

Democracy Day

Debate, Deliberate, Decide

Sam Fitzsimmons

Integrated Education Fund

“...an education system that comprises a network of sustainable schools, within reasonable travelling distance for pupils, capable of delivering effectively the statutory curriculum..”

The 6 criteria of the Sustainable Schools Policy are:

- quality educational experience;
- stable enrolment trends;
- sound financial position;
- strong leadership and management by Boards of Governors and principals;
- accessibility; and
- strong links with the community.

- MINIMUM 105 pupils in a rural primary
- Total 46,000 surplus places across primary schools in NI

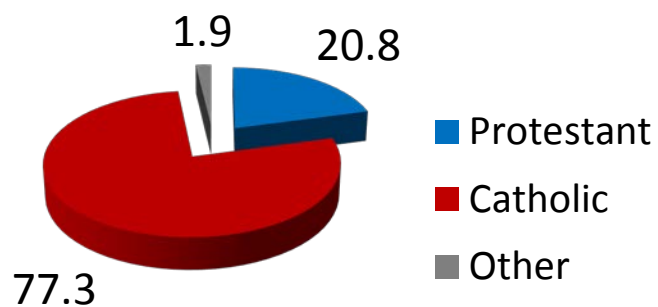
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School of Education, Ulster University

- Commissioned and funded by Integrated Education Fund
- Part of a series of community-focused consultations/audits in relation to education provision in specific localities in Northern Ireland commissioned by the IEF
- Twin emphasis on developing a methodology of community engagement in education provision and findings specific to the local area

The aim of this research project was to initiate and facilitate conversations around the future provision of primary education in an area.

Village 1 Population 2,100

Religious Balance %

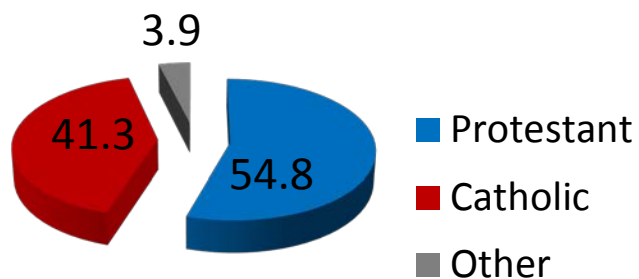


Schools

	Total Attendance	Approved Enrolment No
Controlled Integrated Primary School	32	62 (30 spaces)
Catholic Maintained Primary School	135	192 (57 spaces)

Village 2 Population 1,900

Religious Balance %



Schools

	Total Attendance	Approved Enrolment No
Catholic Maintained Primary School	40	121 (81 spaces)
Controlled Primary School	26	58 (32 spaces)

Primary School provision in the area



Village 1



Village 2



1 Kilometre

1 Mile



Controlled Integrated Primary School, with 32 pupils, with space for 62.



Catholic Maintained Primary School, with 135 pupils, with space for 192.



Catholic Maintained Primary School, with 40 pupils, with space for 121.



Controlled Primary School, with 26 pupils, with space for 58.



- ‘Community conversation’ rather than a consultation or audit
- Emerging community conversation methodology, particularly in relation to sensitive issues at a local level
- Preparing the ground: meetings with principals and governors/trustees, meetings with local representatives, letters home to parents, notices in appropriate local locations, advertorial in two local newspapers

- Fieldwork took place over a four-week period
- Importance of multiple methods/opportunities for individuals to participate
- Facilitated group discussions with parents
- Open public event
- Online response form
- LucidTalk poll ran in parallel to our work
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection

Round Table Discussion 1

What do you think are the challenges and strengths for parents and the community in this scenario in relation to school provision?

- Rural location, rural isolation
- Population size
- Population change
- Transport
- Budget Pressures
- Schools feeling vulnerable

- Hub of the community
- Small class sizes
- Diversity of choice / school sectors
- Understanding of rural context

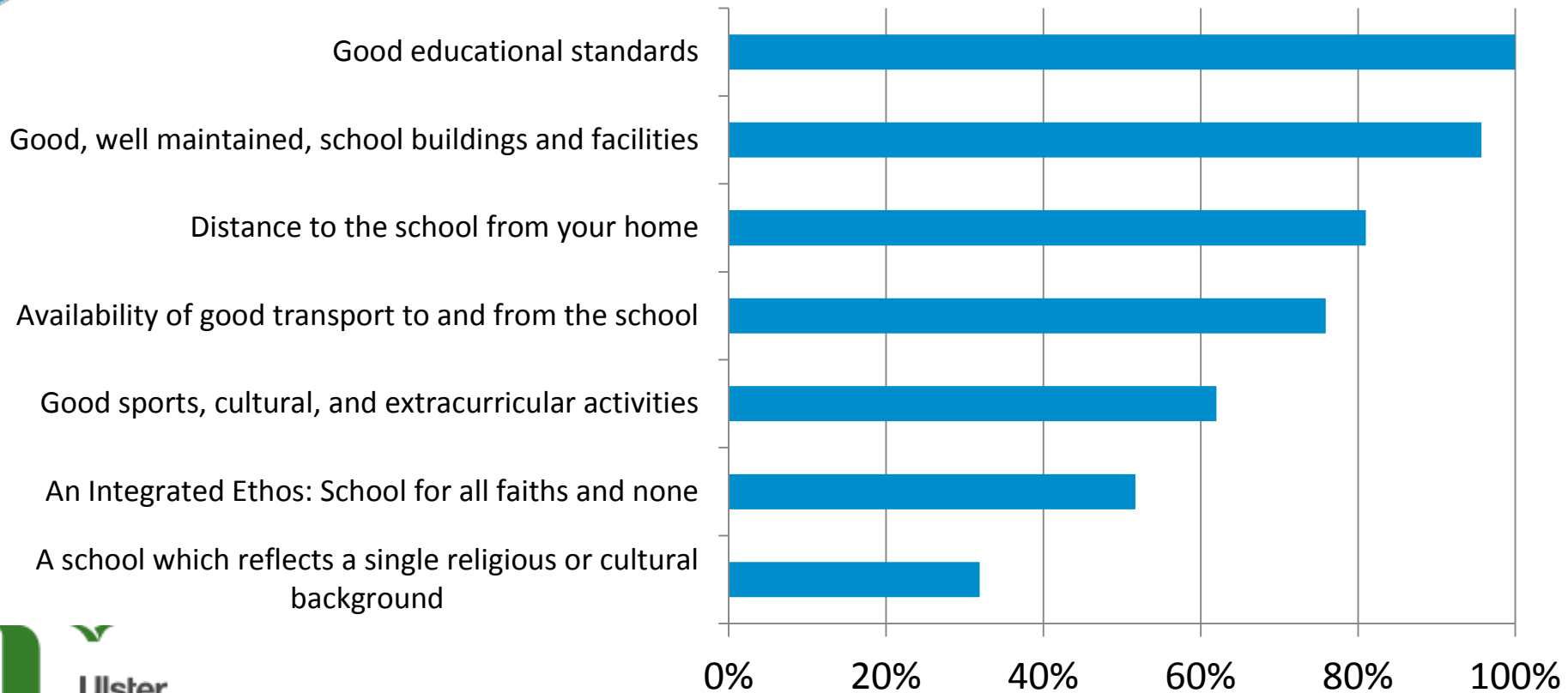
Round Table Discussion 2

As a parent (using your imagination if need be) – what would be your main priority in choosing a primary school?

As a parent, please rate the aspects below in terms of how important they are / were / or would be to you in choosing a school for your child/ren:

- Distance to the school from your home
- Good educational standards
- An Integrated Ethos: School for all faiths and none
- A school which reflects a single religious or cultural background
- Good sports, cultural, and extracurricular activities
- Good, well maintained, school buildings and facilities
- Availability of good transport to and from the school

Very Important or Important



“...an education system that comprises a network of sustainable schools, within reasonable travelling distance for pupils, capable of delivering effectively the statutory curriculum..”

Round Table Discussion 3

Primary School provision in the area



Village 1



Village 2



1 Kilometre

1 Mile



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Primary School provision in the area





Carnlough  Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School


 St John's Primary School


Glenarm  Seaview Primary School


 1 Kilometre


 1 Mile

 Carnalbanagh Primary School

 Controlled Integrated Primary School, with 32 pupils, with space for 62.

 Catholic Maintained Primary School, with 135 pupils, with space for 192.

 Catholic Maintained Primary School, with 40 pupils, with space for 121.

 Controlled Primary School, with 26 pupils, with space for 58.


- School provision in each village
- Desire to see integrated education continue to be present in the area > 1 maintained and 1 integrated school? With the integrated provision in Glenarm and clearer communication about what integrated education involves
- Need for statutory consultation with local stakeholders (schools, parents and prospective parents) at the centre of the process going forward
- No solution will keep everyone happy


Primary School provision in the area



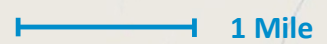
Carnlough  Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School





 St John's Primary School

Glenarm  Seaview Primary School

 Carnalbanagh Primary School

 1 Kilometre

 1 Mile

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Primary School provision in the area



Carlough



St John's Primary School

Glenarm



Integrated Primary School

1 Kilometre

1 Mile



Integrated Primary School.



Catholic Maintained
Primary School.

Feedback

What are the potential strengths and limitations relating to a community conversation approach as a way of enabling parents to share their views on education provision in their area?

Research

Resources

- > Publications
- > Learning Together Newsletter
- > Research
- > Picture Galleries
 - > Gallery – Baroness May Blood
 - > Gallery – Famous Faces
 - > Gallery – Down Royal Event
 - > Gallery – Stand up for integrated education
 - > Gallery – House of Lords 2016
 - > Gallery – 25th Anniversary London Social Event
 - > Gallery – 25th Anniversary Gala Ball
 - > Gallery – The Carson Awards 2017



Research

- Carnlough and Glenarm C...**
[Download the Full Report](#)
- Contemporary Challenge**
[Download](#)
- The 4Rs, Journal on Educa**
[Download](#)
- Teaching for Democracy i**
2017
[Download](#)
- Educational Inequalities a**
People August 2017
[Download the Position Pa](#)
- Clogher Valley Community Audit**
[Clogher Valley Community Audit](#)
- Kilkeel Community Audit**
[Download the Main Report](#)
[Download the Summary Report](#)

- Publications
- Learning Together Newsletter
- Research**
- Picture Galleries
- Media Resources
- List of Integrated Schools in Northern Ireland
- Useful Links
- Advocacy Resources
- The Stormont House Agreement
- 25 Years of supporting Integrated Education
- The Big Small Stories

ering views on local primary school provision

ed Countries – Alan Smith 2014

4-43 – Novelli, Lopes Cardozo and Smith 2017

stice, Comparative Education – Worden and Smith

orthern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young

Thank You

www.ief.org.uk
www.ulster.ac.uk