferences and broader analysis, including the extent of diversity currently available in this and the adjoining school planning areas, the analysis indicates that the patronage of the new primary school for the Newcastle\_Rathcoole/Rathcoole school planning area should be awarded to Educate Together to provide a multi-denominational primary school with English as the language of instruction.

Forward Planning Section  
Department of Education and Skills  
February 2020

## Appendix A - Map of Gaelscoileanna in the area

Newcastle\_Rathcoole/Rathcoole School Planning Area

