

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to establish an S2 stage education at Ogilvie School Campus.

April 2020

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 West Lothian Council's proposal to establish an S2 stage education at Ogilvie School Campus. 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 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 school; 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:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents; and
- communication with council officers and the headteacher.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The consultation period ran from 24 February to 3 April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned public meeting on 18 March 2020 was cancelled. As a result of school closures in late March 2020 it was not possible for HM Inspectors to visit the establishment or meet with parents. The council and school were asked to offer parents and other stakeholders the opportunity to speak directly with the Managing Inspector. No stakeholders took up that opportunity. The council received only four responses to the consultation. Of these, three were positive regarding the proposal. The fourth response, from a local resident, expressed concerns about the increase in traffic in the area surrounding the school.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Ogilvie School Campus provides education for children and young people with severe and complex needs. The council has fully considered the educational benefits as outlined in the proposal. There are a number of potential educational benefits to this proposal including supporting the provision of young people to the entitlement to a broad general education and helping them to access a supportive specialist setting taking account of their individual needs. This should help to provide continuity and progression in learning for young people as they move from S1 into S2. The council has also taken account of opportunities for young people beyond the classroom that may not be available if young people move to another school. Access to outdoor learning and the well-established community links already established at Ogilvie School Campus should further support young people's learning.

3.2 The proposed introduction of S2 stage education at Ogilvie School Campus should help enhance the arrangements already in place for current S1 pupils. This should support their ongoing care and learning as they progress through the school.

3.3 The council received only four responses regarding the proposal. Three of these were from the pupil councils of local primary and secondary schools. All three were overwhelmingly positive about the proposal. The council is aware of the issue raised in the fourth response with regard to more traffic in the area surrounding the school and has taken steps to increase parking for staff and visitors within the school grounds. Should the proposal go ahead the council should continue to work with stakeholders to maximise the benefits to young people.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors consider that, overall, there is a strong case for the council to move to establish the provision of education for S2 pupils at Ogilvie school campus. The learning and care needs of young people will continue to be provided in a familiar setting as they move through the school. The proposal is clearly based on the educational benefits for the pupils and their families.

HM Inspectors
April 2020