



29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Re: Permanent Accommodation Delays**

Dear Parent, Guardian, Carer

We hope that this letter finds you all well. We are writing to update you on our permanent accommodation and seek your help in contacting local elected representatives to outline the need for the construction process to commence as soon as possible.

Recently, we were contacted by our patron, Educate Together to inform us that the tenders for our school have been opened, are being processed and that we should expect a decision mid 2024 with construction to commence very shortly after the contractor has been announced.

As you know, we were previously informed that we could expect a decision at the latest by the end of Quarter 1 2024 and construction to commence shortly thereafter. We are hugely frustrated with yet another delay and need your help.

We seek your support in contacting each of our local elected representatives (details below) to highlight our concerns and ensure that there are no further delays. Please see below proposed text.

In order to maximise the impact of our school's communication, we ask that all emails/letters be sent on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pádraig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Padraig Conaty,

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

### **Sample Text**

*Dear Deputy, Councillor (delete as appropriate),*

*I am writing to you as a parent/ guardian/ carer (delete as appropriate) of a student in Harold's Cross Educate Together Secondary School and as a constituent of Dublin Bay South (if applicable).*

*Harold's Cross Educate Together Secondary School is currently in temporary modular build accommodation on our permanent site in Harold's Cross and I am seeking your support for the expediated construction of our permanent school building. We have been informed that the current tender process will not close until mid 2024.*

*Planning permission for our school building was approved by An Bord Pleanala on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and I am asking that you would, through all means at your disposal, press the Government and Department of Education to ensure that the tender completion process proceeds quickly, that construction begins immediately after the tender process concludes and that the school community do not suffer from any further project delays.*

*Our school opened in August 2020 under the patronage of Educate Together following a vote by local families who wanted an equality based, child-centred school in their community. The school started with 38 pupils and has continued to grow rapidly in a short space of time. The school now has 278 students from First Year to Transition Year, along with two autism classes. There is huge demand for places in our school but due to a lack of accommodation, the school is not able to provide a school place for all of the families who live locally in our area. For First Year places for September 2024, the school received almost five times the number of applications to places which the school can offer.*

*We are a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving school community but the delay around the school building is a source of huge frustration.*

*It is not acceptable that our school would be allowed to languish in temporary accommodation for a prolonged period of time. Our children deserve the same educational facilities and opportunities as their peers in other schools. Facilities such as a sports hall, canteen and appropriate outdoor spaces and so on are essential for a holistic education. Simply to put a modular roof over their heads is an unacceptably low bar.*

*I am asking that you would support our school community at this time by insisting that the Government and Department of Education prioritise the urgent construction of our school building.*

*We need this for our school to continue to develop to serve the local community, and most importantly, in order for the students to thrive.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Parent/ Guardian/Carer Name*

## ***Elected Representative Contact Details***

### ***TDs***

<i>Chris Andrews</i>	<i>chris.andrews@oireachtas.ie</i>
<i>Ivana Bacik</i>	<i>ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie</i>
<i>Jim O' Callaghan</i>	<i>jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie</i>
<i>Eamon Ryan</i>	<i>eamon.ryan@oireachtas.ie</i>

### ***Local Councillors***

<i>Fiona Connelly</i>	<i>Fiona.Connelly@dublincity.ie</i>
<i>Deirdre Conroy</i>	<i>Deirdre.Conroy@dublincity.ie</i>
<i>Tara Deacy</i>	<i>Tara.deacy@dublincity.ie</i>
<i>Pat Dunne</i>	<i>pat.dunne1@dublincity.ie</i>
<i>Anne Feeney</i>	<i>anne.feeney@dublincity.ie</i>
<i>Mary Freehill</i>	<i>marycfreehill@gmail.com</i>
<i>Carolyn Morre</i>	<i>carolyn.moore@dublincity.ie</i>