

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate and build a new Glenboig Primary School.

February 2025

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His 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 a proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate and build a new Glenboig Primary School. 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children 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 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 meeting held on 28 November 2024 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 shared campus of Glenboig Primary School and Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The statutory consultation ran from 4 November until 16 December 2024. The council published the proposal on its website and made copies available to a range of key stakeholders. The council held a public meeting in Glenboig Primary School on 28 November 2024, which was attended by 12 members of the public. The council received one written response, which was supportive of the proposal. Stakeholders expressed concerns about the lack of local infrastructure to accommodate transport and accessibility to the proposed new school site. They are worried about the potential loss of the forest area and negative impact this may have on the environment.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 North Lanarkshire Council proposes to relocate Glenboig Primary School into a new build Glenboig Community Hub, which will accommodate primary school places for up to 292 children. The current joint campus, which is shared with Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School, does not have the capacity to serve the growing population in the local area. The new building will enable the school to accommodate more children to address the increasing school roll resulting from current and planned housing developments. The council has outlined a number of educational benefits, which should be realised if the proposal proceeds. The proposed new facility should provide increased flexibility and promote accessible, inclusive learning that will meet the needs of all learners. The council states that the new school will make best use of technology to enhance digital learning and provide greater opportunities for active and outdoor learning. The new build facility should enable further integrated working with other services and partner agencies and provide additional support to children and families. HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits outlined in the proposal.

3.2 All stakeholders are positive about the new school. Children from Glenboig Primary School, who met with HM Inspectors, are excited about being in a new building. Children from both schools feel that more space will allow them to participate in a wider range of active learning experiences such as music and art. However, they feel the current open plan environment presents distractions and use of shared spaces between both schools restrict what they can do. They would like to see the use of dedicated spaces for activities, which should promote a more positive and inclusive learning environment. Children feel it is important that they continue to have access to shared learning experiences across both schools and afterschool clubs. They also expressed sadness about the potential loss of the forest area. Staff who met with HM Inspectors agree that a new building will create additional space and potentially provide a better learning environment for children. They believe that the existing accommodation and use of shared spaces can limit the delivery of some curricular areas for both schools, including music and physical education. Staff feel that dedicated space for each school would be beneficial in supporting learning.

3.3 Parents who met with HM Inspectors are supportive of the council's proposal to build Glenboig Community Hub that will include Glenboig Primary School. They recognise that space is limited for both of the current schools and staff work well with the space available. They believe that the new school will ease traffic congestion in the local area. Parents feel strongly that the appropriate infrastructure needs to be in place to accommodate transport and support safe walking routes to school. Parents feel it is important that collaborative working continues to offer shared learning experiences across both schools. They also believe that the council should consider appropriate modifications that could be made to the existing building to improve the learning environment for Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School. If the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council to continue to consult with stakeholders, where appropriate, about the design of what is included in the new Glenboig Community Hub and Glenboig Primary School.

3.4 HM Inspectors met with church representatives from the Diocese of Motherwell. They expressed their full support for the proposal. They believe that it will decrease the need for use of shared spaces, which will enhance learning and teaching for children from both schools. They also believe that the religious ethos will be stronger throughout Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School.

3.5 During the consultation period the council was notified of alleged inaccuracies or omissions in the proposal. The council will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to investigate these alleged inaccuracies or omissions. In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies and omissions notified to it.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the council's proposal to build a new primary school in Glenboig. The current school roll is predicted to increase further in the coming years due to planned housing developments. Glenboig Primary School is already over capacity and the existing building may not meet the demand. Should the council proceed with its proposal, it should continue to work with parents, staff and children to ensure that they are kept informed and engaged in the process. In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies and omissions notified to it.

HM Inspectors
February 2025