



Community Conversation: Fivemiletown Information Letter for Parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are a team of researchers based in the School of Education at Ulster University. We are undertaking a Community Conversation about school provision in the Fivemiletown area, with a specific focus on engaging parents in conversations about sustainable school provision in their geographic area.

The Community Conversation methodology has been specifically designed to enable discussion within local communities and to empower them to have a voice on the future of sustainable school provision in their area. We are particularly keen to hear from parents of pre-school and primary age children.

There will be a chance to participate in a Community Conversation event in your area on 19 March 2026.

The Community Conversation will comprise of daytime community meetings for parents and a larger evening event within the local community so you can attend whichever meeting is most convenient for you.

We also have a dedicated online response form for any participants who wish to contribute but are unable to attend an event. This will be open for responses from 18-25 March 2026: [Fivemiletown Community Conversation about School Provision – Fill in form](#)

The Community Conversation process is not about having any predetermined outcomes and it is a genuine opportunity for parents to engage in conversations about education and school provision. The research team approach every Community Conversation in a neutral, objective manner and seek to capture the views of parents in the area regarding school provision.

We hope that you will participate in the Community Conversation we will be running in this area.

These events are as follows: Thursday 19 March 2026

- **11.15-12.15pm** **Fivemiletown Library**
- **12.30-1.30pm** **Fivemiletown Library**
- **2.00-3.00pm** **Fivemiletown Library**
- **7.00-8.30pm** **The Valley Hotel**

These events are conversational meetings and will last 1 hour for the day time events or 1.5 hours for the evening events. We will work through a series of questions and prompts with those present so that people will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas regarding primary school provision in Fivemiletown. As this is a university project, it is important that we seek your consent to participate, so we will ask you to sign a consent form at the start of the meeting (a copy of our consent form is attached). As part of that consent we will also ask permission to record the conversation on a digital audio recording device. This is to assist us with our notes and record of the event and the recording will be deleted once we have it typed up. No individual will be named or identified in any of our reports or any other potential outputs relating to this work. We are interested in the overall findings that emerge from the Community Conversation events not on identifying any particular individual. All participation is on a voluntary basis. Participants can withdraw from or leave a Conversation meeting at any stage during the event.

All research data will be securely stored on the University cloud storage (which is password protected), in line with GDPR and University requirements, and only those researchers directly involved will have access to the data (Ulster University's GDPR policy: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr>). All data will be destroyed in an appropriate manner at the end of the 10-year retention period.

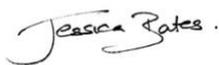
The project has received ethical approval from the School of Education Ethics Sub-Committee, Ulster University.

This project is being carried out independently by researchers at Ulster University with funding from the Integrated Education Fund. The funder does not have any role in project delivery.

While this work is not part of any formal Area Planning process, it is hoped the findings will help shape future discussions and decision making relating to area-based planning for school provision in the area.

If you have any questions about our work or would like anything explained you are welcome to contact one of the members of the research team below. We hope to see you at one of the Community Conversation events and if you are unable to attend one of these please do contribute to the dedicated online response form for this Community Conversation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jessica Bates

UU Research Team Members:

Dr Jessica Bates, Senior Lecturer, School of Education, Ulster University (j.bates@ulster.ac.uk)

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Community Conversation Fivemiletown, March 2026 Consent Form for Participants

Please tick

- I confirm that I have been given and have read and understood the information sheet for the above project and have asked and received answers to any questions raised. []
- I understand that the meeting will be audio recorded if all participants provide their consent for this. []
- I give my consent for the meeting to be recorded on a digital recording device for transcription purposes and understand that the researchers will delete the recording once the transcription is completed. []
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw and leave at any time without giving a reason and without my rights being affected in any way. []
- I understand that the researchers will hold all information and data collected securely and in confidence and that all efforts will be made to ensure that I cannot be identified as a participant in the study and I give permission for the researchers to hold relevant personal data. []
- I agree to take part in the above study. []

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

Name of researcher: _____ Date: _____

One copy for the participant. One copy for the researcher.

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