

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD



**REVIEW OF CONTROLLED PROVISION IN MID &
SOUTH DOWN AREA**

REVIEW PAPER

NOVEMBER 2006

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This paper will examine the controlled pre school, primary and post primary provision in the Mid and South Down areas, i.e. the main urban areas of Downpatrick, Saintfield, Ballygowan, Ballynahinch, Comber and Killyleagh and all of the smaller settlements and rural areas between these towns.

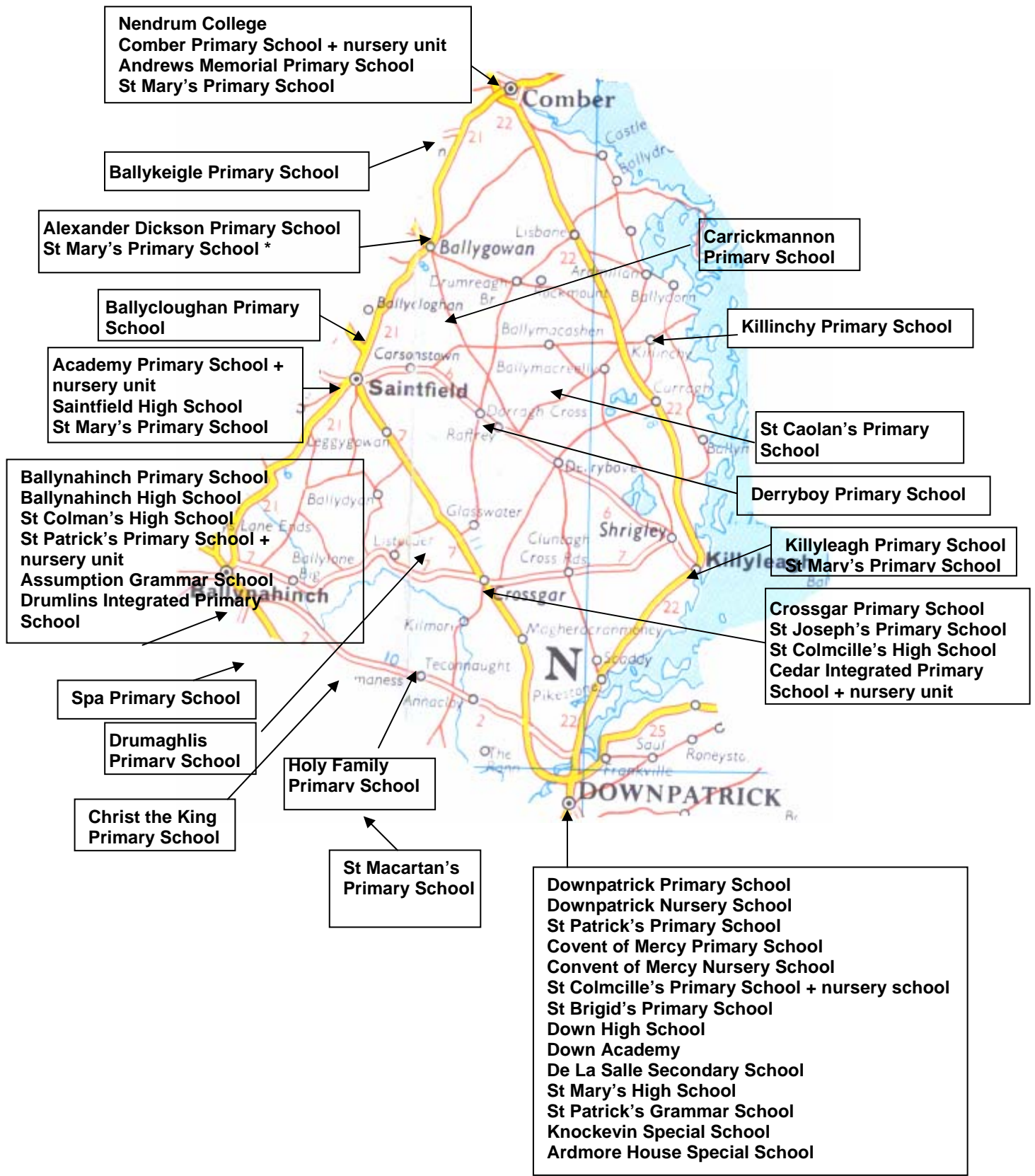
1.2 There are 51 providers of education, spread over 5 sectors, operating within the area under review made up of the following categories:

Type of School	Sector	Number
Nursery School	Controlled	1
	Maintained	2
Nursery Unit	Controlled	2
	Maintained	1
	Integrated	1
Primary School	Controlled	14
	Maintained	14
	Integrated	2
Post Primary School	Controlled	5
	Maintained	4
	Voluntary	2
	Independent Integrated	1
Special Schools	Not Applicable	2
		51

1.3 Within this area a controlled major capital scheme is presently underway for the major refurbishment and extension of Saintfield High School. Also a recent capital starts announcement by the Minister of Education included the replacement of Ballynahinch High School and the improvement of Knockevin Special School. In addition Nendrum College is currently part of a PPP bundle for which a contract has just been signed and work is close to starting on site. The voluntary grammar schools in the area, St Patricks and Assumption, are currently, or are going to be, undergoing major capital investment. Overall the schools in the area, irrespective of sector, require major capital investment however this has to be tempered with the knowledge of declining enrolments and the overall forecasted fall in pupil numbers in the next ten years.

This report investigates the controlled provision in the Mid and South Down area and while the Board has no control over the direction of the maintained and voluntary sector it does fully recognise the importance of collaborative working with the other education sectors. The Board would therefore welcome the opportunity for any future co operation between all providers of education, e.g. joint campuses, and would intend to contact all sectors for any input or ideas they may have for schools in the Mid and South Down area.

The area under review covers a broad geographical area and encompasses, as stated previously, five main urban areas, numerous small settlements and the rural areas between these settlements and urban areas. The map overleaf shows the location of all of the schools contained within the area and their relative position to each other.



Nendrum College
Comber Primary School + nursery unit
Andrews Memorial Primary School
St Mary's Primary School

Ballykeigle Primary School

Alexander Dickson Primary School
St Mary's Primary School *

Carrickmannon Primary School

Ballycloughan Primary School

Killinchy Primary School

Academy Primary School + nursery unit
Saintfield High School
St Mary's Primary School

St Caolan's Primary School

Ballynahinch Primary School
Ballynahinch High School
St Colman's High School
St Patrick's Primary School + nursery unit
Assumption Grammar School
Drumlins Integrated Primary School

Derryboy Primary School

Killyleagh Primary School
St Mary's Primary School

Crossgar Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Colmcille's High School
Cedar Integrated Primary School + nursery unit

Spa Primary School

Drumaghlin Primary School

Holy Family Primary School

Christ the King Primary School

St Macartan's Primary School

Downpatrick Primary School
Downpatrick Nursery School
St Patrick's Primary School
Convent of Mercy Primary School
Convent of Mercy Nursery School
St Colmcille's Primary School + nursery school
St Brigid's Primary School
Down High School
Down Academy
De La Salle Secondary School
St Mary's High School
St Patrick's Grammar School
Knockevin Special School
Ardmore House Special School

* A development proposal has recently been published for the closure of St Mary's Primary School in Ballygowan.

- 1.4 At this time there is no guidance from the Department of Education in relation to the most appropriate method of moving forward in the context of over provision of places. In site of this lack of central policy the SEELB has adopted a strategy for the management of the controlled schools estate which is designed to provide assistance when assessing the viability and long term future of schools. A copy of this paper is included within Appendix A.
- 1.5 The schools under examination fall within either Down District Council or Ards Borough Council.

The table below compares the 1991 census and 2001 census data for 0 – 18 year olds for Ards Borough Council areas and include projected figures up to 2017. These figures have been obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Ards Borough Council

Age Group	1991 Census	2001 Census	2017 Projected Figures	% Difference between 2001 - 2017
0 - 4	4,761	4,614	4,415	-4%
5 - 11	6,771	6,821	6,275	-8%
12 - 16	4,955	5,177	4,523	-13%
17 - 18	2,009	2,005	2,100	5%
Total	18,496	18,617	17,313	-7%

This table clearly shows that the overall number of children in the Ards Borough Council area has grown by less than 1% between 1991 and 2001, with a small decline in the 0 – 4 and 5 - 11 year olds and a slight increase in the other groups. The projected figures show an anticipated decline in all age groups except the 17 – 18 year olds and an overall decline of 7% can be expected in this area between the 2001 census and 2017.

The table below compares the 1991 census and 2001 census data for 0 – 18 year olds for Down District Council and include projected figures up to 2017. These figures have been obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Down District Council

Age Group	1991 Census	2001 Census	2017 Projected Figures	% Difference between 2001 - 2017
0 - 4	5,054	4,424	4,894	11%
5 - 11	7,262	7,184	6,629	-8%
12 - 16	4,822	5,371	4,490	-16%
17 - 18	1,981	2,086	1,763	-15%
Total	19,119	19,065	17,776	-7%

This table clearly shows that the overall number of children in the Down District Council area has fallen 0.28% between 1991 and 2001, with a small decline in the 0 – 4, 5 – 11 and 12 - 16 year olds and a slight increase in the other group. The projected figures show an anticipated decline in all age groups except the 0 - 4 year olds and an overall decline of 7% can be expected in this area between the 2001 census and 2017.

2.0 Pre school provision in Mid and South Down

- 2.1 There are 13 funded nursery / school units and voluntary playgroups operating in part of the Down District Council area under review and 5 funded nursery / school units and voluntary playgroups operating in the Ards Borough Council area under review, which provide pre school places. The following table gives a breakdown of the pre school provision provided in the two areas and compares the total provision against the total primary 1 cohort of children attending primary schools. Should the total number of pre school places equate to between 90% to 100% of the total number of primary 1 places then the level of provision is deemed adequate however should this figure drop below the 90% level then the area requires additional pre school provision or if above 100% there is too much provision.

Down District

Providers	P1 (Oct 04)	Nursery	Vol	Rec
Crossgar Community Playgroup			18	
Academy PS Nursery Unit		52		
Cedar IPS Nursery Unit		26		
Convent of Mercy Nursery School		78		
Dow npatrick Nursery School		26		
St Colmcilles Nursery School		78		
Glassw ater Cross Community Playgroup			19	
Kids Kabin Playgroup (Drumaroad)			16	
Killyleagh Early Years Playgroup			24	
Little Sunbeams Playgroup (Saintfield)			12	
Naiscoil Dhun Pdraig Playgroup (Dpk)			13	
Rathkeiltair Cross Community Playgroup (Dpk)			16	
Teconnaught Cross Community Playgroup			24	
Total P1 cohort across area under review	469			12
Totals	469	260	142	12
				414
% Provision				88.27

Ards Council

Providers	P1 (Oct 04)	Nursery	Vol	Rec
Comber PS Nursery Unit		52		
Ballygowan Playgroup			24	
Hundred Acre Wood Playgroup			10	
Kilmood Playgroup (Saintfield)			24	
Right Rascals Playgroup			14	
Total P1 cohort across area under review	165			
Totals	165	52	72	0
				124
% Provision				75.15

Based on this information it would appear that there is insufficient pre school places available in the Mid and South Down area. Within the Down District area there is a projected increase in pre school aged children (0 – 5 year olds) by 2017 however there is an anticipated decrease in the Ards Council area.

The recently released review of pre school education listed a number of outcomes and the main points which relate to this paper are:

- (a) The existing pattern of full time provision is to be retained.
- (b) The admission age is to be raised to 3 years and 2 months.
- (c) Primary schools will no longer be able to operate reception classes.
- (d) No new nursery units / schools will be built unless it is to replace an existing unit as part of a new build primary school or where more places are needed due to increased demand or where statutory provision is required or where units or schools are merged to a new location.

3.0 Controlled primary provision

3.1 Current provision

3.1.1 Within the area under review there are 6,784 primary school places available which can be broken down to 3,461 controlled primary places, 3,084 maintained primary places and 239 grant maintained integrated primary places.

3.1.2 The table below details the enrolment history within the controlled sector over the past eight years:

2006/2005	2005/2004	2004/2003	2003/2002	2002/2001	2001/2000	2000/1999	1999/1998
2,734	2,767	2,767	2,755	2,721	2,756	2,761	2,789

These places are provided in a mixture of large urban centres such as Downpatrick, Comber, Crossgar, Saintfield, Killyleagh and Ballygowan, smaller settlements such as Killinchy, Derryboy and Carrickmannon and in the rural areas between these urban areas.

As of 2005/2006 there are 727 surplus places within the controlled sector and this level of surplus has remained relatively constant over the past eight years. With the projected decline in demographics as stated in 1.5 it is highly likely that the level of over provision will increase in the future.

3.1.3 The table below details the enrolment history within the maintained sector over the past five years:

2006/2005	2005/2004	2004/2003	2003/2002	2002/2001
2069	2086	2120	2286	2331

In the main the maintained sector places are provided in urban settlements with only a handful of schools operating within the rural areas.

As of 2005/2006 there are 1,015 surplus places within the maintained sector and this level of surplus has increased over the past five years. With the projected decline in demographics as stated in 1.5 it is highly likely that the level of over provision will increase even further in the future.

3.1.4 There are two grant maintained integrated primary schools operating in the area under examination, Cedar Integrated in Crossgar and Drumlins Integrated Primary School in Ballynahinch. Cedar continues to attract children from a number of locations in the Mid and South Down areas and the school at present has 192 primary aged pupils and 26 nursery children. The school has continued to operate with little or no surplus provision. Drumlins is a relatively new school

and has not yet found a permanent site. At present there are 21 children enrolled at the school with a total of 43 places available.

- 3.1.5 The table overleaf is a brief description of the enrolment trends of the controlled and maintained schools, their respective surpluses as of 2005/2006 and their estimated long term enrolment. It is clear from the table that the level of over provision, in both the controlled and maintained sectors, is high and that it will increase in the future. Some of the controlled and maintained schools are reaching an enrolment number which, according to the Board's framework paper used to assess viability, will directly impact on the school's ability to deliver a curriculum. The financial burden of continuing with such small schools is directly impacting on the Board's ability to assist other more long term stable schools.

4.0 Future Pre School and Primary Need

- 4.1 Within the area to be reviewed there are a number of housing projects planned or currently underway and under the Ards and Down Area Plan additional land to be zoned for housing. The following table lists the total housing zoned for each main area, the relative associated religious split and the number of pupils likely to require controlled or maintained provision. It is noted that some children from both of the categories may seek admission to schools in the integrated sector.

Area	Total Houses	Religious Split %		Controlled Places		Maintained Places	
		Protestant	Catholic	Ards	Down	Ards	Down
Ballygowan	280	85.6%	9.2%	53		7	
Ballynahinch	946	65.4%	31.3%		175		100
Comber	748	92.0%	4.0%	153		8	
Crossgar	162	38.2%	60.0%		18		33
Downpatrick	1503	11.9%	86.8%		51		441
Killinchy + others	108	90.0%	4.0%	22		1	
Killyleagh / Shrigley	198	61.0%	37.0%		34		25
Saintfield	158	73.0%	22.0%		33		12
Spa	15	65.4%	31.3%		3		2
Total				229	313	16	612
				541		628	

There are a number of smaller settlements within the area under review, i.e. Drumaghllis, Derryboy etc; however there are no major developments contained within these settlements which would impact on the level of educational provision required.

It is clear from the above table that there will be a major increase in housing, specifically within the larger urban areas of Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Comber and Killyleagh.

- 4.2 As of 2005/2006 there are 727 surplus places available in controlled primary schools and 939 surplus places available in maintained primary schools. Enrolment histories and long term enrolment calculations for each controlled school are given in Appendix B.
- 4.3 The Board has no input into the planning of maintained schools. It is noted that there are a number of maintained primary schools operating with large surplus places and some schools with small enrolments. The CCMS have indicated that they are putting in place plans which will deal with the issue of surplus provision.

4.3 Proposed solution

Based on the level of overall need in the Mid and South Down areas, taken with the

- (a) available surplus places at the schools,
- (b) estimated long term enrolments,
- (c) school sites and the potential for the development of these sites,
- (d) the condition and suitability of existing school premises,
- (e) location of the schools and their respective proximity to each other,
- (f) demographics of Ards and Down Council areas and the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils,
- (g) estimated demand from any new housing and the time taken to complete the housing,
- (h) location of the developments,
- (i) proposals currently in place concerning any school detailed within this paper, and
- (j) the SEELB guidance paper on viable school size.

The Board has arrived at the following proposals for each of the schools detailed within this review:

Pre School Provision

At present the number of places is lower than overall demand in both areas, as indicated by the 88.27% and 75.15% comparison of the primary 1 cohort against the number of pre school places in the Down and Ards Council areas respectively. There will be increased demand with the completion of more housing in certain areas therefore it is proposed that the PEAG investigate the possibility of providing additional places, either voluntary or nursery units at schools within the Ards and Down area covered by this paper.

Andrews Memorial

The school has the long term enrolment range of 377 to 405 which indicates that the school may need to decrease from the current 19 classbases to 14 classbases to allow for the projected decline in demand for places; this is backed up by the continued decreasing enrolment trend of the school. This decrease takes into account the children that will be generated from the housing to be built on land close to the school. The school had 46 applications for the 76 P1 places available for September 2006. It is recommended that the school is initially decreased in size to a 14 classbase primary school, i.e. 381-410 pupils.

Comber Primary School

The school has the long term enrolment range of 338 to 360 which indicates that the school may need to decrease from the current 16 classbases to 12 classbases to allow for the projected decline in demand for places; this is backed up by the continued decreasing enrolment trend of the school. This decrease takes into account the children that will be generated from the housing to be built on land close to the school. The school had 49 applications for the 60 P1 places available in September 2006. It is recommended that as the mean LTE is slightly below the 13 classbase category that the school should be decreased in size to a

13 classbase primary school, i.e. 351 -380 pupils however the school should be capable of being increased in size to 14 classbases should smaller primary schools on the periphery of Comber close or there is increased demand arising from additional housing in the town.

Killinchy Primary School

This school has recently been subject to an economic appraisal which recommended that the school should be replaced by a new build school for 324 pupils (12 classbases) on the existing school site; this is a reduction from the current 14 classbases in use at the school. A review of the LTE since the completion of the EA shows that the school should be rebuilt for 11 classbases however, as with Comber Primary School, the possible impact on the school of the closure of smaller schools in the Comber area must be kept in mind when constructing the proposed new school. The school had 33 applications for the 57 P1 places available in September 2006. Therefore the proposed replacement school for Killinchy Primary School should initially have 11 classbases but should be easily extended if needed to 12 or 13 classbases.

Ballynahinch Primary School

As with Killinchy Primary School these premises have recently been subject to an economic appraisal which recommended a replacement school on the existing school site. The school has the long term range of 447 to 471 with the mean LTE placing the school into the 16 classbase category. However the Board recognises the potential impact of a new grant maintained integrated primary school recently established in the Ballynahinch area. Ballynahinch Primary School had 26 applications for the 60 P1 places available in September 2006. With this new school in mind it is felt prudent to rebuild Ballynahinch Primary School for 14 classbases.

Spa Primary School

As with Ballynahinch and Killinchy Primary Schools this school has recently been subject to an economic appraisal which recommended the replacement of the existing school with a new building on another site. The school has an LTE range of 164 to 178 with the mean figure placing the school just outside the 7 classbase category. The school had 17 applications for the 29 P1 places available in September 2006. Two possible courses of action are:

- (1) that the school should be rebuilt for 7 classbases, or
- (2) that the school should merge with the nearest controlled primary school, i.e. Ballynahinch Primary School.

Alexander Dickson Primary School.

At present this school has 6 permanent classbases plus 3 temporary buildings only one of which is used for teaching. The school has a long term enrolment range of 184 to 228 with the mean LTE of 210 placing the school just inside the 8 classbase category. The school has a current enrolment of 171 but the DE capacity is 254 which equates to 83 surplus places. It is felt that there will be the need for approximately 7 classbases in the future however the current level of accommodation is well above the long term needs. The school had 12 applications for the 30 P1 places available in September 2006. Two possible courses of action are:

- (1) reduce the school down to a 7 classbase school and remove any excess temporary accommodation from the school, or
- (2) merge the school with one or more of the nearest controlled primary schools, i.e. Carrickmannon and / or Ballycloughan Primary Schools.

Ballykeigle Primary School

This is a small rural school on the outskirts of the settlements of Comber, Ballygowan and Killinchy with the majority of its pupils travelling from Comber. With an enrolment of 58 and a school capacity of 76 this school falls into the category of a primary school with an enrolment of less than 85 and close to large population centres (as specified in the document in appendix A). Based on this information, together with the long term enrolment range of 66 to 72 and a mean LTE of 69, the viability of this school has to be questioned. The school had 5 applications for the 11 P1 places available in September 2006. It is recommended that the long term need for the school should be assessed and if required pupils could avail of the surplus places available at the schools in Comber, Killinchy and Ballygowan.

Carrickmannon Primary School

As with Ballykeigle Primary School this is a small rural school operating close to the settlements of Saintfield and Ballygowan. Approximately 2/3 of the pupils attending the school come from Ballygowan with the remaining children residing in the rural areas south of Comber and areas around Saintfield and Killinchy. The enrolment at the school has consistently remained in the mid 80's to low 90's and the long term enrolment range of 97 – 104 supports this. The school had 12 applications for the 14 P1 places available in September 2006. However the school is close to the viability threshold as detailed in Appendix A and the long term future of the school has to be questioned. Two possible courses of action are:

- (1) retain the school at its current size of 115 pupils, or
- (2) merge the school with one of the nearest controlled primary schools, i.e. Alexander Dickson Primary School.

Downpatrick Primary School

This is the only controlled primary school provision in Downpatrick and currently has an enrolment of 194 pupils (170 mainstream & 24 special needs) with a capacity for 190. Nearly all of these pupils come from the town and demand for places at the school continues to be strong. With a long term enrolment range of 210 to 224 the future of the school appears to be strong and the Board has submitted an economic appraisal to the DE recommending the replacement of the current sub standard accommodation with a new build on the current site. The school had 24 applications for the 27 P1 places available in September 2006. It is recommended that the Board continue to pursue this course of action and that the school should be replaced with a new building for 217 mainstream pupils and 30 special needs.

Academy Primary School

Demand for places at this school has increased over the past ten years and in 2005/2006 the enrolment of 373 is more than the 370 capacity of the school. With this increasing demand in mind, together with the long term enrolment range of 346 – 373, it is recommended that the Board pursue the replacement of the current sub standard accommodation with a new building with the capacity to hold 405 pupils. This will allow the school to take additional pupils from any neighbouring rural schools which close in the future. The school had 44 applications for the 56 P1 places available in September 2006.

Ballycloughan Primary School

This school is located close to Saintfield village and currently has 56 pupils enrolled. The long term enrolment range of 42 – 47 indicates that the school will fall below the 3 classbase category of 56 – 85. As with Ballykeigle Primary School this school falls into the unviable criteria of having an enrolment less than 85 and within 6 miles another controlled school. The school had 4 applications for the 13 P1 places available in September 2006. Two possible courses of action are:

- (1) that the long term need for the school should be assessed and if there is no need for the school in the area then the pupils could transfer to the controlled primary school in Saintfield, this will require additional temporary accommodation to be located at the school until a new building has been constructed. If the parents wish to continue to have their children taught in a rural setting then places are available at Carrickmannon Primary School,
- (2) merge the school with one of nearest controlled primary schools, i.e. Academy, Alexander Dickson or Carrickmannon Primary Schools.

Killyleagh Primary School

The enrolment at this school has continued to decline over the past 10 years, this can be attributed to the changes in demographics in the town and increased demand for maintained places. At present the school has a long term enrolment range of 99 to 106, with a mean figure of 103; this places the school into the 4 classbase category which is 3 classbases below the current capacity of the school. The school had 13 applications for the 25 P1 places available in September 2006. In order to secure controlled primary education in this area for the long term it will be necessary to assess this school's requirement in conjunction with other controlled primary schools such as Crossgar and Derryboy Primary Schools. It is therefore recommended that a full investigation take place into the possible merger of Killyleagh with one or both of the previously mentioned schools.

Derryboy Primary School

Derryboy Primary School is located within the small settlement of Derryboy and it attracts the majority of its pupils from the settlement and rural areas in close proximity. The school has a long term enrolment range of 72 to 77 which gives a man LTE of 77. These figures are in keeping with the school's current enrolment therefore the school will continue to operate within the 56 – 85 category of a 3 classbase primary school. The school had 16 applications for the 15 P1 places

available in September 2006. The school is located close to Crossgar and Killyleagh therefore, taken in conjunction with the current and projected enrolment figure, it falls into the category of a school where long term viability must be questioned. The most appropriate course of action would be to merge or form a confederation with one or more of the neighbouring controlled primary schools.

Crossgar Primary School

The enrolment at this school has continued to decline over the past 10 years, this can be attributed to the changes in demographics in the town and increased demand for maintained and integrated places. At present the school has a long term enrolment range of 83 to 88, with a mean figure of 86; this places the school just into the 4 classbase category which is 1 classbase below the current capacity of the school. In order to secure controlled primary education in this area for the long term it will be necessary to assess this school's requirement in conjunction with other controlled primary schools such as Derryboy Primary School. The school had 9 applications for the 14 P1 places available in September 2006. It is therefore recommended that a full investigation take place into the possible merger or the formation of a confederation of Crossgar with neighbouring primary schools.

It is assessed that between 2,839 and 3,062 children will require controlled primary school places. This is made up of the 2,485 children calculated under the standard long term enrolment calculation for each school plus the 577 children from the housing developments detailed under 4.1 which equates to 3,062. The same 577 plus reducing the 2,485 by the 8% gives 2,863 children. However it should be noted that the houses planned for the larger scale developments in Downpatrick will take a number of years to construct. Therefore the likely demand for places at the local controlled primary schools will be spread over a decade or more.

The Board would intend to plan for between the 2,863 and 3,062 in order to take account of the projected decline in the population and the length of time it will take for all the new housing to be completed. This gives a target figure of 2,963 controlled primary places for the Mid and South Down area.

The following LTE ranges have been calculated for the controlled primary education in the Mid and South Down area:

DE capacity	Existing (05/06) Enrolment	Surplus Places (05/06)	Normal LTE	Reduced LTE by 8%	Mean LTE
3461	2734	727	3062	2863	2963

In order to limit the risk of significant over or under provision it has been decided to take the mean LTE as the planning figure. Therefore the target of the review is to provide primary provision for approximately 2,963 children or as close as possible to this figure.

4.4 Summary of possible strategy

	Academy	Alexander Dickson	Andrews Memorial	Ballycloughan	Ballykeigle	Ballynahinch	Carrickmannon	Comber	Crossgar	Derryboy	Downpatrick	Killinchy	Killyleagh	Spa
Academy	360			405			461							
Alexander Dickson		210		255	279		311							
Andrews Memorial			391		460			740						
Ballycloughan	405	255		45			146							
Ballykeigle			460		69			418						
Ballynahinch						459								630
Carrickmannon		311		146			101							
Comber			740					349						
Crossgar									68	143			171	
Derryboy									143	75			246	
Downpatrick											217			
Killinchy												314		
Killyleagh													103	
Spa						630								171

Three Way Mergers

Crossgar / Derryboy / Killyleagh	246
Andrews / Comber / Ballykeigle	809
Carrickmannon / Alexander / Ballykeigle	380
Carrickmannon / Alexander / Ballycloughan	356
Carrickmannon / Academy / Ballycloughan	506

This table shows what mergers may be possible in the area. The bold italic figures are the mean LTEs and the other figures are combinations of two or more schools, i.e. Alexander Dickson combined with Ballycloughan would achieve a school with an estimated LTE of 255. There is the possibility of three school mergers and these are detailed opposite.

The following is an outline of one possible strategy for the controlled primary provision in Mid and South Down area:

Primary School	Proposed Strategy	Number of Places provided
Andrew s Memorial	Resize school to 14 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	410
Comber	Resize school to 13 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	380
Alexander Dickson	Resize school to 7 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	205
Ballycloughan	Close - near to Academy w hich w ill have sufficient capacity to provide places.	0
Ballykeigle	Close - near to Killinchy, Comber & Andrew s Memorial w hich w ill have sufficient capacity to provide places.	0
Academy	Rebuild school to 14 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	405
Ballynahinch	Rebuild school to 14 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	410
Spa	Rebuild school to 7 classbases - new build or refurbishment required	205
Dow npatrick	Rebuild school to 8 mainstream classbases + 3 special classbases - new build or refurbishment required	230
Crossgar	The LTE w ould indicate that the school falls below the 85 minimum how ever the Board recognises the need to retain controlled provision in this area therefore all possible mergers / confederations w ith neighbouring schools should be investigated.	68
Killyleagh	The LTE w ould indicate that the school falls into the 4 classbase category how ever the Board recognises the need to retain controlled provision in this area therefore all possible mergers / confederations w ith neighbouring schools should be investigated.	115
Derryboy	The LTE w ould indicate that the school falls into the 3 classbase category how ever the Board recognises the need to retain controlled provision in this area therefore all possible mergers / confederations w ith neighbouring schools should be investigated.	75
Killinchy	Rebuild school for 11 classbases	320
Carrickmannon	The school's enrolment has remained constant over the years & serves a defined rural community. The school should be retained to meet the rural needs but the school should be kept under review to ensure the enrolment does not decline to an untenable point.	115
		2938

The above proposals indicate overall provision very close to the target of 2,963 primary places however there would be sufficient flexibility in some of the schools which could be increased in size if required. In addition it should be noted that the new housing will take up to a decade to complete therefore the level of pressure for additional places will be softened. The estimated LTE will be kept under review and refined in response to future circumstances. The proposal is not meant to be a definitive statement of intent; its sole purpose is to give all stakeholders an example of one way forward. All stakeholders will be given the opportunity to comment of this paper and any viable options that may arise during the consultation period will be taken into consideration in any future reviews of the paper.

5.0 Controlled secondary provision in Mid and South Down

5.1 Current provision

Within the review area there are a total of 5,997 post primary places available, this is broken down as follows:

Sector	School	DE		2005/2006		05/06 School surplus	2006 Applications
		Enrolment	Admission	Enrolment	Admission		
Controlled							
	Ballynahinch	380	76	377	85	3	53
	Saintfield	328	68	336	70	-8	84
	Nendrum	400	80	356	75	44	40
Controlled Integrated							
	Down Academy	300	60	261	50	39	37
Controlled Grammar							
	Down High	934	128	941	135	-7	153
Maintained							
	De La Salle	430	86	375	61	55	39
	St. Marys	600	125	563	82	37	53
	St. Colmcilles	450	90	443	95	7	71
	St. Colmans	550	95	368	47	182	32
Voluntary Grammar							
	Assumption	905	125	921	133	-16	138
	St. Patricks	720	96	716	101	4	132
Total		5997	1029	5657	934	340	832

- 5.1.1 All of the grammar schools, both voluntary and controlled, are operating close to or above their respective Department of Education enrolment figure. It is likely, based on the applications for September 2006 admission, this will continue into the future. The voluntary grammar schools are presently in the process of either having major extensions added to the school, i.e. Assumption Grammar, or are to be replaced by new buildings, i.e. St. Patricks. The Board has been attempting to obtain planning permission in order to progress a proposal for a new building to replace the current Down High, unfortunately this planning application has been refused and the Board is currently reassessing the most appropriate course of action in order to provide the necessary site. This may involve relocating Down High School out of the town of Downpatrick possibly further north towards Crossgar or Saintfield. All of the grammar schools have been attracting applications in excess of the number of places currently available at the schools.
- 5.1.2 Within the maintained sector there appears to be an increasing level of surplus provision which, based on the number of applications for September 2006 admission, will increase. The only controlled integrated school is operating with a number of surplus places which will probably increase in the future.
- 5.1.3 The South Eastern Education and Library Board does not retain any long term enrolment projections for the maintained or voluntary sector and has no direct input on the strategic estate issues in relation to these sectors.

- 5.1.4 The controlled post primary schools are operating with a level of over provision however this is primarily within Nendrum College. The 2006 applications indicate that the level of surplus provision at Nendrum College and Ballynahinch High School will increase in the future. It is planned to replace the current Nendrum College with a new building on the existing school site, this school will have the capacity to accommodate 400 pupils. This project is part of a PPP bundle and the contract has recently been signed.

In addition the Department of Education has recently announced that the current Ballynahinch High School will be replaced by a new building on the current school site and the current long term enrolment calculation for the school indicates a new school with an enrolment of 390 pupils, this is slightly more than the current capacity.

- 5.1.5 Saintfield High School is presently undergoing major works which will result in the capacity of the building increasing to 340 pupils. These works, which include a large extension and alterations / refurbishment works to the existing building, is due to complete by September 2007. Based on the number of applicants for admission to the school over the past number of years it seems likely that the school will be able to fill all of the 340 places for the foreseeable future. However it should be noted that a new voluntary integrated school has opened in September 2006. The precise location and number of pupils at this school are unknown at this time therefore it would be difficult to forecast the impact this school will have on Saintfield High School and other schools in the area
- 5.1.6 An economic appraisal covering all of the controlled provision within Downpatrick, nursery, primary and post primary, has been submitted to the Department of Education in 2004. The recommended option within this appraisal was:

“Build a new Down High School on a greenfield site and build a new Down Academy on the vacated Down High School site and build a new Downpatrick Primary School on the existing site and build a new nursery on part of the Down High School site, is considered the best way forward to ensure the necessary educational provision for pre school, primary and post primary pupils in the Downpatrick area and for those likely to attend in the future and is therefore recommended for acceptance.”

The Department of Education has not approved this appraisal however as stated previously the Board has been attempting, unsuccessfully, to obtain planning permission for a new school for Down High School. It is likely that the DE will request that the Board revisit the appraisal as the relocation of Down High School was a central component of the recommended option. In addition the forthcoming changes to the admission procedure, i.e. the removal of the 11+ and the new entitlement framework, plus the falling enrolments of the contributory primary schools will have a fundamental impact on the future post primary requirements in the area and new options will have to be considered which will take into account these changes.

- 5.1.7 As with the primary schools the following LTE ranges for the controlled post primary provision in Mid and South Down are:

DE capacity	Existing (05/06) Enrolment	Surplus Places (05/06)	Normal LTE	Reduced LTE by 8%	Mean LTE
2342	2271	71	2239	2116	2178

In order to limit the risk of significant over or under provision it has been decided to take the mean LTE as the planning figure. Therefore the target of the review is to provide post primary provision for 2,178 children or as close as possible to this figure.

5.2 Future Post Primary Need

- 5.2.1 Unlike past reviews which specifically dealt with relatively confined areas this paper deals with a wide spread geographical area which encompasses rural areas and small to middle sized urban settlements. There is a need for controlled post primary education in the area however the manner in which this provision is made may involve fundamental changes in the mind set of the local populace. In the past each of the larger settlements have had their own controlled post primary serving the local need however changes to the structure of post primary education will, inevitable, lead to a more regionalised approach, i.e. the removal of the 11+, the new entitlement framework and the push by central government to remove surplus places.
- 5.2.2 The guidance paper created by the SEELB, and included in Appendix A, shows that a post primary of less than 350 must be examined in detail in order to assess whether it is appropriate to retain the school or consider alternatives such as merger or closure. Within the area under review the only school with an enrolment in well in excess of the 350 threshold is Down High School. As the only controlled grammar school in the area Down High School has continued to attract an increasing numbers of pupils from a wide area. The four other controlled post primary schools, the 3 controlled schools and 1 controlled integrated school, are all operating below or slightly above the 350 target. However the Board's paper acknowledges the need to assess each school on a case by case basis and that the threshold figure should not be applied on a rigid basis. Factors such as location, condition and suitability of buildings, enrolment history and projected long term enrolment should be examined in order to fully assess the long term future of any school.
- 5.2.3 At present Saintfield High School is undergoing major building works which will result, by September 2007, in a building which meets all current standards. When completed the school will have the capacity to accommodate approximately 340 pupils. The new improved school will be slightly below the 350 target and will not be able to provide all of the 24 subjects indicated under the entitlement framework however the school's long term enrolment calculation shows that the school will continue to attract sufficient numbers to warrant the 340 figure. Overall the expenditure on improving the school plus the relatively firm enrolment figures mean the Board intends to retain the school. With respect to the need to provide the 24 subjects, additional work will be undertaken with the school to establish links with other post primary schools and further education colleges in the area to allow pupils full access to all subjects.
- 5.2.4 Ballynahinch High School is slightly larger than Saintfield High School but serves a similar type and size of community. The Department of Education has recently announced approval of the capital scheme to replace the existing school with a new building on the current site – the new building will have the capacity to accommodate 390 pupils. This high school has, as with Saintfield High School, maintained a strong enrolment and the long term enrolment calculation indicates the school will continue to attract pupils however it will not be able deliver all of the subjects under the entitlement framework and it is close to the 350 pupil threshold indicated in the guidance paper in Appendix A. Overall this school fulfils a defined need within a small community but the Board must look at the wider picture and assess the most appropriate method of providing controlled post primary provision in the area.

- 5.2.5 Nendrum College, formerly known as Comber High School, is currently part of a PFI bundle with Bangor Academy. The Department of Education has been robust in its assertion that the Board must be able to stand over any LTE figure used when entering into a contractual arrangement with a private consortium as this is the primary factor which will affect the ability of the school and Board to meet the unitary charges associated with such financial arrangements. With this in mind the Board has indicated that a long term enrolment figure of 400 pupils would be achievable and that the Board would undertake to manage the controlled post primary estate in order to underpin this LTE figure. Therefore Nendrum College will remain in operation with an LTE of 400 pupils.
- 5.2.6 Down Academy is a controlled integrated post primary located on a confined site in Downpatrick. This school was established after an amalgamation of three controlled schools, 1 located in Downpatrick, a second in Killyleagh and a third in Castlewellan. The school's long term enrolment shows that the number will fall below the 350 threshold therefore doubts must be expressed over the long term ability of the school to deliver access to subjects dictated under the entitlement framework. Another factor to take into consideration is the school's proximity to Down High School – while this school is currently operating as a controlled grammar this will not be the case with the cessation of academic selection. The Board must consider the possible merger of Down Academy with other controlled post primary schools in the area.
- 5.2.7 As stated previously Down High School is extremely popular school which has gone from strength to strength over the past 10 years. The school attracts pupils from a diverse area and its LTE shows that the school will continue to attract sufficient numbers to warrant its retention as a core school. The only unknown factor is where is the best location for Down High School – the current accommodation is sub standard and on going problems with obtaining planning permission for a site close to Downpatrick could potentially lead to the school relocating to a site closer to Crossgar. In addition there are a number of other controlled post primary providers in the area and the Board must investigate whether there is the potential for merging one of these schools with Down High School (as outlined under 5.2.6).

5.3 Proposals

- 5.3.1 The following are sample scenarios which detail how the long term post primary requirements in the area could be met:

Proposal 1	Calculated Mean LTE
Nendrum College	335
Saintfield High	298
Down High	900
Down Academy	263
Ballynahinch High School	382
Total Places	2178

Under this proposal all of the schools would be planned according to their respective calculated mean long term enrolment. The issue with this proposal is that Nendrum, as part of a PPP bundle, is being planned to accommodate 400 pupils and Saintfield is presently being extended & refurbished for 340 pupils. These factors must be born in mind when formulating a strategy for post primary provision in the area.

Proposal 2	Build LTE
Nendrum College	400
Saintfield High	340
Down High	900
Down Academy	263
Ballynahinch High	382
Total Places	2285

This proposal takes into account the need to plan Nendrum & Saintfield at a set size. The outcome is the total number of places is more than the target figure of 2219. It should also be noted that Down Academy would be planned for a size well below the minimum threshold figure of 350.

Proposal 3	Build LTE
Nendrum College	400
Saintfield High School	340
Merge Down High / Ballynahinch High & Down Academy	1545
Total Places	2285

Nendrum & Saintfield would be planned as under proposal 2. The three other post primary schools would be merged to form a central controlled school to serve the area.

Proposal 4	Build LTE
Nendrum College	400
Saintfield High	340
Merge Down High & Ballynahinch High	1282
Down Academy	263
Total Places	2285

As before Nendrum & Saintfield would be built for 400 & 340 respectively. Down and Ballynahinch High Schools would be merged to a central location and Down Academy would be planned for the mean LTE.

Proposal 5	Build LTE
Nendrum College	400
Saintfield High	340
Merge Down High & Down Academy	1163
Ballynahinch High	382
Total Places	2285

As before Nendrum & Saintfield would be built for 400 & 340 respectively. Down High and Down Academy would merge to a central location and Ballynahinch High School would be planned for the LTE figure.

All of the proposals would result in a new controlled estate with the capacity less than that currently provided, i.e. at present there is a total of 2,342 places provided and all of the above proposals are below this figure. Proposal 2 would achieve the highest level of support as it would result in all of the schools under review remaining in operation – concerns over the smaller schools to meet their commitments under the entitlement framework might be resolved by forming mutual arrangements between schools and local further education colleges. However it should be noted that this proposal would probably not receive any support from the Department of Education with respect to continuing post primary schools with small enrolments – this would especially mean Down Academy as this school is located close to an existing strong controlled post primary, i.e. Down High, and the DE would push for a merger for these two schools.

It is likely that the Department would fully support either proposal 3, 4 or 5 as the result of any mergers in the area would be a controlled post primary which would have a relatively sound long term future.

All of these proposals are meant to be a baseline for discussion and are not a definitive list. Any other plausible options resulting from consultations with stakeholders will be considered.

APPENDIX A

THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF THE SEELB CONTROLLED SCHOOLS ESTATE

THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF THE SEELB CONTROLLED SCHOOLS ESTATE

1. Context

The duty of the Board is to provide Education, Youth and Library Services and in doing this the education of children is paramount.

The function of the Schools Estate is to provide buildings which enhance the educative process. Schools are provided as a consequence of children needing to be educated rather than for historical reasons. The estate must always be flexible and responsive to the needs of the education community.

There are several changes facing education over the next few years, each of which is considered below. In order to respond to these changes, it will be necessary to adopt a more radical approach to the management of the schools estate than has been required in the past.

1.1 Enrolments

We exist in an environment of declining pupil numbers. At present, in the SEELB area, there are over 8600 surplus places within the controlled sector alone. This decline is not uniform across all council areas. The NISRA figures, published in August 2004, for the approximate decline in the under 16 population in each council area are shown below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| • Ards Borough Council | 8% |
| • Castlereagh Borough Council | 29% |
| • Down District Council | 4% |
| • Lisburn City Council | 13% |
| • North Down Borough Council | 19% |

Changing demographics mean that, in certain areas, schools of one management type may be facing much more pressure than other schools and indeed a totally new school, usually integrated or Irish medium, may appear at (relatively) short notice.

In the past the South Eastern Education and Library Board has not ignored these trends but has been able to effect a reduction in surplus places through the amalgamation of schools into a single new school, or providing replacements more suited to the reduced population base.

With the accelerated downturn in pupil numbers, this incremental approach is no longer tenable and more radical action will be required to align the provision of places and the numbers of pupils.

1.2 Suitability and Condition

Much of our existing school stock is unsuitable for delivery of a modern curriculum. Rooms are too small (some well below the current standard set by the DE Building Handbook), there are not enough resource areas and specialist accommodation may be out-dated and cramped. In addition the exterior of many buildings is not totally weatherproof and we have ongoing challenges relating to the Disability Discrimination Act, energy efficiency and other legislative responsibilities.

1.3 Political

The Secretary of State has recently announced a 'Root and Branch' review of educational provision and has spoken approvingly of a Scottish solution to diversity of provision within a Value for Money framework. Whatever happens, it seems there is serious reluctance on the part of Central Government to continue to fund the existing numbers and diversity of schools, with thousands of wasteful empty places. The inference is that money is being wasted on keeping bricks and mortar rather than on the education of our young people.

In addition, the Review of Public Administration and the separate Strategic Investment Board/PricewaterhouseCoopers report 'New Procurement and Delivery arrangements for the Schools Estate March 2005' points the way to the estate being managed in a more holistic manner, with lines on maps or particular vested interests being less important than a strategic, geographically coherent, provision of schools.

2. **Core Schools**

In order to move from the current position of surplus capacity to a more stable situation with fewer, but newer, fit for purpose schools, it is necessary to consider the school estate as a whole and to identify:

- Where schools are required
- What types of schools are required
- What size each school should be to meet the anticipated long term enrolment

It follows that schools must be sited where there is sufficient demand to support a reasonable sized school of that type. Although historical provision can no longer be considered to be a predictor of future need, it is necessary to start with the existing provision and consider how it can be adapted to meet the future requirements.

From this thinking has emerged the concept of 'core schools'. It is reasonable to assume that, if capital funding is or is to be invested in providing high quality schools, capable of supporting first-class education for a given number of pupils that these schools must continue to attract sufficient pupils to remain viable for the anticipated lifetime of the building. As recently as 1 March 2006 in making her announcement of the new capital starts the Minister for Education explained to the media that these (the listed schools) were ones that have a secure existence within the foreseeable future, i.e. these are 'core' schools.

Core schools are therefore schools that are able to satisfy the following criteria:

- They are located in or near major centres of population
- They can achieve a sustainable future enrolment that is sufficiently large to attract adequate funding
- As a result of this, they are able to attract highly skilled and qualified teachers to support the delivery of the full current and future Northern Ireland curriculum
- They already have (or will have in the future) high quality accommodation and facilities to support the education of pupils

However, if these 'core schools' are to remain viable in the long term, it will be necessary to embark on a programme, over the next decade, of rationalisation of certain 'non core schools'.

3. Rationalisation

In the past, rationalisations in SEELB have been accompanied by new build with the combining schools forming a new school when the building became available.

This was a sound tactic as removal of surplus places essentially moved one 'up the list' for a new start. There is no reason to believe this will change, however the delays in waiting for a new building means that SEELB may need to accelerate timescales, resulting in bringing schools together into existing buildings. This will not preclude the provision of new accommodation at a later stage where required. Such a course of action is necessary to address the educational needs of pupils in schools that are not viable in relation to:

- The ability of the school to deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- The extra-curricular opportunities made available to pupils
- The suitability of the accommodation.

It is also necessary to stop the haemorrhage of funding to schools in severe deficit and with no apparent way of reversing this situation.

Potential for such rationalisations are indicated in the SEELB Area Plan. In some cases closure may be the more appropriate option.

4. Procurement Method

SEELB has no control over the procurement route for new schools. The Department of Education indicates to the Board, after the announcement, whether the scheme will be conventionally funded, Design and Build or PPP/PFI.

If the latter is the case the Board, or its successors, has an ongoing commitment to pay for the school at the rate of full occupancy, for 25 or 30 years.

Accordingly those schools obtained by this method are most definitely core in that other provision (both in terms of the number of schools and their pupil capacity) must be managed to ensure the optimum number of pupils in the core schools.

This does not however only apply to schools funded under PPP/PFI. All capital investment must be accompanied by a commitment to ensuring that the new school has a long term future, by managing the surrounding estate. In future, only core schools will be eligible for significant capital funding.

5. Identification of core schools and schools that are not viable

The Department of Education is producing a policy on sustainable schools. The details of this policy are not yet available, but it is expected to set out minimum numbers of pupils that are needed to enable a school to be viable in the primary and in the post primary sectors.

For the reasons already noted, the Board cannot wait for the Department of Education paper before making decisions about the schools in the SEELB estate. It takes at least a year between making a proposal and beginning to implement that proposal and in the meantime, pupils are not being provided with an education that is suited to the 21st century.

The following criteria are therefore proposed for the short term in the primary sector:

- A primary school will be considered not viable in the long term if its current or anticipated enrolment falls below 85 pupils
- In calculating enrolment, the numbers of pupils in Special units will not be taken into consideration

- Primary schools of less than 85 pupils will only be allowed to continue if there is no suitable alternative within a six mile radius
- If there is a suitable alternative within a six mile radius and that school has surplus capacity, the school that is not viable will be closed as soon as practically possible.
- Where there are a number of schools in an area with less than 85 pupils, these schools will be brought together on the most suitable site
- In determining the most suitable site, preference will be given to sites in or near major population centres
- The school on this site will be designated as a core school and funding will be sought for a capital scheme if the existing accommodation is unsuitable or in poor condition
- If there is no suitable alternative provision within a six mile radius, consideration will be given to arrangements with a school in another sector to allow two schools with different ethos to share facilities, management etc along the lines suggested by the Secretary of State. As this is a new concept for Northern Ireland, it will require considerable working out. To allow time for this exercise to be completed, a school of between 30 and 85 pupils may have to continue for a period.

The following criteria are proposed for the short term in the post primary sector:

- A post primary school will be considered not viable in the long term if its current or anticipated enrolment falls below 350 pupils
- In calculating enrolment, the numbers of pupils in Special units will not be taken into consideration
- Post primary schools of less than 350 pupils will only be allowed to continue if there is no suitable alternative within a twelve mile radius
- If there is a suitable alternative within a twelve mile radius and that school has surplus capacity, the school will be closed as soon as practically possible.
- Where there are a number of schools in an area with less than 350 pupils, these schools will be brought together on the most suitable site
- In determining the most suitable site, preference will be given to sites in or near major population centres
- The school on this site will be designated as a core school and funding will be sought for a new build if the existing accommodation is unsuitable or in poor condition
- If there is no suitable alternative provision within a twelve mile radius, consideration will be given to arrangements with a school in another sector to allow two schools with different ethos to share facilities, management etc along the lines suggested by the Secretary of State. As this is a new concept for Northern Ireland, it will require considerable working out. To allow time for this exercise to be completed, a school of between 250 and 350 pupils may have to continue for a period.

It should be noted that these criteria are general guidelines and each individual case will be considered on its merit. Changes in provision will be subject to development proposals and consultation in the usual way.

These criteria will be reviewed and re-aligned when the Department of Education issues its policy on sustainable schools.

As part of the overall process in each area, 'core schools' will be identified. Where necessary, funding for re-building or refurbishment of these schools will be sought.

Closure or amalgamation of a school is a stressful process for all concerned. Local people are usually very attached to "their" school and may have attended it as children. Parents may not always appreciate the changes in education that have taken place in the last 30 years and cannot

understand why some schools with falling enrolments may struggle to provide their children with the full Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The key issue for the Education and Library Boards is that not only should schools attract sufficient resources to enable them to employ enough staff to deliver the full Northern Ireland Curriculum, but they should have, in each year group, sufficient pupils to promote the social, personal, physical, moral and ethical development of all children.

If schools do not attract enough pupils in each year group their holistic development may suffer and the extra curricular activities available to them may be significantly curtailed.

6. Withdrawal of LMS delegation

The financial implications of funding small schools cannot be ignored. Small schools receive additional funding through Common Formula funding, but this is at the expense of all other schools. Even with this additional funding, very small schools often cannot make ends meet and end up running at a deficit. This situation cannot be sustained in the longer term, but schools with very small numbers can find themselves in an impossible situation, where the funding genuinely does not cover the bare minimum requirements.

A further recommendation is therefore that, as soon as a school has been identified as part of an amalgamation or closure, the Board should consider whether LMS delegation should be withdrawn from the school. Withdrawal of LMS delegation can only be imposed where the Board of Governors has acted improperly in the management of the delegated budget and this may not always be the case. Very small schools will often have operated in a budget deficit situation for some time, which may constitute grounds for withdrawal of delegation. Even where it is accepted that the deficit is beyond the control of the Governors, withdrawal of delegation may enable the Board to ensure that an objective view is taken of the overall requirements of the school for the remainder of its life and could remove some of the pressure from Boards of Governors and Head teachers.

7. Inaction

There may be a temptation not to take action, particularly in light of the impending reorganisation of the Boards. By adopting this approach we are leaving numbers of schools in a situation where enrolments and finance continue to decline leading to low staff morale, limited resources, increased composite classes and a lack of good facilities. This is not a system where pupils are provided with the opportunities they need to develop their potential and take their place in society as well educated skilled and informed citizens.

8. Decision Process

Certain options will be brought by officers to the Board in the next few months. These proposals will be based on the criteria noted above. If the Board approves these, the process leading to the publication of a series of Development Proposals will be initiated. This will involve a round of consultations with stakeholders such as Governors, school staff, parents and others.

After publication and a minimum two month objection period, a report is prepared by Department officials for ministerial approval and it is there that the final decision making rests.

It would be unusual to complete this process in less than a year.

9. Summary

This paper is seeking approval from Members to a new way of managing the controlled schools estate.

It sets out the criteria for the identification of 'core' schools, which are educationally, locationally and financially sound, and the management of the remainder of the estate to ensure that these schools are viable for the foreseeable future.

It also sets out the general principles for the identification of schools that are not viable and the action to be taken in respect of these schools.

APPENDIX B

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

REVIEW OF ANDREWS MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Andrews Memorial Primary School was established in 1973 with a new school building being built in 1979. The school was further extended in 1988. The school is situated on the Ballygowan Road in the south-west of Comber. The present accommodation comprises 15 classbases in the main school building, 4 temporary classbases, dining hall, kitchen, assembly hall/gym, activity areas, library, staffroom, offices and stores. The school also has access to the adjacent Andrews Memorial Hall. This contains two classrooms in the basement and the main hall which is used for additional physical education, music, drama and special events. Not all of the temporary classbases are in use at the school.

The school is located on a 1.32 hectare site. The site is 0.75 hectares smaller than that required of a school that essentially comprises 21 classbases. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school is currently in a moderate condition requiring £103,478 worth of repairs. Of these repairs £21,515 are immediate repairs and include glazing work, fencing, work to the internal staircase and the replacement of ancillary fire fighting equipment.

The remainder of the repairs include substantial work to the school's heating system and mechanical infrastructure, redecoration and new floor finishes. The school also requires reparations to both flat and pitched roofs.

All of the classbases are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required by The Building Handbook with the exception of one 63m² classroom in the Memorial Hall. The majority are 15m² to 20m² undersized. The staffroom and library are also below the recommended minimum as are the resource areas.

The four temporary classrooms need to be replaced. Two are over 50 years old and the other two are approximately 16 years old. Two are used as classrooms, one as a store and one as a music/art room.

In recent years the school has undergone resurfacing and siteworks costing £58,400. The school is currently undergoing an internal redecoration scheme.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 531 and the admission number is 76. The school currently has 390 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 141 places.

Based on the 2004/05 pupil address list data 87.9% of the pupils come from Comber town, 4.4% come from Ballygowan, 2.8% from Newtownards, with remainder coming from the surrounding towns of Lisbane, Killinchy, Dundonald and Moneyreagh.

Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	50	37	61	62	57	57	52	376
2004/2005	39	61	61	56	57	53	63	390
2003/2004	60	61	60	58	52	63	54	408
2002/2003	61	60	59	52	63	54	77	426
2001/2002	56	60	54	62	59	78	67	436
2000/2001	59	57	66	60	77	68	63	450
1999/2000	55	67	56	76	69	62	83	468
1998/1999	64	56	74	69	63	83	84	493
1997/1998	59	74	71	66	83	84	80	517
1996/1997	74	72	66	81	84	82	63	522
1995/1996	72	73	80	82	81	62	72	522

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 149

$\frac{149 \times 7}{3}$ = 348

Those requiring controlled primary provision from new developments = 57

Standard LTE = 405

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 377

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 391

- 1.11 The school has been operating with a surplus of places over a number of years. The total enrolment figure has been falling gradually. In the 1998/1999 academic year enrolment fell from 493 to 373 in 2005/2006. The Year 1 admission has been relatively consistent in recent years with the exception of 2004/2005 however there has been a significant surplus in these years. The mean LTE suggests that enrolment will increase with the advent of new housing but this will still leave a substantial surplus. The school is in a moderate condition with play areas recently resurfaced. However the accommodation is sub standard, there is currently a substantial surplus of places and this will continue despite the introduction of children from the new housing developments. It is these factors which will need to be recognised and addressed.

REVIEW OF COMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Comber Primary School was established in 1938 and is situated on the Darragh Road in the east of Comber. The present accommodation comprises 16 classbases, assembly hall, library, ICT suite, TV room, staffroom, dining hall and offices. The site also contains a nursery unit which is housed in former classrooms in the infant's wing and a temporary classroom which is used as a resource area.

The school is located on a 1.52 hectare site. The site is marginally smaller than that required for a 16 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school is currently in a moderate condition requiring £105,333 worth of repairs. Of these repairs £47,925 are immediate repairs however much of this is resurfacing work costing approximately £33,150. Other immediate repairs include glazing and the replacement of ancillary fire fighting equipment.

The remainder of the repairs include new fencing and gate work, redecoration, and reparations to the existing brickwork. The school also requires repairs to its flat and pitched roofs.

Of the 16 classbases 14 are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required by The Building Handbook. The majority are undersized by approximately 10m². The staffroom, library and assembly hall are also below the recommended minimum as are the resource areas.

The temporary classroom which is used as a resource area needs to be replaced as it over 25 years old.

In September 2000 some spare capacity in the school was converted into a nursery unit. The nursery unit provides 52 part-time places for pre school children. A morning session of 26 children and an afternoon session of 26 children. Recently a new multi-use games area and a new library built in the court yard have been completed.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 509 and the admission number is 60. The school currently has 310 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 199 places.

Based on the 2004/05 pupil address list data 91% of pupils attending Comber Primary School come from Comber, 4% from Newtownards, with the remaining pupils coming from the surrounding towns of Ballygowan, Dundonald and Killinchy.

Year	Nurs	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	52	24	48	46	48	48	51	45	310
2004/2005	53	51	45	51	51	52	42	54	346
2003/2004	52	45	53	48	55	43	56	44	344
2002/2003		54	50	55	44	55	46	46	350
2001/2002		50	55	45	53	45	46	41	335
2000/2001		54	43	58	43	44	41	48	331
1999/2000	23	44	57	44	45	47	48	60	345
1998/1999	13	62	43	49	47	51	61	63	376
1997/1998	23	44	46	44	49	57	61	51	352
1996/1997	25	48	42	50	58	60	51	54	363
1995/1996	18	41	51	60	57	49	52	66	376

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 120

$\frac{120 \times 7}{3}$ = 280

Those requiring controlled primary provision from new developments = 80

Standard LTE = 360

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 338

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 349

- 1.21 The school has been operating with a substantial surplus of places for a number of years. The total enrolment figure has been falling gradually. In the 1998/1999 academic year enrolment fell from 376 to 310 in 2005/2006. The Year 1 admission has been relatively consistent in recent years however the 05/06 has been an abnormally low intake as indicated by the forecasted 06/07 1st preference applications of 49 for the 60 places. The mean LTE indicates that enrolment will increase with the advent of new housing, but this will still leave a substantial surplus. The school presently contains 16 classbases however the LTE equates to a 12 classbase. It is suggested that a 13 classbase school would be more appropriate as the LTE is only marginally outside the 13 classbase category. The school is in a moderate condition and there are plans for substantial development at the school i.e. a MUGA pitch and new library. However much of the accommodation is sub standard and undersized. There is currently a substantial surplus of places and this will continue despite the introduction of children from the new housing developments. It is these factors which will need to be recognised and addressed.

REVIEW OF KILLINCHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Killinchy Primary School was established in 1983 and the two storey building comprises 9 permanent classrooms, assembly hall, resource area, staffroom, dining hall, offices, stores and toilets. The site also contains four temporary classrooms plus a temporary toilet block.

The school is located on a 1.0381 hectare site which is below the recommended area for a school with the capacity to accommodate 320 pupils.

According to the 2004/2005 enrolment details the school draws pupils from:

57% from the Killinchy / Ardmillan / Lisbane areas
 25% from the Comber area
 8% from the Killyleagh area
 9% from the Toye / Derryboy areas, and
 the remaining 1% come in small numbers from Newtownards / Belfast / Ballynahinch.

The school is in relatively good condition as the Board has carried out regular maintenance at the property which has included work to the internal joinery, glazing, decoration, electrics, heating, floor finishes and external render. The main issue for the school is the suitability of the accommodation for teaching purposes and inadequate ancillary spaces:

- All of the permanent classrooms and temporary classrooms are well below the 60m² minimum as set out in the Building Handbook.
- The staffroom is severely undersized,
- There are inadequate resource areas for the school,
- There is no lift access to the 1st floor which therefore disallows disabled access, and
- The toilet facilities for both the staff and pupils are inadequate sub standard.

Due to the current class sizes the school operates as a thirteen classbase school however the total enrolment of 302 falls within the 11 classbase category.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 312 and the Year 1 admission is 45. There are currently 319 pupils enrolled in the school (as per the Department of Education statistical returns).

Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	37	40	52	47	56	39	48	319
2004/2005	38	52	42	53	36	47	33	301
2003/2004	47	42	54	37	44	32	29	285
2002/2003	39	54	35	42	32	30	30	262
2001/2002	50	36	43	32	30	29	35	255
2000/2001	35	40	30	29	28	36	32	230
1999/2000	39	27	28	28	36	30	40	228
1998/1999	26	25	26	34	32	39	31	213
1997/1998	25	27	32	30	38	29	34	215
1996/1997	27	34	29	38	35	36	36	235
1995/1996	35	28	37	34	36	37	34	241

The Long Term Enrolment for Killinchy Primary School can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 yrs = 122

$\frac{122 \times 7}{3} = 285$

Standard LTE = 285

Allowing for the recalculation of the LTE to take account of the 8% reduction in the primary aged pupils in Ards Borough Council

Reduced LTE = 261

Housing Developments

There are a total of 108 houses to be built or are planned under ADAP in the Balloo, Whiterock and Killinchy areas. The numbers of pupils likely to select Killinchy Primary School are:

Whiterock, Balloo and Killinchy – 22 additional children.

Killyleagh – 34 additional children of which 9.27% would, based on current trends, select Killinchy Primary School = 3 children

Comber - 153 additional children of which 10.4% would, based on current trends, select Killinchy Primary School = 16 children

Derryboy – no additional children as there are no large housing planned for the Derryboy / Toye areas.

Standard LTE = 285 + 3 + 16 + 22 = 326

Reduced LTE = 261 + 3 + 16 + 22 = 302

Mean LTE = 273 + 3 + 16 + 22 = 314

The LTE's place the school between a 11 classbase to a 12 classbase primary school with the mean LTE placing the school within the 11 classbase category.

At present, due to the class sizes, the school has had to operate with 13 classbases in order to keep the class size below 29 pupils per room.

REVIEW OF BALLYNAHINCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background

Ballynahinch Primary School was opened in 1954 with a new extension being added in 1984. It is situated on the outskirts of the town, on the Dromore Road. The present accommodation comprises 17 permanent classrooms, a temporary classroom, computer suite, TV room, assembly hall, meals kitchen, dining hall, staffroom and offices. One of the permanent classrooms is used as reception class. The school also contains an 'I CAN' Early Years Centre which caters for 20 pre school children with speech and language difficulties.

The school is located on a steeply sloping 2.7 hectare site. The current site is larger than required of a 18 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school building is in a fair condition and currently requires repairs costing approximately £92,810. Of these repairs £33,100 are immediate repairs. The immediate repairs primarily consist of glazing work, work to floor finishes, ceiling repairs and new fencing.

The remainder of the repairs include a toilet refurbishment, internal and external redecoration, and, extensive resurfacing works to the playgrounds and paths.

The school contains 17 permanent classrooms of which six are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required under The Building Handbook. The library is undersized, there is no small group/MI room or multi purpose room and the school lacks sufficient resource areas.

The school is currently in need of significant reparations. However the school is currently undergoing some work. A £69,000 extension to the 'I Can' unit is currently underway. A road widening and car parking scheme may also occur should planning permission be granted.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 438 and the admission number is 60. The school currently has 370 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 68 places.

Year	Recpt	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	12	36	43	50	70	45	58	60	362
2004/2005	12	41	51	69	42	57	55	55	370
2003/2004	21	50	71	41	59	56	55	42	374
2002/2003	12	73	44	58	56	55	41	49	376
2001/2002	17	43	59	56	55	39	48	39	339
2000/2001	19	61	57	57	39	52	41	49	356
1999/2000	24	59	53	41	50	40	50	56	349
1998/1999	26	53	41	48	43	50	58	33	326
1997/1998	20	39	48	43	50	58	32	52	322
1996/1997	15	49	42	53	60	32	51	48	335
1995/1996	16	44	55	54	36	52	48	39	328

The Long Term Enrolment figure can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the last 3 years = 127

$\frac{127 \times 7}{3}$ = 296

New housing developments in the area:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Houses</u>
North side of Crossgar Road	50
West side of Belfast Road	40
South of Lisburn Road	272
South of Crossgar Road	286
Belfast Road	104
Other smaller developments	194
Total	= 946

X child per household of 0.283 = 268

X religious split of 65.4% = 175

Therefore the new housing will produce 175 additional children requiring controlled provision.

The Standard LTE would be:

296 + 175 = 471

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds in Down District Council area.

The Reduced LTE would be:

272 + 175 = 447

Mean LTE is therefore = 459

All these LTEs fall within the 16 to 17 classbase categories

The LTE calculation includes housing which have not yet come on to site and is included within the ADAP which has yet to be ratified and has to go through an appeals procedure. In addition there is an additional complication of an integrated primary school operating within the Ballynahinch which will have an impact on other sectors providing places within the town. This school has not yet identified a permanent location for the new school and has been operating out of temporary location since its approval in 2003. It is felt that due to the mentioned uncertainties it would be appropriate to plan for a 14 classbase school for Ballynahinch Primary School.

Recommended LTE = 410

As the figures in 2.1 shows, the total enrolment had been gradually increasing The school building is in a fair condition but requires a number of reparations. The building also fails to meet Building Handbook regulations in a number of areas. The sub standard accommodation and anticipated rise in enrolment are areas that need to be addressed. The only feasible option for the school is to replace the existing accommodation with a new building.

REVIEW OF SPA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background

Spa Primary School was built in 1972, with an extension being added in 1999 to replace temporary accommodation. The school is located in the village of Spa on the Ballymaglave Road with the majority of the pupils coming from the Spa rural area and areas on the fringe of Ballynahinch. The building consists of 7 permanent classrooms, assembly/dining hall, library, resource area, pupil and staff toilets, meals kitchen, staffroom and office.

The school is located on a 0.46 hectare site which is substantially less than the 1.02 hectares recommended. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school building is in good condition but does require repairs costing approximately £12,785. Of these repairs £4,605 are immediate repairs. The immediate repairs include work to ceilings, extensive external redecoration and the replacement of essential fire fighting equipment.

The remainder of the repairs include new floor finishes, work to flat roofs and drainage works around the site. The heating system within the original building will also need replaced.

Of the 7 permanent classrooms, 5 are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required under The Building Handbook. The staff room, resource areas and office space are also undersized and the school lacks a special educational needs room.

The school has recently undergone a window replacement. A £27,000 replacement scheme was completed in June 2004. Resurfacing works were also carried out in the summer of 2004.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 200 and the admission number is 29. The school currently has 194 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 7 places.

Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	17	29	32	30	31	27	28	194
2004/2005	31	29	28	29	27	29	20	193
2003/2004	27	30	29	28	29	21	24	188
2002/2003	31	27	28	30	21	24	22	183
2001/2002	26	28	28	19	24	20	28	173
2000/2001	27	28	18	25	21	29	26	174
1999/2000	28	17	22	21	29	26	22	165
1998/1999	19	25	23	29	26	23	28	173
1997/1998	22	24	28	25	23	28	22	172
1996/1997	23	28	25	23	26	23	28	176
1995/1996	27	26	24	24	24	27	21	173

The Long Term Enrolment figure can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{P1 intake over the last 3 years} = 75$$

$$\frac{75 \times 7}{3} = 175$$

<u>Location</u>	<u>Houses</u>
Ballymaglave Road	13
Other smaller developments	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	15

$$\text{X children per household of 0.283} = 4$$

$$\text{X religious spilt of 65.4\%} = 3$$

Therefore the new housing will produce 3 additional children requiring controlled provision.

Standard LTE would be:

$$175 + 3 = 178$$

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds in Lisburn City Council

Reduced LTE

$$161 + 3 = 164$$

$$\text{Mean LTE is therefore} = 171$$

All of these LTEs fall within the 6 - 7 classbase categories.

It is recommended that the mean LTE figure be taken and used for planning purposes and as this LTE is close to the 7 classbase upper threshold it is felt appropriate to plan for 7 classbases.

REVIEW OF ALEXANDER DICKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Alexander Dickson Primary School was established in 1968. The school is situated off the Comber Road on an elevated site. The present accommodation comprises 6 permanent classrooms, assembly/dining hall, staff room and ancillary accommodation. The school also contains three temporary classbases. One is used as a classroom, one as library/resource area and the other is used as a Learning Support room.

The school is located on a 0.47 hectare site. The site is 0.51 hectares smaller than that required of a school that operates as a seven classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school is currently in a moderate condition requiring £78,235 worth of repairs. Of these repairs £5,095 are immediate repairs and include internal glazing and the replacement of ancillary fire fighting equipment.

The remainder of the repairs include substantial work to the school's electrical infrastructure, redecoration, resurfacing and refurbishment of staff toilets.

Four of the classbases are marginally under the recommended minimum of 60m² as required by The Building Handbook. The classrooms are 5m² to 3m² undersized. The staff room and one of the offices are below the recommended minimum for a seven classbase school. The school also lacks appropriate play space and resource areas; currently the only available resource space is housed in a temporary classroom. The play space is undersized and there is no grass play area available to the children.

Two of the three temporary classrooms need to be replaced as they are approximately 33 years old and have exceeded their 15 year life span.

In September 2002 the school underwent a re-roofing programme. In June 2005 the roof eaves were refurbished costing £37,500.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 254 and the admission number is 30. The school currently has 182 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 72 places.

Based on the 2004/05 pupil address list data 91% of the pupils come from Ballygowan, 5% come from Comber, with remainder coming from the surrounding towns of Saintfield, Killinchy and Moneyreagh.

Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	21	21	26	23	23	31	26	171
2004/2005	21	28	25	26	32	26	24	182
2003/2004	25	23	28	30	27	24	26	183
2002/2003	25	30	30	26	25	27	26	189
2001/2002	29	30	24	26	26	26	33	194
2000/2001	30	26	26	27	27	34	33	203
1999/2000	26	26	27	27	35	33	29	203
1998/1999	25	28	27	34	30	30	35	209
1997/1998	28	25	35	32	32	37	28	217
1996/1997	26	37	33	34	38	28	23	219
1995/1996	35	31	34	38	28	23	26	215

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 67

$\frac{67 \times 7}{3}$ = 156

Those requiring controlled primary provision from new developments = 40

Standard LTE = 228

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 184

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 210

This equates to an 8 classbase school however it is marginally outside of the seven classbase category (176 – 205). It is recommended that the school should be considered as a seven classbase school for planning purposes.

- 1.11 The school has been operating with a surplus of places in recent years. The total enrolment figure has been falling gradually however this is beginning to level with 2005/2006 total enrolment figures likely to remain at approximately 182. The mean LTE suggests that the enrolment will increase in future years. The school currently contains 9 classbases but operates as a seven classbase school. It is likely the school will continue to operate at this capacity for the foreseeable future. However the school has number of issues that need to be addressed. These include undersized classrooms, inadequate play space and inadequate resource areas.

REVIEW OF BALLYKEIGLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Ballykeigle Primary School is a rural school situated 3 miles from Ballygowan, 3 miles from Comber and 5 miles from Killinchy. The present accommodation comprises 3 permanent classrooms, one of which acts as a dining room. The school also contains a temporary classroom, servery and offices.

The school is located on a 0.34 hectare site. The site is marginally smaller than that required for a 3 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school is currently in a moderate condition requiring with very little outstanding maintenance items.

All of the classbases are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required by The Building Handbook. The majority are undersized by approximately 10m². The school lacks a multi-purpose hall, special educational needs room and sufficient resource areas.

The temporary classroom which is for Primary 1 and Primary 2 children needs to be replaced as it over 20 years old.

There are currently plans proposing an extension of the school site to accommodate car parking. The process is on-going.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 76 and the admission number is 11. The school currently has 59 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 17 places.

Based on the 2003/04 pupil address list data only 6% of pupils attending Ballykeigle Primary School come from Ballygowan. The majority, 71%, come from Comber and the rural area south of Comber. The remainder come from the nearby villages of Lisbane and Killinchy.

Year	Recpt	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006		12	11	7	9	8	6	5	58
2004/2005		11	6	10	10	7	5	10	59
2003/2004		8	8	9	7	6	9	2	49
2002/2003		8	7	8	5	7	2	4	41
2001/2002	3	7	6	8	6	2	3	9	41
2000/2001	4	6	8	5	3	3	8	6	39
1999/2000	5	7	9	5	5	7	8	6	47
1998/1999	1	9	8	5	7	8	7	4	48
1997/1998	2	8	5	8	9	9	6	10	55
1996/1997		4	9	9	10	6	9	6	53
1995/1996			9	10	11	6	10	6	7

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 31

$\frac{31 \times 7}{3}$ = 72

Standard Long Term Enrolment = 72

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 66

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 69

The school LTE falls within the 3 classbase category and currently operates 4 classbases. The school has been operating with a significant surplus of places for a number of years. The school is in a moderate condition and there are plans for the development of a car park adjacent to the school site.

REVIEW OF CARRICKMANNON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Carrickmannon Primary School is situated 1.5 miles from Ballygowan on the main Carrickmannon Road. The present accommodation comprises 4 permanent classbases, a dining hall, resource area, staff room and office.

The school is located on a 0.35 hectare site. The site is 0.27 hectares smaller than that required for a 4 classbase school. The SEELB currently owns the site.

The school is currently in a moderate condition requiring £15,600 worth of repairs. Of these repairs £1,240 are immediate repairs, this includes work to internal wall finishes and windows.

The remainder of the repairs include redecoration, extensive work to the heating system, resurfacing and reparations to a flat roof.

All of the classbases are below the recommended minimum of 60m² as required by The Building Handbook. The majority are only marginally undersized however one is approximately 12m² below the recommended schedule. The school lacks a multi-purpose hall, special educational needs room and a sufficiently sized staff room.

A three classbase extension was completed in 2002 allowing the school to operate four classbases and a dining hall.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 100 and the admission number is 14. The school currently has 84 pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) and operates with a surplus of 16 places.

Based on the 2004/05 pupil address list data 65% of pupils attending Carrickmannon Primary School come from Ballygowan or the surrounding rural area, 12% from the rural area south of Comber, with the remaining pupils coming from the rural areas surrounding Saintfield, Raffrey and Killinchy.

Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	13	11	17	12	13	9	13	88
2004/2005	11	16	12	12	9	13	11	84
2003/2004	15	11	12	9	14	11	13	85
2002/2003	10	13	10	14	11	13	13	84
2001/2002	12	11	14	13	14	16	14	94
2000/2001	17	14	14	14	14	14	9	96
1999/2000	13	15	14	12	15	8	17	94
1998/1999	15	10	12	16	9	17	11	90
1997/1998	9	10	14	8	16	10	13	80
1996/1997	10	14	8	16	10	13	9	80
1995/1996	13	8	17	8	13	8	15	82

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 39

$\frac{39 \times 7}{3}$ = 91

Those requiring controlled primary provision from new developments = 13

Standard LTE = 104

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 97

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 101

The school LTE falls within the 4 classbase category which is appropriate to the current school capacity. The school is in a moderate condition and operates with an appropriate number of classbases. However much of the accommodation is undersized and falls short of the recommended schedule for a four classbase school. It is these factors which will need to be recognised and addressed.

REVIEW OF DOWNPATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Downpatrick Primary School was opened in 1975 and is located on a 1.32 hectare site along the Mount Crescent Road in Downpatrick. The school currently has seven mainstream classrooms plus an additional three classrooms located in a temporary building which houses the special unit. Access to all facilities at the school for those pupils, staff or visitors with mobility problems is difficult due to the topography of the school site resulting in the school building being split over several levels with access to levels via a number of steps.

The school has seven classrooms, a library, resource room, multi purpose hall, meals kitchen and ancillary block. In addition there is a unit located at the school providing specialised education to approximately 30 pupils every year.

The unit is located in 3 classrooms located in a temporary building at the site and while the school makes every attempt to fully integrate the pupils attending the unit fully with the mainstream children the physical separation of the unit from the school building makes this problematic.

The school site, at approximately 1.32 hectares, is sufficient for the current school plus the special unit and is large enough to allow the school to grow to a maximum of 290 pupils.

The main issue with the school is the various levels throughout the building and the poor layout of the rooms. This makes access for those persons with a physical disability impossible and access to some classrooms has to be via another classroom or the assembly hall.

Enrolments

The DE's school enrolment figure is 190 and the admission number is 27. The school currently has 170 mainstream pupils enrolled (as per the Department of Education's statistical returns) plus a special unit with 24 pupils. At present the school has no surplus provision.

YEAR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	SU	TOTAL + SU
2005/2006	30	22	26	25	24	23	20	24	194
2004/2005	20	24	25	22	24	20	17	24	176
2003/2004	24	24	22	24	19	17	24	25	179
2002/2003	22	22	24	18	17	24	26	21	174
2001/2002	22	22	19	20	24	33	29	21	190
2000/2001	23	20	21	23	31	32	36	29	215
1999/2000	21	23	22	32	28	38	25	31	220
1998/1999	20	24	28	23	28	18	30	29	200
1997/1998	24	26	20	28	17	28	19	30	192
1996/1997	28	21	30	17	28	19	31	33	207
1995/1996	22	30	15	29	17	31	23	30	197

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 years = 74

$\frac{74 \times 7}{3} = 173$

According to the latest housing information from the Planning Service there is an estimated 1,503 houses to be built in Downpatrick. This figure does not include any Phase 2 housing that is zoned under ADAP.

It has been established, by using the 2001 census, that the average percentage breakdown of religious background in Downpatrick is 86.8% from a catholic community background and 11.9% from a protestant community background.

The table in 4.1 details the 1,503 houses and shows that approximately 51 children will require controlled primary places, i.e.

$1,503 \times 11.9\% = 179$ houses generating children requiring controlled education

Therefore the additional number of children requiring controlled primary provision is as follows:

$179 \times 0.283 = 51$ additional children requiring controlled primary provision in Downpatrick .

Standard LTE = 224

Deduct 8% as per NISRA projected population figures for 2017 for 5 – 11 year olds:

Reduced LTE = 210

The mean LTE will be taken to achieve a more realistic Long Term Enrolment figure and will be the definitive figure for the review:

Mean LTE = 217

The school LTE falls within the 8 classbase category which is appropriate to the current school capacity. The primary school also has a special unit located at the school providing specialist teaching for up to 30 children. The unit requires 3 general classrooms.

Downpatrick Primary School should therefore have provision for 8 mainstream classrooms plus an additional 3 classrooms for the special unit.

REVIEW OF ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Academy Primary School was opened in 1976 to replace the old Saintfield Academy Primary School plus four small rural schools. The school serves the town of Saintfield and the surrounding rural area. A three classroom extension was provided in 2000 and a nursery unit added in 2002.

The current accommodation at the school is as follows:

13 permanent classrooms – 6 are over 50m², 6 are 44m² and 1 is 38m²
 1 temporary classroom – teaching space of 43m²
 4 resource areas – 46m², 32m², 38m² and 33m² respectively
 1 temporary building used as a resource / library
 1 hall – 163m²
 1 special needs room
 Principal's office – 21m²
 plus stores, toilets, kitchen and circulation space.

Under Classroom 2000, 140 ICT points were installed throughout the school.

According to the methodology employed by the Department of Education to calculate the capacity of a school the current accommodation is sufficient for 366 pupils

Enrolment

Saintfield town has significantly increased in size over the past ten years with the construction of new developments such as Rowallane Dale, Rowallane Manor, Lislane Park, Kirkwood Park, Shrewsbury Heights and others. This has had a direct impact on Academy Primary School.

The table below shows the enrolment at Academy Primary School over the past ten years. At present the school's enrolment is within the 351 – 380 pupil category of a 13 classbase school.

Year	Nurs	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
2005/2006	52	55	40	46	59	62	59	52	373
2004/2005	52	40	46	59	60	57	52	52	366
2003/2004	46	46	57	57	52	52	54	43	361
2002/2003		53	53	49	50	53	40	56	354
2001/2002		54	51	51	53	42	51	51	353
2000/2001		51	52	54	42	51	50	44	344
1999/2000		50	54	44	51	48	45	36	328
1998/1999		51	43	54	50	44	37	57	336
1997/1998		41	55	49	43	37	58	42	325
1996/1997		57	48	47	37	55	42	43	329

From September 2005 the capacity was increased to 370 and the admission number increased to 56.

According to the Planning Service there are 64 dwellings yet to be completed in Saintfield and, under the Ards and Down Area Plan, approximately 3.86 hectares of land will be zoned for residential purposes. This land will support a maximum of 65 additional dwellings. The religious split is 73% protestant / 22% catholic.

The normal method of calculating a schools long term enrolment is to take the last three years primary 1 admissions multiply by 7 and divide by 3 however the 2004/2005 admission is abnormally low and it would be more prudent, in this case, to take the last four years.

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{P1 intake over the past 4 yrs} = 194$$

$$\frac{194 \times 7}{4} = 340$$

$$\text{Housing to be built} = 158$$

$$158 \times 0.283 \times 73\% = 33$$

Standard LTE is therefore

$$\mathbf{340 + 33 = 373}$$

Taking the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils in the Down District Council area would give the following LTE:

$$194 \text{ reduced by } 8\% = 179$$

$$\frac{179 \times 7}{4} = 313$$

Reduced LTE is therefore

$$\text{plus the 33 from the housing} = \mathbf{346}$$

The long term enrolment range is 346 to 373. The **mean figure of 360** will be used as the long term planning figure. This places the school in the 13 classbase category however in order to maintain reasonable class sizes, i.e. below 29, the Board would plan for 14 classbases.

REVIEW OF BALLYCLOUGHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Ballycloughan Primary School was opened in 1958 and is located on a site on the outskirts of Saintfield. The pupils attending the school come mainly from the rural area between Saintfield and Ballygowan

The current accommodation at the school is as follows:

3 permanent classrooms each below 38m²,
Office @ 9m² (this space doubles up as the school's staff room),
1 temporary classroom @ 42m²
plus stores, toilets, kitchen and circulation space.

According to the methodology employed by the Department of Education to calculate the capacity of a school the current accommodation is sufficient for 84 pupils.

The table, below shows the enrolment at Ballycloughan Primary School over the past ten years. At present the school's enrolment is slightly below the 56 – 85 pupil category of a 3 classbase school.

Year	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
2005/2006	3	8	10	7	10	6	12	56
2004/2005	8	9	7	10	5	11	4	54
2003/2004	9	9	8	6	11	4	12	59
2002/2003	9	7	7	11	5	12	13	64
2001/2002	7	8	11	7	13	14	8	68
2000/2001	8	9	6	12	12	8	8	63
1999/2000	8	5	12	11	10	8	12	66
1998/1999	6	12	12	9	8	11	9	67
1997/1998	12	12	9	8	11	9	18	79
1996/1997	12	11	10	12	13	18	8	84
1995/1996	11	10	12	13	18	8	9	81

The LTE can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{P1 intake over the past 3 yrs} = 20$$

$$\frac{20 \times 7}{3} = 47$$

$$\text{Standard LTE} = 47$$

There is no new housing developments planned which would impact on the long term enrolment of the school.

Taking the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils in the Down District Council area would give the following LTE:

$$20 \text{ reduced by } 5.5\% = 18$$

$$\frac{18 \times 7}{3} = 42$$

$$\text{Reduced LTE} = 42$$

The long term enrolment range is 42 to 47. The **mean figure of 45** will be used as the long term planning figure. This places the school below the 3 classbase category.

REVIEW OF KILLYLEAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Killyleagh Primary School was opened in 1940 and is located on a 0.58 hectare site in Killyleagh at the rear of Killyleagh Castle along the main Shrigley Road. The pupils attending the school come mainly from Killyleagh and Shrigley with some pupils coming from the rural areas close to the settlements.

The current accommodation at the school is as follows:

7 permanent classrooms all of which are below 60m². Two of these rooms are being used as a music room and activity room respectively,
 1 reading recovery rooms @ 15m²,
 1 library @ 22m²,
 plus stores, toilets, assembly hall, offices, kitchen, dining hall and circulation space.

According to the methodology employed by the Department of Education to calculate the capacity of a school the current accommodation is sufficient for 175 pupils.

The table below shows the enrolment at Killyleagh Primary School over the past ten years. At present the school's enrolment is within the 86 - 115 pupil category of a 4 classbase school.

YEAR	Recpt	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006		13	5	19	13	17	11	17	95
2004/2005	3	5	18	14	17	12	18	13	97
2003/2004	4	19	12	19	13	17	13	16	109
2002/2003	8	13	18	11	17	15	16	18	108
2001/2002	5	18	12	18	16	16	18	13	111
2000/2001	5	12	18	17	16	18	14	16	111
1999/2000	4	18	18	15	18	14	16	14	113
1998/1999	7	18	14	19	14	16	13	17	111
1997/1998	10	13	21	13	17	14	21	28	127
1996/1997	4	23	16	18	14	21	28	16	136
1995/1996	11	15	20	14	22	28	16	20	135

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 4 yrs
 (due to abnormally low admission in 04/05) = 50

$\frac{50 \times 7}{4}$ = 88

Those requiring controlled primary
 provision from new developments = 18

Standard LTE = 106

Taking the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils in the Down District Council area would give the following LTE:

$$50 \text{ reduced by } 8\% = 46$$

$$\frac{46 \times 7}{4} = 81$$

$$\text{Reduced LTE} = \mathbf{99}$$

The long term enrolment range is 99 to 106. **The mean figure of 103** will be used as the long term planning figure. This places the school below the 5 classbase category.

REVIEW OF DERRYBOY PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Derryboy Primary School was opened in 1934 after the merger of Raffrey Primary School with the old Derryboy Primary School and is located on a 0.39 hectare site located between the settlements of Saintfield, Crossgar and Killyleagh. The pupils attending the school come mainly from the Derryboy area.

The current accommodation at the school is as follows:

4 permanent classrooms all of which are below 60m², plus stores, toilets, assembly hall, offices, servery and circulation space.

According to the methodology employed by the Department of Education to calculate the capacity of a school the current accommodation is sufficient for 82 pupils.

The table below shows the enrolment at Derryboy Primary School over the past ten years. At present the school's enrolment is within the 56 - 85 pupil category of a 3 classbase school.

YEAR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006	10	14	9	15	7	9	10	74
2004/2005	14	10	15	8	10	10	12	79
2003/2004	9	15	7	7	11	11	12	72
2002/2003	14	6	6	9	12	10	14	71
2001/2002	5	5	8	11	7	13	11	60
2000/2001	5	10	10	9	12	10	10	66
1999/2000	10	10	9	12	10	10	2	63
1998/1999	10	10	12	10	9	2	20	73
1997/1998	9	13	12	9	4	20	10	77
1996/1997	13	12	10	4	21	9	12	81
1995/1996	13	10	4	21	9	12	10	79

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 4 yrs = 33

$\frac{33 \times 7}{3} = 77$

There is no new housing developments planned which would impact on the long term enrolment of the school.

Standard LTE = 77

Taking the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils in the Down District Council area would give the following LTE:

33 reduced by 8% = 31

$\frac{31 \times 7}{3} = 72$

Reduced LTE = 72

The long term enrolment range is 72 to 77. The **mean figure of 75** will be used as the long term planning figure. This places the school below the 3 classbase category.

REVIEW OF CROSSGAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Crossgar Primary School was opened in 1931 and is located on a 0.38 hectare site located within the village of Crossgar. The pupils attending the school come mainly from the Crossgar village

The current accommodation at the school is as follows:

4 permanent classrooms all of which are below 60m², plus stores, toilets, assembly hall, offices, servery and circulation space.

According to the methodology employed by the Department of Education to calculate the capacity of a school the current accommodation is sufficient for 97 pupils.

The table below shows the enrolment at Crossgar Primary School over the past ten years. At present the school's enrolment is within the 56 - 85 pupil category of a 3 classbase school.

YEAR	Recpt	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Total
2005/2006		9	9	13	8	10	7	8	64
2004/2005	1	10	13	9	11	7	8	12	70
2003/2004	3	11	9	11	7	7	13	13	71
2002/2003	2	9	11	9	8	13	13	10	73
2001/2002	2	10	9	8	14	13	10	8	72
2000/2001	2	10	9	14	13	10	9	13	78
1999/2000	7	8	12	14	10	8	11	9	72
1998/1999	7	10	13	11	10	11	8	11	74
1997/1998	5	13	8	10	11	8	11	15	76
1996/1997	12	6	9	11	7	9	15	11	68
1995/1996	5	8	11	6	10	16	11	12	74

The Long Term Enrolment can be calculated as follows:

P1 intake over the past 3 yrs = 30

$\frac{30 \times 7}{3} = 70$

There are approximately 18 pupils within Crossgar who would require placement within a controlled primary school however Crossgar Primary School has not enrolled pupils in any great numbers from the new housing in the area and it is likely that this situation will continue. Based on this it is likely that no additional children from planned housing will be added to the school.

Standard LTE = 71

Taking the projected 8% fall in the primary aged pupils in the Down District Council area would give the following LTE:

30 reduced by 8% = 28

$\frac{28 \times 7}{3} = 65$

Reduced LTE = 65

The long term enrolment range is 65 to 71. The **mean figure of 68** will be used as the long term planning figure. This places the school below the 3 classbase category.

APPENDIX C

POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

REVIEW OF DOWN ACADEMY

Down Academy is a controlled integrated post primary school and is located on a 1 hectare site on the outskirts of Downpatrick. The school was established after an amalgamation of Killyleagh, Castlewellan and Quoile High Schools in 1991 and became an integrated school in 1997.

The amalgamated school has been in operation since September 1991 and since this time the schools enrolment has slowly increased to the current enrolment figure of 276; this figure includes a 26 pupils special unit. The school attracts the majority of its pupils from Downpatrick, Killinchy, Killyleagh, Ballygowan, Clough and Tyrella

The oldest part of Down Academy dates back to 1958 and over the years the school has been refurbished and extended to its current layout. The history of the work to the school is as follows:

1998	New science and technology block and library as part of Education Reform initiative.
1999	Pupil toilet refurbishment
2000	Shower / changing room refurbishment
2000	Two science rooms refurbished
2001	Refurbish staff toilets

Over the years approximately £600,000 has been spent on upgrading and improving the school.

In addition temporary accommodation has been added to the school over the same period of time and there are currently seven temporary classrooms in use at the school. These rooms are all used as general teaching areas.

The school has been well maintained over the years and the capital invested in the school over the past five years has greatly improved the specialist teaching spaces at the school.

However the site, at 1.0 hectares, is 1.91 hectares below the area recommended for a school with an enrolment capacity of 300 pupils. This has lead to a number of problems:

- (a) the school has no pitches or court areas. Pupils have to travel to a neighbouring school to use their pitches,
- (b) there is a severe lack of informal play space at the school,
- (c) there is insufficient car parking spaces at the school. Some staff and visitors have to park on the street. There are no drop off / pick up point at the school, this has lead to severe congestion at the start and end of the school day.

Enrolments

Enrolments at the school in the last 10 years are shown below

Year	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	SU	Total
2005/2006	50	40	53	61	57	33	294
2004/2005	55	68	61	57	57	31	329
2003/2004	69	59	56	59	60	33	336
2002/2003	64	55	62	61	47	30	319
2001/2002	55	61	66	49	45	26	302
2000/2001	69	71	50	49	54	23	316
1999/2000	67	57	52	53	40	25	294
1998/1999	56	43	48	42	46	23	258
1997/1998	47	46	35	31	40	37	236
1996/1997	52	36	34	42	52	35	251

The long term enrolment calculation gives a high of 267 and a low of 259 – this results in a mean LTE of 263 (plus a special unit for 30 to 35 pupils).

REVIEW OF BALLYNAHINCH HIGH SCHOOL

Ballynahinch High School is a controlled post primary located in the town of Ballynahinch and is sited on a 2.4 hectare site along the Belfast Road. In addition the school's playing fields is located on a separate 2.16 hectare site along the Moss Road. These playing fields were only recently added to the school.

The school was opened in 1956 and currently provides post primary education to 11-16 year olds. An extension consisting of science and technology accommodation was added to the school in 1995 to replace temporary accommodation. The school still has three temporary classrooms.

The majority of pupils attending the high school come from local primary schools in the South Down area, i.e. Dromara, Spa, Clough, Saintfield, as well as Ballynahinch town, and the school's enrolment has grown every year over the past seven years. As of October 2003 the school's enrolment stands at 376 pupils which is 4 below the 380 capacity figure set by the Department of Education.

Demand for places at the high school is likely to increase in future years with the release of additional lands for housing development in the area served by the school.

Ballynahinch High School comprises of a largely two storey building with a separate two storey science and technology block with a total floor area of approximately 4,474m². In addition the school has three temporary classrooms.

The science and technology block was added to the school in 1995 and new pitches were provided on a separate site in 2002. In addition the windows and pipework was replaced in 2000. However the school still has a number of defects present:

- (a) The school's wiring does not comply with current legislation and needs to be rewired
- (b) Part of the natural slate roof leaks and needs to be replaced,
- (c) The floor finishes at several areas are in a poor state of repair and area a possible health and safety hazard,
- (d) The internal doors and partitions in the school have not been replaced for a number of years,
- (e) The mechanical infrastructure, i.e. pipework, is past it expected life and needs to be replaced, and
- (f) The school requires extensive decoration both internally and externally.

A total of £232,765 requires to be spent on these areas. A full condition report is detailed in Appendix F.

Overall the school has inadequate support and specialist rooms throughout the school and many classrooms are undersized.

There are a number of other general flaws in the school which impact on the staff and pupils:

- (a) Due to the lack of a corridor pupils have to queue in the stairwell in order to access the classrooms on the first floor,
- (b) Some the handrails on the stairs are extremely low and pose a potential health and safety risk,
- (c) Access to the first floor for disabled pupils is non-existent,
- (d) Fire routes in certain areas of the school are poor, i.e. no alternative exit point and no fire escape stairs from the first floor classrooms.
- (e) The school has a severe lack of suitable hard surface play areas and dedicated parking for staff and visitors,
- (f) Storage space throughout the school is poor, and
- (g) Moving bulky materials to the first floor is difficult due to the lack of a lift.

(b) Enrolments / Relationship with nearby schools

Ballynahinch High School is located within Down District Council and lies within Ballynahinch town in the South Down area. The majority of pupils come from Ballynahinch and neighbouring settlements such as Spa, Clough, Dromara and Saintfield.

There is one other controlled post primary schools operating in the area – Saintfield High School and a controlled integrated post primary – Down Academy.

Down Academy is an integrated high school is therefore not suitable for amalgamation with Ballynahinch High School and a refurbishment and extension to Saintfield High School has recently been approved due to the increased numbers attending this school therefore Saintfield High School can be ruled out for amalgamation with Ballynahinch.

Those children who require placement at a grammar, integrated, alternative controlled or maintained post primary can attend nearby post primary schools such as:

Down High School, Downpatrick – 9.5 miles away
 Saintfield High School, Saintfield – 5 miles away
 Down Academy, Downpatrick – 9.5 miles away
 Knockbreda High School – 11 miles away
 Newtownbreda High School – 11 miles away
 St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick – 9.5 miles away
 St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan – 10 miles away
 St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch

The enrolment at the school has been steadily growing over the past six years, as indicated by the table below:

Year	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	Total
2005/2006	85	58	88	68	78	377
2004/2005	59	87	65	77	79	367
2003/2004	90	63	75	77	71	376
2002/2003	65	72	80	72	78	367
2001/2002	69	80	74	79	64	366
2000/2001	79	73	80	66	61	359
1999/2000	74	79	66	62	59	340
1998/1999	77	67	60	58	62	324
1997/1998	69	56	57	64	61	307
1996/1997	55	56	61	62	70	304

The school has a Department of Education enrolment capacity of 380 and a form 1 admission of 76. The long term enrolment calculation gives a high of 390 and a low of 374 – this results in a mean LTE of 382.

REVIEW OF SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Saintfield High School is a co-educational post primary school, which was built in 1958. The school is situated on a very restricted site (0.5 hectares) between the Comber Road and the Belfast Road on the northern edge of Saintfield. Playing fields, consisting of two grass pitches and changing facilities are located on a separate site a short distance from the school on the Comber Road.

As one of the smallest post-primary schools in the Board's area, the closure of the school had been considered during the 1970's and again during the 1980's. However, the enrolment has gradually but consistently increased over the years, to the current figure of 342 pupils.

Temporary accommodation has been provided over the years to accommodate the increasing enrolment and the changing curriculum needs of the school. There are six general-purpose classrooms currently on the school site.

Saintfield High School enjoys a good reputation and has been consistently oversubscribed with applications for admission to year 8. This year there were 110 applications for the 65 places available. It is recognised that for many parents part of the attraction of Saintfield High School is the fact that it is a small school in a rural setting.

The increasing enrolment reflects the growth of population in Saintfield and the surrounding areas. Saintfield is a thriving rural town, centrally situated and easily accessible from the surrounding areas of population. It is also on a major commuting route to Belfast. Future housing development in Saintfield, Ballygowan, Moneyreagh and Carryduff would support the need for post-primary provision in the area for years to come. There are 78 dwellings still to be built in the Saintfield area alone in the near future.

Other post-primary provision around Saintfield includes Nendrum College, Newtownbreda High School, Ballynahinch High School and Down Academy Controlled Integrated in Downpatrick. Pupils requiring grammar school places have access to Down High School in Downpatrick and grammar schools in Lisburn, Newtownards and Belfast. Lagan College Grant Maintained Integrated Secondary School is also easily accessible on the Belfast fringe.

The current accommodation at Saintfield High School comprises 14 permanent classrooms, library, recreation room, wood work room, instructor's office, principal's office, secretary's office, staff room, medical room, gym/assembly hall, male/female changing rooms, male/female showers, male/female toilets. There are 6 temporary classrooms on site along with a temporary unit sited in the courtyard that houses the career suite and staff room. A temporary steel container of 12m x 9m has been sited at the school to provide much needed storage space. The school also has a central meals kitchen block based on site of 279m² which was built in 1958. It comprises kitchen, dining hall, office, staff room, toilets and storage. There is a total grass play area of 1820m² and hard play area of 521m². The school also has a car park of 155m².

The school has a separate site, also on the Comber Road, at which a block containing male/female changing rooms, male / female shower areas and an instructor's room was built in 1966. This block has a floor area of 38m². At this site there is a grass area in the form of football pitches of 2607m².

The following are comments in relation to the state of the school building(s):

- the 3 science rooms each of 83m² are of satisfactory condition due to refurbishment under the Education Reform Scheme although it should be noted that under the current guidance from the Department of Education these rooms should be 90m²;
- a new technology and design free standing unit was added in 1996, also through the Education Reform Scheme. This is in very good condition but provides no toilet facilities which results in pupils having to go to the main school;
- the home economics room is of sufficient teaching size, floor area 90m² but has a limited resource space of 50m²;
- the art and design room was designed to meet the needs of the school in the 1950's. There is no ceramics annex, dark room or store, therefore causing difficulties in delivery of the full Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- the music room is of adequate standard with floor area of 67m² but there are no practice rooms which restricts the delivery of the full curriculum;
- the business information room has been converted, providing adequate teaching space (floor area 74m²). There is no storage space;
- the geography and history rooms require storage. The history room is undersized;
- there is no fitness suite, nor storage for the foam mattresses in the gym, representing a safety hazard;
- the basement has been converted into 2 classrooms which are undersized;
- the 6 temporary classrooms currently in use at the school are undersized. Their isolation from the main school results in a disjointed structure within the school. They have no sink, running water or toilet facilities which results in the pupils having to go to the main school, two of the temporary classrooms are over 25 years old;
- the information technology room has no resource area;
- the careers suite is extremely undersized and is located in temporary accommodation based in the courtyard;
- the lack of storage and resource areas within the school have resulted in the library being used a storage room for the English Department.

All these deficiencies directly impact on the teaching and learning experience at the school.

Since the early 1990's the following work has been carried out in Saintfield High School:

- 1996 – Technology and Design free standing block added
- 1998 – All flat roofs replaced
- 3rd Science room currently being refurbished under Education Reform Scheme

Accommodation Problems

- Metal window frames are not up to current standards and require replacing
- doors are 40+ years old and require upgrading
- ceiling in poor condition, requires replacement

Mechanical and Electrical Services

- rewiring required to adhere to current safety standards

All of these deficiencies are being addressed with the extension and refurbishment works currently taking place at the school.

(a) Enrolments

Enrolments at the school in the last 5 years are shown below:

Year	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	L6	Total
2005/2006	70	68	69	67	62		336
2004/2005	67	67	67	62	65		328
2003/2004	67	67	63	65	66		328
2002/2003	68	63	66	66	68		331
2001/2002	66	67	66	67	70		336
2000/2001	67	65	66	71	73		342
1999/2000	67	66	72	75	62		342
1998/1999	67	71	77	63	63		341
1997/1998	73	78	64	64	60		339
1996/1997	77	65	64	60	59	1	326

Currently the approved enrolment and admission numbers are 340 and 65 respectively. The school has had 110 applications for September 2002 admission, 79 of the 110 applications were 1st preference applications.

The age range of pupils at the school is 11-16.

The Board has examined the transfer patterns and enrolment trends at Saintfield High School, adjacent controlled secondary schools and their main contributory primary schools. Consideration has also been given to the likely increase in secondary aged population in Saintfield and the surrounding areas. The long term enrolment calculation gives a high of 310 and a low of 286 – this results in a mean LTE of 298. For planning purposes, a long term enrolment figure of 340 for Saintfield High school has been approved by the Department of Education and agreed with the school.

REVIEW OF NENDRUM COLLEGE

Nendrum College, formerly known as Comber High School, was opened in 1957 as a three form entry co-educational secondary school. Further extension in 1970 provided two science laboratories, a library and two classrooms. The school is situated on a restricted site on the Darragh Road, between Comber Primary School and part of a large NIHE housing estate, and bounded by the Enler River to the west.

Comber town experienced considerable growth during the 1970s and 1980s, both from private sector housing developments and the NIHE's redevelopment programme. The increased population was reflected in rapidly increasing enrolments during that period and additional temporary accommodation was provided gradually over the years until 22 mobiles were on site.

There has been a steady decline in the number of pupils enrolled at Nendrum College, from 696 in 1985 to 416 in 1996, rising again following the closure of Scrabo High School in Newtownards, to its current level of around 356 pupils.

Some temporary accommodation has been removed leaving 8 mobiles on site which provides the following facilities:

- 6 general classrooms
- 1 technology classroom
- 1 science laboratory

Further population growth may be expected in Comber town and surrounding areas. Other post-primary provision around Comber includes Movilla High School in Newtownards, Dundonald High School and Saintfield High School. Pupils requiring grammar school places have access to Regent House School in Newtownards, Down High School in Downpatrick and grammar schools in the Belfast area. Strangford Integrated College, a grant maintained integrated secondary school on the Ards Peninsula, and Down Academy, a controlled integrated secondary school, are also accessible from the Comber area.

There are a number of deficiencies within the current accommodation which has impacted on the delivery of the curriculum. These are summarised below:

- (a) The current home economics rooms, rooms 1:1 and 1:2, have a floor area of 83m² and 82 m² respectively and are undersized. In addition there is no multi purpose provision;
- (b) The art and design rooms are on separate floors, room 1:6 on the 1st floor and 2:1 on the 2nd floor, and have no provision for teaching ceramics. In addition the use of the dark room is limited due to its location on the ground floor;
- (c) The current music room is severely undersized and unsuitable for teaching music. In addition there are no music practice rooms;
- (d) The current business information room, room 2:5, has a floor area of 67.5m² and is under sized;
- (e) The geography rooms, rooms 1:3 and 1:4 on the 1st floor, have floor area of 74m² and 50m² respectively and are undersized;
- (f) The history room, room 2:2 on the 2nd floor, has a floor area of 50m² and is undersized. One temporary classroom is also in use as a history room and is also undersized;
- (g) The gymnasium at 259m² is undersized;
- (h) The careers room, room 1:7, at 31m² is severely undersized;
- (i) There is no purpose built information technology, lecture or drama rooms and
- (j) The eight temporary classrooms currently in use at the school are undersized for the subjects taught in the rooms. In addition their isolation from the main school has resulted in a disjointed departmental structure within the school and this in turn has caused problems over the shared use of resources within the departments

All these deficiencies directly impact on the teaching and learning experience at the school.

Since the early 1990's the following work has been carried out at Nendrum College:

1992/93	refurbishment of home economics room
1994/95	refurbishment of science room
1996/97	ongoing replacement of flat roofs
1997/98	refurbishment of staff toilets and provision of two new boilers

A review of the accommodation at Nendrum College, carried out in 1998, indicated that the 1970s block was in a poor condition as were the windows, and that there were drainage problems associated with the soil stacks. It was also noted that the opening windows in the older accommodation were too low for current health and safety regulations, requiring installation of grills.

The priority accommodation needs in Nendrum College have been identified as follows:

- i replace windows in Science, Library, and English block (1970) on ground and first floor;
- ii refurbish exterior of 1970 block;
- iii replace metal-framed windows in main building with PVC double glazed units;
- iv replace tiles on ground floor main corridor to meet health and safety requirements;
- v replace windows in main building classrooms and corridors on first and second floors, to meet health and safety requirements;
- vi provide new accommodation for science and technology.

There is no controlled youth club in Nendrum and the requirements for youth provision.

The Department of Education has recognised the defects in the accommodation and has given approval for a new building. This building will be procured through a Private / Public Partnership arrangement and the contract has recently been signed.

Enrolments

Enrolments at the school in the last 5 years are shown below:

Year	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	L6	Total
2005/2006	75	71	80	68	62		356
2004/2005	70	76	67	58	85		356
2003/2004	76	65	59	86	82		368
2002/2003	61	57	81	82	68		349
2001/2002	57	82	76	68	78		361
2000/2001	76	68	68	75	98	1	386
1999/2000	70	71	72	101	110		424
1998/1999	74	73	108	109	83	1	448
1997/1998	74	109	111	85	73		452
1996/1997	98	84	71	67	84	12	416

The approved enrolment and admission numbers for 1999 were 530 and 106 however these figures have now decreased, with DE approval, to 400 and 80.

The age range of pupils at the school is mainly 11-16, with only a few pupils remaining in year 13 (an average 6 OSLA pupils over the last 5 years).

The Board has examined the transfer patterns and enrolment trends at Nendrum College, adjacent controlled secondary schools and their main contributory primary schools. Consideration has also been given to the likely increase in secondary aged population in Comber and the surrounding areas. The long term enrolment calculation gives a high of 341 and a low of 329 – this results in a mean LTE of 335. While such consideration can never be precise a long-term enrolment figure of 400 for Nendrum College has been agreed with Department of Education.

REVIEW OF DOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Down High Grammar School was opened in 1933, in a two storey block of small classrooms. In 1952 two wings were added, of Orlit construction, to provide further classrooms. Other buildings include a free standing canteen, built in 1960, an assembly hall added to the front of the original building in 1969 and a new science block built in 1971. Science and technology classrooms were refurbished and extensions added in 1996 and improved library, ICT and gym facilities were provided by new build and refurbishment in 1998. The school is surrounded by a listed stone wall, incorporating an entrance arch, dating from 1833.

The school is centrally located in Mount Crescent, Downpatrick, on a prominent drumlin site, formally occupied by the county jail. The school site is owned by the Board and occupies an area of 8.7 hectares. The stone wall confines an area of 2 hectares and the school's playing fields occupy a nearby site of 6.7 hectares, also owned by the Board. The playing fields are also used by other local schools.

Down High experienced declining rolls during the 1980's, to a trough of 470 pupils in 1989/90. Since then the enrolment has risen dramatically to its current level of 910 pupils.

Temporary accommodation has been provided to increase the teaching space, as follows:

General classroom	14
Science classroom	2
Sixth form accommodation	1
Drama	2
Art	1
Geography & history	3
Business Information	1
6 th Form	1
Total	24

Plus an additional 4 temporary classrooms used by the preparatory department.

The temporary accommodation is, in the main, over 5 years old or more with only 9 of the 28 being provided in the past 5 years. They vary in m² but they fall into either around 54m² or 81m².

Given the range of ages of the various building blocks within the school, there is a corresponding range in the condition of the accommodation.

A proportion of the school's accommodation is in good condition, having been recently provided or upgraded. The science and technology classrooms were refurbished and extended in 1996 and new build and refurbishment in 1998 provided improved library, ICT and gym facilities. The dining accommodation was upgraded in 1999.

Other parts of the school are in much poorer condition. The original 1930's building and the 1950's wings are, excluding refurbished areas, extremely outdated. The rooms are generally undersized by modern standards and unsuited to the delivery of the curriculum. Windows are single glazed, metal casements, at the end of their useful life and draughty. Internal doors need to be upgraded to current fire safety requirements. Much of the woodblock flooring and plaster ceilings need to be replaced. The heating is from a single pipe system, which is over 40 years old, impossible to zone and presents on-going problems arising from deterioration of plant. Electrical wiring is over 30 years old and a complete re-wire is required.

In addition to the above issues, the 1950's wings are of Orlit construction, presenting the structural problems inherent in that construction. Remedial works have been undertaken following storm damage cracks, but these blocks will need to be replaced. The original building is still structurally sound.

The 1969 block of assembly hall and classrooms is generally in fair condition. However, the single glazed, metal casement windows are outdated and inefficient and the mechanical and electrical services are at the end of their useful life, being over 30 years old. All of these elements would need to be replaced.

There is a shortage of suitable accommodation for general and specialist uses as follows:

Science – shortage of laboratory spaces
 Home Economics - rooms undersized
 Music - insufficient practice rooms
 Business Information - one more room required
 Geography & History - four mobiles in use, two further rooms required
 Physical Education - insufficient storage, no multipurpose bay
 General classes - 16 mobiles in use, no recording studios for languages
 Careers - only provision is in one mobile
 Lecture/Drama - no lecture/drama space provided
 Sixth Form Study - undersized, 'common room' consists of three mobiles
 Offices - inadequate
 Staff room- inadequate
 Toilets - outdated and inadequate
 Storage and locker spaces - inadequate, lockers in corridors

The temporary accommodation on site dates back to the 1960's and would need to be replaced.

Enrolments

Enrolments at the school in the last 10 years are shown below:

Year	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	L6	U6	Total
2005/2006	135	128	139	134	135	134	136	941
2004/2005	129	137	133	135	132	144	106	916
2003/2004	130	132	134	132	141	117	124	910
2002/2003	131	133	134	141	124	132	105	900
2001/2002	131	135	140	123	133	107	114	883
2000/2001	132	135	121	134	110	119	101	852
1999/2000	132	124	133	110	128	113	86	826
1998/1999	116	138	109	129	117	94	110	813
1997/1998	134	111	127	116	105	114	106	813
1996/1997	110	124	117	105	114	116	93	779

The approved enrolment and admission numbers are 934 and 128.

The age range of pupils at the school is mainly 11-18. In addition the school has a preparatory department for primary aged pupils. The long term enrolment calculation gives a high of 931 and a low of 868 – this results in a mean LTE of 900.