

## The Islamic Foundation of Ireland

### Statement Re. North Dublin Muslim National School

The North Dublin Muslim National School was opened in 2001. The School was initially intended to be established under a different patronage body other than the Islamic Foundation of Ireland. The Islamic Foundation of Ireland offered support and assistance to the School. In December 2007 when no alternative patronage body was established, and the situation in the School management became untenable, the Islamic Foundation of Ireland decided to take an active role.

In December 2007 a new Board of management was formed and since then the Board has been working to improve the conditions which it had inherited from the previous management.

Since the Whole School Evaluation Report was made by the inspectors of the Department of Education and Science and a number of specific issues were brought to the attention of the Board, discussions have been held between the School representatives and officials of the Department of Education and Science. A number of issues outlined in the report have been already addressed. These include:

- Child protection policy: Training has been provided to the staff on child protection policy with the assistance of support services of the Department of Education and Science. A policy has been developed and would be formally ratified by the Board of Management at its next meeting.
- The Board of Management has made a decision to address the issue of time allocated for curricular subjects to ensure that 5 hours and 10 minutes for curricular subjects excluding religious education would be provided as required by the regulations. The Board has also decided that qualified class teachers would remain with their classes while religious instruction is being provided by religious education teachers.
- The school has developed curricular plans for maths, music and Irish and these have been approved by the Board of Management.
- The Board has made a decision that curricular plans for all other subjects would be available by December 2009.
- On the issue of school accounts a summary accounts covering the period from January 2008 to present day has been prepared and forwarded to the Department of education and Science.

- The School Board has established that some of the unpaid bills to the Department of Education and Science for light and heat had in fact applied to two schools, the North Dublin Muslim School and another school on the same site. The Board believe that it would be unfair of the Department to financially penalise the current pupils in the school in respect of payments due in respect of previous periods. The Board has discussed with the Department of Education the repayment of money owed, and is willing to schedule payment.
- Certain measures have been taken to improve the current accommodation and at the same time the Board is in discussion with the school parents over the possibility of re-locating the School to another site.
- The School which has been under the patronage of the Islamic Foundation of Ireland proper since its establishment in 1990 is the Muslim National School in Clonskeagh. A recent evaluation report on the School was published. We refer you to that report.

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17/06/2009.