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**East Dunbartonshire Council**

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

**EDUCATION, PEOPLE AND BUSINESS**

**JACQUI MACDONALD**

**Chief Education Officer**

12 Strathkelvin Place

KIRKINTILLOCH

Glasgow

G66 1TJ

Telephone: 0300-1234-510

If phoning or calling ask for: Jacqui MacDonald

Ext No. 8739

e.mail: [jacqueline.macdonald@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.macdonald@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Consultee

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

I am writing to invite you to take part in a consultation on the Council's proposal to changes to the admission arrangements to our primary and secondary schools. A formal consultation is required in line with the Schools Consultation Act 2010. This requires Council to consult with a defined group of people with an interest in the schools. The proposal and consultation process are summarised below.

The full proposal document, including a detailed statement of educational benefits is available on the East Dunbartonshire Council website:

[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsultation](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsultation)

### **What is the consultation about?**

East Dunbartonshire Council is committed to ensuring the highest standards of attainment and achievement for all children within all schools and centres. This has resulted in consistently good inspection reports, examination results and positive school leaver destinations. As a result there is high demand for places in our schools.

A number of schools have high occupancy levels. This is due to demand from the delineated catchment areas and/or through the placing request process from parents who live outwith the catchment area. Roll projections take account of the housing developments within the area as well as the trends in placing requests. The roll projections for a small number of schools show they will continue to have high occupancy levels, even if placing requests are managed. There is a risk that a school may be oversubscribed for catchment pupils when the allocation of places is done in April each year. The Council requires to have a clear procedure in place to manage this effectively.

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 Rangers Football Club at Boclair Academy. Pupils are currently admitted to these Specialist Provision, under a placing request, with the exception of the Gaelic Medium Primary Education Unit. A change to the admission arrangements is, therefore, proposed.

The current Admissions Policy, Mid-Session Transfers and Primary/Secondary Transfer Arrangements are detailed in Procedure Manuals 3/01, 3/03 and 3/04; these have not been updated for a considerable time. They 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.

The Statutory Consultation will consult on the proposed changes for all East Dunbartonshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to:

- i. the admission arrangements, including Primary 1 and during a school session;
- ii. the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school;
- iii. the arrangements for admission to the Educational Specialist Provision within East Dunbartonshire.

These changes will take effect for admissions from Session 2020/2021.

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. The proposal does not affect placing requests and the criteria under which they are approved.

### **What is the consultation process?**

The formal consultation process requires that:

- A defined list of stakeholders are provided with access to the formal consultation document, including a detailed educational benefits statement, and invited to comment on the proposal;
- A presentation will be sent to all head teachers and available on the East Dunbartonshire Council website; this provides a short summary of the proposal;
- The consultation period is 30 school days following the publication of the proposal document. The last date for responses is **6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**;
- The proposal will be discussed at the Parent Council Forum on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**;
- A public meeting to discuss the proposal will be held. This will be held on **25<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm in Bishopbriggs Academy**;
- Education Scotland will provide an independent report on the proposal; and
- The Council publishes a consultation report that lays out the findings of the consultation. This must be public for at least three weeks before the Council may decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

## **How do I respond to the consultation?**

To respond to this consultation or provide comments on the proposal, please visit the website [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsultation](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsultation) and complete the online form. You will be asked to confirm if you:

- a) Agree with the proposal; or
- b) Disagree with the proposal.

If you require a paper copy of the consultation document or response form, please visit your local East Dunbartonshire Council Hub who will be able to provide a paper copy of both.

Yours sincerely

**JACQUI MACDONALD**  
**Chief Education Officer**