

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 11 JANUARY 2010

REPORT ON: EDUCATION CONCORDAT COMMITMENTS ON CLASS SIZES AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 26-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report addresses the Concordat agreements on class sizes and free school meals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committees are recommended to:

- i. note the content of this report;
- ii. approve the proposals which will ensure progress is made towards achieving a maximum class size of 18 for children in P1 to P3;
- iii. approve the proposal to establish breakfast clubs in those primary schools currently without that facility; and
- iv. note that the proposals in this report have been submitted to COSLA (subject to Committees' approval), who have requested this information from all Councils.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1.1 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the financial implications.

3.1.2 Regarding class sizes, the estimated cost of employing the 13.2 FTE staff required to deliver the target in the 13 priority schools identified (paragraph 4.2.5 below) would be £249,000 in 2010-11 and £431,000 in a full year.

3.1.3 It is intended that many of these additional jobs would be taken up by Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs).

3.1.4 Funding to support these costs will come from monies made available by the Scottish Government to support Concordat commitments.

3.2.1 With regard to the provision of breakfast clubs (paragraph 4.3 below), the cost of a club operating with 25 children daily amounts to £9,000 in a full year, or £11,000 if there are 40 children daily. In addition there would be start-up costs of £500 per club.

3.2.2 The total maximum cost of establishing 13 clubs across the city would be £90,000 in a part year and £143,000 in a full year (depending on the number of children attending). There would also be an initial collective start-up cost of £6,500. As with the class sizes proposal, funding to support these costs will come from

monies made available by the Scottish Government to support Concordat commitments.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Scottish Government has indicated that, in the current financial climate, it is prepared to offer some flexibility to Councils but it is their aspiration that priority will be given to reducing class sizes in P1 to P3.

4.2 Class Sizes

4.2.1 Currently, 5.4% of Dundee children and 13% of Scotland's children in P1 to P3 are educated in classes of 18 or lower. As a guideline, Scottish Government has expressed the expectation that that figure, across Scotland, will rise to 20% in 2010-11, and that all authorities will seek to make their own progress and contribution to that general goal.

4.2.2 As reported in paragraph 3.1.2 above, there are clear financial implications in employing sufficient teaching staff to achieve smaller class sizes.

4.2.3 It is proposed that a priority list should be established, and preference should be given to schools identified as being in the most deprived communities in the Council's area. Information is available from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data which, along with free school meals data, can help to identify these schools.

4.2.4 It will be important to ensure that future new build projects take account at the design stage of the need for smaller class sizes.

4.2.5 Appendix 2 lists the 13 primary schools to be prioritised for the introduction of smaller class sizes in P1 to P3. Three of these schools require no additional staff (Gowriehill, Our Lady's and Sidlaw View). All 13 schools have sufficient accommodation and, with the exception of Gowriehill, a level of free meal entitlement of 40% of children or more. In addition, all the schools are located in Scotland's 20% most deprived zones, except Rosebank whose level of free meal entitlement warrants its inclusion.

4.2.6 The achievement of this target in 2010-11 would increase the number of children in P1 to P3 educated in class sizes of 18 or lower from 5.4% to 26.1%.

4.3 Free School Meals

4.3.1 The extension of entitlement to those families in receipt of tax credits was achieved in August 2009.

4.3.2 Regarding the provision of free school meals to children in P1 to P3, Scottish Government has indicated that, if progress can be seen in the achievement of the class size target, Councils should have some flexibility in their approach to this Concordat commitment. The term 'free school meal' can mean either breakfast or lunch. In addition, Councils are encouraged to target the 20% most deprived communities in their area.

4.3.3 Dundee City Council has been proactive in establishing 17 breakfast clubs covering 19 schools across the city. They continue to have proven success in

terms of providing a nutritious start to the day for mainly vulnerable children, of improving pupil attendance and behaviour, and of allowing Head Teachers to target the most vulnerable in their community.

- 4.3.4 In the period April to October 2009, an average daily number of meals per school ranging from 13 to 50 had been served, and in the same period a total of 30,523 meals.
- 4.3.5 As a result, it is now proposed that a further 13 clubs be established, covering the remaining 18 schools. With joint facilities where appropriate, as already occurs in two locations, this proposal will ensure that there is provision in every primary school in the city.
- 4.3.6 Where joint facilities are in place or proposed, there is a walking bus arrangement to take children safely from one school to the other.
- 4.3.7 Appendix 3 (tables 1 and 2) lists breakfast clubs already established and those proposed.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no negative issues and these proposals will help address poverty and equality.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

JIM COLLINS
Director of Education

January, 2010

JC/MM

Financial Appendix

COMMITMENT	FINANCIAL YEAR 2010-11	FINANCIAL YEAR 2011-12
Class sizes	£249,000	£431,000
Breakfast Clubs	£90,000	£143,000

Reduction in class sizes in P1 to P3 to 18 or lower - list of priority schools

<i>Name of School</i>	<i>Total classrooms available</i>	<i>Total classrooms required</i>	<i>Implications for Capital Programme</i>	<i>Number of additional teachers</i>	<i>FME %</i>
Sidlaw View	17	7	no	0	55%
Longhaugh	23	15	no	1.1	52%
St Clement's	14	9	no	1.1	48%
Our Lady's	10	6	no	0	47%
Rowantree	16	12	no	1.1	47%
Whitfield	12	6	no	1.1	46%
Rosebank	10	7	no	1.1	45%
St Luke's & St Matthew's	14	13	no	2.2	45%
St Vincent's	16	11	no	2.2	45%
St Pius	10	8	no	1.1	44%
Charleston	12	7	no	1.1	43%
St Fergus	13	8	no	1.1	40%
Gowriehill	13	8	no	0	31%
TOTAL				13.2	

Provision of Breakfast Clubs

Table 1

Breakfast Clubs exist as part of care education provision in the following establishments:

Charleston
 Claypotts Castle
 Craigowl
 Dens Road
 Downfield
 Fintry
 Glebelands
 Lochee
 Longhaugh (joint facility with St Luke's & St Matthew's)
 Mill of Mains
 Newfields
 Our Lady's (joint facility with Rosebank)
 Rowantree (a joint facility with St Vincent's is now proposed - see table 4 below)
 Sidlaw View
 SS Peter & Paul's
 St Andrew's
 St Clement's

Table 2

Breakfast Clubs are proposed for the following establishments:

Ancrum Road (proposed joint facility with St Mary's)
 Ardler (proposed joint facility with St Fergus)
 Barnhill
 Blackness
 Clepington
 Craigiebarns
 Eastern
 Forthill
 Gowriehill (proposed joint facility with St Ninian's)
 Hillside
 Park Place (proposed joint facility with St Joseph's)
 St Pius
 St Vincent's (proposed joint facility with Rowantree - see table 3 above)
 Whitfield