



PRESS RELEASE

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Government is committed to a New St Martin's School

Lawrence Llamas is fast plummeting to new depths by trying to use the children of St Martin's School as a political tool and by deliberately wanting to sow worry and concern among the parents of these children without bothering to check the facts.

Mr Llamas' hypocrisy is rich, considering that he stood for election with the GSD and therefore supported and subscribed to their policies and plans. In these plans it was clearly stated that they would NOT give St Martin's a new school, and Mr Llamas ran for election on this political ticket. The idea of someone who clearly said "NO" to a new St Martin's now trying to appear to be a voice for the school is a joke. He is trying to play political games, but he has chosen the wrong issue.

This Government is committed to provide a new St Martin's School, precisely because we are aware of the increased need and because we are not happy with the structure of a school that cannot expand on site.

A need was identified earlier this year for an additional classroom at St Martin's by September 2017. This had to be provided now, for this term, and could not wait for a relocation of the school. After a full consultation with the Head Teacher and the teaching staff it became clear that the only way to achieve this was with a pre-fab building. Again, discussions between the Department of Education and the team from St Martin's determined that the only real option for this was above the present extension. This was done in full consultation. Other options, which were considered, would have either meant that vehicular access to the school would have been directly on the main road - with all the traffic dangers that brings - or (even if building behind the school had been technically possible in spite of difficulties in accessing the site) by losing much of the play area, which the school clearly did not want.

These are temporary measures implemented to ensure that the children of St Martin's continue to receive quality education whilst preparations for a completely new St Martin's School are underway.

Minister for Education, Professor John Cortes, said: "Education in Gibraltar is about to experience

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nothing short of a revolution. In order to provide the best new school for St Martin's the Government has been working with the education professionals to deliver a package including all the new schools. Over and above improved facilities, the plans will provide amazing educational opportunities for the children in the future St Martin's."