

AREA PLANNING TEAM (EAST REGION)

Mr Gerard Campbell
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14 October 2022

Dear Mr Campbell

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS (DPs)

**604 – Discontinuance of St Mary’s High School, Downpatrick;
605 – Discontinuance of De La Salle High School, Downpatrick;
606 – Discontinuance of St Patrick’s Grammar School, Downpatrick; and
607 – Establishment of a new Co-Educational Voluntary Grammar School in
Downpatrick**

I refer to the above DPs published by the Education Authority (EA) on 27 January 2021 on behalf of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, who are representing the De La Salle Congregation (Trustees of St Patrick’s Grammar School (GS) and De La Salle High School (HS)), and CCMS along with the Down and Connor Diocese (Trustees of St Mary’s Girl’s High School (HS)) proposing that a new co-educational, 11-19, voluntary grammar school for 1,600 pupils (being in effect an amalgamation of De La Salle High School, St Mary’s High School and St Patrick’s Grammar School) will be established with effect from 1 September 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Minister has given careful consideration to the DPs and has decided that they should be approved with a modification to the implementation date as follows:

Approve DPs 604, 605, 606 and 607 (with modification to the proposed implementation date to 31 August 2023 for DPs 604, 605 and 606, and 1 September 2023 for DP 607), or as soon as possible thereafter.

A full account of advice the Minister received to inform her decision will be published on the Department’s website at:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/development-proposal-decisions-2022>

A copy of this letter will be sent to the Catholic Schools’ Trustees Service (CSTS).

I am writing to the EA in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Stevenson", is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

BILL STEVENSON

cc: (by e-mail)

Majella Corrigan
Edel Teague
Anne Logan