

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Glasgow City Council to align the entry criteria across all 30 Glasgow City Council mainstream secondary schools.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \("the 2010 Act"\)](#). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Glasgow City Council's proposal to align the entry criteria across all 30 Glasgow City Council mainstream secondary schools. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 5 June, 19 June, 16 August, and 21 August 2018, in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the site of Cleveden Secondary School, Hillpark Secondary School, St Roch's Secondary School and Whitehill Secondary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 Glasgow City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The statutory consultation period ran from 14 May to 24 September 2018. Communication was issued to stakeholders across schools, parent councils, professional associations, community councils, area partnerships and the Archdiocese of Glasgow and Motherwell. Adverts were placed in the press. Copies of the proposal document were made available in council libraries and a dedicated page was set up on the council website for the consultation. The council held six public meetings on 5 June, 12 June, 19 June, 16 August, 21 August and 4 September 2018. An additional meeting was held at the request of a group of Parent Councils. Overall, there were 19 attendees at the public meetings.

2.3 An online questionnaire was created for the consultation, to which there were 856 responses. Out of 796 respondees who answered the question, 'do you agree that all secondary schools in Glasgow should have the same entry criteria, i.e. be delineated?' overall 64% (549) of respondees agreed, 19% (166) disagreed and 9% (81) neither agreed nor disagreed with the question.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The proposal aims to ensure that children, young people and families would be provided with a greater level of certainty as to which secondary school children would be transferring to. The proposal has the potential to enable secondary schools to better predict the S1 intake and plan more effectively to meet the needs of the children moving from primary schools. Overall, the proposal has clear educational benefits. The proposal should assist the council to make effective use of its resources.

3.2 Concerns raised at the public meeting, in written responses from those against the proposal and from parents who met with HM Inspectors, predominantly related to Notre Dame High School. From a total of 300 comments in response to the online questionnaire, 237 comments related to Notre Dame High School. The education authority have stated that they are committed to holding a consultation on entry criteria for Notre Dame High School in 2019.

3.3 A few stakeholders were of the view that the council had not fully considered the needs of families living in particular parts of a number of existing catchment areas across the city. In taking forward the proposal, the council should respond to individual local school communities regarding concerns around specific areas in the proposed realignment of the catchment areas.

3.4 Almost all staff and young people from Cleveden Secondary School, Hillpark Secondary School, St Roch's Secondary School and Whitehill Secondary School

who spoke with HM Inspectors fully supported the proposal to redefine the catchment areas, sharing that the proposal made sense and it would be helpful and move away from uncertainty for families and for schools.

3.5 Most parents at Hillpark Secondary School and Whitehill Secondary School who spoke with HM Inspectors supported the proposal to redefine the catchment areas.

3.6 A few respondees to the online questionnaire and a few parents who met with HM Inspectors stated that it is not clear from the proposal paper exactly how many families will be affected by the changes. They have requested that there is effective communication to parents and families directly affected, particularly where there may be younger siblings who have not yet started at primary school. The council have stated that there would be protection until August 2025, for children currently in primary school who would be affected, in the form of a priority placing request into the secondary school that was previously associated with their primary school. In taking forward the plans, the council should share how communication of any relevant changes to families affected would be undertaken.

3.7 The Archdiocese of Glasgow and Motherwell are supportive of the proposal to align the entry criteria across all 30 Glasgow City Council mainstream secondary schools.

4. Summary

Overall, Glasgow City Council's proposal to align the entry criteria across all 30 Glasgow City Council mainstream secondary schools has clear educational benefits. The proposal aims to ensure that children, young people and families would be provided with a greater level of certainty as to which secondary school children would be transferring to. The proposal has the potential to enable secondary schools to better predict the S1 intake and plan more effectively to meet the needs of the children moving from primary schools. In taking forward the proposal, the council should respond to individual local school communities regarding concerns around specific areas in the proposed realignment of the catchments. The council should also share how communication of any relevant changes to families affected would be undertaken.

In order to take cognisance of the many responses in relation to Notre Dame High School, the education authority should, as stated, take forward their consultation on entry criteria for Notre Dame High School in 2019.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
October 2018**