

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Fife Council to establish a new stage of education within a school – new additional support class (ASC) provision within Dalgety Bay Primary School.

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 Fife Council to establish a new stage of education within a school – a new additional support class (ASC) provision within Dalgety Bay 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 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 January 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; and
- visits to the site of Dalgety Bay Primary School, Pitreavie Primary School, Cairneyhill Primary School and Inverkeithing High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The public consultation ran from 7 January to 21 February 2025. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. A public meeting was held at Dalgety Bay Primary School on 23 January 2025. Ten stakeholders attended this meeting. The council invited stakeholders to complete a survey form and received 26 responses of whom 58% were parents and carers. Just over a quarter stated they have a link to Dalgety Bay Primary School. Almost all, 25 out of 26, agree with the proposal to establish a new ASC provision within Dalgety Bay Primary School, with one unsure. Respondents primarily commented on the need to

increase additional support provision as the reason for their approval of this proposal. Stakeholders at the public meeting and in the survey forms raised practical questions about how the opening of such provision would effect school accommodation. For example, whether this would mean the after-school club would need to move and the impact on outdoor space.

2.3 Council staff ran pupil consultation focus groups with 51 children in P4-7 at Dalgety Bay Primary School and with 15 children attending local ASC provision. Those attending ASC provision value the safe and welcoming environment and caring teachers in their current provision. The children at Dalgety Bay Primary School like that the proposal would support more children to come to their school, that the children coming would get the support they need and that it could make travel easier for some children. They had questions about what changes might be needed to school accommodation.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree there are clear educational benefits to this proposal. The proposal will provide for a maximum of 20 full-time spaces within Dalgety Bay Primary School. Such an increase is required to meet the needs of the current and projected number of children who require enhanced support. The proposal has the potential to support more children to attend provision in a school in their community. This includes children on a shared placement who already spend part of their week in Dalgety Bay Primary School.

3.2 Stakeholders who met HM Inspectors at Dalgety Bay Primary School all agree with the proposal. They like that this proposal should enable children from the area who require enhanced support, to learn and play alongside their peers in the community. Staff, parents and children are positive about welcoming more children to their school. Children who met HM Inspectors are already considering how they can best support the children who will join their school. They spoke eloquently on how important it is to be inclusive and understand that everyone has different abilities and learns at a different pace. Parents and children appreciate the ways that current staff at the school support children. For example, they value the current school sensory room and are enthusiastic about plans to make a larger room.

3.3 Staff and parents at Dalgety Bay Primary School who met HM Inspectors are already actively planning for the changes to their school this proposal would bring, if agreed. This includes school leaders liaising with schools with existing provision to get support from them. The school has capacity for 434 pupils and 14 classrooms. The current roll is 247 and is projected to reduce over coming years. HM Inspectors agree with staff and parents that there is sufficient accommodation and outdoor space available for the establishment of a new ASC provision. Staff and parents have specific queries about a few practical aspects of the proposal. These include ensuring play areas support an inclusive experience for all children and any potential increase in requests for school and nursery places. Parents and staff are also concerned about access points and how the small school car park can accommodate any additional use. HM Inspectors suggest that if this proposal is agreed the council continue to work with school leaders to consider how these challenges can best be managed.

3.4 Stakeholders who met HM Inspectors at Pitreavie Primary School, Cairneyhill Primary School and Inverkeithing High School agree with the proposal. They recognise the potential educational and social benefits that learning and transitioning within one school cluster area should provide for children. Staff spoke of the potential to simplify transition arrangements and provide continuity of support from primary to secondary as children attending Dalgety Bay Primary School are all likely to move to the enhanced provision at Inverkeithing High School. They also noted that having ASC provision at Dalgety Bay Primary School may reduce travel time to school. Children attending ASC provisions in Pitreavie and Cairneyhill Primary Schools that met

HM Inspectors, enjoy their school experience and think that similar provision should be available in other schools, including Dalgety Bay.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree there are clear educational benefits to this proposal. Dalgety Bay Primary School has the space to accommodate enhanced support provision. If the council decides to progress with the proposal, it will increase the amount of ASC provisions in the area. This should help the council to meet the needs of children requiring enhanced support closer to their own communities. It may reduce travel times for some children. It should enable children from the area to learn and play within a local school alongside their peers. It is likely that children in the additional support classes will all move to the same secondary school maintaining relationships. If the proposal is agreed, the council should continue to work with Dalgety Bay Primary School staff to ensure that spaces are adapted well and practical concerns raised by stakeholders are addressed.

HM Inspectors
March 2025