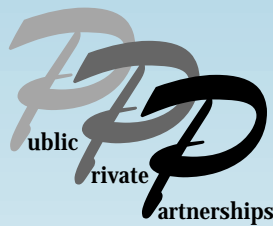




DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
MÄNNYSTRÍE O LEAR



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



***Working in
Northern Ireland's
Education Estate***

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Department of Education is responsible for the central administration of education (other than higher and further education) and related services. It is concerned with all aspects of pre-school, primary and secondary education, the youth service, teacher education and the promotion of community relations within and between schools. Its primary statutory duties are to promote the education of the young people of Northern Ireland and to secure the effective execution of its policy in relation to the provision of the education service, by Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and other bodies or persons with powers or duties under the legislation.
2. One of the Department's responsibilities is managing capital investment in the schools estate and it has been actively engaged in recent years in evaluating the usefulness of PPP to meet the capital needs of schools. The aim of this document is to explain the structure of the Education System in Northern Ireland, what the Department has done in the context of PPP and how it proposes to use PPP in future as a means of securing capital investment in the schools sector and to complement conventional public sector capital projects.
3. The sections are set out as follows:-
 1. An overview of the Administrative Structure.
 2. The Structure of the School System.
 3. Public Private Partnerships in Schools.
4. Further information may be obtained from:-

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1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- 1.2 The structure of the education system in Northern Ireland is complex with nine statutory bodies and a range of other voluntary bodies involved in the management and administration of the system. In addition to the Department of Education those directly involved or with an interest in PPP are as follows:-

Statutory Bodies

Education and Library Boards (ELBs)

Each Education and Library Board is the local authority for its area:-

Belfast Education and Library Board

North-Eastern Education and Library Board

South-Eastern Education and Library Board

Southern Education and Library Board

Western Education and Library Board

Education and Library Boards are wholly responsible for schools under their management. Their duties, amongst other things, include:

- ensuring that there are sufficient schools to meet educational needs in their areas;
- provision of milk and meals for pupils in their schools;
- provision of school meals service in maintained schools; and
- the employment of non-teaching staff in controlled and maintained schools.

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)

CCMS was established to exercise certain responsibilities in relation to all Catholic maintained schools which are under the auspices of the diocesan authorities and of religious orders. The main objective of the Council is to promote high standards

of education in schools for which it is responsible. Among its main functions are:-

- to advise the Department and ELBs on matters relating to Catholic maintained schools;
- to promote effective planning and management in the Catholic maintained sector;
- to provide advice and information to the Trustees, Boards of Governors, principals and staff of Catholic maintained schools.

Voluntary Bodies

Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)

NICIE is funded by the Department of Education to promote the development of Integrated Education.

Comhairle Na Gaelsolaíochta

This body performs a similar role to NICIE in relation to Irish-Medium Education.

Governing Bodies Association

This body represents the Northern Ireland voluntary grammar schools.

2. THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

2.1 The structure of the school system in Northern Ireland is uniquely complex. The main types of school management are:

a. Controlled

Controlled schools are managed by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) through Boards of Governors. Primary and secondary school Boards of Governors consist of representatives of transferors (mainly the Protestant Churches) along with representatives of parents, teachers and the ELBs. Nursery, grammar and special school Boards of Governors consist of representatives of the latter three categories.

Within the controlled sector there is also a small number of controlled integrated and Irish-Medium schools.

The ELBs recurrent and capital expenditure for schools and other Department of Education (DE) related services is 100% funded by DE.

b. Voluntary:
(Maintained)

These are schools owned by the Catholic Church through a system of trustees and managed by Boards of Governors on which the trustees are represented. Their recurrent expenditure is funded through the Education and Library Boards which also employs the non-teaching staff. Teaching staff are employed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and capital funding comes direct from the Department of Education.

There is also one Catholic maintained Irish-Medium school.

Voluntary schools vary in the rates of capital grant to which they are

entitled, depending on the management structures they have adopted. A majority is entitled to capital grants at 100%.

c. Voluntary:
(Non-Maintained)

Mainly voluntary grammar schools managed by Boards of Governors which consist of persons appointed as provided in each school's scheme of management along with representatives of parents and teachers and, in most cases, members appointed by the Department or the ELBs.

d. Grant-Maintained
Integrated (GMI)
Schools

In recent years a number of grant-maintained integrated schools have been established at primary level and post-primary levels and are under the management of a Board of Governors.

- 2.2 These Voluntary Grammar Schools, Irish-Medium and Controlled Integrated Schools are funded directly by the Department but, under the 1998 Education (Northern Ireland) Order, there is legislative provision for this responsibility to pass to the ELBs in due course.
- 2.3 Secondary education retains largely a selective system with pupils going to grammar schools or secondary intermediate schools according to academic ability. The system also includes both single-sex and co-educational schools.
- 2.4 The practical operation of all schools has increasingly become a matter for Boards of Governors. They are responsible for the delivery of the curriculum, admission of pupils, and in the case of schools with delegated budgets, for the management of their own financial affairs including staffing matters.
- 2.5 The Landlord/Tenant relationships are complex and are dependant on the management type and whether the expenditure relates to maintenance or capital works. The table at Appendix B summarises the position.

3. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN SCHOOLS

Schools Estate

- 3.1 The present schools estate (nursery, primary and secondary) comprises just over 1,200 schools and is valued at approximately £2.5 billion. There is currently a backlog in major capital works valued at approximately £500 million. In addition, there is an estimated backlog in buildings' maintenance work of some £120 million. It is clear that with capital and maintenance expenditure at current levels, it would take very many years before this backlog could be eliminated. The Department is therefore using PPP to complement conventional procurement and thus extend the "buying power" of the resources available.

Pathfinder Projects

- 3.2 In 1996, the Department initiated six Pathfinder projects to procure new educational facilities. The projects were selected on the basis that they were high on the Department's planning list and were of sufficient capital size to attract private sector interest. Four of the projects involved the provision of new facilities in the secondary school sector while two involved the further education sector and are now the responsibility of the Department for Employment and Learning.
- 3.3 The first project to reach financial close was in respect of the provision of new facilities for Drumglass High School in Dungannon. The contract was signed in June 1999 and the new school opened in September 2000. Contracts have been signed for the remaining Pathfinder projects - St Genevieve's High School, Wellington College and Balmoral High School, all in Belfast. These schools are currently under construction and are due to open early in 2002.

Future Projects

- 3.4 On 1 March 2001, and following on from detailed consultation with school authorities and other interested parties, the Minister for Education, Martin McGuinness, announced the New Starts Capital Programme which, for the first time, included a programme of PPP projects. These address the capital investment needs of 8 secondary schools grouped under three separate school authorities and with a total capital

value in excess of £70 million. These projects are set out in Appendix A.

- 3.5 These projects are all at pre-procurement stage with the education authorities progressing with the establishment of their Project Boards and commencing work on the scope of their projects.
- 3.6 A consultancy framework has been established to provide education authorities with guidance and skills which are not readily available within the public sector.

Appendix A

PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS PROGRAMME

Contracting Authority	Schools	Details of Proposed Public Sector Solution	Estimated Capital Cost £m
Trustees of Derry Diocese	St Colman's High School, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, and Convent Grammar School, Strabane	New school for 1,950 pupils to provide for rationalisation of these three schools.	34
	St Cecilia's College, Londonderry	Extend and refurbish (900 pupils).	
	St Mary's College, Londonderry	Extension to replace temporary accommodation (900 pupils).	
North-Eastern Education and Library Board	Coleraine Boys' and Girls' Secondary Schools	New school to provide for the amalgamation of the former Coleraine Boys' and Girls' Secondary Schools in a single co-educational 11-16 school (800 pupils).	15
	Masserene College, Antrim	Extend and refurbish to replace sub-standard accommodation (480 pupils).	
	Parkhall High School	Extend and refurbish (530 pupils).	
South-Eastern Education and Library Board	Bangor Academy and Sixth-Form College	New school following the amalgamation of the former Bangor and Gransha High Schools (1,650 pupils)	21
	Comber High School	New school (450 pupils)	

Appendix B

LANDLORD/TENANT RELATIONSHIPS

Management Type	Capital	Maintenance
Controlled Schools (include School Meals Accommodation provision at Maintained Schools)	Board	Board
Maintained Schools	DE	Board
Voluntary Grammar Schools	DE	School Board of Governors/Trustees Local Management of Schools (LMS)
Grant-Maintained Integrated Schools	DE	School Board of Governors/Trustees (LMS)