

**PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM
SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT BOGHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 2 April 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposal to review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to:

- Review of non-denominational primary school catchment areas at:
 - ❖ Boghall Primary School
 - ❖ Simpson Primary School
- Transfer only the proposed dwellings at the Guildiehaugh development from Simpson Primary School catchment to Boghall Primary School catchment
- Make best use of existing and future school capacities

Education Services**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 June 2021.

Date	Event	Description
29 May 2018	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase.
19 January 2021	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to update Education Executive on timescales for the review
18 February 2021	Start of Statutory Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
11 March 2021	Public Meeting	Public Meeting to discuss proposal
02 April 2021	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
16 April 2021	Submit report to Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
Mid May 2021	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
Late May 2021	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
22 June 2021	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

1.3 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

1.4 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 2 April 2021. 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/article/68386/Proposal-to-Review-Admission-Arrangements-arising-from-School-Catchment-Area-Variations-at-Simpson-Primary-School-and-Boghall-Primary-School>
- 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.

A public meeting was conducted via Zoom on Thursday 11th March 2021. Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposal and answered questions from meeting attendees. Minutes of the public meeting 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:

Catherine Campbell, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses by e-mail were directed to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business Friday 2 April 2021.

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 meeting.

2.1 RESPONSES RECEIVED

2.1.1 School Pupil Council Response



Pupil Consultation on Proposal to Amend Catchment Area of Simpson Primary.

- We would need a new pavilion for the extra kids.
- If we built new classrooms it would take away a lot of our playground space. We have already lost a lot.
- We do not have enough capacity for more children.
- If the houses are closer to Simpson they should come to us.
- I'm happy for the other school to now get more people. I was scared that some of my friends would be split up but now I've checked none of us are.
- It's good because perhaps your travel to and from school will be less if you now live closer to the other school. You could then get more time to sleep or enjoy playing.
- It's good because I feel that Simpson is getting a bit overcrowded and we now have to have separate Assemblies because we all can't fit into the one hall. We also have more than 30 children in each class which can be harder to learn and noisier.

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- I was worried that some of my friends would get split up or younger siblings would not go to the same school as me.
- I think we have lots of pupils but they don't. With more houses it makes sense that they go to the other school.
- Boghall have different floors in their school. I wish we had this.
- It makes sense because there is not enough space in Simpson Primary School to take on new pupils.
- The council shouldn't decide where children go to school. It should be up to the children.
- There is plenty of space at Boghall so they should be taking in more pupils.
- Why don't we expand the school further? For example, by building out onto the field.
- Or, build another smaller school, in between Simpson PS and Boghall PS that could take in the new pupils.
- Think of other ways to expand Simpson PS such as converting the nursery into classrooms and building a new nursery building elsewhere.
- It isn't fair because how are they supposed to get there if they don't have car.
- Splitting people up who live close by and are friends is not fair.
- It is sad because the P7 might not get a buddy, we might not have enough children.
- It's not fair they don't have an option in the matter.
- Annoyed because we don't have room.
- We could extend the school to make it bigger or rearrange the classroom.
- Knock the school down, build a new one to fit in everyone.
- We would need another extension to fit more people in
- It will be a relief – we don't have space, and Boghall does
- Children who stay near the school should come to Simpson

- It's harder to get to Boghall so they should come to Simpson
- It's not good to go to Boghall when the live closer to us.
- I think they should go to Boghall because they have less children.
- We would have even less playground space.

Boghall Pupil Council

19th March 2021

Proposed changes to catchment area.

Positives	
Charlie p2b	I feel ok with it. I like other people and could make new friends.
Aaron p2b	I think it's good and we have the space for more people.
Lincoln p4	I think it's good because more people would mean bigger classes.
Payton p3	I am happy to have more people in school.
Kelsey p6	I am happy to have more people in school to socialise with and make new friends.
Emily p6	I am happy to have more people in school so that I can make new friends. There's enough room.
EllaMae p1b	It would be good to have more friends.

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TJ p4/3	We can make brand new friends. I feel good but we might need to extend the school.
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Negatives	
Lexi p5a	We would need new bubbles to ensure covid safety
Ruraidh p1b	I feel a bit nervous about meeting new people.
Aiden p5b	We would need to change the playground plan.
Morgan p7	We would need more money for resources.

Response

Officers have noted and welcomed the range of feedback and comments from the pupil councils. The majority of responses were supportive of the proposals.

2.1.2 Email Responses:

There was one individual electronic response received.

Respondent Group	Comment	Response
 <u>Parent Consultation on Proposal to Amend Catchment Area of Simpson Primary.</u>	We have no disagreements. Moving the land into a different catchment area will protect the space we currently have in school.	Response noted.

3. NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
11 MARCH 2021, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:
“PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM
SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND BOGHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL”**

In attendance from West Lothian Council:

Catherine Campbell	Senior Education Development Officer
Andrew Cotton	Senior Education Planning Officer
Mark Neil	WLC – Boghall Head Teacher
Nicola Ferris	WLC – Simpson Head Teacher

Meeting attendees : 2 attendees from Education Scotland, 1 employee and 1 parent from Boghall Primary School.

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:

- Review of non-denominational primary school catchment areas at:
 - ❖ Boghall Primary School
 - ❖ Simpson Primary School
- Transfer only the proposed dwellings at the Guildiehaugh development from Simpson Primary School catchment to Boghall Primary School catchment
- Make best use of existing and future school capacities

Rationale:

- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School
- West Lothian Council obligation to meet demand for education provision
- Implications arising from proposed new housing development at Guildiehaugh
- Simpson Primary School has a capacity of 640 and a current roll of 636.

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- Boghall Primary School has a capacity of 462 and a current roll of 275.
- The projected roll at Simpson Primary School is to increase to 662 by 2022.
- The projected roll at Boghall Primary School is to fall to 254 by 2022.

End of Education Service Presentation

Discussion Opportunity – Catherine Campbell opened the floor to comments and questions:

- Attendee – No impact on existing children, supports proposal.
- Attendee – Secures long term future at Boghall Primary School, supports proposal.
- Attendee – Supports proposal as a Boghall parent.
- Attendee – Supports proposal as a Boghall employee.

Meeting Close:

Andrew Cotton thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in discussions.

4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

One e-mail response was received expressed support for the proposal, and made comment and suggestions for consideration.

The 4 attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting supported the consultation proposal.

No expressions of opposition to the proposal were received via email during the statutory consultation.

5. REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

5.1 LEGISLATIVE DUTY

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to review the admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School. HM Inspectors considered the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. On receipt of the Education Scotland report, the 2010 Act requires West Lothian Council to consider the contents of the report and prepare its final consultation report. Section 6 below provides an explanation of how West Lothian Council has reviewed the initial proposal in the light of representations during the consultation period and from Education Scotland's findings.

The HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

5.2 SUMMARY OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND RESPONSE

Education Scotland findings and conclusions are summarised as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal for the catchment area variations to Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School has potential educational benefits. Overall, the proposal considers well the concern of continued growth of Simpson Primary School and the space available within Boghall Primary School. For both primary schools, the proposal has the potential to ensure continued use and development of existing spaces for learning. The securing of the current structure of classes and an increased peer group will have social and educational benefits. The proposal also delivers best value by addressing capacity issues within the primary schools' estate.

6. COUNCIL OFFICER REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 REVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Feedback from consultee submissions and the report from Education Scotland have been analysed in order that any issues highlighted were given cognisance and responded to. As a result of this analysis officers conclude the undernoted factors:

Identified Key Benefits:

- both schools will continue to be fully equipped to meet the educational entitlements of children.
- continuity of education provision for children will continue with minimal disruption.
- ensure continued use and development of existing spaces for learning.

6.2 RECOMMENDATION

With regard to the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers of West Lothian Council are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposal to vary the catchments at Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that West Lothian Council Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to vary the catchments at Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School.

17 February 2021

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services

Proposal to Review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 29 May 2018 authorised West Lothian Council's Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposals to:

- review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Boghall Primary School;
- review and amend the current non-denomination catchment area of Simpson Primary School

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 18 February 2021 on the following webpage:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/68386/Proposal-to-Review-Admission-Arrangements-arising-from-School-Catchment-Area-Variations-at-Simpson-Primary-School-and-Boghall-Primary-School>

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:

Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 02 April 2021 inclusive. A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at:

Public Meeting

A virtual Meeting via Zoom will take place on Thursday March 11th 2021 at 6:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81059746733?pwd=cVBCWjNQdDZTZ29EcW8rZ0kwU3FoUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 5974 6733

Passcode: wlc

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Catherine Campbell at the above address or by e-mail to: Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 02 April 2021.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in June 2021 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and feedback from meetings and from feedback received from Education Scotland.

Yours sincerely



James Cameron

Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)



WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL, EDUCATION SERVICES

**PROPOSALS TO AMEND CATCHMENT AREAS OF BOGHALL
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

February 2021

<p>SECTION 1</p> <p>1.1 Purpose of this document</p> <p>1.2 Background</p> <p>1.3 Summary of Proposals</p> <p>1.4 Integrated Impact Assessment</p>	
<p>SECTION 2</p> <p>2.1 Proposal 1 and Educational Benefit Statement</p> <p>2.2 Proposal 2 and Educational Benefit Statement</p>	
<p>SECTION 3</p> <p>3.1 Consultation Process: How To Have Your Say</p>	

SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the consultations. It provides information about why West Lothian Council is proposing to change the non-denominational primary school catchment areas of Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School.

<p>1.1</p>	<p>PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT</p>
	<p>The purpose of this document is to advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Lothian Council's proposals to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Boghall Primary School; II. review and amend the current non-denomination catchment area of Simpson Primary School 2. the educational benefits of this proposal and how it will make things better; and 3. information on how you can give your views and take part in the consultation process. <p>West Lothian Council believes that thorough and effective consultation will support better outcomes for pupils, their families and the wider community as a whole.</p> <p>Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a change to the school estate and/or the surrounding catchment area. 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:</p>

Section 1 of this document introduces the proposals, and gives background and rationale.

Section 2 contains the educational benefits statement and provides an assessment of the effects of this proposal on the children/young people and their families of the affected schools.

Section 3 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
	<p>The Guildiehaugh Depot site is proposed for redevelopment as housing as now it is surplus to requirements for the Council’s Operational Services team. 100 residential properties are proposed in the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Whilst undertaking initial reviews it was established that under the existing catchment area specifications Simpson Primary School does not have capacity to accommodate the children from a development of this intention. Forecasts indicate this trend at Simpson Primary School is likely to continue.</p> <p>Simpson Primary School has a capacity of 640 and a current roll of 636.</p> <p>Boghall Primary School has a capacity of 462 and a current roll of 275.</p> <p>The projected roll at Simpson Primary School is to increase to 662 by 2022.</p> <p>The projected roll at Boghall Primary School is to fall to 254 by 2022.</p> <p>It has therefore been acknowledged the potential impact the development of said 100 dwellings will have on pupil volumes at Simpson Primary School.</p> <p>In order to ensure that as a way forward, the Council addresses predicted strains to the existing Simpson Primary School intake a viable option would be to transfer the catchment area of the proposed new dwellings located at the Guildiehaugh Depot to Boghall Primary School catchment.</p> <p>No existing residential dwellings are affected by this proposal and Boghall Primary School is well within capacity limitations to meet the possible demands that any new dwellings in the Guildiehaugh development will determine.</p>
1.3.	SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

	<p>Proposal 1 - Review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Simpson Primary School.</p> <p>Proposal 2 - Review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Boghall Primary School.</p> <p>For the reasons set out in section 1.2. it is proposed to transfer only the projected dwellings pertaining to the development site at Guildiehaugh Depot from Simpson Primary School catchment area to Boghall Primary School catchment.</p>
1.4.	INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The outcome of the Integrated Impact Assessment will inform the Report on the Outcome of Consultation.</p>

SECTION TWO

This section contains the educational benefits gained should the proposal come to fruition.

2.1.	PROPOSAL 1
	<p>Review the current non-denominational catchment area of Simpson Primary School.</p> <p>It is proposed that as Simpson Primary School does not have the capacity to host potential pupils from the considered development at the current Guildiehaugh Depot site, a feasible solution, offering minimal disruption, would be to change the catchment area for the dwellings within this particular area to Boghall Primary School.</p> <p>The proposal will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the each of the direct school communities and will alleviate any predicted pupil roll pressures as a result of the Guildiehaugh development.</p>

	<p>Apart from the aforementioned schools, it is not envisaged that any other schools within the direct vicinity and the respective attending pupils and staff will be affected by this proposal.</p>
<p>2.1.1</p>	<p>EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT</p>
	<p>Whilst assessing the educational benefits of this proposal, the undernoted determinants are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Curriculum For Excellence</p> <p>Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years.</p> <p>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 key principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.</p> <p>A key educational advantage of this proposal is that Simpson Primary School will continue to be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <p>Continued engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a viable and sustainable school establishment broadens scope for attainment and achievement and builds a positive ethos for staff and pupils alike.</p> <p>• Admission</p> <p>Criteria for admission at Simpson Primary School will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Councils current admission arrangements.</p> <p>https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2215/5-Primary-School--Policy-Document/pdf/5_Primary_School_-_Policy_Document.pdf</p> <p>• School Management/Staff Teams</p> <p>The proposal does not foresee alteration to the current school management structure. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within Simpson Primary School will continue as is.</p>

Any amendments to current staffing at Simpson Primary School will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Councils statutory recruitment processes.

- **School Transport**

There are no anticipated amendments to existing school transport provisions as a result of this proposal. Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with west Lothian councils School Transport Policy. [https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport to and from School - Mainstream.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport%20to%20and%20from%20School%20-%20Mainstream.pdf)

- **Transition**

Simpson Primary School will continue to be a feeder primary and aligned to Bathgate Academy. Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. The relative establishments will endeavour as always to ensure the transition process will continue to be a seamless and positive experience for those pupils involved.

- **School Grounds/Outdoor Learning/Playground**

The school grounds and playground area at Simpson Primary School will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for Simpson Primary School pupils and will support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour, not only in the classroom, but also outdoors and in the wider community.

Car parking and pupil drop off / uplift areas will continue to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / After School Clubs**

The Breakfast Club at Simpson Primary School will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The Club aims to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day, helping to reduce lateness or poor attendance and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will be invited to take part in extracurricular activities which usually take place in blocks throughout the school session. These after school clubs are ordinarily led by school staff on a voluntary basis but can, at times, be organised by specialist providers.

- **Community Links**

	<p>All external links that Simpson Primary School has established will remain with the establishment continuing to have clear and distinct associations within the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Benefits for Any Other School Users</p> <p>The proposed changes will have no impact on existing external school users. All existing provisions will remain.</p>
2.2	PROPOSAL 2
	<p>Review the current non-denominational catchment area of Boghall Primary School.</p> <p>On review of current and projected school roll and capacity figures for both Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School it is proposed Boghall Primary School is in best position to host potential pupils from the considered development at the current Guildiehaugh Depot site.</p> <p>This proposal offers a feasible solution with minimal disruption. Advancement of the proposal will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the each of the direct school communities and will alleviate any predicted pupil roll pressures as a result of the Guildiehaugh development.</p> <p>Apart from the aforementioned schools, it is not envisaged that any other schools within the direct vicinity and the respective attending pupils and staff will be affected by this proposal.</p>
2.2.1	EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT
	<p>Whilst assessing the educational benefits of this proposal, the undernoted determinants are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Curriculum For Excellence</p> <p>Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years.</p>

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 key principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

A key educational advantage of this proposal is that Boghall Primary School will continue to be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

Continued engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a viable and sustainable school establishment broadens scope for attainment and achievement and builds a positive ethos for staff and pupils alike.

- **Admission**

Criteria for admission at Boghall Primary School will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2215/5-Primary-School--Policy-Document/pdf/5_Primary_School_-_Policy_Document.pdf

- **School Management/ Staff Teams**

The proposal does not foresee alteration to the current school management structure. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within Boghall Primary School will continue as is.

Any amendments to current staffing at Boghall Primary School will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Councils statutory recruitment processes.

- **Accommodation**

No alterations to the fabrication of premises both inside and out are required as a result of this proposal. Boghall Primary School will continue to offer internal and external provisions fully equipped to deliver a purposeful and resourceful education facility.

- **School Transport**

There are no anticipated amendments to existing school transport provisions as a result of this proposal. Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's School Transport Policy.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport_to_and_from_School_-_Mainstream.pdf

- **Transition**

Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School will continue to be feeder primaries aligned to Bathgate Academy. Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. The relative establishments will endeavour as always to ensure the transition process will continue to be a seamless and positive experience for those pupils involved.

- **School Grounds/ Outdoor Learning/Playground**

The school grounds and playground area at Boghall Primary School will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for Boghall Primary School pupils and will support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour, not only in the classroom, but also outdoors and in the wider community.

Car parking and pupil drop off / uplift areas will continue to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / After School Clubs**

The Breakfast Club at Boghall Primary School will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The Club aims to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day, helping to reduce lateness or poor attendance and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will be invited to take part in extracurricular activities which usually take place in blocks throughout the school session. These after school clubs are ordinarily led by school staff on a voluntary basis but can, at times, be organised by specialist providers.

- **Community Links**

All external links that Boghall Primary School has established will remain with the establishment continuing to have clear and distinct associations within the local community.

- **Benefits for Any Other School Users**

The proposed changes will have no impact on existing external school users. All existing provisions will remain.

SECTION THREE

CONSULTATION PROCESS: HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

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

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS - HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to alter the catchment area of a school 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 18 February 2021 until 2 April 2021 inclusive.

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:

Topic: Guildiehaugh Consultation Zoom Meeting Time: Thursday March 11th, 2021 06:30 PM https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81059746733?pwd=cVBCWjNQdDZTZ29EcW8rZ0kwU3FoUT09 Meeting ID: 810 5974 6733 Passcode: wlc
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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 will contain information on the consultation and this will be updated as necessary. The web address is: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>

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

Catherine Campbell, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses can also be made by e-mail to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All responses to be received by no later than 5.00pm Friday 02 April 2021.

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 on 22 June 2021.

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

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to review arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School.

May 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to review admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 11 March 2021 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- virtual visits to the sites of Simpson Primary School and Boghall Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The consultation process ran from 18 February to 2 April 2021. An online meeting was held on 11 March 2021 which was attended by two members of the public and two stakeholders. All were in favour of the proposal. The council received three responses by email. Responses included representation from the Pupil Councils at both Simpson and Boghall Primary Schools. The majority of these responses were in favour of the proposal. The Parent Council from Simpson Primary School also submitted the results of their consultation on the proposal, which was in favour of the proposal.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Simpson Primary School has capacity for 640 children and a current roll of 636. Boghall Primary School has capacity for 462 children and a current roll of 275. Projections are for Simpson Primary School to have an increasing roll and Boghall Primary School to have a decreasing roll in 2022. The Guildiehaugh Depot site, within current catchment for Simpson Primary School, is proposed for redevelopment as housing, with 100 residential properties. This development could place a significant strain on the roll at Simpson Primary School. West Lothian Council are, therefore, seeking a viable solution in the variation of catchment area of both schools to accommodate children from the new development.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree with the council's educational benefits statement and are confident that there is sufficient merit to review admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Boghall Primary School and Simpson Primary School. The council's proposal provides a feasible solution to reduce any additional pressure on Simpson Primary School caused by the new housing. It will provide a better balance between pupil numbers in each of the school communities. This will allow both schools to continue to deliver the breadth of Curriculum for Excellence without undue pressure caused by increasing pupil rolls.

3.3 Stakeholders from both schools who spoke with HM Inspectors were all in favour of the council's proposal. They recognise the benefits of eliminating any increased pressure on the roll of Simpson Primary School. Children at Simpson Primary School are clear that new pupils are very welcome at their school. They express concern however, over available space at the school, both inside the building in terms of additional learning spaces, and outside in the playground. Children at Boghall Primary School are excited about the prospect, should the proposal go ahead, of learning and playing with new children who join their school. They recognise that the school could easily accommodate more pupils, both indoors and in the playground.

3.4 Representatives of the Parent Councils of both schools welcome the proposal. They view it as sensible with no immediate or longer term negative impact on either school. Parents welcome the early decision-making to ensure, if the proposal is accepted, clarity of school catchment area for families moving into the new housing. Parents at Boghall also welcome a potential increase in the roll to support increased diversity within the school community.

3.5 Staff at both schools are in favour of the proposal. Staff at Simpson Primary School recognise the impact an increased roll could have on the quality of learning and teaching. Operational aspects of the school, such as delivering physical education and lunch time routines, would be pressurised further. At Boghall Primary School, staff welcome a potential increase in the roll and recognise that it could help secure the management and class structure in the longer term.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors' agree there are clear educational benefits in the proposal. Given that building on the proposed site has not yet begun, no children or families are immediately affected by this proposal. HM Inspectors agree with the views of stakeholders that the proposal presents as a sensible solution to the potential capacity issues at Simpson Primary School. There are also potential benefits for children at Boghall Primary School having an increased roll. The securing of the current structure of classes and an increased peer group will have social and educational

benefits. The proposal also delivers best value by addressing capacity issues within the primary schools' estate.

HM Inspectors
May 2021