



## **CCMS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ENROLMENT NUMBERS AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANBRIDGE**

### **1.0 Context**

- 1.1 The need to address oversubscription in Mid-Armagh and Banbridge was identified in the 2017-18 Annual Action for Area Planning. In August 2018 Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) agreed to consult on options to meet the demand for Catholic Education places.

### **2.0 Current Position**

- 2.1 St Mary's Primary School (PS), Banbridge, is the only CCMS primary school in Banbridge. A new 14 class building opened in September 2017 to accommodate the current approved enrolment of 407. As a result of increased numbers of pupils applying to the school the current enrolment is 503.
- 2.2 The Department of Education (DE) census, live birth data and enrolment trends indicate continued annual pressure on enrolment numbers in Mid-Armagh and Banbridge.
- 2.3 At present, the increased enrolment demands are met through Temporary Variations (TVs) where the school requests DE's permission to increase the approved enrolment number. These requests must be made annually and do not entitle the school to additional accommodation.
- 2.4 CCMS is consulting with governors, parents/guardians, staff and other stakeholders on expanding enrolment numbers within St Mary's PS, Banbridge, to provide for an increase to the enrolment/admissions number to 496-525.

### **3.0 Capital Investment**

- 3.1 If the expansion proposal is agreed, CCMS will work closely with DE to secure the appropriate capital funding to adjust the accommodation provision within St Mary's PS, Banbridge.

### **4.0 Regulatory Standards**

- 4.1 The DE policy **Primary Schools Schedules of Accommodation (Edition 2 June 2011)** determines the size of schools based on enrolment numbers and the requirements of a modern education establishment.
- 4.2 This consultation is seeking to increase the class-base in the school to **18** to reflect an admissions/enrolment of 496-525.

4.3 Table 1 below confirms the enrolment numbers since 2013/14

**Table 1**

Enrolment	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Approved	612	420	407	407	407
Actual	<b>442</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>503</b>

(Source: DENI Statistics on admissions and enrolments)

## **5.0 Equality**

- 5.1 Based on the information collated to date, it would appear that this proposal does not impact negatively on any of the groups identified under Section 75.
- 5.2 The full impact assessment will be completed on the Section 75 groups taking account of the responses to this consultation.

## **6.0 Proposal**

### **6.1 St Mary's PS, Banbridge:**

- 5.2 The current enrolment is 503 including pupils with Special Educational Needs statements equates to an 18 class-based school (enrolment 496-525).
- 6.3 CCMS is consulting on the proposal to increase the admissions/enrolment of St Mary's PS, Banbridge, from its current 381 – 410 to 496-525 to an 18 class-based school.

## **7.0 Consultation Process**

- 7.1 A written consultation format will apply to determine the views of governors, staff, parent/guardians of the pupils and other stakeholders on the proposal.
- 7.2 A copy of this consultation document has been issued to governors, staff, parent/guardians of the pupils and other stakeholders to seek comments on the proposal to increase the enrolment numbers at St Mary's PS, Banbridge from the current 407 to an enrolment entitlement of 496-525 pupils
- 7.3 Should you have any views, comments or concerns regarding this proposal please complete the attached comment form which you should post to:

St Mary's Banbridge consultation  
Area Planning Office  
CCMS  
Linen Hill House  
23 Linenhall Street  
Lisburn BT28 1FJ

Alternatively you can email your comments to:

[consultation.stmarysps@ccmsschools.com](mailto:consultation.stmarysps@ccmsschools.com)

- 7.4 All responses must be received by CCMS by **Noon** on **Friday 30 November 2018**

## **8.0 Implementation timeframe**

- 8.1 If the proposal receives support it will be referred to the DE for approval and implementation will take place from 1st September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.



**St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge – Expansion of admissions/enrolment numbers from 381 - 410 to 496 - 525**

If you wish to make comment on the proposal, please record your comments below and return by post to the address indicated. Comments may also be submitted by email.

Please continue on a separate page, if necessary

**NB Comments on the proposal will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any personal data will be held and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.**

**Please indicate below if you are a:**

- ☐ **Parent of a child currently attending St Mary's Primary School;**
- ☐ **Member of the Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School;**
- ☐ **Member of Staff of St Mary's Primary School**
- ☐ **Other (Please state your role)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Postal returns to:** St Mary's Banbridge consultation  
Area Planning Office  
CCMS  
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