

## COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

### Cover Note

<b>DP No.</b>	DP 446	
<b>School</b>	Lough View Integrated Primary School, Castlereagh (406-6579)	
<b>Proposal</b>	Proposal that the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.	
<b>Minister's Decision</b>	Approved	
<b>Date of Decision</b>	19th April 2016	
<b>Minister's Comments</b>	n/a	
<b>Additional Notes</b>	n/a	
<b>Information Redacted</b>	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: Lorraine Finlay  
Area Planning Policy Team**

**DATE: 13 April 2016**

**To: JOHN O'DOWD MLA see copy distribution list below**

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No. 446 LOUGH VIEW INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL  
INCREASE FROM A 26 PART-TIME PLACE NURSERY UNIT TO 52 PART-TIME**

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Development Proposal (DP) No. 446 published by the Education Authority on 26 November 2015 on behalf of the Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated primary School (IPS) which proposes: <i>That the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.</i></b>
<b>Timescale:</b>	<b>Urgent. 2016 Admissions process is ongoing.</b>
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	<b>There are no capital costs associated with this proposal. The proposal, if approved, would incur a small amount of revenue for salary costs but these would be met from within the school's budget.</b>
<b>FOI Implications:</b>	<b>The content of this submission is likely to be fully disclosable.</b>
<b>Statutory Duties Implications</b>	<b>Article 64 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 Order</b>
<b>Legislation Implications:</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Presentational Issues:</b>	<b>It is likely that there will be local media interest in your decision. A draft Press Release will be provided for your approval following your decision. If approached for comment the Communications Team will manage any</b>

	<p>response.  <i>(To be cleared with the Communications Team).</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that you :</p> <p>(i) <b>Approve DP 446- <i>That the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.</i></b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Agree that this submission (with appropriate redactions) can be made available on the Department’s website once the school and the Education Authority have been notified.</b></p>

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## **Attachments**

**Appendix A Copy of Published Development Proposal**

**Appendix B Case for Change**

**Appendix C Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education comments**

**Appendix D Department of Education Comments received (including letters of support and objection)**

**Appendix E Education and Training Inspectorate Comments**

Lough View Integrated Primary School - Integrated Provision



- Key**
- Lough View Integrated Primary School
  - Buffer Distance**
  - ◊ 1.00
  - ◊ 2.00
  - ◊ 3.00
  - ◊ 4.00
  - ◊ 5.00
  - ★ Lough View Pupil Location
  - Controlled integrated Primary Schools
  - GMI Primary Schools



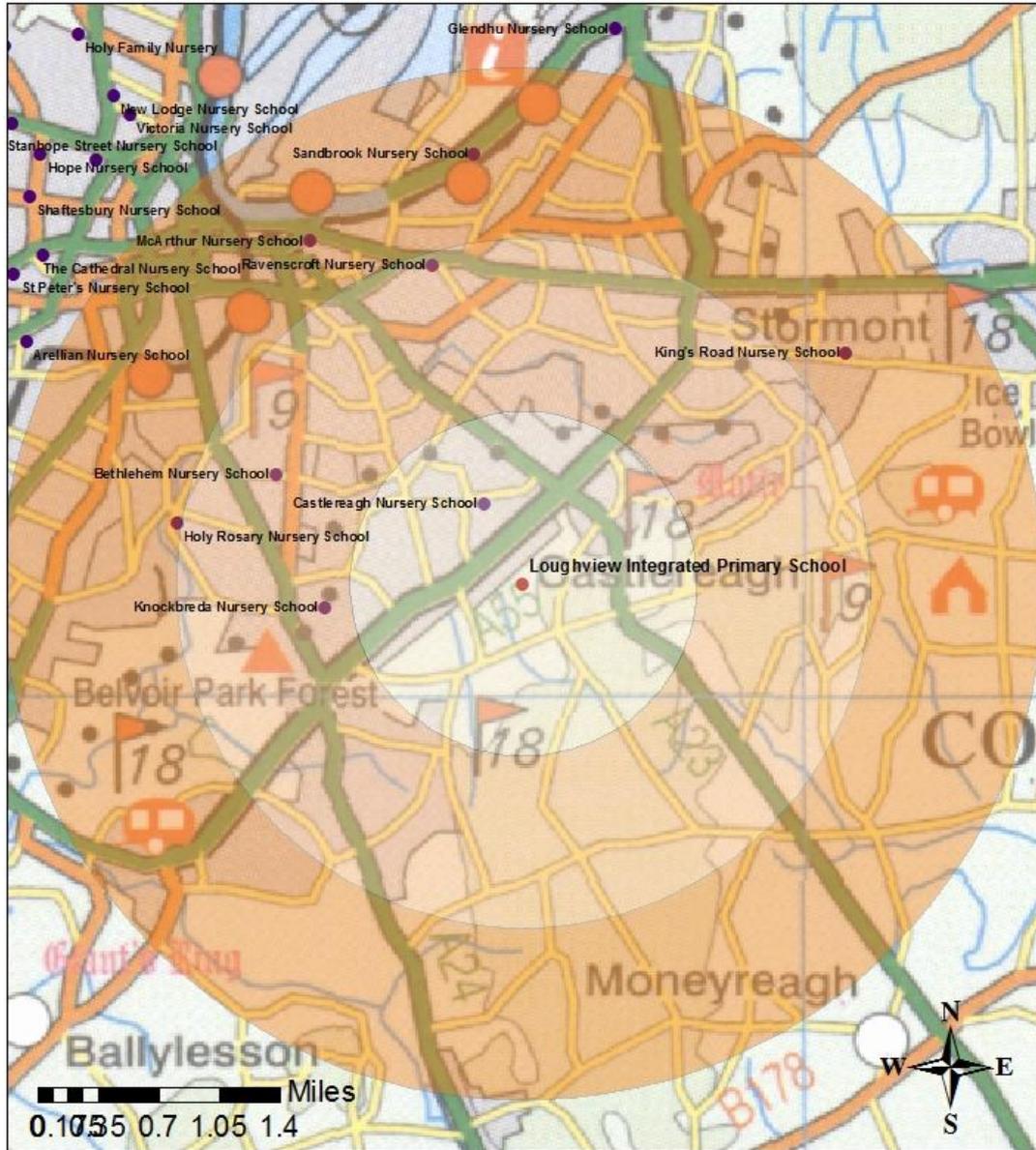
Lough View Integrated Primary School



- Key**
- Lough View Integrated Primary School
  - Buffer Distance in Miles**
  - ◇ 1.00
  - ◇ 2.00
  - \* Lough View Pupil Location
  - ◇ Belfast Region
  - Pre-schools
  - Nursery Schools
  - Primary Schools with Nursery Units



Lough View Integrated Primary School - Nursery Provision



- Key**
- Lough View Integrated Primary School
- Buffer Distance**
- ◊ 1.00
  - ◊ 2.00
  - ◊ 3.00
- Nursery Schools



Lough View Integrated Primary School - Pre-School Provision



- Key**
- Lough View Integrated Primary School
- Buffer Distance**
- ◊ 1.00
  - ◊ 2.00
  - ◊ 3.00
  - Pre-schools



## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Education Authority (EA) published DP No 446 on 26 November 2015 on behalf of the Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School (IPS) which proposes that the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.

2. The statutory 2-month objection period ended on 26 January 2016. Further clarification on a number of issues was required from the Education Authority (EA) Pre-school Education Advisory Group (PEAG) and this has impacted on the Department's timescale for consideration of this proposal. A copy of the proposal is included in **Appendix A.**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Lough View Integrated Primary School**

3. Lough View Integrated Primary is a co-educational, grant-maintained integrated primary school located at Church Road, Castlereagh, Belfast. The school has an approved enrolment of 406 with an admission number of 58. Statistics for 2015/16 show 419 pupils (including 13 Special Educational Needs stage 5) at the school. 9.5% of the school's pupils (40) are entitled to Free School Meals.

4. The nursery unit of Lough View IPS offers 26 part-time morning places. However, in the last two years the unit has had 28 pupils enrolled with the additional places made possible through Temporary Flexibility.

### **Area**

5. On the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 the Hillfoot area is placed 882 out of 890 (1 being most deprived and 890 being least deprived).

6. Map 1 above plots the location of Lough View IPS together with the nearest alternative integrated primary provision. Map 2 shows alternative pre-school

provision in the area. This is broken down in Maps 3 and 4 which show alternative nursery provision and alternative pre-school provision respectively.

7. There have been a number of recent changes to the pre-school provision in this area:

- For the 2015/16 school year, you approved a school rationalisation which included the relocation of 52 full-time nursery places formerly provided at Avoniel Primary School to Elmgrove Primary School.
- The EA introduced two additional settings after Stage 2 of the 2015/16 admissions process (Village Sure Start and Windsor Women's Centre) to help address a shortfall in the South Belfast area.
- For the 2016/17 academic year, you approved the establishment of a new 26 place part-time nursery unit at Gaelscoil Na Mona which coincided with the closure of Naiscoil Na Mona, which had provided 18 voluntary Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) places in the 2014 year.
- For 2016/17, you approved a change of management for 52 full-time pre-school places formerly provided by Holy Family Nursery School, Belfast to be provided in a unit of Holy Family Primary School.

8. A Development Proposal is also currently with you for consideration to modify a 26 full-time place nursery unit to a 52 part-time place nursery unit at Dundonald Primary School, which is within a five mile radius of Lough View IPS. The objection period for this DP ended on 30 March 2016. If approved, this would increase the proposed provision in the area for the 2016/17 as set out below:

- **2 mile radius** - No change
- **5 mile radius** - 4058 places for 4144 children (98.6%)

9. The Education Authority has advised the Department that 'The Learning Tree', a voluntary pre-school provider situated next to Lough View IPS which

currently provides 16 pre-school places, plans to withdraw from the PSEP programme in June 2016.

### **Temporary Flexibility**

10. In the 2014/15 academic year there were 26 additional pre-school places approved in a five mile radius of Lough View IPS through Temporary Flexibility. In the 2015/16 academic year this increased to 45 places, including two places in Lough View IPS. This suggests that the EA is facing increasing pressure in placing pre-school children within the area.

### **Level of need for pre-school provision**

11. In determining the need for pre-school provision, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places, which is c.92%, however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower, based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

12. The overall provision for both 2014/15 and 2015/16, and the proposed level of provision, within a two mile radius is lower than the planning figure of 95%, suggesting slight under provision in the area.

13. The potential level at the five mile radius is, however, higher than the planning figures, suggesting slight over provision, which is also indicated by the fact that 2 year olds have accessed pre-school provision in the area in each of the last two years.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Statutory Duty**

14. You are aware that you and your Department (DE) have a statutory duty under Article 64 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 Order:

*‘... to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education, that is to say the education together at school of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils.’*

15. This duty under must also be considered alongside the duty under Article 44 of the Education and Libraries (NI) 1986 Order (to educate in accordance with the wishes of parents as far as is compatible with the provision of effective teaching and learning and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure).

16. You have made clear that the statutory duty does not equate to a duty to grant every proposal brought forward on behalf of an Integrated school and that the Department must be mindful of its statutory duty under Article 44 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 and under Managing Public Money to ensure effective and efficient use of public funds.

17. In relation to consideration of this DP which proposes that the current 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit due regard has been given to the statutory duty within the framework of ensuring effective planning to meet the future educational requirements for the area.

18. Consideration has also been given to the ruling by Treacy J in the judicial review *McKee v Department of Education*, 2011 which determined that “the Department may facilitate and encourage the Irish medium [*and therefore also the Integrated*] sector in ways that it need not for other sectors by:

- taking positive steps; or
- removing obstacles which inhibit the statutory objective.”

### **Policy Context - Early Years**

19. Under the Programme for Government (PfG) 2011-2016, DE is committed to ensuring that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

20. Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning, was published on 7 October 2013. Among its key actions is placing a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time (defined as over 4.5 hours) in advance of a review of the current levels of full-time provision, existing research and the needs of children being served by it.

21. It is DE's practice not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting.

### **CASE FOR CHANGE**

22. The case for change for this proposal is included in full at **Appendix B**. It sets out the rationale for the proposal as follows:

- Parents of children attending Lough View IPS want local, accessible, integrated pre-school education for their children. In 2015/16 the school had 52 first preference applications for the nursery unit with seven siblings of existing pupils unable to gain nursery places.
- Lough View IPS has an excellent reputation with the nursery assessed by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) as 'outstanding' and the primary school 'very good'.
- The staff and governors are keen to meet the demand for integrated pre-school provision at Lough View IPS which is heavily oversubscribed on an annual basis.
- The staff and governors recognise the desirability of educating children from all backgrounds together in a culture of respect and mutual understanding.
- Additional provision in our nursery unit would support parents and families who wish to access our highly sought after integrated pre-school provision from the age of 3-11.
- Those involved in Lough View IPS would like to play a role in moving towards a shared future for all. The Board of Governors are bringing forward this

proposal in a bid to meet as much of the demand as possible for those who seek an integrated education as their first choice.

- Lough View IPS will provide a viable alternative for those parents who prefer an integrated education for their children and this will assist the Department in meeting its duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Pre-publication Consultation**

23. The case for change confirms that the school has carried out the necessary consultation with Governors, staff parents and pupils and also carried out a survey which demonstrated that out of 310 families 151 responded and 146 supported the idea.

24. The EA also consulted with the Boards of Governors, Trustees, staff and parents of pupils of other schools likely to be affected by the proposal.

25. During the pre-publication consultation, the EA received 23 responses from parents of the school and all were supportive of the proposal.

### **Two month objection period**

26. DP 446 was published on 26 November 2015 by the EA on behalf of the Board of Governors of Lough View IPS. The statutory objection period ended on 26 January 2016. The Department received two letters of support, one from the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and one from a parent and one letter of objection in relation to the Proposal. Further details are included in **Appendix E**.

### **NICIE Comments**

27. The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) has written to the Department in support of the proposal; this is attached in full at **Appendix C**. NICIE comments are summarised below:

- The school has a two form entry into the primary but only a single nursery unit which is regularly heavily over-subscribed, to sometimes more than twice its current capacity, even at first preference level.
- Whilst NICIE is supportive of the displacement argument, parental preference is not being expressed for the nearby setting.
- There is a shortfall of provision in the area.
- The children who put Lough View IPS as first preference school come from a variety of pre-school settings, 20 in total. Increasing the number of places in the nursery would have a much dispersed effect on the 20 settings and would be minimised because of the breadth of the catchment.
- The proposal represents good use of an existing under-utilised building and will match the size of the rest of the school.

### **Education Authority Comments**

28. The EA believes the modification of provision at Lough View IPS Nursery Unit from 26 part time to 52 part-time places will provide additional pre-school capacity into an area with a high demand for such places.

### **SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

29. The Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) does not apply to pre-school provision. However, it is important when considering this change in statutory pre-school provision that the host school is assessed. The following is an assessment of Lough View IPS against the six criteria in the SSP.

#### **Quality Educational Experience**

*In relation to primary provision, the SSP indicators highlight KS2 attainment levels, no more than two composite classes, a minimum of 4 teachers, the ability of the school to cater for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils, availability of curricular and extra curricular activities, quality of the physical environment for learning and quality of pastoral care arrangements.*

30. The case for change confirms that Lough View IPS' current teaching staff consists of a principal, 12 full-time teachers and seven part-time.

31. DE statistics for 2014/15 confirm 23 teachers in total, with a full-time equivalent figure of 18.1 teachers for the whole school, including the nursery unit. The school has no composite classes.

32. An Inspection of the school by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) in March 2011 assessed the quality of the education provided by the primary school as 'very good'. The inspection stated that the school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement. The nursery unit was assessed as 'outstanding'.

33. The Inspection Report also states that the school has a clear and comprehensive policy in place for those children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and cites 'the very good quality of the arrangements for SEN' as a strength of the school. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in both the primary and nursery unit has been assessed as 'outstanding'.

34. The report also confirms that the children have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities which include music, drama and sporting activities. This is supported by the case for change which states that as well as delivering the full NI curriculum, a wide range of extra-curricular activities area also undertaken including cycling proficiency, football, Gaelic, rugby, netball, musical tuition, Spanish, film club, art club, cookery club and drama club.

35. The report confirms that the internal and external environments of the school are pleasant and well maintained.

### **Stable Enrolment Trends**

*The SSP adopts the enrolment thresholds as recommended in the Bain Report. These are minimum thresholds and apply to grant-aided schools in all sectors. A rural primary school's minimum enrolment threshold is 105 pupils. Ideally a primary school should have 7 classrooms (1 per year group). If this is not possible then it should have composite classes with no more than 2 year groups.*

36. Lough View IPS has an approved enrolment of 406 and an admission number of 58. The school is fully subscribed and has exceeded its admission number in each of the last 5 years. Table 3 below shows that the school was oversubscribed at

first preference stage in each of the last 3 years. For September 2015, the school was significantly oversubscribed at first preference stage with 79 applications.

**Table 1: Primary School Enrolments (2015/16 approved 406)**

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
406	412	421	423	419

**Table2: Enrolment by Year Group (@ October 2015)**

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
61	59	59	61	61	59	59	419

(includes 13 SEN)

**Table 3: P1 Applications & Admissions**

	Applications					Accepted					Approved
	1st Pref	2nd Pref	3rd Pref	Others	Total	1st Pref	2nd Pref	3rd Pref	Others	Total	
<b>Sept 2015</b>	79	■	0	■	84	58	■	0	0	60	58-60
<b>Sept 2014</b>	77	■	■	■	82	58	0	0	■	59	58-60
<b>Sept 2013</b>	64	■	■	■	71	59	0	0	■	60	58-60

37. Temporary Variations (TV) for Lough View IPS were approved by the Department for the last 2 years as follows:

2015/16 – TV Increase from 406/58 to 408/60;

2014/15 – TV Increase from 406/58 to 415/59;

2013/14 – No TV's granted.

### **Sound Financial Position**

*The SSP recommends that a school's annual finance indicates that it can live within its delegated budget and will be able to continue to do so. Where there is a deficit, the school's 3-year plan should indicate that it can be reduced or recovered.*

38. The DP, if approved, would have minimal impact on the Aggregated Schools Budget. The proposed numbers in the Development Proposal, as published, may attract assistance from the Department's Grant Maintained Integrated Schools (GMIS) Contingency Fund creating an in-year pressure of approximately **£28k** in the 2016/17 financial year. The Contingency Fund allocation assumes an additional annual intake of 26 part-time Nursery pupils with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Budget Position**

39. Lough View IPS did not have a deficit of public funds at 31 March 2015 and there are no immediate financial concerns about this school.

### **Strong Leadership and Management**

*The SSP highlights a number of indicators in relation to the BoG, staff and pupils. These include: BoG -views, skills and experience of the BoG. Staff - management (both curricular and organisational), attendance, turnover, morale. Pupils – behaviour, attendance and involvement in school management. A school development plan must be in place (and monitored).*

40. The 2011 Inspection Report states that the overall quality of leadership and management of the school is very good'.

*'The Principal provides very good leadership for the school.' 'The Vice-principal and Senior Leadership Team support very effectively the Principal and contribute to setting the appropriate tone for the life and work of the school.'*

41. It also states that the governors are involved in the overall strategic planning and policy development for the school and they also play an important role in monitoring and evaluating the life and work of the school.

42. The school's development plan is compliant with the requirements of the School Development Plans Regulations.

### **Accessibility**

*The SSP highlights the need for reasonable distance and travel time to school and also suitable transport arrangements. It highlights travel times of less than 30 minutes for primary pupils.*

43. Map 1 above shows the location of the pupils at Lough View IPS. The case for change confirms that just over 18% of pupils live within one mile of the school with over 64% living within 2 miles and almost 79% within three miles. The school is centrally located within Castlereagh and part of its catchment area falls within the former Belfast Education and Library Board area. A significant number of the school's pupils are from this area as shown in Map1. The school is therefore easily accessible to its pupils and alternative provision would also be easily accessible to pupils within the travelling time of 30 minutes as detailed in the Sustainable Schools Policy.

### **Strong Links with the Community**

*The SSP refers to the degree and quality of parental involvement, contribution of the school to the community, presence of other features (nursery or specialist provision) and use of school buildings outside formal education.*

44. In the Inspection Report dated March 2011, the ETI state that there is a sense of community within the school based on very good working relationships. The school has a Parents Council which provides valuable support to new parents to the school and also raises funds. A Parents at Lough View Support Group (PALS) provides guidance and assistance to parents of children with additional needs. The school has established excellent links with the neighbouring post primary school to enrich the children's educational and social experiences and to ensure smooth transitions between the schools. Strong links have also been established with the local council and also sporting organisations such as the Irish Football Association and Athletics NI.

45. The school's case for change details that the school has strong links with the local community. The school fairs, open nights and other events are well attended and family allotments are accessible to the wider school community.

### **Sustainability Summary**

46. Lough View IPS' enrolment is well above the minimum enrolment threshold set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy. The school is consistently oversubscribed

at first preference stage and is easily accessible. The quality of education provided by the primary school has been assessed as ‘very good’ and the nursery unit has been assessed as ‘outstanding’.

47. There are no immediate financial concerns about this school. The 2011 ETI Inspection report states that the overall quality of leadership and management of the school is also very good’. The school has strong links with the community as confirmed by the ETI and the case for change. Therefore, the school is fully meeting the criteria of the Sustainable Schools Policy.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Religious Balance**

**Table 4: Primary School Religious Balance 2015/16**

<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
155 (37 %)	157 (37 %)	107 (26%)	419

**Table 5: Nursery Unit Religious Balance 2015/16**

<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
12 (43%)	11 (39%)	5 (18%)	28

48. In terms of the religious balance of pupils at Lough View IPS, Tables 4 and 5 above confirm that the school has a very mixed enrolment with over 30% of both main traditions in both the primary school and the nursery unit.

### **South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) Primary Area Plan**

49. The SEELB Primary Area Plan (June 2014) states that Lough View IPS is currently considered to be sustainable and viable within the local area context.

## **Financial Implications**

### **Capital Funding**

50. The case for change states that there are no major resource implications for operating a dual day nursery but approval would enable the capital investment in the current nursery building to be maximised.

### **Additional Staffing Costs**

51. The proposal, if approved, would incur a small amount of revenue for salary costs but these would be met from within the school's budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

52. Enrolments at Lough View IPS have been rising steadily from 406 in 2011/12 as shown in Table 1 above to 419 in 2015/16. The primary school has been consistently oversubscribed at first preference stage as shown in Table 3 above.

53. Table 6 below shows the first preference applications to the nursery at Lough View IPS. The nursery has also been consistently oversubscribed at first preference stage.

**Table 6: Applications to Lough View Integrated Primary School's Nursery Unit**

<b>September</b>	<b>Number of Places</b>	<b>1st Preference</b>	<b>Total Admitted</b>
2015	26	52	28
2014	26	69	28
2013	26	54	26
2012	26	44	26
2011	26	47	26

54. There is therefore strong evidence of obvious demand at Lough View IPS.

55. Lough View IPS has a very mixed enrolment with over 30% of both main traditions in both the primary school and the nursery unit.

56. The quality of education provided by Lough View IPS was assessed as 'very good'. The Nursery Unit was assessed as 'outstanding'.

### **Current level of pre-school provision**

57. The current level of pre-school provision within both a two mile and five mile radius of the school is used as an indicator of current capacity and considered alongside other factors such as population projections to determine the likely future need for additional pre-school provision in the area.

58. The numbers of pre-school places are measured against the Year One enrolments for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as indicated.

**Table 7: Level of Provision – 2 mile radius of Lough View Integrated Primary School.**

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	551	293	0	844	927	91.1%	2
2015/16	607	304	0	911	1010	90.2%	3
Proposed*	633	288	0	921	1010	91.2%	--

\* Assumes Learning Tree leaves programme in June 2016 as advised by EA  
(Source: 2015 School Census)

**Table 8: Level of Provision – 5 mile radius of Lough View Integrated Primary School.**

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	2973	896	0	3869	3944	98.1%	26
2015/16	3041	981	0	4022	4114	97.8%	20
Proposed*	3067	965	0	4032	4114	98%	--

\* Assumes Learning Tree leaves programme in June 2016 as advised by EA  
(Source: 2015 School Census)

59. Birth statistics by academic year for all wards which fall at least partially within a 5 mile radius of Lough View IPS indicate a decrease of 110 (-2.6%) in the pre-school cohort between September 2016 admissions and September 2018 admissions (4186 to 4076).

60. Population projections for 3 year olds for the Belfast and Castlereagh and Lisburn councils predict an increase of 92 (1.4%) from 6,417 to 6,509 between 2016 and 2019. The trend then suggests a steady decline of 402 (6.2%) from 6,509 to 6,107 between 2019 and 2027.

61. These figures suggest that demand is likely to slightly decrease in the longer term; however, they do not fully take into account population migration and other factors, so can only be indicators of the future pre-school population and are not an exact predictor of demand.

62. The case for change states that the prospect of the development at Lough View IPS impacting negatively upon other local providers is also mitigated by the fact that Lough Views IPS' pupils come from a wide catchment area extending to nine postcodes based on 2016 nursery applications.

63. The EA has advised that it supports the proposed change, stating that the withdrawal of The Learning Tree from the Pre-school Education Programme (PSEP) would create a shortfall of pre-school places in the area.

64. The ETI state that Lough View IPS and Nursery Unit were last inspected in May 2011. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provision by the school was very good and in the nursery unit, the quality of provision was outstanding.

65. The ETI advice, which was provided prior to the announcement that The Learning Tree had decided to withdraw from the PSEP, considered that the opening of an additional pre-school unit at Lough View IPS could negatively impact on other pre-school providers in the area.

66. ETI also reflected upon the fact that morning pre-school sessions are generally preferred by parents to afternoon sessions and suggested that some parents may chose a morning session in another setting over an afternoon session in Lough View IPS.

### **Pre-school provision**

67. Pre-school provision is not defined according to sectors (e.g. Integrated, Roman Catholic, maintained), so all pre-school settings, regardless of location, are considered accessible to children from all backgrounds. All pre-school settings follow the same curricular guidance which accommodates ensuring equality of opportunity. This means staff acknowledging and respecting the culture, beliefs and lifestyles of the families of all children. However, it is acknowledged that in some cases parents may, nevertheless, have a preference for the ethos of pre-school education in schools with an integrated management type.

68. There are three pre-school providers in schools with an integrated management type within five miles of Lough View IPS; these are Forge IPS, Cranmore IPS and Cliftonville IPS. Over the last two years all three schools have been oversubscribed with 1<sup>st</sup> preference pre-school applications.

**Table 9: First Preference Applications**

<b>Setting</b>	<b>September 2015 1<sup>st</sup> preference applications</b>	<b>September 2015 places filled</b>	<b>September 2016 1<sup>st</sup> preference applications to date</b>
Lough View IPS	52	26	47
Forge IPS	46	47	43
Cranmore IPS	22	24	29
Cliftonville IPS	38	26	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>158</b>

69. This suggests that parents in the area may have a preference for pre-school provision with an integrated management type, as suggested by the case for change.

### **Impact on voluntary and private sector providers**

70. The Pre-school Education Programme (PSEP) is a partnership between statutory and voluntary/private pre-school providers and both sectors are equally valued for their contribution to the education of pre-school children. Both sectors

adhere to the same curricular guidelines and are inspected to the same educational standards.

71. In considering DPs for statutory provision, careful consideration is given to the impact of any new statutory provision on existing good quality voluntary/private providers in PSEP.

72. The application trends for Lough View IPS, which both the case for change and EA advise has an unusually wide catchment area, suggest that it would not face difficulty in filling the requested places with target age children, as it has received no fewer than 52 first preference applications for its 26 pre-school places in each of the last three years. However, it is possible that the creation of additional provision at the setting could have a knock on effect in the wider five mile radius, causing a decrease in the number of voluntary/private pre-school places required (potentially displacing good quality provision already in place) and/or leading to an increase in two year old children gaining access to provision in other statutory settings.

73. However, given the high number of temporary flexibility requests granted in the area in the last two years, the planned exit of The Learning Tree from the PSEP, the projected population growth in the area and the advice of the Pre-school Education Advisory Group that it faces a shortfall of provision in the area and that voluntary and private providers in the Dundonald area (within the 5 mile radius) are unable to expand to provide places beyond the current level, it appears that the approval of this proposal would be unlikely to have a detrimental impact on current good quality pre-school provision in the area, although some minor adjustments to the number of funded places provided may be necessary. It also seems unlikely that the proposal would significantly increase the number of underage children accessing pre-school places in the area in the longer term.

## **Conclusion**

74. The Department's commitments on levels of pre-school provision, the level of demand for this type of pre-school provision as evidenced through TVs and applications for places and the duty to encourage and facilitate IE development would suggest that this proposal should be supported. The proposal would help to

address the projected shortfall in pre-school provision in the area and would assist in meeting the Programme for Government commitment to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

- (i) Approve DP 446 as follows:

***The Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School proposes that the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016, 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 and the EA have been notified.

76. A draft press release will be provided for your consideration when you have made your decision.

77. Attached for your consideration are the following:

Appendix A Copy of Published DP

Appendix B Case for Change

Appendix C NICIE comments

Appendix D DE Comments received (including letters of support and objection)

Appendix E ETI Comments.



**LORRAINE FINLAY**

 59995

[lorraine.finlay@deni.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.finlay@deni.gov.uk)

*Cc (by e-mail)*

Paul Sweeney  
Fiona Hepper  
Katrina Godfrey  
John Smith  
Jacqui Durkin  
Noelle Buick  
Dorina Edgar  
Scott Harbinson  
Conor O'Neill  
Gráinne Maskey  
Grainne McConnell  
Press Office  
APPT

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY

### DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No 446

Notice is hereby given that under Article 79 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 the Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School has submitted a proposal to the Education Authority as follows:

***The Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School proposes that the 26 part time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part time nursery unit with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.***

A copy of the Proposal may be inspected at offices of the Education Authority, South Eastern Region located at Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 2HS between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

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@deni.gov.uk](mailto:dps@deni.gov.uk) within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

**NOTE:** 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 to 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

CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

AUTHORITY AREA	South Eastern
DP NUMBER	446
PROPOSER	Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School  Contact: Michael McKnight, Principal  028 9040 1347  Email: mmcknight746@loughviewintegrated.belfast.ni.sch.uk
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Lough View Integrated Primary School
SCHOOL REFERENCE	406 6579
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Grant Maintained Integrated
DP PUBLICATION DATE	W/C 23 November 2015
PROPOSAL	<b>The Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated Primary School proposes that the 26 part time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part time nursery unit with effect from 1st September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.</b>

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

BY THE PROPOSER	I confirm that the Lough View Board of Governors, staff and parents of pupils were consulted in June 2015.  SIGNED: <i>M. McKnight</i> DATE: 17/09/15
BY THE BOARD	I confirm that the schools which the Board consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 27/10/15.  SIGNED: <i>[Signature]</i> DATE: 27/10/15

**ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS**

	None
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

### **As submitted by Lough View IPS**

#### 1.1 Description of school

Lough View Integrated Primary School is located at 63 Church Road, Castlereagh, Belfast. The school has a current enrolment of 452 children (including 18 statemented pupils), 26 of whom are in the nursery class. Lough View serves the parents and children of Castlereagh, Belfast and the outlying areas.

The school accommodation consists of 14 classrooms, a learning support room, dining hall, assembly/PE hall, multi-purpose room, ICT suite, Key Stage resource areas, staffroom, secretary's office, Principal's office and a nursery classroom.

The current teaching staff consists of Principal, 12 full-time teachers and 7 part-time teachers including learning support teachers. The classroom assistants, secretary, building supervisor, supervisory assistants, meals staff and bus escort complete the full staff team.

The school was established by a group of parents from Castlereagh and surrounding areas and opened in 1993 on the current site. Lough View opened with around 20 pupils and has grown and developed into a popular, heavily over-subscribed school with a current enrolment of 452.

As well as delivering the full NI curriculum a wide range of extra-curricular activities are also undertaken within the school including cycling proficiency, football, Gaelic, rugby, netball, musical tuition, Spanish, film club, art club, cookery club and drama club. In addition, the school runs a daily Stay and Play club which allows younger pupils to stay on site until parents arrive to pick them up along with older siblings.

Lough View Integrated Primary School is delighted to have a hard working Parents Council which contributes greatly to the social and financial support of the school.

Recently, a Steering Group of the Board of Governors which includes parent governors has been established to take forward the nursery proposal within the school and local community. This membership of this stakeholder group comprises staff, parents and governors.

The Board of Governors of Lough View Integrated PS believes that the existing provision at the school, in conjunction with the proposed future development highlighted in this development proposal will ensure compliance with the Department of Education's Sustainable Schools Policy.

1) *Quality Educational Experience*

Lough View was inspected in 2011 by the ETI. The nursery was awarded **outstanding** and the primary school, **very good**. Based on these outcomes and the on-going work of the school, Lough View enjoys an excellent reputation in the locality.

2) *Stable Enrolment Trends*

For the last number of years the school has experienced a steady rise in enrolments, leading to both the nursery and Year 1 applications being heavily oversubscribed with first preference applications over the past 3 years. This is particularly true of the nursery where in each of the past 3 years, we could easily have run an additional class of 26 pre-school age children.

The Board of Governors believe that Ministerial approval for an additional nursery session to be established in the existing nursery unit at Lough View Integrated PS, would be a welcome addition to the provision available locally and would meet parental demand for places in our integrated pre-school setting as well as providing much needed pre-school provision.

3) *Sound Financial Position*

The school is currently operating with an acceptable budget surplus.

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4) *Strong Leadership and Management*

Lough View Integrated PS has a strong leadership team led by the Principal, Michael McKnight. This was acknowledged in the 2011 ETI inspection which noted the endeavours of *'the hardworking and committed principal'*. This commitment is now being brought to bear in this proposal to provide integrated pre-school provision at Lough View.

5) *Easy Access*

Lough View Integrated PS's central location within the Castlereagh area itself provides ease of access for all its present pupils. It is also easily accessible to future pupils travelling from areas outside the immediate catchment area.

6) *Community Links*

As evidenced by the ETI in 2011, Lough View Integrated PS has strong links with the local community. Our school fairs, open nights and other events are well attended and family allotments are accessible to the wider school community.

## 2. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Lough View Integrated PS has historically enjoyed a diverse enrolment. At the present time some 39% of pupils are from the 'Roman Catholic' tradition, 44% from the 'Protestant' tradition and 17% from 'Other' backgrounds (DE School level data 2014/15). The demography of East Belfast has changed over the past decade which is reflected in our intake and also in the on-going demand for places in our school.

In addition;

- The drive for this current development has in part been led by parents of children attending Lough View IPS who want local, accessible integrated pre-school education for their children. This year (2015/16) the school had 52 first preference applications for the nursery unit with 7 siblings of existing pupils unable to gain nursery places.
- Lough View was inspected in 2011 by the ETI and has an excellent reputation. The nursery was awarded **outstanding** and the primary school, **very good**.
- The staff and governors are keen to meet the demand for integrated pre-school provision at Lough View IPS which is heavily oversubscribed on an annual basis.
- The staff and the governors recognise the desirability of educating children from all backgrounds together in a culture of respect and mutual understanding.
- Approval for additional pre-school provision in our existing nursery unit would support parents and families who wish to access our highly sought after integrated pre-school provision from the age of 3 to 11 years in the wider Castlereagh area.
- Those involved in Lough View Integrated PS would like to play a role in moving towards a shared future for all. The Board of Governors are therefore

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bringing forward this proposal to seek approval from the DE to increase the number of places available in the nursery unit in a bid to meet as much of the demand as possible for those who seek an integrated education as their first choice of education for their child.

- Lough View IPS will continue to contribute to meeting the needs of every pre-school aged child in the area by providing a viable alternative for those parents who prefer an integrated education for their children. This will assist the Department of Education in meeting its duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education, as outlined in Article 64 of the Education Reform Order Northern Ireland 1989.

## **2.1 Parental consultation**

On 24 April 2015 the NICIE Development Officer met with the Principal. On May 20 the NICIE Development Officer met with the Lough View Board of Governors. Following this the Principal sought the views of parents from within the school community through carrying out a survey on extending nursery provision. The results of the survey indicated that there is considerable support for increasing our nursery intake. Out of 310 families 151 responded and of those 146 supported the idea.

## 2.4 Proposed future development in Castlereagh area

There has been a significant population increase within the area as outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**

### Population Change (NINIS /NISRA statistics)

Local Government Area	Year	Population (usually resident)	Growth in population
<b>Castlereagh</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>66,488</b>	<b>754</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>67,242</b>	
<b>Down</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>62,526</b>	<b>6,188</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>68,714</b>	
Total Increase in population across 2 council areas			6,942

(Source: NINIS / NISRA)

In addition, this increase in population has coincided with a significant growth in the birth rate within the Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council area. Examination of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) paper (June 2007) on housing shows that of the 51800 houses expected to be yielded under BMAP, 7% are planned to come from the Castlereagh area, i.e. 3565 new houses. This is a large amount of housing growth for a relatively small area.

### **3. IMPACT**

#### **3.1 Local schools**

The nearest integrated schools in the EA ( South Eastern) area are Millennium Integrated Primary School in Saintfield at 6.4 miles and Cedar Integrated Primary School in Crossgar at 11 .6 miles distance from Lough View Integrated Primary School. We do not anticipate that changes to our enrolment would impinge upon provision at either school.

Within the maintained and controlled sectors there is nursery provision within the Lough View catchment e.g. St. Ita's, Cairnshill PS, St. Bernard's, Braniel PS, Castlereagh Nursery and Learning Tree. However the parents applying to Lough View are stating a clear preference for an integrated provision. Over the past 3 years we have been heavily over-subscribed with first preference applications for admission to our nursery unit. In 2015/16, there were 52 first preference applications for the 26 places available. In 2014/15 there were 62 first preference applications with 54 for 2013/14.

The prospect of our development impacting negatively upon other local providers is also mitigated somewhat by the fact that our pupils come from a wide catchment extending to 9 postcodes ( BT4, BT5, BT6, BT7, BT8, BT16, BT27, BT34, BT23,BT24 – based on 2016 Nursery applications).

#### **3.2 Area Planning**

The SEELB Primary Area Plan 2014-2018 notes that Lough View IPS is currently considered to be sustainable and viable within the local area context.

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#### 4. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

##### **As submitted by Lough View IPS**

The educational impact of this proposal would be significant in providing parents with much sought after integrated pre-school provision at Lough View Integrated PS in an outstanding nursery environment (ETI 2011). This would increase accessibility to integrated education and strengthen the position of the school within the Castlereagh area. Approval for the establishment of additional nursery provision at Lough View Integrated PS will support the school in meeting parental demand for much sought after integrated nursery provision in the area.

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## 5. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

### As submitted by Lough View IPS

#### 5.1 Enrolments

The Admissions Number for Lough View Integrated Primary School is 58 for Year 1 and 26 for the Nursery Unit. The school's overall enrolment number is 406 though we have exercised the temporary rule in conjunction with DE in recent years to help meet increased parental demand. The current enrolment of the school is therefore 426 including 17 children who currently hold Statements of Special Needs.

**Table 2: Admissions to P1 at Lough View Integrated Primary School 2012-2015**

Year	Admissions to P1	No of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference Applications
2015/16	60	79
2014/15	60	77
2013/14	60	64
2012/13	59	72

Source: SEELB Open Enrolment 2015/16

**Table 3 Pattern of enrolments for P1 at Lough View Integrated PS Nursery Unit**

Levels of First Preference Applications and Over-subscription at Lough View IPS Nursery in Castlereagh Borough Council area

<b>School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> preference</b>	<b>Total applied</b>	<b>Total admitted</b>	<b>Total Level of Over-subscription for 1<sup>st</sup> choice applications</b>
Lough View IPS Nursery Unit	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>52</b>	61	<b>27</b>	25
	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>69</b>	90	<b>30</b>	39
	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>54</b>	79	<b>26</b>	28
	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>44</b>	57	<b>26</b>	18
	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>47</b>	76	<b>26</b>	21
	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>51</b>	72	<b>26</b>	25
	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>41</b>	53	<b>26</b>	15

Source: SEELB & DE

## 5.2 Pupils attending Lough View IPS by post code

18.1% of the children enrolled at Lough View IPS live within a 1 mile radius of the school, 64.3% reside within a 2 mile radius of the school and 78.7% within 3 mile radius as illustrated in Table 4 below. The largest percentage of pupils attending Lough View IPS reside within the BT5-8 postcode areas which represents in total 83.6% of the school enrolment. 30.9% of pupils currently attending Lough View IPS reside in the BT8 postcode area with 24.5% of children residing within the BT6 postcode and a further 23.2% living within the BT5 postcode area. Lough View IPS represents a local school at the heart of its community. The approval for additional integrated pre-school provision through the establishment of additional nursery places will further support the school in meeting the high level of parental demand year on year not only within the local vicinity of the school but within the school's catchment area which is broader than usual owing to the integrated nature of the school.

**Table 4**

<b>School Enrolment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
At 1 mile radius	18.1%
At 2 mile radius	64.3%
At 3 mile radius	78.7%

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The proposal has an effective date of 31 August 2016.

There are no initial capital requirements in the development proposal. The plan would be for a dual day with an afternoon session complimenting the morning session in the existing nursery unit at Lough View IPS.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### As submitted by Lough View IPS

At present we see no major resource implications for operating a dual day rather approval would allow for maximising the use of the existing capital investment in our current nursery building and will only require a small amount of revenue for salary costs.

The school site is 3 acres and accommodates the nursery unit in a building which is adjacent to the main school.

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## STATUTORY CONSULTATION

### As submitted by Lough View IPS

A significant level of consultation has taken place in respect of this development proposal. The Board of Governors entered into discussion with NICIE during the spring term of 2015 and NICIE officers provided detailed information to the governors in advance of a parent survey conducted in June 2015. Following the decision to go forward by the Board of Governors, a steering group has been established, comprising representatives of the governing body, parents and staff. This group has been charged with taking forward the development proposal for the establishment of a nursery unit. NICIE is fully in support of taking this development proposal forward.

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## BOARD COMMENTS

*Education Authority response to be forwarded*

SIGNED:  
POSITION: *Development Officer*  
DATE: *9/12/15*

NICIE wish to register their support for this proposal. Owing to time pressures this letter will make some brief points in support of the proposal.

1. The school has two form entry into the primary and only has a single form nursery unit which is regularly heavily over-subscribed, to sometimes more than twice its current capacity, (EA Dundonald), even at first preference level.

<b>LOUGH VIEW NU</b>	<b>1ST PREF</b>	<b>TOTAL PREF</b>	<b>NO ADMITTED</b>	<b>No OF PLACES</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27*</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30*</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

2. Whilst NICIE is supportive of the displacement argument, parental preference is not being expressed for the nearby setting and as it has not been inspected then it cannot be judged.
3. The quality of provision at Lough View Nursery Unit (NU) was judged to be outstanding and the school overall was awarded very good.
4. There is a shortfall of provision in the area.
5. The children who put Lough View as first preference school (see over) come from a variety of preschool settings (EA), 20 in total. The bulk of the P1 first preference children 27 come from the NU but 5 had no pre-school experience. Only 9 from the Learning Tree expressed a preference to come Lough View. One could infer from this that increasing the number of places in the NU would have a much dispersed effect on the 20 settings and would be minimised because of the breadth of the catchment.

**LOUGH VIEW INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCE OF P1 1<sup>st</sup> PREFERENCE APPLICANTS (78) 2015:**

<b>NAME OF SETTING</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN</b>
Lough View NU	27
Knockbreda NS	
Kilmood PG	
Carryduff PG	
The Learning Tree	9
Magherafelt NU	
Belvoir Park NU	7
Branial NU	
Campbell College	
Mount Oriel PG	
McArthur NS	
Nettlefield NU	
St Colmcille's PG	
Glendhu NS	
Flutterbies PG	
St Paul's NU	
Seaview NS	
Sandbrook	
Belmont PG	
Outside NI	
None	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>

NICIE would ask the Minister to support this proposal as it represents good use of an existing under-utilised building and will match the size of the rest of the school. As the school draws from a very wide catchment area, the growth will have little impact on any one particular setting. At the same time it will be helping those who wish to choose an integrated setting and address the shortfall for pre-school places in the area.

Respondent	Comments
NICIE	Comments included in Appendix C
Parent	<p>There is no longer a Catholic school in this parish but we are keen for our children to attend an integrated school. If our children were not admitted to Lough View at primary school, which we understand is oversubscribed each year, we would be forced to send them to a local Protestant school where they would either have to leave class alone (or perhaps with another pupil), attend preparations for sacraments and join a class where they didn't know the other pupils.</p> <p>We believe integrated education is the ideal way to ensure a shared future in our still divided society. We therefore believe that integrated education should be prioritised for funding and would urge you and officials to fund additional places for Lough View Nursery Unit as per its current application. Ideally there should be enough places at the integrated Lough View nursery for our child (indeed all children whose parents wish them) to attend and then simply move on up to primary school in a setting with which she is already familiar (and enough places in the primary for all children wishing to attend).</p>
St Bernard's PS	The increase from 26 part-time nursery places to 52 part-time nursery places indicates that there is a need for increased nursery provision in this area. A nursery unit at St Bernard's has been refused in the past. If Lough View's DP is successful then St Bernard's must be allowed to develop a 52 place nursery unit on their site.

### **Admissions and Enrolment**

Please see below the Temporary Variations (TV) for Lough View IPS for the last 3 years –

2015/16 – TV Increase from 406/58 to 408/60

2014/15 – TV Increase from 406/58 to 415/59

2013/14 – No TV's granted

### **Capital Funding – N/A**

The case for change proposes that the 26 place part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 place part-time nursery unit, operating as a dual day nursery, with an afternoon session complimenting the existing morning session, with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter. Therefore, it is Estate Operations Team's view that no additional accommodation is required.

However, it should be noted that if additional accommodation were required this would be subject to there being budget in place and it can take 9-12 months from the date an application is received for any new accommodation to be on site.

## **EARLY YEARS TEAM**

### **TO MODIFY THE 26 PART-TIME PLACE NURSERY UNIT TO A 52 PART-TIME PLACE NURSERY UNIT AT LOUGH VIEW INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST**

#### **Introduction**

At the request of the Board of Governors of Lough View IPS, Belfast, the Education Authority (EA) published Development Proposal Number 446, which proposed that the existing 26-place part-time nursery places provided at the setting should be increased to 52 part-time places from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **Background**

The proposal has been put forward by the Board of Governors of Lough View IPS, who claim that the pre-school is heavily oversubscribed and the proposed nursery expansion would meet parental demand for pre-school provision in the area and would respond to a particular preference amongst local parents for the ethos of pre-school education in schools with an integrated management type .

#### **Relevant policy areas**

Under the Programme for Government 2011-16, DE is committed to ensuring that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

The case for change appears to rely, not on evidence of an unmet need for pre-school places in the area, but rather upon the popularity of the setting which has received no fewer than 52 first preference applications for its 26 pre-school places in each of the last three years. Although a setting may receive a high level of first preference applications, this does not in itself indicate a shortage of pre-school provision in an area. Pre-school provision is made on the basis of preference, not choice, and parents are encouraged to apply for a range of settings for their child in order to maximise their chance of securing a suitable place for their child.

Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning - was published on 7 October 2013. Among its key actions is placing a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time (defined as over 4.5 hours) in advance of a review of the current levels of full-time provision, existing research and the needs of children being served by it. This proposal is compatible with the moratorium.

Under the 1989 Education Reform (NI) Order, the Department of Education (DE) has a statutory duty to 'encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education, that is to say the education together of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils '. This duty is considered in more detail below.

It is the Department's practice not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. The potential impact of this proposal on existing provision is considered in more detail below.

A key action under the Learning to Learn framework is the removal of reception provision. Lough View IPS does not have reception provision and the removal of reception places would have no affect on the level of pre-school provision in this area.

### **Recent Changes in provision**

There have been a number of recent changes to the pre-school provision in this area:

For the 2015/16 school year, the Minister approved a school rationalisation which included the relocation of 52 full-time nursery places formerly provided at Avoniel Primary School to Elmgrove Primary School.

The EA introduced two additional settings after Stage 2 of the 2015/16 admissions process (Village Sure Start and Windsor Women's Centre) to help address a shortfall in the South Belfast area.

For the 2016/17 academic year, the Minister approved establishment of a new 26 place part-time nursery unit at Gaelscoil Na Mona which coincided with the closure Naiscoil Na Mona, which had provided 18 voluntary PSEP places in the 2014 year.

In 2016/17, the Minister approved a change of management for 52 full-time pre-school places formerly provided by Holy Family Nursery School to be provided by Holy Family Primary School.

### **Planned changes in provision**

The Education Authority has advised that 'The Learning Tree', a voluntary pre-school provider situated next to Lough View IPS which currently provides 16 pre-school places, plans to withdraw from the PSEP programme in June 2016.

### **Temporary Flexibility**

In the 2014/15 academic year there were 26 additional pre-school places approved in a five mile radius of Lough View PS through Temporary Flexibility. In the 2015/16 academic year this increased to 45 places, including 2 places in Lough View IPS. This suggests that the EA is facing increasing pressure in placing pre-school children within the area.

A list of all approved Temporary Flexibility requests is attached at Annex C.

### **Level of need for pre-school provision**

In determining the need for pre-school provision, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places, which is c.92%, however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower, based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

### **Current level of pre-school provision**

The current level of pre-school provision within both a 2-mile and 5-mile radius of the school is used as an indicator of current capacity and considered alongside other

factors such as population projections to determine the likely future need for additional pre-school provision in the area.

The numbers of pre-school places are measured against the Year One enrolments for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as indicated. (Source: 2015 School Census)

### Level of Provision – 2 mile radius of Lough View Integrated Primary School.

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	551	293	0	844	927	91.1%	█
2015/16	607	304	0	911	1010	90.2%	█
Proposed*	633	288	0	921	1010	91.2%	--

\* Assumes Learning Tree leaves programme in June 2016 as advised by EA

### Level of Provision – 5 mile radius of Lough View Integrated Primary School.

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	2973	896	0	3869	3944	98.1%	26
2015/16	3041	981	0	4022	4114	97.8%	20
Proposed*	3067	965	0	4032	4114	98%	--

\* Assumes Learning Tree leaves programme in June 2016 as advised by EA

### Other relevant Development Proposals

The Minister is currently considering a Development Proposal to modify a 26 full-time place nursery unit to a 52 part-time place nursery unit at Dundonald Primary School, which is within a five mile radius of Lough View IPS. If approved, this would increase the proposed provision in the area for the 2016/17 as set out below:

#### **2 mile radius**

No change

#### **5 mile radius**

4058 places for 4144 children (98.6%)

The overall provision for both 2014/15 and 2015/16, and the proposed level of provision, within a two mile radius is lower than the planning figure of 95%, suggesting slight under provision in the area.

The potential level at the five mile radius is, however, higher than the planning figures, suggesting slight over provision, which is also indicated by the fact that 2 year olds have accessed pre-school provision in the area in each of the last two years.

A list of the providers in the two and five mile radii is attached at Annex A.

### **Population statistics and projections**

Officials have considered the NISRA birth rates and population predictions to identify potential future trends.

- Birth statistics by academic year for all wards which fall at least partially within a 5 mile radius of Lough View IPS indicate a decrease of 110 (-2.6%) in the pre-school cohort between September 2016 admissions and September 2018 admissions (4186 to 4076). A list of wards is attached at Annex B.
- Population projections for 3 year olds for the Belfast and Castlereagh and Lisburn councils predict an increase of 92 (1.4%) from 6,417 to 6,509 between 2016 and 2019. The trend then suggests a steady decline of 402 (6.2%) from 6,509 to 6,107 between 2019 and 2027.

These figures suggest that demand is likely to slightly decrease in the longer term; however they do not fully take into account population migration and other factors, so can only be indicators of the future pre-school population and are not an exact predictor of demand.

The case for change advises that the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) paper (June 2007) suggests that some 3565 new houses are expected to be built in the Castlereagh area during the life of the plan – these plans are not taken into account in the NISRA population projections.

The EA has advised that it supports the proposed change, stating that the withdrawal of The Learning Tree from the PSEP would create a shortfall of pre-school places in the area.

The ETI state that Lough View Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit was last inspected in May 2011. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provision by the school was very good and in the nursery unit, the quality of provision was outstanding.

The ETI advice, which was provided prior to the announcement that The Learning Tree had decided to withdraw from the PSEP, considered that the opening of an additional pre-school unit at Lough View IPS could negatively impact on other pre-school providers in the area.

It also noted that the case for change did not provide evidence of an unmet need for pre-school places in the area, but rather relied upon the popularity of the setting.

ETI also reflected upon the fact that morning pre-school sessions are generally preferred by parents to afternoon sessions and suggested that some parents may chose a morning session in another setting over an afternoon session in Lough View IPS.

### **Integrated Education**

Under the 1989 Education Reform (NI) Order, the Department has a statutory duty to 'encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education'. The duty under the 1989 Order must be considered alongside the duty under Article 44 of the 1986 Order (to educate in accordance with the wishes of parents as far as is compatible with the provision of effective teaching and learning and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure).

Pre-school provision is not defined according to sectors (e.g. Integrated, Roman Catholic, maintained), so all pre-school setting, regardless of location, are considered accessible to children from all backgrounds. All pre-school settings follow the same curricular guidance which accommodates ensuring equality of

opportunity, pointing to staff acknowledging and respecting the culture, beliefs and lifestyles of the families of all children. However it is acknowledged that in some cases parents may, nevertheless, have a preference for the ethos of pre-school education in schools with an integrated management type and this is taken into account in the EYT advice.

There are 3 pre-school providers in schools with an integrated management type within 5 miles of Lough View IPS; these are Forge Integrated Primary School, Cranmore Integrated Primary School and Cliftonville Integrated Primary School. Over the last two years all three schools have been oversubscribed with 1<sup>st</sup> preference pre-school applications.

Setting	September 2015 1 <sup>st</sup> preference applications	September 2015 places filled	September 2015 1 <sup>st</sup> preference applications to date
Lough View IPS	52	26	47
Forge IPS	46	47	43
Cranmore IPS	22	24	29
Cliftonville IPS	38	26	39
TOTAL	158	123	158

This suggests that parents in the area may have a preference for pre-school provision with an integrated management type, as suggested by the case for change.

### **Impact on voluntary and private sector providers**

The Pre-school Education Programme (PSEP) is a partnership between statutory and voluntary/private pre-school providers and both sectors are equally valued for their contribution to the education of pre-school children. Both sectors adhere to the same curricular guidelines and are inspected to the same educational standards.

In considering DPs for statutory provision, careful consideration is given to the impact of any new statutory provision on existing good quality voluntary/private providers in PSEP.

The application trends for Lough View IPS, which both the case for change and EA advise has an unusually wide catchment area, suggest that it would not face difficulty in filling the requested places with target age children, as it has received no fewer than 52 first preference applications for its 26 pre-school places in each of the last three years. However it is possible that the creation of additional provision at the setting could have a knock on effect in the wider five mile radius, causing a decrease in the number of voluntary/private pre-school places required (potentially displacing good quality provision already in place) and/or leading to an increase in two year old children gaining access to provision in other statutory settings.

However, given the high number of temporary flexibility requests granted in the area in the last two years, the planned exit of The Learning Tree from the PSEP, the projected population growth in the area and the advice of the PEAG that it faces a shortfall of provision in the area and that voluntary and private providers in the Dundonald area (within the 5 mile radius) are unable to expand to provide places beyond the current level, it appears that the approval of this proposal would be unlikely to have a detrimental impact on current good quality pre-school provision in the area, although some minor adjustments to the number of funded places provided may be necessary. It also seems unlikely that the proposal would significantly increase the number of underage children accessing pre-school places in the area in the longer term.

### **Summary of key points**

- The proposed level of provision is below the planning figure at 2 miles (91.2%), but much higher at 5 miles (98%, rising to 98.6% if the proposal in respect of Dundonald PS is approved)
- Lough View has pupils from a very wide area attending its nursery unit and primary school.

- The EA has advised that the withdrawal of “The Learning Tree” playgroup in June 2016, will create a shortfall in the area.
- NISRA population projections suggest slight decline in the pre-school cohort, however BMAP plans include significant numbers of new homes for the area which are not accounted for in those figures.
- The number of Temporary Flexibility requests approved within 5 miles has increased in the last year from 26 to 45.
- Under the 1989 Education Reform (NI) Order, the Department of Education (DE) has a statutory duty to ‘encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education’. Pre-school is non-sectoral and accessible to all.
- There is evidence of a preference for pre-school education in schools with an integrated management type in the area, which must be balanced with the duty under Article 44 of the 1986 Order

### **Overall recommendation**

Based on the evidence and information available, the Early Years Team support the development proposal to increase provision to 52 part-time places from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. at Lough View IPS.

This recommendation is made on the basis that the proposal would help to address the projected shortfall in pre-school provision in the area, and would assist in meeting the Programme for Government commitment to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

**List of the providers in the two and five mile radii of Lough View IPS****2 mile radius****Nursery Schools**

1116158 Ravenscroft NS  
 1130027 Bethlehem NS  
 4116239 Knockbreda NS  
 4116240 Castlereagh NS

**Primary Schools with Nursery Units**

1010146 Euston Street PS  
 1010157 Rosetta PS  
 1010255 Elmgrove PS  
 1010273 Orangefield PS  
 1010304 Greenwood PS  
 4011683 Braniel PS  
 4013024 Cairnshill PS  
 4066579 Lough View IPS

**Voluntary and private pre-schools**

1AB0306 St Colmcille's PreSchool Playgroup  
 1AB0610 Flutterbies Playgroup  
 1BB0491 Forge Integrated Playgroup  
 1CA0410 Wee Care Day Nursery  
 1CA0633 Hillcrest Pre-School  
 4AA0156 Mount Oriel Playgroup  
 4AB0381 St Bernard's PreSchool Education Centre, Belfast  
 4BB0162 Cregagh PreSchool Playgroup  
 4CA0628 The Learning Tree

**Primary schools without nursery**

1010232 Harding Memorial PS  
 1010252 Strandtown PS  
 1036140 St Michael's PS, Belfast  
 1036246 St Joseph's PS, Holland Drive  
 1056535 Forge Integrated PS  
 1620023 Downey House School  
 4011606 Gilnahirk PS  
 4011632 Cregagh PS  
 4011657 Lisnasharragh PS  
 4011674 Knockbreda PS  
 4013043 Lead Hill PS  
 4031676 St Bernard's PS, Belfast

## **5 mile radius**

### **Nursery Schools**

1110001 Arellian NS  
1110002 McArthur NS  
1110003 Edenderry NS, Belfast  
1110025 Tudor Lodge NS  
1110036 New Lodge NS  
1110038 Shaftesbury NS  
1116011 Victoria NS  
1116074 Glendhu NS  
1116155 Hope NS  
1116157 Stanhope Street NS  
1116159 Oldpark NS  
1116160 Sandbrook NS  
1136106 St Martin's NS  
1136228 St Bernadette's NS  
1136230 Holy Family Nursery  
1136251 Our Lady's NS  
1136289 Holy Rosary NS  
1136314 St Teresa's NS  
1136315 St Michael's NS  
1136316 Holy Child NS  
1136340 St Peter's NS  
1136349 Matt Talbot NS  
1136353 St Maria Goretti NS  
1136360 Holy Cross NS  
1136603 The Cathedral NS  
4116216 King's Road NS

### **Primary Schools with Nursery Units**

1010266 Seaview PS, Belfast  
1010267 Nettlefield PS  
1010301 Taughmonagh PS  
1010324 Stranmillis PS  
1013018 Knocknagoney PS  
1016059 Blackmountain PS  
1016205 Fane Street PS  
1016242 Dundela Infants School  
1016499 Botanic PS  
1030868 St Anne's PS, Belfast  
1036075 St Bride's PS  
1036466 St Malachy's PS, Belfast

1036505 St Matthew's PS, Belfast  
 1036576 Holy Child PS, Belfast  
 1036624 St Paul's PS, Belfast  
 1036630 St Clare's PS, Belfast  
 1046571 Gaelscoil Na Bhfal  
 1046593 Bunscoil An Tsleibhe Dhuibh  
 1046596 Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain  
 1046641 Scoil An Droichid  
 1056483 Cliftonville Integrated PS  
 4011587 Dundonald PS  
 4013013 Belvoir Park PS  
 4016503 Brooklands PS  
 4031660 St Joseph's PS, Carryduff  
 4036642 St Ita's PS

### **Voluntary and private pre-schools**

1AA0423 Malone Nursery School  
 1AB0006 Holy Cross PreSchool Playgroup  
 1AB0025 Wishing Well Family Centre  
 1AB0427 174, Trust Playgroup  
 1AB0428 Naiscoil Mhic Rheachtain  
 1AB0477 Little Ducks  
 1BB0003 St John's PreSchool Playgroup  
 1BB0012 Our Lady's PreSchool Playgroup  
 1BB0015 Naiscoil na Mćna  
 1BB0018 Springhill Playgroup  
 1BB0024 Benmore Playgroup  
 1BB0476 Naiscoil an Lonn in  
 1BB0492 Sunshine Playgroup, Belfast  
 1BB0494 Belmont Playcare  
 1BB0507 Cranmore Integrated Primary School Playgroup  
 1BB0531 Springfield Primary School Playgroup  
 1CA0411 Early Learners Day Nursery  
 1CA0590 Little Hands, Little Feet Day Nursery  
 1CA0609 Kids @ BT9 Day Nursery  
 1CA0635 Bright Sparks, Belfast  
 1CA0636 Child's Play Day Nursery, Belfast  
 1CA0649 Kids First Daycare  
 1CA0650 Village Sure Start  
 1CA0651 Windsor Womens Centre  
 1CA0652 YMCA Daycare  
 4AA0526 Hundred Acre Wood Playgroup  
 4AB0151 Ballybeen Women's Centre PreSchool  
 4AB0513 Tiggers Palace Day Nursery  
 4BB0170 Carryduff PreSchool Playgroup  
 4BB0384 Toddlein Playgroup

- 4CA0611 Little Gems Day Nursery  
4CA0638 First Steps Day Nursery, Belfast

**Primary schools without nursery**

- 1010012 Belmont PS  
1010063 Currie PS  
1010205 Forth River PS  
1010221 Springfield PS  
1010307 Springhill PS  
1010323 Edenbrooke PS  
1010806 Finaghy PS  
1016060 Donegall Road PS  
1016207 Blythefield PS  
1016485 Glenwood PS  
1016498 Malvern PS  
1016647 Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain  
1016655 Victoria Park PS  
1030194 Holy Cross Boys' PS, Belfast  
1030326 Our Lady's PS, Belfast  
1030327 Holy Rosary PS  
1036132 St Therese of Lisieux PS  
1036388 St Mary's PS, Divis St  
1036471 Sacred Heart PS, Belfast  
1036565 St Kevin's PS  
1036566 Holy Family PS, Belfast  
1036589 St Teresa's PS, Belfast  
1036620 St Peter's PS, Belfast  
1036621 St Joseph's PS, Slate Street  
1036623 Holy Trinity PS, Belfast  
1036688 St John The Baptist PS, Belfast  
1036697 John Paul II PS  
1036698 St Patrick's PS, Churchill St  
1046671 Gaelscoil na Mona  
1046672 Gaelscoil an Lonnain  
1066580 Cranmore Integrated PS  
1620020 Campbell College Junior School  
1620022 Fullerton House Preparatory School  
1620027 Inchmarlo  
1620089 Strathearn Prep Dept  
1620264 Victoria College Preparatory School  
4011699 Moneyrea PS  
4013038 Tullycarnet PS  
4013044 Carryduff PS  
4620044 Sullivan Upper School, Prep Dept

**Wards which fall at least partially within a 5 mile radius of Lough View IPS**

Ardoyne  
Ballygowan  
Ballyhackamore  
Ballyhanwood  
Ballymacarrett  
Ballymacbrennan  
Ballyrainey  
Beechill  
Beechmount  
Belmont  
Botanic  
Bradshaw's Brae  
Cairnshill  
Carrowreagh  
Carryduff East  
Carryduff West  
Castleview  
Cherryvalley  
Cliftonville  
Clonard  
Comber North  
Comber West  
Craigavad  
Cregagh  
Crumlin(Belfast LGD)  
Cultra  
Drumbo  
Duncairn  
Enler  
Falls  
Falls Park  
Finaghy  
Fortwilliam  
Galwally  
Glen Road  
Glencairn  
Graham's Bridge  
Highfield  
Hillfoot  
Holywood Demesne  
Holywood Priory  
Island  
Knock  
Knockbracken  
Ladybrook  
Legoniel  
Lisbane  
Lisnasharragh

Lough View  
Lower Braniel  
Malone  
Minnowburn  
Moneyreagh  
Musgrave  
New Lodge  
Newtownbreda  
Orangefield  
Ravenhill  
Rosetta  
Shaftesbury  
Shankill  
Stormont  
Sydenham  
The Mount  
Upper Braniel  
Upper Malone  
Upper Springfield  
Water Works  
Whiterock  
Windsor  
Woodvale  
Wynchurch

## THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE RESPONSE TO A DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP)

### SECTION 1 RESPONSE FORM

PHASE	Primary / Pre-school
ELB	South Eastern
DP REFERENCE NUMBER (S)	No. 466
PROPOSAL (S)	Lough View Integrated Primary School proposes that the 26 part-time nursery unit should be modified to a 52 part-time nursery unit with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter
DATE OF RECEIPT OF DP (DI)	10 December 2015
DATE OF RETURN OF DP (DI)	
DATE OF RETURN to APPT Via ACI	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
ACI DIRECTORATE TITLE	Mr John Baird ACI
NAME OF DE CONTACT AND DATE AS STATED ON EMAIL	
Note about this response: (where relevant)	

## EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

Lough View Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit was last inspected in May 2011. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school was very good and in the nursery unit, the quality of education provided was outstanding.

## ETI KNOWLEDGE

Currently, the nursery unit is a single unit that caters for the educational needs of 26 children on a part-time pattern of attendance. The unit's pattern of attendance is in line with the Government's objective to provide a quality part-time nursery place for all those children whose parents wish them to have one.

The nursery unit is part of the wider pre-school provision in the Education Authority's South-Eastern area which includes eleven other settings.

The settings include:

<b>Name of Centre</b>	<b>Distance From Lough View IPS</b>	<b>Outcome at the last inspection</b>
St. Joseph's PS Nursery Unit – 3.7 miles		Outstanding
St Ita's PS Nursery Unit – 2.6		Outstanding
Carryduff Preschool Playgroup - 4.7 miles		Very Good
Mount Oriel Preschool Playgroup - 2.1 miles		Very Good
St Bernard's Preschool Playgroup – 2.1 miles		Satisfactory
Knockbreda Nursery School – 2.1 miles		Very Good
Castlereagh Nursery School – 1.3 miles		Very Good
Cregagh PS Preschool Playgroup – 2.5 miles		Very Good
Toddle In Playgroup Moneyrea – 3.6miles		Very Good
King's Road Nursery School - 3.1 miles		Good
The Learning Tree Preschool PG - 322 ft		New Group

## RATIONALE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ETI EVIDENCE

Currently, there are eleven other pre-school providers within a five- mile radius of Lough View Integrated Primary School.

The Department of Education have indicated that no other pre-school provider should be displaced as a result of the opening or extension of provision within an area. ETI's view would be that the opening of another unit in close proximity to the existing provision would have a negative impact on the enrolment numbers in some of these settings.

All pre-school provision, regardless of 'type' i.e. voluntary, maintained, controlled, integrated, Irish Medium etc. is 'community- based' and caters for children from all social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

To that end, the Department of Education has ensured that all new nursery units built since the beginning of the pre-school expansion programme are located a distance from the primary school for ease of access to all members of the local community.

A nursery unit is therefore not seen to be the 'feeder' to a particular primary school. It can be the case that children who attend a nursery unit may not attend the adjoining primary school.

#### **MATTERS ARISING OR FURTHER QUERIES BY ETI**

The proposal does not outline clearly the full range of provision available in the area.

The proposal does not state clearly if an audit has been carried out which indicates a short fall in the number of available places in the area which results in children not getting a pre-school place.

Although the school indicates high levels of applications over a two- year period, there is no evidence to support that the children who applied for a place in Lough View IPS did not get a pre-school place in one of the other local settings.

Parents often make multiple applications to a range of settings; whilst they may not get their first choice; there is no evidence to suggest they are not satisfied with the placement they get for their child.

It is commonly recognised that the morning pre-school session is favoured by parents; there is no guarantee that the afternoon session would be as acceptable to the parents; they may still choose a morning session in one of the other settings over the afternoon session in Lough View IPS and nursery unit.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The educational provision provided currently by the Nursery unit is outstanding and the leadership of the school have the capacity to ensure a high quality education if the two part-time sessions were to be authorised by DE.

However, the decision to provide, or not, a change to the structure of the nursery unit provision in Lough View Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit will have to balance a range of competing issues. They are :

1. the Government's commitment to expanding the choice for parents to access integrated education; and
2. the impact that the provision of a second session would have on the sustainability of other pre-school providers in the area.