



## 2022 CHAPTER 15

### *Planning and strategy*

#### **New schools**

**8.**—(1) Education bodies must consider integrated education when planning for the establishment of a new school.

(2) In exercising their functions under subsection (1), education bodies must consult with—

- (a) teachers,
- (b) governors,
- (c) pupils,
- (d) families, and
- (e) sectoral and community bodies

who would, in the opinion of the relevant body, be affected by the proposal.

(3) Education bodies must prepare and publish a report on the consultation under subsection (2).

(4) The report must include, in particular, an assessment in relation to—

- (a) the manner in which, and the extent to which, the relevant body has considered integrated education when planning for the establishment of a new school, and
- (b) the levels of demand for integrated education.

(5) In this section a “new school” does not include—

- (a) two or more existing schools that have amalgamated to create a new school,
- (b) an existing school that has significantly changed in size,

- (c) an existing school that has relocated, or
  - (d) an Irish-medium school which comes into existence after this Act receives Royal Assent.
- (6) The interpretation of subsection (5) will not preclude education bodies receiving or responding supportively to applications or expressions of interest by such schools in respect of transforming into integrated schools.