

# Coláiste Feirste



November 2011

**Re: Transport for Coláiste Feirste pupils**

*Please help in securing equality of transport provision for young Irish speakers.*

Dear Parent/Guardian

Coláiste Feirste parents have been trying to secure equal transport arrangements for their children for many years. Their dedication is very much appreciated and it helped focus the minds of the Board of Governors in determining that the only way of securing equality of provision for our young people was through the High Court.

This was a stonewall case, centred on the fact that Coláiste Feirste is the ONLY school category without any form of transport for its pupils. All other categories receive numerous buses, some of those buses, bring children to schools, past schools in the same category. Judge Treacy recorded this and also clarified the unique status afforded to IME education within the Good Friday Agreement. We now have in place a clear legal judgement which clarifies the Department of Education's legal duty to support the development of Irish Medium Education. It is time we secured this obligation to the advantage of our pupils and your children.

We believe that any pupil at an Irish Medium primary school should be encouraged and facilitated to access a similar Irish Medium secondary school. Following the success of this case we are keen to hear from parents or potential parents who feel that their children would benefit from transport to the school. We would appreciate if you could fill the form below and return to the school.

Colma McKee  
Board of Governors

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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Year group: \_\_\_\_\_.

Home location:  
(i.e. Lagmore, Glengormely, Downpatrick, Antrim, Andersonstown, Short Strand, Ardyone): \_\_\_\_\_.

**My child would make use of a bus to school if one was available: Yes / No.**

Teach Radharc Ard na bhFeá,  
7 Páirc Radharc na bhFeá,  
Béal Feirste BT12 7PY  
Guthán 028 9032 0707 / Facs 028 9032 4301