



Care, Learning and Wellbeing

Consultation Report

**Report on the outcome of the consultation relating to the proposed new nursery
class at Struthers Primary School**

March 2014

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Council at its Full Council meeting of 19th December 2013 agreed to undertake a consultation on the proposed new nursery class at Struthers Primary School, Troon.
- 1.2 The proposal document was made available to all consultees as prescribed by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010. A copy of the proposal document is available on the Council's website at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation process ran from 9th January 2014 to 24th February 2014, a period of 30 school days.
- 1.3 As part of the consultation process, the Care, Learning and Wellbeing Directorate undertook the following activities:
 - Publicised the consultation exercise and public meetings through letters to parents/carers, Parent Council, Community Councils and Associations, South Ayrshire Council's Web site and placed an advert in the local paper.
 - Held a public meeting at Struthers Primary School on Tuesday 18th February, 2014.
 - Undertook consultations with a range of children and young people at Struthers Primary.

2.0 Considerations

The main considerations relating to the proposed new nursery class, are fully explained in the proposal document and the main points are highlighted below:

- 2.1 This proposal would enhance current provision for pre-school children in South Ayrshire and more specifically in the Troon area.
- 2.2 It would meet future demand for more localised high quality local authority nursery places. It would assist the Council to meet the Scottish Government's pledge to increase entitlement for all 3 and 4 year old children to access 600 hours of early learning and childcare per year from autumn 2014.
- 2.3 The nursery class in Struthers Primary School would have a capacity of up to 30:30 places. The nursery class will initially offer 20:20 places (20 children in the morning : 20 children in the afternoon) with the potential to increase the number of places to accommodate 30:30 children from August 2015.

3.0 Consultation

The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and all prescribed consultees have been given an opportunity to participate in the consultation process and submit views on the proposal. In addition to this, other individuals and groups with an interest in the proposal were also given an opportunity to participate and submit their views.

3.1 Overview of responses to consultation

- 3.1.1 Overall the response to the consultation proposals was very good. A total of 55 written responses were received and a summary of these responses is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.2 40 people attended the public meeting at Struthers Primary on 18th February 2014 and a record of the points raised and views expressed are listed in Appendix 2.
- 3.1.3 Consultation was also undertaken with a representative sample of children and young people at Struthers Primary and the outcomes from the consultations are listed in Appendix 3

3.2 Summary of the points and views expressed during the consultation

Almost all stakeholders are positive about the proposals. Any concerns related mainly to information about nursery registration and the impact of refurbishment work on pupils in the school. A summary of the main points raised and views expressed during the consultation process is listed below along with a response from the Council.

- 1) View expressed: Can people register for the nursery as the decision will not have been made?

Response: Parents will be able to register for nursery place during registration week.

- 2) View expressed: Taking away classes does that mean loss of capacity?

Response: Struthers Primary School could continue to operate very effectively without requiring these 2 classrooms, The school is operating at approximately 41% capacity. Roll prediction indicate sufficient capacity.

- 3) Views expressed: What is the criteria for allocating nursery places?

Response: South Ayrshire Council allocate nursery places in line with the Admissions Policy Information about the policy is available on the council website.

- 4) View expressed: Three and four year olds should not attend the same class.

Response: Parents can chose a morning or afternoon place depending on individual circumstances. Children are generally mixed during pre-school. This has a number of benefits as children reach developmental milestones at different times and they learn from one another.

- 5) View expressed: Will there be teachers in the nursery?

Response: The nursery will have a qualified teacher and qualified nursery nurse/s.

- 6) View expressed: It might be noisy having a nursery near other classes so we would need to make sure they were separate.

Response: The plans will be developed to ensure that the nursery, while part of the school, does not adversely impact on children learning in classes.

7) View expressed: Why not open as a 30:30 nursery immediately?

Response: The Council plan to Start in August 2014 with a 20:20 nursery. This will allow it to become established as part of the school. The number of spaces will increase in 2015 if there is sufficient demand for places.

8) View expressed: Will adaptations be done during holidays?

Response: The adaptations will be planned to have minimum disruption to the pupils in the school. Ideally, most of the work will be planned for during the school holidays.

3.3 Consultation with Children and Young People

Eight children attending the primary school took part in the consultation and overall the response to the proposals was positive. A copy of the responses from the consultations is included in Appendix 3.

Almost all of the comments received from the primary children were positive. They spoke about the potential for the children to be involved in school activities such as assemblies and to be buddies for the nursery children. They also commented on having a nursery near to where people live would be save parents having to drive. One child suggested that the nursery should be separate in case it was noisy.

4.0 Report by Education Scotland

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires HM Inspectors from Education Scotland to be involved in the formal consultation process and as part of this process HM Inspectors undertook a number of activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal. A copy of Education Scotland's report on the educational aspects of the proposal is attached as Appendix 4.

4.1 Process

4.1.1 Attendance at the public meeting held on 18th February 2014 in connection with the Council's proposals.

4.1.2 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 other interested parties.

4.1.4 Consideration of further information on affect on local partnership centre.

4.1.5 Visit to Struthers Primary , including discussions with relevant consultees and staff.

4.2 Education Scotland summary

4.2.1 The Council's proposal to create a nursery class for three and four year old children at Struthers Primary School is of clear educational benefit. It will assist in addressing the need for pre-five provision in the Troon area. The provision of a nursery class within the school has potential to provide further coherence in

children's learning. Staff from the nursery class and primary school would be able to work together to plan the curriculum at the early level of Curriculum for Excellence. There would be potential for further collaboration among staff in easing the transition from nursery to P1.

- 4.2.2 Struthers Primary School already has established arrangements for the transfer of children from Meadowgreen Nursery to P1. There would be potential to build upon this relationship to share practice in providing education for pre-school children.
- 4.2.3 Parents, staff and children of Struthers Primary School are very positive about the council's proposal. They recognise that the school's accommodation has capacity for a nursery. They welcome the inclusion of pre-five children within the school.
- 4.2.4 Some parents are concerned about potential disruption to the school if the building works are not completed during the school holidays. The council needs to clarify how it intends to minimise any potential disruption to school-aged pupils if there are any delays.
- 4.2.5 If the proposal is accepted, the council will need to take forward its plans for a review of traffic management at the school.

4.3 Responses to the main actions raised by Education Scotland

South Ayrshire Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal. Officers from Children's Services and Education met to consider the content of the report and the actions highlighted in section 3. These are listed below along with the proposals to address them.

- 4.3.1 **Paragraph 4.4:** Some parents are concerned about potential disruption to the school if the building works are not completed during the school holidays. The council needs to clarify how it intends to minimise any potential disruption to school-aged pupils if there are any delays.

Response: It is planned to undertake the adaptations during the school holidays. In the event of a delay to the work programme the area will be closed off to minimize any disruption to primary children and classes.

Once the work plan has been agreed South Ayrshire will communicate the timescales to the school and to parents who have enrolled children in the nursery. Parents will be kept advised of alternative arrangements should there be any delay to the planned opening at the start of the new term.

- 4.3.2 **Paragraph 4.5 :** If the proposal is accepted, the council will need to take forward its plans for a review of traffic management at the school.

Response: The Council will work with the school to undertake a review of the travel plan and safe walking routes and will make these available to all parents and pupils as part of the adaptations to the building.

5.0 Decision Making process

In accordance with the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010, this report will be published on Friday 4th April and made available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks. Copies of the report are available at County Buildings, Ayr, Customer Contact Centre, Ayr, all schools affected by the proposal and Carnegie Library. The report is also available on the Council's website at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

The consultation report will be submitted to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel on Tuesday, 29th April 2014 for consideration and a decision.

PROPOSED NEW NURSERY CLASS FOR STRUTHERS PRIMARY
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Appendix 1

Nos:	Category:	Date Response Received	Method Of Response	Response:
1.	Parent	17/1/14	response form	Agree. More spaces available in local area
2.	Parent	4/2/14	response form	Agree. Benefit the local area
3.	Parent	20/2/14	response form	Agree. Stronger link between the transition from Nursery to primary
4.	Parent	23/1/14	response form	Agree. Easier pick up and drop off. Good to have nursery in the area with easier transition from Nursery to primary.
5.	Grandparent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Access for every pre-school child
6.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
7.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Important to have contact with primary school during nursery and advantage of same site pick up of other children.
8.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree Fantastic idea. Benefit of nursery at Struthers. Easier drop off and pick up
9.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Prefer nursery attached to school child will attend and prepare for Primary 1. Concern about how places will be allocated
10.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
11.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
12.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
13.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Not enough nursery places. Prefer closer nursery.
14.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Nursery at the school a good thing
15.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
16.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
17.	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree

18	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
19	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Strange there is only an independent nursery.
20	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Easier drop offs and pick ups. Child gets used to the school set up. Concern about other nursery cramp conditions. Benefits in pre-school helping children develop would be good at Struthers.
21	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Shortage of nursery places. Question about pick up and drop off times and impact on playground.
22	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
23	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
24	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
25	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree.Great to have another option for nursery in the area. Easier school drop offs.
26	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
27	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
28	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Good opportunities for children to be involved in whole school. More spaces and ease of childcare concerns.
29	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
30	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
31	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Disagree
32	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
33	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Benefit for transition and induction to school
34	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Current concerns about lack of places which will get worse if nursery doesn't go ahead
35	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Children will know layout, teachers before starting school. New houses mean schools and nurseries bursting at the seams . 5 years too late but good it happening at last.
36	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
37	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Have a child who will hopefully attend. Nursery directly linked to the school is beneficial and helps transition.
38	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
39	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree

40	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Nursery at Struthers would be very convenient.
41	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Delighted with the standards at Struthers and happy if siblings could attend the nursery. Many young families in the area so imperative it is opened.
42	Relation of young person	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Gets children used to school before primary 1
43	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Nursery would be fabulous. Children get benefit of learning within school environment therefore easier transition.
44	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
45	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
46	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
47	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
48	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Fantastic Idea for nursery in the area. Great transition from nursery to school. Issues with other nursery and clash worth pick up and drop off times.
49	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
50	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Closer links with primary and transition to Primary 1. Need of more spaces in Troon. Makes sense. Older pupils can develop roles as mentors, buddies.
51	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree
52	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Definitely a requirement for another nursery in the area. Local nursery not big enough for all children who require a place.
53	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Shortage of nursery places in local area. Immediate local provision and transition to school.
54	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Move to primary will be easier and help children be familiar with surroundings. Easier drop off and pick up – assuming timings are close. Transition to school was difficult for older sibling this should be easier if children attend nursery.
55	Parent	21/2/14	response form	Agree. Large catchment area and clear requirement to provide more nursery spaces. Greatly improve the continuity from nursery to primary one. Reduce the fear factor with familiar surroundings. Relieve some burden on local nursery which is over subscribed and not a large facility. Suggest that local nursery could take three year olds and Struthers take 4 year olds. Increase in hours is not warranted. Do not believe three and four year old should attend the same class as they are quite different in

				their development stages.
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Appendix 2

Views expressed at public meeting at Struthers Primary 18th February 2014, 7pm

Total attendees numbered 40 (including parents , parent council, elected members, staff from partnership centre, education Scotland)

Views Expressed
Previous information about change of session times was not helpful to parents. How will this be done this time?
What amount of money is available to increase nursery hours?
Can people register for the nursery as the decision will not have been made?
From decision being made, when does the work go to tender for work and adaptations ?
Clarification on costings
Taking away classes does that mean loss of capacity and impact of loss of closed classes
What other premises were considered?
What is plan B if this consultation is not passed?
What is the catchment area?
Do you have a date when parents can register their children?
Do you have any criteria for allocating places?
How many choices do parents have in March?
Could you have two full classrooms of pre-schoolers?
Will it be mixed or pre-schoolers in the morning and ante pre in the afternoon?

What kind of objection might lead to a 'no' response to the proposal?
Will we get a copy of feedback ?
Will there be teachers in the nursery?
Why not 30:30 immediately?
Will there be any disadvantage to children if parents choose a partnership nursery?
Previously found out about nursery places in April. Will that be delayed?
Current modifications to the school didn't run to plan – what lessons have we learned?
Do contractors have penalty clauses ?
Will adaptations be done during holidays?



Proposed Nursery class at Struthers Primary.

Consultation with children in affected primary school

School:	Struthers Primary School
Number of children involved in consultation	4 P6 and 4 P7 pupils
Date of Consultation:	28 th February 2014

The views and comments from children are recorded below.

- I think it would be good as there are a lot of children who need Nursery places and it helps them get used to the school they will be in and be with their brothers and sisters.
- It is good as if your mum and dad need to walk you to school but a little brother has to go to Nursery it would be much better if you are going to the same place.

- It might be noisy having a Nursery near other classes so we would need to make sure they were separate.
- I think it would be a good idea as the P5 who are going to be the Nursery buddies would be able to get to know them better and see them more often as they are in the school. This will help them start P1 better.
- The Nursery people will get to hear everything that is happening in school and be able to be part of it all.
- I would be a good idea as they would see the things like STEM and they would be able to add stuff to our School Improvement boards and help us to get things done.
- I would like to see them in assemblies and be able to go and work with them in Nursery. It will be nice to have more people in our school.
- If you live far away from other Nurseries it would be quicker and safer to walk to the place nearest you. It would save people having to drive as well.
- We will have to move our media room but we do still have other spaces to use in the school like the AV room .General comments.

Consultation proposal by South Ayrshire Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to make use of the existing space within Struthers Primary School to create a nursery class for three and four year old children.

Context

This report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act. The purpose of this report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the council's consultation proposal. Section 2 of this report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process. Section 3 sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal and the 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 a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation 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. Introduction

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Council proposes to make use of existing space within Struthers Primary School to create a nursery class for three and four year old children. If agreed the council proposes that the nursery would open in August 2014.
- 1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.
- 1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:
 - attendance at the public meeting held on 18 February 2014 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 Struthers Primary School and Meadowgreen Nursery, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; 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
- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

2. Consultation process

- 2.1 South Ayrshire Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. The consultation included an invitation for written submissions and a public meeting.
- 2.2 Almost all stakeholders who responded to the consultation were in favour of the council's proposal.
- 2.3 Parents of children at Struthers Primary School who met with HM Inspectors were in favour of the proposal. They recognised that there was not sufficient provision for pre-school children in the local area. Parents welcomed the opportunity for their children to attend the proposed nursery as they felt that it would ease transition into the primary school. They were aware that they would need to enrol their children at another nursery if the proposed timescale of August 2014 for the new nursery was not being met. They sought reassurance from the council that they would be informed timeously about any delays.
- 2.4 A few parents were concerned about the increase in traffic around the school. They felt that there might be potential disruption to pupils whilst adaptations were being made to accommodate the nursery, if the work was not completed on time. They were concerned that the addition of the nursery might make the school over-capacity, if the school roll increased as a result of housing developments.
- 2.5 Children welcomed the opportunity for pre-school children to be accommodated in the primary school. They felt that they would be able to support them as 'buddies' and would be near their younger brothers and sisters.

- 2.6 Staff of Struthers Primary School were very positive about council's proposal. They welcomed the opportunity to develop further the transition from nursery to P1 and to work together with nursery staff to build upon children's prior achievement.
- 2.7 Staff and parents of Meadowgreen Nursery, a partner provider located near to Struthers Primary School, recognised the need for more pre-school places in the local area. They were aware that the proposed location of the nursery at the primary school might affect their roll.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

- 3.1 South Ayrshire Council has recognised the need to provide more pre-school places in Troon. In recent years demand for places has increased and the council are operating at near capacity in most nurseries in the Troon area. If the proposal goes ahead, the provision will assist in meeting a projected increased demand for nursery provision in the Troon area through higher birth rate. If adopted, it would assist in building capacity to address a key national priority to increase nursery entitlement to 600 hours per annum for pre-school children, as set out in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill 2013*.
- 3.2 Struthers Primary School has capacity for a roll of 402 pupils. Currently the school is operating at 41% capacity. The council proposes to allocate two classrooms for the nursery. The school could continue to operate effectively without requiring the use of the two additional classrooms.
- 3.3 Staff of the primary school are confident that the nursery could also utilise the gym hall for physical activity without any adverse effect on the provision for primary-aged pupils. The council proposes to provide the nursery with access to a secure outdoor area, which would have potential to enhance children's learning experiences.
- 3.4 The provision of a nursery class within the primary school would provide opportunities for staff to plan together to build upon children's prior achievement. There would be potential to develop further the arrangements for transition from nursery to P1. Staff would be able to develop further their links and share practice with other nurseries in the local area.
- 3.5 The council's proposal does not clarify how it intends to minimise any adverse effects that may arise, for example to the education of the primary-aged pupils, while the adaptations are being made.
- 3.6 The council is committed to reviewing the school's travel plan to ensure pupil safety and traffic management, should the proposal go ahead.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The council's proposal to create a nursery class for three and four year old children at Struthers Primary School is of clear educational benefit. It will assist in addressing the need for pre-five provision in the Troon area. The provision of a nursery class within the school has potential to provide further coherence in children's learning. Staff from the nursery class and primary school would be able to work together to plan the curriculum at the early level of Curriculum for Excellence. There would be potential for further collaboration among staff in easing the transition from nursery to P1.
- 4.2 Struthers Primary School already has established arrangements for the transfer of children from Meadowgreen Nursery to P1. There would be potential to build upon this relationship to share practice in providing education for pre-school children.
- 4.3 Parents, staff and children of Struthers Primary School are very positive about the council's proposal. They recognise that the school's accommodation has capacity for a nursery. They welcome the inclusion of pre-five children within the school.
- 4.4 Some parents are concerned about potential disruption to the school if the building works are not completed during the school holidays. The council needs to clarify how it intends to minimise any potential disruption to school-aged pupils if there are any delays.
- 4.5. If the proposal is accepted, the council will need to take forward its plans for a review of traffic management at the school.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
March 2014**