

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council for the establishment of S3 and subsequent roll out up to S6 year stages of education within Ogilvie School Campus.

June 2021

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 the West Lothian Council's proposal for the establishment of S3 and subsequent roll out up to S6 year stages of education within 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:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 6 May 2021 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
- virtual visits to the site of Ogilvie School Campus, including discussion with relevant consultees.

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 19 April 2021 to 4 June 2021. The council sought views from stakeholders through the council website, local press, hard copies of the proposal provided in central locations and made hard copies available via post at the request of stakeholders. Due to the Covid-19 situation and taking account of public health risks, the council arranged a virtual public meeting to take place on 6 May 2021. Four education officers, the headteacher from Ogilvie School Campus, a West Lothian Council employee and the Executive Councillor for Education, attended the virtual public meeting. No members of the public attended the meeting. Education officers shared a presentation outlining the proposal and the educational benefits. The headteacher offered an overview of adaptations made to the school building and outdoor spaces

across the last two years. The West Lothian Council employee was positive about the proposal. There were no written responses received during the consultation period.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Ogilvie School Campus provides education for children and young people with a range of complex learning needs. The council has fully considered the educational benefits as outlined in the proposal.

3.2 The council has outlined a number of potential educational benefits to this proposal. Benefits relate to improving quality learning experiences for children and young people. Additionally, there is potential to reduce unnecessary transitions between schools. Ogilvie School Campus will be equipped to deliver education across the broad general and senior phases of education. Recent investment in school refurbishment and extension has improved learning and teaching areas available to children and young people. Account has been taken of community links including mainstream schools. If the proposal is progressed, there is potential for the Ogilvie School Campus pupils to benefit from carefully planned engagement and experiences with neighbouring schools. The proposed introduction of S3 and subsequent roll out to S6 by August 2024 should support continuity of learning provision for existing pupils. The school should collaborate closely with young people and parents to ensure the development of the senior phase remains aspirational, relevant and well resourced.

3.3 Parent representatives were positive about potential benefits and in favour of the proposal. There was concern about safety at the start and end of the school day due to the level of traffic at these times. If the proposal progresses, the council should continue to review safe traffic management at these key points of the school day. To support pupil inclusion and participation in the consultation process, the school used a variety of communication strategies taking account of pupil's preferred methods of communication. These include Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, picture symbols, objects and photographs. Most pupils identified potential education benefits appropriate for their age and stages of development. They were able to share likes for activities taking place in outside spaces, cooking areas and sensory spaces. A few children were able to express concerns about the proposal that they were anxious about. These related to increasing the number of pupils in the school. For example, noise levels and busyness of common play areas. If the proposal is agreed, future modifications and developments should meet the learning, care and social needs of the pupils. Parents, children and young people would benefit from participating in the planning of future indoor and outdoor environments.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors consider that, overall, there is a strong case for the council to progress provision for young people entering their senior phase. The proposal identifies potential education benefits for the pupils. There will be continuity with learning and established educational relationships. If the proposal moves forward, staff, pupils and parents should work closely to ensure the school is well resourced to meet the needs and aspirations of all pupils. To alleviate parental concerns around busyness of traffic at the start and end of the school day, the council should continue to review safe traffic management.

HM Inspectors
June 2021