

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**Michelle McIlveen, Minister**  
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**Steve Aiken MLA**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

25 November 2021  
AQW 25552/17-22

Steve Aiken MLA has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education (i) to outline the delays in moving Ballyclare Nursery School to its new site; and (ii) whether the agreement between the Parish of Ballyclare, in respect to Tir Na Nog Primary School, that her predecessor commented upon, will be honoured.

ANSWER

The proposed relocation of Ballyclare Nursery School is a novel proposal, where a controlled nursery school would move from its current EA-owned premises to the site of a former non-controlled primary school.

As may be expected with such a proposal, preparing the lease for the use of the former Tir na nOg Primary School premises has not been straightforward. There have been a number of issues to sort out between the parties' legal representatives. While this process has taken some time to resolve, I remain optimistic that any remaining issues can be addressed.

I am satisfied that there are wider community benefits associated with the proposed relocation as the new site would make the nursery school more

appealing to all sections of the community. I also note there is widespread, cross-party political support for the proposal in the local area.

Under these circumstances I am pleased to confirm my support for the proposed relocation, subject to the terms of the lease being agreed between the EA and the Trustees.

*Michelle McIlveen*

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