



**Glasgow City Council**

**City Administration Committee**

**Report by Councillor Chris Cunningham, City Convener for  
Education, Skills and Early Years**

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**Item 4**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**TO PROPOSE A STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE MERGER OF ST  
STEPHEN'S AND ST KEVIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON THE SIGHTHILL  
CAMPUS**

**Purpose of Report:**

To seek approval to undertake a consultation on the above proposal.

**Recommendations:**

The City Administration Committee is asked to approve the proposal to progress to a consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Ward No(s): 22

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes ✓ No ☐ consulted: Yes ✓ No ☐

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2019, St. Stephen's and St. Kevin's Primary Schools moved in to Sighthill Community Campus, a purpose-built school development, costing £22million, which fully enables the children in both the mainstream and additional needs sectors to work and learn together within an environment appropriate to all needs.
- 1.2 The children in St Kevin's have a range of additional support needs, including those with a complex learning and communication profile, who require high levels of support and assistance. In session 2021/22, there are 64 children in the school.
- 1.3 There is currently a shared senior management team, which consists of one headteacher and two deputy headteachers across the two primary schools. There are 10.5 full time equivalent teaching staff and 17 support staff in St Kevin's. There are 13 full time equivalent teaching staff and 8 support staff in St Stephen's.
- 1.4 In line with Glasgow's policy for inclusion, the children in both schools work on a range of learning activities taking into account their additional support needs, which give the children the opportunity to learn together and learn from each other.
- 1.5 As part of this approach, parents and the school community were consulted. This took place to seek the views of stakeholders on a range of proposals regarding the schools operating as one school. This included a change in uniform. The children in both schools have been wearing the same uniform since August 2020.
- 1.6 122 questionnaires were returned representing 62% of the parental body across the two schools.
- 1.7 The responses were:

	YES	%	NO	%
I would like the school to be one school	117	96%	5	4%
I would like the school to have one name	105	86%	17	14%
I would like them to have the same uniform	117	96%	5	4%
I would like my child to use technology to complete homework tasks	112	92%	10	8%
I am happy with the school's plan to reduce paper homework	112	92%	10	8%

- 1.8 Almost all parents were supportive of the idea of having one school on the campus. In their comments, parents said that they liked the way the school gives opportunities for all children to mix, but do not want all children to be in the same classes all of the time. They recognise the needs of the St Kevin's pupils and want assurances this is not a way of returning them to a mainstream setting as they feel their child would not cope. The proposal is

not proposing that children who have additional support needs and require enhanced support are taught in a mainstream setting.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 This proposal is that St. Stephen's and St. Kevin's Primary Schools merge and become one school. There will be a future consultation on a new name should the proposal be agreed. There will continue to be enhanced provision in the new school for children with additional support needs.
- 2.2 There will be no change to the current staffing in each school. The classes will continue to be taught as they are just now while opportunity is taken for the children to share learning experiences in line with their additional support needs. Children with additional support needs who require enhanced support will continue to be taught in small group settings with high levels of support.
- 2.3 The new school will remain part of St Roch's Learning Community.

## **3. Roll Projection Methodology**

- 3.1 Planning for the demand for educational places is reviewed annually. Future demand is predicted taking into account the following factors:
  - Birth rates in Glasgow.
  - Housing needs assessment, contained in strategic and local plans.
  - Migration of children in and out of Glasgow.
  - The historical demand for placements made by parents resident in other Local Authorities.
- 3.2 Allocation for children requiring a change of educational pathway is carefully planned for and monitored by the Area Inclusion Groups and the head of inclusion and equalities. This ensures that area caps and allocations do not exceed agreed allocations.
- 3.3 The planned capacity for both schools will remain unchanged. The capacity of St Kevin's is 70 pupils, and for St Stephen's it is 350 pupils. Children will continue to be offered places for the enhanced provision following assessment and consideration by Area Inclusion Groups.
- 3.4 The lay out of the campus has been planned to provide space for additional classrooms to be added, if required, as the population of the Northgate Housing Development and the regeneration of Sighthill continues to grow.

## **4. Proposed Date for the Implementation of the Proposal**

- 4.1 Pending a successful consultation process, it would be hoped that the merger would be complete to allow the school to be opened as one school in August 2022.

- 4.2 If there were agreement to the schools merging into one school, then there would then be a consultation on the name for the newly merged school.

## 5. The Consultation Process

- Parent Councils
- Parents/carers/children
- Archdiocese of Glasgow
- Staff
- Trade Unions
- Community Councils
- Area Partnerships
- Groups formed under Part 2 of the Local Government in Scotland Act (2003)
- Other neighbouring education authorities
- Other users of the school premises

In addition, notice to advise of the consultation arrangements has been placed in the press and a dedicated page has been set up on the Council website for both information and to enable interested parties to respond to the proposals.

**Web site address:** [www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

**E-mail address:** [Schoolconsultations@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Schoolconsultations@glasgow.gov.uk)

The indicative timetable for the consultations is:

Date	Action	Location
21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	City Administration Committee	
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	Start of Public Consultation Period begins	
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Public meeting 7pm	Sighthill campus
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	End of Public Consultation Period	
To be confirmed January 2022	Information to Education Scotland for report (3 week period)	
To be confirmed	Consultation response report published at least 3 weeks prior to City Administration Committee	
To be confirmed	Report to City Administration Committee	

## **6 Involvement of Education Scotland (HMI)**

- 6.1 This consultation is within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act. Education Scotland will be informed of the consultation through the Area Lead Officer.
- 6.2 A copy of the consultation proposal will be sent to Education Scotland by Education Services. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any written representations received by Education Services for any person during the consultation period or, in agreement with Education Scotland, a summary of them. They will also receive a summary of any oral representation made to Education Services at the public meeting and a copy of any other relevant documentation.
- 6.3 Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposals no later than three weeks after Education Services has sent them all representations and documents as mentioned above.
- 6.4 In preparing their report, they may visit the affected establishments and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, as they consider appropriate.

## **7 Conclusions from the Consultation Exercise**

The outcome and conclusion of the consultation exercise will be presented to the City Administration Committee of the Council.

## **8 Scottish Ministers' Call-In**

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 contains the option for a referral to Scottish Ministers.

## **9 Policy and Resource Implications**

### **Resource Implications:**

*Financial:* The consultation will be carried out within existing resources.

*Legal:* Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

*Personnel:* N/A

*Procurement:* N/A

**Council Strategic Plan:** Excellent and Inclusive Education 35

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.* An EQIA will be undertaken and included in the response document.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* No impact is anticipated on the protected characteristics.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.* N/A

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* N/A

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* There are no planned changes to the accommodation or how children travel to school.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* N/A

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Responders will be asked to provide name, age, address and reason(s) for responding. Young people under 16 would have personal details withheld in the response document. Those over 16 would be offered the option of this. The data would only be used/held by Glasgow City Council for the purposes of consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010

## **10 Recommendations**

- 10.1 The City Administration Committee is asked to approve the proposal to progress to a consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.