
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	9 March 2021
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/18/21/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712748
Subject:	S1 intake for Port Glasgow High School for academic year 2021/22		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Education and Communities Committee to agree to the increase of the S1 intake for Port Glasgow High School from 100 to 120 for the academic year 2021/22.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 For academic year 2021/22 Port Glasgow High School has 100 pupils who wish to attend who live within the catchment area. The yearly intake for the school is 100 pupils. This means that there is no space for any pupils moving into the catchment area and if this was to happen it could result in an extra cost for the authority and disruption to learning and teaching.
- 2.2 Port Glasgow has the capacity to accept up to 120 pupils into S1 for academic year 2021/22. This is because there is space further up the school and also because the total intake across the campus for S1 would be less than 220.
- 2.3 If the capacity is increased then 10 placing requests into the school would be granted.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to agree to the increase of the S1 intake for Port Glasgow High School from 100 to 120 for the academic year 2021/22.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In November 2016 the Education and Communities Committee agreed a staged approach to the revision of capacities and the maximum yearly intake for year groups in secondary schools. The maximum yearly intake for Port Glasgow High School is 100 and the maximum yearly intake for St. Stephen's High School is 120.
- 4.2 The Inverclyde policy on admissions and pupil placements in mainstream schools states that for the purpose of secondary schools which are approaching capacity, Inverclyde Council may keep two places for S1 pupils who move into the catchment area and one place for pupils in other years. This is best practice and minimises disruption for families moving into the area who can reasonably expect to send their child to the local school.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The pupil placement panel met on 2 March 2021 to consider admissions and placing requests for schools. Admissions and placing requests for Port Glasgow High School and St Stephen's High School were considered.
- 5.2 Including placing requests, St Stephen's High School will have 86 pupils in S1 for the academic year 2021/22. Port Glasgow High School has 100 pupils within the catchment area who wish to attend the school for academic year 2021/22. This leaves no flexible spaces for any movement. If a child was to move into the catchment area, then the school would have to completely revise their timetable or, given the time of the year, the authority would send the child to the nearest non-denominational secondary school for a year. Either of these options would be disruptive to the education of pupils.
- 5.3 For academic year 2021/22 it is proposed to increase the maximum yearly intake to 120 for Port Glasgow High School. This would mean that the school could accept placing requests into the school and the roll going into S1 would be 110.
- 5.4 The reasons why the increase of the yearly intake is reasonable in these circumstances are:
 - Taken together the S1 intake for the two mainstream secondary schools on the campus would be 196. This is below the 220 allowed for the total S1 intake and there is flexibility of use of space across the campus.
 - Unlike some other schools, where capacity further up the school can cause pressures, Port Glasgow High School has enough space in the current S4 and S5 to cope with the additional class in S1. In other words, the lower numbers up the school make the timetabling of subjects and rooms further down the school easier.
 - Once the timetable has been set and staffing allocated, if another child comes into the catchment area, there will be the need to allocate additional staffing or to transport the pupils to another non-denominational school. Both of these options will be an additional cost for the authority.
 - To change a timetable at a late stage is very disruptive for all concerned. This is why the authority makes every effort to reserve places in a year group.
 - Given that there is space in the school, the Education Authority would not have grounds for refusing the placing requests.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 Legal services are represented on the Pupil Placement Panel

Human Resources

6.3 HR are aware of this proposal

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.