



October 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

Greystones's population has grown a lot in recent years, leading to a high demand for school places. This letter is to inform you about the steps being taken to help with first year student enrolments in the three post-primary schools for the 2025/26 school year.

### **What the Department of Education is doing**

The three post-primary schools in Greystones are working well together on admissions, and the Department of Education is helping them ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible. One important goal for us all, is to identify when parents accept offers from more than one school early in the process. By doing this, we hope to be able to provide greater clarity on school places sooner for the 2025/26 school year. The Department is also working with schools to ensure enough places for all students now and in the future, including those with special educational needs.

### **Enough school places available**

When we look at the enrolments in schools, there are enough first year places in the town for all children finishing sixth class. However, it is important to note that you might not get a place at your first-choice school.

If getting a first year place in Greystones is important to you, **you must apply to all schools in the town before their application deadline.** The three schools in Greystones are:

- Greystones Community College
- St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School
- Temple Carrig School



## **How you can help the admission process**

Parents/guardians can take a few steps to help things run more smoothly:

1. If you accept a place at your preferred school but are still on waiting lists for other schools, please tell those schools to remove your application.
  2. If you receive more than one school place offer, and you've already accepted one at your first-choice school, do not accept further offers.
- This will free up spaces for other children who are still waiting for a place.

## **School building projects in Greystones**

Since 2014, 1,000 extra post-primary school places have been created in Greystones. The new 1,000-pupil building for Greystones Community College is being built and should be finished by the end of 2025. Even though it won't be ready at the very start of the school year, Greystones Community College will still be able to welcome first year students in 2025. The Department is working with the school and Kildare and Wicklow ETB, as school patron, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

The Department is also planning to build an extension at Temple Carrig School.

## **Students with special educational needs**

In the last five years, 11 new special schools and almost 1,700 new special classes have been set up nationwide. However, there is still a growing need for more special classes and school places. The Department of Education is working with schools to plan for more places for 2025/26 and beyond. In Greystones, St. David's Holy Faith Secondary School will provide special class places, and there will be more capacity in the new Greystones Community College building and in Temple Carrig School's extension when it is built.



## **Thank you**

Thank you for helping to ensure the enrolment process for first year places goes smoothly for 2025/26. By working together, schools, parents, and the Department can help ensure that all children in the Greystones area get a school place as soon as possible.

**Yours sincerely,**

Hubert Loftus

Head of the Planning and Building Unit, Department of Education