

FROM THE MINISTER/ÓN AIRE



AN ROINN

**Oideachais**

Department of  
**Education**

MÁINNSTRÍE O  
**Lear**

[www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

Tel: 9127 9306

Fax: 9127 9779

Dialling codes: 028 from north of Ireland  
048 from south of Ireland

SUB 446/2013

Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA  
South Belfast Constituency Office  
120A Ormeau Road  
BELFAST  
BT7 2EB

*25<sup>th</sup>*  
May 2013

*Alasduit a chara*

**ADJOURNMENT DEBATE - OVERSUBSCRIPTION OF PRIMARY PLACES IN SOUTH BELFAST**

I am writing to advise you that in the Adjournment Debate on 7 May 2013 the figures I quoted for the number of places available within 3 to 4 miles of St Ita's Primary School, together with the number of unfilled places were unfortunately incorrect.

The correct figures are 2,608 places currently provided in the area with 280 unfilled places.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Assembly Library. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**JOHN G. DOWD MLA**  
Minister for Education



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

An Roinn Oideachais, Teach Ráth Giall, 43 Bóthar Bhaile Aodha, Ráth Giall, Beannchar, Co an Dúin BT19 7PR

Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Rathgill, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR

Máinnstríe o Lear, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Rathgill, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR

Extract from Hansard 7 May 2013

Clearly, an issue has arisen this year regarding primary-school placement in the area around the demand for places at St Ita's. The primary school draft area plans said that CCMS was making a development proposal, which it did in February 2012. I acted positively to that development proposal and approved it, and that has helped to alleviate some of the pressures in the area. I am not saying that any of the schools in the immediate vicinity of St Ita's are automatically suitable for the children who wish to attend St Ita's, but I will give Members an idea of the provision in that wider area. Within three to four miles of St Ita's, there are five Catholic maintained primary schools. **There is provision for 1,726 pupils at those schools, and there are 181 empty places.** If I were to increase and continue to increase primary school provision in St Ita's, I would have to assure myself that other schools would not unduly suffer. We have to ensure that St Joseph's and St Bernard's, for instance, remain viable going into the future. Beyond that, within a three-to-four-mile radius, we have to ensure that St Michael's, Holy Rosary and St Bride's schools remain viable going onto the future. Therefore, it is not as simple as an equation of saying that we will increase provision at the school that is in front of me now and forget about everything else. We have to take into account the entire provision in the area.

Incorrect Figures

## Alternative Provision

Ref No	Primary School	Distance in miles	Enrolment October 2012	Physical Capacity	Unfilled Places
403-1660	St Joseph's	2.5	392	436	44
403-1676	St Bernard's	3.3	406	446	40
			<b>798</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>BELB</b>	<b>3 - 4 miles</b>				
103-6140	St Michael's	3.5	416	409	0
103-0327	Holy Rosary	3.6	312	508	196
103-6075	St Bride's	3.8	817	809	0
			<b>1545</b>	<b>1726</b>	<b>181</b>
	<b>4.1 - 5 miles</b>				
103-6466	St Malachy's	4.6	263	350	87
103-0868	St Anne's	4.9	811	860	49
103-6688	St John the Baptist	5.0	425	425	0
			<b>1499</b>	<b>1635</b>	<b>126</b>
	<b>5.1 - 6 miles</b>				
103-6505	St Matthew's	5.3	214	388	174
103-6565	St Kevin's	5.6	496	610	114
103-6246	St Joseph's	5.7	310	423	113
103-6621	St Joseph's	5.9	192	340	148
			<b>1212</b>	<b>1761</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>5054</b>	<b>6004</b>	

Distance as per multi-map Route Finder

Appendix C

Correct Figures

Alternative Primary Provision

Ref No	Primary School	Distance in miles	Enrolment October 2012	Physical Capacity	Unfilled Places
	<b>2.1 - 3 miles</b>				
403-1660	St Joseph's	2.5	392	436	44
<b>Total</b>			<b>392</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>3.1 - 4 miles</b>				
403-1676	St Bernard's	3.3	406	446	40
103-6140	St Michael's	3.5	416	409	-
103-0327	Holy Rosary	3.6	312	508	196
103-6075	St Bride's	3.8	817	809	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>1951</b>	<b>2172</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Cumulative Total</b>			<b>2343</b>	<b>2608</b>	<b>280</b>
	<b>4.1 - 5 miles</b>				
103-6466	St Malachy's	4.6	263	350	87
103-0868	St Anne's	4.9	811	860	49
103-6688	St John the Baptist	5.0	425	415	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>1499</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Cumulative Total</b>			<b>3842</b>	<b>4233</b>	<b>416</b>
	<b>5.1 - 6 miles</b>				
103-6505	St Matthew's	5.3	214	388	174
103-6565	St Kevin's	5.6	496	610	114
103-6246	St Joseph's	5.7	310	423	113
103-6621	St Joseph's	5.9	192	340	148
<b>Total</b>			<b>1212</b>	<b>1761</b>	<b>549</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>5054</b>	<b>5994</b>	<b>965</b>