



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 1

22nd June 2022

Report by Councillor Cannon, City Convenor for Education,
Communities and Equalities

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**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST STEPHEN'S RC PRIMARY AND ST KEVIN'S ALN
PRIMARY, AND CREATE A NEW INCLUSIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**THIS WILL PROVIDE A CO-EDUCATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
FOR MANY CHILDREN ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS LEARNING IN THEIR
LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Purpose of Report:

To brief the committee on the outcome of the formal consultation into the above proposal and seek approval for the next steps for the proposal.

Recommendations:

The City Administration Committee is asked to:

1. Note the details of the consultation responses.
2. Give approval for the next steps of progressing the two establishments officially closing and re-opening as one establishment in August 2022.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 1.1 In November 2019, St. Stephen's and St. Kevin's Primary Schools moved in to Sighthill Community Campus, a purpose built school development, costing £22million. This fully enables children in both the mainstream and additional needs sectors to work and learn together within an environment appropriate to all needs.
- 1.2 The children in St Kevin's have a range of additional support needs, including those with complex learning and communication profiles; who require high levels of support and assistance. In session 2021/22, there are 64 children in the school
- 1.3 In line with Glasgow's policy on Inclusion, the children in both schools have been working together on a range of learning activities taking into account their additional support needs which give the children the opportunity to learn together, learn from each other and learn from the environment.
- 1.4 As part of this approach, parents and the school community were informally consulted on a range of proposals regarding the school operating as one school, including a change in uniform. The children in both schools have been wearing the same uniform since August 2020. Almost all parents who responded to this informal consultation were in favour of the school becoming one school.
- 1.5 Education Services has carried out a formal consultation to seek the views of all stakeholders during the period December 2021 – February 2022. The consultation process included online questionnaires and a public meeting held in the school on Tuesday 15th November. No members of the public attended the meeting.

2 RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 A total of 16 written responses to this proposal were received. These cited main issues, which are outlined below. Of these, 14 (83%) of the respondents were not in favour of the proposal and 2 (17%) were in favour of the proposal. The combined roll of the two schools is 265, the 16 responses represents 6% of the total roll.

3 MAIN ISSUES RAISED ON THE CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There were 2 main issues raised in the consultation. The first was a concern raised by 12 out of the 14 respondents not in favour of the proposal that the children in St. Kevin's have been assessed as having additional support needs which require specialist, enhanced support to meet them, which could not be provided in a mainstream setting. The biggest concern was that the St. Kevin's children would not be given the specialist support and would lose the enhanced provision which they currently have. Those respondents who raised this issue were concerned that this would have a detrimental impact on the learning and progress of these children.
- 3.2 The second concern raised by 5 of the respondents was related to the fact that both schools have been in existence and part of the local community for 40 years and to change this would be to remove the history of the schools and the local area.

4 REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

- 4.1 The council has fully considered the report from Education Scotland (Appendix 1). Through the activities Education Scotland undertook, they observed a strong support for the proposal and those in favour see it as a natural step for the schools, which have been led by the same headteacher since 2018 and have, over time, worked more closely together. They acknowledge the wide range of needs of children in the combined school. However, they expressed confidence in the schools current ability to meet those needs and saw it happening at present.
- 4.2 Education Scotland also summarised the issues expressed by those not in favour as related to concern about the wide ranging needs of children from both schools and in meeting additional support needs should the schools be brought together.
- 4.3 They also confirmed the Archdiocese of Glasgow is supportive of the Council's proposal. The Church and Catholic community believe the proposal is well placed to provide continuity of religious observance and sacraments for the children. The proposal, if progressed, will continue to provide inclusive Catholic education within the city.
- 4.4 Education Scotland concluded by agreeing that the proposal to close St Steven's RC Primary and St Kevin's ALN Primary Schools and create a new combined, inclusive primary school with an enhanced provision has potential educational benefits. The establishment of a new school will allow the stakeholders to develop further as a diverse, inclusive, and forward looking school community taking full account of its current and evolving context.
- 4.5 However, they expressed their view that that it is important that the Council responds to the concerns expressed by stakeholders in relation to meeting the wide ranging learning and development needs of all learners. This should include steps that will be taken in relation to how the school plans to assess and meet in full the wide range of learning and additional support needs for all learners. It would be helpful for stakeholders to be informed further about approaches, resources, and staffing structures that will exist within the new school.
- 4.6 They expressed a view that the Council should set out how it will continue to monitor the progress of all learners within the new school.
- 4.7. Education Scotland also urged that senior leaders should continue to work with stakeholders to explore how aspects of the heritage of both schools can be acknowledged and preserved.

5 RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION

5.1 Issue Raised

There is a wide range of learning needs across both schools and there is concern that the school would not be able to meet the needs of all learners in a combined school and that the children in St Kevin's who require specialist support would lose their enhanced provision.

5.2 Response from Education:

Education Services is fully committed to meeting the needs of all learners in the combined school. Education will continue to ensure that children who previously had specialist support provided within St. Kevin's will have the same level of support in the combined school.

5.3 The children currently work together in different contexts, as appropriate to the needs of learners. This will continue to be the approach and where required children will work either individually or in distinct groups according to their needs.

5.4 Staffing levels and resources which are currently in place for St. Kevin's young people will be maintained at the same level in the combined school. There will be no reduction in the level and quality of support provided to meet the needs of all young people in the school, whether in the mainstream or enhanced provision. This staffing and resources plan for the combined school will be shared with stakeholders as part of the process of combining the two schools.

5.5 Issue:

Both schools have been in existence and part of the local community for 40 years and to change this would be to remove the history of the schools and the local area.

5.6 Education Services Response

The Council is keenly aware of the heritage of both schools and senior leaders will work with all stakeholders and the local community to explore and design an approach to ensure that the heritage and traditions of both schools are acknowledged and preserved.

5.7 Issue Raised

Education Scotland raised the issue of the importance of the Council closely monitoring the progress of all children in the school.

5.8 Education Services Response

Council officers will work closely with the headteacher and senior leadership team in the school to monitor arrangements to assess and to meet the needs of all learners in the combined school. The Council is confident that all learner in the combined school will continue to make expected progress in their learning and to achieve their potential.

6 SUMMARY

6.1 The outcomes of the consultation confirm that there is support for the proposal. There is a shared view that there is potential educational benefit in the proposal and will allow the stakeholders to develop further as a diverse, inclusive, and forward-looking school community taking full account of its current and evolving context.

- 6.2 Education Services now seek the agreement of the Council Administration Committee to progress with the process to combine the two schools and the new school to open in August 2022.
- 6.3 Education Services' monitoring procedures to ensure the progress of all children in the combined school are already in operation within the school.

7 SCOTTISH MINISTERS' CALL IN

- 7.1 Should this proposal be approved by the City Administration Committee, there would be a 'call-in' period during which representations could be made to the Scottish Ministers.
- 7.2 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states if the proposal is approved (i.e. to close schools) there is a three week period, which begins on the date the decision is made, for anyone to make representations to Scottish Ministers requesting the case to be called in. There is then a further five week period for Ministers to reach a decision on whether or not to call in the case. Once a decision has been reached, the local authority in question and each individual who had requested a call in will be notified of the decision.

8 EQUALITY STATEMENT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the consultation exercise to assess if the proposals discriminate against anyone on the basis of:
- Age
 - Gender
 - Religion
 - Racial group
 - Disability
 - Sexual Orientation

The statement is in Appendix

9 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The consultation has been carried out within existing resources.
<i>Legal:</i>	Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
<i>Personnel:</i>	There will be no personnel issues as staffing allocation will remain as it is presently.
<i>Procurement:</i>	

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

An EQIA was carried out as part of the proposal.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

We would anticipate a positive impact with children, as appropriate, working more closely together and learning from each other.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

N/A

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

None.

10 Recommendations

10.1 The City Administration Committee are asked to:

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2. Give approval for the next steps of progressing the two establishments officially closing and re-opening as one establishment in August 2022.