

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Glasgow City Council to permanently relocate primary-aged provision of Middlefield School into Langfaulds Primary School and the secondary-aged provision into the former Ladywell School building.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Glasgow City Council's proposal to permanently relocate primary-aged provision of Middlefield School into Langfaulds Primary School and the secondary-aged provision into the former Ladywell School building. Middlefield School makes provision for children and young people whose autism has a significant impact on their learning needs and behaviour. 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. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; 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 1 and 2 June 2016 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, oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of Langfaulds Primary School, the original Middlefield School building (Partickhill Road), the current Middlefield School building (Ardnahoe Avenue) and the former Ladywell School building, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 Glasgow City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The consultation process began on 23 May 2016 and a notice to advise the consultation arrangements was placed in the local press. A dedicated webpage was set up on the council website and an email address provided for online responses to the consultation. Responses could also be made by telephone or in writing to the council. The council held public meetings on 1 June 2016 in Langfaulds Primary School and on 2 June 2016 in the former Ladywell building. A single parent attended each of the public meetings. No responses to the consultation were received.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The relocation to Langfaulds Primary School has been of significant educational benefit for the children involved. They are more included with their peers and are spending increasing time working within mainstream classrooms, accessing a full curriculum. Specialist and mainstream staff are working closely together to meet the needs of children with autism and increasing the capacity of Langfaulds staff to meet a wider range of additional support needs.

3.2 The provision for secondary-aged young people attending Middlefield School has been relocated temporarily to the former Hampden School building. This has already been of educational benefit to young people as the learning environment is much better suited to their needs than the original Middlefield School building. It has a more appropriate layout for learning and includes safe break-out spaces and access to safe and well-maintained outdoor learning areas.

3.3 The final planned move for secondary-aged young people to the Ladywell building is in its early planning stages. The building is currently being used by another school and is likely to be vacated early in 2017. The planned co-location of other services in the building with Middlefield School has a significant potential educational benefit for young people, with other services, including an autism resource centre and college facilities, on site. Staff and pupils of Middlefield School will also be able to renew and extend the good community links which were previously established at the original school site over many years.

3.4 Children and young people from Middlefield School who spoke to HM Inspectors are happy with the changes which have been implemented. Those attending Langfaulds Primary School enjoy attending mainstream classes and developing friendships with children their own age rather than being in a specialist facility with older pupils. Young people based in the Hampden School building think that they learn better there than they did in the original Middlefield School building. They like the improved facilities including a larger lunch hall, better classrooms and more natural light coming into the building.

3.5 Parents who spoke to HM Inspectors appreciate the improved facilities in both of the new locations, which are brighter and have more space. They think that children and young people dealt well with the moves, which were well prepared for by staff, and now have greater confidence in coping with changes. They are excited about the opportunity of having adult services on site once the move to the Ladywell building takes place, creating a 'hub'. They are keen to be involved in planning discussions about this new facility.

3.6 Staff who spoke to HM Inspectors are generally positive about the moves. In Langfaulds Primary School, staff feel that children have developed more quickly within a mainstream school than they would have done previously in Middlefield School and seem to be happier. They also see them included and accepted by their peers at interval time and lunch break. In the Hampden School building, staff appreciate the improved and more secure learning environment for young people. They are also looking forward to the final move to the Ladywell building and re-establishing links with the local community and its facilities.

4. Summary

The moves for primary-aged children and secondary-aged young people which have taken place are already showing educational benefits for these pupils. Both Langfaulds Primary School and the Hampden School building have superior facilities to the original Middlefield School building and this is enhancing the learning experiences for children and young people. The planned move for secondary-aged young people to the Ladywell building has potential educational benefits for them. The council needs to ensure that staff, young people and their parents are involved throughout the planning process for this move so that this potential can be maximised.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
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