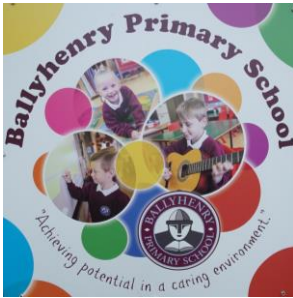




Transformation to Controlled Integrated Status

What does it mean for us?

Building on what's Best at Ballyhenry



- Nurturing, caring and inclusive ethos.
- Focus on the happiness and well-being of all children.
- Supporting pupils to achieve their full potential.
- Strong pastoral reputation.
- Broad, balanced and dynamic curriculum for all.
- Positive and supportive relationship with carers.
- School at the heart of its community.
- Strong links the local community, other schools and beyond.
- Wide range of opportunities for all pupils.
- Forward thinking.

Why Transform?

Integrated Education brings great benefits and opportunities:

- **for pupils** who can learn with and from young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. It will also provide a clear pathway for pupils who wish to transfer to our local Integrated Post-Primary Schools.
- **for parents** who can have a greater involvement in school life (Integrated schools have increased parent places on the Board of Governors).
- **for schools** who can serve their whole community.
- **for society** which is given a new generation who learn to understand and celebrate difference, inclusivity, and diversity.

My school is already inclusive, so why do we need to transform?

Ballyhenry is an inclusive school. We are delighted to have a diverse school population reflecting pupils from a range of backgrounds, beliefs and abilities. Integration will enable us to build on our inclusive ethos and more actively engage with the diversities we have in school. Integrated schools receive the same funding as other schools, though the Department of Education has undertaken to provide some financial assistance to transforming schools to help them during the first years of the process. They may also be eligible for grants from the Integrated Education Fund (IEF).

Why do the Governors think this is important?

Ballyhenry PS currently provides a broad and balanced curriculum that is inclusive and meets the needs of the wide range of pupils that attend the school. The Board of Governors remain focused on continuous school improvement and see transformation as an opportunity to build on our good practice and be intentional when celebrating inclusivity and diversity within our school. It is about building on our caring and respectful ethos rather than taking anything away.

What is the purpose of Integrated Education?

The Integrated Act (2022) states that the purpose of Integrated Education is:

- To deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;
- To promote awareness and appreciations of human rights;
- To promote equality of opportunity;
- To promote good relations; and
- To promote respect for identity, diversity, and community cohesion.

'The Integrated school intentionally supports, protects and advances an ethos of diversity, respect and understanding'

How does a school transform to Integrated status?

Transformation is a legal process in which a non-Integrated school becomes Integrated. The Board of Governors passed a resolution in October 2023 to ballot the parents of children at the school to find out whether or not you want the school to proceed with this proposal.



Who gets to vote?

The ballot is organised by an independent organisation known as **Civica**. They will run a confidential **postal** ballot. Every adult registered as having parental responsibility of a child at the school is entitled to vote. This is the opportunity for parents to vote on whether or not they want the school to transform.

What is a successful ballot?

For the result to be considered, at least 50 percent of parents must return the ballot paper. If a simple majority (50% + 1) of those who have voted are in favour of transformation, then a Development Proposal for transformation must be submitted to the Department of Education (DE) through the Education Authority (EA).

How long does it take to transform?

Every school moves forward through the stages of transformation at their own pace. It can take from 1 to 3 years to transform. The Education Minister, or in the absence of a Minister, the Permanent Secretary, will make the final decision regarding the transformation proposal. If it is approved, the school will work alongside the Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Education Authority (EA) Sectoral Support to submit the proposal. If this happens, our school will aim to transform to controlled Integrated status from **1st September 2025**. **This would be in time for the school's 50th Anniversary.**

If the vote is 'No', the school retains its original status.

How will the management of the school change if the vote is to transform?

The Board of Governors will increase in size to include additional Parent, EA and Teacher governors, and will have an even number of transferor and trustee representatives. We will still be under the management of the Education Authority, and power of the Board of Governors will remain the same.

If you have any questions about the process and impact of transformation, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!

- Please consider the proposal.
- Return your postal vote between 8th - 24th November 2023
- Your ballot must be posted, and the postage is pre-paid.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Together we can build on the Ballyhenry Way as we foster our nurturing, respectful and environment through which every child reaches their full potential.