

## LA MARE DE CARTERET PROPOSALS – MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE 22-11-14

### **Why does the new Primary School require a 16% space premium?**

The Education Department can provide the following information in support of the space standards being used for the proposed new La Mare de Carteret Primary School.

- The Education Department has used the same Guernsey context percentage uplift of 16% on the space standards for primary schools that would be used in the UK as it did for the secondary sector schools.
- The 16% uplift for the secondary schools was agreed in 2005 following an independent review of space standards commissioned by Treasury & Resources
- The independent review agreed that the things that are different in Guernsey are:
  - *the smaller class sizes and pupil: teacher ratio in Guernsey*
  - *the Education Development Plan's aims to ensure the new schools should be 'future proofed' for at least fifty years and be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changes in the curriculum, teaching styles, demographic trends and community needs*
  - *the impact of the generous pupil to teacher ratio and the smaller average group size on the accommodation*
  - *the impact of the high investment in ICT on all teaching areas*
  - *the impact of inclusion and an increase in the number of pupils with complex special educational needs including physical, emotional and behavioural problems in mainstream schools must be reflected in the quantity and quality of teaching and ancillary facilities, provision for visiting specialists and the design of circulation areas. The panel is persuaded that the bigger classrooms will facilitate the use of Guernsey's favourable staffing ratio to offer a flexibility to set by ability. We believe the schedules proposed generate adequate spaces for withdrawal and SEN support. The allowance generated for circulation should be sufficient to meet the many demands placed upon it*
  - *the impact of increased community use of school premises for life-long learning and sport and recreation.*
- La Mare de Carteret Primary is one of three social priority schools in Guernsey (along with Vauvert and Amherst). The Education Department currently has a policy that class sizes in the primary sector should not exceed 28 pupils in general and should not exceed 25 pupils in the three social priority schools. In exceptional circumstances, class sizes may be up to 30 in any of the primary schools.
- This has obvious implications for the provision of facilities at LMDC Primary to do with increased staffing, smaller class sizes, and much more third sector and specialist learning support to provide small group learning (e.g. ECOF, Dyslexia Day Centre, Literacy Intervention Service etc).
- The school relies on integrating the families of its pupils and the local community as much as possible in the life of the school and this also impacts on the school's need to provide secured, separated areas for community engagement with the school.
- It should be noted that the school is defined as a 2-form entry school, so over its scheduled design life it may lose its social priority status and accommodate larger classes. For future proofing the classrooms are therefore sized as the other primary schools in Guernsey to accommodate a maximum of 30 children.
- Class sizes do not remain static during the day – there may be grouping by ability and even with two classes of 25 the children may be split into one class of 30 and one of 20.
- The States has committed itself to delivering “equality of opportunity, social inclusion and social justice” as the lynchpin of its Strategic Plan. Its Social Policy Plan refers to a “greater equality of educational opportunity” as a key general objective. The Education Department's Vision “Today's Learners, Tomorrow's World” contains the objective that “all learners should expect to spend their

formative years in buildings with resources that enhance their learning experience, provide and encourage excellence in teaching and provide a safe and secure learning environment for all.”

- It would be unreasonable and untenable to expect the LMDC cohort of parents, pupils and staff, and the parishes from which they draw, to accept new buildings and facilities which do not meet the same standards as those previously approved by SED and the States as appropriate for the next generation of schools.
- With this in mind, the Education Department has also looked for comparisons with the gross internal areas of the other primary schools in Guernsey, with particular reference to the most recent new build primary schools and the other two social priority schools, on the standard basis of area per pupil.

#### **Area per pupil comparison with the other Guernsey primary schools**

Forest Primary	9.3m <sup>2</sup>
Amherst Primary (social priority)	7.9m <sup>2</sup>
St. Mary and St. Michael Primary	7.1m <sup>2</sup>
Notre Dame Primary	6.7m <sup>2</sup>
St. Andrew’s Primary	6.7m <sup>2</sup>
Vauvert Primary (social priority)	6.6m <sup>2</sup>
Hautes Capelles Primary	6.6m <sup>2</sup>
<b>La Mare de Carteret Primary (social priority) new including 16% Guernsey factor</b>	<b>6.1m<sup>2</sup></b>
Castel Primary	5.9m <sup>2</sup>
St. Sampson’s Infants	5.7m <sup>2</sup>
<b>La Mare de Carteret Primary (social priority) existing</b>	<b>5.6m<sup>2</sup></b>
St Martin’s Primary	5.5m <sup>2</sup>
<b>La Mare de Carteret Primary (social priority) new excluding 16% Guernsey factor</b>	<b>5.3m<sup>2</sup></b>
Vale Primary (excluding recent additional accommodation)	5.2m <sup>2</sup>
La Houquette Primary	5.1m <sup>2</sup>

- The figures above show that the new school without the 16% uplift would be smaller than it is now and the headteacher and staff are already struggling for space using corridors to try to find space to teach in small groups or provide one-to-one support.
- Even with the 16% uplift the new La Mare de Carteret Primary would still be the smallest social priority school and in the middle when compared against the sizes of other schools.
- Forest Primary is the newest built primary school – it was opened in 2000 – and it provides the highest area per pupil in the primary phase.
- The Education Department believes the removal of the 16% premium would have a major detrimental impact on educational outcomes for the children attending La Mare de Carteret Primary.
- Every decade changes in teaching approaches are likely to require changes and additions in a school’s accommodation. That is why school buildings are now designed to be flexible in their partitioning and why every school built before 2000 has had to increase its accommodation in some way or another – either using huts or re-designating other areas for teaching.