

Report of ACCS Schools Building Projects Advisor 2019

My role is to assist Principals and Boards of Management in Community & Comprehensive schools in all building related matters.

2019 was a very busy year. The Department of Education & Skills asked ACCS to assist Community and Comprehensive Schools in the tendering and appointment of design teams for additional accommodation projects in excess of 1 million euros for the first time.

I assisted schools in 57 tenders for consultants. These included additional accommodation, emergency works, summer works, refurbishment and temporary accommodation (prefab rental).

I had 655 contacts with 71 Community and Comprehensive schools in 2019.

Advice/assistance was sought in the following areas:

Tendering for consultants, lists of consultants, marking tenders, attending design team meetings, additional accommodation application including ASD units, emergency works applications, appeals, summer works applications, DES audits, snag lists, special needs, fire safety, heating issues, leaks, refurbishments, furniture and equipment lists, accessibility issues, energy efficiency, SEAI, sports capital grants, school grounds and maintenance issues.



Principal, Mr. Cahil Doherty, St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh is delighted to have signed the contracts for the new building worth in the region of 3 million euro. Work will commence in March 2019.

- 13 Community and Comprehensive schools were sanctioned for additional accommodation projects.
- 3 Community and Comprehensive schools were granted temporary accommodation (rental).
- 19 projects were sanctioned for emergency works in Community and Comprehensive schools. 6 mechanical, 4 roof repairs, 4 external, 2 electrical, 2 special needs and 1 structural. This includes 4 successful appeals that were initially refused.
- 5 Community and Comprehensive schools were sanctioned for Summer Works projects, 3 in the 2019 applications and 2 schools from a review of earlier applications.
- 11 Community and Comprehensive schools were successful in their sports capital grant applications. This is a major increase compared to earlier schemes.
- 1 Community and Comprehensive school was selected under the SEAI Pilot Scheme for 2019 for an energy saving upgrade.



L–R: Mr. Prendiville (Principal), Miriam Hanlon (Chairperson Student Council), Mr. Martin Trench (PE Teacher), Minister Brendan Griffin, Cllr. Michael Kennelly, Mr. Ted O'Connor (Board of Management Parental rep.), Caelan Fox (Student Council) and Ms. Lelia Moloney (Deputy Principal).

According to the Department of Education and Skills website, there are 12 Community and Comprehensive schools on the updated large-scale projects under the Schools Building programme.

I can be contacted through the ACCS office on 01-4601150 or directly by email jmtwohig@gmail.com or mobile phone number: 086 8158518.

*Mr. Jim Twohig,
ACCS School Building Projects Advisor.*