

COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Cover Note

DP No.	DP 520	
School(s)	Magheralough Primary School	
Proposal	Magheralough Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.	
Permanent Secretary's Decision	Approve	
Date of Decision	13/12/2017	
Permanent Secretary's Comments	I agree with the recommendations set out at paragraph 83. In doing so I note in particular the information in the submission which shows that there is sufficient capacity in neighbouring schools to enable pupils currently attending Magheralough Primary School to complete their primary education and that there are sufficient Year 1 places in the locality to meet future demand.	
Additional notes	Implementation date 31 August 2018.	
Information redacted	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.	
	Key	Details
	■	redaction
	*	refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive
	#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure

FROM: DORINA EDGAR
Area Planning Policy & Shared Education Campuses Team

DATE: 11 December 2017

TO: Derek Baker
Permanent Secretary

Copy distribution below

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) 520 - TO DISCONTINUE PROVISION AT MAGHERALOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, TRILLICK.

Issue:	To decide on the following proposal: DP 520: Magheralough Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.
Timescale:	Routine.
Financial / Resource Implications	<u>Capital:</u> None <u>Resource:</u> If approved, implementation of the proposed closure may incur teaching and non-teaching staff redundancy costs. At present teaching costs amount to £134,539 per annum and non-teaching costs £20,608. Staffing implications will be managed in accordance with School Reorganisation and Joint Working Council Collective Agreements.
FOI Implications:	The content of this submission is fully disclosable.
Statutory Duties Implications:	Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016
Presentational Issues:	It is likely that there will be local media interest in your decision. If approached the Press Office can draw from this submission. (Cleared with the Press Office)
Recommendation	It is recommended that you:- (i) Approve DP 520: Magheralough Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2018,

	<p>or as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>(ii) Agree that this submission (with appropriate redactions) can be made available on the Department's website once the school (through the Proposer, CCMS) and the Education Authority have been notified.</p>
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Attachments

Appendix A: Summary Of Sustainable Schools Policy, Area Planning And Development Proposal Processes

Appendix B: Copy of Published Development Proposal

Appendix C: Case for Change (including supplementary information requested by the Department of Education (DE))

Appendix D: Education Authority (EA) Comments

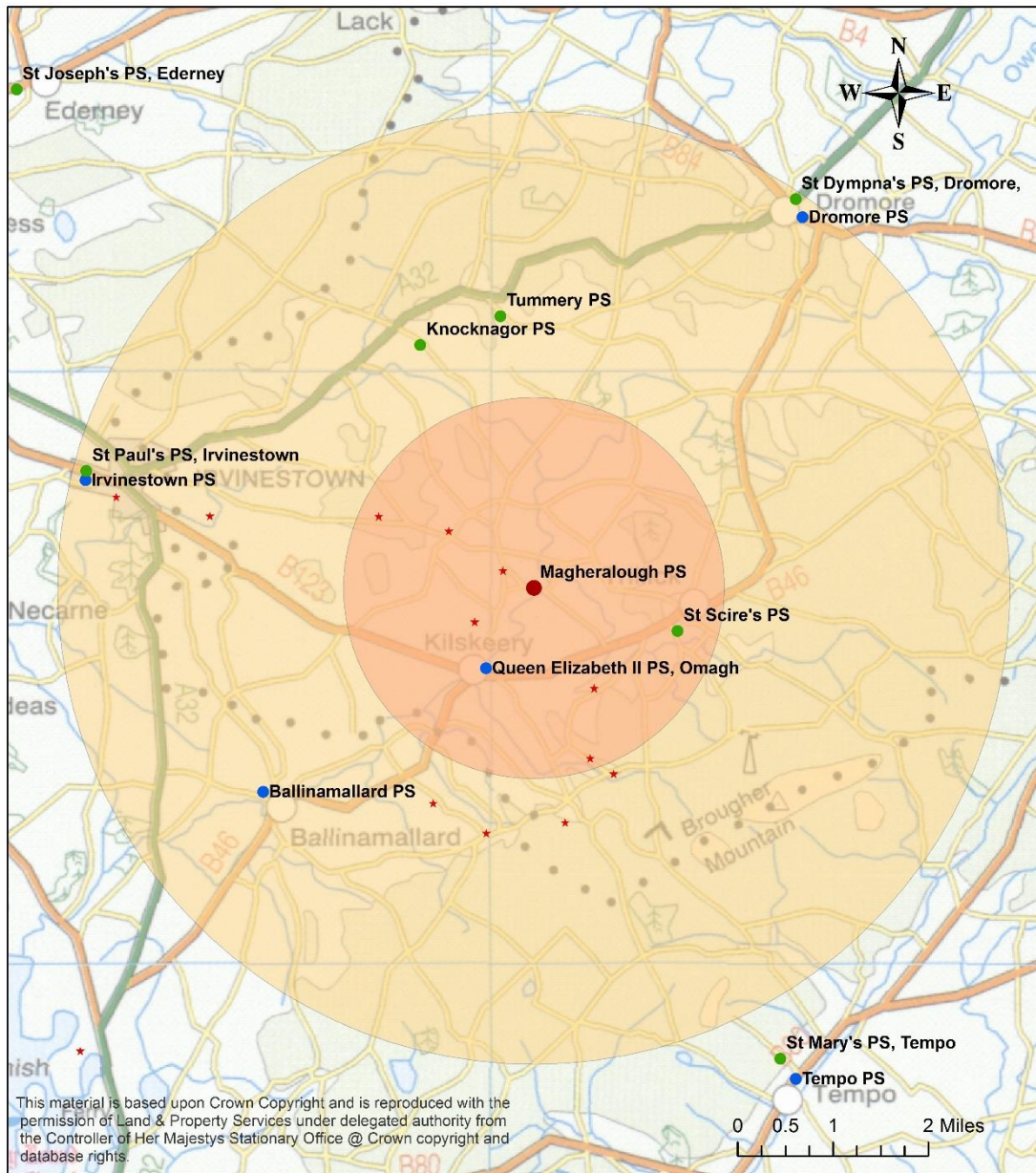
Appendix E: Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) Comments

Appendix F: DE (Policy Team) Comments

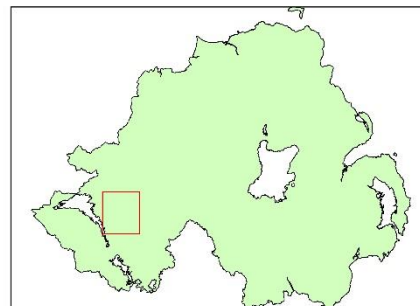
Appendix G: Annual Area Profile 2017

Map 1: Magheralough PS and Alternative Primary Provision

Magheralough Primary School - All Provision (5 Mile Radius)

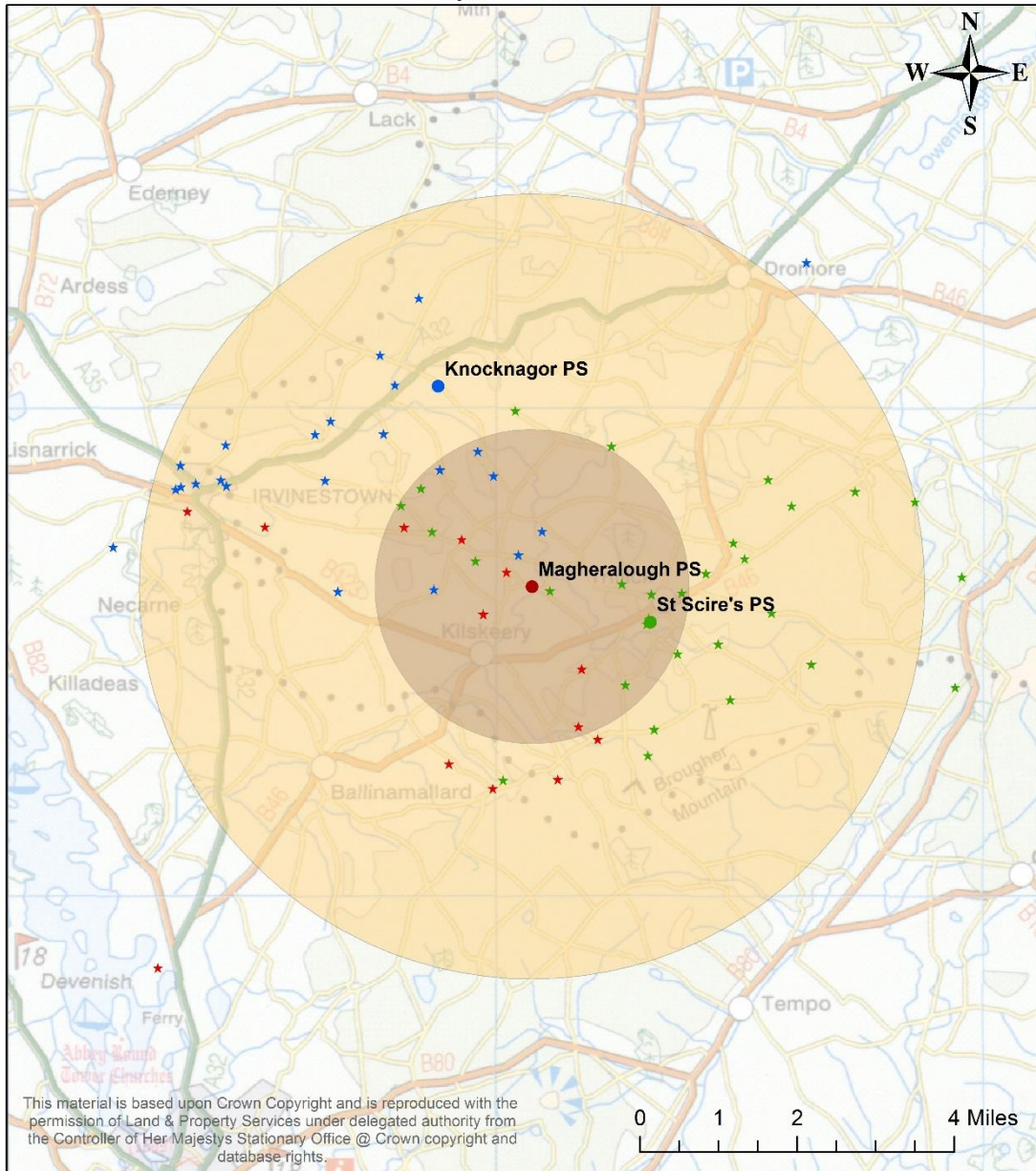


- **Magheralough Primary School**
- ★ Pupil Locations
- Catholic Maintained Primary Schools
- Controlled Primary Schools
- Other Maintained Primary Schools
- Grant Maintained Integrated Primary Schools
- Controlled integrated Primary Schools
- Voluntary Primary Schools
- ◇ 2 Mile Buffer of Magheralough PS
- ◇ 5 Mile Buffer of Magheralough PS

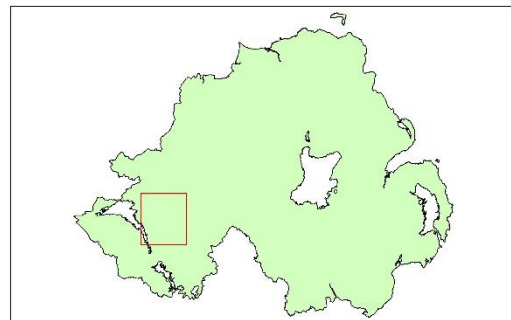


Map 2: Magheralough PS Alternative Maintained Provision and Pupil Location

Magheralough Primary School - Alternative Maintained Provision & Pupil Location



- Key**
- Magheralough Primary School
 - ★ Pupil Location
 - Knocknagor Primary School
 - ★ Pupil Location
 - St Scire's Primary School
 - ★ Pupil Location
 - 2 Mile Buffer
 - 5 Mile Buffer of Magheralough PS



INTRODUCTION

1. A Development Proposal (DP) is the statutory mechanism to bring about a change to a school to support implementation of the Area Plan. Appendix A provides detailed background information on the Sustainable Schools Policy, Area Planning processes and structures and the DP process which will set the context for your consideration of this proposal.
2. On 20 September 2017 the EA, on behalf of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Trustees of the Parish of Kilskeery, published DP 520 proposing to discontinue Magheralough Primary School with effect from 31 August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.
3. The statutory two month objection period for this proposal commenced on the date of publication and ended on 20 November 2017. Copies of the published DP and the Proposer's (CCMS's) Case for Change are attached at Appendix B and C respectively.

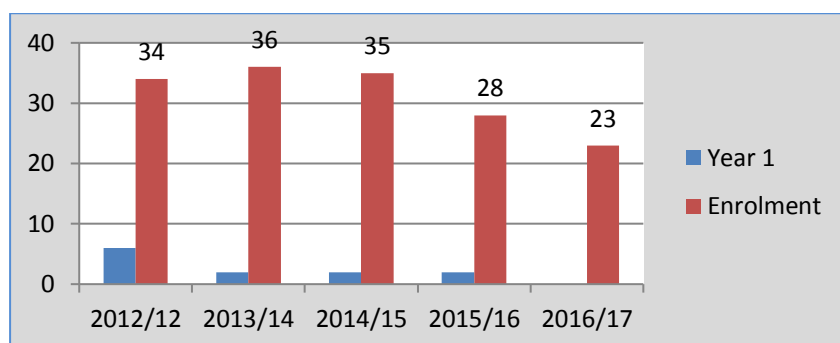
BACKGROUND

4. Magheralough Primary School (PS) is a co-educational Catholic Maintained primary school which opened in 1883 on the Magheralough Road approximately two miles from Trillick. It remains within the original school building, however, numerous alterations and improvements have been carried out over the years.
5. The majority of pupils enrolled live within a three mile radius of the school as shown in Map 1.

Admissions and Enrolment

6. The approved admissions and enrolment numbers for Magheralough PS are 7 and 51 respectively. In 2016/17 the school's total enrolment was 23 with no admissions to P1. This is substantially below the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) recommended minimum enrolment of 105 for a sustainable rural primary school. There are 28 available places that children can apply for through the competitive admissions process.
7. Chart 1 illustrates admissions and enrolment trends for Magheralough PS. It shows that the school's overall enrolment has fallen steadily in the last four years and that the number of pupils admitted each year has been consistently below the school's approved admissions number. Unverified figures for 2017/18 show only [REDACTED] in September 2017 and with seven P7 pupils having progressed to post-primary education, enrolment at the school has reduced further to 17 pupils.

Chart 1: Magheralough PS – Admissions and Enrolment



AREA CONTEXT

8. On the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 the Trillick area (in which Magheralough PS is located) is placed 379 out of 890 (1 being most deprived and 890 least deprived). In 2016/17 30.4% (7) of the school's pupils were entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

“Providing Pathways”: Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020

9. The EA's Area Plan was published on 28 April 2017 and includes population projections provided by the NI Statistics and Research Agency for the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Government District (LGD) area. The population of 0-15 year olds is projected to increase by 0.3% by 2024.

10. The Area Plan identifies a number of key emerging issues from analysis of current provision in the Fermanagh and Omagh LGD area. Issues relevant to Magheralough PS are as follows:

- Ensure that school places are located as required;
- Address school provision where sustainability is an issue; and
- Reconfigure primary provision to reduce the number of available places in schools.

11. Magheralough PS is featured in the EA's Annual Action Plan April 2017-March 2018 with an action to 'address school provision where sustainability is an issue'. The Action Plan states - "managing authority to consult on options for future provision at Magheralough PS by March 2018".

12. The Case for Change reports that CCMS considered the following planning options:

- Maintain the Status Quo – not considered a feasible option by CCMS;
- The amalgamation of Magheralough PS and St Scire's PS, however, given the present relative sizes of the two schools and the projected Long Term

Enrolment of 23 at Magheralough PS, CCMS did not consider this to be a feasible option; and

- Amalgamation of Magheralough PS, St Scire's PS and Knocknagor PS, bringing about an enrolment of around 220 pupils. However, up to 50% of the children attending Knocknagor PS are from neighbouring Irvinestown or Dromore and may not attend a school in Trillick. In addition, an amalgamation option would bring with it considerable disruption through closure of three schools, the identification of a site for the newly amalgamated school with implications for schools required to operate on split sites pending a new build, and attendant cost implications. CCMS concluded that a one school solution is not an option at this time.

ALTERNATIVE CATHOLIC MAINTAINED PROVISION IN THE TRILICK AREA

13. Magheralough PS is one of three Catholic Maintained primary schools in the Trillick area, Clogher. The others are St Scire's PS in the village of Trillick and Knocknagor PS just off the Dromore to Irvinestown Road and these schools are 1.8 and 3.2 miles respectively from Magheralough PS. The three schools share a Board of Governors (BoG).

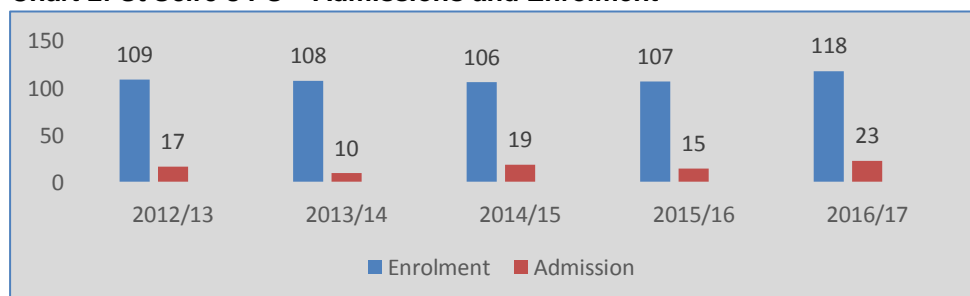
St Scire's PS

14. St Scire's PS is the closest co-educational Catholic Maintained primary school to Magheralough, located on the Effernan Road in Trillick. The pupils who attend the school are from Trillick and the surrounding local area as illustrated by Map 2.

15. The school has an approved admissions number of 20 and an approved enrolment of 143 pupils. Chart 2 illustrates admissions and enrolment trends over the past five years. Enrolments have remained relatively constant and the school meets the SSP recommended minimum enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school. In 2016/17 St Scire's PS had a total of 118 pupils enrolled with 28 available places.

16. Typically the school's Year 1 intake has been below the approved admissions number of 20, however, in 2016/17 the school admitted 23 pupils. Unverified figures for 2017/18 show that 16 pupils have been admitted, all first preference applications.

Chart 2: St Scire's PS – Admissions and Enrolment



17. Twenty-four pupils (20.3%) at St Scire’s PS were entitled to FSM in 2016/17.

18. An inspection carried out by the ETI in 2015 assessed the quality of education provided by the school as ‘Very Good’.

Knocknagor PS

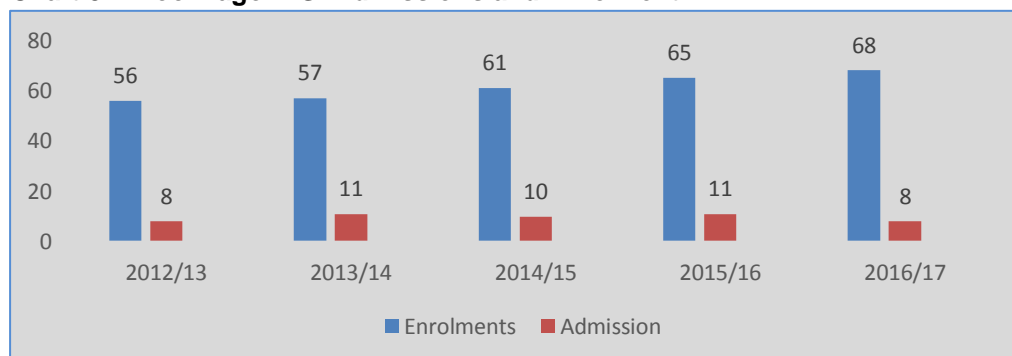
19. Knocknagor PS is a co-educational Catholic Maintained primary school located on the Moorfield Road in Trillick. The pupils who attend the school are from Trillick and the surrounding area including Irvinestown, as illustrated by Map 2.

20. The school has an approved admissions number of 9 and an approved enrolment of 65 pupils which is below the SSP recommended minimum enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school. Chart 3 illustrates admissions and enrolment trends over the past five years.

21. Enrolments, although low, have been steadily increasing. In 2016/17 Knocknagor PS had an enrolment of 68 pupils with no available places. Typically the school’s Year 1 intake has been slightly above the approved admissions number of 9, however, in 2016/17 the school only admitted eight pupils to P1.

22. Unverified figures for 2017/18 show that eight pupils were offered a place for September 2017, all first preference applications.

Chart 3: Knocknagor PS: Admissions and Enrolment



23. Twenty pupils (29.4%) at Knocknagor PS were entitled to FSM in 2016/17.

24. A focused inspection carried out by ETI in June 2011 assessed the quality of education provided by the school as ‘Good’.

OTHER ALTERNATIVE PRIMARY PROVISION

25. Table 1 provides a snapshot of all primary provision within a six mile radius of Magheralough PS.

Alternative Catholic Maintained Primary Provision

26. Table 1 illustrates that within the wider area there are three further Catholic Maintained primary schools - Tummery PS (4.4 miles), St Paul's PS, Irvinestown (5.7 miles) and St Dympna's PS, Dromore (6.1 miles). In 2016/17 the six Catholic Maintained primary schools had a combined approved enrolment of 907 places, however this will increase to 912 places due to the approval of DP 250 for St Dympna's PS. In 2016/17 there were 663 pupils enrolled and 267 available places through the competitive admissions process.

27. In 2016/17 Tummery PS had a total enrolment of 44 pupils with 52 places available. It therefore does not meet the minimum recommended enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school. St Paul's PS, Irvinestown (205 pupils) and St Dympna's PS, Dromore (205 pupils) do meet the recommended minimum enrolment. The ETI has assessed the quality of education provision as good or better in all three schools.

Controlled Primary Provision

28. Table 1 also illustrates that there are four Controlled primary schools within six miles of Magheralough PS. They are Queen Elizabeth II Primary School (1.4 miles), Ballinamallard PS (4.5 miles), Irvinestown PS (5.3 miles) and Dromore PS (5.9 miles) with a combined approved enrolment of 532 places. In 2016/17 there were 388 pupils enrolled in the four schools with 154 available places. Both Queen Elizabeth II PS and Dromore PS are significantly below the SSP minimum recommended enrolment for a sustainable rural primary school. Three of the four schools have a mixed religious balance and may be considered an alternative option for parents of pupils at Magheralough PS.

Table 1: Snapshot of Magheralough Primary School and Alternative Primary Provision

Ref No	School	Distance in Miles by Road	2017/18 Approved Enrolment	Future Approved Enrolment	2014/15 Actual Enrolment (Includes SEN)	2015/16 Actual Enrolment (Includes SEN)	2016/17 Actual Enrolment (Includes SEN)	2016/17 Statement of Educational Need (SEN)	2016/17 Available Places	2016/17 Actual Admissions (includes SEN)	2017/18 Approved Admission Numbers	2017/18 Total First Preference Application	2017/18 Over/Under Subscribed at First Preference	ETI reports publication date / assessment
Catholic Maintained Sector														
203-2473	Magheralough Primary School	-	51	51	35	28	23	0	28	0	7	*	u 6	January 2017 (capacity to identify and bring about improvement)
203-6153	St Scire's Primary School	1.8	143	143	106	107	118	*	28	23	20	16	u 4	April 2015 Very Good
203-2628	Knocknagor Primary School	3.2	65	65	61	65	68	0	0	8	9	8	u 1	May 2011 Good
203-2603	Tummery Primary School	4.4	95	95	45	42	44	*	52	*	14	5	u 9	March 2011 Very Good
203-1898	St Paul's Primary School, Irvinestown	5.7	348	348	213	202	205	5	148	34	50	31	u 19	June 2015 Good
203-6186	St Dymrna's Primary School *	6.3	205	210	188	204	205	11	11	30	29	22	u 7	January 2017 (high level of capacity for sustained improvement)
Total Catholic Maintained Sector			907	912	648	648	663	20	267	#	129	#		
Controlled Sector														
201-2669	Queen Elizabeth II Primary School	1.4	61	61	39	42	45	*	17	8	9	7	u 2	December 2011 Outstanding
201-1893	Ballinamallard Primary School	4.5	198	198	142	144	134	*	67	17	28	15	u 13	June 2016 needs to address an important area for improvement
201-6151	Irvinestown Primary School	5.3	182	182	163	158	161	5	26	25	26	16	u 10	November 2011 Very Good
201-2707	Dromore Primary School	5.9	91	91	39	43	48	*	44	13	13	5	u 8	November 2016 (capacity to identify and bring about improvement)
Total Controlled Sector			532	532	383	387	388	10	154	63	76	43		

* DP 250 Increase to Enrolment approved 24/06/14

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

29. Rural proofing has been a requirement for all Government Departments in Northern Ireland since 2002 and has been an integral part of the policy development process. In 2016 the commitment to rural proofing was strengthened with the introduction of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. The Act came into operation for Government Departments and District Councils on 1 June 2017 and will apply to public authorities from 1 June 2018.

CASE FOR CHANGE

30. The Case for Change sets out CCMS's rationale for the closure of Magheralough PS on the basis that it fails to meet the key criteria of the SSP with the following key points:

- The school fails to meet the SSP sustainability indicator of *"no more than two composite year groups in a single classroom at primary school level, and a minimum of four teachers at a primary school"*. In 2016/17 Magheralough PS had one permanent teacher and one temporary teacher. There was a three year composite class of Year 2 to Year 4 pupils and a three year composite class of Year 5 to Year 7 pupils. In 2016/17 there were no children enrolled in Year 1.
- Accommodation deficiencies include limited car parking, no staff room or library/resource area and no meals kitchen. There is a small grass play area and a hard surface play area. While adequate, the classrooms are small and not conducive to the requirements of the Curriculum. There are no existing or outstanding capital proposals or minor works applications.
- The school enrolment is not expected to increase by any significant degree from the current (2016/17) figure of 23 and is likely to remain well below the SSP recommended minimum enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school.
- The projected enrolment for each year group at the school indicates an increasing trend in the number of available places.
- The school projects a year-on-year budget deficit in excess of the 5% limit set by the EA. This is not considered to be a sustainable position, with the school's finances currently reliant upon significant

additional funding from the Small School Support Factor and Principal Release funding elements of the Common Funding Formula.

- If the proposal is approved, children will transfer to schools of their parents' choice where the requirements of the SSP will be better met. There would also be a saving to the public purse.
- The closure of Magheralough PS would have the following educational benefits for pupils:
 - no longer taught in a composite class of three or four year groups;
 - have access to a school library and resource area;
 - be part of an enrolment of c140 allowing greater peer interaction and smoother transfer to post-primary education; and
 - have access to a greater range of teacher specialisms.
- Subject to transfer opportunities, teachers at Magheralough PS would teach one or two year group classes and benefit from increased interaction and support from colleagues, and an improved working environment.

31. The Case for Change supporting DP 520 is reproduced in full at Appendix C.

STATUTORY DP PROCESSES

CCMS Consultation

32. In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, CCMS has confirmed that consultation was carried out with the Board of Governors (BoG), staff and parents. This included three consultation meetings held on 27 March 2017 and a consultation period which ran from 27 March 2017 to 28 April 2017 (extended to 11 May 2017), to allow parents and others to respond.

33. All 26 responses received objected to the proposal to close the school. This is in line with the overall outcome of the consultation meetings where there was a unanimous view that provision should continue at Magheralough PS.

34. The Case for Change provides a summary of responses to the CCMS consultation, and includes the following points:–

- The BoG in a joint response expressed concern that only the enrolment and financial criteria were focussed upon;
- The BoG noted improvements reported by ETI and stated that more time was needed to further embed the good practice now in place;

- The BoG saw advantages in smaller classes and having lower pupil:teacher ratios;
- Good leadership was highlighted with the prospect of enrolments increasing as standards further improve;
- No research or evidence of poor educational outcomes in classes with more than two year groups;
- Three non-teaching staff commented on a positive and safe environment and improvements brought about by the new Principal;
- Concern was expressed at alternative provision as Knocknagor PS is oversubscribed with applications;
- High levels of parental satisfaction based on survey responses;
- The Principal stated that responses showed a successful school meeting the needs of children, parents and the community which should be given the opportunity to further develop and grow;
- Parents noted the important place of the school in the community;
- Three parents stated that they had moved their children from other schools because of the standard of education and pastoral care at Magheralough PS;
- One parent said the school had changed the lives of [REDACTED] children; and
- Women's Aid and the Western Health and Social Care Trust commented on the valuable work carried out at the school.

Education Authority Consultation

35. The EA confirmed that it fulfilled its statutory duty in relation to consultation and provided proof of publication.

36. During pre-publication consultation the EA received no responses to this proposal.

Two Month Statutory Objection Period

37. DP 520 was published by the EA on 20 September 2017 and the statutory objection period ended on 20 November 2017. The Department received no letters of objection or support within this period.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY VIEW

38. The EA supports the proposal to close Magheralough PS, commenting that it is in keeping with the Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 and the Annual Action Plan for April 2017- March 2018. The full EA commentary is attached at Appendix D.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE (ETI) COMMENTS

39. The ETI supports the proposal to close Magheralough PS based on a falling enrolment trend and potential impact on the longer term financial viability of the school and children being taught in composite classes of three or more year groups. The ETI commentary on DP 520 is reproduced in full at Appendix E.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

40. The Department's SSP sets out six sustainability criteria supported by quantitative and qualitative indicators which provide a framework for consideration of a school's longer-term sustainability. The primary objective of this policy is to ensure that all children and young people receive a high quality education in schools that are educationally and financially viable in the longer term. An assessment of Magheralough PS against the six SSP criteria and their associated indicators is as follows:

CRITERION 1: QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

41. The ETI carried out an inspection of Magheralough PS in April 2015 and assessed the quality of education provided by the school as 'Satisfactory'. Further follow-up inspection visits were carried out in November 2015 and May 2016. A follow-up inspection was carried out in January 2017. The ETI Follow-up Report assessed the quality of education provision as follows - "Magheralough Primary School demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all learners". The report also stated that:

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.
- The quality of learning and teaching is now good.
- The outcomes for learners in literacy are now very good.

42. The inspection identified one area for improvement: –

- The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in embedding further the self-evaluation process leading to improvement in the areas identified for development.

Special Educational Needs

43. Magheralough PS has no pupils enrolled with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN Stage 5). The April 2015 ETI Inspection Report states that the school uses a range of information to identify early any children who require additional support. The 2017 ETI Inspection Report highlights the personalised

approach to learning and states that an analysis of the school’s data demonstrates that almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above literacy and numeracy expectations.

Composite Classes

44. There are two full-time members of staff. The Case for Change states that the school has two composite classes – both catering for three year groups (P2-P4) and (P5-P7). There were no P1 pupils in 2016/17. Table 2 shows a breakdown of the two composite classes by year group for 2016/17.

Table 2 – Magheralough PS: Breakdown of Composite Classes by Year Group 2016/17

P1	P2	P3	P4		P5	P6	P7
0	*	*	*		5	*	7
	7				#		

Extra-Curricular Activities

45 The April 2015 ETI Inspection Report states that ‘a widening range of extra-curricular activities are developing well the children’s confidence and esteem’. The Inspection Report also states that in responding to the ETI questionnaire parents commented on the ‘wide range of activities which are impacting positively on the quality of the children’s learning’. Parents also commented during CCMS’ consultation on the proposal on the ‘very wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer’. This was also supported by members of staff in the consultation who pointed out the wide range of extra-curricular activities particularly in drama and music productions.

Teaching Staff

46. In 2016/17 Magheralough PS employed two full time teachers. The SSP recommends a minimum of four teachers for a primary school.

Learning Environment

47. The Case for Change states that accommodation deficiencies include limited car parking, no staff room, no library/resource area and no meals kitchen. There is a small grass play area and a hard surface play area. While adequate, the classrooms are small and not conducive to the requirements of the Curriculum.

48. The ETI noted in the January 2017 report that there had been redevelopment of the outdoor learning environment, for example, the wildflower garden, the children’s den and a new physical play track.

Pastoral Care

49. ETI noted that the pastoral care of the school is characterised by a welcoming and inclusive ethos. The children’s ideas and opinions are sought and acted upon.

Parents commented on the standard of pastoral care including one parent who said the school had transformed the lives of her children.

CRITERION 2: STABLE ENROLMENT TRENDS

50. Magheralough PS has an approved enrolment number of 51. Table 3 below sets out the school’s actual enrolment for the last five years. It shows that historically the school has been under subscribed with enrolments falling steadily from a five year high of 36 in 2013/14. In 2016/17 the school enrolled a total of 23 pupils, leaving 28 available places. The school’s enrolment is substantially below the recommended minimum enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school as set out in the SSP.

Table 3: Magheralough PS – Enrolment Trends

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
34	36	35	28	23

51. Magheralough PS has an approved admissions number of 7. Table 4 shows P1 intakes from 2012/13 to 2016/17. Year 1 intakes have been consistently below the recommended minimum admission of 15 pupils under SSP. In 2016/17 no pupils were admitted to Year 1.

Table 4: Magheralough PS – P1 Intakes

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
6	*	*	*	0

52. Unverified figures for 2017/18 show that the school received [REDACTED] for P1. With seven Year 7 pupils leaving, this reduces the school’s enrolment to 17 pupils.

53. Table 4 provides evidence that there are fewer pupils in P2-P4 (7) compared to P5-P7 (16), illustrating a declining trend in overall enrolment.

CRITERION 3: SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION

54. The school received a total delegated budget of £145k in the current 2017/18 financial year, including (maximum) Small Schools Support funding of £45,190 and Primary Principal Release funding of £16,420. The school had a total of 23 pupils enrolled in 2016/17, resulting in funding per pupil of £6,299 compared to the average for all primary schools of £3,001. At 31 March 2017 Magheralough PS held a cumulative 2016/17 closing budget surplus of £21,704.

55. The Case for Change confirms that the school submitted a three year financial plan to the EA in May 2016. The plan shows a budget surplus of £42,764 for

2016/17, reducing to £19,125 by 2017/18, leading to a budget deficit of £6,104 by 2018/19. In the Case for Change CCMS asserts that the initial budget surplus masks negative in-year spend of £23,639 (2016/17), £25,228 (2017/18) and £31,201 (2018/19). By the end of the 2018/19 financial year there is an estimated budget deficit of £37,305. This equates to a budget deficit of 31.29% and the Case for Change asserts that this is not a viable financial plan as the projected deficit significantly exceeds the 5% limit set by the EA.

CRITERION 4: STRONG LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

56. The ETI Inspection Report of January 2017 reports that the quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The senior leadership is supported well by the BoG who have been actively involved in the improvement process.

57. Since the initial inspection in April 2015, a sub-committee of the BoG was established to oversee the improvement process. The new three year school development plan outlines clearly the key areas for improvement and is informed by effective analysis of performance data and wide consultation with key stakeholders. ETI have stated that it will be important that the self-evaluation process is embedded further to ensure sustained improvement on key identified areas.

CRITERION 5: ACCESSIBILITY

58. Maps 1 and 2 show the location of pupils currently enrolled at the school. Most pupils live within a three mile radius of Magheralough and in proximity to alternative schools. The Case for Change states that St Scire's is the next nearest Catholic Maintained school, some 1.8 miles distant. As St Scire's has capacity for a further 25 pupils it could accommodate all 23 pupils (2016/17 census data) from Magheralough PS or all 17 pupils (unverified 2017/18 data). As illustrated by Map 2, some pupils enrolled at Magheralough PS live closer to St Scire's PS. Alternative provision would be available within the 30 minute travel time set out in the SSP.

CRITERION 6: STRONG LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

59. The Case for Change states that Magheralough PS is engaged in community activities, sports groups, pastoral events and extra-curricular activities.

60. The 2015 Inspection Report reported that staff 'were wholly positive and emphasised the greater focus on raising standards, the children's increased enjoyment of learning and *their valued links with the parents and the wider community*'.

SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

61. The school is not meeting all six SSP sustainability criteria as there are two composite classes with more than two year groups, the school has fewer than four teachers and enrolments have been falling steadily, down to 23 pupils in 2016/17 and an unverified figure of 17 for 2017/18. The Case for Change also expresses concern regarding the school's future financial position.

62. The 2015 ETI Inspection Report stated that "it will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and staff". This was reiterated in the 2017 Inspection Report.

ANALYSIS OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

63. The Rural Development Council's (RDC) *Striking the Balance* report highlights the importance of rural proofing so that regard is given to the impact of a particular policy on rural populations (in comparison to those living in urban areas) and to help identify adjustments which might be made to reflect rural needs and ensure that services are accessible to rural communities on a fair basis. A central concern is the quality of education provided to pupils.

64. The SSP policy was assessed against the RDC rural proofing checklist (*Striking the Balance, Annex 1*) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is reflected in the lower *enrolment* threshold for rural primary schools, the *accessibility* criterion which provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion *strong links with the community* also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban).

65. The Government's commitment to rural proofing was strengthened with the introduction of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 ("The Act"). The Act requires public authorities to have 'due regard' to consciously consider the needs of people in rural areas when developing policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services. It defines 'rural needs' as "the social and economic needs of rural areas".

66. Responses to CCMS's consultation included comment on rural considerations and the Case for Change includes details of the CCMS response where concerns have been expressed. While the Rural Needs Act does not yet apply to CCMS, in response to a request from DE for supplementary information (referenced to the

Case for Change, so included at Appendix C) about equality considerations generally, and specifically the Rural Needs Act, CCMS commented that it considers that the proposal is seeking to preserve and embed sustainable provision and therefore enhance educational provision for those living in a rural area.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Financial Benefits

67. The Case for Change asserts that implementation of the proposed closure may produce the following financial benefits:

- A saving from the removal of Small School Support and Principal Release funding at Magheralough PS;
- An increase in enrolment at St Scire's PS would reduce Small School Support and Principal Release funding required to support St Scire's PS; and
- Excluding Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding which would be allocated elsewhere, all other costs (premises etc.) at Magheralough PS would cease.

Financial Costs

68. The Case for Change asserts that implementation of the proposed closure of Magheralough PS may incur the following financial costs:

- Possible redundancy costs for teaching and/or non-teaching staff. At the present time teaching salary costs amount to £134,539 per annum, and non-teaching salary costs total £20,608 per annum;
- Possible costs in respect of salary protection if the Principal is redeployed to a position associated with a lower level of remuneration;
- Additional salary costs at St Scire's PS, although this should be off-set by increased AWPU funding ; and
- Transport costs for pupils: these would be minimal as only a small number of additional children would require transport assistance.

Staffing

69. Staffing implications will be managed in accordance with School Reorganisation and Joint Working Council Collective Agreements.

Accommodation

70. St Scire's PS has an approved enrolment of 143 pupils and in 2016/17 had a total enrolment of 118 pupils and 28 available places. The Case for Change anticipates that there will be 13 pupils remaining in Magheralough PS at the time of the proposed closure. If the majority of these pupils transfer to St Scire's PS, CCMS

has confirmed that they can be accommodated. There are therefore no anticipated capital costs.

CONCLUSION

71. The Department's vision is to ensure that every learner fulfils his or her full potential at each stage of development. All Departmental policies and processes, including Area Planning, contribute to the delivery of that vision and all have, as a central tenant, the educational well-being of children and young people.

72. The SSP, implemented through Area Planning, is clear that the core issue for a school's sustainability must be the continuing provision of a high quality education for the children. Typically, as numbers in a school decline, the challenges it must overcome in order to provide a high quality education rise.

73. The Case for Change states that the decision taken by CCMS to propose closure of Magheralough PS is based on three critical factors (i) a low and decreasing enrolment; (ii) significant budgetary concerns; and (iii) an inability to meet key educational provision indicators set out in the SSP.

74. Pupil numbers in Magheralough PS have experienced a steady decline to the 2016/17 enrolment of 23 pupils, with unverified figures showing 17 pupils enrolled in 2017/18. The Case for Change advises that it is unlikely that the school's enrolment will increase by any significant degree and will remain well below the recommended enrolment of 105 for a sustainable rural primary school.

75. The school's three year financial plan projects a budget deficit by 2018/19, at a level in excess of the 5% limit set by the EA.

76. The SSP states that ideally a primary school should have at least seven classrooms, one for each year group. The school employs two teachers which also falls short of the SSP criteria of a minimum of four teachers in a primary school with the result that the school is operating two composite classes, both of which include more than two year groups.

77. Inspection evidence shows that within a composite class of two year groups, it is possible for all children to be catered for effectively and make good progress. There is no evidence from school inspections to suggest that children taught in composite classes of two year groups are disadvantaged in any way.

78. However, additional factors need to be considered when the composite class spans more than two year groups. Under these circumstances ensuring adequate progression in learning and planning to meet, and meeting, the individual needs of children across a wider ability range and stage of development can be more

challenging for the teacher. There are also issues relating to opportunities for the children to develop socially and emotionally with children of a similar age, gender and stage of development.

79. CCMS received 26 written responses (from parents, staff and Governors at Magheralough PS plus Women's Aid and the Western Health and Social Care Trust) objecting to the proposal, however, no responses were received during the EA's wider consultation with schools considered likely to be affected, nor did DE receive any responses during the statutory two month objection period.

80. Evidence shows that there is sufficient capacity in the locality to enable pupils currently attending Magheralough PS (unverified figures show 17 pupils in 2017/18) to transfer to nearby schools in order to complete their primary education and that there are enough Year 1 places in the locality to meet future demand. In 2017/18 there were 83 first preference applications for 129 places at Catholic Maintained schools in the wider area.

81. If Magheralough PS closes the Department would give due consideration to any Temporary Variation (TV) requests from neighbouring schools if parental preference results in any school having to exceed its approved numbers to facilitate the transfer of pupils following closure. However, no advance guarantee of a TV approval can be provided as each case must be considered on its individual merits and in accordance with TV policy and practice.

82. The quality of education at the nearest alternative schools (St Scire's PS and Knocknagor PS) has been assessed as very good and good respectively. The Case for Change asserts that the closure of Magheralough PS would have educational benefits for the pupils as they would no longer be taught in composite classes of three or four year groups, they would have greater peer interaction and have access to a greater range of teacher specialisms. There would also be benefits for teachers as they would teach one or two year group classes and benefit from increased interaction and support from colleagues in a larger setting.

RECOMMENDATION

83. Based on the evidence outlined in this submission, it is recommended that you:

- (i) Approve DP 520: Magheralough Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) Agree that this submission (with appropriate redactions) can be made available on the Department's website once the school (through the Proposer, CCMS) and the Education Authority have been notified; and

84. The following appendices are attached for your consideration:

Appendix A: Summary Of Sustainable Schools Policy, Area Planning And Development Proposal Processes

Appendix B: Copy of Published Development Proposal

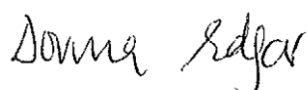
Appendix C: Case for Change (including supplementary information requested by the Department of Education (DE))

Appendix D: Education Authority (EA) Comments

Appendix E: Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) Comments

Appendix F: DE (Policy Team) Comments

Appendix G: Annual Area Profile 2017



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SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS POLICY, AREA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL PROCESSES

1. Departmental Vision

1.1 The Department of Education (DE) has a vision for the education sector which is to see: *“Every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development.”* This aligns with the commitment in the draft Programme for Government which identifies a number of key indicators for education. Although the work of the Department extends across many of the 14 outcomes its key focus lies with Outcome 14 namely that - *“We give our children and young people the best start in life”*.

1.2 All Department policies and processes are focussed on achieving its aim. “Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools” (SSP) plays a key role in delivering this vision as it aims to establish a network of sustainable schools offering high quality educational experiences and outcomes for all pupils, while making the best use of available resources. The process for implementing this policy is Area Planning. The SSP can be found on the Department’s website at the following link: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-sustainable-schools>

1.3 The SSP does not apply to pre-school or Special Education provision these are taken forward under other relevant policies. However, Area Planning applies to primary, post-primary and special schools and ensures that provision is planned strategically to deliver sustainable, high quality education to all pupils.

1.4 Responsibility for Area Planning sits with DE’s Area Planning Policy Team (APPT) within the Area Planning, Admissions and Shared Campuses Directorate (APASCD).

2. Sustainable Schools Policy

2.1 The SSP focuses on the longer-term viability of schools provision and its primary objective is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live, making best use of the resources available for education. This policy drives the Area Planning process to ensure there is a network of strong viable schools to meet the educational needs of children and young people.

2.2 The SSP sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school’s viability:-

- Quality Educational Experience
- Stable Enrolment Trends
- Sound Financial Position
- Strong Leadership and Management

- Accessibility
- Strong Links with the Community.

2.3 The policy also sets out the enrolment thresholds follows:-

School Type	Pupil Numbers
Rural Primary	105
Urban Primary**	140
Post-Primary*	500
Sixth Form	100

**excluding 6th form provision*

*** Urban is currently defined in the SSP as "Belfast and Derry City Council areas".*

2.4 It is the SSP's intention that all those involved with schools, including Boards of Governors (BoG), teachers and the local community use these criteria to assess the sustainability of education provision at a school and to help determine whether early intervention is required in an aspect of the school's operation. The SSP is not intended to be used mechanistically but simply as a benchmark against which a school can be considered taking account of local circumstances on a case by case basis. The over-riding priority must be the quality of education provided for children and young people, with the focus on pupils and not institutions.

3. Area Planning Process

3.1 Area Planning is the process designed to implement the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) It has been primarily developed to support the strategic planning of primary and post-primary education provision and is central to achieving the Departmental vision for education. The SSP aims to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their educational needs in a school that is educationally and financially viable and takes account of the expressed preference of parents for a diverse education system. It also takes account of the strategic planning for Special Education provision in line with the Review of Special Education.

3.2 Area Planning is a complex process and there are a number of key contributors with differing statutory and non-statutory roles, summarised as follows:

DE: The effective implementation of the SSP and embedding of the Area Planning process have been key priorities for the Department. DE responsibilities include: setting and reviewing policy and area planning support frameworks and ensuring planning operates within them; providing advice and guidance to the planning authorities and sectoral support bodies; and scrutinizing and challenging Area Plans and Annual Action Plans. DE requires that the Education Authority (EA) produces a 3-year strategic regional Area Plan covering the primary, post-primary and special schools sectors, supported by an Annual Action Plan (further details at paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 below).

- DE has a duty under Article 64 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 to encourage and facilitate Integrated education and a duty under Article 89 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1998 to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education.
- The Shared Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 also places a duty on the Department of Education to encourage, facilitate and promote Shared Education. It also places a duty on DE, EA and CCMS to consider Shared Education when-
 - (a) developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans: and
 - (b) designing and delivering public services.

Education Authority (EA): has overall operational responsibility for planning of provision within the policy and strategic framework set by DE as it has statutory duties to ensure that efficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of all pupils and that schools, sufficient in number, character and equipment are available. In addition, it also has a statutory duty to plan for controlled schools. It therefore plays a central role in the Area Planning process. Its activities include the production and publishing of Annual Area Profiles, Area Plans and Annual Action Plans in line with the Area Planning cycle, having represented and reflected the interests of all other school sectors.

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS): has a statutory duty to promote and co-ordinate, in consultation with the Trustees, the planning of effective provision of Catholic Maintained schools. For the purposes of Area Planning, CCMS provides input for and represents the interests of the Catholic Maintained sector. Its responsibilities also include engagement with the EA and other sectors in identifying innovative, creative and shared solutions for sustainable provision. The subsidiary planning role of CCMS was unaffected by the formation of the EA in 2015.

Sectoral Support Bodies: within the Area Planning structures, other sectoral support bodies namely, the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), Comhairle na Gaelscolaíocht (CnaG), the Controlled Sector Support Council (CSSC), the Governing Bodies Association (GBA) and the Catholic Schools Trustees Service (CSTS) reflect the views of their respective sectors. While not planning authorities these bodies are charged and funded by the Department with providing support to the sectors they represent in matters relating to Area Planning.

Other Participants: the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), and the Department for the Economy (DfE) also have roles, the former as Professional Education Advisors and the latter in advising on compatibility with its plans for Further Education (FE).

3.3 The following Area Planning structures have been put in place by DE and the EA to provide strategic direction, operational consistency and opportunity to actively engage with key stakeholder bodies.

- **Area Planning Steering Group (APSG):** was established to support the Department as it takes forward work to establish the implementation process for Area Planning. It also provides a forum for Chief Executives and senior officials to discuss and agree a common approach to issues which arise in relation to Area Planning. Previously, the Education Minister chaired two of four quarterly annual meetings.
- **Area Planning Working Group (APWG):** was established to bring together representatives of the planning authorities and sectoral bodies involved in operational aspects of Area Planning. Its purpose is to provide a regular forum for discussing cross-district/cross-sectoral issues and concerns, agreeing solutions to be applied by all relevant bodies or, where necessary, raising them to the APSG for consideration and resolution.
- **Area Planning Local Groups (APLGs):** are geographically determined groups set up by the EA to bring together local stakeholders including planning authorities, sectoral bodies, voluntary grammar school representatives and any other relevant interests, including Further Education (FE). They contribute to any review or revision of an existing Area Plan and assist with the implementation process for Area Plans before they are sent to the EA for approval.

3.4 The **Area Planning Cycle** is the timetable which underpins the Area Planning process. An Area Plan will cover three financial years (April to March), with the current planning period commencing in April 2017, aligning with the start of the Community Planning cycle. The Strategic Area Plan (“Providing Pathways”) covers the period April 2017 to March 2020 and was published on 28 April 2017 and is accompanied by an Annual Action Plan for 2017/18. In addition to this, Annual Area Profiles for each primary and post-primary school are published by the EA around May/June each year.

3.5 The **Area Plan** is a single strategic regional plan covering the whole of Northern Ireland which sets out a series of key strategic themes and priorities for action at system level, applied locally to the 11 Local Government Districts (LGD). It has a three year life span which covers all primary and post-primary schools of all management types and all special schools.

3.6 The **Annual Action Plan** which supports the implementation of the Area Plan is a work programme for the schools managing authorities. It outlines actions to address the strategic issues and contains details of specific proposals for action to determine the shape of education provision in Local Government Districts. These actions include details of Development Proposals (DPs) for named schools to give effect to the proposed changes. The Action Plan will be monitored to assess the progress on the delivery of the Area Plan.

3.7 The **Annual Area Profile** provides a statistical snapshot of every grant-aided primary and post-primary school. Its purpose is to provide the public with a clear

picture of the shape of education provision in their area and to encourage informed local involvement in the area planning process. The Annual Area Profiles are published on the EA website and contain a range of information in a common and accessible format. For all primary and post-primary schools, the information will include details about admissions and enrolments, first preference applications and budgets. Details on performance outcomes and compliance with the Entitlement Framework are provided for post-primary schools only.

3.8 Population Trends inform plans for future overall provision. The EA liaises directly with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to obtain information regarding population projection trends which it will use to inform Area Planning and to deliver a sufficient number of school places to meet projected demand in all sectors.

4. Development Proposal Process

4.1 A copy of DE Circular 2014/21 'Publication of a *Development Proposal*' can be found at the following link on the Department's website: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/2014-21-publication-of-a-development-proposal.pdf>

4.2 Any significant change to be made to a school can only be made through the publication of a DP as required by Article 14 (as amended) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986. DPs are therefore the means by which any significant changes required to a school, identified through the Area Planning process, are made to reshape provision in an area to deliver the strategic vision outlined in the area plan.

4.3 DE seeks to ensure that, regardless of the reason for the proposal, all DPs are considered in the wider context of the Department's statutory duties and policies and that all proposals support the implementation of the Area Plan.

4.4 DPs are brought forward by a 'Proposer'. The Proposer is the relevant school managing authority which includes the EA (for Controlled schools), the CCMS (for Catholic Maintained schools) as well as individual BoGs of voluntary maintained schools, VGSs and GMI schools. Owners of independent schools may also bring forward a proposal to seek grant-aided status subject to meeting all the statutory requirements of a grant-aided school.

4.5 A key role of the Proposer is the development of a detailed Case for Change to support the proposal. This will include the rationale for the proposal together with supporting robust and verifiable evidence which clearly demonstrates that the proposal aligns to the Area Plan and is policy compliant.

4.6 The four main stages in the DP process are:-

- (i) **identification of need** in the Area Planning context; getting a proposal right at this stage will impact positively on the success of the proposal. The focus should be on educational benefits and provision of high quality education that meets the needs of children and young people and takes account of parental preference.

- (ii) **statutory pre-publication consultations**; the proposer must consult with the BoG, staff and parents of registered pupils of the affected school. On receipt of a DP, the EA (which publishes all DPs irrespective of sector) must consult with schools likely to be affected by it.
- (iii) **publication of a DP**; the EA publishes DPs on behalf of a proposer in newspapers.
- (iv) **statutory 2month objection period**; this is triggered at the date of publication and during this period anyone interested in or affected by a DP can submit their views (for or against a proposal) directly to DE. The public can request a meeting with Departmental Officials or the Minister at this stage of the process and these requests are normally facilitated, diaries permitting. At the end of the two month period, DE compiles and assesses all relevant information before making a recommendation on a DP to the decision maker. This decision is final and concludes the DP process.

4.7 All DPs are considered on a case by case basis within the general DP policy framework. In the case of Integrated and Irish-medium proposals full account must be taken of DE's duty to encourage and facilitate in accordance with the relevant legislation. A DP will be approved or not approved, although in some instances approval of a DP can be subject to modification in line with Article 14(7) of the 1986 Order.

4.8 DE's power to impose conditions on DPs is limited. The Education Orders provide that the only DPs to which specific conditions can be attached are those for the establishment of GMI and voluntary Irish medium schools). Other conditions (imposed when schools are opening or transforming) will relate to Department policies and not the approval itself.

4.9 A DP approved by the Department must be implemented in full. Further changes can only be made through the publication of another DP. Following approval, proposers may seek the Department's approval to defer implementation of the DP.

4.10 Although legislation does not provide for appeal, the Department's decision can be challenged through an application for judicial review (JR).

Glossary

ALB	Arm's Length Body
APASCD	Area Planning, Admissions and Shared Campuses Directorate
APLG	Area Planning Local Group
APPT	Area Planning Policy Team
APSG	Area Planning Steering Group
APWG	Area Planning Working Group
BoG	Board of Governors
CCMS	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
CnaG	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
CSSC	Controlled Schools Support Council
CSTS	Catholic Schools Trustees Service
DE	Department of Education
DfE	Department for the Economy
DP	Development Proposal
EA	Education Authority
ETI	Education and Training Inspectorate
FE	Further Education
GBA	Governing Bodies Association
GMI	Grant Maintained Integrated
IM	Irish Medium
JR	Judicial Review
NICIE	Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
SSP	Sustainable Schools Policy
VGS	Voluntary Grammar School

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 520

MAGHERALOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is hereby given that a Proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 has been submitted to the Education Authority by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, on behalf of the Trustees of the Parish of Kilskeery, to the effect that:

Magheralough Primary School will discontinue with effect from 31 August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

A copy of this Proposal and Case for Change may be inspected at the offices of the Education Authority, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, BT79 0AW, between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm and www.eani.org.uk (under Schools).

Any objections to this Proposal should be lodged with the Area Planning Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7PR or emailed to dps@education-ni.gov.uk within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

The Department of Education and the Education Authority operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act. Letters of objection and information supplied to the Department of Education and the Education Authority may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

Gavin Boyd
Chief Executive



THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Magheralough Primary School,

Trillick

(203-2473)

REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

UPDATED MAY 2017

CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information

SUMMARY / OVERVIEW

EDUCATION AUTHORITY (EA) AREA	Education Authority (Western Region)
DP NUMBER	
PROPOSER	Council For Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) 160 High Street, Holywood, Co Down, BT18 9HT
SCHOOL(S) NAME	MAGHERALOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL REFERENCE	203-2473
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Catholic Maintained
DP PUBLICATION DATE	
PROPOSAL	Proposed to cease provision with effect from 31st August 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

BY THE PROPOSER	I confirm that the school(s) Board of Governors, Staff and Parents of Pupils were consulted on 27 th March 2017. SIGNED: <i>Edel Teague</i> DATE: 30/05/2017
BY THE EA	I confirm that the schools which the EA consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 31 May 2017. SIGNED: <i>[Signature]</i> DATE: 24/08/17

ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

DP XXX Published DD/MM/YY	Proposed to ... with effect from ... or as soon as possible thereafter
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1. Background

1.1 Magheralough Primary School is one of three maintained primary schools that provide primary education for the Catholic children in the Trillick area, Clogher. The others are St Scire's Primary School in the village of Trillick and Knocknagor Primary School, just off the main Dromore to Irvinestown road. The nearest controlled primary school is Ballinamallard Primary School which is 3.8 miles away. St Scire's and Knocknagor are 1.3 and 3 miles respectively from Magheralough.

1.2 The school was opened in 1883 and is located on a pleasant site approximately two miles from Trillick. The school remains within the original structure; numerous alterations and improvements have been carried out over the years, the most recent are as follows:

- 2000: Approval for refurbishment of toilet block and foyer
- 2003: New school sign
- 2004: Security lighting
- 2008: Additional storage facility for caretaker supplies
- 2008: Security fencing
- 2010: Toilet refurbishment

There are no existing or outstanding capital proposals or minor works applications.

1.3 Accommodation / premises deficiencies include limited car parking, no staff room or library/resource area and no meals kitchen. There is a small grass play area and a hard surface play area. While adequate, the classrooms are small and not conducive to the requirements of the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum. (See **Appendix 1 - Accommodation Schedule** and **Appendix 2 - Minor Works**).

2. Rationale for the proposal

2.1 Schools for the Future: A policy for Sustainability [SSP]: 2009.

This policy issued by DE identified six criteria by which to measure the sustainability of any primary school, namely

- quality of the children's educational experiences*
- stable enrolment trends
- sound financial position
- strong leadership [by the principal and board of governors]
- accessibility
- strong links to the community

* the indicators in this criterion include – no more than two composite classes in a single classroom at primary school level, and a minimum of four teachers at a primary school.

2.2 School size: the policy also refers to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Independent Strategic Review of Education [Bain Report] 2006, which identifies minimum school sizes as follows:

- **urban schools: 140 pupils** [average of 20 children per year]
- **rural schools: 105 pupils** [average of 15 children per year]

2.3 EA Primary School Annual Area profile - June 2016 (Appendix 5). This provides supporting information for the school, including data on enrolment, admissions numbers, free school meals and finance. The relevant data for the three schools is contained in Section 6 below.

2.4 Putting Pupils First: Shaping Our Future – EA Strategic Area Plan. Action for all primary schools was set out in this document. Consideration was given to the Sustainable Schools Policy. The following 'action' was identified for the three schools in the area:

2.4.1 Magheralough: Local area solution to be explored

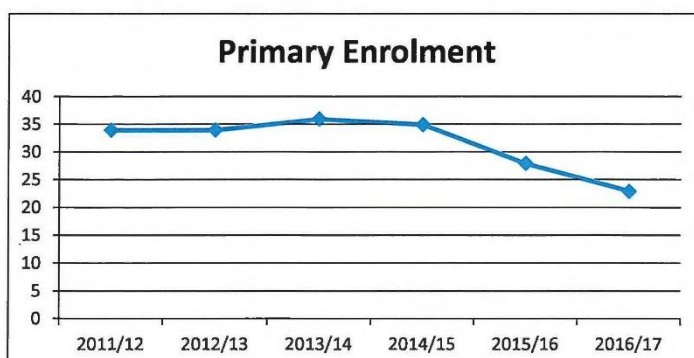
2.4.2 St Scire's: School considered sustainable within a local area context

2.4.3 Knocknagor: Local area solution to be explored.

3. Sustainable Schools Policy: Magheralough PS

3.1 Quality of Children's Educational Experiences: while end-of-key stage outcomes are good, the school fails to meet the indicators '*no more than two composite classes in a single classroom at primary school level, and a minimum of four teachers at a primary school.*' At present two teachers cater for the children. One teacher is permanent the other is temporary. There is a three year composite class of Y2 to Y4 and a three year composite class of Y5 to Y7. There are no children in Y1.

3.2 Stable Enrolments Trends: It is unlikely the school enrolment will increase by any significant degree from the current figure of 23 and will always remain well below the sustainability figure of 105 identified in the Bain Report.



Further details in paragraph 6.3 below.

3.3 Sound Financial Situation

The school projects a year-on-year deficit outside of the 5% margins set by the EA. It is not financially sustainable. (See section 12 below).

3.4. Strong Leadership

The Follow up Inspection February 2017:-

The report noted that the quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.

3.5. Accessibility

The schools in this area are located within a 3 mile radius of each other. They are accessible to the rural communities they serve. Magheralough PS is in a rural part of the area and is thus less accessible than St Scire's PS which is in the village of Trillick.

3.6 Strong links to the community

Magheralough PS is linked to its rural community through community activities, sports groups, pastoral events and extra-curricular activities.

3.7 Objective and outcomes of the proposal:

The proposal to close Magheralough PS is in line with DE policy in that two of the three measurable criteria /indicators within the SSP are not being met. In addition, the dependence on significant additional funding, over and above that generated through enrolment and other formula funding factors, is inequitable and does not represent value for money. Given that there is no indication of a significant future increase in enrolment the school is not viable in the long term.

If the proposal is approved, the children will transfer to schools of their parents' choice where the requirements of the SSP will be better met; there will also be a saving to the public purse.

In addition, the proposal addresses the issue of available places within the schools in this area.

3.8 Other Options

3.8.1 Other than maintaining the status quo, an option to consider is the amalgamation of Magheralough PS and St Scire's PS, likely located on the existing site of St Scire's PS in Trillick. However given the present relative sizes of the two schools and the projected low Long Term Enrolment of 23 at Magheralough PS [see Table 6.2 below] this is not a feasible alternative.

3.8.2 A further option is the amalgamation of the three schools, bringing about an enrolment of c 220 [see Table 6.2] at one school. Factors against this include the fact that up to 50% of the children attending Knocknagor PS come from the neighbouring areas of Irvinestown or Dromore and may not attend a school in Trillick.

A site for a newly amalgamated school would also have to be identified. Other practical issues that would arise include the need for all three schools to close ahead of an amalgamation. This has the potential to lead to considerable disruption of pupils as, after an amalgamation, the newly formed school would have to operate over at least 2 sites with one principal, and until such a time as the new school was ready. In addition, there would be a financial implication through the loss of the small schools allowance across all three individual schools. This would be in the region of £120,000 pa.

3.8.3 Knocknagor PS is financially viable for the foreseeable future [notwithstanding reliance on Small Schools Support funding] and should remain open at present. A review should be carried out in the near future (2018/19), by which time the children of Magheralough PS will have been assimilated into other schools, mainly St Scire's.

3.8.4 A one-school solution is not an option at this time because of practical circumstances and capital expenditure constraints.

4. Area Planning Impact

The Area Planning recommendation for Magheralough PS is that a local area solution should be explored.

4.1 It would be envisaged that children from Magheralough PS, in the event of its closure, would transfer to the maintained schools within the area, subject to the necessary temporary variations to admissions. Table 1 below shows the current admission and enrolment number for the three schools. It can be seen that all of the children attending Magheralough PS can be accommodated in St Scire's PS.

4.2 A recent analysis of the addresses of the children enrolled during 2015/16 at Magheralough PS shows that St Scire's PS is the nearest next school for most families; the nearest for four families is Knocknagor, and for one family it is Tummery PS in the neighbouring area of Dromore. In September 2018 [by which time the current Y6 and Y7 children will have transferred to secondary education] the nearest next school for most of the remaining children is St Scire's PS.

There are no other development proposals in place or planned that will impact on the proposal.

5. Educational Impact

The closure of Magheralough PS would have the following educational benefits.

5.1 The children at Magheralough PS would:

- no longer be taught in a composite class of three or four year-groups;
- have access to a school library and resource area;
- be part of an enrolment of c140, allowing for greater peer interaction and smoother transfer to post-primary education; and
- have access to a greater range of teacher specialisms.

5.2 Subject to transfer opportunities, the teachers at Magheralough PS would teach one or two-year group classes and benefit from increased interaction and support from colleagues in a larger setting. In addition, their working environment would be enhanced through a staff room, resource areas etc.

6. Statistical Information

6.1 Table: Physical Capacities and Current Enrolments

School	Capacity Total	Actual Enrolment at October 2016	Approved Admissions	Admissions Sept 2016	Surplus Capacity
Magheralough PS	51	23	7	0	28
St Scire's PS	143	118	20	23	25
Knocknagor PS	65	68	9	8	-3
TOTAL	259	209	36	31	50

Table 1

From the above table it can be seen that:

6.1.1 Combined, the three schools' current enrolment of 209 is 50 below the total capacity of 259.

6.1.2 Magheralough PS and St Scire's PS have surplus accommodation.

6.1.3 St Scire's PS enrolment of 118 is 25 below its capacity total of 143.
 Magheralough PS's enrolment of 23 is 28 below its capacity of 51.
 No pupils enrolled for Y1 this year (2016/17).

6.1.4 Historically, up to 50% of the enrolment of Knocknagor PS comes from outside the Kilskeery area.

6.2 Current enrolments by year groups 2016/17

Year Group	Magheralough PS	St Scire's PS	Knocknagor PS	Totals
Y1	0	23	8	31
Y2	3	15	11	29
Y3	2	20	11	33
Y4	2	8	11	21
Y5	5	18	8	31
Y6	4	18	11	33
Y7	7	16	8	31
TOTAL	23	118	68	209

Table 2

6.3 Table: Enrolment Trends

SCHOOL YEAR	Magheralough PS		St Scire's PS		Knocknagor PS	
	Y1 Admissions	Total Enrolment P1-P7 only	Y1 Admissions	Total Enrolment P1-P7 only	Y1 Admissions	Total Enrolment P1-P7 only
06/07	1	28	10	88	9	59
07/08	4	27	14	87	6	58
08/09	6	27	15	97	5	53
09/10	6	31	16	108	7	52
10/11	6	33	16	106	9	53
11/12	4	34	15	107	12	55
12/13	6	34	17	109	8	56
13/14	2	36	10	108	11	57
14/15	2	35	19	109	10	61
15/16	2	28	15	107	11	65
16/17	0	23	23	118	8	68
Ten Year Average From 07/08	3.8 <i>App Adm 7</i>	29.8 <i>PC 51</i>	16 <i>App Adm 20</i>	105.6 <i>PC 143</i>	8.7 <i>App Adm 9</i>	57.8 <i>PC 65</i>

App Adm = approved admission number PC= Physical Capacity

Table 3

6.4 Table: Projected Long Term Enrolments [LTE] across the area [Oct 2016]

School	2014 admissions	2015 admissions	2016 admissions	3 year average x 7
Magherlough PS	2	2	0	9.3
St Scire's PS	19	18	23	140
Knocknagor PS	10	11	8	67.6
Total Admissions	31	31	31	216.9

Table 4

6.4.1 *Note* Zero admissions for Magherlough PS in 2016/17.

6.4.2 While the LTE at St Scire's PS and Knocknagor PS indicates a likely increase in enrolment, the LTE of Magherlough PS indicates a significant decline in numbers.

6.4.3 Even so, a LTE across the area of 217 is significantly lower than the three schools' capacity total of 259.

6.5 Table: Projected Enrolments by year groups at Magherlough PS

Year Group	School Year				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Y1	2	2	0	1	0
Y2	2	1	3	0	1
Y3	6	2	2	3	0
Y4	6	6	2	2	3
Y5	6	5	5	2	2
Y6	7	5	4	5	2
Y7	6	7	7	4	5
TOTAL	35	28	23	17	13

Table 5

From the above it can be seen:

6.5.1 The total of 19 children in KS2 in October 2014 will have left by August 2017 [13 by August 2016].

6.5.2 Based on LTE calculation, admissions could number **two** per year.

6.5.3 There will be a steady decrease in enrolment to c **13** by August 2018/2019.

6.5.4 However zero pupils actually enrolled in 2016/17 making the figure 16 LTE even lower.

6.5.5 Only 1 child has applied to the school for 2017/18.

7. Demographic Trends

7.1 DE 2012 Based Primary Sectoral Needs Model

Magheralough, St Scire's and Knockagor Primary Schools are located in the former Omagh Local Government District Council Area. Figures provided by the Department of Education (DE) in the 2012 Based Primary Sectoral Needs Model Summary indicate that, within the former Omagh Local Government District Council Area the demand for primary school places in the maintained sector is expected to peak in the 2016/17 school year and then to fall gradually by 14.3% over the following eleven school years. Some variations in trends across the areas can be expected as the former Omagh Local Government District Area covered 21 electoral ward areas and the resident population who belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion varies from ward area to ward area.

7.2 Live Births

Magheralough and St Scire's Primary Schools are located in the Trillick electoral ward area and Knockagor Primary School is located in the adjacent Dromore electoral ward area. Table 6 provides details of the annual number of live births¹ in each academic from 2004 to 2014 in the Dromore and Trillick electoral ward areas. Children born in the 2005/06 academic year would have been in Year 7 at the census date in the 2016/17 school year as indicated in Table 6. On Census Day 27th March 2011, 80.95% and 67.34% of the resident population in the Dromore and Trillick electoral ward areas respectively stated that they belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion. Included in brackets in Table 6 are the estimated numbers of live births in the Catholic communities in the Dromore and Trillick electoral ward areas determined by applying the relative Catholic population percentages extracted from the 2011 census data (i.e. 80.95% etc.).

1 Extracted from data published by the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA)

Annual Number of Resident Live Births By Academic Year in Electoral Wards

Ward Name	Annual Number (Academic Year) of Resident Live Births (Estimated Number of Live Births in Catholic Communities in Brackets)										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dromore	23 (15.5)	39 (26.3)	39 (26.3)	40 (26.9)	37 (24.9)	35 (23.6)	38 (25.6)	32 (21.5)	32 (21.5)	29 (19.5)	28 (18.9)
Trillick	32 (25.9)	33 (26.7)	35 (28.3)	27 (21.9)	29 (23.5)	29 (23.5)	37 (30.0)	38 (30.8)	25 (20.2)	35 (28.3)	35 (28.3)
Total	55.0 (41.4)	72.0 (53.0)	74.0 (54.6)	67.0 (48.8)	66.0 (48.4)	64.0 (47.0)	75.0 (55.5)	70.0 (52.3)	57.0 (41.8)	64.0 (47.9)	63.0 (47.2)
Year Group in 2016/17 school Year		Year 7	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1			

*Data obtained from www.nisra.gov.uk

Table 6

Table 7 provides a profile of the estimated Annual Number of Live Births in the Catholic Communities in the Dromore and Trillick Electoral Ward Areas. Included in Table 7 is the profile of the corresponding total year group enrolments in the three Catholic maintained primary schools in the Kilskeery area at the October 2016 school census date. It is recognised that only a portion of the children of compulsory school age within the Dromore and Trillick electoral ward areas would have enrolled, or will enrol, in either Magheralough, St Scire's and Knocknagor Primary Schools as the area covered by the Dromore and Trillick electoral wards may extend beyond the boundary of the Kilskeery area and may include other school catchment areas.

Comparison of Estimated Annual Number of Live Births in the Catholic Community in the Dromore and Trillick Electoral Ward Areas With the Total Year Group Enrolments in the Magheralough, St Scire's and Knocknagor Primary Schools

Academic Year	Est. Number of Live Births in Catholic Community	Year Group Enrolments in October 2016	
2004	41.4		
2005	53.0	Year 7	31
2006	54.6	Year 6	33
2007	48.8	Year 5	31
2008	48.4	Year 4	21
2009	47.0	Year 3	33
2010	55.5	Year 2	29
2011	52.3	Year 1	31
2012	41.8	Est. Year 1 2017	24.3
2013	47.9	Est. Year 1 2018	27.8
2014	47.2	Est. Year 1 2019	27.4

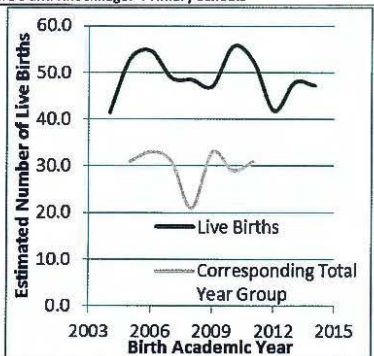


Table 7

There appears to a correlation between the profile of annual live birth and the profile of the corresponding year group enrolments. The extrapolated estimated Year 1

enrolments in the three Catholic maintained primary schools in the area of Kilskeery from September 2016 to September 2019 inclusive, based on the average annual number of live births for 7 years from 2005/06 and on the corresponding average of the year group sizes in October 2016, are included in Table 4. The figures suggest that some decline in the average total Year 1 intake might be expected.

8. Table: Population trends in Trillick Ward [data from NISRA]

8.1 Children not yet at school and children of compulsory school age – data from 2001 to 2013 for ages 0 to 15.

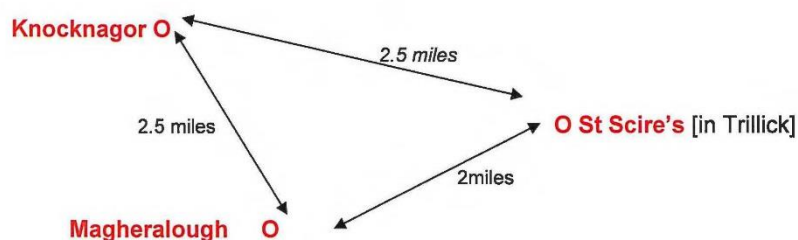
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
549	542	542	535	551	543	558	559	570	578	575	586	577

Table 8

8.2 The average over the 13 year period is 559.

8.3 The above average figures for 2009 onwards are in line with the WELB Primary School Enrolment Statistics: Historic and Projected for 2004 – 2025, which show an increase in the primary school population from 2011 to 2018 and then a six year period of decline to 2024.

9. The 3 schools: relative locations and distances apart



10. Admissions Criteria

10.1 Magheralough: The first criterion considers children from the Kilskeery and 'the school's traditional catchment area.'

10.2 St Scire's: The first criterion considers children 'from the district traditionally served by St Scire's PS.'

10.3 Knocknagor: The first criterion considers children from 'specific areas [identified town-lands] from Kilskeery, Devenish and Dromore.'

10.4 Almost all of the children attending Magheralough and St Scire's reside in the Kilskeery area, while as many as 50% of the children attending Knocknagor come from Devenish or Dromore.

11. Quality of Education Provision

11.1. The most recent ETI inspections of the schools had the following outcomes:

11.1.1 Magheralough PS: An inspection in April 2015 was deemed “satisfactory.” However issues were identified that required a follow up inspection. The subsequent follow-up inspection in January 2017 reported a number of significant improvements. (See Appendix 4)

11.1.2 St Scire’s PS: An inspection in 2015 focused on:

- The children’s achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy, in particular, how the school is addressing low attainment and underachievement where applicable;
- The quality of provision for numeracy in the school; and
- The quality of leadership and management.

The overall findings of the inspection were as follows:

Overall Performance Level	Very Good
Achievements and Standards	Very Good
Provision	Very good
Leadership and Management	Very Good

11.1.3 Knocknagor PS: A short Inspection in June 2011 was deemed:- ‘good’

The strengths of the school included:

- the very well-behaved children who have a keen interest in their learning and a sense of care and responsibility for one another and for their school environment;
- the very good quality of the arrangements for pastoral care including the strong family ethos, the very good working relationships and very good range of extended learning experiences provided for the children;
- the good standards the children attain in English and literacy;
- the good or better quality of the teaching in most of the lessons observed;
- the good quality of provision for children who have additional learning needs and the progress they make; and
- the dedicated, hard-working Principal, teaching and support staff who work effectively as a team.

11.2 Notwithstanding the above positive inspection outcomes, Magheralough [and Knocknagor] fail to meet key indicators in the Schools Sustainability Policy, namely:

- no more than two composite classes in a single classroom at primary school level and a minimum of four teachers at a primary school.

12. Financial situation at Magheralough PS

The school submitted the 3 year financial plan for the period 2016-2019 to the Education Authority in May 2016. While these plans remain unapproved by the EA at this time a summary is given of the estimated financial position for the school at 31st March 2019. (See Appendix 3)

A significant surplus of £42764 carried into 16/17, reduces to £19125 by 17/18 and then to a deficit of £6104 by 18/19. This initial large surplus masks each year's negative in-year spends of £23639 [16/17], £25228 [17/18] and £31201 [18/19]. By the end of the 18/19 financial year there is an estimated deficit of £37305. This equates to a budget deficit of 31.29% and is not a viable financial plan as it is significantly greater than the 5% limit set by EA.

13. Implementation Plan (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)

13.1 Table: Timeline

DATE	ACTION
September 2017	Publication of Development Proposal by EA and a two month response period.
November 2017	DP submitted to the Minister for consideration re closure of Magheralough PS.
Spring Term 2018	Parents identify primary school of choice to which the children will transfer in September 2018. Ideally this should be done as part of the Open Enrolment process in January 2018.
Spring Term 2018	HR issues addressed re teaching staff [CCMS] and non-teaching staff [EA].
31 st August 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter	Closure of Magheralough Primary School.

13.2 Resource Implications

13.2.1 Finance: benefits - the closure of Magheralough PS will bring about a number of financial benefits:

- ongoing reliance on Small School Support and Principal Release funding will cease,
- an increase in enrolment at St Scire's will reduce the school's Small School Support and Principal Release funding, and
- excluding AWPUs [allocated elsewhere], all other costs [premises etc] at Magheralough PS will cease.

13.2.2 Finance: potential costs - the closure of Magheralough PS will bring about a number of potential costs:

- possible redundancy costs for teaching and/or non teaching staff. At the present time, the teaching costs amount to £134,539 per annum, and the non-teaching salary costs total £20,608 per annum;
- possible costs re salary protection scheme if the principal is redeployed to a lesser position;
- additional salary costs at St Scire's [though this should be off-set by increased funding through additional AWPUs]; and
- transport costs for pupils: these will be minimal as only about five more children will require transport than do so at present.

13.2.3 St Scire's PS has a physical capacity of 143. It is anticipated that there will be 118 pupils in September 2017 and a similar number in September 2018. It is anticipated that there will be 13 pupils in Magheralough PS at that time and if the majority, as is anticipated, transfer to St Scire's, they can be accommodated therein. Knocknagor PS has a physical capacity of 68 and is at this number currently. Any additional applications would require a temporary variation.

13.3 Accommodation (See Appendix 1 and 2)

13.3.1 Recent minor works at St Scire's PS

2004: Replacement floor tiles, upgrade of dining/games hall
 2005: Approval for replacement fencing and improvements to the school entrance
 2005: Approval for disabled ramps access
 2005: Upgrade of toilets
 2005: Approval for expenditure of vertical blinds
 2007: Child Protection issues [£76892.36]
 2008: Car parking facilities – initial stage
 2009: C2k wiring to resource area
 2009: Perimeter fence – initial stage
 2013: Replacement of double mobile and provision for caretaker's store – approved October 2015

13.3.2 Table: Accommodation at St Scire's PS

Details	St Scire's
Date Built	1976
No of Perm Classes	3
No of Temp Classes	2 [1992]
No of Resource Areas/ Library	1
Principal Office	1 [undersized]
Staff Room	1
Medical Room	0

Pre School	0
Outdoor Hard Play	Small -1@ 414 sqm
Outdoor Grass	Insufficient - 1 @ 1386 sqm
Toilets	Adequate
Car Parking	Limited
School Meals Kitchen	Yes
Meals brought in	No

14. Summary

14.1 The proposal to close Magheralough PS on 31st August 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter, is based on three critical factors as set out above:

14.1.1 the low, and decreasing enrolment;

14.1.2 a significant deficit budget within three years; and

14.1.3 failure to meet key educational provision indicators as set out in the Schools' Sustainability Policy.

15. Conclusion: the procedure for closure should begin as soon as possible.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Proposer

Provide detail of consultation with the Board of Governors, teachers and parents of the affected school(s) – dates of meetings / letters. Good practice suggests all staff (including non-teaching) are consulted as well as pupils.

See below: Summary of Consultation document.

Summary and assessment of views received – how were these taken into account before publication of the DP. **See below: Summary of Consultation document.**

EA

The schools which the EA considered might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 31 May 2017. 11 schools were consulted, the Education Authority received no responses.

EA COMMENTS

The Education Authority supports this proposal. The views of the Education Authority are detailed in the letter attached dated 18 September 2017.

SIGNED: 
POSITION: Planning and Development Officer
DATE: 18 September 2017



MAGHERALOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL REF: (203-2473)

PROPOSAL TO CEASE PROVISION AT THE
SCHOOL

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

MAY 2017

Summary of the responses to the consultation on 27th March 2017

This summary contains a resume of the keys issues raised at the consultation meetings and through written comments subsequently received. The following table notes the key issues, who raised the issues and how they were addressed. Any issue requiring further action from the written responses or the meeting is noted.

Three consultation meetings were held on 27th March 2017. Attendance sheets recorded the names of those present: numbers at each meeting as follows -

- **Board of Governors:** 7 Governors
- **Staff:** 6 members of the teaching and non-teaching staff
- **Parents:** 22 parents

A consultation period to allow parents and others to respond to the CCMS recommendation ran from 27th March 2017 to 28th April 2017 originally. However, an extension to this period was granted to 11th May 2017.

Written responses received: **26**

	Parents:	Staff:	Governors:	Others:	Totals:
'Yes' Responses:	0	0	0	0	0
'Yes' responses – but some concerns raised:	0	0	0	0	0
'No' Responses:	17	6	1*	2**	26
Total number of responses received:	17	6	1*	2**	26

*Collective response from the Board of Governors

**Others: 1 response received from Chair of Women & Children's Directorate, Western HSC;
1 response received from Women's Aid;

General Summary of responses: All 26 written responses objected to the proposal to close the school. This is in line with the overall outcome of the three consultation meetings where there was a unanimous view that provision should continue at Magheralough PS.

Summary of Stake-holders' written responses:

- **Board of Governors:** one detailed collective response. Reference was made to the six criteria as set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy. Concern was expressed that only the enrolment and financial criteria were focused upon and it was felt that given further time, and support from CCMS, there would an increase in enrolment and an improvement in the financial position. It was noted that Magheralough is only one of 439 schools [NI Assembly research] which would be in a deficit position by 2019. The governors pointed out the improvements reported by ETI over the past two years [following an earlier inspection] and argued that the school needed more time to further embed the good practice now in place. The good leadership was highlighted and it was stated that the enrolment will increase as standards

further improve. Reference was made to the recent purchase of a wide range of resources which had significantly enhanced the children's educational experiences. The governors saw advantages of smaller schools, including smaller classes, lower pupil:teacher ratios, greater sense of unity and more opportunities to participate in whole-school activities. In respect to composite classes, reference was made to a reply by the Minister of Education to a query by an MLA re evidence of poor educational outcome in classes with more than two year groups: the Minister acknowledged that such a body of educational research does not exist.

Reference was made to research from Finland where standards are the highest in Europe and where over 25% of primary schools have 50 or fewer pupils. The governors stated that small schools should be protected and closure should be the last resort and Magheralough PS in particular, as it had served the community for 180 years.

- **Members of Staff** [6 individual responses]: Three non-teaching staff commented on the positive and safe environment and the improvements brought about by the appointment of the Principal in 2014 and that more time should be given to build on the successes noted in the recent ETI report. The excellent relationships with parents and the wide range of extra-curricular activities were noted. Concern was expressed at alternative provision as one of the two main options, Knocknagor PS, is currently over-subscribed.
Three members of the teaching staff referred to the very wide range of experiences and opportunities provided for the children and the whole-school participation in drama and music productions. One respondent queried the evidence that composite classes were damaging to progress, when her experience was the opposite and the recent ETI report stated that the outcomes for the children were very good.
The Principal provided details of two identical surveys on parental satisfaction: one conducted in October 2014, the other in May 2016. The results show significant increases in satisfaction on all issues. As examples: 'We feel our children are getting a good education' increased from 72% strongly agree or agree to 100% strongly agree: 'There is good leadership shown by the Principal' increased from 56% strongly agree or agree to 100% strongly agree. The Principal stated that these responses, and all others show a successful school meeting the needs of children, parents and the community and which should be given the opportunity to further develop and grow. The Principal highlighted the school's successes with children with Special Education Needs and emotional issues, and how relevant links had been made with numerous external bodies including Social Services, Women's Aid and HEADNI, an organisation whose members home-school their children and are keen to adopt specific teaching approaches used at Magheralough PS.
Reference was made to the school's innovative developments in IT, including being only one of two schools in Northern Ireland working in partnership with University of Ulster in applying creative technologies to enhance learning and engage parents.
- **Parents** [17 individual responses]: All respondents referred to 'strengths' of the school. These included the important place of the school in the community, the quality of provision and the standards attained by the children, the leadership of the principal, innovative teaching approaches and the very wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Three parents stated that had moved their children from other schools because of the standard of education and pastoral care at Magheralough PS. One parent stated that Magheralough PS had transformed the

lives of her four primary aged children. There was a general view that the school needs more time to further build on its successes and growing reputation.

Issues and queries raised by parents about the proposal are set out below

• **Others [2 responses]**

Women’s Aid: detailing the school’s involvement in the Social Guardian Programme [DE funded] and in particular, the school’s valuable work and positive impact on a family of four vulnerable children.

Western Health and Social Care [Women and Children’s Directorate]: referring to ‘the exceptional standard and work that Magheralough PS has given to a particular family recently enrolled at the school.’

Summary of issues raised and answered on the night. Any actions required noted:

Issues	Staff	Govs	Parent	Pupil	Other	Any action required
Staffing						
Can non-teaching staff be forced to work somewhere not convenient?	X					Further meetings to be held - EA with non-teaching staff and CMcK, individually, with members of the teaching staff.
Pupils						
The children will not receive the same small group/one to one teaching in a large school.	X	X	X			Answered on the night – no action required.
There is no satisfactory alternative – Knocknagor at capacity.			X			Temporary variations can be applied for, if necessary, for Knocknagor PS and St Scire’s PS.
Children will miss out on lots of extra-curricular experiences and involvement in whole-school productions.	X	X	X			Answered on the night – no action required.
Consultation Process						
Concern that the closing date of consultation is too close to the EPC meeting to allow appropriate analysis and response	X		X			Answered on the night – no action required.

to issues raised.						
Shared Board of Governors not supportive of the school – more interested in Knocknagor PS and St Scire's PS.			X			Meeting between parents and representatives of the BoG to be arranged sometime after consultation meetings.
Consultation – a done deal: the only option for CCMS was closure.			X			Answered on the night – no action required.
Consultation should have taken place long ago to give time to address the issues raised.			X			Answered on the night – no action required.
Other issues						
Finance –funding is the only issue closing the school: what is the price for the well-being and education of the children?	X	X	X			Answered on the night – no action required.
Can the school not be given 'special status' to allow the innovations to prove their effectiveness.			X			Answered on the night – no action required.
Community – the school is an important part of the community.	X	X	X			Acknowledged.
Transport – Will this be provided in the event of closure?			X			This will be explored once a decision is made.

Key issues raised by the written responses from parents

Issue	Raised by	Any action required
Request for the CCMS Policy on the time frames for the closure of schools.	Parent	To be followed up.
Report of a bullying incident at St Scire's PS, one of the alternative schools, a cause for concern as there is no bullying at Magheralough PS.	Parent	To be followed up.
Lack of support from CCMS – should be fighting for the school, not closing it.	Parent	No action required.

In the event of closure, the need for effective transition arrangements to ensure smooth transfers.	Parent	CCMS will manage the transition.
Long term threat of closure and rumour-mongering brought about the situation.	Parent	No action required.
No evidence / details of the quality of education offered at the Knocknagor PS or St Scire's PS.	Parent	No action required.
No research findings on small schools / composite classes given at consultation meetings. Can this information be provided to us now?	Parent	Send Sustainable Schools Policy out.
Historic staffing issues damaged the school, but now sorted. Everyone now confident and very happy about the school's provision and ethos.	Parent	No action required.
No CCMS officers attended training on Rural Proofing. Why?	Parent	

The following issues were raised by a number of pupils (either past or present or living in the area) – in no particular order:

Issue	Any action required
Nil	

Appendix 1: Accommodation Schedule

Magheralough Primary School: 203-2473 Trillick

School Opened: 1883

Accommodation Breakdown:

Permanent Classrooms:

1@ 40sqm

1@ 42sqm

2@ 38sqm

Other Accommodation:

1@ 35sqm – Office

1@ 3sqm – Store

1@ 2sqm – Cleaners store

1@ 10sqm – Cloaks area

1@ 10sqm – MI room

1@ 17sqm – Library Area

1@ 15sqm – Kitchen

1@ 4sqm - Store

Toilets:

1@ 12sqm – Girls

1@ 30sqm – Girls

1@ 11sqm – Boys

1@ 30sqm - Boys

1@ 10sqm – Staff

1@ 2sqm – Staff

Grounds:

1@ 2000sqm - Usable grass play areas – 1 @2000sqm

1@ 2000sqm - Hard surface play areas – 1 @2000sqm

Alterations/Improvements:

1963 – Additional classroom

1963 – Toilet Block

1992 – Provision of sinks, shelves and power points

Case for Change: Magheralough PS (Updated May 2017)

Page 24

1993 – Classroom improvements

1999 - 8B - Approval to expenditure for the provision of additional improvements to the foyer £2,500

1999 - 9B - Approval to expenditure for the provision of improvements to the heating system £5,964

2000 - 7B - Approval to expenditure for the provision of the refurbishment of the toilet block and foyer £38,124

2003 - 11B - Approval to expenditure for the provision of a school sign £450

2004 - 12B - Approval to expenditure for the provision of security lighting for the school grounds £2000

2008 – 13B – Storage for Caretakers supplies - £8,471.00

2008 – 14B – Security Fencing - £9,000.00

2010 – 15B – Toilet Refurb - £0.00


Appendix 2: Minor Works

Minor Work Details - Standard School Report

<i>RefNo</i>	203-2473	<i>DIOCESE</i>	Clogher	<i>Enrolment</i>	36
<i>School</i>	Magheralough Primary School	<i>PARISH</i>	Kilskeery	<i>FORMULA/APPROVED</i>	51 51
<i>ELB</i>	EA WR	<i>EDUCATION ADVISER</i>	Mrs L Bullock		
<i>Principal</i>	Mrs Teresa Kane	<i>TRUSTEE</i>	Very Rev Canon J McKenna PP		
<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Date To DE:</i>
16B	14-15	Facilities Improvement Verti-Draining	Pending Approval - Approved in Principle	€0.00	
14B	08-09	Security Fencing around Playground	Tender Approved - Notification	€9,000.00	27/01/2009
11B	02-03	New Signage	Tender Approved - Notification	€450.00	15/03/2002
09B	Pre 2001	Heating System	Tender Approved - Notification	€5,984.00	
13B	06-07	Storage for caretaker's supplies	Completed - Final Accounts	€8,471.00	18/03/2008
08B	Pre 2001	Foyer Area	Completed - Final Accounts	€2,500.00	
07B	Pre 2001	Toilet Accommodation	Completed - Final Accounts	€38,124.00	
15B	10-11	Toilet Refurbishment/Child Protection Issue	Rejected - Scheme deleted by DENI	€0.00	12/01/2011
12B	02-03	Security Lighting to School Grounds	Rejected - Scheme deleted by DENI	€1,500.00	

Appendix 3 – Financial Plan

SCHOOL FINANCIAL PLAN 2016 - 2019

		Kilkeery No 1 Primary CODE 0533			
<i>Only complete cells in grey</i>		October 2015	October 2016	October 2017	October 2018
1	Full Time Equivalent Enrolment	28	22	18	
2	Teaching Complement	2.40	2.40	2.00	2.00
	Pupil/Teacher Ratio	11.67	9.17	9.00	9.00
			YEAR 1 (2016-2017)	YEAR 2 (2017-2018)	YEAR 3 (2018-2019)
Expenditure Summary					
3	Teaching Staff		£134,539	£121,816	£118,080
4	Auxiliary Staff		£15,003	£15,153	£15,303
6	Ancillary Staff		£5,605	£5,662	£5,716
6	Other Employee Expenses		£0	£0	£0
7	Premises: Fixed Plant and Grounds		£8,270	£5,375	£5,483
8	Supplies and Services		£8,368	£8,335	£8,706
9	Transport and Movable Plant		£900	£918	£958
10	Establishment Expenses		£2,250	£2,295	£2,341
11	Capital Expenditure		£0	£0	£0
12	Less Income (enter as negative figure)		£0	£0	£0
13	Estimated Savings (enter as a negative figure)		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
14	Estimated Additional expenditure (enter as a positive figure)		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	Please specify		£0	£0	£0
	TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURE		£171,935	£159,754	£156,547
	CFF BUDGET SHARE PER CAPITA		£8,294	£9,115	£9,964
15	Budget Summary				
	Common Formula Funding (CFF) Budget Share		£148,296	£134,526	£125,346
	Transition Funding		£0	£0	£0
	Other funding - (Please specify)		£0	£0	£0
	Other funding - (Please specify)		£0	£0	£0
	Other funding - (Please specify)		£0	£0	£0
	Total Delegated Budget		£148,296	£134,526	£125,346
16	Carry-over from Previous Year		£42,784	£19,125	-£8,104
	Total BUDGET		£191,080	£153,651	£119,242
	less PROPOSED EXPENDITURE		£171,935	£159,754	£156,547
	ANTICIPATED CARRY-OVER		£19,125	-£5,104	-£37,305
	% CARRY-OVER		10.01%	(3.97%)	(31.29%)
	<i>In Year Movement (for officer use only)</i>		-£23,639	-£25,228	-£31,201
<p>The financial plan will not be considered for approval if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if it is not signed by the principal and chairperson, - any of the three years are incomplete, - estimates of expenditure are unrealistic 					
<p>Comment:</p>					
<p>Principal: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Chairperson: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Education Authority: _____ Date: _____</p>					

Appendix 4 - Inspection Report 2015

In most of the areas inspected in 2015, the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching and leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met more effectively.

The key areas for improvement are:

- to meet more effectively the wide range of needs within the composite classes to improve the standards achieved by the children; and
- to develop a more strategic approach to school development planning to effect improvements in the learning and teaching.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement over a 12-24 month period.

Overall findings of the inspection Overall Performance Level	Satisfactory
Achievements and Standards	Satisfactory
Provision	Satisfactory
Leadership and Management	Satisfactory

The Follow up Inspection Report February 2017

Key findings

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. There is a collegial approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching which has impacted positively on the standards achieved by the children in literacy. The senior leadership is supported well by the board of governors who have been actively involved in the improvement process. There are improved curricular links with parents. The new three-year school development plan outlines clearly the key areas for improvement and is informed by effective analysis of performance data and wide consultation with key stakeholders. It will be important that the self-evaluation process is embedded further to ensure sustained improvement in key identified areas.

- The quality of learning and teaching is now good. There is a personalised approach to learning and teaching; the teachers know the children well and provide effective individual support to meet their learning needs. A comprehensive review of long- and medium-term planning has established a progressive and consistent approach to the teaching of literacy. Lessons are now more creative and stimulating, and enable the children to make connections across the curriculum. The regular opportunities for the children to engage in self- and peer-assessment, coupled with regular and effective teachers' marking for improvement, have resulted in the children being aware of their learning targets.

- The outcomes for learners in literacy are now very good. An analysis of the school's data demonstrates that almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above expectation in literacy and numeracy. The children demonstrate high levels of engagement and increasing use of vocabulary. Their talking and listening skills develop well through regular well-conceived opportunities to talk with partners. The children write across a range of genre with increasing creativity and accuracy; the standard of handwriting and presentation has improved significantly. During the inspection, a small group of KS 2 children read with fluency and are familiar with a range of favourite authors; in discussion, they justify their opinions and demonstrate empathy with

the main characters. The children are competent and confident in using information and communication technology (ICT) to complete on-line activities and create multi-media presentations.

- It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school's enrolment and budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Conclusion

Magheralough Primary School demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in:

- embedding further the self-evaluation process leading to improvement in the identified areas.

Appendix 5 – Annual Area Profile (June 2016)

Primary School Annual Area Profile June 2016

DE Ref No:	School Name:	Status:	Council Area:
2032473	Magheralough Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH

Annual Census Information			
Year	Total pupils Y1-Y7	IMU	FSME %
2012/13	34	0	*
2013/14	36	0	16.7
2014/15	35	0	14.3
2015/16	28	0	17.9
Approved Reception – Year 7 enrolment number			51
Approved Reception – Year 7 admissions number			7
Year 1 Pupils 2015/16			2
First Preferences Applications 2015/16			0

Formal Intervention	
In formal intervention any period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016	

Budgets			
Year	Available Delegated Resources £	Surplus/Deficit £	Surplus/Deficit %
2012/13	236,644	80,735	34.12%
2013/14	247,848	88,339	35.64%
2014/15	261,894	76,585	29.24%

KEY TO SYMBOLS & TEXT USED IN DATA ABOVE	
Symbol / Text	Definition
*	Relates to fewer than 5 cases.
#	Means that a figure greater than or equal to 5 had been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere
-	School not open in the relevant academic year
n/a	No year 7 pupils

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CCMS AS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE CASE FOR CHANGE, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM DE

Response to Department of education Query: Magheralough PS

Comment 1 - Statutory Duty

- 1. The CfC lacks commentary on any equality issues considered.**
- 2. The CfC lacks commentary on any Rural Proofing carried out, mindful of the Rural Needs Act.**

Response

Section 75 Northern Ireland Act and Rural Needs Act

The Section 75 Screening was carried out and determined this closure would be to the benefit of the education and life opportunities of the children currently in Magheralough Primary School and the future children in the area who will require education and determined that an EQIA was not required. Parents and stakeholders were included in the consultation and their feedback was taken into account. Their feedback, however, does not alter the fact that on a curriculum basis, the school as it is does not provide the necessary education required for children.

While CCMS is not required to undertake formal Rural Proofing until 2018 it has considered the impact of this proposal on rural communities. CCMS would maintain that the proposal is seeking to preserve and embed sustainable provision and therefore enhance educational provision for those living in the rural area.

Chief Executive Gavin Boyd



Area Planning Policy Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Date: 18 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Development Proposal No. 520 Proposal to Discontinue Magheralough Primary School

At the Education Authority's (EA) Education Committee meeting on 14 September 2017, the EA Board Members considered the Summary Paper and Case for Change for the proposals (extract attached), and it was agreed, in accordance with the EA's statutory duty, to publish the above Development Proposal.

The EA is supportive of CCMS in taking forward the proposal as it is in keeping with the EA Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post-Primary and Special School April 2017 - March 2018:

'Managing authority to consult on options for future provision at Magheralough PS by March 2018.'

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Boyd', is written below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Magheralough Primary School in April 2015 which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The ETI carried out interim follow-up inspection visits in November 2015 and May 2016 and a follow-up inspection in January 2017. Since the original inspection, there have been several changes in the teaching staff; at the time of the second interim visit and the follow-up inspection there was a temporary teacher in key stage (KS) 2 on both occasions. The school enrolment has decreased since the original inspection from 31 children to 23 children at the time of the follow-up inspection. The children are taught in two composite classes.

The following are the key findings from the follow-up inspection report:

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. There is a collegial approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching which has impacted positively on the standards achieved by the children in literacy. The senior leadership is supported well by the board of governors who have been actively involved in the improvement process. There are improved curricular links with parents. The new three-year school development plan outlines clearly the key areas for improvement and is informed by effective analysis of performance data and wide consultation with key stakeholders. It will be important that the self-evaluation process is embedded further to ensure sustained improvement in key identified areas.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. There is a personalised approach to learning and teaching; the teachers know the children well and provide effective individual support to meet their learning needs. A comprehensive review of long- and medium-term planning has established a progressive and consistent approach to the teaching of literacy. Lessons are now more creative and stimulating, and enable the children to make connections across the curriculum. The regular opportunities for the children to engage in self- and peer-assessment, coupled with regular and effective teachers' marking for improvement, have resulted in the children being aware of their learning targets.

The outcomes for learners in literacy are now very good. An analysis of the school's data demonstrates that almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above expectation in literacy and numeracy. The children demonstrate high levels of engagement and increasing use of vocabulary. Their talking and listening skills develop well through regular well-conceived opportunities to talk with partners. The children write across a range of genre with increasing creativity and accuracy; the standard of handwriting and presentation has improved significantly. During the inspection, a small group of KS 2 children read with fluency and are familiar with a range of favourite authors; in discussion, they justify their opinions and demonstrate empathy with the main characters. The children are competent and confident in

using information and communication technology (ICT) to complete on-line activities and create multi-media presentations.

Magheralough Primary School demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in:

- *embedding further the self-evaluation process leading to improvement in the identified areas for development.*

Contextual note: At the time of the interim follow-up-visit (IFUV) in May 2016, the School Development Plan and the Numeracy Action Plan were not in place therefore at the time of the FUI in January 2017 these documents were relatively new, therefore the process of improvement required further embedding.

ETI KNOWLEDGE

As above.

RATIONALE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ETI EVIDENCE

- At the time of the follow-up inspection in January 2017, the children were taught in two composite classes namely years 2 – 4 and years 5 – 7. There were no year 1 children enrolled at the time of the follow-up inspection.
- At the time of the original inspection in April 2015, there were 31 children enrolled in the school. At the time of the follow-up inspection on 25 January 2017, enrolment had fallen to 23 children.
- The school predicted a future total enrolment of 17 children in September 2017. The Department of Education and/or CCMS may wish to confirm the actual enrolment.
- At the time of the interim follow-up visit in May 2016 and the follow-up inspection in January 2017, there was a different temporary teacher in the key stage 2 classroom on both occasions.
- Throughout the inspection period from 2015 – 2017, the ETI made reference to the sustainability of the school. The original inspection report and the follow-up inspection report noted the need for the “*employing authority, school governors and the staff to plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and staff.*”
- During the follow-up inspection, the principal reported that while the school carried a significant surplus (£42764) in 2016/17, there would be a projected deficit in the coming years due to falling enrolment. The deficit is estimated to

be £37305 in 2018/19 (both surplus and deficit figures sourced from CCMS Magheralough PS: The case for change May 2017). This information confirms the school's projection and is significantly greater than the 5% limit set by the Education Authority.

- Based on the above information the school is not meeting the following sustainability criteria:
 - stable enrolment trends;
 - a sound financial position; and
 - the quality of the children's educational experiences with regard to the children being taught in composite classes of three or more year groups.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

In the event of the school closing and given the age range of the children, it will be incumbent on the Department of Education and the Education Authority to ensure that there are appropriate and safe transport arrangements for the children to the receiving school.

RECOMMENDATION

Inspection evidence and ETI knowledge:

While acknowledging the work by the staff in the interim follow-up period since the original inspection and the positive outcome of the follow-up inspection report in January 2017, the ETI supports the proposal to close Magheralough Primary School based on the falling enrolment trend leading to a potential lack of long-term financial viability of the school and the children being taught in composite classes of three or more year groups.

DE (POLICY TEAM) COMMENTS

A	School Admissions Team
B	Education Workforce Directorate
C	Financial Monitoring Team
D	Inclusion and Wellbeing Directorate

A: School Admissions Team (SAT)**1.0 Development Proposal**

- 1.1 DP520 proposes to close Magheralough Primary School (PS), Omagh, with effect from 31 August 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

2.0 Rationale for the DP

- 2.1 The Case for Change (CfC), page 4, notes that the school fails to meet two sustainable schools indicators, namely *Quality of Children's Educational Experiences* and *Stable Enrolment Trends*. The first indicator recommends 'no more than two composite classes in a single classroom at primary school level, and a minimum of four teachers at a primary school.' At Magheralough PS there are only two teachers; also there is a three year composite class of Y2 to Y4 and a three year composite class of Y5 to Y7. On the second indicator it is stated that it is unlikely the school enrolment will increase significantly above the current number of 23 [2016 census figure] and will always remain well below the sustainability figure of 105 identified in the Bain Report for a rural PS.

3.0 Current Approved Enrolment and Admissions Numbers

- 3.1 The approved enrolment and admissions numbers for Magheralough PS are 51 and 7 (to a maximum of 9 provided the enrolment number would not thereby be exceeded) respectively.

4.0 School Admissions / Temporary Variations

- 4.1 If a school receives more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a Temporary Variation (TV) of its admissions and / or enrolment number from the Department. The Department may approve TVs

to a school's numbers to respond to particular demographic pressures in an area in a particular year. Per Schools+ Magheralough PS has been consistently undersubscribed for several years in both its admissions and enrolment numbers and therefore TVs have not been requested or required.

5.0 Other Issues

- 5.1 Page 6 of the CfC states that in the event of Magheralough PS closing, the children would transfer to 'schools of their parents' choice.' Two other schools identified in the immediate area are St Scire's PS and Knocknagor PS. Based on 2016 census figures it is noted that all of the children could be accommodated in St Scire's PS. Page 7 of the CfC says that analysis based on addresses of children enrolled in 2015/16 shows that St Scire's is the nearest school for most families, the nearest for four families is Knocknagor PS and for one family it is Tummery PS in the neighbouring area of Dromore. SAT notes however that Knocknagor PS is currently on a TV.
- 5.2 In the event of Magheralough PS closing, the Department will consider granting TVs to facilitate the affected children transferring to other schools in the area. **However, no advance guarantee of approval can be provided as the Department will consider what other provision is available in an area at the point of application.** The Department will approve a TV to a school's numbers for children who otherwise do not have a primary school of the same type, with places, available to them within a reasonable distance of the child's home address. For primary school TVs reasonable distance is defined as a distance of two miles. Any TV request made can only be considered from the requesting school (not from a parent/s) and a TV is granted on the condition that no additional accommodation will be required.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Ultimately, the long term need for places in particular areas is for the area planning process to consider. SAT does not hold data on future demand for places and is unable to make a recommendation on whether the DP should be approved.

B: Education Workforce Directorate

The Development Proposal has potential staffing implications which will be managed in accordance with School Reorganisation and JWC Collective Agreements.

C: Financial Monitoring Team

The school received a total delegated budget of £145k in the current 2017-18 financial year, including (maximum) Small Schools Support funding of £45,190 and Primary Principal Release funding of £16,420.

The school had a total of 23 primary pupils enrolled resulting in a per capita of £6,299, compared to the average for all primary schools of £3,001.

At March 2017 the school had a recorded cumulative surplus of £21,704.

203-2473

Magheralough Primary (Kilskeery No 1)

Funding Comparison

Factor	2017-18	2016-17 *	2015-16
Pupil AWPU	£49,797	£62,331	£75,874
TSN - Initial Social Deprivation	£4,295	£3,068	£3,068
TSN - Additional Social Deprivation	£180	£136	£140
Premises Area	£1,767	£1,767	£1,767
Premises FTE	£1,948	£2,399	£3,030
Small Schools Support	£45,190	£43,822	£42,008
Primary Principals' Release Time	£16,420	£16,420	£16,420
Foundation Stage - Schools	£12,000	£12,000	£12,000
Teachers Salary Protection	£8,242	£5,836	£5,417
Service Personnel Pupils			
Traveller Children	£4,009		
Looked After Children			
Newcomer Pupils			
Transitional Funding	£1,027	£1,027	£1,027
Budget Addition Funding			£3,603
Total School Funding	£144,875	£148,805	£164,353

Pupil FTE	23.00	28.00	35.00
Per Capita	£6,299	£5,314	£4,696

Funding Authority :	EA
School Type :	PS
School Location Type :	Rural
Parliamentary Constituency :	West Tyrone
District Council :	Fermanagh and Omagh
Ward :	Trillick

D: Inclusion and Wellbeing Directorate

From a special educational needs (SEN) policy perspective, SET would not have any objection to this DP subject to receipt of assurances that any impact on pupils with SEN will be considered and managed effectively; and that all the young people with SEN will receive assistance, as required, in managing any change to new accommodation.

Primary School Annual Area Profile 2017

DE Ref No:	School Name:	Status:	Council Area:
2032473	Magheralough Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH

Annual Census Information			
Year	Total pupils Y1-Y7	IMU	FSME %
2013/14	36	0	16.7
2014/15	35	0	14.3
2015/16	28	0	17.9
2016/17	23	0	30.4%
Approved Reception – Year 7 enrolment number			51
Approved Reception – Year 7 admissions number			7
Year 1 Pupils 2016/17			0
First Preferences Applications 2016/17			0

Formal Intervention	
In formal intervention any period 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017	

Budgets			
Year	Available Delegated Resources £	Surplus/Deficit £	Surplus/Deficit %
2013/14	247,848	88,339	35.64%
2014/15	261,894	76,585	29.24%
2015/16	240,939	42,764	17.75%

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Symbol / Text	Definition
*	Relates to fewer than 5 cases.
#	Means that a figure greater than or equal to 5 had been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere
-	School not open in the relevant academic year
n/a	No year 7 pupils