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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 January 2025</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/10/2025/MR</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Michael Roach Head of Education</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712891</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Future of Additional Support Needs Specialist Provision</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update members on the future requirements of ASN provision from August 2025 and beyond and to ask members of the Education and Communities Committee to agree to a statutory consultation relating to introducing a new ASN provision at Clydeview Academy.

1.3 There is an increasing level of need amongst our learners which requires support from specialist teaching within specialist provisions. As a result, the number of places required in current specialist settings is increasing for August 2025, requiring the service to increase places at both Craigmarloch and All Saints Communication and Language base. Stella Maris places at Notre Dame High School have increased over the previous academic years and it has reached the point where it is necessary to consider a second similar provision at another secondary school. The proposal is to introduce a new secondary provision Clydeview Academy.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:

- note the content of the report and that a future report be brought to committee to update on progress with planning for ASN provision for August 2025
- approve that a statutory consultation is carried out relating to introducing a new ASN provision at Clydeview Academy for 2025 and that a report on this consultation is brought back to committee in the spring once the consultation is complete.

**Ruth Binks  
Corporate Director  
Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 The Education Service takes an inclusive approach to supporting and meeting learners' needs. The service follows national policy in relation to Additional Support for Learning, including the presumption of mainstreaming for pupils. There are a number of different specialist services across Inverclyde which support meeting the range of learners' needs, however some children and young people benefit from specialist teaching methods.
- 3.2 The Education Service offers outreach services such as Inverclyde Communication Outreach service (ICOS), the English as an Additional Language service (EAL), the Visual Impairment Service (VI), Hearing Impairment service as part of the Garvel provision (VI) and the outreach service linked to NEST as part of Lomond View Academy to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- 3.3 The specialist Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Provision in Inverclyde Council currently consists of Craigmarnloch School, Hillend Children's Centre, the Communication and Language Base (CLB) at All Saints Primary School, the Stella Marris provision at Notre Dame High School, Lomond View Academy and the Garvel provision to support deaf learners at Moorfoot Primary and Clydeview Academy.
- 3.4 Over the last 4 years the Education Service has gradually increased capacity within the existing ASL specialist provision as the number of learners requiring places in specialist provision has increased. This has seen the opening of the Onesery (nursery / P1) at Craigmarnloch, the adaptation of internal spaces at Craigmarnloch and across the campus in order to create new learning spaces, and the opening of a fourth class at the All Saints CLB in August 2024.
- 3.5 The rising numbers of learners who require support through a specialist placement has been an identified risk as part of the service's risk register for a number of years and features as part of the Council's Corporate Risk Register.
- 3.6 In October of each year the Education Service's Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum (ASNMF) requests referrals from all education establishments for pupils who may require specialist provision for the following school session.
- 3.7 Prior to October 2024 officers from the service began to scope out the numbers of pupils who would require specialist settings with senior leaders, including carrying out contextualised assessment of pupils to be clear on the right provision that would be required. This intensive work has identified that there is a further increase in the numbers of learners who will require specialist support.
- 3.8 In order to meet these needs across the sectors, work will need to be carried out to enhance and extend existing specialist provision, as well as opening new provision, initially within the secondary sector.

### **4.0 Proposals**

- 4.1 An initial options appraisal has been carried out by officers to identify the best options open to the service to meet this rising need for August 2025. This process has identified the following options as the best preferred routes to meet the rising level of need:

1. Extend the capacity of Craigmarnloch School on the current site by seeking options to create new learning spaces at the campus, including the Enterprise Centre. This is to meet an increased number of pupils requiring to enter the Onesery in August 2025.
  2. Open a 5<sup>th</sup> class at the CLB at All Saints for August 2025, ahead of carrying out a further options appraisal and consultation in order to open a second CLB in another primary school for August 2026.
  3. Open a second secondary based ASN provision, similar to Stella Marris, at Clydeview Academy, for August 2025.
- 4.2 Work is now underway with the Schools Estates programme Board, to progress work to identify solutions to address the increase in specialist provision as outlined at 3.8. as in 2.1 a report will be brought back to committee outlining these as well as the related costs.
- 4.3 As well as this, work is underway to identify the impact the increased number of learners attending these settings will have on the ASN transport budget, which is already under significant pressure.
- 4.4 Further work is underway to identify the level of need beyond August 2025. Officers are working with senior leaders in all establishments to be clearer on whether the picture we are seeing for August 2025 is to be sustained at this level, decrease or increase further.
- 4.5 ASN Provision at Clydeview Academy  
In order to progress the third option of provision at Clydeview Academy, a statutory consultation will require to be undertaken during the spring term (see Appendix 1). Committee is therefore asked to approve this in order to allow the process to continue.

Currently all pupils who require additional specialist support for their learning relating to a language and communication profile, but who don't require the specialist input for more complex needs of Craigmarnloch, are offered places at the Stella Marris provision at Notre Dame High School.

Notre Dame High school accommodates 160 pupils in each year group. Approximately 10 pupils in each year make up the total population of the Stella Marris provision.

The number of current P7 pupils who will require a placement in such provision for August 2025, as identified from the process referred to in 3.6, is 19, almost double the numbers.

It is therefore proposed than rather than extend the number of pupils entering Stella Marris, that a new provision, making a similar offer, is opened at a second school i.e. Clydeview Academy.

Clydeview has been identified as the preferred option due to the fact that the school currently has capacity for 180 pupils in each year group and after it has served its catchment in recent years, has filled up its S1 intake with placing requests from other schools. Therefore, there is capacity for 10 places per year to be assigned to a new specialist provision. This would reduce the number of places that could be offered to families making a placing request into the school.

The overall roll projections for Clydeview in the coming years are for the catchment numbers to decrease.

Whilst there is space within Inverclyde Academy due to the school being under capacity, roll projections for future years indicate that the roll may increase and that consideration needs to be given to protecting the school's ability to serve its catchment due to the proposed house building in the local area, namely at the old Inverkip power station site.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources	X	
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing	X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

### 5.2 Finance

It is anticipated that any revenue costs will be contained in existing budgets or within the Council's share of the extra £28 million allocated to ASL as part of the 2025/26 Budget. The Council's share will be confirmed in coming months.

#### Staffing

Final figures are still to be identified, however it is planned that the additional staffing required will come from within the existing education budget, partly by reassigning existing teaching posts to the new provisions.

#### Capital

The provisions at both Clydeview and All Saints will use existing spaces and as such will not require significant capital investment, namely possible adjustments to security.

Work is underway with colleagues with the estates team to identify solutions to accommodation at the campus for the additional provision in 2025.

#### Transport

As in 4.3 work is under way to identify the impact of the increased number of pupils being transported to these provisions.

Annual recurring costs (savings)

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

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

If the local authority is unable to make provision to meet the needs to its learners, including through specialist placements, then there is a risk that the council could be taken to ASN tribunal by families and ordered to either provide this within its own estate or by paying for pupils to attend costly out of authority placements.

### 5.4 Human Resources

As above.

## 5.5 Strategic

N/A.

## 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

### (a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

Y	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required. This will be produced after the consultation process.
	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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

### (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

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

Y	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

### (c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

Y	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

## 5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
N	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

## 5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
N	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 As above in 4.5 a statutory consultation involving Education Scotland will be required to introduce the ASN provision at Clydeview Academy.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A.

## **Education Services Proposal to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy**

Any proposals to discontinue or introduce permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

## Consultation proposal document

Inverclyde Council are looking for your views on our proposal to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy.

Any proposals to discontinue or introduce permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

**Closing date for responses on this consultation will be:**

- **Monday 10th March 2025**

**There will be a public meeting held on:**

- **11<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 at 18:30 at Clydeview Academy**

This document has been issued by Inverclyde Council for consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: (01475) 712850.



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- 8. Responding to the proposal**
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## Communication list and how to access the proposal document:

### Statutory consultees:

- The Parent Council of affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity)
- Council employees at the affected schools
- Trade Union representatives
- Church representatives

### Other stakeholders who will be contacted:

- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)
- Community Councils

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form. Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### Accessing the proposal document

The steps listed below have been taken to ensure that the proposal document is widely available.

- Notice of the proposal and of publication of this proposal document have been placed in the Greenock Telegraph to engage with the general community.
- The proposal document has been published on the Inverclyde Council website:

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

- This document can be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Education Services on (01475) 712850.
- The proposal document will also be available for inspection at all educational establishments, Council Customer Services and libraries.

## **1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES**

- 1.1 Clydeview Academy is located in Gourrock. The school provides secondary education for 1027 (Dec 2024) young people aged 11 - 18 years. The school also has a provision to support deaf learners, shared with Moorfoot Primary School.
- 1.2 Over time the number of young people across Inverclyde who require support from specialist teaching within specialist provisions in order to best meet their needs is increasing. This includes support from ASN provisions within mainstream settings.
- 1.3 Currently within Inverclyde there is one specialist ASN provision within a mainstream secondary setting based at Notre Dame High School called the Stella Maris provision. This provision provides support for learners who have a language and communication profile which requires the support of specialist staff and teaching. The provision allows pupils to learn both within the provision, as well as being supported to access their learning in mainstream classes.
- 1.4 Currently the Stella Maris provision provides places to approx. 10 pupils per year group and is now full. The projected number of pupils who will need to attend this provision for August 2025 now exceeds the number of places on offer.

## **2.0 PROPOSED OPTION**

- 2.1 The proposal of this consultation process is to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy from August 2025. The provision would offer spaces for up to 10 pupils per year group for young people who have a language and communication profile which requires the support of specialist staff and teaching. Pupils would be supported in their learning within the provision as well as accessing their learning within mainstream classes.
- 2.2 The provision would provide places for pupils who live within the catchment areas of Clydeview Academy, St Columba's High School and Inverclyde Academy.
- 2.3 The provision would be led by a Principal teacher, along with other teaching and support staff.
- 2.4 The provision would be housed within existing learning space already within the building at Clydeview Academy that has been identified as being fit for purpose.
- 2.5 Decisions about places for pupils to attend the provision would be made via a referral process made by the pupil's current school to the Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum (ASNMF), chaired by the Principal Educational Psychologist.
- 2.6 Clydeview Academy can accommodate 180 pupils per year group. Currently, not all of these places are taken up by pupils from within the school's catchment area, with the remaining places being allocated through placing requests made to the school. This means that the school has rooms or places that can be assigned to pupils to attend a new ASN provision. This is the same approach taken for the Stella Maris provision at Notre Dame High School.

### 3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 The formal consultation on the proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. The consultation requires to run for 30 school days and will start on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 and will end on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.

3.2 The schools affected by this proposal are:

Clydeview Academy

#### 3.3 Public Meeting

There will be 1 public meeting to held on:

- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 18:30 at Clydeview Academy

The meetings will provide those in attendance with an opportunity to:

- Hear about the proposal.
- Ask questions about the proposal.
- Express views about the proposal.

A note will be taken of the views expressed during the public meeting and of any questions asked. In addition to the public meeting, written representations including online responses will be able to be made during the consultation period.

#### 3.4 Who will be consulted?

Statutory consultees:

- The Parent Partnership (or equivalent) of the school.
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected school.
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document.
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity).
- Council employees at the affected schools.
- Trade Union representatives.
- Church representatives.

Other stakeholders who will be contacted:

- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)
- Community Councils

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form.

#### 3.5 Involvement of Education Scotland

The Council will provide the proposal document to Education Scotland at the start of the consultation period. When the consultation period has ended, the Council will

collate all of the written and oral representations. Thereafter, the following information will be provided to Education Scotland:

- A copy of relevant written representations made to the Council on the proposal (or summary of them if agreed within Education Scotland).
- A summary of oral representations made at the public meetings.
- Other relevant documentation, as far as is practicable.

Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal taking account of the above, the Educational Benefits Statement contained in this proposal document and in so far that Education Scotland considers them relevant, any written representations made directly to them. Education Scotland may also visit the schools affected by the proposal and make reasonable inquiries of persons there and of such other persons as they consider appropriate. Education Scotland require to send their report to the Council no later than 3 weeks (or longer if agreed with the Council) after having received the information from the Council.

### 3.6 Consultation Report

After receiving Education Scotland's report, the Council will review the proposal taking account of relevant written representations received during the consultation period, oral representations made during the public meeting and Education Scotland's report. The Council will then prepare and publish a consultation report which will include a recommendation on the proposal.

The Council will notify key stakeholders of the publication of the consultation report, which will be made available on the Council website, in schools and at Council Headquarters.

The consultation report will be published 3 weeks before it is formally considered by the Council.

### 3.7 Inaccuracies or omissions

Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within this proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these events all relevant consultees (and where applicable the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and Education Scotland will be advised of the appropriate action. Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of and any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination / decision on the matter.

## 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is expected that the proposal, if accepted, would be implemented from the start of the school term in August 2025.

## 5.0 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS – ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

Education is a key priority of Inverclyde Council.

- 5.1 Inverclyde Council is firmly committed to delivering a high-quality education provision in learning environments fit for learning and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Environments that nurture ambition and aspirations, improve attainment and achievement, and create and widen opportunities for all children and young people to achieve their full potential and move into positive and sustained destinations when they leave school. The Council also demonstrates its strong belief in the value of education through financial investment to allow full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and supporting programmes and activities that focus on removing barriers to learning and closing the attainment gap.
- 5.2 The Education Service takes an inclusive approach to supporting and meeting learners' needs. The service follows national policy in relation to Additional Support for Learning, including the presumption of mainstreaming for pupils. There are a number of different specialist services across Inverclyde which support meeting the range of learners' needs, however some children and young people benefit from specialist teaching methods.
- 5.3 The Education Service offers outreach services such as Inverclyde Communication Outreach service (ICOS), the English as an Additional Language service (EAL), the Visual Impairment Service (VI), Hearing Impairment service as part of the Garvel provision and the outreach service linked to NEST as part of Lomond View Academy to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- 5.4 The specialist Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Provision in Inverclyde Council currently consists of Craigmarloch School, Hillend Children's Centre, the Communication and Language Base (CLB) at All Saints Primary School, the Stella Maris provision at Notre Dame High School, Lomond View Academy and the Garvel provision to support deaf learners at Moorfoot Primary and Clydeview Academy.
- 5.5 Over the last 4 years the Education Service has gradually increased capacity within the existing ASL specialist provision as the number of learners requiring places in specialist provision has increased. This has seen the opening of the Onesery (nursery / P1) at Craigmarloch, the adaptation of internal spaces at Craigmarloch and across the campus in order to create new learning spaces and the opening of a fourth class at the CLB at All Saints Primary School in August 2024.
- 5.6 Currently all secondary pupils who require additional specialist support for their learning relating to a language and communication profile, but who don't require the specialist input for more complex needs of Craigmarloch, are offered places at the Stella Marris provision at Notre Dame High School.
- 5.7 Notre Dame High school accommodates 160 pupils in each year group. Approx. 10 pupils in each year make up the total population of the Stella Marris provision. The number of current P7 pupils who will require a placement in such provision for August 2025, now exceeds this number.

- 5.8 It is therefore proposed than rather than extend the number of pupils entering Stella Maris, that a new provision, making a similar offer, is opened at a second school i.e. Clydeview Academy.
- 5.9 Clydeview has been identified as the preferred option due to the fact that the school currently has capacity for 180 pupils in each year group and after it has served its catchment in recent years, has filled up its S1 intake with placing requests from other schools. Therefore, there is capacity for 10 places per year to be assigned to a new specialist provision. This would reduce the number of places that could be offered to families making a placing request into the school.
- 5.10 The overall roll projections for Clydeview in the coming years are for the catchment numbers to decrease.
- 5.11 The education benefits of the proposal will mean that more pupils can be best supported to access their learning in a mainstream setting in line with national and local policies. The local authority has a duty to meet pupils' needs by providing appropriate education provision and this provision will support the education service to ensure this is the case.
- 5.12 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken in the preparation of this proposal and any equality issues that are raised during the consultation period will be taken into account.

## **6.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As above the provision will be led by a Principal teacher, as well as specialist teaching staff and Pupil Support Assistants.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The cost of the related staffing for the provision will be met from within the education service's core budget. There are limited costs related to the repurposing of the existing accommodation at the school.

## **8.0 RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 8.1 Page 4 of this document provides details on how to access a copy of the proposal document.
- 8.2 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## 9.0 Appendix 1 – Consultation response form



### Appendix 1

## Education Services

# Consultation on the introduction of an ASN provision at Clydeview Academy

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please use this form to let us know what you think about this proposal

The closing date for responses is **10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**.

### **This form should be returned to:**

Education Services  
Wallace Place  
Greenock  
PA15 1JB

Inverclyde Council are looking for your views on our proposal to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy.

Any proposals to discontinue or introduce permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.



**Q1 Do you agree with the proposal to introduce an ASN provision to Clydeview Academy?**

Yes  No  Undecided

**This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response.**

**This box gives an opportunity to explain the reasons for your response.**

**In order to validate your response to this proposal please provide your details:**  
*(this section must be completed in order for your views to be taken into account)*

**Name**

**Address**

**If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:**

**Q2 I am responding in my capacity as a** *(please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below):*

- Parent/carer of a child at primary school
- Parent/carer of a child at secondary school
- Parent/carer of a child in nursery
- Parent Council member (primary school)
- Parent Council member (secondary school)
- Member of staff at primary school
- Member of staff at secondary school
- Church representative
- Elected member
- Trade Union
- Member of the public
- Member of Community Council
- Bord na Gaidhlig

Other group (please specify)

**Handling your response – Please note that:**

We will use the information you provide for the purpose of this consultation, including statistical and analytical purposes.

We will pass a full copy of your response to Education Scotland, or a summary of it if agreed with them.

We are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore would have to consider any request made under the Act for information relating to written responses/records or oral representations made to us relating to this consultation.

**Thank you for taking the time to respond.**