



Dr Jessica Bates
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September 2018

Dear Parent

Re: Community Conversation with Parents: Primary School Provision in South Belfast (Castlereagh / Carryduff areas)

A research team from the School of Education at Ulster University is undertaking an independent Community Conversation in October 2018 to gather the views of parents affected or potentially affected by the issue of over-subscribed primary schools in the South Belfast (Castlereagh / Carryduff areas) in order to report on possible short and longer-term solutions.

In order to do this, we are running a series of one-hour events for parents to come and share their views. These will take place from Friday 19th October to Friday 26th October 2018.

These meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Castlereagh Civic Centre, 1 Bradford Court, Belfast, BT8 6RB
- Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Rd, Carryduff BT8 8BW
- Mencap Centre, School Road, Castlereagh BT8 7US

Please see: <https://southbelfastcommunityconversation.eventbrite.com> for the full list of dates, times and venues. Parents can also pre-book a place at one of the meetings on this web page. The attached sheet also lists the details.

We are particularly keen to hear from parents who are considering sending their child/ren to:

Forge Integrated Primary School, St Bernard's Primary School, Lough View Integrated Primary and Nursery School, Cairnshill Primary School, St Ita's Primary School, and St Joseph's Primary School.

Parents can also participate by filling in the online survey (this will be live from 15 October to 9 November 2018) at:

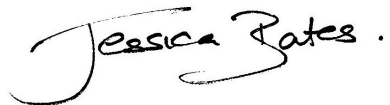
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SouthBelfastCommunityConversation>

However, other parents are also very welcome to participate in either the meetings and/or by completing the online survey.

This project is funded by the Integrated Education Fund and has the support of the Education Authority and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools who will examine the findings in the context of the area-based plans for school provision in this area. However it is completely independent of these organisations and not part of the statutory area-based planning process for schools.

If you are a parent affected or potentially affected by lack of availability of school places in this part of South Belfast we hope you will be able to talk to us and/or complete the online survey. Please help us by spreading the word to others who you think would also be interested. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts about sustainable school provision and how to achieve the number of school places that are needed. A report will be completed on the findings from the Community Conversation and this will be sent to the commissioning body, which is the Integrated Education Fund, and shared with the Education Authority, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, and other educational support bodies.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Bates." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a trailing dot at the end.

Primary school provision in the Castlereagh / Carryduff area

A research team from Ulster University School of Education is undertaking an **independent Community Conversation in October 2018** to determine the views of parents with regard to primary school provision in the South Belfast area, with a particular focus on gathering **parent views on the issue of over-subscription in a number of schools**.

We want to hear from as many parents as possible. We will be running a number of one-hour meetings for parents to come and share their views.

Parents can participate by attending one of the following meetings

(more information is available at:

<https://southbelfastcommunityconversation.eventbrite.com>):

Friday 19th October

10.30-11.30 Castlereagh Civic Centre, Bradford Court (Function room)

12.00-13.00 Castlereagh Civic Centre, Bradford Court (Function room)

Monday 22nd October

10.30-11.30 Castlereagh Civic Centre, Bradford Court (Function room)

12.00-13.00 Castlereagh Civic Centre, Bradford Court (Function room)

13.30-14.30 Castlereagh Civic Centre, Bradford Court (Function room)

Wednesday 24th October

18.00-19.00 Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Road, Carryduff (The Bracken room)

19.30-20.00 Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Road, Carryduff (The Bracken room)

Thursday 25th October

18.00-19.00 Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Road, Carryduff (The Bracken room)

19.30-20.00 Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Road, Carryduff (The Bracken room)

Friday 26th October

10.30-11.30 Mencap Centre, School Road, Newtownbreda (Conference room)

12.00-13.00 Mencap Centre, School Road, Newtownbreda (Conference room)

13.30-14.30 Mencap Centre, School Road, Newtownbreda (Conference room)

Parents can also participate by filling in the online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SouthBelfastCommunityConversation>

The survey will be open from 15 October to 9 November.

Contact:

Dr Jessica Bates, School of Education, Ulster University, tel. 028 70124470, email j.bates@ulster.ac.uk.

The project is funded by the Integrated Education Fund and has the support of the Education Authority and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools who will examine the findings in the context of their area-based plans for school provision in these areas. It is important to stress however that the project is being undertaken by researchers at the School of Education, Ulster University and is completely independent from these organisations.

