

STIRLING COUNCIL

SCHOOLS, LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Establishment of a Non-Denominational Primary School and Associated Catchment Area at South Stirling Gateway Housing Development Consultation

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Proposal Paper – January 2024

1. Introduction

- This proposal paper is being published in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the Act”).
- The proposal outlined in this paper relates to the planned establishment of a non-denominational primary school and a new catchment area for the established primary school. The proposal includes an interim admission arrangement for Bannockburn Primary School until the new primary school opens, currently planned for August 2026.
- The principle purpose of the Act is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of relevant proposals relating to education provision as defined by the Act.
- The Act requires local authorities to prepare a proposal paper to set out the details of the relevant proposal or proposals. An Educational Benefits Statement must be prepared and published within the proposal paper. It should consider the likely effects of the proposal on current and future pupils of any affected school, any other users of the school’s facilities, and the pupils of other schools in the authority’s area. It should also state the effects of the proposal if implemented and explain how the local authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects of the proposal.
- This paper sets out the rationale for, and implications of, the proposal which seeks to create a new non-denominational primary school establishment within South Stirling Gateway. The paper also sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.

2. Background

- The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 requires local authorities to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education and further education within their area for the current school population and future pattern of school demand.

- This paper proposes that a new non-denominational primary school be established within the South Stirling Gateway housing development. This proposal includes the establishment of a new primary school catchment area.
- Stirling Council's Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2022 highlights the approved development of 1100 residential homes on the South Stirling Gateway development site, located between Bannockburn and the Pirnhall M9 junction.
- It is estimated that this level of development could generate around 300 primary school aged pupils upon completion of the full development site. This total volume of pupils could not be accommodated within a single established non-denominational primary school provision in the areas of Stirling which are close to the development site.
- Stirling Council's Schools, Learning and Education Service has determined that additional primary school capacity is required to alleviate pressures on existing school capacity arising from the South Stirling Gateway development. Due to the size of the development, it has been determined that this should be facilitated through the establishment of a new non-denominational primary school within the site.
- Secondary school provision will be available at Bannockburn High School. There is an additional housing development planned on a nearby site to South Stirling Gateway which will also be within the catchment area for Bannockburn High School. Bannockburn High School currently has the capacity to accommodate secondary school pupils arising from these developments for approximately 7 academic years based on current projections. Discussions are ongoing as to how best mitigate capacity breaches that are projected in future.

3. Funding

- The proposed primary school solution has been developed during the negotiation of the Section 75 agreement, and in association with the development of Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions. The identified primary school solution is for a maximum 11 classroom primary school, initially developed as a 7 classroom school with the ability to extend by another 4 classrooms based on review of the pupil roll projections.
- The overall development cost for the proposed primary school has been assessed at £13.96M, over 11 years. This comprises the initial 7 classroom primary school and the potential 4 classroom extension, if required upon review of the pupil roll projections.
- Developer contributions, as identified in Stirling Council's Draft Supplementary Guidance for Developer contributions have been assessed to be £6.856M.

4. Site Location

- The precise location of the primary school within South Stirling Gateway housing development site is yet to be determined, although preferred sites have been identified.
- The phase of the building development which would include the school location has not yet been applied for. It is expected that the application will be made before the end of 2023.
- Once the application is approved, the Infrastructure Team will take forward the decision making process to determine the location of the primary school, which will be shared with the relevant consultees in due course.

5. Catchment Area

- The proposed catchment area for the new primary school would cover the entirety of the South Stirling Gateway housing development.
- This means that primary school aged children who are resident within the development will be entitled to enrol at the proposed primary school.
- There is capacity at nearby denominational primary schools to accommodate any pupils who are eligible to enrol there.
- Parents and carers of pupils resident within the development and within the catchment area of the new primary school will remain entitled to submit a Placing Request should they wish their child to attend an alternative primary school. Similarly, families out with the catchment area of the proposed school will also be entitled to submit a Placing Request for their child to attend the proposed school.
- Families with children of pre-school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the proposed primary school, will be within the catchment area for Bannockburn Primary School. These are interim admission arrangements for Bannockburn Primary School until the new primary school opens in August 2026.
- Families with children of primary school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the proposed primary school, will not be required to transfer their children out of their current school to either Bannockburn Primary School, or the proposed school upon its completion.
- Should families of current primary school aged children moving into the development before the completion of the proposed primary school chose for their children to attend the catchment school for their new home address, the catchment school will be Bannockburn Primary School until the proposed primary school is completed.

- Younger siblings of those pupils who either transferred to, or began education at Bannockburn Primary School before the completion of the proposed school and living within the proposed primary school catchment area, will retain catchment status of the older sibling provided they are still enrolled at Bannockburn Primary School. Those younger siblings will be permitted to attend Bannockburn Primary School if parents prefer their children to attend the same school.
- Families who move into the new development can chose for their children to continue in their original primary school relative to their previous address, even after the proposed primary school becomes operational. Once the proposed primary school is operational, this would become the catchment primary school for children due to begin P1. Siblings due to begin primary education would therefore require a placing request to attend the same school as their older sibling(s).
- Once the development primary school building is operational, there will be no mandatory transfer of pupils to the new development primary school.

6. Educational Benefits Statement

- This Educational Benefits Statement considers the educational benefits, should the proposal be implemented.
- Current and Future Pupils
 - It is anticipated that the provision of a primary school within the housing development will have a positive impact on the delivery of learning and teaching for future pupils. The new facility of high quality, modern learning and teaching spaces will be flexible, functional and future proof, creating an inspiring and innovative learning environment which will support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.
 - Building the proposed primary school creates primary education provision within the new housing development, allowing children and families the choice to be educated in their local community without the need to travel to nearby education provisions.
 - The internal and external facilities of the proposed primary school will meet all legislative requirements for the space requirements, design and delivery of a new build school building. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Dining area
 - Break out spaces
 - General purpose rooms
 - Outdoor playground space
 - Grass playing field/pitch
 - The proposed school will be built in line with all current disability accessibility legislation. This will allow any potential pupils with disabilities or access requirements to be educated in their local community with their peers and neighbours, if this is best suited to their individual needs.

- Once the new school is completed, it will become operational at the start of the next academic year. The aim is that this will minimise disruption to pupils remaining in Bannockburn Primary School, assist teaching staff with preparation for the new school year and aid a smooth transition for those choosing to transfer to the newly opened school.
 - Parents will have the final decision on whether transferring to the newly opened school will be beneficial for their child, however children's views about this will also be of central importance. Pupils who do transfer will be supported with the transition by staff at the new primary school.
 - No negative implications are anticipated for current or future pupils.
- Parents and Carers
 - It is anticipated that the provision of primary education on the housing development site will be of benefit to parents and carers, as well as the pupils themselves. Benefits could include:
 - Ease of school drop off/pick up during the school day
 - Close proximity to housing provision to aid accessibility for families who may be economically disadvantaged
 - Development of community networks
 - Reduction of traffic, pollution and promotion of active travel
 - Aid parental engagement with school community
 - Parents and carers are an integral part of the school community and the provision of the new primary school will allow working partnerships between staff and families to develop, and drive the success of the new school.
 - No negative implications are anticipated for parents and carers of future pupils.
- Staff and School Management Arrangements
 - Recruitment for the required staff complement of teaching, management and support staff will take place in due course at appropriate timescales in relation to the completion of the building work.
- Travel and Transport
 - Active travel to the proposed school will be promoted and a travel plan will be developed upon completion of the build.
 - Stirling Council's School Transport Policy will apply.
- Local Community
 - It is anticipated that having primary school provision on site will help to develop a community within the new housing development as residents who are primary school age will attend the proposed school. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet other residents within the housing development during drop off, collection and school events.
 - Community groups seeking to establish provision within the new housing development may be able to book space in the primary school building to use for their specific purpose. It is yet to be decided if this school will be able to be used as a bookable space for community groups, however there is a precedent for this within some schools in the authority.

- Having a new school located in the community means that it is more accessible for those who may be economically disadvantaged.

7. Consultation Process

The consultation process will be carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and a summary is shown below:

Process	Indicative Date
Consultation document issued to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school, • the parents of the pupils at any affected school, • the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper, • the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity), • the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school, • any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (e), • the community council (if any), • the community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant • i) any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant. 	10 January 2024
Consultation begins through the Engage platform.	10 January 2024
Promotion advising the public of the consultation and date of the public meeting.	10 January 2024
Public consultation meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 th February 2024 in Bannockburn Primary School.	06 February 2024
Public consultation ends (at least 6 weeks after the public consultation begins, excluding school holidays).	01 March 2024
Report to Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	08 March 2024

Response from Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	29 March 2024
Consultation response report prepared and published by the authority.	April 2024
Consultation report submitted to the relevant Committee or full Council as appropriate with final recommendations for consideration.	May 2024

8. Responding to the Proposal

Engage Stirling is the council's consultation and engagement platform. We now host all of our consultations and engagement projects in one place to make it easy for everyone to access all of our live consultations and petitions. This also ensures that we can provide easy to access updates so everyone can see how their views influence policy and practice within the council.

Engage Stirling is open to everyone over the age of thirteen. They can access Engage from any device and create an account by following the on screen prompts. Users are only asked to sign up once and when this is done, they can access all of our live consultations and petitions hosted on the site.

The consultation period will run from 10 January 2024 to 01 March 2024.

A public consultation meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6.30pm in Bannockburn Primary School.

To submit a response using an alternative method please contact educationenquiries@stirling.gov.uk or call 01786 233185.

9. Data Protection

The information you provide in the survey will be treated as confidential and in adherence with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. To find out more about your data protection rights and how we will use your data please see this [Privacy Notice](#).