

Feedback from Questionnaire

- 150 sent out
- 40 returned
- Significant majority were positive to amalgamation
- 28 preferred immediate i.e. 2010 change while 12 preferred change in circa 2012

Parents Views of the Benefits of Amalgamation

- Bigger critical mass of students - the development of a 'campus'
- Improved social skills and integration
- Improved life skills, independence and self esteem
- Lasting relationships within the Deaf community
- Wider choice of subjects
- Improved current funding / survival of Deaf schools
- Better use of existing resources
- Wider group of parents to meet and liaise with
- More competition from within

Parents Concerns with Amalgamation

- Behaviour issues more difficult to deal with
- Disruption to learning due to change of environment
- Distraction between the genders especially in post primary
- Increase in class sizes
- Potential loss of teachers and SNA's
- Might lose teachers with ISL
- Shy students could have self esteem undermined
- Counselling may be required for some students
- Diminution of schools history and contribution to community

Issues raised at meetings:

- Need for more consultation with parents i.e. last to be consulted with.
- Meetings in future should be held with both sets of parents together.
- Students need to be consulted with.
- Important bilingualism is the method of communication and teachers are supported in attaining ISL qualifications.
- The pros and cons of the Deaf Village concept were discussed.
- Which buildings would be used was discussed but there is no decision on this as of yet, except that the Department of Education and Science are unlikely to fund a new building.
- The need for a new speech therapist was emphasized.
- The need to work at combining the cultures of both schools which are different was stressed.
- It was confirmed that in any amalgamation the residences would be kept separate.

Next Steps

- Eoin O'Mahony to begin his work December 2008
- 1st meeting of the Amalgamation Review Committee December 2008
- Recommendations in March/April 2009 from Amalgamation Review Committee and Eoin O'Mahony to CIDP Board
- CIDP Board decision and recommendation to Archbishop May 2009
- Negotiations with Unions, Staff, Principals, CIDP and Department of Education and Science regarding the implementation of the outcomes of the recommendations September – December 2009
- Consultation with parents and students spring 09 and winter 09