

5 CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY (AN36-2024)

Since the report on the Consultation on the Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery (Article II of the minute of meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee of 28th October, 2024 report (296-2024) refers) was deferred, there has been further engagement with representatives from the Diocese of Dunkeld.

After the Committee on 28th October, 2024 the Diocesan education representatives on the Children, Families and Communities Committee arranged to meet with the recently consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld.

Following that meeting, on 12th November, 2024, there was a face-to-face follow up meeting with Diocesan and Dundee City Council representatives.

After a full discussion and clarification of some details in the report, the Service representatives and the Church representatives agreed to work in partnership to consider a wider strategic approach to looking at the provision for Catholic Education across the whole City. These ongoing discussions to inform a strategy would give due consideration to several key themes, including enrolment and placing request procedures; professional learning for staff; the availability of teachers with a Catholic Education teaching certificate and catchment areas.

There was also agreement that if the consultation to consider the permanent closure of St Pius X RC primary school goes ahead, the Diocesan representatives would work closely with the Catholic community of St Pius X through the consultation process to gain an understanding of their views and concerns and to ensure they were fully represented in any follow up recommendations and report.

The Service representatives also confirmed that when the Service can ascertain, through the consultation process if approved, the number of children and families choosing the RC education provision at St Francis RC PS, the service would have more detailed discussions with the Council's Transport Team to consider the appropriate support and adjustments required to ensure that transport routes to St Francis RC PS were viable.

Whilst it was recognised that there is work still to do to ensure that the views of the whole school community are known, it was agreed that this can only be achieved through the formal consultation process.

Section 5 and Appendix 1 of the report on the Consultation on the Closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery (Article II of the minute of meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee of 28th October, 2024 report (296-2024) refers) includes reference to a timeline which has now been adjusted as follows to take account of the report being deferred and subject to Committee approval.

6th January, 2025	Consultation begins
27th January, 2025	Week beginning - Public meetings
19th February, 2025	Consultation ends
3rd March, 2025	Education Scotland consider proposals and produce report (3-week engagement with schools beginning 3rd March)
23rd June, 2025	Consultation report with recommendations to Children, Families and Communities Committee.

It is recommended that the Committee gives approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service:

- (a) to formally consult on the proposal for the permanent closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2nd July, 2026).

- (b) to formally consult on the expansion of the St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area to accommodate the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area.
- (c) report the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the statutory consultations.