

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL  
DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 57 OF THE  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000, as amended.**

**Works which would materially affect the character of the protected structure and, as a result, require planning permission:**

Note this is a Partial S57 Declaration relating to works to the Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230 and Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no 53-231:

1. The application as presented proposes a variety of alterations to the existing Protected Structure. The cumulative effect of the proposed alterations, doors, windows, walls and services, would materially alter the Protected Structure and hence require Planning Permission. As part of a planning application ensure panelling and architraves are retained and not affected by the proposed installation of the drylining. Care also to be taken with external wall insulation in particular at eaves and barge location where details were not included.

**Works which would not materially affect the character of the protected structure and as a result would not require planning permission:**

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1. Items of essential repair and routine maintenance in accordance with Department Conservation Guidelines including localised repairs.

**Special Remarks**

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# Offaly County Council

Áras an Chontae  
Charleville Road  
Tullamore

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## Declaration

Declaration Type: **Partial Declaration**

Plan Type: **CDP 2021\_2027**

In accordance with Section 57 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000

Number: **DEC/24/011**

## Planning Authority

**NIAH**



This Declaration specifies what works would, or would not, in the opinion of the planning authority materially affect the character of the protected structure, or any element thereof, and, as a result, require planning permission. Under the Act, protection extends to the entire structure including its interior and the land lying within its curtilage. It also extends to any other structures lying within the curtilage of the protected structure, to their interiors and to all fixtures and features that form part of the interiors or exteriors of any of these structures. Where specified in the Record of Protected Structures, protection may also extend to any other feature within attendant grounds of the protected structure.

Nothing in this declaration exempts works that would nor otherwise be exempt from a requirement for planning permission. Changes of use or intensification of the current use may require planning permission. It in doubt, the owner/occupier should consult the planning authority for further advice before commencing any works.

<b>Applicant Name</b>	Board of Management
<b>Name of Building</b>	Mercy Primary School
<b>Townland</b>	Orchard Lane
<b>Address 2</b>	Townparks
<b>Address 3</b>	Birr
<b>Date of Request</b>	22-Nov-24 14-Feb-25
<b>Previous Declaration</b>	NA

<b>Status</b>	Owner
<b>Former Name</b>	Mercy Convent School
<b>OS Map Type</b>	
<b>Map Sheet</b>	
<b>National Grid co-ordi</b>	
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	
<b>Date of Declaration</b>	Wednesday 8 January 2025

<b>Protection Status</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Record of Protected Structures</b>	53-230 & 53-
<b>Architectural Conservation Area</b>	NA

<b>Record of Monuments and Places</b>	NA
<b>Archaeological Potential</b>	NA
<b>Preservation Order or Temp PO</b>	NA

## NIAH Description of Structure

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230 (NIAH no. 14819126):

Detached five-bay two-storey convent primary school, built in 1841, extended to the rear with seven-bay two-storey extension, which fronts onto the road. Later extended to the west with additional four-bay two-storey wing. Covered walkway, added c.1950, accessing bike shed to rear of yard. School is set within its own yard. Pitched roofs to original school and later extensions with cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughcast render to walls with smooth render to plinth. Replacement uPVC windows with stone sills. Plaque to wall reads: 'Mercy Primary School Established 1841'. Square-headed door opening to original school with replacement double timber and glass panelled door. Square-headed door opening to rear extension, opening onto street, with timber battened door flanked by fluted stone pilasters with console brackets, surmounted by stone cornice and overlight. Bicycle sheds and rendered former cottage with pitched tiled roof, now used as classroom and located to rear. Tooled stone plinth wall having cut stone piers with wheel guards and cast-iron railings to front of site. Appraisal: Sister Catherine McAuley of the Sisters of Mercy first opened the Mercy Convent in 1841. The original structure has been dramatically altered over the years to cater for an expanding population. Though greatly altered it retains some notable features such as the decorative plastered door which opens from the large extension onto the road.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231 (NIAH no. 14819127):

Detached multiple-bay single-storey school, built in 1954, with wings to east and west. Set back from street within its own grounds. Pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughcast render to walls with smooth rendered plinth and eaves course to east and west wings. Plaque to wall which reads: 'Scoil Iosep Naofa, Scoil Náisiunta Biorra 1954'. uPVC windows with patent reveals. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber door

flanked by sidelights. Bicycle shed to rear of site. Random coursed stone wall bounds front site with modern gates giving access to site. Appraisal: Affiliated with the original Catherine McAuley Mercy Primary School, this modern school building was built in 1954 as an additional structure within the overall school complex. The architectural style used in the construction of this school building is typical of the linear style of used throughout Ireland in the 1950s and particularly for school buildings.

#### **Composition:**

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230:

Detached five-bay two-storey convent primary school, built in 1841, extended to the rear with seven-bay two-storey extension, which fronts onto the road. Later extended to the west with additional four-bay two-storey wing. Covered walkway, added c.1950, accessing bike shed to rear of yard.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231:

Detached multiple-bay single-storey school, built in 1954, with wings to east and west.

#### **Roof:**

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230:

Pitched roofs to original school and later extensions with cast-iron rainwater goods.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231:

Pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods.

#### **Walls:**

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230:

Roughcast render to walls with smooth render to plinth.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231:

Roughcast render to walls with smooth rendered plinth and eaves course to east and west wings.

#### **Openings:**

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230:

Replacement uPVC windows with stone sills. Square-headed door opening to original school with replacement double timber and glass panelled door. Square-headed door opening to rear extension, opening onto street, with timber battened door flanked by fluted stone pilasters with console brackets, surmounted by stone cornice and overlight.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231:

uPVC windows with patent reveals. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber door flanked by sidelights.

#### **Interior:**

#### **Furniture and Fittings:**

#### **Site:**

Old Convent School Building RPS no. 53-230:

School is set within its own yard. Tooled stone plinth wall having cut stone piers with wheel guards and cast-iron railings to front of site.

Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa) RPS no. 53-231:

Set back from street within its own grounds. Random coursed stone wall bounds front site with modern gates giving access to site.

#### **Mapping References:**

First Edition OSI 6": Evidence of smaller, early 'School House' on the site and wooden bridge to the rear over mill race, Rosse Cottage to the east and block or terrace to the west.

UCD Town Map 1879: Protected Building is evident here and noted as 'Convent School', L-shaped Rosse Cottage to east and terrace of houses to west.

OSI 25" School shown with small central porch to rear, Riverbank Cottage to east with extensions and residential terrace to west.

Current OSI: School shown with extensions to the rear and additional set back building to the east replacing former Rosse/Riverbank Cottage, residential terrace replaced with further school buildings.

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**Any further documentation attached**

**Inspector**

Rachel Mc Kenna

**Inspector Date**

Monday 13 January 2025

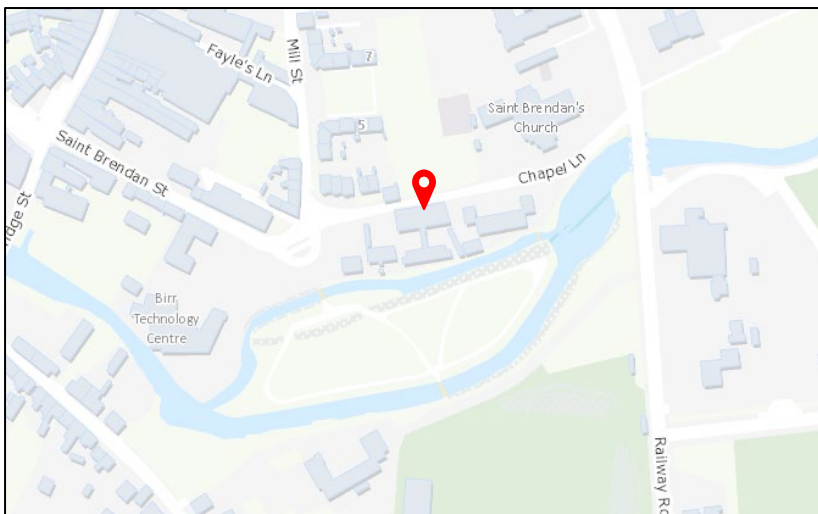
*Rachel M'Kenna*

**DEC57\_2411 Mercy Primary School, Birr, Co. Offaly. NIAH Nos. 14819126 & 14819126, RPS No.s 53-230 & 53-231**

RPS no. 53-230 Old Convent School Building: Replacement of existing old white uPVC windows with new thermally broken powder coated aluminium windows, installation of breathable drylining system to external walls. Replacement of existing timber doors with new insulated timber doors and aluminium doors under the Department of Education Climate Action RePowerEU Pathfinder programme 2024-25.

RPS no. 53-231 Boyd Barret type building (former Scoil Iosep Naofa): Replacement of existing old white uPVC windows with new thermally broken powder coated aluminium windows, installation of external insulation and render system Old Aluminium doors replaced with new aluminium doors under the Department of Education Climate Action RePowerEU Pathfinder programme 2024-25.

## 1. Location and Historical OS Maps



Current Map

Site marked Red



Historical OS 25 Inch Map  
(surveyed 1897-1913)

Site marked Red



UCD Town Map 1879





Historical 6" First Edition OS Map

(1829-1842)

Site marked Red

## 2. Photos - Images from Declaration request



Figure 1- Front (North) elevation with existing uPVC windows and timber entrance door.



Figure 3 - Rear (South) elevation with existing uPVC windows and narrow doors.



Figure 4 - Rear (South) Elevation - with uPVC windows and timber escape door.





Figure 5 - Side (East) Elevation with uPVC windows.



Figure 21 – Exiting Boyd Barrett-type building north elevation. The uPVC windows and old aluminium entrance doors are to be replaced with new double-glazed joinery made of thermally broken powder-coated aluminium.