

STATEMENT FROM:



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Education Minister must go says Armstrong

Mid-Ulster MLA Billy Armstrong has called on Education Minister Catriona Ruane to resign in the wake of the announcement of which Schools have been approved or turned down for new building plans.

Mr Armstrong made the call after the Minister finally issued the list of detailing her capital spending priorities, and discovered to that Magherafelt Nursery & Primary Schools had been placed on the list of “partially approved.”

The Ulster Unionist MLA said:

“The delay faced by Magherafelt Nursery & Primary Schools is absolutely shameful. As I stated last week, they have been waiting for almost a decade to begin rebuilding work, and have now been told that clarification is required due to falling enrolments at the Primary School since 2004/05.

This is absolutely scandalous, but sadly typical of this Minister’s record in dealing with the controlled Education sector in Mid-Ulster.

First we had the decision to close Maghera High School, then we had the endless delays over the plans to rebuild Magherafelt High School and to this we can add the ongoing saga of the proposals to rebuild Magherafelt Nursery & Primary Schools.

To delay the rebuilding of the Nursery School because of falling numbers in the Primary is to add insult to injury. The fact is that the Nursery received an outstanding inspection this year, and if the Minister wants to know why the Primary School has experienced difficulties with regard to pupil numbers, she only has to look at the terrible state of the Primary School buildings in order to see why some parents might be reluctant to send children there.

And let us not forget that all this is in addition to the complete and utter shambles which this Minister has presided over with regard to the Transfer test.

The parents and pupils of Magherafelt deserve better than this. The Minister has failed utterly and the best thing she can do is to go now. She is the problem. She cannot be part of the solution.”

ENDS