

West Dunbartonshire Council
Educational, Learning & Attainment



A Proposal Document
for
Primary Education, Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Early Learning
and Childcare Provision (ELCC)
within the Faifley area of Clydebank

**The following Schools and Early Learning and Childcare Centres are
affected by this Proposal Document:**

EDINBARNET PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RAINBOW BASE
AUCHNACRAIG EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRE
LENNOX EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

**This document has been issued by West Dunbartonshire Council for
consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

1. Introduction

1.1 At its meeting on 22nd September 2021, the Educational Services Committee of West Dunbartonshire Council is asked to approve:

- a) the launch of the statutory consultation document by the Chief Education Officer under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the proposal to construct co-located replacements for St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also provide a Community Library and Community space within the new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School;
- b) agree that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to the meeting of the Educational Services Committee on 9th March 2022.

2. The Proposal

2.1 West Dunbartonshire Council is proposing, subject to approval from Education Services Committee and the outcome of the consultation process:

- from August 2025, the cessation of educational provision in the current buildings housing Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and closure of Auchnacraig and Lennox Early Learning and Childcare Centres (ELCCs);
- the establishment of a new educational campus on the current St Joseph's School site comprising co-located new-build replacements for Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC) to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs and to also include a Community Library and community space;
- the pupils and staff of Edinbarnet Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base, and the children and staff of Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCC will remain in their existing

buildings during the construction period on the St Joseph's existing site;

- the new campus to open in the Autumn of 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter.

2.2 A map identifying the locations of the 4 affected establishments is included as Appendix 1.

3. Background to the Proposal

3.1 In line with our Learning Estate Strategy, West Dunbartonshire Council is making significant progress in improving the schools estate and by the end of school session 2020/21, had moved over 9,000 pupils from older properties that prove more difficult to provide a modern curriculum experience as well as to maintain into new, purpose-built or substantially refurbished educational establishments.

3.2 Presently, a new Renton Campus incorporating a new Renton Primary School, Renton Early Education & Childcare Centre and Leven Base is under construction over 2 phases. Following the principle that children remain in their current building during construction of the new building, phase 1 sees the completion of the new build presently being built in the grounds of the existing school, with phase 2 demolishing the existing school building to form new external learning and play space (including a new all weather MUGA pitch) with final completion due in July 2022.

3.3 The improvements in the learning environments in the new builds and other educational establishments promotes and encourages imaginative and innovative learning and teaching thereby increasing attainment and achievement. This in turn leads to the strategic objective of a strong local economy and increased employment opportunities.

3.4 The joint Scottish Government & COSLA report School Estate Strategy: "Building Better Schools" published in 2009, indicated that it expects local authorities to move as many pupils and young people as possible from school buildings which have Condition ratings of D (Bad) or C (Poor) to buildings with Condition ratings of A (Good) or B (Satisfactory). Scottish Government investment support has been made available for such improvements.

3.5 West Dunbartonshire has the commitment to ensure all of our children are educated in buildings that meet 'Category A or B' as described by the Scottish Government. Notwithstanding the vast improvements in the school estate, there remains, within the primary school estate, establishments that over time could find themselves with a condition

rating of C (Poor). The suitability of older educational establishments for a modern curriculum is also challenging, and therefore it is clear that, for both educational and financial reasons, it is beneficial for the Council to consolidate and modernise its learning estate by a process of co-location, new build and closure.

- 3.6** The Learning Estate Project Board and Strategic Asset Management Team consider a range of options for improving the learning estate, including: school condition and suitability, roll and occupancy level; potential for refurbishment; location and potential for amalgamation, closure or co-location; potential for co-location of school(s) and ELCC; and availability of suitable or existing sites for new builds, preferably in the ownership of the Council.
- 3.7** West Dunbartonshire Council's Learning Estate Strategy identified the replacement of the existing Primary Schools and ELCC buildings in Faifley as one of its priorities. This decision was based on the condition and suitability of the four buildings, and the ongoing costs to maintain them with a condition rating of B (Satisfactory).
- 3.8** During informal engagement with all the primary school communities and wider community in Faifley, conducted between summer 2020 and spring of 2021, support was expressed across the community for the idea of co-location of denominational and non-denominational primary schools in the area and for the provision of community spaces and a community library.
- 3.9** On 22nd March 2021, Council approved a ten year capital plan which included an allocation of £28.86M for the Faifley Campus schools/ELCC project: £18.42M from the Scottish Government's enabling fund via the Scottish Futures Trust and £10.44M from the Council's Capital Programme.
- 3.10** On 9th June 2021, the Educational Services Committee:
- a) Agreed that the St Joseph's Primary site be taken forward as the potential campus provision and authorised the Chief Education Officer to progress with preparation for the Statutory Consultation process to be launched at a future Educational Services Committee;
 - b) Agreed that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.

- c) Noted that the Learning Estate Board 30th March 2021, agreed to progress with adopting hub West Scotland as the preferred route to market;
- d) Noted that the present St Joseph's site has been identified as the most appropriate site following an Options Appraisal exercise;
- e) Authorised the Chief Education Officer to develop the design and thereafter tender the same through hub West Scotland procurement route with a report being brought to a future Tendering Committee to allow the contract to be placed following the conclusion of both the Statutory Consultation process and the Council obtaining suitable offer of grant funding from the Scottish Government;
- f) Authorised that further site investigations be undertaken on the St Joseph's site;
- g) Noted that, following completion of the further site investigations, a further report will be tabled at a future Educational Services Committee detailing the results of the site investigations and seeking authority to commence statutory consultation under terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- h) Authorised the Chief Education Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Manager of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services to procure the necessary technical, legal and financial support through the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) Framework Agreement.

4 Current Position

- 4.1 Edinbarnet Primary School is located within the Faifley area of Clydebank. It was constructed in 1958 and has the capacity to accommodate 462 pupils. Its roll at the last census date of September 2020 was 228 pupils, with an occupancy rate of 49%. However, projections indicate that this figure is likely to decline over the following years:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
202	188	174	168	169	165	164	163	164

- 4.2 The building is a traditional school structure in satisfactory/poor physical condition (condition rating B/C). Over time, it will be challenging to maintain this condition rating. Its inflexible design makes it less than ideal for modern learning and teaching methods and the delivery of a 21st century curriculum.

4.3 St Joseph's Primary School is located in the Faifley area of Clydebank. It was constructed in 1959 and has the capacity to accommodate 441 pupils. Its roll at the last census date of September 2020 was 191 pupils, with an occupancy rate of 43%. However, projections indicate that this figure is likely to increase over the following years:-

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
188	191	203	206	206	204	204	204	205

4.4 The building is a traditional school structure in satisfactory physical condition (condition rating B). Over time, it will be challenging to maintain this condition rating. Its inflexible design makes it less than ideal for modern learning and teaching methods and the delivery of a 21st century curriculum.

4.5 The Rainbow ASN Base, principally for pupils with autistic spectrum (ASD) from across West Dunbartonshire Council, is housed within St Joseph's Primary and managed by the head teacher of St Joseph's Primary. Whilst the space it accommodates has been adapted from spare capacity in the St Joseph's building, the building was not originally designed for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN). This causes significant issues in delivering the curriculum and care for vulnerable children and this proposal would provide the opportunity for the Council to provide a purpose built educational provision.

4.6 The main components influencing the above projections for both Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools are:

- There is out migration in the primary sector across Clydebank (0.69% three year average);
- If the campus is built on the St. Joseph's site and both the Edinbarnet and Skypoint sites are disposed for housing, there will be approximately 250 new houses built in the Faifley area;
- There is a trend to apply for placing requests for schools outwith this area (based on data from the past 3 years, on average 16 children per year from Faifley schools' catchment areas are attending schools outside these catchment areas);
- Therefore the overall trend in the projection for this locality is a declining one from the current position.

4.7 Auchnacraig ELCC is currently located within the Edinbarnet Primary School campus. It was constructed in 1966 and is registered for 126 3-5 year olds. The building is in poor physical condition (condition rating C), and whilst the building has been internally decorated to a high standard to provide 1140 hours, the layout which was the original Edinbarnet Primary School in

traditional classrooms, makes it less than ideal for modern approaches to play and early learning.

- 4.8** Lennox ELCC is located in Lennox Drive, Faifley. It was constructed in 1971 when pre-school education was being expanded, and is registered for 55 children comprising: 15 children 0-2 years old and 40 children 2 years to under 4 year olds. The building is in a satisfactory physical condition (condition rating B), however over time it will be challenging to maintain this condition rating. Although purpose built for 3-5 year olds; it does not meet design required for babies and toddlers in spite of attempts to modify internally.

5 Proposed new Campus

5.1 Proposed site

- 5.1.1** Following careful consideration of a range of options, and as a result of an Options Appraisal exercise, the Council has identified the current St Joseph's Primary School site as the preferred site for the new campus, Community Library and Community space.

- 5.1.2** The main reasons for the choice of this site are:

- the site is already within the Council's ownership;
- the suitable size, ground conditions, topography and the availability of utility services on the site;
- the site is located next to St Joseph's RC Church, with which St Joseph's Primary School has long-standing and strong connections;
- the other considered sites would attract significant additional costs to the development of the locations due to decant of children and staff, rental of modular buildings for any decant and disruption to education and learning, staff and children.

- 5.1.3** The children and staff from St Joseph's Primary and St Joseph's Rainbow Base will remain in the existing building for the duration of the construction phase of the new campus, as will all of the Edinbarnet, Auchnacraig and Lennox children and staff; similar to the current new Renton Campus arrangements.

5.2 Proposed Facilities

- 5.2.1** Facilities will require to accommodate 126 3 - 5 year olds, 15 0 - 2 year olds and 40 2 year olds to under 4 year olds in the ELCC and 420 pupils in the primary schools with 36 pupils in the ASN Base.

- 5.2.2** The draft accommodation schedule for the new campus is currently under development. However it should be noted that modern purpose built educational accommodation is the default position, something we have much experience of based on current and recent projects. In particular the educational, care and welfare provisions at The Rainbow Base will be planned with the complex needs of their children in mind.
- 5.2.3** The two primary schools will continue to operate as separate establishments, with their own teaching and support staff. Discussions with the Archdiocese of Glasgow will ensure that the plans for the co-location of the two schools are in accordance with the Catholic Church's protocols for co-located establishments.
- 5.2.4** The new Early Learning and Childcare Centre, the name of which is still to be determined, will operate as a single establishment. A single service for children aged 0 to 5 years with the benefit of not transitioning to a separate building in the north side of Faifley as they do at present when moving from Lennox to Auchnacraig.
- 5.2.5** The campus will house a Community Library and Community space, which will be subject of future engagement, outwith the scope of this statutory consultation.

6 Educational Benefits Statement

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1** West Dunbartonshire Council believes this proposal will provide a range of educational benefits and enhance the Council's efforts to meet statutory obligations enshrined in:
- the Education (Scotland) Act 1980;
 - the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000;
 - the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
 - the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004;
 - the Educational (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009;
 - the Equality Act 2010;
 - Early Learning and Childcare Statutory Guidance and Care Commission requirements; and
 - the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 6.1.2** The proposal is aligned to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which affirms that every child regardless of race, gender or disability has a right to an education and to develop his or her fullest possible potential.

- 6.1.3** The new building will provide modern, fit-for-purpose educational facilities which are specifically designed to create a stimulating learning environment. This will be in stark contrast to the existing buildings which prove challenging to deliver a 21st century curriculum.
- 6.1.4** The new campus will be designed to provide a fully accessible and inclusive environment to accommodate the needs of all users of the building. With natural flow progression through the learning cycle from early years to senior primary stages and including pupils attending the ASN Base to fully meet the principles of inclusion.
- 6.1.5** The new campus will be designed to meet the guidance provided by 'Realising the Ambition: Being Me' to guide and support those who work with babies and children in the early learning and childcare sector and into the early years of primary school to promote play pedagogy within a creative, imaginatively resourced ELC and schools.
- 6.1.6** The facilities will support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence by providing an environment conducive to nurturing successful, confident and responsible young people who are able to learn and apply their learning in ways that will help them to reach their full potential and respond to the variety and pace of change they will encounter in today's and tomorrow's world. The facilities will be constructed in accordance with the latest building standards and regulatory requirements relating to building design, providing a variety of accommodation to deliver experiences across all eight curriculum areas.
- 6.1.7** The design guidance 'Space to Grow' will be used to apply the design principles necessary for high quality ELC.

6.2 Likely effect of proposal on pupils currently attending St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools and Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs

- 6.2.1** There are a number of educational benefits associated with the design of the two new primary schools:
- Modern, dedicated and multi-purpose spaces, designed to deliver all areas of Curriculum for Excellence and to encourage innovative and flexible teaching and effective learning and play pedagogy;
 - education in a comfortable, environmentally efficient, wind- and water-tight environment in which the use of natural light is maximised;
 - access to enhanced internal and external sports and play facilities;
 - well planned external areas of the site designed and developed to provide safe, secure and educationally stimulating outdoor environments, where landscaping has been carefully planned to support recreational and play,

including suitable areas of soft and hard landscaping incorporating seating, all weather sports pitch, differentiated play areas and areas capable of being developed by staff and pupils as part of 'grounds for learning' initiatives and other environmental education and outdoor learning opportunities;

- use of well designed social and circulation spaces within the building;
- use of modern toilets and washing facilities;
- an integrated ICT infrastructure, including wireless capability, designed to maximise the use of the latest technology to enhance learning;
- specially designed general purpose and library areas, designed to encourage independent and collaborative learning;
- provision of furniture that is ergonomically designed, age appropriate and provides flexibility to change configuration and support a variety of learning and teaching approaches;
- in the case of the Rainbow ASN Base a range of the most modern and appropriate facilities for the education, support and care needs of the children;
- attractive indoor and outdoor dining facilities, serviced by a modern catering kitchen;
- management, office and staff facilities, suitably located in order to support staff in delivering the curriculum and facilitate a positive school ethos and collegiate working culture;
- integrated infrastructure and storage space, designed to ensure that the functional areas of the school are not compromised and are fully available and accessible for learning and teaching purposes;
- dedicated resource base space incorporating reprographics equipment and other facilities for use by teaching and support staff to support the production of pupil resources;
- a safe and secure campus with controlled entry and CCTV.

Young people attending the new Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools will benefit from all of the above features, and as a consequence, their learning and social experience of school and integrated community spaces will greatly improve.

6.2.2 Edinbarnet and St Joseph's Primary Schools already enjoy excellent relationships with each other and have engaged in a number of joint sporting, collaborative learning and anti-sectarian projects. Whilst the two schools will continue to operate as separate establishments, the fact that they will share a campus will facilitate the development of similar projects and embed collaborative working in the future.

6.2.3 There will also be educational benefits from the professional dialogue among the staff of the two schools and Early Learning & Childcare Centre being enhanced by the fact that they share the same campus. For example, teachers will be able to share ideas for learning and teaching approaches

within the Campus and children will benefit through their continual learning from nursery stages to senior primary stages in a purpose built environment and in the outdoor spaces.

- 6.2.4** The design of St Joseph's Primary School will contain specific elements focussed on the Catholic ethos of the school and the spiritual dimension of its work.
- 6.2.5** Transition from pre-school to Primary 1 will be enhanced by the fact that the two schools will share their building with a large ELCC. For instance, joint transition projects can operate seamlessly within the same building, removing many operational and administrative barriers.
- 6.2.6** The fact that the new ELCC will be much larger than the two ELCC establishments it is replacing will afford the management team greater flexibility in the deployment of staff and the grouping of children for educational, learning through play activities and free-flow learning and play to the outdoor areas. This is especially important at the early stages, as children continue to learn through play.
- 6.2.7** The co-location of ELC and school will ensure that support for children meets the requirements within the National Standard and the design of the offer of ELC for Funding Follows the Child.

6.3 Likely effect of Proposal on Other Users of the Schools

- 6.3.1** As part of West Dunbartonshire Council's efficiency measures, the Council has greatly reduced the number of external lets in primary schools, instead concentrating lets in secondary schools which are generally already open in the evenings. Currently, there are no sessional lets in either of the two primary schools affected.
- 6.3.2** Internal lets could be accommodated within the new campus building with the addition of further community lets and use of the Campus integrating it as both an educational and social facility within Faifley.
- 6.3.3** External lets on the MUGA pitch would be dependent on Planning consent.
- 6.3.4** Early Learning and Childcare Centres are not used by community groups.

6.4 Likely effect of Proposal on other pupils across West Dunbartonshire schools

- 6.4.1 The likely effect of the proposal on other pupils across West Dunbartonshire Council schools will be minimal. The proposal for the Faifley Campus will assist the Council to direct the Education revenue budget towards learning and teaching resources through the provision of high quality space, rather than supporting higher running and maintenance costs associated with older buildings.
- 6.4.2 The proposal may result in additional placing requests to the new educational facilities and the return of existing catchment pupils for St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools. It is anticipated that any additional Placing Requests or return of catchment area pupils will be accommodated within the capacity of the new primary schools.
- 6.4.3 The enhanced facilities will enable improved curriculum planning with the two zoned secondary schools for the campus and aid the transition processes to both schools.

7.0 The Consultation Process

- 7.1 At its meeting on 22nd September 2021, West Dunbartonshire Council authorised the Chief Education Officer to undertake formal consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the Proposal specified in section 2 above and the arrangements noted below have been made to discharge that instruction.
- 7.2 The initial aspects of the consultation process are specified in the following table:

Launch of Statutory Consultation Process	30 Sept 2021
Public Meetings	5 Oct 2021
End of Statutory Consultation Process	17 Nov 2021
Compilation and issue of Section 8 (1) information to Education Scotland	18-26 Nov 2021
Education Scotland response period	29 Nov – 21 Dec 2021
Consultation Report published	15 Feb 2022
Outcome of Consultation at committee	9 Mar 2022

- 7.3 The Proposal Document will be issued by the Chief Education Officer to the consultees included in the following list:
 - Education Scotland;
 - The Archdiocese of Glasgow of the Roman Catholic Church;
 - the Parent Councils of St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools;
 - the parents/carers of pupils attending St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools, Auchnacraig and Lennox Early Learning & Childcare

Centres;

- the parents/carers of any children expected by West Dunbartonshire Council to attend either St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools within two years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document (with that date of publication being defined in the table included in section 7.2 above), including those pupils attending all private and voluntary pre-school nurseries in the Faifley area;
- the Parent Councils of the two associated Secondary Schools (Clydebank High School and St. Peter the Apostle High School)
- the pupils attending St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools (insofar as this is possible and taking cognisance of the age and maturity of the pupils);
- the teaching and support staff at St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools, Auchnacraig and Lennox Early Learning & Childcare Centres;
- the trade union representatives of the above staff;
- Faifley Community Council;
- user groups or individuals who currently utilise the facilities at St Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools;
- the constituency MSP;
- the constituency MP; and
- Neighbouring local authorities.

7.4 The Proposal Document will also be published on the West Dunbartonshire Council website and copies will also be available from the reception point at the following West Dunbartonshire Council buildings:

- Edinbarnet Primary School, Faifley Road, Clydebank G81 5BQ
- St Joseph's Primary School, Faifley Road, Clydebank G81 5EY
- Auchnacraig ELCC, Faifley Road, Clydebank G81 5BQ
- Lennox ELCC, Lennox Drive, Clydebank G81 5JY
- Clydebank Library, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank G81 1XH
- West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL

7.5 The Proposal Document can also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please make contact with West Dunbartonshire Council's Educational Services, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL, Tel: , 01389737391 or e-mail: educationconsultation@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

7.6 A public notice to advertise the consultation will be placed in the Dumbarton Reporter and Clydebank Post and the same notice will be displayed on the reception area notice boards in the above noted West Dunbartonshire Council buildings.

7.7 Two public meetings will be held on Tuesday 5th October 2021 - one online at

4pm and one in-person at St Joseph's Primary School at 7pm, at which representatives of West Dunbartonshire Council's Educational Services Department will be in attendance to present the details of the Proposal, answer questions and record comments/representations from those in attendance at the meeting. Education Scotland will also attend the public meetings.

- 7.8** Comments/representations may also be made by contacting 01389 737391; by email to educationconsultation@west-dunbarton.gov.uk or by writing to the Chief Education Officer at West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL. Comments/representations should be received no later than 17th November 2021.
- 7.9** At the end of the consultation period, the Chief Education Officer will submit a copy of all written comments/representations, together with oral comments/representations made at the public meeting, to Education Scotland who will prepare a professional and independent report on the educational aspects of the Proposal.
- 7.10** The Chief Education Officer will consider all written and oral comments/representations received in relation to the Proposal which have been received during the consultation period, together with Education Scotland's report, and prepare a Consultation Report.
- 7.11** The Chief Education Officer shall publish the Consultation Report which shall be issued (either in full or as a summary document) to the consultees specified in section 7.3 above; be made available on Council's website; be available in printed format from the reception points at West Dunbartonshire Council buildings specified in section 7.4 above; and be issued to all those who responded and provided contact details through the consultation process.
- 7.12** The Consultation Report shall be published to allow a period of no less than 3 weeks prior to the Council's Decision to either implement or reject the Proposal.
- 7.13** The Chief Education Officer shall immediately notify Scottish Ministers if the Council's Decision is to implement the Proposal which would relocate Edinbarnet Primary School, Auchnacraig & Lennox Early Learning & Childcare Centres to the new site.
- 7.14** Representations (from consultees) can be made to Scottish Ministers within 3 weeks of the Council Decision to request Scottish Ministers 'call-in' the Council Decision.
- 7.15** West Dunbartonshire Council can only implement the Council Decision 6

weeks after the date of the Council Decision or in the event such earlier notification is received from Scottish Ministers.

7.16 West Dunbartonshire Council cannot implement the Council Decision if 'called-in' by Scottish Ministers during the 6 week period after the Council Decision and Scottish Ministers will then adopt the position of making the decision to either implement or reject the Proposal.

7.17 The proposal questions are as follows:

Are you in favour of the proposal to co-locate Edinbarnet Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre comprising Auchnacraig & Lennox ELCCs on the St Joseph's site? Yes / No

Consultees may also wish to provide reasons for their opinions.

APPENDIX 1 – Map of the area

