

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT  
WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS**

**A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

**Friday 15 November 2019 until Monday 13 January 2020**

**CONTENTS**

|                   |  |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1.</b>         | <b>INTRODUCTION</b>  | <b>Page</b> |
|                   | 1.1 Purpose of Report                                      | 3           |
|                   | 1.2 Summary of Proposal                                    | 3           |
|                   | 1.3 Background   | 3           |
|                   | 1.4 Timeline   | 4           |
|                   | 1.5 Consultees   | 5           |
|                   | 1.6 Consultation Process                                   | 6           |
| <b>2.</b>         | <b>CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL</b>                     |             |
|                   | 2.1 Responses Received                                     | 7           |
|                   | 2.1.1 School Pupil Council Response                        | 7           |
|                   | 2.1.2 Email Responses                                      | 11          |
| <b>3.</b>         | <b>NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS</b>                             |             |
|                   | 3.1 Holy Family Primary School Wednesday 20 November 2019, | 20          |
|                   | 3.2 St Nicholas Primary School Wednesday 27 November 2019  | 23          |
|                   | 3.3 St Joseph's Primary School Wednesday 4 December 2019   | 25          |
| <b>4.</b>         | <b>ANALYSIS OR CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>                  | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>Appendix A</b> | Letter to Consultees                                       | 29          |
| <b>Appendix B</b> | Consultation Document                                      | 31          |

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

### **1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL**

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh with associated proposals to:

- Review admission arrangements in order to establish the catchment area for the new school
- Review admission arrangements arising from alterations to the denominational secondary school catchment areas at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review transition arrangements from primary to secondary school

### **1.3 BACKGROUND**

As part of the delivery strategy for the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) it is proposed to establish a new non-denominational secondary school as a key priority.

West Lothian Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places, to improve the quality of the school education provided, to raise standards of education and to secure best value in available resources.

To this regard, the creation of a new education establishment offers cognisance to ongoing property developments in West Lothian and enables opportunity to create flexible learning spaces and improve the range of learning environments across the existing denominational secondary school estate.

**Education Services****1.4 TIMELINE**

The following timeline was established and incorporates the organisation of a public meeting, Education Scotland involvement, the preparation and publication of the report on the outcomes of the consultation and subsequent submission to West Lothian Council Education Executive for its decision in January 2020.

| <b>Date</b>                | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Description</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 10 September 2019          | Education Executive Meeting  | Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to pre consultation phase  |
| September 2019             | Pre Consultation   | Gather and share information in advance of statutory consultation   |
| 12 November 2019           | Education Executive Meeting  | Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase.   |
| 15 November 2019           | Start of Statutory Consultation  | Beginning of formal public consultation ( <b>min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days</b> )   |
| November and December 2019 | Public Meetings  | Public Meetings to discuss proposal   |
| 13 January 2020            | End of Consultation  | End of Public Consultation  |
| 15 January 2020            | Submit report to Education Scotland  | West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland   |
| End January 2020           | Offer Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report | Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland and on consideration of previous consultation period representations, Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report |
| February 2020              | Publication of final consultation report   | A minimum of three weeks <b>after</b> publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision   |
| 25 February 2020           | Education Executive Meeting  | Decision made   |

## 1.5 CONSULTEES

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to make amendments to the school estate in this case, establishment of a new education establishment, requires a formal consultation.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees for a proposal to relocate an education establishment are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school
- the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the Community Planning Partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnerships considered relevant by the Authority.
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant
- in relation to any relevant proposal which affects a denominational school, the Church, Denominational Body or Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church

## 1.6 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Friday 15 November 2019 until Monday 13 January 2020. This timescale adheres to the statutory consultation period for such circumstances which is a minimum of 6 consecutive weeks and include at least 30 school days.

To communicate, the Education Service proposal information was delivered through the undernoted media avenues:

- West Lothian Council Website <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/new-denominational-secondary-winchburgh-consultation>
- West Lothian Council digital media products
- Local Press
- Available in hard copy via central locations within West Lothian
- Hard copy available for postal distribution on request

In order to ensure all parties had the same opportunity to access the consultation information, facilities were put in place to communicate the proposal in a manner best suited to the needs of the individual. To this regard, the Consultation Document was made available through the following means as and when requested:

- Translation Services
- Provision for deaf and hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired

A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix B.

Public meetings were conducted at Holy Family Primary School on Wednesday 20th November 2019, St. Nicholas Primary School on Wednesday 27th November 2019 and St. Joseph's Primary School on Wednesday 4th December 2019. Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposal and answered question from meeting attendees. Comprehensive minutes of the public meetings are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

During the consultation period views on the proposal were welcomed in writing to the address given below:

Melanie Laurie, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses by e-mail were directed to [Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business Monday 13 January 2020.

## 2. CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council Education Services noted comments made through a variety of means however only those official representations submitted in the terms of the **Consultation Document SECTION 5: Consultation Process and How To Have Your Say (Appendix B)** have been recorded for reporting purposes.

No hard copy written representations were received during the consultation period. All responses from consultees were received either in electronic format (email) or by oral representation at the statutory public meetings.

### 2.1 RESPONSES RECEIVED

#### 2.1.1 School Pupil Council Response

- i. **Letter sent via email 8th January 2020**  
**S1-S3 Focus Group Pupils from Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh**  
**St Margaret's Academy**



Dear Sir/ Madam,

We are the representatives of a focus group of students from St Margaret's Academy, Livingston. We are writing to you to share our views on the new high schools in Winchburgh. This issue is important to us because it is our generation from Broxburn and Winchburgh who will be going to these schools, our siblings and relatives will be the new pupils there.

We currently travel far to school every morning by bus. We think it would be better to have a school closer to where we live and improvements in transport. We all got together as a focus group and we would like to share some of our thoughts with you. (UNCRC Article 12)

First of all we think that S1 should start at the new school on their own when it opens. We don't think it is a good idea to move to a school for a year and then have to move again. We agreed that transition is very important especially to a brand new school. Senior buddies from St Margaret's could help S1 adapt to high school until they are more confident. The S6's have already experienced the transition to high school and could learn their way around the school so that they could help the S1's. We think all the new schools should open at the same time

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so that everyone starts on the new campus together. We think the area looks lovely and we like that there is a park. (UNCRC Article 31)

We think students should also get some freedom with choices such as naming the school, being involved in the appointment of some of the senior staff and helping to pick the uniform. We are part of the generation attending so we will be able to have similar views to future pupils and could help with this (UNCRC Article 12).

We think that a wide variety of subjects should be available to all of the students. Subjects that are new and modern and are able to nurture future careers. Students should be able to make subject choices in S2 to help them learn more about the subjects they enjoy. (UNCRC Articles 28 and 29)  
Registration and tutor classes could be used in the new school to help build confidence and friendships. There should be school news/bulletin read to the pupils, and wellbeing check ins as well as team building activities with each other. We think it would help the children transition better and enjoy coming to school. It could also help with mental health issues which is a growing problem (UNCRC Articles 24 and 29).

Features we think that should be in the school include a big library with lots of seating areas, pods in corridors as social areas, a large swimming pool with a moveable floor, 2 games halls and lots of learning areas and a large space outside. (UNCRC Articles 29 and 31)

Unisex toilets are a popular debate nowadays. Our thoughts are that pupils should be able to pick the changing room they use. There should be cubicles in all to give people of all genders the privacy they need. There should be three toilets and three changing areas to give all pupils the freedom to choose. There could be a unisex, boys and a girls toilet.

We also think that all students should have a coach to school instead of a double decker. The double deckers are often cold and they are just a bit uncomfortable to travel on. Coaches are larger and are also heated so that students could travel to school and be comfortable (UNCRC Article 24).

Thank you for the chance to share our views

Yours Sincerely.



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**ii. Minutes of St. Joseph's Primary School, Linlithgow Pupil Council  
Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**



**Pupil Council Meeting Minute**

**6th December 2019**

**Agenda Items:**

New Denominational High School Meeting Pupil Consultation

Key Issues Discussed:

- Why there is going to be a new school
- Where it will be
- What it will look like
- How the new will possibly impact on the lives of the pupils at St. Joseph's
- What the purpose of a consultation is
- What we need to do now – thoughts/ideas/questions to feedback to the local authority

**Feedback for West Lothian Council**

Thoughts and Ideas:

- School transport will need to be well thought out to ensure that pupils living outside Linlithgow e.g. Philipstoun
- We would like you to consider providing a wide range of after school clubs and make sure that the facilities in the school are used well by all the pupils.
- We would like pupils to have a say in what meals/food choices will be provided in the lunch hall.
- Health and Wellbeing is very important to us – we would like to make sure that there is enough pastoral support for all pupils in the new school and that we have access to a counsellor if needed
- We would like leadership roles for pupils in the new school and would like to see pupils involved in the decisions made
- We would like there to be a very good Outdoor Learning Space that can be accessed and used by pupils. We want to make sure that Outdoor Learning is included fully in the Curriculum

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- We would like the school to be really Eco-Friendly and have interesting outdoor spaces where pupils can socialise e.g. benches, trees and shaded areas
- Pupils should have access to personal lockers and places to change when needed – not just for P.E but for things like Outdoor Learning
- Pupils should have a say about which subjects should be taught for example we would like a say about Modern Language choices
- We would like to ensure that things like school trips and excursions abroad are made available

### Questions:

- Who will choose the new school values ?
- How many teachers will there be in the new school ?
- How big will the classrooms be ?
- What colour will the new school be ? And who decides this ?
- What will the school opening times be and who decides the structure of the school day ?
- What kinds of technology will be put into the new school and will pupils have access to this across all subjects ?
- Will pupils have ready access to drinking water ? Will there be lots of water fountains throughout the school building ?
- Will there be pupil toilets on all the floors and will they be open all the time ?
- How accessible will the school be for pupils with disabilities? For example will door signs and the school environment be suitable for the partially sighted with signs in Braille? Will lighting installed be suitable for those with Autism and other sensory difficulties?

**Officer Response** - Officers noted that pupils from the S1-S3 Focus Group and St. Joseph's Primary School were pleased by the prospect of a new denominational school and shorter transport times. Noted that the S1-S3 Focus Group would prefer if all schools opened at the same time.

**2.1.2 Email Responses:**

There were 11 individual electronic responses received.

As part of the consultation process and in order to ensure a rigorous and thorough examination of the responses received, Council officers read every response. Officers ensured that the views and opinions of respondents were given due consideration and that acknowledgments were offered to each of the consultee submissions received.

For the purpose of this report respondent comments are anonymised where appropriate.

| <b>Respondent Group</b>                   | <b>Comment</b>   | <b>Response</b>   |
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| Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh | <p>Please find below the feedback from the Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh in response to the formal consultation process regarding the proposed new Catholic High School in Winchburgh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is felt that the choice of location is very positive in the healing of historical wounds caused by the closure of Our Ladies High in Broxburn.</li> <li>• It is recognised that naming the school St Michael's Academy may be helpful in bringing Linlithgow parents on board, however the Archdiocese is also very supportive of involving the catchment area primary pupils in the decision making regarding the school name.</li> <li>• A good strong headteacher with a proven track record of high academic standards should be sought and appointed at the earliest possible opportunity.</li> <li>• Including Kirkliston and South Queensferry in the catchment area would be a very welcome decision both in terms of how the school is perceived and in making the school more sustainable.</li> <li>• Road links should be considered: The construction of the new road already planned in the area should go hand in hand with the construction of the new school.</li> </ul> <p>Kind regards</p> | Officers noted the positive comments regarding the school location and involvement of pupils in the decision making of the school name. |
| Parent                                    | <p>Hi,<br/>Further to the informative consultation meeting yesterday I would strongly support the establishment of the denominational secondary school at Winchburgh which would offer an excellent facility to pupils.</p> <p>I would support the original proposal of opening the school in a phased way with S1 first.</p>  | Officers noted the strong support for the establishment of the new school and supporting proposals.                                     |

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|        | <p>It would be beneficial to know that the road and access infrastructure around the new schools will be fully in place by the time the school opens so that pupils have safe access to school including safe cycling.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>   | <p>Discussions regarding adequate infrastructure requirements have taken place between the Council and the Developers. It is anticipated that all will be in place prior to the schools opening.</p> |
| Parent | <p>Hello</p> <p>I am a parent of two children attending St Joseph's Primary School in Linlithgow, one in P4, one in P6.</p> <p>I attended the consultation meeting this evening at the school and want to commend the whole proposition of this new school and all it promises to be.</p> <p>My biggest issue is regarding my P6 daughter. She will be due to go to St Kentigern's Academy in 2021, but her P4 brother will go to the new Winchburgh school in 2023. My children will end up at 2 different high schools at opposite ends of the county!</p> <p>I know I have the option to have both children go to St Kent's, but I'd rather they were both together at the new Winchburgh school.</p> <p>To this end, my husband and I are great supporters of the new proposal to possibly commence the school before the building is ready. We are very keen for this to be thoroughly and constructively looked into before October next year when we have to decide where to apply for at P7 high school application time.</p> <p>I would appreciate being kept up to date with progress if it's at all possible.</p> <p>Many thanks</p> | <p>Officers noted the strong support for the establishment of the new school and preference to establish the school prior to the proposed opening 2023 date.</p>                                     |
| Parent | <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am emailing my support in favour of the new denominational school in Winchburgh. My eldest child will be in the second year group to enter the school and my youngest in the 4th. In regard to my youngest, I am very keen to see a good provision for children with additional needs to be fully supported, but also well integrated into the whole school system. The chance to see more information regarding this would be very useful.</p>   | <p>Officers noted the support for the establishment of the new school.</p>   |

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|                                 | <p>I play an active role to support the aims of St Joseph's Linlithgow where my children currently attend and would seek to offer this level of support once my children start to attend the new secondary school.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>  |   |
| Resident                        | <p>It is ridiculous in this day and age that we in Scotland are funding a 2 system of education. The cost of this could be out to the NHS and bringing existing schools up to date.</p> <p>My children had subjects taught successfully in 2schools, one non denominational and one Catholic proving the system is nonsense.</p> <p>Apart from fostering bigotry it is prohibitively expensive.</p> <p>When I tell other country friends they cannot believe the government pays for one religious group and others have to pay for their religious education.</p> <p>Councils are cutting services as they have had basic funding cuts yet we persist in this antiquated system.</p> <p>Disappointed resident</p> | Officers noted the objection to the proposals.  |
|                                 | <p>Dear Ms. Laurie,</p> <p>I would like to log my objection to the building of a new Denominational High School in West Lothian. In this day and age it is astounding that we are still segregating pupils on the basis of religion. If West Lothian Council wishes to use it's money effectively and end the segregational blight on this country then pupils in communities should be brought together to share their beliefs. Schools should demonstate to children how to live together whilst holding and practising their own beliefs. Schools should set a good example of informing and eradicating ignorance.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>                      | Officers noted the objection to the proposals.  |
| 3 Parents emailed this response | <p>Hello,</p> <p>Please find attached my personal response to the above consultation and some additional information which I feel reinforces some of my points.</p> <p>This is such an amazing proposal and I can't wait to see it become a reality, I just have a few considerations which would for me and my family</p>   | Officers noted the strong support for the establishment of the new school in the three responses and preference to establish the school prior to the proposed opening 2023 date, in line with the opening of the non-denominational secondary school. |

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|  | <p>make it even better.</p> <p>Dear Ms Laurie,<br/>         PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSAL OF THE NEW DENOMINATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN WINCHBURGH</p> <p>I am writing a personal response to the above statutory consultation. My husband and I are delighted that the plans for this new High School are in place and we feel it will be of tremendous benefit to not only our children but all the children in Winchburgh and beyond. It is an exciting time for a brand new school to be built and we firmly believe that it will bring many great benefits, which is why we want all 4 of our children to attend. Whilst we fully support the current proposal in order for the building work to commence, it would be with the following considerations and potentially secondary consultations to be undertaken because as it stands all but one of our children would be able to attend and as parents that doesn't sit right with us. Therefore I would like the following to be noted and given full consideration during the period in which the build in is progress.</p> <p>1. The school opening date:<br/>         We believe that this is an exciting time for Winchburgh and education and therefore can't understand why the whole school campus can't all open at the same time. This would show parity across the campus – a huge celebration when it happens and not leaving anyone out or feeling as though they are less important. By opening all schools in 2022 more children will be able to benefit from these fantastic new schools, thus negating the need for parents to opt to send their child to the non-denominational school because it happens to be open. By delaying the denominational high school opening it is somewhat removing parental choice for many, some who would ordinarily like to continue their child's faith based education they feel that there is no need to be sending them by bus to an oversubscribed school when there is a school on their doorstep and therefore may sacrifice the 'faith' part in order to send them to the local school.</p> <p>2. Pupil Intake:<br/>         Whilst we understand that building a whole new school is a complex process, we can't understand why only opening to a 1st year group is cost effective. We realise that the council are committed to providing a broad general education for all those</p> |  |
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Education Services

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|  | <p>attendance however we firmly believe that this would be achievable to provide to a 1st and 2nd year group much like the Brand new Bertha Park High School. By opening in 2023 to a single 1st year means that potentially all 4 of my children may miss out on being educated in their local school (see my next point). We also feel that this is a huge expense and potentially a waste of money to be running a building which is less than ¼ occupied. The benefits to the pupils beginning in a school which has a greater population far outweighs the benefits of starting in what appears to be an empty shell. Friendships can be sustained and nourished, greater pupil voice and leadership, more opportunities for extra-curricular/cross stage experiences not to mention a potentially easier transition for some of the more vulnerable, as they will have others who have already made a similar transition prior.</p> <p>3. How does it work for us:<br/>         As it stands, my eldest is currently P6 and my youngest daughter is in P4 at Holy Family Primary School. They are in the two largest year groups in the school. There is a high incidence of sibling links within these two year groups. By opening in 2023 to a 1st year cohort would mean my eldest going into a 3rd at St Margaret’s and my youngest being one of the 1st years in the New school. As a parent it does not sit right in our mind to have our daughters split and as my eldest would have to remain at St Margaret’s we would be ultimately forced to send our youngest their too, thus taking away our parental right choose. As a result of having both children at St Margaret’s they would have to bypass the fantastic new school in their own village in order to travel a 45 minute school bus journey to what is an oversubscribed school all of which is at the expense of West Lothian Council b) if this is our choice I can imagine that this will be the same for most other siblings currently in the P4 year group at Holy Family, which will reduce the real 1st year intake of the new school which to me it a bit pointless. Why would the council pay more money in order to send a bus load of pupils to a school that is significantly oversubscribed when there is a perfectly suitable school on their doorstep which is by no means full.</p> <p>The benefits of attending a local school are by far one of our main reasons for responding to this proposal. The following benefits are not isolated to just our children but all. Please see attached document ‘Review of Research on School Travel Jan 2002</p> |  |
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|  | <p>(Highlighted sections). It may be older however I feel these issues are still relevant.</p> <p>By attending a local school is not just more cost effective but a healthier (physically, socially and mentally) and a potentially safer one too.</p> <p>They can enjoy the walk to and from school with their peers allowing for social interaction, enjoyment of the local area and developing personal safety. Groups of children walking/cycling to and from school promotes good and healthy lifestyles and can be supported and encouraged by the schools and parents. Whilst a bus journey which is unsupervised can be a daunting and potentially stressful time for some pupils, this is not a great way in which to start learning and may often instil a level of anxiety during school hours as they know they have to return home in the same manner. Also in the winter months when the weather is poor and it is dark – there are increasing risks to pupils who have to leave their home earlier in order to catch the bus and what happens when the buses fail to turn up? Or during exam sessions, it is a stressful period for most at this time and we want all our children to have the best possible start to an exam not one for stress and fear because they have to consider a bus journey.</p> <p>It also separates a school community. Many of these children have shared classes together due to the small numbers and level of composite classes and suddenly friendships are split because some have to go to one school and others to a new school. I understand that it will not be possible to completely solve this issue however I feel that it could be done with a minimal split.</p> <p>4. What we need to happen?</p> <p>In order for our daughters to both attend the school in their village we need either of the following options to be greatly considered:</p> <p>Open in 2023 to a 1st, 2nd, 3rd year cohort, this would allow all pupils in P4, P5, P6 across the cluster to attend.</p> <p>Open in 2022 to a 1st and 2nd year cohort, this would allow those currently in P5, P6 to attend and by 2023 the P4's will be able to join.</p> <p>For either of these 2 options it could mean that pupils are hosted in St Margaret's/St Kentigern's or even the new non-denominational school in Winchburgh for the duration of their 1st and/or 2nd year.</p> <p>I feel that by undertaking a supplementary consultation once the main proposal is accepted this could prove to be a very viable option that ultimately meets the needs of many families who are currently</p> |  |
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|               | <p>wondering how this is all going to work.<br/>                 The current P6's are already feeling apprehensive about the transition to high school as they don't know where they are heading. I feel that once the current proposal is accepted then we can look to addressing these details via a secondary consultation. In summary by opening earlier and to a larger cohort of pupils it will: allow more people from the Winchburgh area to benefit. It will also ease the pressure on the schools which are currently oversubscribed. As this school community is the first in a long time in West Lothian and indeed Scotland it should be celebrated as a complete entity. All stakeholders can share in this celebration, thus bringing unity and equity for all.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>  |  |
| <p>Parent</p> | <p>Dear Ms Laurie<br/>                 Re our personal view to the statutory proposal of the new denominational high school in Winchburgh<br/>                 My wife and I are so pleased that the plans for this new High School are in place and it's of a great benefit to our two daughters and to all the other children in Winchburgh and beyond. It is so exciting to have a brand new school where are daughters will benefit the opportunities and facilities that come with it and that this is a few minutes away. They can cycle or walk to it and that is already a big plus to them and to us as regards peace of mind.<br/>                 Our only issue on this subject is the consideration of opening the denominational school in 2023 and not at the same time as that of the non-denominational which is set to open on 2022, reason being that currently our daughters are attending P5 and P4 at Holy Family RC primary school meaning that the eldest will have to go to the already oversubscribed St Margaret's in Livingston.<br/>                 We honestly cannot see the reason behind this because logically it makes no sense to have both premises built and one of them has to stay empty for a year and only the 1st year will be in function!<br/>                 Attending a local school is definitely much more cost effective and much more healthier as regards physically walking to school, socially interacting with other pupils on the way and last but not least safer than a bus journey which is unsupervised and stressful for students starting high school as regards time. We are seeing all this because knowing that we are lucky enough to have a denominational high school in our own village makes one feel upset to</p> | <p>Officers noted the strong support for the establishment of the new school and the expressed preference to establish the school prior to the proposed opening 2023 date.</p> |

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|          | <p>know that our daughters will not both have the same opportunity.</p> <p>Opening the both schools in 2022 to a 1st and 2nd year cohort benefit more people from Winchburgh area and ease the pressure on the schools which are currently oversubscribed. All stakeholders can share this great celebration bringing unity and serenity to all.</p> <p>Thanking you in advance for considering our suggestion and wish you health and happiness.</p>   |  |
| Resident | <p>I would like to place an objection to this project.</p> <p>I object to public money being used to build an establishment that encourages segregation. Religion beliefs should be completely separate from the curriculum in the 21st century. If the catholic church wants to educate children on their own doctrine, they should pay for the denominational school, not the taxpayer.</p> <p>The history of child abuse within the catholic church should be enough to preclude them from benefiting from public funding.</p> <p>I agree that Winchburgh would benefit from a new school but this should be a wholly inclusive establishment that does not force its religious beliefs on others. To provide balance, pupils should be encouraged to explore all belief systems including the possibility that god does not exist and that the bible, as created many centuries after the events it claims, could be largely fictitious. I am sure that a school preaching catholic views would not provide this opportunity.</p> <p>I am not able to attend on 12th December due to other commitments but I would like my objection to be formally lodged. Will there be a further public meeting in respect of this before the end of the consultation period?</p> <p>Regards</p> | <p>Officers noted the objection to the proposals.</p> <p>Denominational or faith schools have been part of the state sector since the Education (Scotland) Act 1918 allowed such schools, which until then had been independent schools, to transfer to local authority control. In accordance with Section 17 of the 1980 Act, local authorities may establish a denominational school for any denomination or faith if they are satisfied that such a school is required, either in response to representations made to them by any church or denominational body acting on behalf of parents, or on their own initiative.</p> <p>Three public meetings were held:<br/>Holy Family Primary School<br/>Wednesday 20 November 2019,<br/>St Nicholas Primary School<br/>Wednesday 27 November 2019<br/>St Joseph's Primary School<br/>Wednesday 4 December 2019<br/>Dates were outlined in the Consultation Report and Consultation Letter.</p> |
| Parent   | <p>Good morning</p> <p>I am writing my personal response to the statutory proposal of the above.</p> <p>Firstly I am absolutely delighted this is progressing along with the non denominational high school and</p>   | <p>Officers noted the strong support for the establishment of the new school and preference to establish the school prior to the proposed opening 2023 date.</p>   |

**Education Services**

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|  | <p>feel this is such a good development for our community.</p> <p>The points I would wish to raise are as follows:-</p> <p>1 - the proposed opening date of 2023 &amp; the non denominational opening 2022 - for community links and the fact that this is a shared campus with some shared facilities would it not make more sense for both to open in 2022 as the buildings, I believe, will both be complete by then.</p> <p>2 - the suggestion that we only open to a 1st year only - this is a personal one for me as I will have a child attending St Margaret's for 1/2 years then a school in our village opens &amp; she would still attend St Margarets for the rest of her schooling life, taking the bus in all weathers leaving the house up to an hour before she would have to if she attended the village in the school. I feel that the school should open to 1st, 2nd &amp; 3rd years in the first instance therefore forging the community links again &amp; reducing the transport costs to the council.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> |  |
|--|--|--|

### 3. NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### 3.1 Holy Family Primary School:

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
20 NOVEMBER 2019, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:  
“PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL  
AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS”**

#### **In attendance from West Lothian Council:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor David Dodds | Executive Councillor for Education                 |
| James Cameron          | Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) |
| Andrew Cotton          | Senior education Planning Officer                  |
| Kevin McCabe           | Head Teacher, Holy Family Primary School           |

**Meeting attendees (from sign in sheet):** 6 parents and one child.

#### **Education Services Presentation:**

##### **Aims of Statutory Consultation Exercise:**

- Formal consultation required in accordance with Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
- Information sharing opportunity – details the specifics and the reasoning behind the proposal
- Opportunity to capture the views of consultees
- Invaluable research approach

##### **Summary of Proposal:**

- Establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh
- Review admission arrangements arising from arising from proposed alterations to the catchment areas at: St Margaret’s Academy and St Kentigern’s Academy
- Review primary to secondary school transition arrangements at Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh, St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn and St Joseph’s Primary School Linlithgow.

##### **Rationale:**

- West Lothian Council obligation to meet demands of housing developments in the area
- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for St. Kentigern’s Academy and St. Margaret’s Academy and the implications arising from new housing developments
- West Lothian Council ongoing commitment to providing quality and long term sustainable educational provisions for all pupils

##### **Proposed Site:**

- Details of the proposed location west of the town centre and emerging school designs were shared with the attendees.

**End of Education Service Presentation****Discussion Opportunity - Councillor Dodds opened the floor to comments and questions:**

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| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Would changes to the proposal delay delivery of the school?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers advised that the council may need to approve the current proposal and re-consult on any new proposals. This would not necessarily delay the build of the school if the initial proposal were still approved. |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Parent Council are concerned about S1 intake in 2022 not being able to attend Winchburgh Denominational Secondary when the Non-Denominational school is opening that year.  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers noted the Parent Council concerns.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| The two schools opening in different years is a concern to parents.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers noted parental concerns.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| When will the three schools open on the Winchburgh site?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the current proposal is for the following opening dates:<br>Holy Family Primary School – 2022<br>Winchburgh Non-denominational Secondary – 2022<br>Winchburgh Denominational Secondary – 2023 |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Would there be space in the Non-Denominational School to accommodate both S1s in 2022?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that it is possible that both s1 cohorts could be accommodated but it isn't in the current proposal.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Concerned about the travel times to Livingston. New school should open as soon as it is able to.  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Comments noted.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Confusing for the children not knowing which years will go to the new school.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| 2023 is the first year S1 will go to the new school under the current proposal.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will officers / council listen to proposed alternatives on opening dates / proposed school organisations?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes. Officers explained that proposals can and do change based on parent's submissions to consultations.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| What is the proposed school catchment?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the combined primary catchments of St Nicholas, Broxburn; Holy Family, Winchburgh; and St Joseph's Linlithgow will attend the new denominational secondary school.                            |

### Education Services

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| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Parents want as many Winchburgh children as possible to benefit from the new school.  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Comment noted.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Looks a good design. Pleased it allows for increased use of technology.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Comment noted.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Design and technology in schools changes quickly.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the design will be as modern as possible but also flexible to allow school to respond to changing requirements.   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| More children enjoy the school experience than was the case 30 years ago.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the learning environment is part of that.   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Son who has already started Secondary suggested that the new school should incorporate charging points for phones / tablets as these are increasingly required in lessons. Was pleased to see design included this. |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that charging points both USB and wirelesses are included. Flexible design to allow for future technology changes.   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Open spaces and Learning Plazas work well with device based learning.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Comment noted.  |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Ability to deliver vocational skills important.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that a broad curriculum including vocational skills is planned.  |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Access to the open space and the park is important.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Community access to the sports facilities is good to integrate the school into the community.   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Officers explained that this is this is proposed.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Support for ASN needs to be included in the design.   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Noted. Officer explained that Support for Learning and Nurture spaces are included in the design throughout the school.   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |

**Education Services**

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| Is there a specific nurture room?  |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b> |
| Yes, on the ground floor.          |

**Meeting Close:**

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.

**3.2 St. Nicholas Primary School:**

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN ST. NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
27 NOVEMBER 2019, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:  
“PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL  
AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS”**

**In attendance from West Lothian Council:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor David Dodds | Executive Councillor for Education                 |
| James Cameron          | Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) |
| Andrew Cotton          | Senior education Planning Officer                  |

**Meeting attendees (from sign in sheet):** 14 parents, one teacher, one councillor and one Education Scotland representative.

**Education Services Presentation:**

**Aims of Statutory Consultation Exercise:**

- Formal consultation required in accordance with Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
- Information sharing opportunity – details the specifics and the reasoning behind the proposal
- Opportunity to capture the views of consultees
- Invaluable research approach

**Summary of Proposal:**

- Establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh
- Review admission arrangements arising from arising from proposed alterations to the catchment areas at: St Margaret’s Academy and St Kentigern’s Academy
- Review primary to secondary school transition arrangements at Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh, St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn and St Joseph’s Primary School Linlithgow.

**Rationale:**

- West Lothian Council obligation to meet demands of housing developments in the area
- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for St. Kentigern’s Academy and St. Margaret’s Academy and the implications arising from new housing developments
- West Lothian Council ongoing commitment to providing quality and long term sustainable educational provisions for all pupils

**Proposed Site:**

- Details of the proposed location west of the town centre and emerging school designs were shared with the attendees.

**End of Education Service Presentation****Discussion Opportunity - Councillor Dodds opened the floor to comments and questions:**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| What is being done regarding road access to the school?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that a new distributor road connecting the schools to the new motorway junction is proposed.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| I live in a rural area; will transport to school be included?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained if you live in the catchment area then your child will be eligible for transport provision as specified by the current policy.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Are there plans to stagger start times across the schools?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that would be an operational decision for the future head teachers. New separate road accesses mean that there is flexibility as traffic is not using the same junction.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| When will the three schools open?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the current proposal is for the following opening dates:<br>Holy Family Primary School – 2022<br>Winchburgh Non-denominational Secondary – 2022<br>Winchburgh Denominational Secondary – 2023   |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| What age group will be the first entry? Are the current P4 the first S1?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| That is the current proposal that the P4 will be the first S1 at the school. The council can consider an option of S1-3 opening as a separate proposal. No child ever has to move school so we need to consider viability of delivering Broad General Education if this were proposed.                            |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| When will there be certainty for P5/P6 children?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Officers explained that the council would need to do a further consultation if the proposal changed. This could happen quickly.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| When will staff be appointed?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Head Teacher will be appointed in advance. School will be staffed to deliver a full Broad General Education. Recruitment challenges have been less in West Lothian than elsewhere and new schools attract good staff. Experience at Bertha Park in Perth is that recruitment was able to attract excellent staff. |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will the site be secured by a fence?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| The schools will be an open design in a parkland setting. Great opportunities for outdoor   |



### Education Services

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| learning and not a contained site.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>   |
| Will the school be a PPP funded?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>   |
| No. officers explained that the council will own and operate the school and it is being funded by a combination of developer contributions and borrowing. No facilities management by third parties. |

### 3.3 St. Joseph's Primary School:

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL  
04 DECEMBER 2019, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:  
"PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL  
AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS"**

#### In attendance from West Lothian Council:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Councillor David Dodds                                   | Executive Councillor for Education                 |
| James Cameron  | Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) |
| Andrew Cotton  | Senior education Planning Officer                  |
| Judith MacEwen, Head Teacher St Joseph's Primary School. |  |

#### Meeting Attendees:

8 parents, 1 grandparent, 1 parish priest.

#### Education Services Presentation:

##### Aims of Statutory Consultation Exercise:

- Formal consultation required in accordance with Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
- Information sharing opportunity – details the specifics and the reasoning behind the proposal
- Opportunity to capture the views of consultees
- Invaluable research approach

##### Summary of Proposal:

- Establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh
- Review admission arrangements arising from arising from proposed alterations to the catchment areas at: St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review primary to secondary school transition arrangements at Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh, St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn and St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow.

##### Rationale:

- West Lothian Council obligation to meet demands of housing developments in the area
- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for St. Kentigern's Academy and St. Margaret's Academy and the implications arising from new housing developments
- West Lothian Council ongoing commitment to providing quality and long term sustainable educational provisions for all pupils

**Proposed Site:**

- Details of the proposed location west of the town centre and emerging school designs were shared with the attendees.

**Discussion Opportunity - Councillor Dodds opened the floor to comments and questions:**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| An attendee had concerns that they will have one child in P6 and one in P4. Will they have to attend different schools?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Current proposal is for S1 only in 2023. Question has been raised at other meetings about opening with S1-S3 and this can be investigated but would be a separate proposal. Council will never ask a child to move school so it would only be voluntary moves, Makes it challenging to determine if there are sufficient numbers to deliver a Broad General Education. If younger child wished to attend same school as older sibling then policy would allow that. |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Would rather both children went to new school in Winchburgh. When would a future consultation start?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Could do further consultation quickly if desired however if a further statutory consultation then this needs approval by the Council's Education Executive. Given the distances currently travelled we know demand for the new school is strong in the denominational sector.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Is there a library in the school?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes. Officers explained that this will not just be a traditional paper based learning model but a combination of books and electronic resources.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will the school offer a full curriculum?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes a full Broad General Education will be offered. Needs a large enough cohort of children which is why there is caution about opening with more than just the S1 when pupils transit to the Senior Phase..  |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| Will there be disruption if an extension is needed?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Will need managing but the school is designed to be expanded without disruption to the learning of the existing children.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will there be community usage of the sports facilities?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes. The detailed operational arrangements are yet to be confirmed but the school will have community usage.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will there be a swimming pool?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| What will be the process to establish languages / other subject choices?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| To be confirmed by senior management of the new school. Likely to be similar to that  |

**Education Services**

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| available at St Kentigern's and St Margaret's.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| How green will the school be?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Very high energy efficiency, not quite at passive house levels for secondary schools yet, high solar gain and solar panels on the PE block.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will the school have gas for science experiments?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Yes. Even if gas not used in heating containerised gas can be used for lessons.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Can whole school assemble in hall?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Assembly space designed to be larger than a full cohort but not able to take entire school when fully populated.  |
| <b>Question/Comment – Attendee</b>  |
| What interaction will there be with older children?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Establishing a new school means the first year group have to be the leadership group. There will be interaction with other schools.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will the school be PPP funded?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| No. The council will own and operate the school and it is being funded by a combination of developer contributions and borrowing. No facilities management by third parties.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| When will the senior leadership team be recruited?  |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Head teacher will be appointed in advance, Principal Teachers will also need to be in place before the school opens, new schools can attract high calibre applicants.   |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will the school be high performing?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| The new West Calder High School building helped drive changes in ethos, value, learning etc. The new building cannot deliver high performance however it has to be about the school leadership and the work of the entire learning community.       |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| Will young people be involved in developing the new school?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| Young people will visit the school under construction and be involved in process of choosing branding, colours, influencing ethos etc.  |
| <b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>  |
| What will the new school be called?   |
| <b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>  |
| This is not part of the statutory process. A parallel process is underway with the Archdiocese consulting on options with the children at the 3 primary schools. A recommendation from the Archdiocese will then come to the council in due course. |

**Close**

**Education Services**

Cllr David Dodds concluded the meeting by thanking attendees for their attendance and participation in discussions.

**4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

Eight of the eleven e-mail responses received expressed support for the proposal, and made comment and suggestions for consideration. Six responses, concerning the proposed date of the school opening, make comment and suggestion for consideration.

The 32 attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meetings sought clarification of various aspects of the consultation proposal and made suggestions for consideration. All without exception expressed support for the proposal to establish a denominational secondary school in Winchburgh.

Three expressions of opposition to the proposal were received via email during the statutory consultation.

## APPENDIX A

15 November 2019

Dear Consultee

### West Lothian Council Education Services

#### **Proposal to Establish a new Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh and Associated Proposals**

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 12 November 2019, authorised West Lothian Council's Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposals to:

- Establishment of a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh
- Review admission arrangements to establish the catchment area for the new school
- Review admission arrangements arising from proposed variations to the non-denominational school catchment areas at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review transition arrangements from Primary to Secondary school

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 15 November 2019 on the following webpage: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/winchburgh-denominational-secondary-consultation](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/winchburgh-denominational-secondary-consultation)

Hard copies of the consultation document are also available for uplift from the Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF or can be requested in writing from:

Melanie Laurie, Project Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre,  
Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from 15 November 2019 to 5pm on 13 January 2020

Public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at:

- Holy Family Primary School, Wednesday 20 November 2019, 6.30pm – 8.00pm
- St Nicholas Primary School, Wednesday 27 November 2019, 6.30pm – 8.00pm

- St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow, Wednesday 4 December 2019, 6.00pm – 7.30pm

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Melanie Laurie at the above address or by e-mail to [Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Monday 13 January 2020.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in March 2020 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and through information gathered from public meetings. Feedback received from Education Scotland will also be offered due regard.

Yours sincerely



**James Cameron**

**Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)**

**APPENDIX B**

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

**EDUCATION SERVICES PROPOSALS TO:**

- **ESTABLISH A NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH**
- **REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE CATCHMENT AREA FOR THE NEW SCHOOL**
- **REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM ALTERATIONS TO DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AT ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY AND ST KENTIGERN'S ACADEMY**
- **REVIEW TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT  
November 2019**

## **CONTENTS**

### **SECTION 1**

- 1.1 Purpose of this Document**
- 1.2 Background and Rationale**
- 1.3 School Roll Forecast**
- 1.4 Proposed New Denominational Secondary School**
- 1.5 Present Catchment Area Admission Arrangements**
- 1.6 Proposed Catchment Area Admission Arrangements**
- 1.7 Phased Population of New School**
- 1.8 Proposed Primary to Secondary Transfer Arrangements**
- 1.9 Pre-Consultation Engagement**

### **SECTION 2**

- 2.1 The Educational Benefit Statement**

### **SECTION 3**

- 3.1 Integrated Impact Assessment**

### **SECTION 4**

- 4.1 Consultation Process: How To Have Your Say**

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1-4 Notes on Pre-Consultation Meetings
- Appendix 5 Current Denominational Secondary Catchment Areas
- Appendix 6 Proposed Winchburgh Denominational Secondary School Catchment Area Map
- Appendix 7 Proposed St Kentigern's Academy Catchment Area Map
- Appendix 8 Proposed St Margaret's Academy Catchment Area Map



## SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the Statutory Public Consultation

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise on:

1. West Lothian Council's proposals to:
  1. Create a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh;
  2. Review admission arrangements to establish a catchment area for the new school;
  3. Review admission arrangements arising from proposed alterations to the catchment areas at:
    - I. St Margaret's Academy; and
    - II. St Kentigern's Academy
  4. Review primary to secondary school transition arrangements at Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh, St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn and St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow
2. The educational benefits of these proposals and how it will make things better; and
3. Information on how you can give your views and take part in the consultation process.

West Lothian Council believes that thorough and effective consultation will support better outcomes for pupils, their families and the wider community as a whole.

Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a change to the school estate in this case, creation of a new secondary school with establishment of a catchment area for the new school, alteration of admission arrangements by varying school catchment areas and review of transition arrangements for primary to secondary school.

To carry out a public consultation the Council requires to follow the statutory guidance outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. With this in mind this document is organised into three sections:

**Section 1** of this document summarises the proposals and gives background and rationale.

**Section 2** contains the educational benefits statement providing an assessment of the effects on the children/young people and their families.

**Section 3** highlights the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) conducted by Council officers to meet statutory equality duties, assessing policies, practices and ensure compliance with legislative requirements; and

**Section 4** details how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process to meet the requirements of the legislation and how you can take part and give your views.

## **1.2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

As part of the delivery strategy for the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) and due regard to West Lothian Core Development Areas (CDA) it is proposed to establish a new denominational secondary school as a key priority.

West Lothian Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places, to improve the quality of the school education provided, to raise standards of education and to secure best value in available resources.

To this regard, the creation of a new education establishment offers cognisance to ongoing property developments in West Lothian, alleviates possible school capacity pressures and enables opportunity to create flexible learning spaces in schools improving the range of learning environments across the existing denominational secondary school estate.

To offer indication of school roll expectations at St Margaret’s Academy and St Kentigern’s Academy Section 1.3 of this report shows the 2018 Based School Roll Forecasts.

## **1.3 SCHOOL ROLL FORECASTS Forecast School Roll from the 2018 Based Forecasts**

School Roll Forecasts are based on current trends of pupil placing requests and availability of spaces which are limited at present, especially at St Margaret’s Academy. The provision of new school infrastructure is likely to significantly change future placing request demand and availability of places for pupils in the new denominational secondary school which will not have the same capacity pressures as the current denominational secondary sector in West Lothian.

### **St Margaret’s Academy:**

| Capacity | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1,100    | 1,091   | 1,108   | 1,141   | 1,160   | 1,188   | 1,225   | 1,240   | 1,263   | 1,275   | 1,282   | 1,284   |

### **St Kentigern's Academy**

| Capacity | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1,430    | 1,233   | 1,272   | 1,310   | 1,341   | 1,374   | 1,400   | 1,404   | 1,408   | 1,404   | 1,417   | 1,407   |

#### **1.4 PROPOSED NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The proposed identified site at Winchburgh offers scope for delivery of a vibrant learning hub for the Winchburgh community. The site can be accessed via the B9080 to the west of Winchburgh village centre.

Proposed intention initially is the delivery of a denominational secondary school to accommodate 660 pupils. Layout and design plans are indicative at this stage and will allow for future expansion.

As a main Statutory Consultee, the Archdiocese will give consideration to the name of the new denominational secondary school with recommendations being offered accordingly.

The proposed new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh would be operational in August 2023.

#### **1.5 PRESENT CATCHMENT AREA ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Each denominational secondary school in West Lothian has a defined catchment area which consists of combined associated primary schools. The current associated primary schools for St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy are as follows:

##### **St Margaret's Academy:**

- St John Ogilvie Primary School Livingston
- St Ninian's Primary School Livingston
- Howden St Andrew's Primary School Livingston
- St Paul's Primary School East Calder
- St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn
- Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh

##### **St Kentigern's Academy:**

- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Blackburn
- Our Lady's Primary School Stoneyburn
- St Anthony's Primary School Armadale
- St Columba's Primary School Boghall
- St John the Baptist Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow
- St Joseph's Primary School Whitburn
- St Mary's Primary School Bathgate
- St Mary's Primary School Polbeth

- St Thomas's Primary School Addiewell

## **1.6 PROPOSED CATCHMENT AREA ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

The proposed primary school catchment for the new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh would include new and existing properties in Winchburgh and developed areas located in the existing catchments at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy.

It is proposed the undernoted schools will be the associated denominational primary schools for the proposed new secondary school:

- St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn moving from St Margaret's Academy catchment
- Holy Family Primary School Winchburgh moving from St Margaret's Academy catchment area
- St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow moving from St Kentigern's Academy catchment

Area Maps identifying indicative plans for the proposed new denominational secondary school catchment area and the current and proposed catchment areas at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy are attached to this report.

## **1.7 PHASED POPULATION OF NEW SCHOOL**

It is proposed the new denominational secondary school will be populated on a phased basis commencing with S1 intake in August 2023. Consecutive year stage introductions) would see the school operating with S1-S6 year stages from August 2028.

| <b>School Session Commencing</b> | August 2023 | August 2024 | August 2025 | August 2026 | August 2027 | August 2028 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Operational Year Stages</b>   | S1          | S1 & S2     | S1-S3       | S1-S4       | S1-S5       | S1-S6       |

## **1.8 PROPOSED PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS**

It is recognised that populating the school on a phased basis may have implications for parents who already have children in attendance at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy and who have younger siblings yet to commence secondary stage education.

It is proposed that pupils living within the catchment area for the new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh who will have older siblings in attendance at the current catchment secondary schools St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy will be permitted to attend the current catchment secondary if parents wish siblings to attend the same school.

This catchment status would remain until a younger sibling living within the

catchment area of the proposed new school reaches the end of primary school education and the elder sibling has since left St Margaret's Academy or St Kentigern's Academy. The link to St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy will have ceased and the younger sibling would be identified as being within the catchment area for the new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh.

No current secondary school pupils in West Lothian will be required to relocate to the proposed new school. Transfer of educational establishment will be considered on parental request and until such times as the required year group is operational.

## **1.9 PRE-CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT**

West Lothian Council Education Executive, at its meeting on 10 September 2019, authorised the commencement of statutory consultation with initial pre-consultation on the proposed establishment of a new denominational secondary school and associated proposals.

Pre-consultation exercises were conducted in September 2019 the intention of which was to offer information on the indicative proposals being taken forward and to gather the views of the community in preparation of an informed proposal to take forward to public Statutory Consultation.

The initial proposal for creation of a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh was well received by the communities consulted. Notes on the pre-consultation exercise are attached to this report as Appendices 1-4.

## SECTION TWO

This section contains the expected educational benefits to be gained should the proposals be progressed.

### 2.1. EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

Whilst assessing the educational benefits of this proposal, the undernoted determinants are considered:

- **Curriculum For Excellence**

A key educational advantage of this proposal is that the new secondary school will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years.

The national guidance from Education Scotland encourages education authorities to ensure that curricular provisions offer opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the 7 key principles of Curriculum for Excellence:

- challenge
- enjoyment
- breadth
- progression
- depth
- personalisation and choice
- coherence and relevance

Curriculum provisions at the proposed new school will be designed around the needs of the children and young people. The Broad General Education (S1-S3) will focus on core curricular areas, inter-disciplinary learning and also enable the career and curricular interests and the aspirations of the individual to be met. The Senior Phase (S4-S6) will allow opportunity for specialisation and depth; preparation for achievement at National Qualification level; development of skills for learning, life and work and supports achievement of a positive and sustained destination on departure from secondary education.

Practices and experiences offered to pupils at the proposed new denominational secondary school will reflect the faith dimension of the school. Religious Education and Religious Observance will afford opportunities that encourage pupils to develop an understanding of faith, commit to beliefs and values and experience opportunities

for spiritual growth.

- **School Management/Staff Teams**

Teaching staff appointments at the proposed new denominational secondary school will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Council's statutory recruitment processes.

Should the proposal to establish the new school be progressed, a Head Teacher will be appointed well in advance of the opening of the school with the appointed Head Teacher being involved in the subsequent recruitment process for the senior management team and teaching staff fulfilment.

In addition to teaching and support staff, there will be a requirement to create and fill all staff positions associated with the day to day operations of a secondary school. Again, this will be undertaken under the terms and conditions of West Lothian Council recruitment processes.

West Lothian Council do not anticipate changes to the existing management and staff provisions at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy and associated primary schools as a result of the proposals. Should there be an instance where staffing adjustments are required all actions will be carried out and adhere to existing West Lothian Council statutory requirements.

- **Phased Population of School**

Adopting an approach whereby the new school is populated on a phased basis has notable advantages:

- Initial smaller cohorts will allow opportunity for the children and young people to comfortably familiarise themselves with their new environment and develop relationships with peers at an early stage this in turn encouraging pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- Early opportunities for the school community to develop and embed school policies and procedures.
- Staff and pupils will have opportunity to work together and develop a positive school ethos.
- Opportunity for management and staff to plan and deliver a well-constructed timetable encapsulating the key elements of the Broad General Education that optimises the learning experience for the initial year stages.
- Engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a new viable and sustainable school space can help broaden scope for attainment and achievement.
- Extensive planning will be adopted in advance to ensure that a Senior Phase curriculum is in place for pupils as they progress through their educational pathway.

- **Admission**

Criteria for school admission will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements:

[West Lothian Council Primary School Admission Policy](#)  
[West Lothian Council Secondary School Admission Policy](#)

Variations to existing school catchment areas are anticipated as a result of the proposed alterations highlighted in section 1.6 of this report.

- **Transition**

West Lothian Council believe that effective primary to secondary transition programmes offering stability and continuity at this key stage of education is paramount.

As the development of the new school progresses engagement activities will be arranged at the earliest opportunity to ensure potential pupils of the proposed establishment play an active role and have involvement in the development of their new school.

West Lothian Council do not anticipate impact to existing transition programmes adopted by St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy and the associated primary schools. All schools will endeavour as always to ensure the transition process will continue to be a positive experience for those pupils involved in P7-S1 transition.

- **School Transport**

Any requests for school transport provisions to the proposed secondary school will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's School Transport Policy. [West Lothian Council School Transport Policy](#)

No alterations to existing entitlements and schedule of provisions are anticipated as a result of the proposed catchment developments.

- **Accommodation**

With a key focus on delivery of a viable efficient learning establishment it is paramount that West Lothian Council ensure that the proposed new school is flexible and allows the creative and multiple use of spaces by staff, pupils and the community. Layout and design plans are indicative at this stage and will be an ongoing consideration throughout the Statutory Consultation phase.

Sustainability will be a key factor in the design and construction of the proposed new school and will be incorporated into every element of the development process. Due regard will be offered to the materials used for construction, fixtures and fittings, heating systems and lighting provisions.

The new school will be designed to promote accessible, inclusive learning which meets the needs of all learners and ensure that accessibility for learners with disabilities complies with The Equality Act 2010 - Education Reasonable Adjustments.



West Lothian Council do not foresee any alterations to provisions both internally and externally at St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy and any of the associated primary schools as a result of the proposals being taken forward.

- **Outdoor Learning**

As with all existing education establishments in West Lothian, the proposed new school would benefit from best design practices that will offer opportunity for outdoor learning.

Both indoor and outdoor learning can inspire pupils and have a positive effect on attainment, achievement and aspirations.

- **Community Links**

In relation to the proposal to establish a new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh, West Lothian Council will work continuously with existing community groups and potential new community groups. A key focus is to ensure that strong community links are embedded at the outset of development of the new school.

The new secondary school will offer opportunity to develop strong links between the school and the Winchburgh community. Strong community links facilitates the promotion of a wide range of opportunities for users of the proposed new school and the surrounding community alike. Community interaction encourages a welcoming ethos, provides pupils with valuable life and interpersonal skills and promotes acknowledgement and respect for the local area.

The external links that St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy and the associated primary schools have established will remain. All schools will continue to have clear and distinct associations within their local communities.

- **Parental Involvement**

Parent Forums will be established to ensure parents and carers of pupils attending the proposed newly established secondary school have opportunity to shape the strategic direction of the new school.

A key focus is the delivery of a welcoming school that is inclusive for all parent, carers, pupils and staff.

West Lothian Council do not foresee any impact to existing opportunities for parental involvement and engagement at St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy, and associated primary schools as a result of the proposals. Parents and carers will continue to be an integral part of the school community with their ongoing contributions and working partnerships key to the success of the school.

- **Benefits for Other School Users**

The proposed new school will provide facilities which could be used to meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the community.

The sports facilities at the proposed new school will be accessible outwith core school hours and will provide excellent opportunities for children, families and other users.

It is not envisaged that any other schools within the direct vicinity, the attending pupils and staff and any external users of these schools will be affected by the proposals being taken forward.

## **SECTION THREE**

This section provides information on the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) conducted by Council officers to meet statutory equality duties, to assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.

### **INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

To meet statutory equality duties, the Council conducts an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to critically assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.

The aim of an IIA is to examine policies and practices in a structured way taking account of equality, human rights and socioeconomic disadvantage (poverty) implications when making decisions, ensuring the impact within the community is recognised and addressed accordingly.

IIA screening is completed using the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit and allows the Authority to recognise positive steps it can take to promote fairness and equality of opportunity for all.

As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, staff, parents/carers and young people and will welcome and address comments on the IIA process.

The outcome of the Integrated Impact Assessment will inform the Final Consultation Report and the Council's consideration of the proposed changes prior to reaching a decision on whether they should be implemented.

## SECTION FOUR

This section provides information on how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process for the proposals contained within this document. It also provides information on how you can take part and give your views.

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to create a new education establishment with an associated school catchment area, alteration of admission arrangements by varying the catchment area of a school and review of primary to secondary school transition requires a formal consultation process.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school
- the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area the local authority in which any affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant
- in relation to any relevant proposal which affects a denominational school, the Church, Denominational Body or Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

As stated in the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 statutory consultation periods should last a minimum of six weeks continuous and incorporate a minimum of 30 school days (excluding school holidays). Therefore the consultation period for this particular proposal will run from 15 November 2019 until 13 January 2020.

The consultation paper will be made available for reference electronically and in paper format.

Public meetings will be held in respect of the proposals at the venues listed below:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Holy Family Primary School               | Wednesday 20 November 2019, 6.30pm - 8.00pm |
| St Nicholas Primary School               | Wednesday 27 November 2019, 6.30pm - 8.00pm |
| St Joseph's Primary School<br>Linlithgow | Wednesday 4 December 2019, 6.00pm - 7.30pm  |

These meetings will give interested parties a formal opportunity to express their views.

Representatives of the Council will be present at the meetings to outline the proposals, facilitate discussions and answer questions.

The Council website contains information on the consultation. The web address is: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/winchburgh-denominational-secondary-consultation](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/winchburgh-denominational-secondary-consultation)

During the consultation period any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below:

Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses can also be made by e-mail to [Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

All responses to be received by no later than 5.00pm 13 January 2020.

#### **Consultation Timeline:**

Following the end of the Consultation period West Lothian Council must provide Education Scotland with a report detailing all findings pertaining to the Consultation period.

All written and oral comments received during the consultation process are recorded and represented in said report, along with the Council's response to those comments.

Education Scotland will consider the Council submission and advise their response accordingly.

West Lothian Council will ensure that considerations received from Education Scotland are included in the Final Consultation Report. This Final Report will be made available and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the Consultation period.

West Lothian Council will not make any decisions, or put any changes into effect until the Final Consultation Report has been concluded, published and subsequently presented to the Education Executive in March 2020.

**The above Consultation Timeline encompasses statutory legislative requirements detailed as per Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010**

West Lothian Council, proposal to establish a new denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and review of admission arrangements arising from denominational school catchment area variations at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy

If you would like a copy of this document please call MELANIE LAURIE 01506 281666. GIVING YOUR NAME ADDRESS AND THE LANGUAGE YOU WOULD LIKE THE DOCUMENT TRANSLATED IN TO

West Lothian Council, propozycja powołania nowej wyznaniowej szkoły ponadpodstawowej w Winchburg oraz zweryfikowania zasad przyjęcia w związku ze zmianą rejonizacji szkoły wyznaniowej dla szkół St Margaret's Academy oraz St Kentigern's Academy

Aby otrzymać kopię tego dokumentu, prosimy zadzwonić do MELANIE LAURIE 01506 281666. NALEŻY PODAĆ SWOJE NAZWISKO, ADRES ORAZ JĘZYK, NA KTÓRY DOKUMENT MA BYĆ PRZETŁUMACZONY

Vestloziānas domes (West Lothian Council) priekšlikums izveidot jaunu konfesionālu vidusskolu Vinčburgā (Winchburgh) un pārskatīt uzņēmšanas kārtību sakarā ar konfesionālo skolu – St Margaret's akadēmijas un St Kentigern's akadēmijas – mikrorajonu izmaiņām

Ja jūs vēlaties saņemt šī dokumenta eksemplāru, lūdzam zvanīt MELANIE LAURIE uz 01506 281666. JUMS JĀNORĀDA JŪSU VĀRDS, UZVĀRDS UN ADRESE, KĀ ARĪ VALODA, KURĀ JŪS VĒLATIES ŠO DOKUMENTU SAŅEMT

ویسٹ لوٹھین کونسل کی ونچبرگ پرایک غیر فرقہ وارانہ سیکنڈری اسکول قائم کرنے کی تجویز اور سینٹ مارگریٹس اکیڈمی اور سینٹ کینٹیجرنز اکیڈمی پرایک غیر فرقہ وارانہ سیکنڈری اسکول کے اردگرد کے علاقے میں تبدیلیوں سے سامنے آنے والے داخلے کے انتظامات کا جائزہ۔

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کی ایک نقل چاہیے تو برائے مہربانی میلینی لاوری کو 01506 281666 پر فون کریں۔ اپنا نام، پتہ اور اس زبان کے بارے میں بتاتے ہوئے جس میں آپ اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ کروانا چاہیں گے۔

العرض المقدم من بلدية ويست لوٹھان West Lothian لتأسيس مدرسة ثانوية دينية في وينشباره Winchburgh وإعادة النظر حول الترتيبات المتعلقة بالقبول المدرسي الناشئة عن التغييرات حول منطقة القبول العائدة للمدارس الدينية وهي أكاديمية سانت مارغريت St Margaret وأكاديمية سانت كينتجيرن St Kentigern

وإذا رغبت بالحصول على نسخة من هذه الوثيقة ، فيرجى منك الاتصال على ميلاني لوري MELANIE LAURIE على رقم الهاتف: 01506 281666 وذكر اسمك وعنوانك واللغة التي ترغب بأن تتم ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إليها .

ওয়েস্ট লোথিয়ান কাউন্সিল, উইঞ্চবারা-তে কোন বিশেষ ধর্মীয় গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত নয় এরকম একটা সেকেন্ডারী স্কুলের প্রতিষ্ঠা করার প্রস্তাব এবং সেন্ট মার্গারেটস এ্যাকাডেমী এবং সেন্ট কেন্টিজার্নস এ্যাকাডেমীর (St Kentigern's Academy) কোন বিশেষ ধর্মীয় গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত নয় এরকম ক্যাচমেন্ট এরিয়ার তফাৎগুলির থেকে ওঠা ভর্তি হওয়ার বন্দোবস্তের পুনর্বিচার।

আপনি যদি এই কাগজটির একটা কপি চান, তাহলে দয়া করে 01506 281666 (০১৫০৬ ২৮১৬৬৬) নম্বরে মেলানী লরীকে (MELANIE LAURIE) টেলিফোন করে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং কোন্ ভাষায় আপনি এই কাগজটি অনুবাদ করা আপনি চান তা জানাবেন

West Lothian 市政府，提议在Winchburgh建立一所新的教派中学，并审查因St Margaret Academy和St Kentigern Academy两所教派学校的不同学区而导致的招生安排。

如果您想要获得本文件的一份副本，请致电MELANIE LAURIE 01506 281666，提供您的姓名地址并说明您希望该文件被翻译为什么语言。

西洛錫安議會關於在Winchburgh（文氣堡）建立一所新的非宗教性中等學校的建議以及由于非宗教性的St Margaret's Academy（聖瑪格麗特中學）和St Kentigern's Academy（聖肯體根中學）的學校規劃統計區的變化而引起的對入學安排的審核

如果您想要一份本文檔的副本，請致電給 MELANIE LAURIE，號碼是 01506 281666。請將您的姓名、地址和希望將該文件翻譯成的語言告訴我們。

Vakarų Lothian savivaldybės pasiūlymas įkurti naują denominacinę vidurinę mokyklą Winchburgh'e ir peržiūrėti priėmimo tvarką, kurią sąlygoja alternatyvūs denominacinės vidurinės mokyklos pasiekiamumo zonų variantai: Šv. Margaret akademija ir šv. Kentigern's akademija.

Jei norite šios dokumento kopijos, susisiekite su MELANIE LAURIE telefonu 01506 281666. PATEIKITE SAVO VARDĄ, PAVARDĘ, ADRESĄ IR KALBĄ, ĮKURIA NORĖTUMĖTE, KAD BŪTŲ IŠVERSTAS ŠIS DOKUMENTAS.

## Appendix 1

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY  
SCHOOL IN WINCHBURGH**

**MINUTES OF PRE CONSULTATION MEETING  
BROXBURN PARISH HALL  
TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019, 6.30pm**

**Representation from West Lothian Council:**

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)  
Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer

### **Introductions and Overview**

**Aims of Pre Consultation Exercise:**

- Information sharing opportunity - explanation and reasoning behind proposal
- Opportunity to capture thoughts/ideas/questions from the community
- Integral engagement and research process - information gathered being used to develop an informed and defined proposal moving forward to Statutory Consultation.

**Summary of Proposal:**

- Creation of a new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh
- Review primary to secondary school association at:
  - Holy Family Primary School
  - St Nicholas Primary School Broxburn
  - St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow
- Review catchment area variations at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy

**Rationale:**

- To meet demands of housing developments in the area
- Ensure new housing developments have designated catchment schools
- Review of current and predicted pupil roll figures at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy and the implications arising from new housing developments
- West Lothian Council commitment to providing quality and long term sustainable educational provisions

**Proposed Site:**

- B9080 west of Winchburgh village centre
- Initial school building provision will accommodate 660 pupils
- Flexible design allowing for future expansion to accommodate 1320 pupils
- Planning intention to commence on site 2020 with occupation 2023

### **Group Discussion**

- When will Winchburgh Academy and the new denominational secondary school open?

Response:



Intention is for Winchburgh Academy to be occupied in 2022 with occupation of the new denominational secondary school in August 2023.

- In response to this comment, meeting attendees unanimously stated their desire for both secondary schools to be delivered at the same time

Response:

Officers thanked attendees for their comments. This was noted and will be taken forward for consideration as the Statutory Consultation progresses

- How will you transition the children? How will the school building be populated?

Response:

In addition to the Education Services proposed introduction of S1 stage from 2023, other options have been proposed by Parent Council representatives:

- Establish the new denominational secondary school in 2022 with the S1 pupils being hosted at the existing catchment denominational secondary school
  - Establish the denominational secondary school in 2022 with the S1 pupils being hosted in the Winchburgh Academy building. In Aug 2023 both the S1 and S2 cohorts would move in to the new denominational secondary building
- In response to this explanation, meeting attendees again expressed preference was that both secondary schools are delivered and operational at the same time and that a phased delivery was not favoured.

Response:

Officers duly noted this response and will take forward for consideration

- Are you sure about the landfill site, are ground conditions ok?

Response:

As part of the planning application, ground conditions have been thoroughly investigated. An in-depth remediation strategy has been employed.

The school infrastructure will not be constructed on the previous landfill areas. The schools will be delivered on an area of agricultural land.

Meeting attendees were directed to the West Lothian Council dedicated web page offering information on the planning and delivery elements of the proposal.

- Those meeting attendees already familiar with the web page commented favourably on the content
- Will St Margaret's Academy pupils have the option to move to the new school?

Response:

As the initial proposal is to deliver year stages on a phased basis, pupils will only be able to transfer if and when their particular year stage is operational.

Moving on from this, attendees were offered an explanation of West Lothian Council's Sibling Link Guarantee and were directed to Section 1 of the Draft Consultation Paper.

It was explained that pupils living within the catchment area for the new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh who will have older siblings in attendance at the current catchment secondary schools St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy will be permitted to attend the current catchment secondary if parents wish siblings to attend the same school.

This catchment status would remain until a younger sibling living within the catchment area of the proposed new school reaches the end of primary school education and the elder sibling has since left St Margaret's Academy or St Kentigern's Academy. The link to both these secondary schools will have ceased and the younger sibling would be identified as being in the catchment area for the new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh

- In response to the proposed phased introduction of year stages, meeting attendees commented that delivery of a full school cohort S1-S6 is more preferable and a phased introduction of year stages is less favoured.

Questions were raised as to how viable having purely an S1 cohort occupying the building would be. Concerns were raised in relation to provision of quality education for a single year stage.

Response:

Attendees were advised that comments were noted for the minute.

In relation to education provisions it was further explained that West Lothian Council has an obligation to adhere to and provide a Broad General Education to all S1-S3 pupils.

Benefits of phased year stage introduction were offered to the group for consideration. It was advised that initial smaller cohorts will allow opportunity for pupils and staff to work together and develop a positive school ethos. A phased year stage introduction would allow opportunity for staff to plan and deliver a well-constructed timetable focusing on key elements of the Broad General Education. Pupils would have opportunity to comfortably familiarise themselves with their new environment and develop relationships with peers at an early stage.

- What will be the name of the new school?

Response:

The Archdiocese is a Statutory Consultee and will make recommendations to West Lothian Council on a proposed name for the new school. This recommendation will be considered by the Education Executive at the end of the Statutory Consultation process.

- Meeting attendees request that the community and in particular the forthcoming pupils of the new school are involved in the naming process.

Response:

Comments noted.

- Discussions ensued in relation to the planning elements of the proposal with road infrastructure, parking provisions, design and layout and impact on the environment raised for comment.

Response:

In response, it was advised that two separate consultations are conducted, a Planning Application Consultation and a Statutory Education Consultation.

Planning consultations have been conducted as part of the statutory planning application process.

Attendees are advised that further information in relation school design orientation and layout will be made readily available during the Education Statutory Consultation process whereby planning officers and architects will be in attendance to assist with enquiries.

Attendees were again directed to the dedicated West Lothian Council web page offering details on the design and planning process.

### **Next Steps**

- Pre-Consultation engagement sessions to be conducted during September 2019
- Officers will prepare a report on the findings of the Pre-Consultation meetings and deliver to Education Executive in November 2019
- Statutory Consultation period - November 2019
- Outcome of Statutory Consultation Report submitted to Education Scotland for review – mid January/early February 2020
- West Lothian Council prepare and publish final Consultation Paper – early March 2020
- 24 March 2020 – West Lothian Council Education Executive meet to review final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal

### **Close**

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.

## Appendix 2

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY  
SCHOOL IN WINCHBURGH**

**MINUTES OF PRE CONSULTATION MEETING  
HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019, 6.30pm**

**Present:**

**Panel Members:**

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)  
Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer  
Andrew Cotton, Senior Education Planning Officer  
Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer

**Representation from:**

Head Teacher Holy Family Primary School  
Holy Family Primary School community

### **Introductions and Overview**

**Aims of Pre Consultation Meeting:**

- Information sharing opportunity - explanation and reasoning behind proposal
- Opportunity to capture thoughts/ideas/questions from the community
- Integral engagement and research process - information gathered being used to develop an informed and defined Consultation Paper moving forward to Statutory Consultation.

**Summary of Proposal:**

- Creation of a new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh
- Proposed catchment area variations at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review primary to secondary school associations at Holy Family Primary School, St Nicholas Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow

### **Group Discussion**

- A meeting attendee commenced discussions by stating that it would be preferred that the new secondary school is established and delivered as a full S1-S6 cohort rather than phased year stages. It was stated that it was felt there was no logic in phasing year stages when the building is fully operational.

**Response:**

Comment duly noted for the purpose of the minute.

- In response to West Lothian Council's initial proposal to occupy the new school in 2023 with an S1 cohort, Holy Family Primary School Parent Council representatives put forward possible school establishment/opening suggestions:
  - New denominational secondary school opening in 2022 at the same time as the non-denominational secondary and the relocated Holy family Primary School
  - Occupy the new denominational secondary in 2023 however actually establish the school a year earlier in 2022. On occupation in 2023 the school

would be open for S1 and S2 pupils (existing P4 and P5 pupils). The current P5 pupils will spend their first year of secondary school being hosted at St Margaret's Academy until the new school building is ready for occupation in 2023.

- Occupy the new denominational secondary in 2022 however establish the school in 2021. On occupation in 2022 the school would be open for S1 and S2 pupils (current P5 and P6 pupils). The current P6 pupils will spend their first year of secondary school being hosted at St Margaret's Academy.

Parent Council members highlighted that currently at Holy Family Primary School P4 and P6 are the largest cohorts in the school and could have a bearing on the new school intake.

Response:

Noted.

- A further comment/suggestion was made that West Lothian Council should consider an initial S1-S3 year stage introduction

Response:

Again, this comment was noted and will be offered due consideration moving forward. It was explained by officers that by adopting this approach there were factors for parent consideration:

- This approach would involve the existing P4 pupils automatically being in the catchment of the new denominational secondary for commencement of S1 in 2023. Existing P5 and P6 pupils will already be in attendance at St Margaret's Academy and should parents wish to move their child to the new school they would be required to make a placing request. There would be no automatic transfer to the new school.
  - Meeting attendees were asked to consider the possibility that whilst S2/S3 provisions would be available at the outset of the new school, pupils may opt not to move from St Margaret's Academy. No pupil would ever be forced by West Lothian Council to change school.
- Overall, the suggestion from meeting attendees of a possible S1-S3 intake was well received by meeting attendees. Parents suggested that by educating their child and preparing them in advance, the children and young people would be familiar with and in acceptance of a S2/S3 move from St Margaret's Academy to the new Winchburgh School.
  - Council officers advised that whilst it is envisaged that pupil numbers will be relatively low on commencement of both the new secondary schools it is anticipated that pupil numbers will grow quickly.

It was further explained that both new secondary schools may be subject to placing requests from out with West Lothian. In adherence of admission policies, there are certain grounds that the authority can refuse a placing request e.g. if approving the place would make it necessary to take on an additional member of staff, or if granting the place would increase school expenditure. Should a placing request be made from out with West Lothian and all statutory criteria is met there would be no grounds for West Lothian Council to refuse placement.

- Council officers were asked how many teachers there would be in the new denominational secondary.

Response:

- Attendees were advised that well in advance of occupation of the new school, a Head Teacher and Management Team would be appointed. From there, a full staff entitlement will be established, this includes teaching staff, support and administration and all other staffing requirements to facilitate day to day operations.

- It was put to Council officers for consideration, the possibility of both established secondary schools occupying the non -denominational building at the same time until the denominational building is ready i.e. sharing a building.

Response:

Comment was noted accordingly.

- A meeting attendee questioned the value of the new building.

Response:

It was advised that £62m is allocated for delivery of the 2 new secondary schools and the denominational primary school.

- In relation to the community facilities, a question was raised as to how this would be managed during and out with school hours.

Response:

To date, no final decision has been made in relation to the management of community facilities. A possible option would be for West Lothian Leisure to take over the management of facilities from 6pm weekdays and 1pm on Saturdays. It was stressed that during the school day, priority will be given to school usage requirements.

- As discussions ensued in relation to the name of the school, officers responded by advising that when naming a denominational school, the Archdiocese being the main consultee, would recommend to the authority the selected name. It was further explained to the group that should the denominational community wish involvement in naming the new school this would be for discussion between the community and the Archdiocese.

- A group member highlighted concerns that opening the new school on a phased basis would be detrimental to their child in the way that there would be no older peer group for them, little support from older pupils. Could it be that the younger year stages would be missing out on learning valuable life skills from older pupils?

Response:

Comment was acknowledged. Officers moved on to explain how initial small cohorts will allow opportunity for staff and pupils to build upon the ethos and values of the school. It will allow both staff and pupils a sense of ownership.

- In relation to delivery schedules, a meeting attendee asked what considerations have been made on associated risks and the impact these risks will have on programme delivery.

Response:

Group were advised that programme scoping has been conducted. It is recognised as with any project there will indeed be potential risks that can hinder delivery for example, severe winter conditions. The outside partners working on this project, construction and architects are working collaboratively to ensure delivery within the intimated schedule. Each of these companies have strong links with West Lothian Council having offered services previously on other school estate projects.

- Prior to the meeting close, those meeting attendees involved with Holy Family Primary School Parent Council passed on queries they wish noted as the Statutory Consultation progresses:
  - Gender neutral toilets and changing rooms – Parent Council feel this is not a good idea when considering the vulnerability of pupils at secondary stage level.
  - After school curricular activities – if the school is to be occupied on a phased basis as proposed, will there be the same depth of choice as those pupils attending fully established schools?
  - What plans will be implemented to minimise sectarianism?

Response:

Parent Council members were thanked for their comments/questions with it being advised that these matters will be addressed moving forward.

### **Next Steps**

- Collate and review feedback received from pre consultation discussions
- November 2019 - West Lothian Council Education Executive consider outcome of pre consultation and agree progression to Statutory Consultation phase
- Statutory Public Consultation Period – November/December 2019
- West Lothian Council submit report on findings of the Statutory Public Consultation to Education Scotland for review – mid January/early February 2020
- Early March 2020 - West Lothian Council prepare and publish final Consultation Paper
- Education Executive review final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal – 24 March 2020.

### **Close**

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.

## Appendix 3

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT  
WINCHBURGH**

**MINUTES OF PRE CONSULTATION SESSION  
ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LINLITHGOW  
MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2019, 6.00pm**

**Present:**

**Panel Members:**

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer

Andrew Cotton, Senior Education Planning Officer

Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer

**Representation from:**

Head Teacher St Joseph's RC School, Linlithgow

St. Joseph's RC School, Linlithgow

### **Introductions and Overview**

**Aims of Consultation Meeting:**

- Information sharing opportunity - explanation and reasons behind proposal
- Initiate dialogue between consultees
- Opportunity to capture thoughts/ideas/questions
- Invaluable engagement and research process - information gathered being used to develop an informed and defined Consultation Paper moving forward.

**Summary of Proposal:**

- Creation of a new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh
- Proposed catchment area variations at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review primary to secondary school associations at Holy Family Primary School, St Nicholas Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow

### **Next Steps**

- Collate and review feedback received from pre consultation discussions
- November 2019 - West Lothian Council Education Executive consider outcome of pre consultation and agree progression to Statutory Consultation phase
- Statutory Public Consultation Period – November/December 2019
- West Lothian Council submit report on findings of the Statutory Public Consultation to Education Scotland for review – mid January/early February 2020
- Early March 2020 - West Lothian Council prepare and publish final Consultation Paper
- Education Executive review final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal – 24 March 2020.

### **Group Discussion**

- An attendee asked if the planned opening date of 2023 was realistic.

Response:

Officers advised that 2023 was the original planning date for opening of all the denominational school.

- Concerns were raised by several attendees regarding the possible impact of the different proposed opening dates for the secondary schools on the early establishment and perceived cultural ownership of the new schools.

Response:

The Head of Education noted these comments and assured that these would be captured in the report. Officers advised that the school design has the capability for integration and shared working. Schools will share the PE facilities. Staff will be appointed in advance of schools opening bringing opportunities for joint working.

- A meeting attendee questioned the dependency of Winchburgh housing development on the construction of the new school.

Response:

Officers explained that Winchburgh Developments Ltd were responsible for remediating the land for construction. Handover to the Council was anticipated next year. Officers indicated that the biggest risk factors to project completion were perhaps the planning and/or statutory consultation processes although no issues had been highlighted to date.

- A concern was raised by an attendee about the establishment of a new school for S1 pupils only.

Response:

Comment noted. Officers explained that newly established schools in the past and more recently at Bertha Park in Perth found younger pupils often fully embraced the opportunities presented to them. Pupils transitioning to the new school may benefit from meeting with pupils who have had a similar experience albeit at a different establishment.

- In response one attendee noted that they had started their education in England in this manner, had found the experience a positive one and thought their own children would too.
- Further to this, an attendee noted that although the initial capacity of the secondary schools was relatively small 660 pupils this might in fact bring many advantages.

Response:

Comment noted. Officers explained that the school will be staffed to deliver the full Broad General Education curriculum but may offer advantages of smaller class sizes and greater opportunities for curriculum development across the two schools. Small schools can also be very vibrant and offer more leadership opportunities to young people.

- An attendee commented that historically parents sent their children to St. Mary's Secondary in Bathgate. However, since the catchment changed to St. Kentigern's Academy more placing requests have been made to Linlithgow Academy. In response to this another attendee asked for clarification regarding the catchment of denominational primary pupils to Linlithgow Academy.

Response:

Comment noted. Officers explained that authority policy ensures that every household in West Lothian is provided with a denominational and non-denominational primary and secondary catchment



school. However, once enrolled it is the primary schools associated secondary school that determines the associated secondary school. For St. Joseph's RC this is currently St. Kentigern's Academy. Officers explained that all placing requests to Linlithgow Academy by St. Joseph's RC children had been met in the last ten years but roll projections indicate that this may not be sustainable.

- Question with regard to how much support the school requires from St. Josephs' families for pupil roll/numbers.

Response:

Officers confirmed that the project was well advanced and projected school rolls had taken different scenarios into account e.g. low, medium and high uptake. All scenarios reflected a requirement for a new denominational school. Officers acknowledged that numbers of St Joseph's children opting to attend a denominational secondary school has been low over the last 10 years. Officers projected intake for the new S1 to be 50-60 children from St. Nicholas RC, Broxburn, 30 children from Holy Family RC, Winchburgh and 20 children from St. Joseph's RC, Linlithgow. No projections were offered for possible placing requests but officers anticipated that there would be some from within and out with the authority.

- In response one attendee sought some reassurance that the attainment aspirations of the new school would be similar to that of Linlithgow Academy.

Response:

Officers anticipated that the new school would attract a high calibre of staff at all levels. The new Head Teacher would have a unique opportunity to appoint teachers with the skills and qualities to utilise the new school facilities to maximum effect.

- Group discussions ensued in relation to what the advantages were of sending children to the new Winchburgh denominational secondary school.

Response:

One respondent noted the ability to continue with a Catholic education. Another attendee noted the improved attainment at West Calder High School since its opening. Others noted the advantages of smaller class sizes, less anxiety at point of transition from primary school, the new school facilities, updated technology, new enthusiastic teachers and shorter travel distance to Winchburgh than to Blackburn.

- An attendee indicated that they were aware of Kirkliston families' interest in the new school and enquired whether any arrangements had been made with these families and Edinburgh Council.

Response:

It was clarified that officers did have initial discussions with Edinburgh Council but no formal arrangements were arrived at. However, officers explained that they do anticipate placing requests for the Winchburgh schools which are likely to be met with available capacity in the schools.

- It was asked how a sense of community will be established between Winchburgh and Linlithgow prior to the new school opening.

Response:

Officers explained that an external agency Space Zero had been appointed to develop the branding of the new schools. This will establish groups who will have an input with regard to school values, uniform and community issues i.e. naming of the schools and will comprise of staff, pupils and parents from the catchment communities.

The Head of Education explained that the Archdiocese is a Statutory Consultee and will make recommendations to the Council on the name of the new school.

- A group member asked for clarification regarding the ASN support provision within the schools.

Response: Officers explained that small group setting accommodation are designed into the new secondary school. For each school the same support staffing would be in place.

- A question was raised regarding the support provided for pupil's out with the catchment areas and pupils already established in other schools.

Response:

Comment noted. Officers explained that the final report would address this in the Educational Benefit statement if proposed.

- A question was raised regarding the planning application process.

Response:

Officers explained the process by which members of the public can respond to planning applications and be notified of decisions. The link to the new Winchburgh Schools website was displayed illustrating the stages of the planning process and PDF layouts of the new schools.

- A query about transportation to the new school for Linlithgow children was raised.

Response:

Officers explained that for any pupil of secondary age transport will be provided if travel distances were over 2.0 miles. The same applies to primary pupils with travel distances over 1.5 miles. Officers indicated that these distances are generous compared to statutory provision. In summary officers concluded that Linlithgow children would be entitled to transport to the new school.

## **Close**

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.

## Appendix 4

### PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WINCHBURGH

#### MINUTES OF PRE CONSULTATION MEETING ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019, 6.00pm

**Present:**

**Panel Members:**

James Cameron, Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)  
Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer

**Representation from:**

Head Teacher St Nicholas Primary School  
St Nicholas Primary School Community

### Introductions and Overview

**Aims of Pre Consultation Meeting:**

- Information sharing opportunity - explanation and reasoning behind proposal
- Opportunity to capture thoughts/ideas/questions from the community
- Integral engagement and research process - information gathered being used to develop an informed and defined Consultation Paper moving forward to Statutory Consultation.

**Summary of Proposal:**

- Creation of a new denominational secondary school in Winchburgh
- Proposed catchment area variations at St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy
- Review primary to secondary school associations at Holy Family Primary School, St Nicholas Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School Linlithgow

### Group Discussion

- A meeting attendee commenced discussions by questioning access to sports facilities and raised a concern that pupils will be walking on/near vehicular access routes to reach sports facilities.

Response:

Comment noted for the purpose of the minute.

Officers advised that on site walking routes will be implemented to ensure safe access for pupils. It was advised that pupil access to sport facilities will not be shared with vehicle entrance/exit areas. Attendees were advised that matters pertaining to design elements of the proposed development are welcomed and will be addressed accordingly as part the Planning Consultation with it being further explained that the purpose of this evenings meeting was to focus on the educational benefits of establishing a new denominational secondary school and proposed review of primary to secondary school associations.

- A question was raised in relation to pupil transport eligibility and whether there will be any changes.

Response:

Officers explained that West Lothian Council School Transport Policy indicates school transport will be provided for secondary stage pupils if the travel distance is over 2.0 miles, for primary aged pupils the distance is 1.5 miles. These distances are less than statutory guidelines.

Officers confirmed that there are currently no plans for amendment to existing school transport provisions and that all entitlements will continue to adhere to West Lothian Council School Transport Policy.

- A further question was asked in relation to possible new bus routes from Broxburn to Winchburgh.

Response:

Attendees were advised that as yet, no specific new bus routes had been confirmed. Dialogue in relation to public roads and bus route realignments are ongoing.

- Discussions ensued in relation to the establishment and occupation of the new secondary school and a possible initial intake of S1-S3 cohorts. A question was asked as to how the school would be staffed to accommodate S1-S3 year stage pupils.

Response:

Officers confirmed that a Head Teacher and Management Team would be appointed well in advance of occupation of the new school. From there, a full teaching staff entitlement will be established. It was further advised that initially guidance staff caseloads will be smaller due to fewer pupil numbers occupying the school however staff numbers and scheduling will incrementally increase as pupil numbers rise.

Attendees were also offered for consideration the possibility of collaboration with the proposed new non-denominational secondary school. This situation already exists and proves successful in the current delivery of Senior Phase Education (S4-S6). Adopting a similar approach in the delivery of the Broad General Education (S1-S3) would have notable benefits for pupils from both establishments. Council officers advised that whilst it is envisaged that pupil numbers will be relatively low on commencement of both the new secondary schools it is anticipated that pupil numbers will grow quickly.

- Attendees commented that if the new school was to open initially only for S1 pupils there would be no older peer group to offer support and gain experience from. The lack of support and encouragement and lack of sharing life skills and character building opportunities with senior pupils was highlighted by certain meeting attendees as a concern.

Response:

Meeting attendees were thanked for their comments which were noted for the minute.

Officers moved on to explain some benefits of implementing smaller cohorts for example, opportunity for staff and pupils to work together to develop the values and ethos of the new school. Pupils will have a sense of ownership as they comfortably familiarise themselves in their new environment.

- Moving on from this, a further comment was made in relation to the impact having purely an S1 year stage would have on delivery of a broader education for example, team sports, music participation.

Response:

This comment was noted accordingly.

Officers advised that this would be something that the Head Teacher would endeavour to address accordingly. Collaboration with local schools may be a possible solution.

- When asked if there are any proposals to establish a new secondary school in Broxburn, attendees were advised that due to anticipated projected pupil numbers as a result of housing developments in Winchburgh the two new secondary schools at Winchburgh take priority. There are no considerations for a new secondary school in Broxburn.

- A question was raised in relation to the entitlement of younger siblings to attend the existing associated secondary school St Margaret's Academy

Response:

Officers explained that pupils living within the catchment area for the new school who will have older siblings in attendance at St Margaret's Academy will be permitted to attend the current associated secondary if parents wish siblings to attend the same school.

This catchment status would remain until a younger sibling living within the catchment of the proposed new school reaches the end of P7 education at St Nicholas Primary School and the elder sibling has since left St Margaret's Academy. The link to St Margaret's will have ceased and the younger sibling will be identified as being in the catchment for the new denominational secondary school

- When asked whether the funding for the new school was secured Council officers explained that every housing developer in West Lothian has a planning obligation to make a financial contribution towards the delivery of required denominational schools. To this regard, previous funding contributions have been allocated for the delivery of the anticipated new denominational secondary school.
- It was asked if West Lothian Council has a contingency should the new school not be delivered on time.

Response:

It was advised that should any unforeseen circumstances impact delivery of the new school the appropriate contingency measures will be adopted.

- When discussing occupation dates for both new secondary schools it was suggested by a meeting attendee that there may be possibility that denominational children may opt to go to the non-denominational secondary school in the first instance seeing as this is scheduled to open in 2022, a year earlier than the denominational. This could lead to pupils opting not to move to the new denominational secondary on delivery in 2023.

Response:

Officers noted this comment for the minute.

## **Next Steps**

- Collate and review feedback received from pre consultation discussions
- November 2019 - West Lothian Council Education Executive consider outcome of pre consultation and agree progression to Statutory Consultation phase
- Statutory Public Consultation Period – November/December 2019
- West Lothian Council submit report on findings of the Statutory Public Consultation to Education Scotland for review – mid January/early February 2020
- Early March 2020 - West Lothian Council prepare and publish final Consultation Paper
- Education Executive review final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal – 24 March 2020.

## **Close**

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.