

Frequently asked questions?

Where is the Dublin South City area?

This area includes the postal districts of Dublin 2, 4, 6 and 8. This area stretches from the docklands at Ringsend to Kilmainham and from the River Liffey out as far as Terenure. (see map below)

Do you know where this school will be sited in the Dublin South City area?

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) cannot at this stage indicate to us where this new school will be sited. They say that this will depend on a number of factors, for example the availability and cost of a suitable site and the level of interest from parents for such a school in their particular area.

Why is the DES looking to put a new school in this area when there are already enough schools in the area, some with falling student numbers?

The DES has stated that this reflects

1. the significant movement of children to attend schools in the area
2. the dominance of fee-paying post-primary schools in these areas and adjoining areas
3. as well as a lack of diversity in terms of ethos and gender.

The majority of the existing schools in the area are single sex schools run by religious organisations.

What size school will this be?

The plan is for a school somewhere between 800 – 1000 students.

Will the school have special education facilities?

Any organisation that becomes patron of the school must commit to accepting and opening special education facilities.

What is meant by a school patron?

A school patron is a body/organisation which will be responsible for the management of the school. They will, for example:

1. appoint the school's Board of Management
2. be responsible for the school's characteristic spirit
3. be responsible for the school's property
4. be responsible for all financial matters relating to the school

Can there be more than one Patron of this school?

The DES has stated that it would consider an application for joint patronage from prospective patron bodies.

What is the closing date for submission of completed applications from patrons?

The DES has set June 8th 2016 as the closing date for receipt of completed applications.

What is meant by parental preference?

In the process for applying for patron of this school the DES has requested applicants to obtain indications of interest from parents/guardians who would like their child/children to attend this school where the particular applicant will be patron. These will be counted and used as one of the criteria for selecting the successful patron/s of the new school?

If I state a preference for one patron does that mean I cannot state a preference for another patron?

No, you are free to state a preference for as many patrons as you like. Each preference you make will be counted separately.

If I state a preference for one or more patrons does that mean my child will not be allowed to go to the school if another patron is selected?

No, this will have no bearing on whether your child can go to the school or not. You will be free to apply to have your child enrolled in the school no matter who the successful patron is.

What type of information must I give when stating my preference?

You will be asked for:

- the child/children's names
- their date of birth
- their address, they must be living in the Dublin South City postal areas of Dublin 2,4,6,8
- The Eircode for this address
- The proposed year of entry into second level education
- Your preference for the medium of instruction (Irish/English)

What age must my child/children be to be listed on the preference form?

Your child/children should be due to commence second level education in either 2018 – 2019 – 2020 – 2021 - 2022

Why are you asking for the medium of instruction (Irish/English)?

The DES want to assess the need for an all Irish speaking school or for establishing an Aonad within the school.

What is an Aonad?

An Aonad Lán-Ghaeilge (Irish-medium Unit) is a linguistic unit in which students are immersed in Irish from the beginning to the end of the school day. The Aonad operates within a parent school where English is the language of communication and teaching language of the school. The Aonad is similar to a small school, organised and run through a minority language while the parent school is run through the everyday language of the community.

What is meant by the characteristic spirit?

The characteristic spirit refers to the type of ethos and values by which the school is organised and run by. A lot of schools would have a Christian characteristic spirit, others would be more non-denominational. Some schools are more democratically run and organised than others.

What type of school is CDETБ interested in opening?

CDETБ is interested in opening an inclusive multi-denominational co-educational school managed on democratic principles. Our preferred option is a Community College.

What is a Community College exactly?

A Community College is a college owned by the CDETБ. However another body or bodies can be invited to be Trustee Partners with us. The Trustee partner would have an entitlement to a number of reserved places on the Board of Management. They would also be involved in the interview process for the selection of staff. Most importantly we work together with the Trustee Partner to establish the characteristic spirit of the school. We already have a number of Community Colleges and Trustee Partners.

Are you interested in opening the Community College as an all Irish speaking school or one which will have an Aonad within it?

We are interested in exploring all possibilities in relation to the Irish language.

What type of curriculum will you be offering if you are appointed patron of this school?

We would intend to offer a comprehensive curriculum. This means that we would offer a full range of subjects in both academic and practical areas. We would offer the reformed junior cycle, a Transition Year programme and the full range of Leaving Certificate programmes i.e. the Established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Applied and the Leaving Certificate Vocational.

When do you expect a decision to be made on who has been awarded patronage of the school?

The DES has indicated that a decision will be made by the Minister in September 2016.

What can I do to support CDETБ's application for this school?

You can

1. Express your interest – fill out the [Expression of Interest Form](#)
2. Tell friends, family members and other people you know and ask them to fill out the Expression of Interest Form if they have children living in the area that are the right age for enrolling in the new school.