

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Kinross High School.

May 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 Perth and Kinross Council to permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision (ISP) in Kinross High School for pupils with Additional Support Needs. This is to take effect from January 2026. 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 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 meeting held on 23 April 2025 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;
- held a range of online and in person meetings with relevant consultees; and
- visits to the site of Kinross High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The consultation ran from 24 March to 23 May 2025. Details of the proposal were issued to relevant stakeholders and published on the council website. The website included a helpful video explaining the consultation in an accessible way. The website offered stakeholders a link to an online response form, which generated 10 responses. The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal. Eighteen people attended the public meeting on 23 April 2025. Attendees asked questions about the use of space within the school and how this might impact others; staffing

resources and training; and building works, including access points and financial implications. Attendees also asked about children and young people's opportunities to integrate into the school and access to mainstream teaching and school resources.

2.3 Perth and Kinross Council undertook consultation with children and young people at local primary schools and at Kinross High School. Sixty-seven responses were received from the local primary schools, and 72 from Kinross High School, including individual and group responses. Most children and young people had no concerns about having ISP at the school and did not think it would change their school day. Most children and young people are positive about the proposal. They think this will help Kinross High School to be more inclusive. They also think it is important for young people to have the opportunity to attend a school close to their home and with their peer group.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that opening an ISP provision at Kinross High School has potential educational benefits. Across Perth and Kinross, existing provision designed to meet the needs of young people who require specialist placements are at or over capacity. If implemented, this proposal has the potential to provide much-needed provision within the Kinross area.

3.2 The council has stated a range of educational benefits they consider this proposal will bring. HM Inspectors agree that this proposal will provide an appropriate learning environment for young people from the Kinross area who require intensive support. Alterations to the identified space will ensure that young people can experience a broad curriculum in an environment tailored to their needs. Placing the ISP within Kinross High School also brings the opportunity for young people to access mainstream teachers and specialist resources, as appropriate.

3.3 HM Inspectors met with young people, parents, staff and members of the transition panel to discuss their views. All stakeholders are in favour of the proposal. They agree that young people requiring ISP should be educated close to their home and with their peers where possible. They are conscious that young people travelling outwith their catchment area is having an impact on young people and their families. They think that parents may engage more with a local school. It could also better support post-school transition, with young people supported in their local community. Young people want to ensure that everyone is welcome and included at their school. HM Inspectors agree that young people accessing the new ISP at Kinross High School will be able to transition from primary school with their peers and siblings. This will help them to maintain important peer relationships and strengthen links with their local communities. This provision will help to ensure that young people can achieve and learn as part of their wider community. If agreed this proposal should also reduce travel time for the young people who will attend.

3.4 Staff that met HM Inspectors, see the ISP as an enhancement to Kinross High School and an opportunity to build their own skills and experience. It is important to them that they can now be members of the ISP support network. Staff are keen to have access to additional training to build their knowledge and expertise to support children in the ISP.

3.5 A few stakeholders that met HM Inspectors raised considerations for the implementation of the proposal. For example, ensuring that any resources dedicated to the ISP are additional and do not impact on the wider school. Stakeholders would like further assurance that the identified indoor and outdoor space is flexible and meets the needs of the young people. Parents would like assurance that the school has robust policies in place to build positive relationships and deal with bullying. Parents and young people are keen to ensure that clubs and activities are accessible and open to all. Parents want to ensure that shared spaces are managed effectively so that there is no negative impact on other young people.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to deliver educational benefits for young people with additional support needs. In opening a new ISP provision at Kinross High School, more young people should receive the right support at the right time. The new ISP provision should enable more young people to attend school in their own community, reducing unnecessary travel time and supporting connections with peers and within their communities. 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 alongside their peers. All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors are in favour of the proposal. In implementing this proposal, the council may wish to engage with stakeholders further to address the queries they have raised.

HM Inspectors
May 2025