



Wednesday 19 June

Minister for Education and Skills Announces Details of Remediation Programme for 22 Western Building Systems Schools

The Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh T.D. has today (19 June) announced that a structural remediation programme for 22 schools constructed by WBS will commence on Thursday 20th June 2019.

Over the course of the last fortnight information sessions have been held for principals and management of the 22 schools and their patrons.

Each school has been given a brief on the detail of the permanent remediation works to be carried out in their school.

Minister McHugh said: “The timetabling of works and arrangements for contractors to be on site have been designed to ensure all schools can re-open as normal at the end of the summer holidays.”

Structural remediation will commence in 14 schools initially, as and when they close for the summer holidays.

This work will roll over to the remaining eight schools. In the event that some works in some schools are not completed by the end of August, contractors will carry out the remaining work outside of school hours to prevent disruption.

The Department’s planned fire safety remediation work will continue in all 22 schools involved in alignment with the structural remediation programme.

Minister McHugh said: “Safety remains our number one priority. We targeted the summer holidays to get as much of the structural work done as we can, so that the precautionary measures can be removed from the schools as soon as the permanent works are completed.”

The Minister added: “I am fully aware of the difficulties that this issue has caused for principals, teachers, parents and pupils as they go about their day to day business.

“I am glad that we have now reached the stage where we can implement works that will enable the schools to return to a normal school environment as quickly as possible.

“I want to sincerely thank all the schools’ patrons, the boards of management, principals and entire school communities as we work our way through this complex issue.”

The structural remediation work will be carried out by John Sisk & Son and overseen by Arup Engineers.

The delivery of the programme by the Department of Education and Skills is being supported by the National Development Finance Agency.

The schedule has been created with the aim of having as much of the works as possible completed in the 22 schools by the end of 2019.

Alongside the first tranche of remediation works, the Department is also carrying out detailed structural investigations of another 17 schools built by WBS but which did not require initial precautionary measures. These investigations will take place during the summer in parallel with the permanent remediation works at the other 22 schools. This is a follow-on from the initial assessments in those schools carried out in October/November 2018.

A separate approach has been taken to address the structural issues in Ardgillan Community College, Balbriggan, Dublin, part of which remains closed. The Department is continuing to work with the engineers to arrive at an appropriate solution and the school's patron is being advised of progress. Any interim accommodation needs at the school will be met.

The Minister also said that he was commissioning an independent review of current practices in the Design and Build (D&B) model for the delivery of school buildings (or other similar public buildings) internationally and that he would be announcing the organisation to carry out this work shortly.

"This approach will be a precursor to a broader review of the Department's D&B programme," the Minister said.

"I have always made it clear that I am committed to a full review of the Department's D&B programme. The broader review will take place when the legal process has been completed."

ENDS

Details of Schools Remediation Programme 2019

	Structural works commencing summer holiday period		Fire safety works commencing summer holiday period
	Fire safety works commencing quarter 4		Structural works commencing quarter 4
	14 Schools		8 Schools
Location	School	Location	School
Dublin	Tyrrelstown ETNS	Kildare	Athy Model School
Dublin	St. Luke's NS	Kildare	Gaelscoil Átha Í

Kildare	GS Eiscir Riada	Cork	Scoil Phadraig Naofa
Cork	Cara Special School	Dublin	Griffen Valley ETNS
Meath	De Lacy College	Dublin	Lucan East ETNS
Meath	Gaelscoil na Mí	Cork	GS Mhicíl Uí Choileáin
Meath	Ashbourne ETNS	Dublin	Scoil Chaitlín Maude
Kildare	Scoil Phadraig Naofa	Dublin	Castlemills Education Centre
Laois	GS Phortlaoise		
Laois	Portlaoise ETNS		
Laois	Portarlinton Convent NS		
Cork	Macroom BNS		
Meath	St. Paul's NS		
Cork	Carrigaline ETNS		

Note to Editors:

1. Background

A programme of initial structural assessments was carried out in October and November 2018 at 42 schools constructed by Western Building Systems.

The initial assessments resulted in precautionary measures being put in place at 22 schools, the partial closure of one school building with the remaining 19 schools cleared to open in full without any precautionary measures as an interim response.

2. Second Phase of Detailed Investigations (January to May 2019)

The structural investigations carried out in October/November 2018 were based on sample opening up works only. Detailed structural investigation were required to inform the full nature and extent of the issues with individual buildings and to design any permanent remediation works necessary from the information gathered. These detailed investigations were carried out on the 22 schools with precautionary measures in place and at Ardgillan Community College between January and May 2019.

John Sisk & Son was appointed as the contractor to conduct the opening-up and testing works to facilitate the investigations. Ove Arup and Partners Ireland Limited (t/a Arup) were appointed to carry out the investigations and to design the permanent engineering solutions as required for each individual school.

These detailed investigations (23 in total), took place outside of school opening times to minimise disruption. They were completed recently (over the period from January to May), allowing the engineering experts to design permanent remediation works for affected schools.

3. Information Sessions (June 2019)

A series of individual information sessions has been provided for school patrons and management in the Department of Education and Skills over the last two weeks.

These briefings gave an outline of the schedule of works and the nature of the remediation at an individual school level and were part of the process of keeping schools up to date in response to concerns about structural issues and providing them with as much clear information from the outset.

4. Commencement of Structural Remediation Work – 22 Schools

The structural remediation work programme for the 22 schools will commence at the start of the school holiday period.

Structural remediation work will begin in 14 of the schools at the start of their summer holiday period. For the remaining 8 schools, certain fire remediation works will commence at the start of their summer holiday period with structural remediation work in those schools planned to commence as soon as possible thereafter but no later than the October mid-term break.

The work programme seeks to maximise the summer school holiday period such that the majority of the structural remediation work is completed during that time. The intention is to have as much of this work as possible completed in all 22 schools by the end of 2019. The Department's planned Fire Safety Remediation programme will run in alignment with the structural remediation work.

All schools will re-open as normal at the end of the school holiday period. If the structural remediation work is completed by that time for any given school, the precautionary measures will be removed. If further works are required to complete the structural remediation for any given school, this will take place outside of school hours after the summer holidays to minimise the impact on schools.

John Sisk & Son and Ove Arup and Partners Ireland Limited (t/a Arup) were also appointed to carry out this permanent remediation work. The Department is being supported in the overall delivery of the structural remediation programme by the NDFA.

5. Ardgillian Community College

A specific plan for the remediation of the part of the school building in Ardgillian Community College that is closed is being developed. It is expected that work on determining the appropriate remediation approach will be completed by the end of September 2019. An update will be provided to the school management and patron on the expected timeline and next steps for the remediation of that school building at that time.

6. Detailed investigations for remaining schools

The third phase of the school remediation programme is detailed investigations in the 17 schools, also built by WBS, but which did not require initial precautionary measures.

These investigations are a follow up to the initial assessments (which were based on sample opening up works) carried out in October/November 2018, for the purpose of determining whether or not longer term remediation works are required in those schools. The investigations are scheduled to take place in the summer to minimise the impact on schools.

All 17 schools will re-open as normal at the end of the school holiday period. If any interim works are required to enable this, these will be carried out over the summer months.

7. Legal process

The Department continues to liaise with the Chief State Solicitor's Office and the Attorney General's Office on the on-going legal process.

8. Independent Review of D&B Construction Model for School Buildings Internationally

The Minister has commissioned an independent review of current use and practices in the Design and Build Procurement/Construction Model for the delivery of school buildings (or other similar public buildings) internationally. The procurement process for the organisation to carry out this work is currently underway. The Minister will announce the outcome of that process when completed. The intention is that the organisation's report will be published in Quarter 4 this year.

The nature of this element of the independent review is designed to ensure that it does not prejudice the on-going legal process. Following advice from the Attorney General Office, the planned independent review of the Department's Design & Build Programme will not now commence until the legal process has concluded. That being said, the Independent Review of D&B Construction Model for School Buildings Internationally will be an important precursor for (and input into) the wider independent review once commenced.

9. Outcome of initial (sample opening up) investigations in carried out October/November 2018

Details of 19 schools cleared to open in full without any internal or external intervention

County	School Name	Roll No
Dublin	Luttrellstown Community College	76130P
Dublin	Gaelscoil Shliabh Rua, Dublin 18	20425U
Dublin	Broombridge Educate Together National School	20453C
Dublin	Scoil Choilm Community National School, Porterstown	20241K
Dublin	Gaelscoil na Giúise, Firhouse	20412L

Meath	Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg, Dunboyne	20082Q
Laois	Maryborough National School, Portlaoise	14838N
Dublin	Scoil Aoife Community National School, Citywest	20422O
Donegal	Letterkenny Educate Together National School	20235P
Dublin	Firhouse Educate Together National School	20411J
Wexford	St. Joseph's Primary School, Gorey	18280I
Dublin	Lucan Community National School, Balgaddy Rd	20426W
Wicklow	Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath	20301C
Dublin	Rush and Lusk Educate Together National School	20176C
*Dublin	St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, Belmayne	20304I
*Dublin	Belmayne Educate Together National School	20308Q
Galway	Galway Educate Together National School	20000L
Kildare	Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha	20428D
Westmeath	Mullingar Educate Together National School	20188J

***Completed move to new school buildings**

19 schools enabled to open in full following external precautionary measures

County	School Name	Roll No
Dublin	Scoil Chaitlín Maude, Tallaght	19872P
Dublin	Castlemills Education Centre, Balbriggan	n/a
Meath	St Paul's National School, Ratoath	20215J

Kildare	Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Athy	16705E
Kildare	Athy Model School (GP Hall Extension only)	06209J
Kildare	Gaelscoil Átha Í (GP Hall Extension only)	20192A
Dublin	Lucan East Educate Together National School	20303G
Laois	Convent National School, Portarlinton	15556I
Cork	Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Rochestown	20335T
Laois	Gaelscoil Phortlaoise	20081O
Laois	Portlaoise Educate Together National School	20347D
Meath	Coláiste De Lacy, Ashbourne	76196W
Meath	Gaelscoil na Mí, Ashbourne	20382F
Meath	Ashbourne Educate Together National School	20396Q
Dublin	Griffreen Valley Educate Together National school (2003 Phase only)	20166W
Cork	Gaelscoil Mhichíl Uí Choileáin, Clonakilty	20006A
Cork	Cara Junior (Special) School - required at one part of building only	20354A
Cork	Carrigaline Educate Together National School	20310D
Cork	St Colman's Boys National School, Macroom	15597W
3 schools which were enabled to open following the implementation of internal and external precautionary measures		
County	School Name	Roll No
Dublin	Tyrrelstown Educate Together National School	20201V

Dublin	St Luke's National School, Tyrrelstown	16675V
Dublin	Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada, Lucan	20223I
1 school building part closed		
Dublin	Ardgillan Community College (Phase 1 only)	76129H