



Dear Parent,

You may well be aware we very recently had three interlinked development proposals published and they are now out for public consultation. The Education Minister will make a decision on them in the New Year.

The Proposals are as follows:

Development Proposal No 463 - The Education Authority proposes to relocate Forge Integrated Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

(The Education Authority has identified the former Knockbreda High School site as the preferred option for re-location; this is subject to the completion of all relevant statutory approvals, including an Economic Appraisal, and Community Planning.)

Development Proposal No 464 - Subject to the approval of DP 463, the Education Authority proposes to establish a 52 place part-time Nursery Unit at Forge Integrated Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Development Proposal No 465 - Subject to the approval of DP 463, the Education Authority proposes to establish an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Centre at Key Stage 1 and a General Learning Support Centre (LSC) at Key Stage 2 at Forge Integrated Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Our school's admissions and enrolment numbers have already been set at two class entry level - this was approved by the Education Minister early in 2015. These proposals are about providing the best facility for us into the long term.

We have, through these proposals, an opportunity to secure good quality facilities and accommodation to sustain our high standards of integrated education into the long term. We have already been announced by DE as one of a small number of schools to get new buildings, supported by funding available through the Fresh Start Agreement. Securing ministerial approval to make that happen is the next important step along the way in this process.

We very much want to emphasise the positive opportunity that development proposals 463, 464 & 465 afford, to:

- Make best use of available funding and resources to improve the educational infrastructure in our community
- Meet the Department of Education's duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education.
- Provide adequate facilities for the children attending Forge IPS and enable the school to maintain and improve upon the proven track record for providing good quality education for all children together so that they, in turn, can carry on the good work of making Belfast a better, brighter city.

If you can find a few minutes to email the Area Planning Team at the Department of Education dps@deni.gov.uk with a short supporting message (feel free to cut and paste some of the bullet points in green above if it helps) it will help to get our positive message across.

Alternatively you can write to: Area Planning and Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, BT19 7PR.

Yours Sincerely,

Neville Watson

Principal