

Wexford VEC outlines Fully Inclusive Proposals for Gorey Community College

Thursday 23 September 2010 Co. Wexford VEC will provide a fully inclusive post primary school in Gorey, parents attending a Department of Education Information meeting heard on Tuesday night.

The VEC, if appointed patron of the new school will invite representatives of the 4 primary school patrons, parents, teachers and community representatives to join Gorey Community College's Board of Management.

"An Fóras Pátrúnachta, the Catholic Diocese of Ferns, the Church of Ireland and Educate Together will all have a voice in our Community College, said Ellis Leddy, Education Officer, Co. Wexford VEC. "This means the Community College will be fully inclusive of all the school traditions in the Gorey area. As the Department of Education pointed out at the meeting this school is being built to cater for the educational needs of 1,000 children. It should reflect the views of all traditions, not just those of one particular school patron".

Ellis Leddy also reassured parents concerned about enrolment procedures, that the VEC would ensure that all children in the Gorey area would have a school place in either the new Community College or in Gorey Community School.

"There was a lot of concern at the meeting in this regard. The Department has said it will expect the patron of the new school to co-operate with Gorey Community School on enrolment policies. As the VEC is also a joint patron of the community school parents can be assured that all children will be accommodated in the two schools."

Ms. Leddy said that she had received a number of enquiries from parents before and after the meeting. "We have had a huge response to our information leaflet. Parents felt they were being asked to make a decision in a vacuum and were grateful for the way we outlined in detail our vision for Gorey Community College. There is no doubt that parents want to make an informed decision and they were reassured that our Community College model will deliver for Gorey high standards of excellence in a positive and inclusive environment".

Ms. Leddy urged all parents to return the survey forms distributed by the Department of Education to their schools or directly to the Department.