

Schools, Learning and Education
Amalgamation of policies to create Education Admissions Policy
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
Proposal – May 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This proposal paper is being published in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.2. The proposals outlined in this Proposal Document seek to combine and update separate policies and guidelines in relation to admission to Stirling nurseries, schools and specialist ASN provisions to create the Education Admissions Policy.

2. Background

- 2.1. At present, Schools, Learning and Education has five separate policies and processes that relate to admission to educational establishments in Stirling.

These are:

- 2.1.1. Nursery Admissions Policy.
[Nursery admissions and charging policy | Stirling Council](#)
- 2.1.2. Early Entry to School Policy.
[Early entry to school policy | Stirling Council](#)
- 2.1.3. School Admissions Policy.
[Admissions to schools policy | Stirling Council](#)
- 2.1.4. Placing Request Policy.
[Placing request policy | Stirling Council](#)
- 2.1.5. GIRFEC Resource Group Guidelines - Planning for Placement within Stirling Special Schools and Provisions

3. Reasons for Formulating the Proposal

- 3.1. The aforementioned policies and processes are due for review.
- 3.2. Commencement of work by Officers to begin the review process highlighted that there were five separate documents where parents/carers could find information relevant to admission to educational establishments in Stirling.
- 3.3. In addition, feedback received from parents over the past academic year highlighted that there were areas contained within policies and guidelines that were duplicated, unclear and inconsistent.
- 3.4. To better support residents of Stirling and those outwith the Authority who wish for their children to attend a nursery and/or school in Stirling, and to address the points raised by parents/carers, amalgamation of all items relating to education admissions is being proposed.

4. Details of Proposed Changes

- 4.1. As part of the review, Officers wish to consult on:
 - 4.1.1. Amalgamating the aforementioned policies and processes to create the Education Admissions Policy.
 - 4.1.2. Amending the structure of the aforementioned policies and processes to avoid duplication as a result of the amalgamation.
 - 4.1.3. Making contextual changes to the content of the aforementioned policies and processes to provide clarity for parents/carers, and better reflect current practice.
 - 4.1.4. How the implementation of The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 affects the education admissions process.
- 4.2. Officers will create a draft amalgamated version of what the new Education Admissions Policy could look like to accompany the consultation. This will be updated as required following the feedback received during the consultation process.
- 4.3. A finalised version of the Education Admissions Policy will then be presented to the Children and Young People Committee before the end of the 2025/26 academic session for final approval.

5. Educational Benefits Statement

- 5.1. This Educational Benefits Statement considers the educational benefits should the proposal be implemented.
- 5.2. Current and Future Pupils
 - 5.2.1. Current and future pupils would be positively affected by this proposal as information regarding the admissions process would be clearer. This will provide support to parents/carers when completing enrolment or placing request applications for pupils, or young people themselves as applicable.
 - 5.2.2. The implementation of The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 has formalised the voice of children and young people and by updating its policies and processes, Stirling Council will be able to incorporate this into the admissions process.
 - 5.2.3. These benefits are relevant to all current and future pupils from across the local authority area, and those outwith the authority who wish for their child/ren to access educational establishments in Stirling.
- 5.3. Parents and Carers
 - 5.3.1. Amalgamating all information relating to school admissions will benefit parents/carers as there will be one point of reference for admissions to all educational establishments in Stirling.
 - 5.3.2. This will benefit parents/carers who may have children of various ages and require information regarding different stages of education.

- 5.3.3. Parents/carers will have a clearer understanding of the processes related to consideration of a placement in one of Stirling's specialist ASN provisions.
- 5.3.4. Reflecting feedback already received from parents/carers and staff, updating the policies and processes as part of the amalgamation will ensure that the information contained within is clear, concise and reflects current practice.
- 5.4. As this proposal is in regards to policy and processes, there are no anticipated negative outcomes for members of staff or the wider community as a result of the proposal.

6. Date of Change

- 6.1. Once the final version of the amalgamated policy has received committee approval, it will be implemented from the start of the next academic year. This is expected to be the 2026/27 academic session.

7. Consultation Process

7.1. 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"> a) the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school, b) the parents of the pupils at any affected school, c) 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, d) the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity), e) the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school, f) any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (e), g) the community council (if any), h) 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, i) any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant j) any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant. 	25 August 2025
Consultation begins through the Engage platform.	25 August 2025
Promotion advising the public of the consultation and date of the public meeting.	w/c 25August 2025
Public consultation meeting to be held in – Bannockburn Learning Community McLaren Learning Community Wallace Learning Community Dates and locations TBC	September 2025
Public consultation ends (6 weeks after the public consultation meeting, excluding school holidays).	3 October 2025
Report to Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	10 October 2025
Response from Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	October 2025
Consultation response report submitted to the relevant Committee or full Council as appropriate with final recommendations for consideration.	February 2026

8. Responding to the Proposal

- 8.1. [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.
- 8.2. 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 Stirling's live consultations and petitions hosted on the site.
- 8.3. The consultation period will run from 25 August – 3 October 2025.
- 8.4. Public consultation meetings will take place in the Bannockburn, McLaren and Wallace learning communities.
- 8.5. To submit a response using an alternative method please contact educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk or call 01786 233220.

9. Data Protection

The information provided 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 data protection rights and how we will use data please see this [Privacy Notice](#).