
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	21 January 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/11/20/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Outcome of pre-consultation in relation to the admission policy for village schools and the future need for denominational education in the west of Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education and Communities Committee about the outcome of the pre-consultation exercise which took place in December 2019 in relation to the admission policy for village schools and the future need for denominational education in the west of Inverclyde. The report also outlines the proposed next steps to manage the current pressure on St. Columba's High School.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 There is currently pressure on St. Columba's High School and, after the Council's decision to refuse placing requests was upheld by the Sheriff Court in summer 2019, officers were asked to progress proposals to alleviate the current pressure on the school.

2.2 A pre-consultation exercise was agreed by the Education and Communities Committee in November 2019 in relation to the admission policy for village schools and the future need for denominational education in the west of Inverclyde.

2.3 A pre-consultation exercise was carried out between 18th November and 5th December 2019. This included an online survey, 6 public meetings and a specific questionnaire about future choices of those currently attending village schools. The outcome of the online survey is attached as appendix 1.

2.4 The paper considers all of the issues raised during the pre-consultation exercise and recommends that the option in relation to the wording of the current policy for village schools is progressed to statutory consultation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the outcome of the pre-consultation exercise in relation to the admission policy for village schools and the future need for denominational education in the west of Inverclyde.

3.2 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:

- approve that a statutory consultation takes place to change the wording of the current policy for admission and pupil placement in mainstream schools in relation to village schools as outlined in paragraphs 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 and summarised in appendix 5 of this report and;
- approve the proposed transition arrangements that will be set out in the statutory consultation as outlined in paragraphs 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 and summarised in appendix 5 of this report

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In January 2017, after statutory consultation, the Education and Communities Committee agreed the Policy on Admissions and Placing Requests for Inverclyde Council. In November 2016, the Committee also agreed a consistent method of identifying the maximum yearly intake for secondary schools in Inverclyde.
- 4.2 In August 2019, Inverclyde Council's decision to refuse placing requests to St. Columba's High School, Gourock, was appealed at the Sheriff Court. The Council's position was upheld by the Sheriff because the school was full and could not accept placing requests.
- 4.3 In November 2019, in the context of a continuing pressure on St. Columba's High School, Gourock, the Education and Communities Committee agreed to undertake a pre-consultation exercise on the following:
 - to examine a change to the admission policy which allows pupils from the village schools of Wemyss Bay, Inverkip and Kilmacolm to choose denomination at the point of transfer to secondary education;
 - ascertain the possible future need for Roman Catholic education in the west of Inverclyde.
- 4.4 A pre-consultation exercise was held from 18th November 2019 to 5th December 2019. This process included an online survey, 6 public meetings and a specific questionnaire about future choices for those attending village schools.

5.0 OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

This section outlines each of the options considered during the pre-consultation. It takes into account the online survey and comments as well as information taken from the public meetings. The results of the survey are attached as appendix 1. 432 surveys were completed and, although nobody attended the public meetings for Kilmacolm and St. Stephen's, over 100 people attended the public meetings relating to the west of Inverclyde.

5.1 Consideration of the right of those attending village schools to choose denomination on transfer to secondary school.

- 5.1.1 We asked two questions about the wording of the current policy in relation to the right of those attending village schools to choose denomination at the point of transfer to secondary school. The full current policy is included in Appendix 2. The first question was about the current wording of the policy and the second was about a potential change to the policy to state that only those with a certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic Faith would have the right to choose a denominational school at the point of transfer to secondary school. The survey shows an almost equal but polarised split on the issue. The answers to this issue seemed to very much depend on the individual circumstances of the respondent; however, the comments in the survey and at the meetings have helped officers to consider the views of all and to identify issues that may arise. The bullet points below are a summary of the points raised. Whilst many comments were raised through the survey about denominational schooling, this is not being considered as part of this consultation process.
 - Whilst this consultation included Kilmacolm Primary School because it is classed as a village school, nobody from the school attended public meetings and the response to the specific questionnaire sent out to pupils was very low (less than 5). The numbers changing denomination attending Kilmacolm Primary School are in all reality very small and it is felt that any change to policy would not have a significant impact.
 - Parents at the Roman Catholic schools feeding into St. Columba's felt that the village school option is unfair. This is because in the event of St. Columba's being oversubscribed, pupils in village schools with siblings already in St Columba's but without a Certificate of Baptism could get a place above pupils who were also within the catchment area who had attended a Roman Catholic Primary. A child from

Inverkipp or Wemyss Bay who chose to attend St. Ninian's Primary School would not have a choice of denomination at the point of transition i.e. they can only choose St. Columba's whilst a child in the village schools would have a choice.

- Parents at the Roman Catholic feeder schools felt that some parents in the village schools are exploiting a "loophole". It was felt that some families were making choices about the school, less on faith grounds but more on perception of the quality of different schools. Having said this, pupils from the villages who attended Inverclyde Academy made a point of being represented at one of the meetings to ensure that those present were aware of the high quality education they receive and just how proud they are of their school. Much was made at the meetings about "perception" of schools rather than the reality and officers challenged those present to choose a school based on experience rather than perception.
- Parents at the village schools whose children have Certificates of Baptism were concerned that they could be disadvantaged. They reported that having been given the choice of schools at P1, they had made the choice to stay at the village schools with every intention of pursuing a denominational secondary education and have ensured that their children regularly attend church and have taken sacraments. Had the choice of a village school not been available to them, these parents report that they would have chosen St. Ninian's from the outset.
- Parents of children who attend the village schools but did not have a Certificate of Baptism felt that there was an unfairness about the process. This is because they could have chosen to send their children to a Roman Catholic school at P1 and, providing there was space, would have been allocated a place. They felt that any change in policy could put them at a disadvantage.
- Parents of children who attend the village schools but did not have a Certificate of Baptism were also concerned about a potential "cut-off date" being used by which a Certificate of Baptism would be accepted. Some parents commented that if the policy was going to change then they would want to get their child baptised.
- Parents of children at the village schools who already have siblings at St. Columba's, but no Certificate of Baptism were concerned that they may end up with two children at different schools. They report that had they known that the policy may change then they would have made a different choice as to secondary school.

5.1.2 Taking into account all of the issues raised and in the context of a pressure on St. Columba's High School the following is proposed:

That a statutory consultation takes place on the wording of the current policy to amend the wording in section B paragraph 2.4 to:

There are no denominational primary schools in Quarriers Village, Kilmacollm, Inverkipp and Wemyss Bay. Parents often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances the following admission arrangements will apply:

- **Only those children *who have a certificate of baptism before entry to primary school*** whose parents have selected to send their child to the non-denominational school serving the defined catchment area assigned to their address rather than to their assigned denominational primary school because of travelling distance, will have the choice at primary 7 of seeking admission to the denominational school assigned to their address. The Council's policy in respect of school transport will apply.

This will mean that parents enrolling pupils into village schools from P1 with a Certificate of Baptism will be asked if they are choosing a denominational or non-denominational education for their child. They will, of course, have the right to make an alternative choice at a later stage of the pupil's primary education, but any such change will be dealt with through the placing request process. St. Ninian's will remain the catchment denominational school for the villages.

5.1.3 Whilst it is extremely rare, there may be occasions when a school cannot meet the requirements of its catchment area. If this is the case, then places will be allocated on a priority basis. The current policy allows for this and places pupils on a priority basis. It is

proposed to change the priority basis to the following:

1. A child who has a medical condition or additional support needs, who requires facilities or support only available in the requested school.
2. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
3. In the case of denominational schools: pupils within the catchment area who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a Certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.
4. **In the case of a denominational secondary school which has Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay (village schools) as an associated school: priority will be given to those who have attended the denominational school associated with the secondary school.**
5. Distance of home address from the chosen school.

5.1.4 If the change to wording in paragraph 5.1.2 is accepted then arrangements for transition will have to be put into place. It is proposed that those pupils at the village schools with siblings already at St. Columba's be allocated a place at St. Columba's regardless of whether or not they have a Certificate of Baptism, providing the pupil's older sibling will be a pupil of St Columba's at the time of the pupil's entrance to S1. It is suggested that there does need to be a cut-off date for Certificates of Baptism for village schools and that it is reasonable for this to be prior to the date the child started school. This is because a Certificate of Baptism is viewed by the Catholic Church as showing a recognised and accepted testament of belonging to the Catholic Church.

5.1.5 If the change to the wording in 5.1.3 is agreed then any child who currently attends the school who had a Certificate of Baptism prior to enrolment will be treated as attending an associated denominational school. This is because the parents who chose to send their child to a village school rather than the catchment denominational school, did so in the expectation that they would have equal rights to a denominational secondary education. The Education Service will remain sensitive to the concerns parents may have during the transition period and will make every effort to ensure that those with Certificate of Baptism who live within the catchment area can access the school.

5.1.6 The consultation will propose that the change in policy would be agreed in May 2020 and implemented from August 2020. All pupils allocated a place for affected schools starting in August 2020 would be as a result of the previous policy (because places and placing requests are considered prior to April 2020). Thereafter, if agreed, the new policy would apply.

5.2 The option of changing the village schools to be feeder schools for the non-denominational secondary school only.

5.2.1 Again, this section mainly explores the outcome of the pre-consultation for village schools in the west of Inverclyde but if any changes were to be made in relation to this option this could have some impact on Kilmacolm Primary and St. Francis Primary Schools.

5.2.2 There was a stronger agreement with this option than to the question about choice of denomination at the point of transfer. During the consultation and through comments on the survey, the issue of distance was raised by some parents. Whilst some parents from Wemyss Bay and Inverkip opt to send their children to St. Ninian's there are others who feel that the distance is still too great for younger pupils to travel. Consideration also has to be given to the capacity of St. Ninian's if this option were to be taken forward, especially in light of potential building through the local development plan. Appendix 3 gives a comprehensive overview of the impact of any policy change and also how any building development might affect this in the future. The report concludes that if all things remained equal i.e. no major building development were to take place, a change in policy allocating St. Ninian's as the only feeder primary in the catchment area for St. Columba's could impact on the working capacity of the school and lead to pressure on St. Ninian's. This pressure could be alleviated to some extent by managing placing requests into the school from outside the area but this

cannot be guaranteed. Also if no building development takes place, Wemyss Bay could end up with a very low capacity.

- 5.2.3 It is recommended that at this stage no further work can be taken to progress this proposal because there is a significant risk to the Council if building work takes place. This option is significantly affected by any proposed building development. If major proposed developments go ahead then St. Ninian's is unlikely to have the capacity to cope with a change of policy. School rolls and trends will continue to be monitored. Although it is not recommended to take this option forward at this time, there could be the potential of this option being taken forward in future years. This being the case, the intention would be for the authority to write to parents seeking entry to the village schools from 2020 onwards to alert them to the fact that this option may be considered in the future. This may affect parental choice on entry to village schools.

5.3 The option to create an annex to St. Ninian's Primary School in Wemyss Bay Primary School.

- 5.3.1 This proposal had less support from the consultation responses and through the consultation events. Parents were concerned that it could create a division in the school and asked whether or not pupils could remain at Wemyss Bay but have the religious part of their education overseen by St. Ninian's. This proposal would not be acceptable to the Roman Catholic Church who stipulate that a Roman Catholic school should have its own identity. Parents were also concerned that the classes would be multi-composite and they were not keen on this idea.

- 5.3.2 A limiting factor to this proposal remains the status of any building development in the area. Whilst Wemyss Bay would currently have the capacity to accommodate 2 classes, if building work goes ahead then this may not always be the case. It is therefore not recommended to take forward this proposal at this point in time.

5.4 The option to change one of the schools in Inverkip or Wemyss Bay into a denominational school.

- 5.4.1 This proposal had strong opposition through the survey and consultation meetings. The rationale behind the proposal was that if there continues to be a high demand for a denominational education from the villages for secondary schools (over 50%), then a similar demand could be assumed for primary schools. This proposal would have the advantage of removing the issue of distance from the villages to Gourrock limiting the choices that parents made. As well as through the survey, this proposal was the most unpopular choice of the pre-consultation events. Strong concerns were raised about village identities linked to the school, pupils being separated and previously non-denominational schools being converted to denominational schools. Those who supported the idea mentioned that the traditional villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay are expanding and wondered about the term "village schools" being still relevant. Some parents asked if another Catholic primary school could be built in the area but it would be difficult to justify the expense of building another school in the area if adjacent schools are under capacity i.e. Wemyss Bay.

- 5.4.2 Because of the strong opposition to this proposal through the pre-consultation process, it is not recommended to pursue this proposal at this point in time.

5.5 The option to re-align the catchment area of a feeder school to St. Columba's to Notre Dame High School

- 5.5.1 This proposal had broad support through the survey and through the meetings. There are many factors the Council needs to take into consideration before this can be taken forward. If proposed building work takes place then there will inevitably be pressure on St. Columba's regardless of any changes to primary transition. If this is the case then a re-alignment of a feeder school catchment area may be necessary in the future. Whilst there is a perceived pressure on Notre Dame High School, the yearly intake is currently made up of high numbers

of placing requests from within and outwith the catchment area (some pupils attend a non-denominational primary and put a placing request in for Notre Dame High School). Additionally, the effect of any building work within the catchment area, such as at Ravenscraig could increase the numbers attending Notre Dame and could affect the future school roll. An issue raised during the consultation process was that of proximity of current catchment areas to schools. Some areas of the St. Columba's catchment area are geographically closer to Notre Dame High School and some comments in the survey said this change would be welcomed. However, to change the catchment area for a whole school would cause major disruption and would require a long lead in process. If the pressure on St. Columba's can be managed through a change to admissions policy as outlined in 5.1.2, this change may not be necessary and would only be needed if future building development takes place. In addition, the current pressure on St. Columba's, all things being equal, is projected to last for the next 5 years but then will alleviate.

5.5.2 It is recommended that this proposal is not taken forward at this time, but it remains a consideration for the future once there is further and more definite information on about proposed building development.

5.6 Outcome of the specific questionnaire in relation to future intentions of schooling for those in village schools.

5.6.1 Not all of those families from the village schools who were asked to fill in a specific questionnaire returned their forms. Appendix 4 gives information on the returns and trends.

6.0 Proposed timescale and consultation

6.1 It is proposed to undertake a statutory consultation on the proposals outlined in 5.1.2, 5.1.3 and 5.1.4.

6.2 If the consultation is agreed then the timescale would be as follows:

20 Jan – 31 st January Prepare Consultation paperwork	
13 th February 2020	Start of statutory consultation
20 th March 2020	End of statutory Consultation period
25 th March 2020	Paper work sent to Education Scotland (3 week consultation period for Education Scotland – this overlaps the Easter holidays so may require longer and could affect overall timeline)
21 st April 2020	Feedback from Education Scotland considered in final submission. (Because the final submission needs to be available to the public 3 weeks before a decision is made this may result in a delay to the timeline. If this is the case then a request will be made for a special meeting of the Education Committee).
12 th May 2020	Education and Communities Committee meeting.
August 2020	Decision implemented

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

7.2 Legal

The changes proposed must be subject to a statutory consultation in line with the Schools Consultation Act

7.3 Human Resources

N/A

7.4 Equalities

Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? Before any change to policy is taken forward a full equality assessment will be carried out.

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

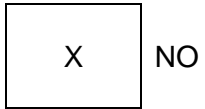
Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

- (c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
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7.5 **Repopulation**

This paper outlines how the learning estate will meet the requirements for future educational provision.

8.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 This report has been prepared after a pre-consultation process and any change will be subject to a statutory consultation process.

9.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

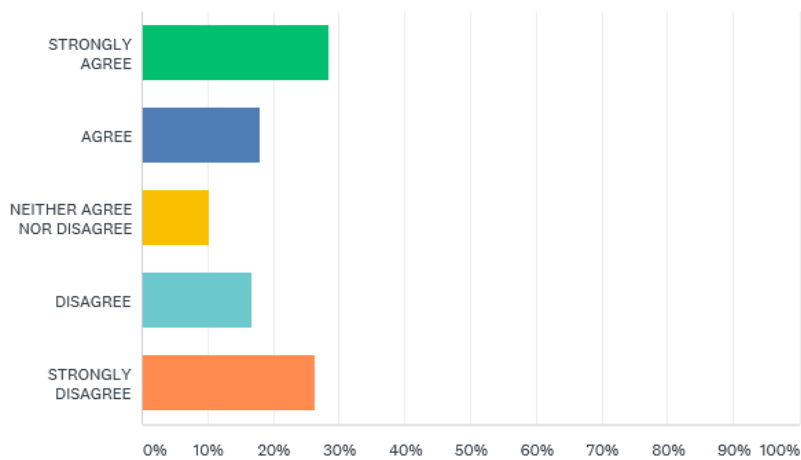
9.1 N/A.

Appendix 1 Survey Results

Question 1

There are no denominational primary schools in Quarriers Village, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Parents in these areas can and often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances parents have the choice, at the end of P7, to seek admission for their child to either a non-denominational or denominational secondary school in their catchment area. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this part of the policy (please tick one box only)

Answered: 428 Skipped: 4

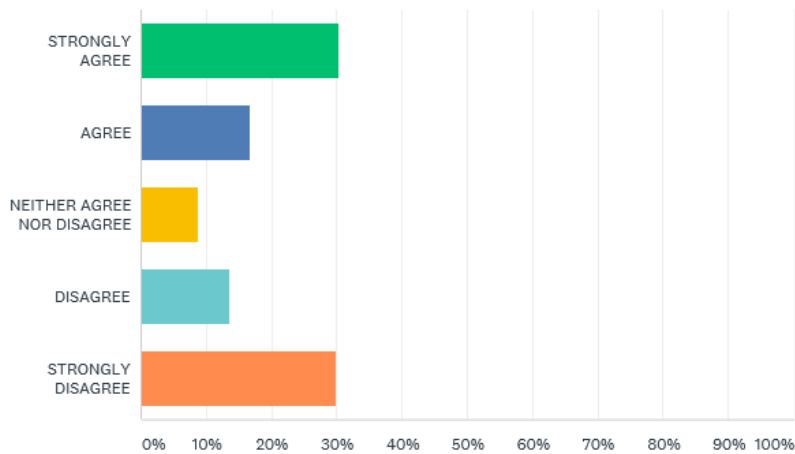


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ STRONGLY AGREE	28.50% 122
▼ AGREE	17.99% 77
▼ NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	10.28% 44
▼ DISAGREE	16.82% 72
▼ STRONGLY DISAGREE	26.40% 113
TOTAL	428

Question 2

To what extent do you agree or disagree if the following change to the policy was proposed. 'Only children who have a baptismal certificate into the Roman Catholic faith whose parents have selected to send their child to the non-denominational catchment primary school, will have the choice to seek admission to either the non-denominational catchment primary school, or denominational school assigned to their address'. Please tick one box only

Answered: 428 Skipped: 4

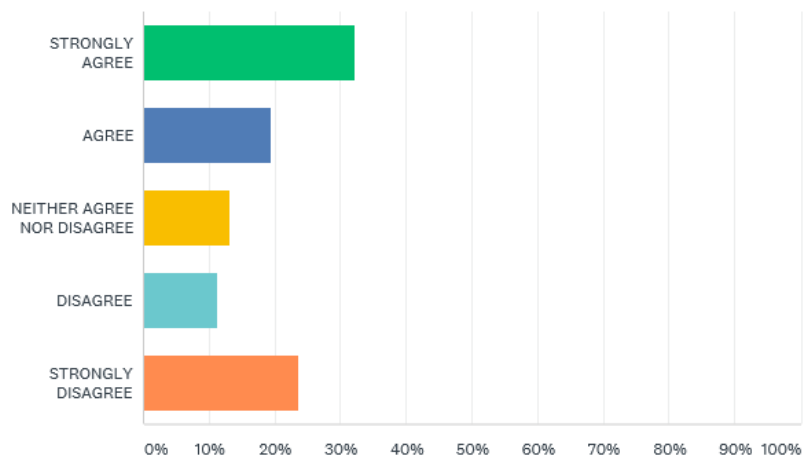


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
STRONGLY AGREE	30.37% 130
AGREE	16.82% 72
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	8.88% 38
DISAGREE	13.55% 58
STRONGLY DISAGREE	29.91% 128
TOTAL	428

Question 3

We would like to know your opinion on the possibility of changing the village schools of Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay as associated primary schools for denominational secondary schools. This would mean that that:1) St. Ninian's Primary School would be the only catchment school for those pupils choosing a denominational education who live in the villages of Inverkip or Wemyss Bay.2) St. Francis Primary School would be the only catchment school for those pupils choosing a denominational education who live in the villages of Kilmacolm or Quarrier's Village.

Answered: 427 Skipped: 5

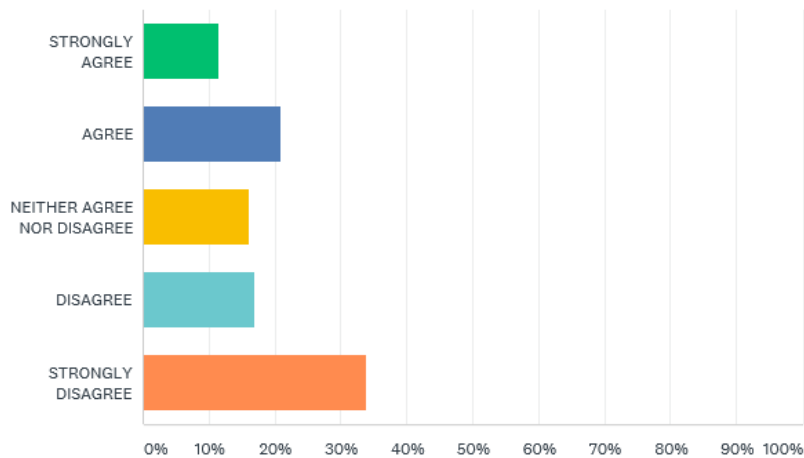


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
STRONGLY AGREE	32.32% 138
AGREE	19.44% 83
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	13.11% 56
DISAGREE	11.24% 48
STRONGLY DISAGREE	23.65% 101
TOTAL	427

Question 4

We would like to know your opinion about how the Council could manage provision if there is a continued pressure on places for Roman Catholic Education at St Columba's High School (and in the West of Inverclyde). One idea is the creation of a joint denominational and non-denominational campus at Wemyss Bay Primary School. This would essentially create an annex to St. Ninian's Primary School but be based at Wemyss Bay Primary School. Please tick one box only.

Answered: 429 Skipped: 3

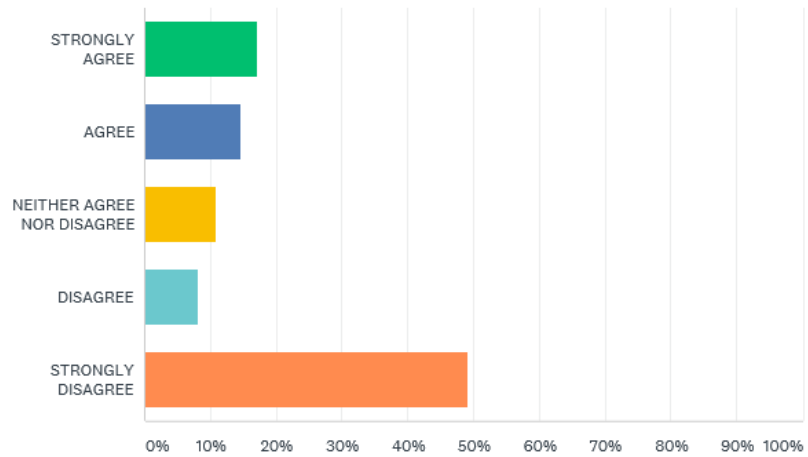


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
STRONGLY AGREE	11.42% 49
AGREE	20.98% 90
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	16.08% 69
DISAGREE	17.02% 73
STRONGLY DISAGREE	33.80% 145
TOTAL	429

Question 5

Another idea is changing one of the primary schools in either Wemyss Bay or Inverkip to be a denominational school if there is significant demand for a Roman Catholic education in those two villages. Please tick one box only.

Answered: 430 Skipped: 2

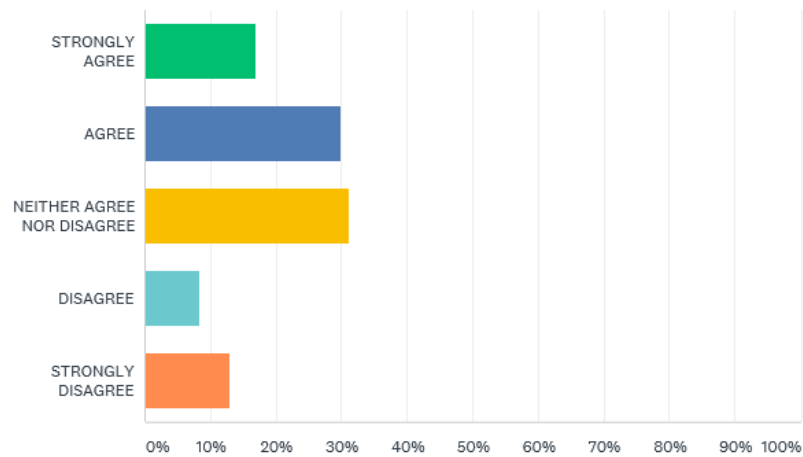


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ STRONGLY AGREE	17.21% 74
▼ AGREE	14.65% 63
▼ NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	10.93% 47
▼ DISAGREE	8.14% 35
▼ STRONGLY DISAGREE	49.07% 211
TOTAL	430

Question 6

In the future, there may be a need to review the catchment areas for both Notre Dame High School in Greenock and St. Columba's High School in Gourock. This may mean that the schools currently associated with each of these schools may have to change. We would be interested in your opinions on the possible re-alignment of catchment areas to denominational schools in the West of Inverclyde. This might mean, for example that one of the primary schools currently associated with St. Columba's High School becomes associated with Notre Dame High School. To what extent do you agree with this? Please tick one box only.

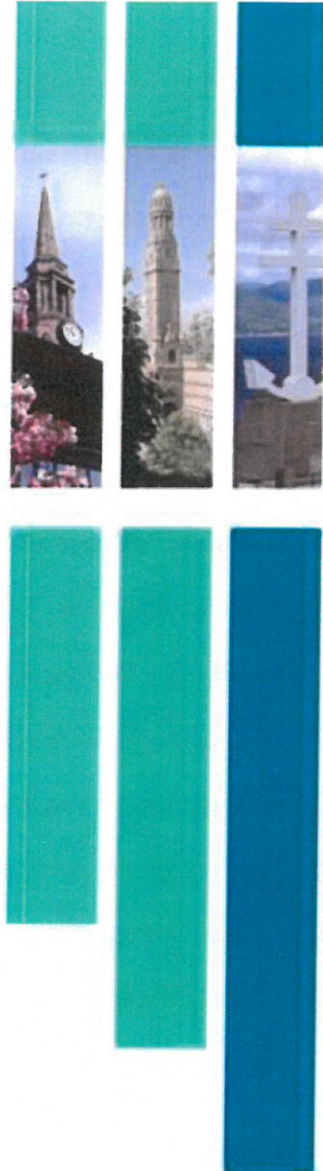
Answered: 429 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
STRONGLY AGREE	17.02% 73
AGREE	29.84% 128
NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	31.24% 134
DISAGREE	8.39% 36
STRONGLY DISAGREE	13.05% 56
TOTAL	429

Education Services

Inverclyde Policy on Admissions
and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools
revised January 2017



Getting it Right for Me

Date of issue 01 February 2017
Date of review 01 February 2022

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Section A - Core Principles

- 1.0 The Admissions and Pupil Placement Policy is applicable to all **mainstream schools** in Inverclyde.
- 1.1 The Admissions and Pupil Placement Policy recognises the right of parents to make a placing request to have their child educated in a school of their choice. Parents in turn should recognise that they do not have an automatic right to have their **placing request** granted.
- 1.2 For the purposes of determining which school a pupil should attend the authority is divided into defined geographical **catchment areas**. Each address in Inverclyde is assigned to a non-denominational and a denominational primary and secondary school.
- 1.3 At the point of entry to primary school parents may choose the primary school of either educational sector, (**non-denominational** or **denominational**) assigned to their home address, which they wish their child to attend. This policy is premised on the assumption that having made a choice about the educational sector (**denominational** or **non-denominational**) at primary stage, a pupil will remain in that sector for the duration of their education in Inverclyde.
- 1.4 All of the **denominational** schools in Inverclyde are Roman Catholic. Roman Catholic schools are open to all children regardless of faith. Where a **denominational school** is oversubscribed, either for within the **catchment** area pupils or through **placing requests** then priority will be given to pupils who can demonstrate or have declared an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a certificate of baptism into the Roman Catholic faith and a supporting letter from the Church. (see sections C and D)
- 1.5 There are no **denominational** primary schools within the areas of Quarriers Village, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Parents often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances the following admission arrangements will apply:
 - children whose parents have selected to send their child to the **non-denominational** school serving their defined **catchment area** assigned to their address rather than to their assigned denominational primary school because of travelling distance, will have the choice at primary 7 of seeking admission to either the **non-denominational** or **denominational** school assigned to their address. The Council's policy in respect of school transport will apply.
- 1.6 Inverclyde has a Gaelic nursery and primary unit attached to Whinhill Primary School. It is the right of parents to make a request to the Authority for Gaelic medium education. Parents wishing their child to be educated in Gaelic medium should register with their local school and make a **placing request**. Gaelic Secondary education is accessed in Glasgow. Transport is provided.
- 1.7 Each secondary school has a list of **associated primary schools**. This means that pupils who live within the geographical **catchment area** and of the chosen sector (**denominational** or **non-denominational**) would normally transfer to the secondary school without the need for a **placing request**.
- 1.8 Attendance at an **associated primary school**, either through a **placing request** or the submission of a request to remain if a family have moved house does not guarantee a place at the **associated secondary school** and a **placing request** should be submitted.
- 1.9 A **Pupil Placement Panel** will be convened by the Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development if the situation arises where the number of pupils in a defined catchment area who are eligible to enter a school in primary or secondary is greater than the number of places available in the school.

The **Pupil Placement Panel** will also scrutinise recommendations on entry made by the appropriate Head of Service in Education Services to ensure the criteria has been applied appropriately and to determine which placing request applications should be granted and which should be refused.

- 1.10 The **Pupil Placement Panel** will comprise the Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development, the Head of Legal and Property Services and a Head of Service from another council service selected from a rota.
- 1.11 Where documentation such as **proof of residence**, a qualifying letter or baptism into a faith are requested, then the applicant will be given 4 weeks to produce original copies of an documentation requested. A Council Tax notice, plus a recent utility bill or other acceptable evidence will be accepted as proof of residence. Where there is doubt about any of the documentation, the Authority reserves the right to verify this information by cross checking with Council Tax records or undertaking spot checks.

Section B – Admissions Procedures

1.0 Arrangements for registering a pupil in P1.

- 1.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended by the 1981 Act, requires education authorities to secure the adequate and efficient provision of school education including arrangements for the admission of children to schools.
- 1.2 The process of registration records a child as eligible for education to be provided by the authority. The procedure of enrolment commits the authority to providing that education in a particular school.
- 1.3 The process for enrolling is as follows:

On a date or dates in January each year intimated and publicly advertised by Education Services, parents/carers should register their children with their catchment area school of their chosen denomination if their children:

1. Have attained the age of 5 years before that date
 2. Will attain the age of 5 years on or before the last day of February of the following year
- 1.4 Birth Certificates and proof of residence (Council Tax letter, plus a recent utility bill or other acceptable evidence) must be produced.
- 1.5 At the point of registration parents will have access to the handbook containing information about the school. Parents will also receive information about how to make a **placing request** should they decide not to send their child to their catchment school.
- 1.6 If a parent wishes to defer entry to primary school they still must register at the appropriate school to be advised of the Council's **deferred entry** procedures.
- 1.7 If a child has not reached the age of 5 years by the last day in February they would not be eligible to register at this time. In exceptional circumstances, a formal request for early entry should be submitted to Education Services for consideration.

2.0 Arrangements for transferring from primary to secondary school

- 2.1 On completion of their primary education, pupils will normally transfer to the secondary school within their geographical **catchment area** and of their chosen denomination unless they have been granted a placing request to another secondary school.
- 2.2 Pupils will transfer from primary school to secondary school once per year on the date of the start of the new session for pupils. Transfer will normally take place at the end of primary 7.
- 2.3 The Head Teacher of the primary school will advise parents/carers in December each year that their

children are due to transfer to secondary school in the following August. Intimation will be made of the name of the secondary school to which the child should transfer and details of liaison meetings with parents will be provided.

*
Change
1.

2.4 There are no denominational primary schools within Quarriers Village, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Parents often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances the following admission arrangements will apply:

- Children whose parents have selected to send their child to the non-denominational school serving the defined catchment area assigned to their address rather than to their assigned denominational primary school because of travelling distance, will have the choice at primary 7 of seeking admission to either the **non-denominational** or **denominational** school assigned to their address. Inverclyde Council's policy in respect of school transport will apply.

3.0 Arrangements for registering a pupil into primary and secondary school after the start of the school session in August.

- 3.1 This applies to pupils moving into the **catchment area** of their chosen denomination after the start of a school session. In the first instance parents should make contact with the school directly to enquire if they have space for their child in the relevant stage or year group. Parents should provide proof of the address and the child's date of birth.
- 3.2 In addition, for secondary school placements, parents will need to provide details of the subjects that the child has studied, particularly at stages S4 and above. It may not be possible to match all subjects previously studied and children may need to choose new subjects to make a full timetable.
- 3.3 During school holidays, parents should contact Education Services to discuss the arrangements for registering their child into their preferred primary or secondary school.

Section C - Oversubscription of catchment area schools and the capping of schools

1.0 Oversubscription of Schools

Although rare, the situation may arise whereby a school is oversubscribed at either the primary 1 or secondary 1 stage for pupils of the chosen denomination who live within the **catchment area** of the school. In these circumstances, the **Pupil Placement Panel** should convene to determine the allocation of places.

Applications for all other stages of schooling for pupils within the **catchment area** of the chosen denomination should be dealt with by Head Teachers.

While every effort is made to provide places for all children in the school in their defined catchment area within their chosen denomination, places cannot be guaranteed. In such circumstances, pupils will be offered a place in the school of their chosen denomination nearest to their home address, until such times as a place becomes available in their catchment school. Inverclyde Council will meet any additional transport costs incurred due to attendance at the non-catchment school.

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Change
2

If a school is oversubscribed and cannot take pupils within the defined catchment area and chosen denomination then places will be granted in the following order:

1. A child who has a medical condition or additional support needs, who requires facilities or support only available in the requested school.
2. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.

3. In the case of denominational schools: pupils **within the catchment area** who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a certificate of baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.
 4. Distance of home address from chosen school.
- 1.1 If within catchment area places for the chosen denomination have had to be declined then a waiting list will be held by Education Services reflecting the above criteria. Parents will be informed if places become available. If the parent subsequently chooses that their child remain at the school out with the **catchment area** or chosen denomination the following should be borne in mind:
 - Transport will only be made available for that academic year
 - The pupil may have to submit a placing request to their chosen secondary school
 - 1.2 If Inverclyde Council refuses an application to one of its schools it must explain the reasons why to parents in writing. The grounds for refusal of a place are listed in Appendix 2. Parents have the right to appeal this decision through the **appeals process**.

2.0 Capping of schools

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council is permitted to limit the overall roll of a school (the term commonly used is “capping”). It can limit not just the overall roll but also the intake of pupils into specific year groups. Where there are schools whose rolls will exceed their capacity or by the granting of placing requests will exceed their capacity in the future, there is a need to restrict access to these schools so that the roll can remain within the agreed capacity of the school.
- 2.2 The Council is allowed to reserve places within primary and secondary schools, based on the assumption that the places will be required for children and young people who are likely to move into the delineated areas of the schools during the session (Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended).
- 2.3 For the purpose of secondary schools which are approaching capacity, Inverclyde Council may keep two places for S1 for pupils who move into the catchment area and one place for pupils in other years.

For primary schools who are approaching capacity, Inverclyde Council will keep one space per year group for pupils who move into the catchment area.

Inverclyde Council will not employ an extra teacher or create another class due to placing requests.

Section D - Making a Placing request

1.0 Arrangements for making a placing request at the beginning of an academic year

- 1.1 Parents who wish their child to attend a school other than their defined catchment school are entitled to make a **placing request** for the school of their choice.
- 1.2 Information on how to make a **placing request** is distributed to parents/carers by Head Teachers at the point of enrolment in January in the case of pupils who are starting primary 1. When pupils transfer from primary to secondary school the information will be given out as part of the information pack in December.
- 1.3 Parents/carers may make only one **placing request** at a time for a pupil. If the initial request is refused the opportunity will be available to parents to make another request should they so wish.
- 1.4 Where applications are being made for the start of a new session these should be submitted to

Education Services no earlier than 1 January and no later than 1 February prior to the start of the session in August. Applications received for P1 or S1 after the 1 February will only be considered after the applications received on time have been processed.

- 1.5 Applications will be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt of each application.
- 1.6 Parents/Carers will be advised in writing of the decision made in respect of their application no later than 30 April.
- 1.7 Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Head of Education.
- 1.8 If a **placing request** is submitted then the **catchment area** place that the pupil is entitled to will be kept until the outcome of the placing request application has been confirmed.
- 1.9 While every effort is made to grant **placing requests**, circumstances can arise whereby there are more applications than places available. In such cases the priorities for admission will be as follows:
 1. A child who has a medical condition or additional support needs, who requires facilities or support only available in the requested school.
 2. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
 3. In secondary schools: children who attend a primary school **associated** with the secondary school as a result of a placing request or a request to remain according to the length of time at the **associated primary school**. This means that pupils who have attended for the longest time will have the highest priority. Appendix 3 shows the list of **associated school groups**.
 4. In the case of denominational schools: pupils within the **catchment area** who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a certificate of baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.
 5. All other children of school age residing in the defined catchment area of the school according to distance of home address from chosen school.
 6. All other children of school age residing in Inverclyde according to distance of home address from chosen school.
 7. Children of school age residing out with Inverclyde whose additional support need is supported by significant input by education and another appropriate agency and who are requesting a place within a school which has specialist provision to meet the child's needs.
 8. Children of school age residing out with Inverclyde according to distance of home address from chosen school.
- 1.10 When a **placing request** is granted the previously allocated place at the catchment school will be withdrawn. The newly allocated place will not be withdrawn unless the place was obtained on the basis of false information.
- 1.11 The **Pupil Placement Panel** should convene to determine the allocation of places. It will be the role of the **Pupil Placement Panel** to scrutinise recommendations on placing request applications made by the appropriate Head of Service in Education Services to ensure the criteria have been applied appropriately and to determine which applications should be granted and which should be refused. Where a placing request application is refused parents will be advised in writing of the grounds for refusal.

2.0 Arrangements for transferring from primary to secondary school

- 2.1 Parents who wish to make a **placing request** during the school year or school holidays should contact the school of their choice or Education Services to obtain an application form.
- 2.2 **Placing request** applications which are submitted to Education Services during the school year or school holidays will be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt. Parents/Carers will be notified of the decision made in respect of their application within 8 weeks (exclusive of school holidays).
- 2.3 Such applications will be referred to the Head Teacher of the school concerned who will advise if there are places available in the school. Where the Authority declines an application for reasons other than there being no places available in the school the application will be referred to the Pupil Placement Panel for decision. If a placing request application is refused parents will be advised in writing of the reasons for refusal.

3.0 Families who move to a new address

- 3.1 Where a family moves to a new address which is out with the catchment area of the school their child currently attends, they have two options:
 - Enrol their child in the school serving their new defined **catchment area** for their chosen denomination.
 - Complete a form requesting that their child remains in the school they currently attend. If this option is selected Inverclyde Council will not provide school transport. In the case of primary pupils, parents should check which the secondary school assigned to their new home address. It is likely that a placing request may be required for their child to attend the secondary school assigned to their previous home address.

4.0 School Transport

- 4.1 Inverclyde Council provides school transport for pupils who live more than one mile from their local primary school or two miles from their local secondary school by the shortest safe walking route.
- 4.2 Children who attend a school as a result of a **placing request** are not entitled to school transport. If, in exceptional circumstances, a pupil is unable to attend the catchment area school of their chosen denomination because it will pose a risk to the safety of the pupil or there is a legal reason why they cannot attend that school then the Authority may consider providing transport at the discretion of the Head of Education.

5.0 Appeal procedures if a placing request is refused

- 5.1 If Inverclyde Council refuses an application to one of its schools it must explain the reasons why to parents in writing. The grounds for refusal of a place are listed in Appendix 2.
- 5.2 If parents/carers are aggrieved by a decision of the Education Authority to refuse a placing request then the parent/carer may refer the decision to the **Education Appeal Committee** set up by Inverclyde Council.
- 5.3 The **Education Appeal Committee** hearing an appeal shall have a membership of three; one Councillor and two other members. The Councillor shall not be a member of the Council's Education & Communities Committee. The other members will not be members of the Authority or its Education Committee and will be in one of the following three categories:
 - Parents of children of school age.

- Persons who in the opinion of the Authority have experience in education.
- Persons who in the opinion of the Authority are acquainted with the educational conditions in the area of the Authority.

Neither the Councillor nor the other members shall be a member of the Parent Forum of the school affected by the appeal.

- 5.4 The ***Education Appeal Committee*** shall be administered by the Council's Head of Legal and Property Services from whom details of the appeals procedure may be obtained. Appeals should be submitted in writing to the Head of Legal and Property Services.
- 5.5 The Head of Legal & Property Services shall maintain a rota to be used in selecting members to sit in hearings of the Committee.

6.0 Policy Review

- 6.1 This policy will be reviewed on a 5-yearly basis, or earlier if required.

Glossary of terms

Catchment Areas	The catchment areas for a school are geographical. Every address in Inverclyde is in the geographical catchment area of a denominational and non-denominational school.
Mainstream School	A mainstream school is any school that is not classed as a special school. The definition of a special school is any school where the sole or main purpose of the school (or stand-alone unit) is to provide education specifically suited to the additional support needs of children and young persons selected for attendance at the school (or unit) by reason of those needs
Denominational School	The majority of denominational schools in Scotland are Roman Catholic and all of the denominational schools in Inverclyde are Roman Catholic. A Roman Catholic denominational school is one which promotes the ethos and values of the Roman Catholic faith. Denominational schools are run in the same way as other local Authority schools. Every state pupil is open to pupils of all denominations.
Non-Denominational Schools	A non-denominational school is one that does not cater for a specific faith.
Placing Request	This is a request for a pupil to be educated at a school other than that allocated by the Education Authority. A placing request should be submitted if a pupil wants to attend a school out with their geographical catchment area or if a change of denominational sector is required.
Associated School (either primary or secondary)	A group of schools that traditionally work together because they share the same geographical catchment area and denomination. Each associated group of schools has one secondary and feeder primary schools. Whilst most joint working takes place in the associated school group, attendance at an associated primary school does not automatically ensure a place at the secondary school.
Pupil Placement Panel	The Pupil Placement Panel comprises the Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development, the Head of Legal and Property Services and a Head of Service from another council service selected from a rota. The role of the panel is to scrutinise recommendations on entry made by the appropriate Head of Service in Education Services to ensure the criteria has been applied appropriately and to determine which placing request applications should be granted and which should be refused.
Proof of Residence	Proof of residence should be a Council Tax notice and another formal letter e.g. a utility bill, a tax credit award notice.
Deferred Entry	All children who are 4 years of age by 28/29 February start primary school in the August of the same year. Children with January/February birthdays can automatically defer school entry for one year. Deferred entry for children born out with January / February is discretionary and is granted by the Additional Support Needs Forum.
Appeals Process	This is the right of the parent to appeal the decision made by the Authority to decline a place at their requested school.
Education Appeal Committee	The Education Appeal Committee is administered by the Council's Head of Legal and Property Services and has a membership of three, one Councillor and two lay members.
Parent Forum	A school's parent forum automatically includes every parent/carer with a child enrolled at the school. This is not the same as a Parent Council who act as a representative group for the parent forum.

Reasons for refusal of a place at a school

If Inverclyde Council refuses an application to one of its schools it must explain the reasons why to parents in writing. The following are the reasons why a Council may refuse an application for a place in one of its schools.

- a) If placing the child in the specified school (that is, the school specified in the application), would:
 - i. Make it necessary for the Authority to take an additional teacher into employment
 - ii. Give rise to significant expenditure on extending or otherwise altering the accommodation at or facilities provided in connection with the school
 - iii. Be seriously detrimental to the continuity of the child's education
 - iv. Be likely to be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school
 - v. Be likely to be seriously detrimental to the educational well-being of the pupils attending the school
 - vi. Assuming that pupil numbers remain constant, make it necessary, at the commencement of a future stage of the child's primary education, for the authority to elect either to create an additional class (or an additional composite class) in the specified school or to take an additional teacher into employment at that school
 - vii. Though neither of the tests set out in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) above is satisfied, have the consequence that the capacity of the school would be exceeded in terms of pupil numbers
- b) If the education normally provided at the specified school is not suited to the age, ability or aptitude of the child
- c) If the education authority has already required the child to discontinue his attendance at the specified school
- d) If the specified school is a special school and the child does not have an additional support need requiring the education or special facilities normally provided at that school.
- e) If the specified school is a single sex school (within the meaning given to that expression by Section 26 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975) and the child is not of the sex admitted or taken (under that Section) to be admitted to the school
- f) If accepting the request would prevent the Authority reserving a place at the school for a child likely to move into the area of the school.

(All references to the 'specified school' are to the school specified in the application.)

Associated School Groups and Catchment Areas

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

Ardgowan Primary School
Gourock Primary School
Moorfoot Primary School
TRANSFER TO Clydeview Academy

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

Aileymill Primary School
Kings Oak Primary School
Lady Alice Primary School
Whinhill Primary School
TRANSFER TO Inverclyde Academy

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

Inverkip Primary School
Wemyss Bay Primary School
TRANSFER TO Inverclyde Academy OR St Columba's High School

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

All Saints Primary School
St Mary's Primary School
St Patrick's Primary School
TRANSFER TO Notre Dame High School

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

Newark Primary School
TRANSFER TO Port Glasgow High School

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

Kilmacolm Primary School
TRANSFER TO Port Glasgow High School OR St Stephen's High School

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

St Andrew's Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Ninian's Primary School
TRANSFER TO St Columba's High School

Pupils who live in the catchment area for:

St Francis' Primary School
St John's Primary School
St Michael's Primary School
TRANSFER TO St Stephen's High School

Report to assess the potential change to primary school roll projections resulting from proposal to remove Inverkip and Wemyss Bay primaries as feeder schools to St Columba's High School. There has been an assumption that changes to primary school P1 intake will begin in 2020/21.

1.1 St. Ninian's Primary

St Ninian's Primary School is situated in the west of Inverclyde, within the central Gourrock area. The school catchment area covers the town of Gourrock and the villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay (see Appendix I). It is bordered by the catchments of St Mary's, St Joseph's, St Andrew's, and St Patrick's.

As pupils in the villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay have the automatic right to choose a Roman Catholic education at point of transfer to secondary school there is an established trend of lower admissions from this area to St. Ninian's.

In 2019 there were approximately 8,000 residential properties within the catchment area.

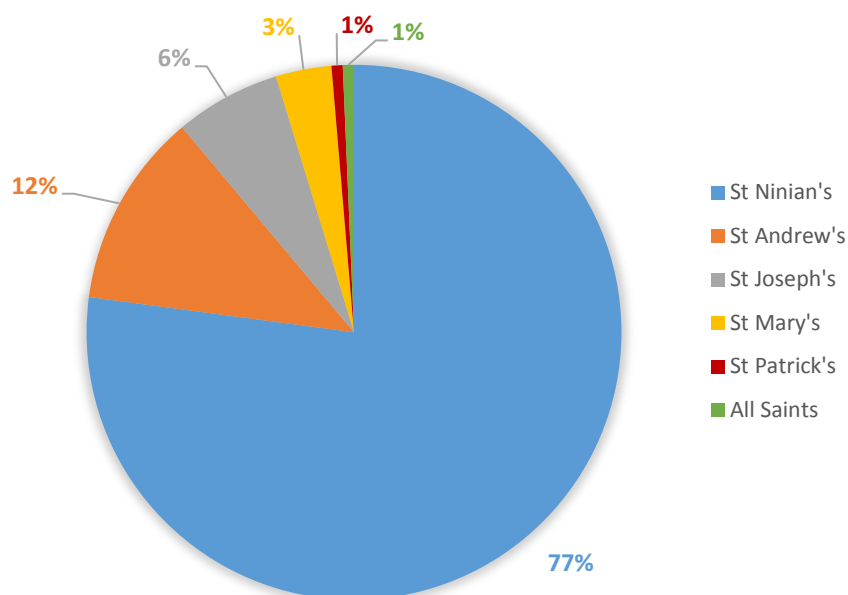
Table 1. St Ninian's accommodation schedule

Accommodation category	Number	Comment
Classroom (general)	13	12 in use
Classroom (specialist use)	0	
Flexible area	3	Nurture, library/ICT, and music
Non-teaching area	0	

1.1.1 Current and historic roll analysis

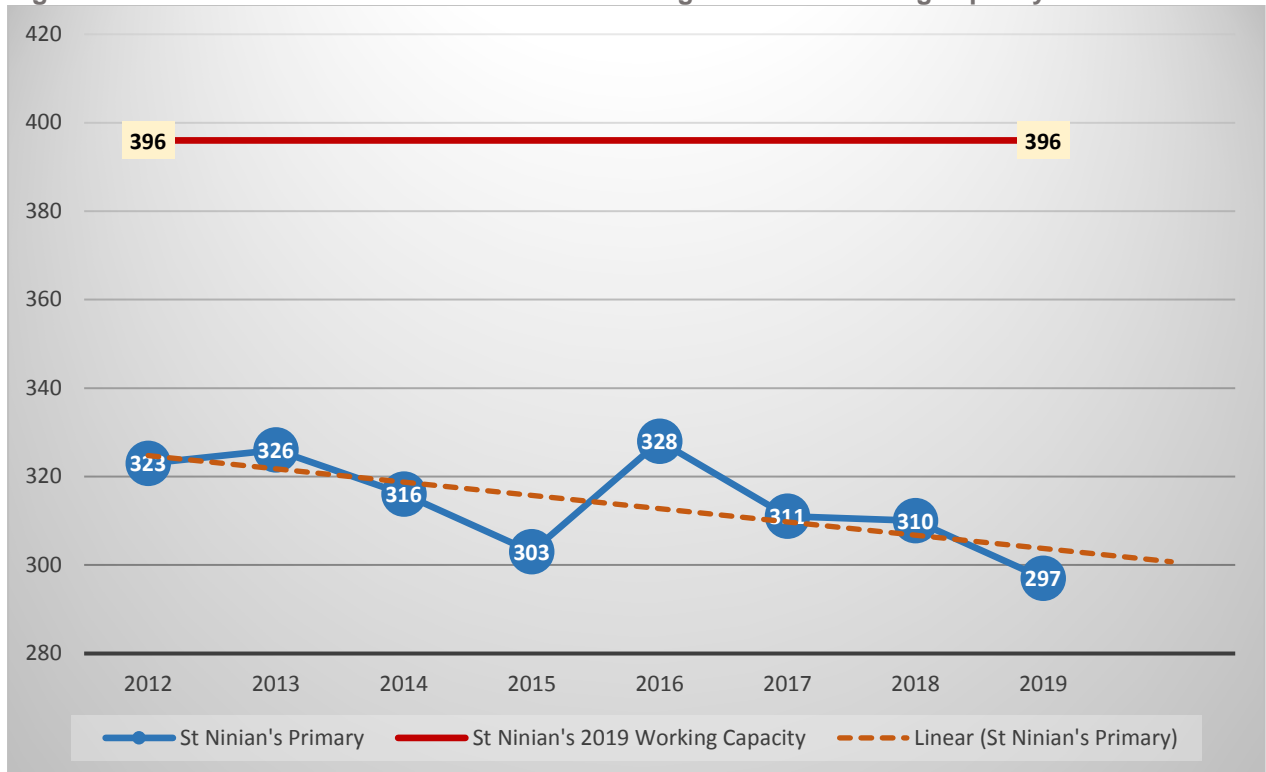
At September 2019 the total school roll for St Ninian's was 297, indicating an occupancy of 75% against a current working capacity of 396. Figure below shows the breakdown of school roll by the pupil catchment location which illustrates that approximately 23% of the school population reside outside the St Ninian's catchment area. There may also be non-denominational placing requests from within the catchment but that number is unknown as the data was not available at this time.

Figure 1. Approximate school roll breakdown by pupil catchment location



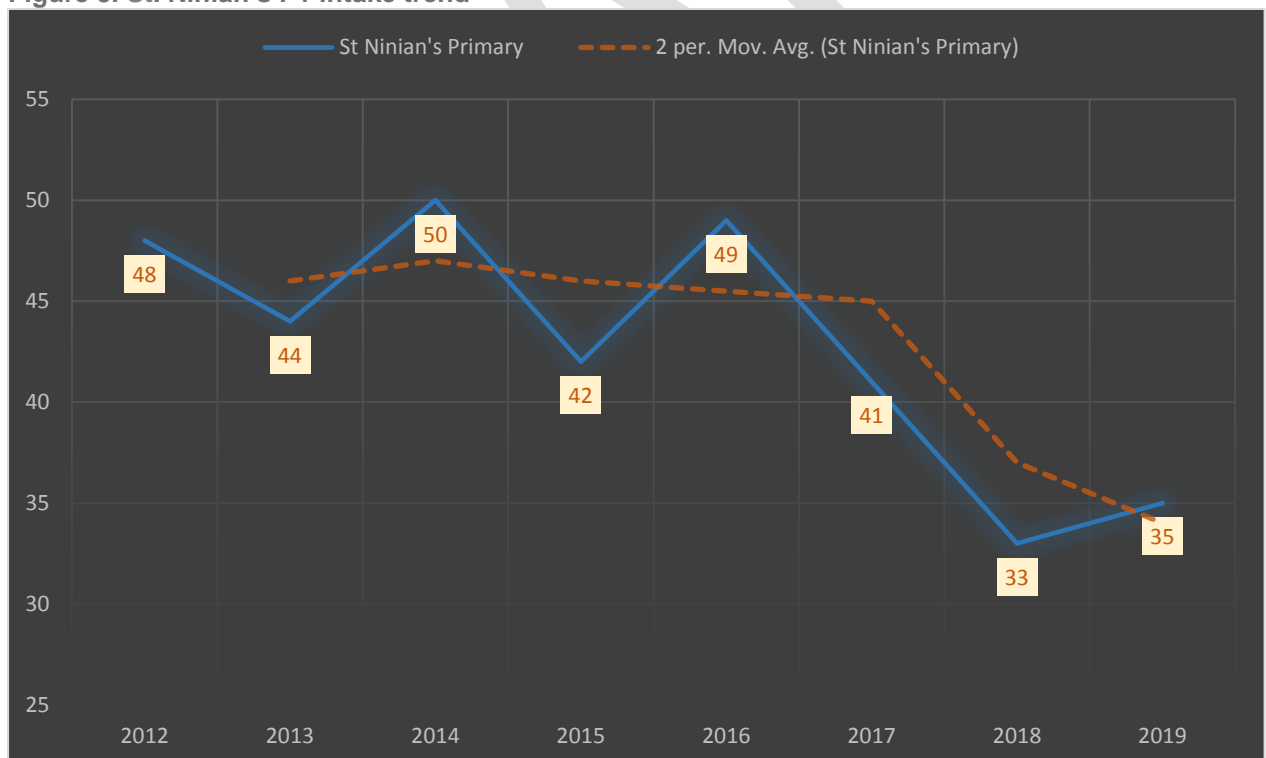
Historically there has been a decreasing trend in St Ninian's school population with a 6% decrease in school roll over the five-year period from 2014 to 2019. A downward linear trend is visible in figure below.

Figure 2. St. Ninian's total school roll historic trend against 2019 working capacity



Average primary 1 intake has shown an overall decreasing trend which was particularly evident between 2016 and 2018. This may be attributable to the school decant at that time and the small increase in 2019 may signal an increase in school roll in the short term.

Figure 3. St. Ninian's P1 intake trend



1.1.2 Local Development Plan / Housing Land Audit

Seven development sites have been included within the LDP roll projection model. Only three of these sites are marked as completed/committed with site works commenced at both the Kempock House and Glebe sites. The Cowal View development is set to begin in the near future. The remaining sites are either potential private developments or private developments with planning consent. There are no known start dates for these sites.

St Ninian's receives a lower allocation of additional CHR pupils from developments in the villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay as there is an established trend of pupils from these settlements choosing their local non-denominational school. Current admissions policy allows primary pupils to choose a denominational school at point of transfer to secondary.

Table 2. St Ninian's catchment current and potential housing developments

LDP Site	Units	HLA Status	Commenced	Comment
Inverkip Power Station (Wemyss Bay)	670	Private potential	No	St Ninian's only receives 15% allocation from housing in Inverkip / Wemyss Bay
The Glebe (Inverkip)	25	Private committed	Yes	<i>Included in 2019 roll projection model.</i> St Ninian's only receives 15% allocation from housing in Inverkip / Wemyss Bay
Kempock House (Gourock)	25	Private committed	Yes	<i>Included in 2019 roll projection model.</i>
Cowal View (Gourock)	16	Private committed		
Levan Farm Phase 3 (Gourock)	150	Private consent	No	
1 Ashton Road (Gourock)	11	Private consent	No	
Upper Kirn Drive	110	Private potential	No	

Other potential housing sites which may be relevant in future assessments if planned site start dates enter the seven-year HLA period:

- Pierhead
- Cove Road
- Riverside Marina (Chalmers Street)
- The Meadows (phase 2)
- Bridgend

Scenario 1. Roll Projections – Existing policy

The base model projection and 2019 projection model follow a similar decreasing trend which indicates a decline in overall school roll over the ten-year time period. However, the LDP roll projection model forecasts an increasing trend which could see school roll rise to over 300. This would be dependent on the larger-scale developments at Levan Farm, Kirn Drive, and the former power station going ahead at projected unit numbers and timescales.

Figure 4. St Ninian's school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP



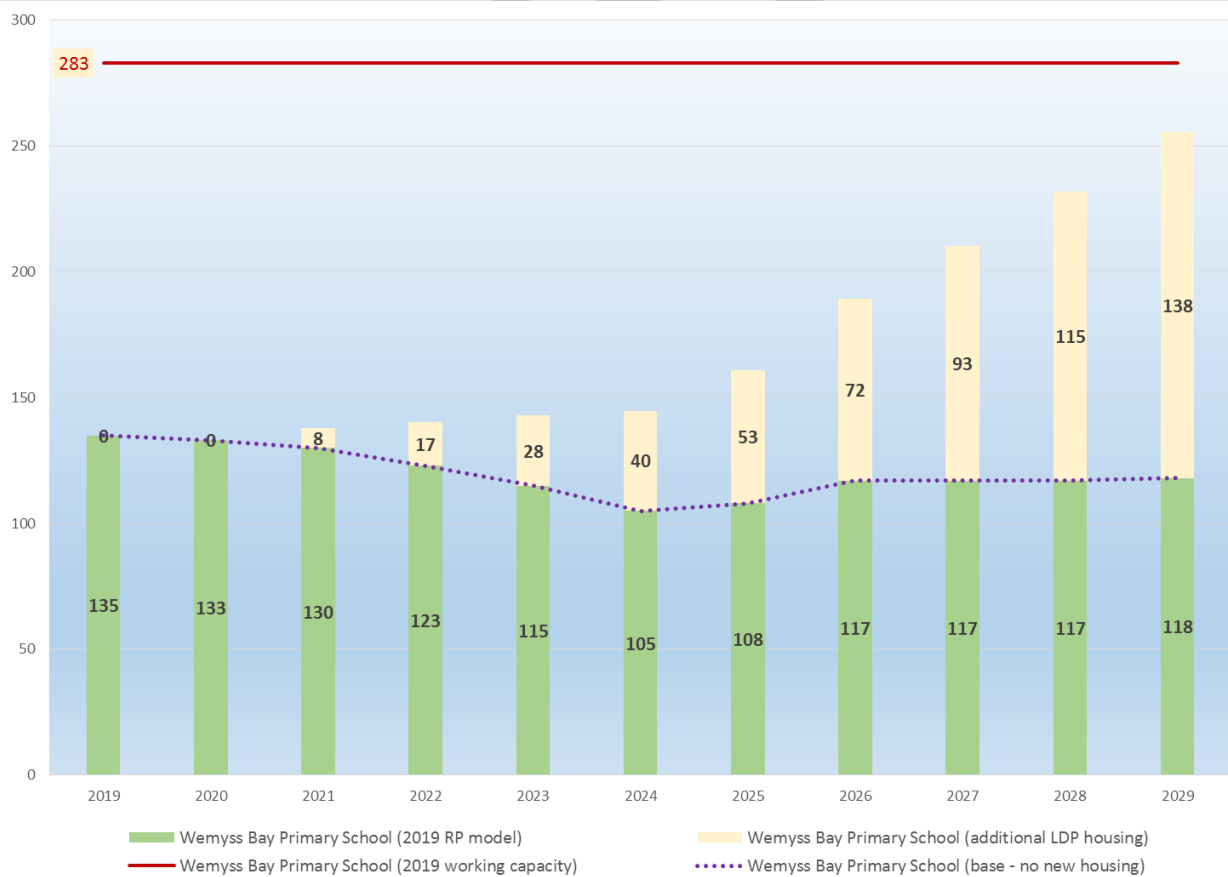
School	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
2019 roll projections											
Inverkip	94%	93%	92%	88%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	83%
St Ninian's	75%	73%	70%	67%	64%	62%	62%	62%	62%	63%	63%
Wemyss Bay	48%	47%	46%	43%	41%	37%	38%	41%	41%	41%	42%
LDP projections											
Inverkip	94%	93%	92%	88%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	83%
St Ninian's	75%	74%	72%	71%	70%	70%	73%	75%	77%	79%	81%
Wemyss Bay	48%	47%	49%	50%	50%	51%	57%	67%	74%	82%	90%

Roll projections for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay primaries shown below.

Figure 4. Inverkip school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP



Figure 5. Wemyss Bay school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP

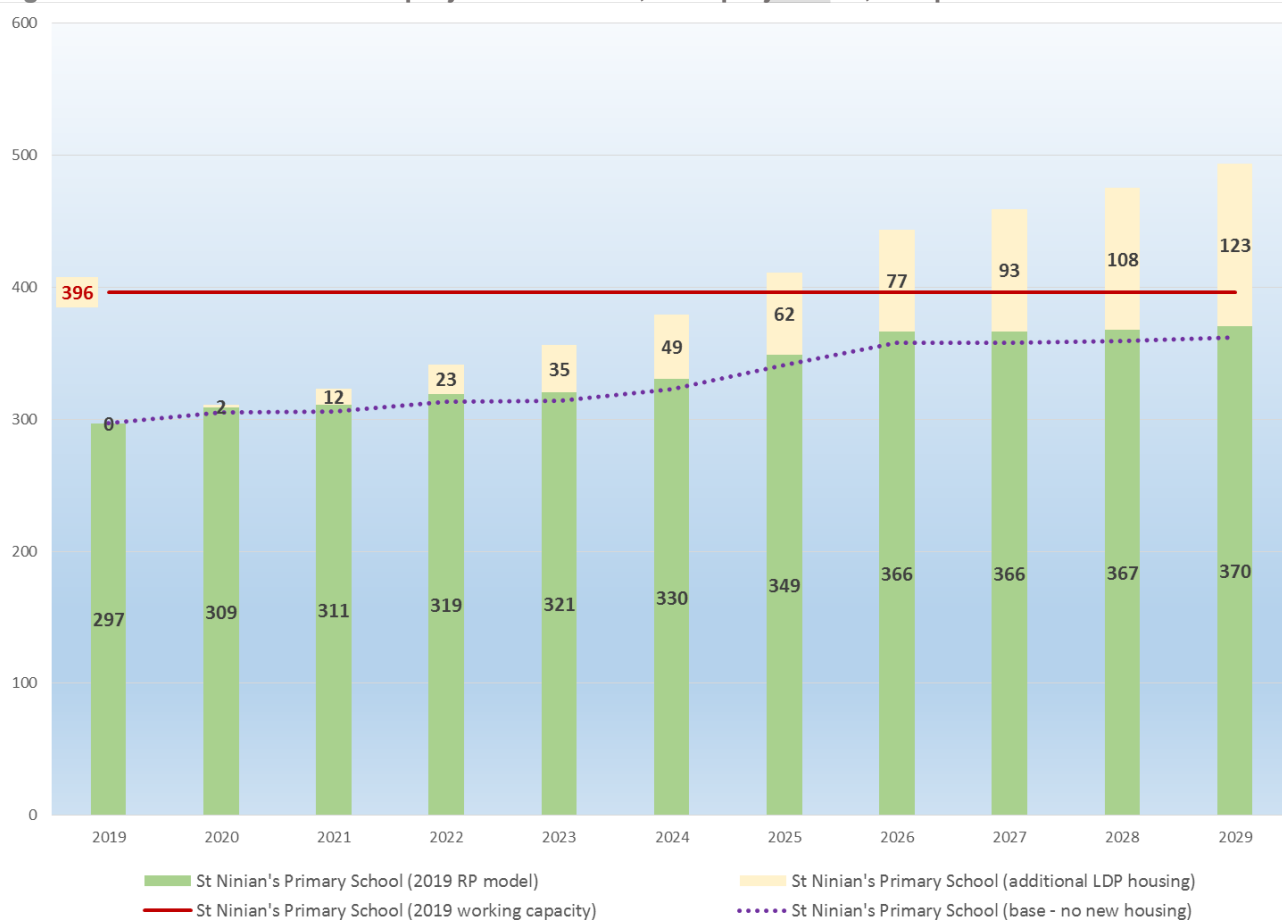


Scenario 2. Roll Projections – Removal of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay as feeder primaries from St Columba’s

To assess the possible impact of the policy change the average expected P1 intake and new housing allocation percentage has been increased for St. Ninian’s to model an expected change of village pupils’ behaviour. The model now assumes an almost 50% allocation between the denominational and non-denominational primaries, whereas under the existing policy St Ninian’s receives a much lower allocation from these villages.

The base model projection and 2019 projection model follow a similar increasing trend which indicates an increase in overall school roll over the ten-year time period, with the school nearing current working capacity (94%). However, with the addition of all the included LDP housing the LDP model forecasts an increasing trend which could see school roll rise to almost 500. This would be dependent on the larger-scale developments at Levan Farm, Kirn Drive, and the former power station going ahead at projected unit numbers and timescales.

Figure 6. St Ninian’s school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP



School	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
2019 roll projections											
Inverkip	94%	89%	84%	76%	66%	62%	58%	54%	55%	55%	55%
St Ninian's	75%	78%	79%	81%	81%	83%	88%	93%	93%	93%	94%
Wemyss Bay	48%	45%	42%	37%	32%	27%	25%	26%	26%	26%	26%
LDP projections											
Inverkip	94%	89%	84%	76%	66%	62%	58%	54%	55%	55%	55%
St Ninian's	75%	78%	82%	86%	90%	96%	104%	112%	116%	120%	125%
Wemyss Bay	48%	45%	43%	41%	38%	35%	37%	41%	46%	51%	56%

Roll projections for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay primaries shown below.

Figure 7. Inverkip school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP

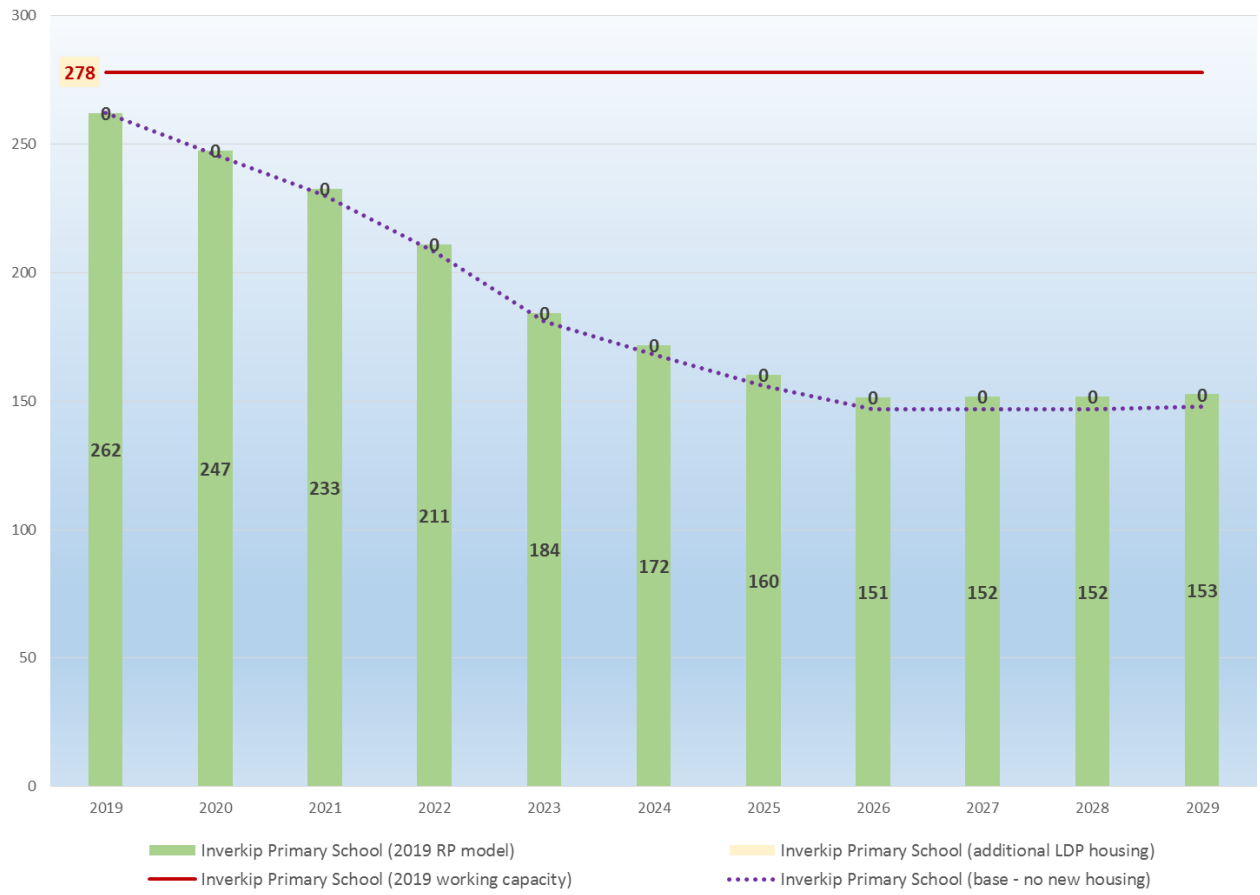
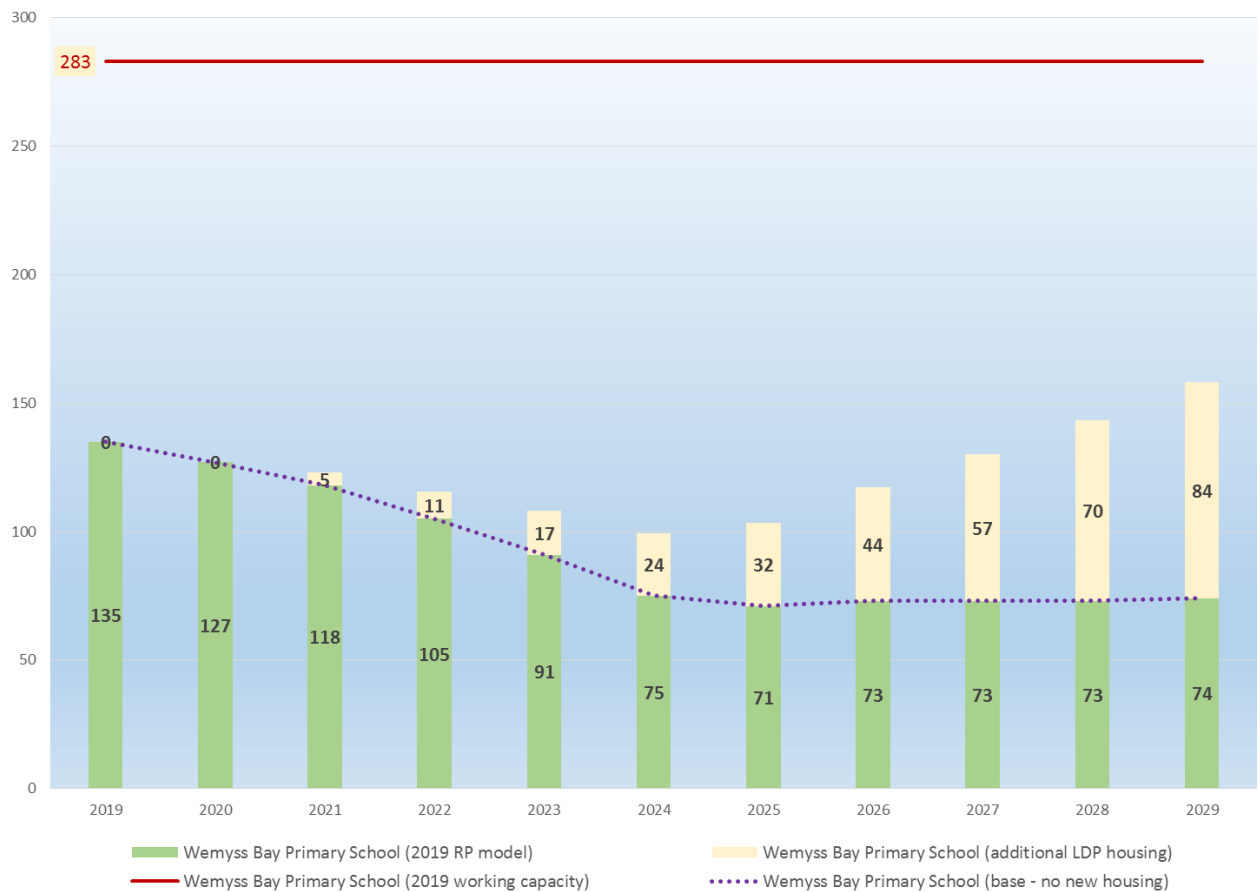


Figure 8. Wemyss Bay school roll projections – base, 2019 projections, and potential LDP



1.1.3 Future considerations

Under the existing policy the school looks to have sufficient capacity to cope with the forecasted school roll over the next ten years. However, a change in policy which results in a higher allocation of pupils from the villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay could lead to pressure on the school's current working capacity. If major proposed developments within the catchment went ahead at forecasted timescales and numbers then the school is unlikely to have capacity to accommodate these additional pupils.

The school may be able to alleviate some of this pressure by considering:

- Existing accommodation – change designation of flexible areas to classrooms.
- Admissions policy – considering the current school comprises at least 23% placing requests there may be an opportunity to alleviate future pressure by application of admissions policy.
- Catchment area – there may be scope to transfer areas into surrounding catchments but this would require further detailed analysis to identify suitable areas and assess impact of change on St Ninian's and neighbouring schools.

The change in policy could also result in a drop in the school roll of both Inverkip and Wemyss Bay primaries. The fall in Wemyss Bay could lead to very low occupancy if the proposed development at the former power station does not go ahead.

Recommended Action

If admissions policy for the village school changes then the catchment areas for these three schools would need to be closely monitored for significant developments going ahead and also monitor school roll for any indicators of significant changes in trend which could lead to under/over occupancy.

Current trends for village schools to St. Columba's High School

This paragraph outlines the situation as of December 2019 for P7s attending village schools. This is before placing requests so the number will change.

In relation to Inverkip Primary School. 53% of current P7 pupils intend to go to Inverclyde Academy. 47% intend to go St. Columba's. Of those intending to attend St. Columba's 70% have Certificates of Baptism* and 30% have siblings at the school but no Certificate of Baptism.

In relation to Wemyss Bay Primary School. 53% of current P7 pupils intend to go to Inverclyde Academy. 47% intend to go St. Columba's. Of those intending to attend St. Columba's 80% have Certificates of Baptism and none have siblings at the school but no Certificate of Baptism.

In relation to the specific questions asked of pupils in P1-6 of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Primary Schools.

In relation to Inverkip Primary School 54% responded to the survey. Of those pupils who responded 17% had a Certificate of Baptism. 20% had a sibling at St. Columba's but no Certificate of Baptism.

Of those who responded 19% said that they intended to send their child to Inverclyde Academy and 36% said that they intended to send their child to St. Columba's. 14% were undecided 29% said they would put placing requests into Clydeview Academy or lived outwith the Authority.

In relation to Wemyss Bay Primary School 44% responded to the survey. Of those pupils who responded 18% had a Certificate of Baptism. 16% had a sibling at St. Columba's but no Certificate of Baptism.

Of those who responded 50% said that they intended to send their child to Inverclyde Academy and 30% said that they intended to send their child to St. Columba's. 8% were undecided 12% said they would put placing requests into Clydeview Academy or lived outwith the Authority.

*Certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.

Appendix 5

Proposed changes to the Policy on Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools to be taken forward to statutory consultation.

Inverclyde Council propose to consult on 2 changes to the Policy on Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools

Change 1 is a change to the wording of Section B paragraph 2.4 (page 4) of the current policy in relation to arrangements for transferring from primary to secondary school.

The policy currently reads:

There are no denominational primary schools in Quarriers Village, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Parents often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances the following admission arrangements will apply:

- children whose parents have selected to send their child to the non-denominational school serving the defined catchment area assigned to their address rather than to their assigned denominational primary school because of travelling distance, will have the choice at primary 7 of seeking admission to either the non-denominational or denominational school assigned to their address. The Council's policy in respect of school transport will apply.

It is proposed to change the policy to:

There are no denominational primary schools in Quarriers Village, Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Parents often choose to send their children to the local non-denominational primary school because of the travelling distance to their nearest denominational primary school. In such circumstances the following admission arrangements will apply:

- Only those children ***who have a certificate of baptism before entry to primary school*** whose parents have selected to send their child to the non-denominational school serving the defined catchment area assigned to their address rather than to their assigned denominational primary school because of travelling distance, will have the choice at primary 7 of seeking admission to the denominational school assigned to their address. The Council's policy in respect of school transport will apply.

Change 2 is a change to the wording of Section C paragraph 1 (page 4/5) of the current policy in relation to the oversubscription of schools

The policy currently reads:

If a school is oversubscribed and cannot take pupils within the defined catchment area and chosen denomination then places will be granted in the following order:

1. A child who has a medical condition or additional support needs, who requires facilities or support only available in the requested school.
2. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the session.
3. In the case of denominational schools: pupils within the catchment area who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a Certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.
4. Distance of home address from the chosen school.

It is proposed to change the policy to:

If a school is oversubscribed and cannot take pupils within the defined catchment area and chosen denomination then places will be granted in the following order:

1. A child who has a medical condition or additional support needs, who requires facilities or support only available in the requested school.
2. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the session.
3. In the case of denominational schools: pupils within the catchment area who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a Certificate of Baptism into the Roman Catholic faith.
4. **In the case of a denominational secondary school which has Kilmacolm, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay (village schools) as an associated school: priority will be given to those who have attended the denominational school associated with the secondary school.**
5. Distance of home address from the chosen school.