



## **CCMS Communication Statement, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

### **Mary Queen of Peace Major Capital Build**

We are delighted to confirm that significant progress has been made towards the new build for the school. After the disappointment of being unable to progress the site by the Chapel, a new site on the edge of Martinstown has been identified and agreed with Trustees. The Department of Education has approved the Business Case for a new school on this site and this means a team can now be procured to work with the school to develop designs and take forward an application for planning permission.

To explain a little about how we arrived at this point it might be useful to provide some background.

The project encompassing the former St. Mary's PS, Cargan and Glenravel PS was included in the Department of Education's (DE) 2013 Capital Programme. A Feasibility Study, and subsequent Business Case, concluded that a new school building was indeed required and identified a site adjacent to the Chapel as the preferred option. An Integrated Construction Team (ICT) was then appointed and the planning of the new school was well advanced when Transport NI, who are a statutory planning consultee, stated that a footpath would be required linking the site to both villages. It was estimated that the cost of providing this footpath would be in the region of £2m and after several meetings it was confirmed that this could not be funded by either DE or the Department of Infrastructure.

In an effort to resolve these difficulties the local trustee explored other possible sources of funding for a footpath in conjunction with Mid and East Antrim Council, while the DE commissioned a new Feasibility Study to see if there might be alternative suitable sites. A number of sites were explored, including land close to the GAA club in Cargan, land at Dunaghy Wood on the edge of Martinstown and the existing Glenravel PS site. A Business Case was then completed over the summer, and having assessed and costed all these options, concluded that the Dunaghy Wood site was the preferred option. At much the same time as this work was completed Mid and East Antrim Council confirmed to the Department that funding for a footpath had not been secured.

Taking this, and the recommendation of the Business Case, into account Trustees have endorsed the recommendation to progress with the Dunaghy Wood site. Hence, DE can now commence procurement of an Integrated Construction Team (ICT), that will hopefully be in place by the New Year, to commence work on the detailed design of the school and secure planning permission. Delivery of this project, therefore, is subject to the land being acquired and to the successful outcome of a Planning Application.

A Project Board, with representation from the school and Trustees, with the support of CCMS, will now be established to oversee progress and will provide regular updates as the scheme progresses.

**Eve Bremner, Director of Planning & Development, CCMS**