

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

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to establish a new non-denominational primary school and nursery classes at Granton Waterfront and implement catchment changes.**

October 2024

## 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 The City of Edinburgh Council to establish a new non-denominational primary school and nursery classes at Granton Waterfront and implement catchment changes. 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 and young people 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 10 September 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 site of Pirniehall Primary School, Granton Primary School, Craigroyston Primary School, Craigroyston High School and Broughton High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The council undertook the consultation between 22 August to 3 October 2024. The council published the proposal on its website. Paper and electronic copies of the proposal paper were made available. The council held a public meeting at Craigroyston High School, which no members of the community attended. Completion of online questionnaires and written responses on the proposal were also accepted by letter or email. The council also engaged with children at a drop-in event that took place at school pick-up times. The council received 54 responses from

stakeholders who took part in the online survey. Most respondents were in favour of the proposal. A few were not in favour and a few neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal. The council also received 93 responses from children who took part in the online survey. A majority of children agreed that there is a need for a new school. A few disagreed and a few neither agreed or disagreed. The majority of respondents agreed that if more space is added to Craigroyston Community High School, pupils from the new primary school should go there. A few disagreed and a minority neither agreed or disagreed. Most respondents agreed that it is important to them to be able to bus, walk, wheel or cycle to school.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council's proposal is to establish a new non-denominational primary school and nursery classes at Granton Waterfront and implement catchment changes. The proposed new school will have 14 classrooms and 128 nursery places. The proposed timeline for the new school is August 2028. The catchment area for the new school will be formed from sections of Pirniehall and Granton Primary Schools. The existing dual catchment areas of Pirniehall and Craigroyston Primary Schools will be realigned to Pirniehall Primary School. A further catchment area, which is currently aligned to Craigroyston Primary School will also be realigned to Pirniehall Primary School. Broughton and Craigroyston High School catchment areas will be realigned so that the new school will be associated with Craigroyston High School. Craigroyston High School will be extended to accommodate up to 1,200 pupils.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree with the proposal to build a new school has potential educational benefits. These include access to a modern, inclusive and accessible learning environment. A new building should support creative and engaging learning aligned with Curriculum for Excellence. It will offer facilities to encourage health and wellbeing and support outdoor learning. Nursery accommodation on site will allow for children to progress in learning from nursery to P1 within a familiar setting. Proposed catchment changes may lead to more socio-economic diversity in schools. It may also help to more evenly distribute any pressures on sustainable school rolls that may arise as a result of new housing developments. Increased staffing in the area can expand cluster working and the sharing of approaches to learning and teaching.

3.3 Almost all children, young people, parents and wider stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They recognise the potential education benefits of increasing school capacity in the area, with further opportunities to expand in the future. They also recognise that a new school may offer opportunities for increased after school activities and better outdoor facilities for learning and play. Children also recognised opportunities to make new friends. However, a few parents suggested there is a need for more diversity in the staffing of the proposed new school, to better reflect the socio-demographics of the area. A few parents were also concerned about the sibling guarantee and would like more clarity on what will be offered. A minority of parents and young people had concerns about safe routes to school, as the proposed location for the new school is near to a very busy road and unsecured access to water. A few staff noted the importance of building a strong ethos and identity of the new school. Almost all stakeholders would like to be involved in aspects of design and development of the proposed new school. A few staff at Craigroyston High School would also like to be informed of plans for the proposed extension to help inform the best use of space within the school for the delivery of all aspects of the school curriculum.

3.4 During the consultation period consultees identified alleged inaccuracies in the proposal relating to school capacity numbers of young people at Broughton High School. The council will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to investigate these alleged inaccuracies. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address these.

## 4. Summary

The council's proposal provides strong evidence to support the establishment of a new non-denominational primary school and nursery classes at Granton Waterfront and implement catchment changes. HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to this proposal. If implemented, the proposal could see an increased number of children in the area accessing a modern and accessible learning environment, which will support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. If approved, the council should work with children, young people, parents and staff to ensure concerns around safe routes to school are addressed and other concerns and suggestions are considered. 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**  
**October 2024**