

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to introduce an additional support needs (ASN) provision to Clydeview Academy**

March 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 Inverclyde Council to introduce an additional support needs (ASN) provision to Clydeview Academy. 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 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 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 meeting held on 11 February 2025 in connection with the council's proposals to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy.
- 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;
- visits to the site of Clydeview Academy, Garvel provision, Notre Dame High School and Stella Maris provision, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The consultation ran from 23 January until 10 March 2025. The council made the consultation paper available via its website. Paper copies were also available by request and from Clydeview Academy. A public meeting was held on 11 February 2025, which 48 members of the public attended. At the meeting, council representatives outlined the consultation process and the proposals, and answered questions raised by member of the public. The council received 371 responses to its online survey. Most were in favour of the proposal, sighting improved provision for meeting additional support needs and improved opportunities for inclusion. A few were undecided and a few were against the proposal sighting concerns about the reduction of

places available at Clydeview Academy. They also highlighted the potential reduction and limits to available space within Clydeview Academy.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that opening an ASN provision at Clydeview Academy has potential educational benefits. At the time of HM Inspectors' engagement, the council's ASN assessment processes had identified an increased number of children in the upper stages of primary school requiring an enhanced placement at the secondary school stage. Across Inverclyde, existing provision designed to meet the needs of children and young people who require specialist placements are at capacity. From August 2025, the new ASN provision could support the council in meeting the projected increase in the needs of children and young people requiring specialist support. Should the provision be located within Clydeview Academy, there are potential educational benefits for young people assessed as requiring enhanced support to access opportunities appropriate for inclusion in a range of mainstream school activities.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree that the proposed space for the new ASN provision at Clydeview could provide appropriate learning areas for young people with a range of additional support needs from August 2025. If the council agrees to move forward with the proposal to establish a new ASN provision, young people will begin to access the new ASN provision from August 2025. Starting with an intake of up to 10 young people in S1, with a projected maximum of 60 places across all year groups. HM Inspectors believe that although this is achievable for the first few intake years. In the longer term, the proposed environment and its current use is not suitable for supporting the needs of 60 young people. The council should consider additional accommodation to meet all young people's needs to provide a high-quality learning environment as the provision grows each year. The council should ensure that the educational benefits as outlined in the consultation reflect the educational experiences for any young person attending and do not negatively impact the learning experiences of other cohorts of learners currently using the space, including those with additional support needs. HM Inspectors recommend that the council should continue to work with staff and relevant therapy and health partners to consider how to meet best the needs of young people accessing the provision as it develops. This will ensure all cohorts have access to high-quality quality, appropriate learning spaces to meet their needs, including outdoors.

3.3 A few parents and staff raised concerned that the opening of a new provision will result in a loss of space and facilities for young people attending Clydeview school and the Garvel centre. They also raised concerns about the uncertainty of the range of additional support needs that would be supported within the provision. The council should work with stakeholders to address these concerns and ensure its provision for meeting the needs of young people who require additional support within provision is more fully understood. This should include providing assurance on the staffing structure and learning environment assigned to the provision.

## 4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits for young people with additional support needs across the council. In opening a new provision at Clydeview Academy, more young people should receive the right support at the right time. This should help the council to meet the national requirements of the presumption of mainstreaming. Young people will have, where appropriate, opportunities to be included within the mainstream school. The new ASN provision in Clydeview Academy will further support the council in meeting the projected increase of young people with a range additional support needs requiring specialist provision.

**HM Inspectors**  
**March 2025**