

**PROPOSAL TO REVIEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY CATCHMENTS AT
ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY AND ST KENTIGERN'S ACADEMY.**

A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Monday 17 October 2023 until Friday 01 December 2023

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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 St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy.
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to:

- Review of denominational secondary school catchment areas at:
 - ❖ St Margaret's Academy and
 - ❖ St Kentigern's Academy.
- Sinclair Academy in Winchburgh opened for S1 in August 2023 and will accommodate denominational secondary children from the associated primary schools of Holy Family PS (Winchburgh), St Nicholas' PS (Broxburn) and St Joseph's PS (Linlithgow).
- This creates additional capacity at both St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy. However due to the historic placing request patterns in Linlithgow where many St Joseph's parents choose Linlithgow Academy and the fact that two associated primary schools that were formerly associated with St Margaret's Academy are moving to Sinclair Academy compared to just one from St Kentigern's Academy there is an imbalance in the capacity created across the two schools
- The proposed changes in denominational primary to secondary association ensures that secondary catchments consist of entire primary school catchments while better balancing denominational secondary demand across West Lothian.
- The proposal is to change the association of St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy to St Margaret's Academy. This would remove the entire catchment of St Mary's Polbeth Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy catchment and add it to St Margaret's Academy catchment.
- The St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School catchment consists of the villages of Polbeth & West Calder; rural areas around Harburn & Harwood; and the Brucefield area of Livingston (Old School Avenue).

- Polbeth is slightly closer to St Margaret's Academy (2.5 miles) than St Kentigern's Academy (4 miles). West Calder, is a similar distance to both schools (3.5 miles).

Admission Arrangements

- There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed variations to school catchment areas. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their secondary stage education.
- Younger siblings of pupils currently attending schools would retain the catchment status of the older sibling.

Capacity at St Margaret's Academy

- Current year group sizes at St Mary's (Polbeth) are between 17 and 29. At present a significant number of St Mary's (Polbeth) children make placing requests for West Calder High School (including all P7 children in 2023, none of whom have applied for St Kentigern's Academy)
- It is therefore likely that there will be no more than 10-15 S1 applications from St Mary's (Polbeth) to St Margaret's each year. This is significantly smaller than the number of children from Holy Family and St Nicholas' who are likely to attend Sinclair Academy from August 2023 (currently more than 60 in the August 2023 S1 applications). There will therefore not be any net increase in capacity pressure at St Margaret's Academy.

1.3 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 March 2024.

Date	Event	Description
05 September 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase.
17 October 2023	Start of Statutory Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
20 November 2023	Public Meeting	Public Meeting to discuss proposal
01 December 2023	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
22 December 2023	Submit report to Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
February 2024	Deadline for Education Scotland three-week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
09 February 2024	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
16 February 2024	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
12 March 2024	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

1.4 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 the affected schools
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community councils (In this case 27 of the 41 community councils in West Lothian).
- 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 (in this case the Roman Catholic arch diocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh)

1.5 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Monday 17 October 2023 until Friday 01 December 2023. 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/admission-primary-schools-south>
- 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 held at St Mary's Polbeth PS on Monday 20th November 2023.

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 01 December 2023.

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

St. Mary's Primary School held focus groups with current primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils to discuss the council's proposal. None of the children raised any concerns about the proposed catchment change. All with the exception of one child intend to make a placing request for West Calder High School the local non-denominational secondary school. Some said they want to go to West Calder High School because it's closer while others said it was because siblings attend there. One child said they hadn't made up their mind yet but would prefer St Margaret's Academy to St Kentigern's Academy.

Email responses from the Headteachers of St Kentigern's Academy and St. Margaret's Academy confirmed that there were no objections or comments to the proposals following meetings with their respective pupil and parent councils.

3 NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT: "PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AS A
RESULT OF ALTERATION TO DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL
CATCHMENT AREAS"****In attendance from West Lothian Council:**

Catherine Campbell
Andrew Cotton

Quality Improvement Officer (School Estate)
Senior Education Planning Officer

Meeting attendees: Two members of staff, a representative from Education Scotland and one parent attended the public meeting.

Discussion Opportunity:

During the presentation council officers opened up the discussion which covered:

- Historical P7 transitions
- Construction works at St Kentigern's Academy
- Capacity at West Calder High School
- Capturing children views

Council officers explained that historically children at St. Mary's, Polbeth don't transition to their associated denominational secondary school, St Kentigern's Academy. Last session the entire P7 cohort made placing requests for West Calder High School, the local non-denominational secondary school and were all successful. Several factors may be attributable including a deterioration in public bus routes between St Kentigern's Academy, Blackburn and St. Mary's PS, Polbeth restricting young peoples transport connections and extra-curricular opportunities and that West Calder High School was opened in 2018. St Kentigern's Academy is currently undergoing construction work although this didn't appear to be a factor in P7 transition choices. Unusually, St. Mary's PS is the only primary school located within Polbeth and therefore attracts placing requests from local families of all faiths. The attending parent indicated that many Polbeth residents view St Mary's PS as the local school and not just a faith school. Similarly, most think of West Calder High School as the local secondary school despite it not being a faith school. She indicated that sending her children to a faith school would be her preference but a local school that is well regarded for children's wellbeing and strong values is more important.

Due to the identification of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) at St Kentigern's Academy last session, P7 transition visits were restricted to virtual meetings. The parent attendee shared how important she valued the transition process and thought that the staff at St Kentigern's had done all they could under the circumstances. However, she thought the transition period for children applying to West Calder High School started very late and enquired if it could be brought forward. Council officers explained that unfortunately a placing request was no guarantee of a child place and only until a letter of confirmation was received would it be advised for a child to attend the formal school transition events. Families could request a visit to the school outwith this process.

Discussion around the increasing school roll at West Calder High School took place. Officers explained that the current school capacity was 1100 and the current school roll close to this. The parent attendee shared her understanding that a place at West Calder High School might not be a given in the future. Officers confirmed that younger children with an older sibling still in attendance at West Calder High School would have priority but there was no guarantee of a place.

Discussion took place around how the views of young people could be captured. Officers explained that a representative from Education Scotland would visit the three schools already mentioned and gather the views of stakeholders including young people. The consultation information issued to schools also asks for it to be shared and discussed with pupil councils with any feedback or comments returned to the consultation email address.

The meeting ended with attendees confirming that they had no objections to the proposals and thanking everyone for their time.

4 ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Email responses from the Headteachers of the three schools were received. Each confirmed following discussion with their respective parent and pupil councils that there were no concerns or objections to the proposals. One member of the public a parent and two members of staff attended the public meeting. All confirmed that they have no concerns or objections to the proposals.

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6FF

17 October 2023

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services Proposal to Review Admission Catchment Arrangements at St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy.

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 05 September 2023, authorised Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposal to alter the denominational secondary school catchment areas of:

- St Kentigern's Academy and;
- St Margaret's Academy.

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 17 October 2023 on the following webpage: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The proposal is to change the association of St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy to St Margaret's Academy. This would remove the entire catchment of St Mary's Polbeth Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy catchment and add it to St Margaret's Academy catchment.

The St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School catchment consists of the villages of Polbeth & West Calder; rural areas around Harburn & Harwood; and the Brucefield area of Livingston (Old School Avenue).

Polbeth is slightly closer to St Margaret's Academy (2.5 miles) than St Kentigern's Academy (4 miles). West Calder, is a similar distance to both schools (3.5 miles).

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Sinclair Academy in Winchburgh opened for S1 in August 2023 and will accommodate denominational secondary children from the associated primary schools of Holy Family PS (Winchburgh), St Nicholas' PS (Broxburn) and St Joseph's PS (Linlithgow).

This creates additional capacity at both St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy. However due to the historic placing request patterns in Linlithgow where many St Joseph's parents choose Linlithgow Academy and the fact that two associated primary schools that were formerly associated with St Margaret's Academy are moving to Sinclair Academy compared to just one from St Kentigern's Academy there is an imbalance in the capacity created across the two schools

The proposed changes in denominational primary to secondary association ensures that secondary catchments consist of entire primary school catchments while better balancing denominational secondary demand across West Lothian.

What Happens Next?

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

The consultation period is from 17 October 2023 to 5pm on 01 December 2023.

A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7.00pm-8.00pm.

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 01 December 2023.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in March 2024 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

Greg Welsh

Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICES

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

October 2023

**REVIEW OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AS A RESULT OF
ALTERATION TO THE DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL
CATCHMENT AREAS OF:**

- **ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY**
- **ST KENTIGERN'S ACADEMY**

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- 1.3 Summary of Proposals**

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- 3.1 Integrated Impact Assessment**

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

SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the consultation. It provides information about why West Lothian Council is proposing to review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to non-denominational primary school catchment areas.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise:

1. West Lothian Council's proposals to review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to the denominational secondary school catchment areas of:
 - I. St Margaret's Academy
 - II. St Kentigern's Academy.
2. The educational benefits of the proposals and how they 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 instance, proposed amendment to school catchment areas. 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 introduces the proposals and gives background and rationale.

Section 2 contains the educational benefits statement and provides an assessment of the effects of the proposals 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 & RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Sinclair Academy in Winchburgh opened for S1 in August 2023 and will accommodate denominational secondary children from the associated primary schools of Holy Family PS (Winchburgh), St Nicholas' PS (Broxburn) and St Joseph's PS (Linlithgow).

This creates additional capacity at both St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy. However due to the historic placing request patterns in Linlithgow where many St Joseph's parents choose Linlithgow Academy and the fact that two associated primary schools that were formerly associated with St Margaret's Academy are moving to Sinclair Academy compared to just one from St Kentigern's Academy there is an imbalance in the capacity created across the two schools

The proposed changes in denominational primary to secondary association ensures that secondary catchments consist of entire primary school catchments while better balancing denominational secondary demand across West Lothian.

1.3 Summary of Proposals

The proposal is to change the association of St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy to St Margaret's Academy. This would remove the entire catchment of St Mary's Polbeth Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy catchment and add it to St Margaret's Academy catchment.

The St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School catchment consists of the villages of Polbeth & West Calder; rural areas around Harburn & Harwood; and the Brucefield area of Livingston (Old School Avenue).

Polbeth is slightly closer to St Margaret's Academy (2.5 miles) than St Kentigern's Academy (4 miles). West Calder, is a similar distance to both schools (3.5 miles).

Admission Arrangements

There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed variations to school catchment areas. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their secondary stage education.

Younger siblings of pupils currently attending schools would retain the catchment status of the older sibling.

Capacity at St Margaret's Academy

Current year group sizes at St Mary's (Polbeth) are between 17 and 29. At present a significant number of St Mary's (Polbeth) children make placing requests for West Calder High School (including all P7 children in 2023, none of whom have applied for St Kentigern's Academy

It is therefore likely that there will be no more than 10-15 S1 applications from St Mary's (Polbeth) to St Margaret's each year. This is significantly smaller than the number of children from Holy Family and St Nicholas' who are likely to attend Sinclair Academy from August 2023 (currently more than 60 in the August 2023 S1 applications). There will therefore not be any net increase in capacity pressure at St Margaret's Academy.

SECTION TWO

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

2.1 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

Whilst assessing the educational benefits of the proposals, the undernoted factors were considered:

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

A key educational advantage is that the affected schools 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**

There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed variations to school catchment areas. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their secondary stage education.

Younger siblings of pupils currently attending schools would retain the catchment status of the older sibling and would be permitted to attend the existing school establishment if parents wish siblings to attend the same school.

This catchment status would remain until such times that the sibling link is broken i.e. should the elder sibling leave secondary stage education prior to commencement of the younger sibling at secondary school.

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

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2238/Secondary-School-Admission---Policy-and-Procedure/pdf/Secondary_School_Admission_-_Policy_and_Procedure.pdf

All other existing catchment area criteria for each of the denominational secondary schools highlighted in this report will remain unchanged.

- **School Capacity**

West Lothian Council do not anticipate any impact to existing school capacities at the detailed schools as a result of the proposed school catchment alterations.

- **School Management/Staff Teams**

West Lothian Council do not foresee alteration to current school management structures at the schools detailed in this report. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within each of the schools will continue as is.

Any amendments to current staffing will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Council statutory recruitment processes.

- **School Transport**

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

- **Transition**

St John Ogilvie Primary School, Howden St Andrew's Primary School, St Ninian's Primary School, St Paul's Primary School will continue to be aligned to St Margaret's Academy along with the addition of St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Our Lady's Primary, St Anthony's Primary, St Columba's Primary, St John the Baptist Primary, St Joseph's (Whitburn) Primary, St Mary's (Bathgate) Primary and St Thomas' Primary will remain aligned to St Kentigern's Academy.

Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. All of 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 areas at the identified schools will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for all 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. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / School Clubs**

Breakfast clubs will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The aim of the club is to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will continue to be invited to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Activities are designed to offer opportunity to learn new skills and enhance experiences. Participation in these activities promotes and encourages social interaction, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

- **Parental Involvement**

Parents and carers are an integral part of the school community with their ongoing contributions and working partnerships being considered key to the success of the school. West Lothian Council do not foresee any impact to existing opportunities for parental involvement and engagement as a result of the intimated proposals.

A principal focus as always is the delivery of a welcoming school that is inclusive for all parents, carers, pupils and staff.

- **Community Links**

All external links that each of the highlighted schools has established will remain with each 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 for other school users will continue as a result of the proposed catchment area review.

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 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 17 October 2023 until 01 December 2023.

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:

Location	Date/Time
St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School	20 November 2023 – 19.00

This meeting 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. The web address is: www.westlothian.gov.uk/education

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 01 December 2023.

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 12 March 2024.

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

Propozycja władz lokalnych West Lothian Council dotycząca przeglądu obwodu niewyznaniowych szkół podstawowych w następujących placówkach: St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy W celu uzyskania kopii niniejszego dokumentu należy zadzwonić do Catherine Campbell pod numer telefonu 01506 281666. NALEŻY PODAĆ IMIĘ I NAZWISKO, JAK I JĘZYK, W KTÓRYM WYMAGANE JEST TŁUMACZENIE

West Lothian savivaldybės pasiūlymas peržiūrėti ne denominacinių pradinųjų mokyklų pasiekiamumo zonas St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy.

Jei norėtumėte šio dokumento kopijos prašome skambinti Catherine Campbell telefonu 01506 281666. PATEIKITE SAVO VARDĄ, ADRESĄ IR KALBĄ J KURIAJ NORĖTUMĖTE, KAD DOKUMENTAS BŪTŲ IŠVERSTAS.

Vestloziānas domes (*West Lothian Council*) priekšlikums pārskatīt nekonfesionālo pamatskolu – St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy.

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

بلدية ويست لوثيان West Lothian Council – عرض لمراجعة مناطق القبول العائدة للمدارس الابتدائية غير الدينية وذلك لكلا من مدرسة لينليثغو , St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy ، مدرسة لينليثغو بريدج الابتدائية ، ومدرسة سيرينج فيلد الابتدائية .

إذا رغبت بالحصول على نسخة من هذه الوثيقة ، فيرجى منك الاتصال بميلاني لوري Catherine Campbell على رقم الهاتف 01506 281666 وذكر اسمك وعنوان سكنك واللغة التي ترغب بأن تتم ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إليها.

ويست لوتهين كونسيل، لنلتهاگاڤ پرائمری اسکول، لنلتهاگاڤ برج پرائمری اسکول، اسپرنگ فيلڈ پرائمری اسکول، لوپورٹ پرائمری اسکول اور بوگ بال پرائمری اسکول پرایک غیر فرقہ ورانہ پرائمری اسکول کے جُغرافیائی علاقوں کا جائزہ لینے کی تجویز

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی ایک نقل حاصل کرنا چاہیں تو برائے مہربانی 01506 281666 پر میلینی لاوری سے رابطہ کریں، اپنا نام، پتہ مہیا کرتے ہوئے اور اُس زبان کے بارے میں بتاتے ہوئے جس میں آپ چاہتے ہیں کہ اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ کیا جائے

西洛錫安議會政府關於對 St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy PS. (林利斯戈小學) 林利斯戈橋小學)

如果您想要一份本文檔的副本，請致電給 Catherine Campbell，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。

West Lothian Council (西洛錫安議會) · 提议审查 St Kentigern's Academy, St Margaret's Academy 如果您得到本文件的一份副本，請致電 Catherine Campbell 01506 281666 提供您的姓名地址和您希望以何種語言獲得翻譯文件



ওয়েস্ট লথিয়ান কাউন্সিল নির্দিষ্ট ধর্মীয় মূল্যবোধের বাইরের নিম্নোক্ত প্রাইমারি স্কুলগুলোর ক্যাসমেন্ট এরিয়া পর্যালোচনার ব্যাপারে প্রস্তাবনা করছে, স্কুলগুলো হল লিনলিথগো প্রাইমারি স্কুল, লিনলিথগো ব্রীজ প্রাইমারি স্কুল, স্প্রিং ফিল্ড প্রাইমারি স্কুল, লোপার্ট প্রাইমারি স্কুল এবং বগহাল প্রাইমারি স্কুলের

আপনি এই ডকুমেন্টটির একটি কপি পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ পূর্বক মেলানি লরিকে 01506 281666 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন। কল করার সময় আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং আপনি যে ভাষাতে ডকুমেন্টটির অনুবাদ পেতে চান তা জানাবেন।

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to the denominational secondary school catchment areas of St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy.

January 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His 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 as a result of alteration to the denominational secondary school catchment areas of St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy. 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 and young people of the schools; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people 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 20 November 2023 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
- visits to the site of St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy and St Mary's Primary School Polbeth, 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 council undertook the consultation between 17 October and 1 December 2023. The proposal was communicated to stakeholders via the council website, through social media and local press. The consultation paper was made available in the affected schools and other council buildings, and formal notice was given to a wide range of consultees. Headteachers of the three affected schools shared information with young people and parents. West Lothian Council held a public meeting at St Mary's Primary School Polbeth on 20 November 2023. This was attended by three members of the community: one parent and two members of staff from St Mary's Primary School Polbeth.

2.3 West Lothian Council received three responses to their online consultation. Responses were from the headteachers of the three affected schools. They all reported that there were no objections to the proposals following discussions with young people and parents.

2.4 West Lothian Council also consulted with the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. The council involved the Church Representative for West Lothian as part of this. In a written response to the local authority, the Archdiocese noted their support for this proposal.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree with the council's educational benefits statement. All children and young people will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their primary school or secondary school education.

3.2 The rationale for this proposal is primarily to reduce an imbalance of primary schools associated with each of the denominational secondary schools in the local authority. This is due to the opening of the new denominational secondary school, Sinclair Academy, in August 2023. One primary school has moved from St Kentigern's Academy to Sinclair Academy cluster, and two primary schools have moved from St Margaret's Academy to Sinclair Academy cluster. The proposal to review admission arrangements and move St Mary's Primary School Polbeth into St Margaret's Academy cluster helps to achieve this aim.

3.3 St Margaret's Academy is slightly closer to St Mary's Primary School Polbeth than St Kentigern's Academy. However, at present, almost all St Mary's Primary School Polbeth leavers go on to attend the non-denominational West Calder High School. St Mary's Primary School Polbeth and West Calder High School are located less than a mile from each other. The council should ensure that they continue to monitor the sustainability of school rolls in all establishments. This is in line with their intention for all schools to be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

3.4 Children and staff who spoke with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposed change. They expressed a view that St Margaret's Academy was easier to reach by public transport than St Kentigern's Academy from the St Mary's Primary School Polbeth catchment area. The proposal notes that requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's school transport policy. The council should continue to work with school staff so that they can inform parents what school transport arrangements will be in place.

3.5 Staff from all schools who spoke with HM Inspectors were confident they would continue to be able to offer well-planned transitions for young people into secondary school if the proposal goes ahead. A few staff did note they hoped decisions would be made quickly so that transition planning for school session 2024-25 could progress as soon as possible.

3.6 HM Inspectors met with a representative of the Scottish Catholic Education Service who expressed their support in relation to the proposal. This was in line with the written response from the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. Church representatives felt the proposal was sensible to reduce imbalance in primary schools associated with secondary schools following the opening of Sinclair Academy. Church representatives welcomed the slightly shorter journey for children to school.

4. Summary

Overall, HM Inspectors agree that there are educational benefits from the proposal. The changes to admission policy should help to balance school rolls. This should help to make it more likely that schools can continue to offer a breadth of experiences as part of Curriculum for Excellence. It should help to make it less likely that a school roll will fall to a level where this becomes more challenging. Staff, parents, children and young people do not have objections to the proposal.

HM Inspectors
January 2024