

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

EDUCATION SERVICES CONSULTATION

**PROPOSED RELOCATION OF HOPEFIELD
NURSERY TO BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School leading to closure of Hopefield Nursery School.
- The educational benefits to be gained through the implementation of this proposal; and
- 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 and their families and will enable the vast majority of children.

Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a significant change to its school estate, in this case the relocation of a school. To carry out a public consultation West Lothian Council requires to follow the statutory guidance outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. With this in mind, this document is further organised into the following sections:

Section 2 details the proposal and gives the background and rationale.

Section 3 contains the educational benefits statement in relation to the proposal and provides an assessment of the effects of this proposal on the children/young people and their families of the affected nursery and school.

Section 4 provides information on the Integrated Impact Assessment undertaken in reference to the proposal. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is undertaken to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirement to assess policies and practices and ensure that they meet the legislative requirements in relation to its equality, human rights and socioeconomic obligations.

Section 5 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.

SECTION 2: PROPOSAL AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

2.1. THE PROPOSAL: -

Hopefield Nursery School will be relocated to Blackburn Primary School and retain its name as Hopefield Nursery Class.

The relocation of Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School will take effect from April 2023.

Children attending Hopefield Nursery School will transfer to a new facility within Blackburn Primary School from April 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

2.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Hopefield Nursery School currently occupies a standalone building to the West side of Bathgate Road, Blackburn.

Hopefield Nursery School has reached its limitations as a nursery setting and doesn't lend itself to modern early years pedagogy and practice. The kitchen facilities are insufficient to meet the meal entitlement for 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare. The inflexible and enclosed layout made maintaining Covid mitigations very challenging.

In August 2012 the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School assumed the role of Head Teacher of Hopefield Nursery School, since transferred to the management of the Headteacher of Our Lady of Lourdes PS from August 2021. The proposal would realign the management responsibility back to the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School.

A new purpose-built nursery facility located within the existing Blackburn Primary School building.

The new facility will be included in the Council's strategic planning for the delivery of 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare for all 3 and 4-year olds and eligible 2-year olds.

2.3 SITE LOCATION

The nursery will be re-located to a new purpose-built nursery class facility within the Blackburn Primary School building.

Hopefield Nursery School will permanently relocate from its original building, identified in red '1' on 'Map 1 – map of locations' in Appendix 1, to Blackburn Primary School, identified in blue '2' on Map 1;

2.4 ADMISSION CRITERIA

There will be no amendment to criteria for admission to Hopefield nursery class.

Admission will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements details of which are outlined via the attached link, <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/apply-for-elc-3-or-4-year-old>

2.5 OTHER FACTORS CONSIDERED

The need to address the permanent re-provision of Hopefield Nursery School;

The condition and suitability of the current establishment to facilitate high quality Early Learning and Childcare;

The need to develop inspirational learning environments which raise the aspirations of children and young people, staff and the wider community;

The need to address early learning & childcare provision for the local area and create a sustainable school estate for future generations; and

To meet the requirements for extended access to Early Learning and Childcare.

SECTION 3: THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Educational Benefits Statement, for the proposal, has been prepared having regard to the Guidance and Explanatory Notes published by the Scottish Government in association with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, 2010. The specific educational benefits of the proposal are outlined below in terms of the following:

- 3.1 Curriculum
- 3.2 Transition
- 3.3 School Management
- 3.4 Staff Teams
- 3.5 Accommodation
- 3.6 Outdoor Learning
- 3.7 Capacity

CURRICULUM

In Scotland, we have the benefit of curriculum guidance which spans both the ELC sector and the early stages of primary school. Curriculum for Excellence 'early level' supports the implementation of a responsive, continuous play-based curriculum for children aged three to six. Through responsive and intentional planning, staff will provide, a blend of child-initiated and adult-initiated learning experiences. The emphasis will be on child-centred play pedagogy to ensure continuity in children's curriculum experiences.

The re-designation of Hopefield Nursery School as a nursery class within the school building will support continuity and progression in children's learning and further develop and enhance the current staffing and leadership model.

The new facility will help develop a flexible, enabling and creative child-centred curriculum that is responsive to the uniqueness of each child and their family.

Additionally, the new facility will provide the opportunity to develop consistent learning and teaching experiences for children within the existing school and provide smooth pastoral and curricular transitions.

3.2 TRANSITION

The transition and continuity in learning between nursery and primary is enhanced by strong, consistent leadership across the Early Level. Children will benefit from seamless transition between pre-school and primary with staff and management who know them well - located within the same physical building.

High on the list of priorities for staff will be the development of a comprehensive transition programme to support children's transition into the new facility and to explore increased learning opportunities between early years and P1.

3.3 SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

While Hopefield Nursery School is registered as a stand-alone nursery school, the current staffing, budget and management operation is in line with the nursery class model in operation across all authority managed nursery establishments.

No change to the current management structure is proposed although the management responsibility would transfer back to the Headteacher of Blackburn Primary School.-

3.4 STAFF TEAMS

All early year's practitioners and support staff in post at the point of movement will transfer into the new facility.

Staffing arrangements will be consistent with West Lothian Council's local agreements. Detailed consultation will be undertaken with members of staff, Trade Unions and Professional Associations for staffing the relocated nursery school.

3.5 ACCOMMODATION

The provision of a new modern facility will make a clear statement about the value the Council places on investing in education and lifelong learning, and provide a new vibrant learning community. The new early learning and childcare provision will offer children the opportunity to play, learn and develop within a state-of-the-art facility which will benefit from modern design and materials and consider good practice learned through collaborative working with other Councils and through experience and good practice developed within West Lothian. The new facility will be sustainable and energy efficient.

The new facility will be flexible and allow the creative and multiple-use of spaces by the staff and children, and also by the community. Experience in our other new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment can inspire children and have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of children, increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school.

The new facility will signal to the whole community how West Lothian Council values 21st century learning. This new nursery class facility will represent best value through the effective and efficient use of Council resources. By locating the new facility at the heart of the existing community, it will provide a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community.

The nursery class facility will provide an opportunity to increase the capacity of the nursery in line with the projected population increase in a high-quality learning environment with direct access to a secure dedicated outdoor play area.

The provision of high-quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving children and staff flexible and ubiquitous access to a fully digital learning environment.

3.6 OUTDOOR LEARNING

Daily, high quality outdoor play experiences have a direct and positive impact on children's physical, cognitive, social, mental health and emotional development.

The new setting will make good use of access to the outdoors, not only through the immediate outdoor space but also through ensuring access to local woodlands, parks and green spaces.

The outdoor environment will contain more opportunity and stimulate children's curiosity and wonder for learning. Natural play will be a key feature of this space allowing children to interact with natural elements of the environment in an imaginative way including activities such as mud kitchens, den making and safe climbing.

3.7 CAPACITY

The current registered capacity at Hopefield Nursery Class is 35 children aged 3 and 4 years old. There's no current capacity for eligible 2-year olds.

The planned capacity at the new Blackburn nursery class facility is 53 children aged 3 and 4 years old and includes 10 places for eligible 2-year olds. This capacity is subject to Care Inspectorate certification and confirmation by West Lothian Council.

The nursery class facility will provide an opportunity to increase the capacity of the nursery in line with the projected community requirements.

SECTION 4: 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 5: CONSULTATION PROCESS: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

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to relocate 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 for a proposal to relocate or close a school or nursery 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

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

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

The consultation period will incorporate a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from **Monday 12th September 2022 until Friday 4th November 2022**. 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.

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

Public Meeting

A formal public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The public meeting, which will be convened by West Lothian Council will be addressed by the Head of Education, and other senior officers of the Council, and chaired by an independent person.

The public meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have your views recorded so that they can be considered as part of the consultation process.

The public meeting will be held in **Blackburn Primary School, 216 Riddochhill Rd, Blackburn, EH47 7HB on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7.00pm – 8.00pm.**

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

Catherine Campbell, Senior 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

All interested parties are invited to submit their comments by close of business **Friday 4th November 2022**.

An on-line version of this document and other items related to the consultation can be found on the West Lothian Council website using this link:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>

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.

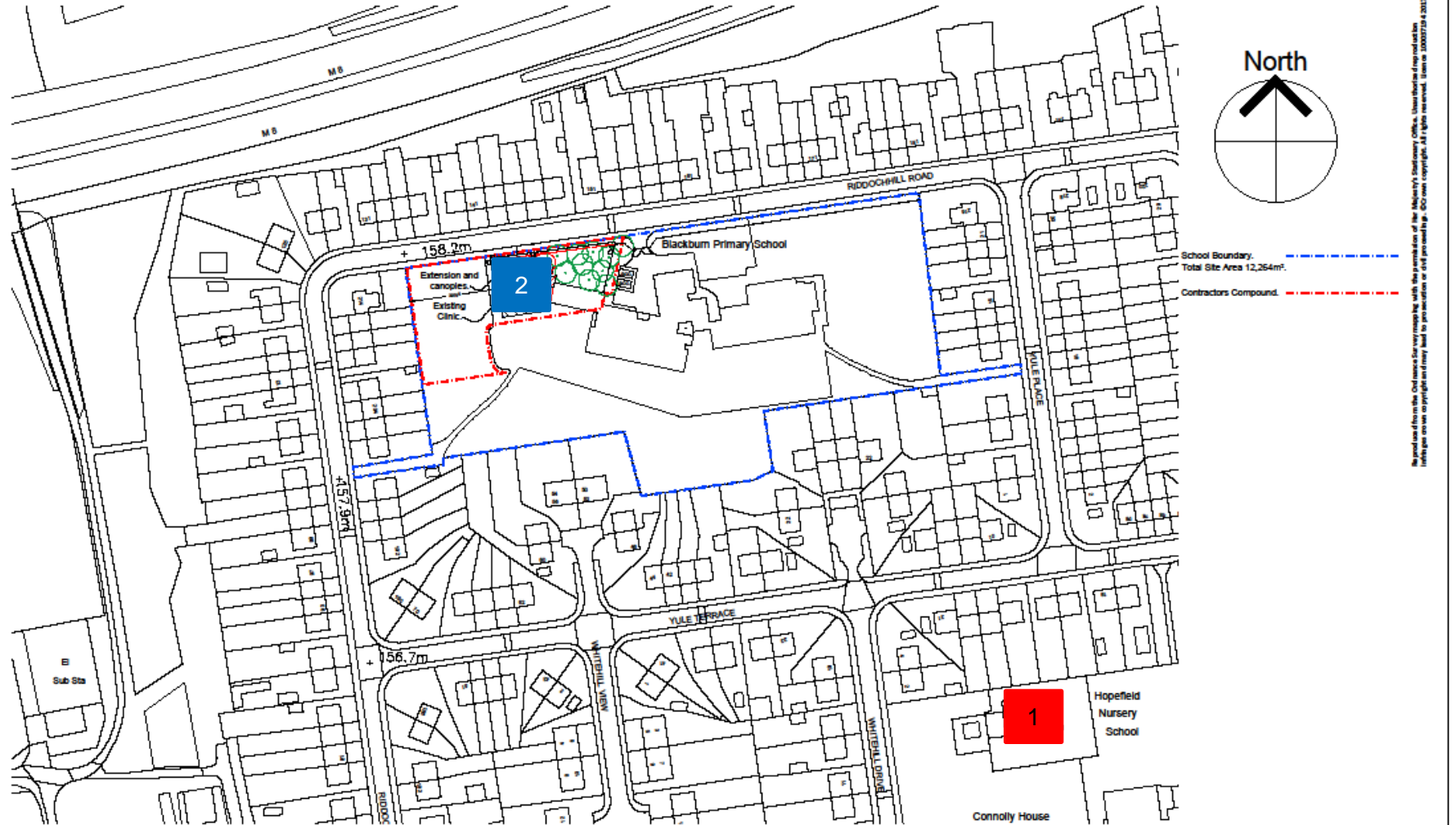
West Lothian Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the Final Consultation Report has been concluded, published and subsequently presented to the Education Executive on **21st March 2023**.

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

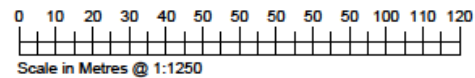
Statutory Consultation Timeline – Blackburn Nursery Class Re-Designation

Date	Event	Description
23 August 2022	Education PDSP Meeting	To seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive on proposal to commence formal public consultation
6 September 2022	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to statutory consultation phase
12 September 2022	Start of Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
26 October 2022	Public Meeting	Public Meetings to discuss proposal
4 November 2022	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
TBC December 2022	Submit report to Education Scotland*Dates to be agreed in advance with Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
TBC January 2023	Deadline for Education Scotland three week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
TBC February 2023	Give Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
TBC February 2023	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
21 March 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

APPENDIX 1



Location Plan 1:1250



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