

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TO ALL EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Background

All councils must

- ensure effective management of their school estates and provide sufficient places for their pupil population.
- adhere to the general principle that children should be educated in line with their parents' wishes;
- The roll projections for all primary and secondary schools take account of the housing developments within the area as well as the trends in placing requests.

Current position

- A number of schools have high occupancy levels. This is due to demand for catchment places and / or through the placing request process from parents, who live out with the catchment area.
- Other schools have low occupancy levels.

Current position

- Within East Dunbartonshire, there is well established specialist provision. This includes the Music School within Douglas Academy, the Gaelic Medium Primary Education Unit within Meadowburn Primary, the Gaelic Medium Secondary Provision within Bishopbriggs Academy and the Football Academies in partnership with Celtic Football Club at St Ninian's High School and with Rangers Football Club at Boclair Academy.
- The current policies require to be updated to ensure they are comprehensive and reflect the current context within the Council.
- This will ensure clear information for parents and carers and ensure that there is efficient management of the school estate.

What is this proposal?

- To consult on the proposed changes for all East Dunbartonshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to :
 - the admissions arrangements, including Primary 1 and during a school session;
 - the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school;
 - the arrangements for admission to the Educational Specialist Provision within East Dunbartonshire.
- These changes will take effect for admissions from Session 2020/21.

What are we proposing?

- The proposed changes would provide clarity on the Council's proposed arrangements for admissions to primary and secondary schools within East Dunbartonshire Council.
- The proposed changes would detail a procedure to be followed in the event of oversubscription by pupils from the delineated catchment area to any East Dunbartonshire Council primary or secondary school.
- The proposal will also clarify the arrangements for entry to any of the specialist provision within East Dunbartonshire.

What is changing?

- **The Council aims to provide sufficient places for all children to attend their catchment primary school.**
- A school is 'oversubscribed' in terms of catchment demand , when the number of places in Primary 1 or S1 exceed the available places. This would be determined when the places are allocated in April / May for the following school session.
- In such instances all applications would be deemed placing requests. These placing requests will then be processed according to a clear priority.
- Those children that cannot be accommodated within the catchment school would be offered redirection to another local school

What is changing?

- **In general for Primary 1 if a school is oversubscribed, places would be allocated in the following priority :**
 - Those who have a brother or sister at the school; (and live in the catchment)
 - Children with Additional Support Needs who have to attend that particular school; (and live in the catchment)
 - Then the distance they live from the school.
 - For Denominational schools there is an additional criteria related to those children whose parents agree an affinity with the religious beliefs of the school and who have been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church.

What is changing?

- **When applying for a catchment place in S1, parents will be required to provide proof of address with copies of documentation;**
- **In general for S1 if a school is oversubscribed, places would be allocated in the following priority :**
 - Those who have a brother or sister at the school; (and live in the catchment)
 - Children with Additional Support Needs who have to attend that particular school; (and live in the catchment)
 - Children who attend an associated school within the school cluster; (and live in the catchment)
 - Then the distance they live from the school.
 - Children who attend another primary school within East Dunbartonshire; (and live in the catchment)
 - Then the distance they live from the school.
 - For Denominational schools there is an additional criteria related to those children whose parents agree an affinity with the religious beliefs of the school and who have been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church.

What is changing?

- Education Specialist Provision:
 - Music School in Douglas Academy;
 - Gaelic Medium Secondary Provision in Bishopbriggs Academy;
 - Celtic Football Academy in St Ninian's High School;
 - Rangers Football Academy in Boclair Academy;
- There are entry requirements and places will be allocated in S1;
- At other stages of the school , entry would be through a placing request.



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Why are we proposing this?

- There is a need to ensure there is clear information for parents in order that they can make informed decisions on their child's education;
- There needs to be a clear process in place if a school is oversubscribed when places are allocated in April each year;
- A clear and fair prioritisation is preferable to a ballot.
- The Council requires to manage its school estate efficiently;



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Why are we proposing this?

- It is important that when pupils go to secondary school they can continue to make good progress in their learning;
- East Dunbartonshire has a well established framework for 3 to 18 cluster working : secondary schools work with the associated primary schools and early years to develop approaches to curriculum, learning and teaching and assessment;

Why are we proposing this?

- There is a requirement for the Council to ensure that children are educated to the development of their personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.
- The proposal to prioritise places within the Education Specialist Provisions for Music, Gaelic and Football for children, who meet the entry requirements, ensures that the Council provides support to ensure excellence.

What happens now?

Report to Education Committee seeking approval for the consultation	24 th October 2019
Consultation starts	28 th October 2019
Consultation ends	6 th December 2019
Education Scotland prepare report	9th December 2019 - 6th January 2020
Consultation Report Published	9th January 2020
Consultation Report Submitted to Education Committee	30 January 2020
Notify Scottish Ministers if Approval is given by Council	31 January 2020

How do I respond to the consultation?

- Full details are contained in the Consultation Report including the educational benefits of this proposal. This can be accessed following the weblink:
- <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/council/consultations/school-admission-and-transfer-arrangements-primary-secondary-school>
- Consultation response available on line or a paper copy:
- Email: education.consultation@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0300-1234-510
- Post: School Improvement Team, Southbank Marina, 12 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1TJ

Questions?