



Our July and August newsletter brings more encouraging news from the Department of Education and Skills. The letter from the DES tells us when and where the first group of new second-level schools will be opened (see main article). Importantly, the list includes a number of areas where Educate Together has active second-level start-up groups, who will welcome this latest step in the process towards achieving patronage of the first Educate Together second-level schools.

This issue also includes an up to date list of the active members of our working groups, volunteers who give up their time so generously to further the aims of the Second-level project.

Enjoy the rest of the summer holidays, and see you in September;

Ann Ryan,
Second-level Education
Officer



Department of Education and Skills announces new second-level schools to open in 2013 and 2014

Following the June announcement of 20 new second-level schools to be established in the next six years, the Department of Education and Skills (DES), has just written to prospective school patrons to announce the locations of the first 14 second-level schools to be opened in 2013 and 2014. These schools are in addition to the new post-primary schools already set to open in Gorey, Co Wexford, Doughiska, Co Galway and Lucan/Clonburris, Co Dublin. Schools will open in the following areas:

2013	2014
Lusk, Co Dublin	Blanchardstown West & Mulhuddart, Dublin 15
Claregalway, Co Galway	Maynooth, Co Kildare
Naas, Co Kildare	Drogheda and Dundalk, Co Louth
Navan, Co Meath	Ashbourne, Co Meath
	Greystones, Co Wicklow

The 2014 list also includes 3 that will be Gaelcholáistí (Irish-medium schools). These are: **Cork (South suburbs / Carrigaline); Balbriggan, Co Dublin; and Dundrum, South Co Dublin.**

Other areas that had already been identified by the DES as locations for new post-primary schools are Celbridge, Co Kildare, Midleton/Carrigtwohill, Co Cork and Kingscourt, Co Cavan. These areas are not included in the above lists, suggesting that new post-primary schools for these areas will be established between 2015 and 2017.

Given the Government's stated commitment to diversity of patronage in education, as well as the importance of parental choice, this latest announcement has been welcomed by Educate Together. Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development, said: "This is great news... For the first time, there will be a standard and transparent process for deciding on the patronage of new second-level schools. It is especially positive that this process will take parental demand and the need for different types of schools into account."

Second-level Start-up Groups

Upcoming Meetings

Cork 2nd level
Committee - Aug 10 @
the Stables Bar Meeting
Room, Cork 8pm

Dublin 15 - Sept 20 at
8pm. @ Castaheany
ETNS, Ongar Village,
Dublin 15.

Events

North Wicklow ET
2nd level Action Group
- the group will have a
stand at Greystones ET
Parent Association Teddy
Bears picnic at Shoreline
Sports Park, Charlesland
on Sun 7 Aug, 2pm.

Join a Working Group!

If you would like to join
one of the working
groups, please email:
secondlevel
@educatetogether.ie

In the News..

The Department of
Education and Skills
announcement on new
second-level schools has
been covered in the
national media. To read
the articles, click on the
links below:

irishtimes.com
Irish Examiner

DES announces new second-level schools (contd)

The DES criteria sets out how prospective patrons will have to show evidence of parental demand for their school type: "Patrons will be asked to sign up lists of parents who indicate interest in having their children educated in their new school. These lists are to be broken down by the age of the children, year of proposed entry to school, and by where they are living, having regard for the area to be served by the school."

Gathering evidence of parental demand has already been successful in many of our Second-level Start-up groups. The North Wicklow/South Dublin ET 2nd level Action Group, for example, have collected over 800 expressions of interest, with other groups achieving similar numbers. Commenting on the latest announcement, Jessica Bird, the group's chairperson said: "The Minister's commitment to diversity of school type and respect for parental choice give us great hope that Greystones will have an Educate Together second-level school in 2014!"

Prospective patrons, including Educate Together, have been invited to a meeting with DES officials on 25 August, to discuss procedures and criteria. Patrons will be then be invited to submit their applications for patronage of selected schools by **18 November 2011**.

Working Groups

Working groups have been meeting over the summer, and are continuing to work on their various projects towards the meeting of all working groups, scheduled for **Saturday 24 September 2011**, when they will have the opportunity to report back on their progress (venue and times still to be confirmed).

We are delighted to confirm that **Professor John Portelli**, keynote speaker at the **Re-imagining Learning Conference** in May, will do a workshop on his *Curriculum of Life* on 24 September.



Prof John Portelli,
University of Toronto

Our Working Group Members

Leadership, Management & Structure

Elaine Hogan Hanley, Seán Kelleher, Tom Blanche, Ciarán Bauer, Liza Toye Mary Lowry

Curriculum, Teaching & Learning

Claire Conneely, John O'Reilly, Debbie Ging, John Lalor, Neil Butler, Grethe Christensen, Valerie Maher, Desmond O'Dowd, Leanne Caulfield

Ethical Curriculum

Carmel Mulcahy, Bridget Collins, Angela Higgins, Ed Brophy

Campus and Built Environment

Patrick Flynn, Emma Creighton, Róisín McManus, Niall Dennehy