



Development Proposal for Dalriada School

Development Proposal:

“To increase Dalriada School’s admission number from 125 to 130 pupils (in Year 8) with an increase in enrolment number from 815 to 897 pupils, starting from September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.”

Consultation Response

June 2016

Introduction

Dalriada School Board of Governors is seeking to engage in consultation with, parents, staff and pupils of Dalriada School. Before arriving at the final recommendation on the development proposal, the Board of Governors is seeking the views of those most directly involved at a local level.

Vision

Dalriada School Board of Governors is committed to excellence in the delivery of education so that every pupil can realise their potential and contribute to a caring, inclusive and progressive society.

In striving to realise this aspiration, the Board of Governors aims to ensure that every pupil has:

- access to a broad and balanced curriculum with opportunities to realise his or her potential;
- an education in which the learning outcomes are appropriate to their needs;
- access to quality teaching delivered in a caring and supportive environment;
- education delivered in modern, well-resourced facilities, suitable for the delivery of education in the twenty-first century.

Dalriada School Board of Governors Position

At the May 2016 meeting of the Board of Governors it was agreed to initiate consultation with the staff, parents and pupils of Dalriada School, and with the Trustees and Managers of other schools likely to be affected by the proposal.

Nature of the Recommendation

The proposed increase in admission numbers from 125 – 130 pupils in Year 8 would not adversely affect the educational provision at Dalriada. At present the School operates with five Year 8 classes of 25 pupils. By increasing to 130 pupils each form class would increase by one pupil to 26. This would result in no additional teacher or classroom requirements.

The modest increase in admissions number from 125-130 will have little or no impact on the intake of the other two post-primary schools in the Ballymoney Area Learning Community, namely Ballymoney High School and Our Lady of Lourdes School.

The amalgamation of Coleraine High School and Coleraine Academical Institution in September 2015 as Coleraine Grammar has resulted in 95 fewer grammar school places in Year 8 in the Causeway Coast Area. This has, and will, result in greater demand for admission into Year 8 in Dalriada.

The Ballymoney area is one of the few areas in the Province where there is a stable primary school population which will result in a sustained high demand for post-primary places in Ballymoney Schools.

Dalriada has the capacity regarding staffing and accommodation levels, to adequately accommodate an enrolment of 897 pupils, without any additional expenditure.

Our current enrolment number is 815 pupils. However, due to the continued demand for places in the School, particularly at post-16 level, we have to apply for a temporary variation in enrolment on an annual basis to accommodate our returning sixth form pupils and also allow us to admit pupils from schools in the Ballymoney Learning Community and beyond, who meet our Admissions Criteria at post-16.

Dalriada is currently working with Ballymoney High School and Our Lady of Lourdes School in Ballymoney as Ballymoney Area Learning Community, to examine joint provision at post-16 for all the pupils in the Ballymoney Area. This would result in best use being made of our joint resources and allow pupils in Ballymoney to continue their post-16 education in the Ballymoney area.

At present Dalriada offer post-16 courses in partnership with Northern Regional College on their Coleraine and Ballymena campuses. We currently do not access any courses offered by NRC on their Ballymoney campus. By “pooling” the resources of the three schools at post-16 Ballymoney pupils would not have to travel to other towns to meet their educational needs.

Following consultation at local level the Education Authority will make a recommendation on the Dalriada development proposal and any subsequent action will be dependent on this recommendation.

Timescale

The Education Authority will consider the results of local consultation at the earliest opportunity. A deputation from the Board of Governors may also choose to attend the Education Committee or the Board meeting.

Publication of a Development Proposal

Should the Board of Governors make a recommendation to change the nature of existing educational provision in the area, a request must be forwarded to the Education Authority seeking the publication a Development Proposal outlining any proposed changes to the school. All those affected by the proposal will be notified and will have the opportunity to make representations expressing their views directly to the Department of Education during the 2 month objection period.

Implications

In the event of the Education Authority publishing a Development Proposal recommending an increase in admission number from 125 to 130 pupils (in Year 8) a further 5 pupils currently in P.6 will have the opportunity to enrol in Year 8 at Dalriada in September 2017. By increasing the enrolment number from 815 to 897 pupils, Dalriada pupils currently in Year 11 could progress to Sixth Form, subject to meeting the entrance criteria, without the School having to apply for a "Temporary Variation in Enrolment".

Education Authority

The Board of Governors are considering the development proposal to increase Dalriada School's admission number from 125 to 130 pupils (in Year 8) with an increase in enrolment number from 815 to 897 pupils. In consulting on this important issue we would welcome your comments on the proposal, or an option of your own.

It is important to indicate how your response meets the Sustainable Schools Policy requirement 'that all schools are sustainable in terms of the quality of the educational experience of children, enrolment trends, financial position, school leadership and management, accessibility, and the strength of their links to the community.'

It should also be noted that this process cannot be used to consider specific issues as they currently relate to any individual pupil or adult associated with the school. If for example as a parent you have concerns relating to your child's present education you are advised to contact the Headmaster. Every effort will be made to address your concerns.

"To increase Dalriada School's admission number from 125 to 130 pupils (in Year 8) with an increase in enrolment number from 815 to 897 pupils, starting from September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter."

Your comments on the above proposal:

Alternative Option: (Please give details)

Please outline any alternative options if you wish.

Equality Consideration

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 all public bodies are obliged to consider the implications of any decisions on nine different groupings before decisions are implemented. The two duties within this Equality legislation include promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between all communities. The equality of opportunity duty requires that the Authority shall, in carrying out all their functions, powers and duties, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

1. Between persons of different religious belief.
2. Between persons of different political opinion.
3. Between persons of different racial groups.
4. Between persons of different age.
5. Between persons of different marital status.
6. Between persons of different sexual orientation.
7. Between men and women generally.
8. Between persons with a disability and persons without.
9. Between persons with dependants and persons without.

The Good Relations Duty requires that the Authority shall, without prejudice to their equality obligations, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations:

1. Between persons of different religious belief.
2. Between persons of different political opinions.
3. Between persons of different racial groups.

In light of these obligations do you consider that the increase will impact positively or negatively on either Equality of Opportunity or the Promotion of Good Relations in any way?

Section 75 Category	Positive	Negative	Don't Know
Religious Belief			
Political Opinion			
Racial Group			
Age			
Marital Status			
Sexual Orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependants			

If you ticked any of the above boxes please clarify your reason:

Arrangements for returning your completed questionnaire

Please return the completed questionnaire no later than **11 October 2016** to:

Dalriada School
St James's Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BL

Source of Response

Governor

Parent

Teaching Staff

Non-Teaching Staff

Union

Other (Please specify) _____