

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD



Strategic Review of Provision in Dunmurry Area

October 2005

Strategic Review of Provision – Dunmurry Area

Foreword

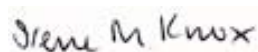
Last year the Board published its Strategic Capital Development Plan 2004-2009. That plan indicated the Board's intention to carry out reviews of school provision in various geographical areas. A Draft Review was undertaken in relation to the Dunmurry area and issued for consultation in April. The Board welcomed the comments received from schools and others and after careful consideration this revised document has been adopted. A similar review was undertaken of provision in the Lisburn urban area and owing to their proximity these two reviews should be read in conjunction.

The Strategic Reviews of Provision outline the main issues impacting on the Board's school estate in these areas. In particular the implications of declining school aged population and existing spare capacity will have to be addressed. It is also noted that significant housing developments planned in some areas will lead to increasing demand in certain locations. The current condition of school buildings and the suitability of accommodation for the delivery of a modern curriculum are also areas of concern. Various example proposals are made to show some of the options which will be considered in order to resolve these issues, but it must be remembered that these represent only some of a number of possible options for the way forward and they should not be viewed as definitive.

The purpose of these reviews is to provide a strategic framework in which to progress a prioritised programme of capital development schemes. Each scheme arising from the reviews will be subject to economic appraisal of a range of options, the publication of development proposals where appropriate, statutory approvals such as planning permission and financial approval from the Department of Education. Therefore the implementation of the final reviews will include further involvement and consultation with relevant schools and might take 10-15 years to complete. Naturally the Board will monitor enrolment trends and other information during that time and any material change in circumstances may lead to further review of proposals.

At this time, in the light of demographic trends and the issue of surplus capacity in some schools, it is important that we look strategically across our schools estate to make sure that any decisions in relation to capital planning and development are taken after full consideration of all available information. We will continue to work closely with our schools as the strategic plans are implemented.

The Strategic Reviews of Provision will be published on the Board's website at www.seelb.org.uk.



Irene Knox
Chief Executive

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1 Background

This review will examine the long term requirements of SEELB controlled education in the north Lisburn area. This will include the pre-school provision and the primary provision. The post primary provision has been incorporated in the main review of controlled provision in Lisburn City.

The area to be reviewed includes the electoral wards of Dunmurry, Seymour Hill and Derriaghy. These will be reviewed within the context of the adjacent areas of Twinbrook and Finaghy.

The area under review is made up of 5 primary schools which fall into the following categories:

- 3 controlled primary schools
- 1 maintained primary school
- 1 grant maintained integrated primary school

- 1.1 The tables below compare the 1991 census and 2001 census data for 0 – 18 year olds for the Lisburn City Council area and the Belfast City Council area. The tables also include projected figures up to 2017. These figures have been obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Lisburn City Council

Age Group	1991 Census	2001 Census	2017 Projected Figures	Approx. % Difference between 2001-2017	
0 – 4	8,683	7,748	7,038	-9%	
5 – 11	11,997	12,080	10,065	-17%	
12 – 16	7,556	8,542	7,373	-14%	
17 – 18	3,073	3,285	2,994	-9%	
Total	31,309	31,655	27,470	Average	-12.25%

Belfast City Council

Age Group	1991 Census	2001 Census	2017 Projected Figures	Approx. % Difference between 2001-2017	
0 – 4	22,716	16,499	13,036	-21%	
5 – 11	29,405	26,521	17,445	-34%	
12 – 16	19,029	21,214	12,662	-40%	
17 – 18	8,428	8,251	6,003	-27%	
Total	79,578	72,485	49,146	Average	-30.5%

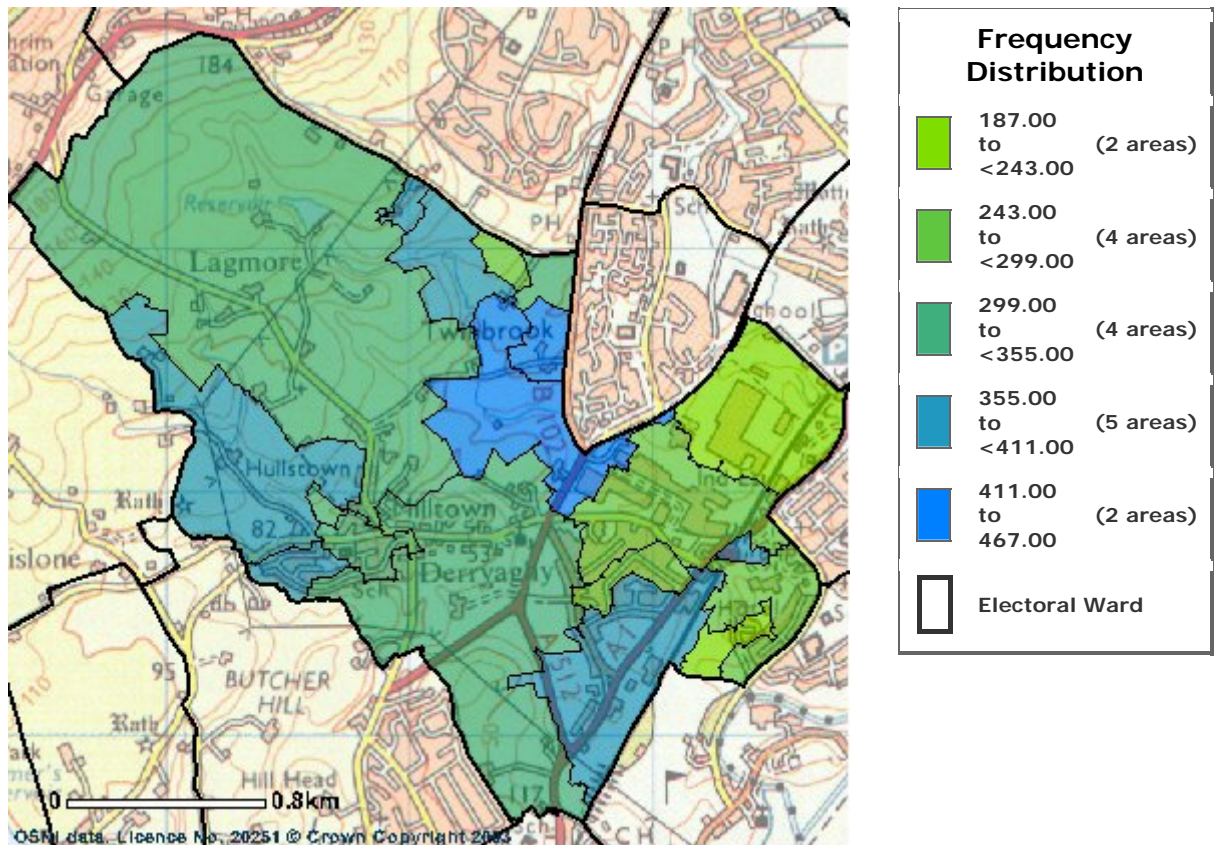
The tables clearly show that between 1991 and 2001 the overall number of children in the Lisburn City Council area grew by only 1.1% and the number in the Belfast City Council area fell by 8.9%. The projected figures show an anticipated decline in all age groups in both council areas. The Lisburn City Council can expect an overall decline of approximately 12.25% in children between the 2001 census and 2017. Belfast City Council can expect a more substantial fall of 30.5%.

Although the wards under review fall within Lisburn City Council their proximity to Belfast City Council should be noted, as should the significant projected decline in the Belfast City Council population.

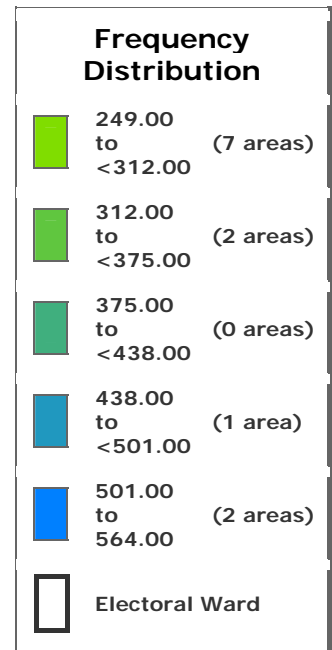
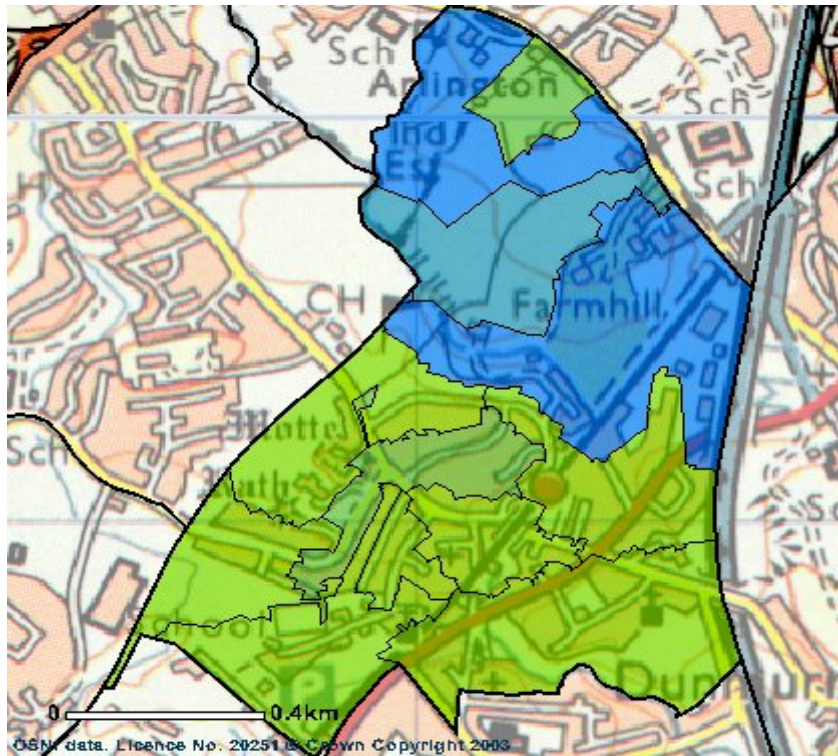
There will be housing developments that will impact on the demand for controlled education at the schools detailed within this paper. However, it is likely this impact will be relatively limited. According to the Planning Service approximately 255 additional houses will be built within the review area.

The maps and tables overleaf have been obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency and show the population, or frequency, distribution throughout the Seymour Hill ward, Dunmurry ward and Derryagh ward. It is evident from this data that certain areas of the council hold higher percentages of the total council population i.e. those areas in blue to dark green, when compared to other areas, i.e. those areas in light green.

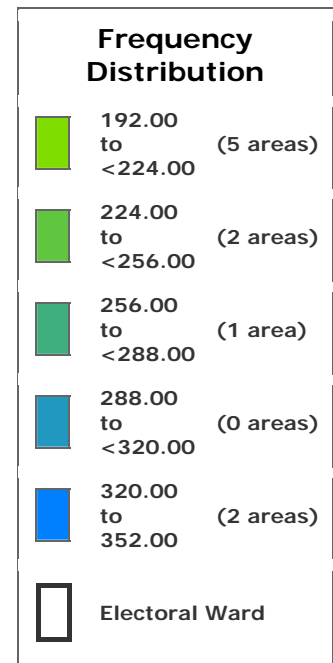
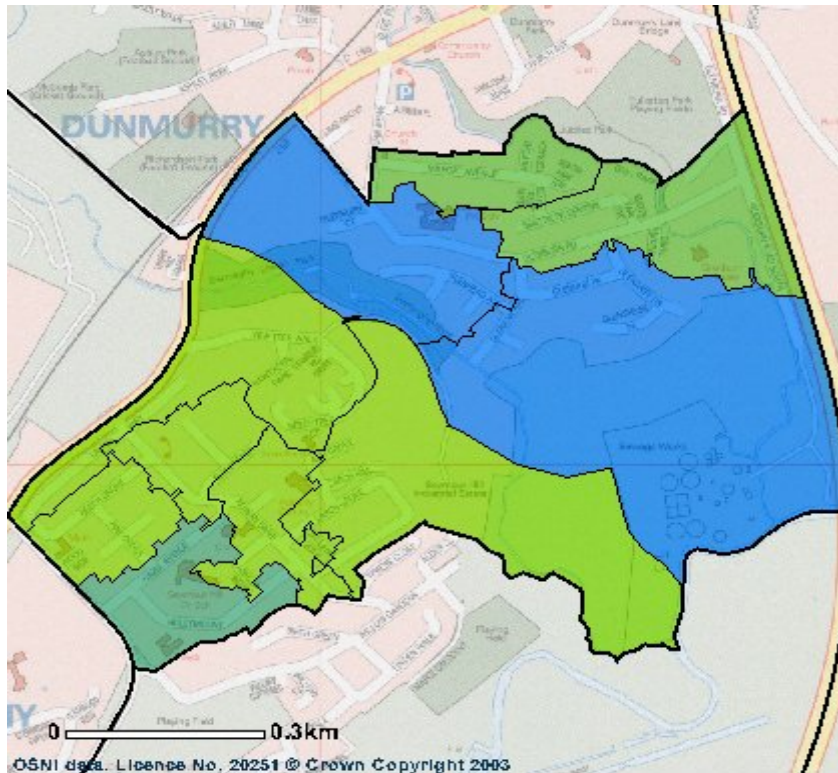
Derryagh Ward



Dunmurry Ward



Seymour Hill Ward



2 CONTROLLED PRE SCHOOL PROVISION

2.1 Current provision

2.1.1 Within the review area there are several statutory and voluntary settings providing pre-school places as detailed below

Location	Provision
Dunmurry Nursery Unit (Dunmurry Primary School)	26 part time
Chatterboxes Voluntary Playgroup (Derriaghy Primary School)	10 funded places
Drumbeg Playgroup (Seymour Hill Methodist Church)	12 funded places
Mickey Mouse Pre-School (Kilmakee Activity Centre – Seymour Hill)	12 funded places
Oakwood Integrated Pre-School (Oakwood Integrated Primary School)	24 funded places
Christ the Redeemer Nursery Unit (Christ the Redeemer Primary School)	52 full time places
TOTAL	136

2.1.2 The Department of Education has stated that 90% provision in an area is the target for pre school places; this is established by comparing the Primary 1 cohort against the pre school places provided. As shown above there are 136 pre school places provided and 149 in the Primary 1 cohort (includes Grant Maintained Integrated School). This translates to a 91.3% provision.

2.2 Future Pre School Need

2.2.1 It is unlikely that residential development in the area will increase the need for pre school places. According to the Planning Service there are no major housing developments proposed that will have a significant effect on the current demand.

2.2.2 Census figures, illustrated in 1.1, show that the number of pre school children (0 – 4 years) has fallen in the area and it is expected that this trend will continue.

2.3 Proposed Solution

- 2.3.1 The current level of demand for controlled pre school places is high enough to withstand the expected fall in the pre school population for the foreseeable future. The only proposed solution is:

Do Nothing

There are a sufficient number of pre school places to meet the current and future demand without there being an excessive surplus or deficit. Dunmurry Nursery Unit is currently operating where the former Dunmurry Community Playgroup operated. This is a short term measure as Dunmurry Primary School's disused meals kitchen is currently being converted to facilitate a pre school provision. The needs of the area will be met by the new nursery unit, the voluntary/private playgroups, and the statutory provisions operating in the area, as illustrated in 2.1.1.

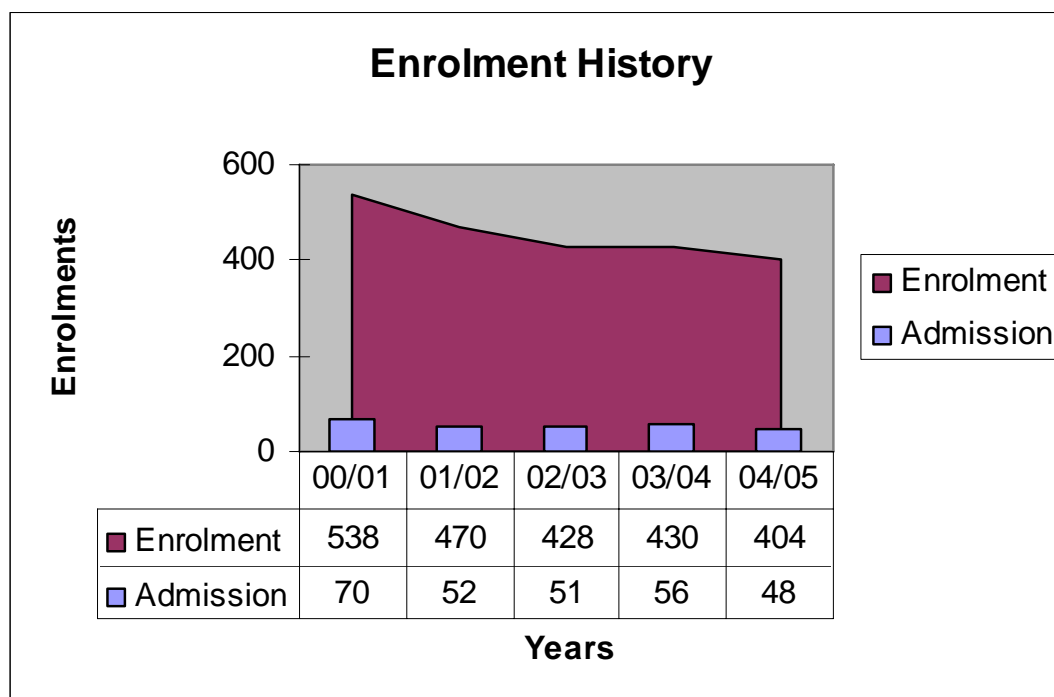
- 2.3.2 The Department of Education is currently carrying out a Review of Pre School Education and the future needs of the area will be re-assessed when the Department of Education's review has been completed.

3 CONTROLLED PRIMARY PROVISION

3.1 Current Provision

3.1.1 Within the area there are a total of 1374 primary places available, this is broken down to 678 controlled primary places, 493 maintained sector places and 203 grant maintained integrated places.

3.1.2 The table below illustrates the enrolment and admission history of the controlled primary schools operating within the review area.



3.1.3 The data clearly shows that the total enrolment has been decreasing steadily in recent years. Consequently the number of surplus places has been increasing. The chart also shows that admissions have fallen from the 2000/2001 academic year, although they have remained relatively steady over the past four years. The 2004/2005 enrolment statistics indicate that there are 274 surplus controlled primary places available. These places are spread across the three controlled primary schools in the area, Dunmurry Primary School, Seymour Hill Primary School and Derriagh Primary School.

3.1.4 The fall in enrolment is supported by the 1991 and 2001 census information in 1.1 which indicates a fall in primary aged children in the Belfast City Council area and only a marginal rise in the Lisburn City Council. It should also be noted that the NISRA projected figures for that age group anticipate a 34% fall in the Belfast City Council area and a 17% fall in the Lisburn City Council area. The table overleaf illustrates the effect of the projected figures for primary age children (5 – 11 year olds) on the long term enrolments (LTEs) of controlled primaries in the review area.

SCHOOL	STANDARD LTE	2017 Projected LTE
Derriaghy Primary School	54	45
Dunmurry Primary School	149	124
Seymour Hill Primary School	159	132

The projected LTEs have the 17% reduction applied because the schools reside within the Lisburn City Council area. However, it should be noted that the schools' proximity to Belfast suggests the LTEs could be even lower as the Belfast City Council expect to see a 34% fall in primary aged children.

- 3.1.5 The following is a brief description of the current enrolment pattern at the primary schools. Details on long term enrolments, background information and the accommodation needs of each school can be found in Appendix 1.

SCHOOL	Surplus Places	% of Surplus Places	Enrolment Pattern
Derriaghy Primary School	72	58%	Steady decline
Dunmurry Primary School	114	44%	Steady decline
Seymour Hill Primary School	88	30%	Sharp decline

The table above shows a substantial surplus of places. The enrolment pattern suggests these surpluses will continue, as do the Long Term Enrolment figures in 3.1.3.

3.1.6 Nearby Schools

At this point it is important to look at the three primary schools in the context of their surroundings. Nearby schools include St. Mark's Primary School, Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School, Scoil Na Fuisseoige, Finaghy Primary School, and Oakwood Integrated Primary School.

- 3.1.7 Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School's enrolment is rapidly increasing as the new school gains more pupils every year. The relatively new Scoil Na Fuisseoige has also seen its enrolment figures increase. The only exception in the maintained sector is St. Mark's Primary School whose enrolment has fallen slightly which may be due to the new schools built in its catchment area. Oakwood Integrated Primary School's figures have also risen; it may be attracting pupils from the nearby Derriaghy Primary School since it opened in 2000. The only nearby controlled primary is the newly built Finaghy Primary School whose enrolments are steadily falling and already has a significant surplus of places despite its new construction. Although the overall trend in the area, according to NISRA statistics, is a fall in primary aged children, it appears that the demographics of the area are also changing. There is an obvious increase in the number of children requiring maintained primary provision and a more significant fall in those requiring controlled primary provision.

3.2 Future Primary Need

- 3.2.1 To effectively analyse the future needs of the area an agreed Long Term Enrolment figure for each school is required. It is recommended that an average LTE figure be taken and used for planning purposes. This figure will incorporate the NISRA projections for 2017, new housing and the current standard LTE. The breakdown of each LTE is shown in the reviews of each school in Appendix 1.

School	Standard LTE (inc. pupils from new housing)	2017 Projected LTE	Recommended LTE
Derriaghy Primary School	54	45	50
Dunmurry Primary School	219	183	201
Seymour Hill Primary School	159	132	146

It is the 'Recommended LTE' figure that should be adhered to when analysing the future primary needs of the area.

- 3.2.2 Much of the proposed housing development for the area is located in small in fill sites. The only significant developments are at '300 Kingsway' which is immediately south of the Seymour Hill estate, and, 'Edenvale Park' which is immediately north of Dunmurry village and adjacent to the M1 motorway.
- 3.2.3 According to DOE Planning Service figures, dated August 2002, there are potentially 150 houses to be built at '300 Kingsway' and 105 to be built at 'Edenvale Park'. This will result in approximately 70 children requiring places in controlled schools.
- 3.2.4 The review area has sufficient surplus to house those children requiring controlled primary provision in the locations of the proposed developments. Those requiring provisions have Dunmurry Primary School, Seymour Hill Primary School and Derriaghy Primary School available to them. All three could absorb them comfortably. However it is unlikely that parents in these developments will send their children to Derriaghy Primary School as it is a significant distance and, in the case of the '300 Kingsway' development, through an industrial estate. It is also unlikely that parents will send their children to Seymour Hill Primary School as it is locally perceived as an 'estate school' which is situated in the heart of the Seymour Hill housing estate. It is most likely that parents in these two developments will send their children to Dunmurry Primary School which is located in Dunmurry village. It is the closest school to those in the Edenvale Park development and approximately one mile away from those in the '300 Kingsway' development. Other possibilities would include parents sending their children further south outside of the review area to Lisburn schools or possibly to Oakwood Integrated Primary School. However its rapidly increasing enrolment suggests it will soon be full to capacity.

- 3.2.5 As previously mentioned, it is estimated that all developments will result in an additional 70 children requiring a controlled primary place. Based on LTE calculations the area can meet this comfortably. However it still leaves a surplus places.
- 3.2.6 The review area has an over provision of controlled primary places. The future primary needs of the area include a reduction of surplus places, a reduction of spare capacity and the elimination of substandard accommodation.

3.3 Proposed Options

3.3.1 A number of factors were taken into consideration when options were formulated to deal with the over provision of controlled primary education in the south Belfast/north Lisburn:

- the LTEs of the three controlled primary schools (total 373)
- the need to reduce surplus accommodation
- the condition of the schools
- the downward trend in population figures in the area, notably amongst the Protestant community

3.3.2 i) Do minimum

This involves carrying out the minimum essential maintenance to each of the three schools. This option is not feasible as it perpetuates the current problems of spare capacity, surplus places and sub standard accommodation.

ii) Refurbish and downsize all schools appropriately

This option involves refurbishing each of the three schools and downsizing them to the recommended LTE. The downsizing will involve refurbishing the school to meet the Building Handbook recommendations as much as possible.

iii) Amalgamate all three schools on one site

This involves amalgamating all three schools on either an existing site or a greenfield site. An amalgamation would require a site for a 13 classbase school. Both Derriaghy Primary School and Seymour Hill have large enough sites. The review area is already heavily developed and a greenfield site would be both difficult to identify and costly should one be identified.

iv) Amalgamate Dunmurry Primary School and Seymour Hill Primary School. Downsize Derriaghy Primary School

Derrriaghy Primary School would be excluded from the amalgamation due to geographical reasons. It would be appropriately refurbished and downsized to meet Building Handbook recommendations as far as is possible. Dunmurry Primary School and Seymour Hill Primary School would be amalgamated on either of the existing sites.

	OPTION	LTE	CLASSBASE	Places Provided	Max. Surplus Spaces
1	Do Minimum				
	Derrriaghy PS	50	5	125*	75*
	Dunmurry PS	201	10	262*	61*
	Seymour Hill PS	146	13	291*	145*
				678	281
2	Downsize all three schools appropriately				
	Derrriaghy PS	50	3	85	35
	Dunmurry PS	201	7	205	0
	Seymour Hill PS	146	5**	145	0
				405	35
3	Amalgamate all three schools on one site	397	14	410	13
				410	13
4	Amalgamate Dunmurry PS and Seymour Hill PS	347	12	350	3
	Downsize Derrriaghy PS	50	3	85	35
*	According to current DE enrolment			435	62

** Marginally within higher enrolment category but lower category recommended due to falling population figures

3.4 Proposed Solution

3.4.1 As previously mentioned, *Option 1 – ‘Do minimum’* is not a feasible option as it perpetuates the problems of spare capacity, surplus places and substandard accommodation.

3.4.2 *Option 3 – ‘Amalgamate all three schools on one site’* would reduce the surplus places and spare capacity to zero, as well as eliminating substandard accommodation. However, there are only two existing sites that could accommodate a 13 classbase school, Seymour Hill Primary School and Derrriaghy Primary School. It is unlikely parents will send their children to Seymour Hill Primary School as it is perceived as an ‘estate school’ and Derrriaghy Primary School is too far removed from the majority of the children in the review area.

As previously mentioned an appropriate greenfield site has not been identified but should one become available the purchase of the land would be costly due to the residential market value of land in this area. Another factor is that Dunmurry, Seymour Hill and Derrriaghy are three defined communities. Derrriaghy is arguably a village removed from both Belfast and Lisburn. Dunmurry and Seymour Hill, although close together are still two very defined communities with the Seymour Hill estate lying just outside of the Dunmurry village boundary.

- 3.4.3 *Option 4 – ‘Amalgamate Dunmurry Primary School and Seymour Hill Primary School. Downsize Derriaghy Primary School’* would solve any community issues with Derriaghy Primary School. However it would not solve any issues with regards to Dunmurry Primary School and Seymour Hill Primary School. As previously stated a greenfield site is not available, therefore an existing site would be required. It is unlikely parents of Dunmurry Primary School will send their children to Seymour Hill Primary School as previously stated. The only possible option would be amalgamating the two schools on the Dunmurry Primary School site. However this would leave the Seymour Hill community without a local primary school.
- 3.4.4 After analysing the four options it appears that Option 2 *‘Downsize all three schools appropriately’* appears to be the most viable. This option would mean that much of the spare capacity and surplus places would be removed. It would also involve the elimination of sub standard accommodation as a refurbishment would aim to achieve the Building Handbook recommendations. The three defined communities would also maintain their individual primary provision. Although this option maintains a surplus of places, the surplus is relatively small and allows the schools a degree of flexibility should enrolments unexpectedly increase in the future.
- 3.4.5 It is therefore recommended that Option 2 be pursued. However, a detailed economic appraisal needs to be carried out to effectively analyse and cost all four options. There should also be investigations into possible alternative uses of spare capacity on the school sites, by other statutory agencies and/or community groups.
- 3.4.6 It should also be noted that large scale housing developments have been planned for the north Lisburn area. The Lisburn review has indicated a proposal for a new school in the Magheralave Road/Belsize Road area. This new school would replace the current Harmony Hill Primary School and accommodate the children from the new developments. The possibility of incorporating Derriaghy Primary School into such a project should be investigated owing to the proximity of the new developments to Derriaghy village.
- 3.4.7 Those primary schools that have responded to the initial consultation document have recognised that the current, and forecasted, decline in enrolments in the area will directly impact on the schools and have, in general terms, welcomed the SEELBs strategic response to this issue. However many have voiced concerns over the sample options detailed overleaf and some have put forward alternative options for consideration.

Any options contained within the consultation document are only samples and are not meant to be a definitive list. Those additional options put forward by schools within their individual responses will be considered in more detail within any economic appraisal which may arise from this consultation process.

The estimated LTE for all the schools will be kept under review and refined in response to future circumstances.

APPENDIX 1

DETAILS OF CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND LTES**REVIEW OF DERRIAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL****1 Background**

- 1.1 Derrriaghy Primary School was opened in 1965 and is situated in the village of Derrriaghy which lies between Belfast and Lisburn. The present accommodation comprises 6 permanent classrooms, a temporary classroom, computer suite, assembly hall, meals kitchen, staffroom and offices. One of the permanent classrooms is used by the 'Chatterboxes' voluntary playgroup.
- 1.2 The school is located on a 1.55 hectare site. The current site is considerably larger than required, as the current LTE is equal to that of a 3 classbase school even though the school was built as a 6 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.
- 1.3 The most recent building condition survey indicates that an estimated £138,756 is required on maintenance items. Of these repairs £10,906 are immediate repairs. The immediate repairs primarily consist of glazing work, work to floor finishes, and replacement of floor units in the kitchen. Some immediate work is also required to external and internal staircases, as well as fencing around the site.
- 1.4 The remainder of the repairs include major works to the mechanical services infrastructure and the replacement of numerous heating system devices. The timber on the doors and windows need to be replaced. Repairs are also required to a flat and pitched roof and the school kitchen ventilation system requires substantial work.
- 1.5 All of the 6 permanent classrooms are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required under The Building Handbook. The assembly hall is undersized and the school lacks sufficient resource areas and a special educational needs room.
- 1.6 The school is currently in need of significant reparations. However the school has undergone some work in recent years. In 2002, the school received a new temporary classroom. More recently a new entrance to the main building was constructed in March 2004.

2 Enrolments

- 2.1 The DE's school enrolment figure is 125 and the admission number is 18. The school currently has 53 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 72 places.

YEAR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	TOTAL
2004/2005	4	9	8	7	8	10	7	53
2003/2004	11	8	7	8	12	10	7	63
2002/2003	8	6	9	11	10	8	6	58
2001/2002	7	10	12	10	8	6	10	63
2000/2001	10	12	11	9	8	11	15	76
1999/2000	12	11	9	8	11	17	14	82

In May 2005 the school had 10 applicants for September 2005 admission out of a total of 18 places available.

- 2.2 The Long Term Enrolment figure can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the last 3 years = 23

$$\frac{23 \times 7}{3} = 54$$

There are no significant new housing developments in the area.

Long Term Enrolment = 54

Deduct 17% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds in Lisburn City Council

LTE as per projected NISRA figures = 45

It is recommended that an average LTE figure be taken and used for planning purposes. This figure will incorporate the NISRA projections without relying entirely on their accuracy. The recommended LTE is therefore:

$$\frac{\text{Standard LTE} + \text{NISRA projected LTE}}{2} = \frac{54 + 45}{2} = 50$$

Recommended LTE = 50

- 2.3 As the figures in 2.1 shows, the total enrolment has been gradually decreasing. However there has been a large surplus of places for a number of years both with total enrolment and the Year 1 intake. The recommended LTE suggests the numbers at the school will continue to fall. The low enrolment may be due largely to the school being perceived as an 'estate school' as it is situated beside the Milltown estate, a maturing population trend in the area and the recent opening of the nearby Oakwood Integrated Primary School. The reducing enrolment at the school, a large surplus of places, and sub standard accommodation are all issues that will need to be addressed.

REVIEW OF DUNMURRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

2 Background

- 2.1 Dunmurry Primary School was opened in 1930 and is situated on the Glenburn Road in Dunmurry which lies on the main Belfast to Lisburn road. The present accommodation comprises 10 permanent classrooms, a library, assembly hall, meals kitchen, medical inspection room, resource areas, staffroom and offices. One of the permanent classrooms in the infant annexe is used by the recently established Dunmurry Nursery Unit, replacing the former Dunmurry Community Playgroup.
- 2.2 The school is located on a 1.2 hectare site. The current site is larger than required, as the current LTE is equal to that of a 6 classbase school even though the school contains 10 classbases. The SEELB currently owns the site.
- 1.4 The most recent building condition survey indicated that the school building is in a poor/fair condition and requires repairs costing approximately £106,027. Of these repairs £8,045 are immediate repairs. The immediate repairs include work to the chimney, work to external and internal staircases, and the replacement of essential fire fighting equipment.
- 1.5 The remainder of the repairs include major works to the mechanical infrastructure and the electrical infrastructure. The brickwork on walls and pillars requires attention, as does the plumbing and heating system. Repairs are required to a flat and pitched roof and the grounds' drainage needs consideration. An extensive internal and external redecoration is also required.
- 1.5 Of the 10 permanent classrooms, 6 are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required under The Building Handbook and the school lacks a special educational needs room.
- 1.6 In recent years the school has undergone significant work. In 2003 an extensive window replacement scheme was carried out. Currently the nursery unit, which opened in September 2004, resides in a classroom in the infant annexe. This is a temporary measure until the disused meals kitchen is converted to meet the needs of the nursery.

2 Enrolments

- 2.1 The DE's school enrolment figure is 262 and the admission number is 30. The school currently has 148 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 114 places.

YEAR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	TOTAL
2004/2005	21	21	18	22	27	21	18	148
2003/2004	25	18	23	26	20	17	30	159
2002/2003	18	22	28	23	18	30	20	159
2001/2002	23	20	24	18	30	20	29	164
2000/2001	30	26	18	31	20	29	31	185
1999/2000	23	19	29	20	26	31	21	169

In May 2005 the school had 30 applicants for September 2005 admission out of a total of 30 places available.

- 2.3 The Long Term Enrolment figure can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the last 3 years = 64

$\frac{64 \times 7}{3} = 149$

New Housing

Edenvale Park = 105 houses

The Conway, 300 Kingsway = 150 houses
255 houses

Extraction figure for Lisburn City Council = 0.276

$255 \times 0.276 = 70$ children requiring controlled provision

Therefore LTE = $149 + 70 = 219$

Long Term Enrolment = 219

Deduct 17% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds in Lisburn City Council

LTE as per projected NISRA figures = 183

It is recommended that an average LTE figure be taken and used for planning purposes. This figure will incorporate the NISRA projections without relying entirely on their accuracy. The recommended LTE is therefore:

$\frac{\text{Standard LTE} + \text{NISRA projected LTE}}{2} = \frac{219 + 183}{2} = 402$

Recommended LTE = 201

- 2.3 As the figures in 2.1 shows, the total enrolment has been gradually decreasing. There has been a significant surplus of places for a number of years both in total enrolment and Year 1 intake. The recommended LTE suggests the numbers at the school will increase due to new housing in the area. The housing development at '300 Kingsway' is closer to Seymour Hill Primary School. However, as stated in 3.2.4 it is expected that the children will enrol at Dunmurry Primary School. The current low enrolment may be due largely to a maturing population trend and a demographic fall in the Protestant community in the area. The reducing enrolment at the school, the large surplus of places, and the sub standard accommodation are all issues that will need to be addressed.

REVIEW OF SEYMOUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

3 Background

- 3.1 Seymour Hill Primary School was opened in 1959 and is situated in the Seymour Hill housing estate which lies between Dunmurry and Lisburn. The present accommodation comprises 12 permanent classrooms, a temporary classroom, assembly hall, meals kitchen, special needs room, staffroom and offices.
- 3.2 The school is located on a 1.5 hectare site. The current site is larger than required, as the current LTE is equal to that of a 6 classbase school even though the school was built as a 12 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.
- 1.5 The most recent building condition survey indicated that the school building is in relatively good condition but does require repairs costing approximately £60,300. Of these repairs £3,145 are immediate repairs. The immediate repairs include some glazing work, new door closers, work to external staircases and replacement of steel fencing. Some essential fire fighting equipment also needs to be added to the school.
- 1.6 The remainder of the repairs include major works to the electrical services infrastructure, redecoration, resurfacing, and work to both a flat and pitched roof.
- 1.5 Of the 12 permanent classrooms, 8 are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required under The Building Handbook. The staffroom is undersized and the school lacks sufficient resource areas.
- 1.6 In recent years the school has undergone a number of reparations. In 2002, a window replacement scheme costing £99,600 was carried out. More recently a new heating system costing £127,200 was installed in the summer of 2004.

2 Enrolments

- 2.1 The DE's school enrolment figure is 291 and the admission number is 42. The school currently has 203 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 88 places.

YEAR	Y1	Y2Y	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	SU	TOTAL
2004/2005	23	22	25	24	25	37	23	24	203
2003/2004	20	23	25	27	39	27	27	20	208
2002/2003	25	23	27	35	27	26	24	24	211
2001/2002	22	28	34	29	32	37	37	24	243
2000/2001	30	37	26	35	33	36	56	24	277
1999/2000	37	29	33	29	35	54	42	22	281

In May 2005 the school had 25 applicants for September 2005 admission out of a total of 42 places available.

2.4 The Long Term Enrolment figure can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the last 3 years = 68

$\frac{68 \times 7}{3}$ = 159

There are no new housing developments in the area that will affect Seymour Hill Primary School

Long Term Enrolment = 159

Deduct 17% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds in Lisburn City Council

LTE as per projected NISRA figures = 132

It is recommended that an average LTE figure be taken and used for planning purposes. This figure will incorporate the NISRA projections without relying entirely on their accuracy. The recommended LTE is therefore:

$\frac{\text{Standard LTE} + \text{NISRA projected LTE}}{2} = \frac{159 + 132}{2} = 146$

Recommended LTE = 146

2.3 As the figures in 2.1 shows, the total enrolment has been rapidly decreasing. Consequently a significant surplus has developed in recent years in both total enrolment and Year 1 intake. The recommended LTE suggests the numbers at the school will continue to fall rapidly. The current low enrolment may be due largely to a maturing population trend and a demographic fall in the Protestant community in the area. The housing development at '300 Kingsway' is closer to Seymour Hill Primary School. However, as stated in 3.2.4 it is expected that the children will enrol at Dunmurry Primary School. The reducing enrolment at this school, the large surplus of places, and the sub standard accommodation are all issues that will need to be addressed.