



Educate
Together



Educate
Together
SECOND-LEVEL CAMPAIGN

ETSLN

Second Level Newsletter

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Minister Announces Patronage Framework

On 28 July, Minister for Education and Tánaiste Mary Coughlan announced that she intends to establish a new expert group to deliver a transparent and accountable framework for second-level patronage. In her statement, the Minister acknowledged the need for "clear criteria and increased transparency in decision making," in the Department of Education and Skills.

The 'Second-Level Patronage Advisory Group' will consider applications for new schools and advise the Tánaiste. Ms Coughlan plans to establish the group in the autumn and seek their input before detailed criteria and procedures have been finalised.

Commenting on the Minister for Education's announcement of an expert group to deliver the framework for second-level patronage, Educate Together CEO Paul Rowe said: "We look forward to the expert group green lighting our second-level applications. This will allow us to deliver the model of second-level education our research shows is in high demand."

Consultation Process in Gorey

The Tánaiste has announced a consultation and decision-making process in Gorey, Co Wexford, where a decision needs to be made on patronage of the new school by the end of October 2010. The Minister has also re-affirmed her commitment to making parental choice an important factor in the final decision on who will run the school.

Educate Together is delighted to be considered as an applicant for patronage of this school. This constitutes public recognition of the acceptance of Educate Together as a second-level patron. It is the first time that a parental survey will form part of the decision-making process on second-level patronage and represents a very positive development in Irish education.

Educate Together CEO Paul Rowe stated: "Gorey should be one of the first beneficiaries of the Tánaiste's proposed open and transparent framework on school patronage. The local community has strongly endorsed Educate Together's application for patronage of the new school, with an astonishing 650 expressions of interest received in the short time since our public meeting".

Have your say

Educate Together and Co. Wexford VEC have both applied to be patron of the new school.

A DES survey will be distributed to 16 local primary schools in September, which will ask parents to list their second-level school preferences. Survey forms will be available from local primary schools and from Gorey Public Library.

All parents with an interest in the patronage of the new Gorey second-level school should make sure to complete the DES survey and have their views registered.

The Department of Education and Skills will host a public meeting in the **Amber Springs Hotel on Tuesday 21st September at 8pm.** Each patron will discuss their respective models of second-level education, and will answer questions from members of the community.

For more information on the Gorey process, please visit [the new page](#) on the Educate Together website. This page should give you all the information you need.

Castaheany Educate Together NS pupils Jack, Skirma, Ibi and Alva join CEO Paul Rowe to help launch Educate Together's Destinations report.



“Designated Community College” Proposal for Lucan

The Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills has also announced that the new second-level school in Clonburris, Lucan, will be established as a VEC school formally in partnership with Educate Together.

Ms Coughlan is proposing a 'designated' Community College model, and asking County Dublin VEC and Educate Together to 'discuss the approach to achieving this with her Department.' This model would involve a legal agreement between the VEC and Educate Together governing the management and ethos of the school.

Educate Together met with Co Dublin VEC and the DES on Friday 10th September to discuss how such discussions might take place. A further meeting is planned between Educate Together and Co Dublin VEC at the end of the month.

Commenting on the Tánaiste's July statement, Mr Rowe said: "While we do not discount productive discussions with the VEC, they would be entered into on the understanding that any partnership must facilitate delivery in full of Educate Together's Blueprint for

second-level education.'

Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development for Educate Together said "Parents have been campaigning for an Educate Together school in Lucan for years now. To meet this demand any proposed new model would have to provide a real choice for parents in the area – it must be a brand new type of second-level school which delivers Educate Together's specific democratic ethos."

[Click here](#) to download the Expression of Interest form for the proposed Educate Together Second-Level school in Lucan.

Nicholas Sweetman Joins Advisory Panel



We are very pleased to announce that Nicholas Sweetman, former Principal of Gorey Community School, has

joined our Second-level Advisory Panel. The panel is an expert group of academics, curriculum advisors, business leaders and representatives of

student, parent and equality groups.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Sweetman said: "Gorey badly needs two vibrant, innovative and forward looking schools and the involvement of Educate Together in the patronage of a community type school offers a real prospect of providing that."

‘Where to Next?’

On 29 July, Educate Together launched 'Where to Next? - The Second-level Destinations of Educate Together 6th Class Pupils'.

The Destinations report shows that children leaving Educate Together primary schools go on to attend all types of second-level schools, with a preference shown for co-educational models.

Speaking at the launch in Buswell's Hotel in Dublin, Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together commented: "Where to Next? shows us that parents whose children go to our schools, try to send them on to second-level schools that best match our ethos. The vast majority of them would prefer to have an Educate Together school to go to instead."

[Click here](#) for the Report. Alternatively [click here](#) for the Executive Summary.

Next Working Groups Meeting

Following on from our last meeting in June, we had hoped to meet next in early September. However, because of the recent developments in Gorey and Lucan, we have decided to postpone the working groups meeting until **Saturday 2 October** at the General Members Meeting (GMM). We will contact all working group members in the coming weeks to inform them of times and venue details for this event.