

Ms. Sharon Conroy

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PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: DES-CU-02766-2026

Dear Ms. Conroy

The Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegard Naughton TD has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the mini forest at Coláiste Chillian and to respond on her behalf.

The largescale capital project at the school referred to is at Architectural Planning Stage 4 – Construction.

Department officials are aware that a number of trees were removed from the site, both within the footprint of the new school development and to the rear of the existing school premises. This action was necessary to facilitate the construction of the new school buildings and associated site works and are required under Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). These nature-based solutions are essential to manage surface water sustainably and to comply with environmental regulations and conditions of planning.

It is important to note that the project includes a comprehensive landscaping plan, which provides for the replanting of trees and the restoration of green space upon completion of the construction works, this replanting as part of the landscape plan will proceed in the latter stages of the project in Q3/Q4 2026 and will contribute to the long-term environmental sustainability and aesthetic value of the site.

Yours sincerely,



Eimear Kavanagh

Private Secretary