



City Chambers
DUNDEE
DD1 3BY

13th June, 2025

Dear Colleague

You are requested to attend a MEETING of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, City Chambers, City Square, Dundee and also to be held remotely on Monday, 23rd June, 2025 at 5.00pm.

The meeting will also be livestreamed to YouTube. Members of the Press or Public wishing to join the meeting as observers should follow this link www.dundee.gov.uk/live or alternatively they may attend in person.

Should you require any further information please contact Committee Services on telephone (01382) 434818 or by email at committee.services@dundee.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

GREGORY COLGAN

Chief Executive

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded that, in terms of The Councillors Code, it is their responsibility to make decisions about whether to declare an interest in any item on this agenda and whether to take part in any discussions or voting.

This will include all interests, whether or not entered on your Register of Interests, which would reasonably be regarded as so significant that they are likely to prejudice your discussion or decision-making.

2 PARENT AND PUPIL REPRESENTATION ON THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (AN23-2025)

Reference is made to Article V of the minute of meeting of the City Council held on 23rd May, 2022, wherein it was agreed to seek nominations for parent and pupil representatives on the Children and Families Services Committee.

(a) PARENT REPRESENTATION

The current parent representatives are Tara Javed (primary representative) and John Anderson-McGuinness (secondary representative) and there is no need for them to be replaced at this time.

The representatives have agreed to continue to abide by the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Standards Commission's Guidance.

The Committee is asked to approve the re-appointments.

(b) PUPIL REPRESENTATION

It is reported that the pupil representative for 2024/2025 session has now left school and the City Wide Pupil Voice has nominated a replacement pupil representative. Arrangements are being made for the pupil to become a member of the Committee and further details will be reported in due course.

3 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE - UPDATE AND OVERVIEW - Page 1

(Report No 199-2025 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

4 SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2027/2028 AND 2028/2029 AND AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025/2026 - Page 13

(Report No 198-2025 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

5 CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X RC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY – OUTCOME OF FORMAL CONSULTATION - Page 19

(Report No 200-2025 by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, copy attached).

REPORT TO: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2025

REPORT ON: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE - UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 199 -2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children, Families and Communities Committee with an overview of the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) provision across all school sectors.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Children, Families and Communities Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) has staff of 27 professional music instructors (21.76 full time equivalent) including a Senior Instructor. The service is managed by the Education Support Officer (ESO) for Music, Performing Arts and Culture, and overseen by the Chief Education Officer. Currently the Instrumental Music Service has worked with 4568 children from a total school population of 18,627 children. This equates to 24.5% of the children in schools currently receiving a musical input from the IMS; almost 19% of these children are recorded as having an additional support need (ASN). The national average of pupils participating in instrumental music service activities is 9.5%.
- 4.2 External funding is received to support the delivery of specific workstreams such as Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative programmes.
- 4.3 Dundee City Council abolished all instrumental tuition fees in academic session 2013/14 and instrument hire costs in 2017/18.
- 4.4 Weekly lessons are delivered across 8 disciplines including bagpipes, brass, guitar, percussion, piano, pipes band drumming, strings and woodwind. Lessons are delivered in either individual or small groups. In addition to the more traditional offer of individual or small group lessons, the Instrumental Music Service offers whole class activities in many primary schools across the city and offers support with Charanga Music Platform to non-specialist teachers in their delivery of the music curriculum.
- 4.5 Individual or small group, instrumental instruction is provided on the following instruments starting at these stages, although it does vary by instructor:
- P3- Piano
 - P4- Strings
 - P5- Brass
 - P6-Woodwind
 - P7-Percussion
 - P7-Bagpipes
 - P7-Pipe Band Drumming
 - S1- Guitar

Whole Class Activity delivered by the Instrumental Music Service includes:

- P2-Whole Class Kodaly(including P2 ESA)
- P5-Whole Class Doods, Toots 'n' J Sax
- Claypotts Castle Primary School & Rowantree Primary School Wind & Brass Project

- P6-World Percussion Project
- Mill Of Mains Piping and Drumming Project.
- P7-Rock School

- 4.6 There is a comprehensive offer of extra-curricular activities both at school level, and within our Central Bands and Orchestras programme (further details are available in the next section). Secondary schools are starting to develop closer links with their associated primary schools in offering pupils the opportunity to come up to the secondary school to take part in regular weekly rehearsals.
- 4.7 Instrumental staff have a unique relationship with the children they teach, as it often spans across many years of a child's education which helps to ensure the service Gets it Right for Every Child. The IMS is specifically designed along cluster lines to ensure that pupils have the best possible chance of achieving success. In consultation with schools, the Service alters the curriculum should the need arise. One such example of this is the Rock School at Ballumbie Primary School and Braeview Academy (Appendix 1).
- 4.8 During the 2022/23 academic year, the IMS extended its support to Ukrainian children who had recently been displaced from their homeland. Many of these young musicians were unable to bring their instruments, leaving them without the means to continue their musical education. Recognising this, the service provided each pupil with an instrument and weekly lessons to nurture their talent.
- 4.9 In March 2025, one of the Ukrainian pupils, benefiting from the Instrumental Music Service's guidance, achieved a remarkable milestone—gaining entry to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to study clarinet on the BMus (Hons) Performance Course. He also represented Dundee in the national Scottish Young Musicians Young Instrumentalist of the Year at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in May 2025.
- 4.10 The IMS delivers a range of further programmes and activities in the following areas, and a detailed summary of activity is provided in Appendix 1.
- Central Bands and Orchestras Programme
 - Scottish Qualifications Authority Exams and Dundee Instrumental Service Graded Exams
 - Primary School Whole Class Kodály Programme
 - Whole Class Activity
 - Instrumental Music Service at Anxiety in Motion(AIM)
 - Whole Class Singing at St Ninian's RC Primary School
 - Youth Music Initiative Guitar Programme
- 4.11 A key aspect of the IMS is providing young musicians with opportunities to collaborate with world-class external organisations. As part of Every Dundee Learner Matters (EDLM) collaborative improvement strategy, the IMS has established partnerships with renowned institutions to expand the range of activities available to pupils in all our schools. Additionally, these collaborations enhance the skillset of our instrumental instructors, ensuring the sustainability of this work.
- 4.12 Included in Appendix 2 are a selection of local and national organisations that the Service currently work with in partnership.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Under the leadership of the Education Support Officer, the Children and Families Service's IMS continues to extend its reach and impact. Music is not just an enrichment activity—it is a vital developmental tool. The dedicated and skilled IMS team not only help nurture and develop skilled musicians but use the medium of music to help develop fine and gross motor skills, to enhance emotional and social development and for wider cognitive and academic gains.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

AUDREY MAY
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

PAUL FLEMING
Chief Education Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

Detailed summary of IMS Activity

Central Bands and Orchestras Programme

- a The central music programme primarily takes place at the Coldside Campus on Alexander Street but due to the recent expansion of the programme the service has had to start using various other centres across Dundee. The programme caters for musicians of all ages and abilities with groups for players that have been playing for a few months, to those that are significantly more advanced. The programme also includes residential trips to Scottish Outdoor Education Centres camps. The residential courses ahead of our concerts provide opportunities for our pupils to put the finishing touches to their performances but more importantly it gives them an opportunity to bond and create friendships that last way beyond their school lives.
- b As of session 2024-25, the central Bands and Orchestras programme consists of:
 - Development Strings Orchestra
 - Junior Strings Orchestra
 - Development Wind Ensemble
 - Dundee Schools' Concert Band
 - Ceol Dun Deagh Trad. Music Group
 - Dundee Schools' Pipes and Drums
 - Dundee Schools' Senior Wind Ensemble
 - Dundee Senior Schools' Orchestra
 - Dundee Schools' Rock Band
 - Dundee Caliente Jazz
 - Dundee Schools' Junior Guitar Ensemble
 - Dundee Schools' Senior Guitar Ensemble
- c In September 2023, three of our bands embarked on a tour to our twin city, Würzburg. Musicians from Ceol Dun Deagh, Dundee Schools' Pipe Band, and Dundee Schools' Rock Band travelled to Würzburg to perform at the renowned StraMu festival. Over 50 young musicians took the stage at one of Europe's largest street music festivals, captivating up to 100,000 visitors with their performances. In September 2025, our Pipe Band, Dundee Caliente Jazz, and the Traditional Music group Ceol Dun Deagh have been invited to return to Würzburg for StraMu 2025—an incredible opportunity to once again share Dundee's vibrant musical talent with an international audience.
- d It is proposed that all Central Bands and Orchestras, and Dundee Schools' Music Theatre will move to Drumgeith Campus for session 2025/26. The campus will serve as a modern hub for music and performing arts. This state-of-the-art facility will provide an exceptional environment for our performers, allowing them to continue thriving and expanding their talents.

Scottish Qualifications Authority Exams and Dundee Instrumental Service Graded Exams

Instrumental pupils receiving weekly lessons from the IMS continue to attain high marks in SQA exams. In the 2025 SQA exam diet the service had 140 pupils undertaking performance exams with a pass rate of 100%.

The Dundee Instrumental Music Service graded exams have evolved significantly since the first pilot in February 2022, expanding to include a wider range of instruments and increasing accessibility for pupils. Exam sessions are now structured across three main periods: November, March, and May, with parents able to sign up through Microsoft Exam Booking System.

Thoughtful innovations to make the exam process more accessible and beneficial for pupils and teachers include the use of MS Forms for the aural section of the exam, this reduces time pressure for both pupils and examiners. The introduction of an Initial Grade has helped younger musicians participate, contributing to a sharp increase in the number of exams taken—from 62 in 2021/22 to 187 in 2024/25, with a combined total of 544 exams undertaken to date.

Future development plans include a potential performance-only exam to support pupils who find sight-reading challenging; discussions with the Kodály team to provide opportunities for young singers, and collaboration with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to enhance offerings beyond Grade 5, though this would involve additional costs.

Primary School Whole Class Kodály Programme

- a The Dundee Primary School Kodály Programme was formally launched in 2018. Specialist Kodály instructors were employed to expand the initiative, ensuring access for schools beyond the 2014 Aspire programme. A key objective has been the development of resources that empower mainstream primary school teachers to confidently deliver Kodály-based lessons to their students. Many non-specialist teachers have expressed a greater confidence in integrating music into daily school activities, with feedback from teacher questionnaires overwhelmingly positive.
- b Programme Growth & Inclusive Expansion - The Kodály Programme has undergone continuous development, particularly in 2022/23, with notable expansions in inclusivity. A new Early-Stage Academy (ESA) provision has been introduced, alongside an adapted programme at Kingspark School, catering to pupils with profound learning difficulties. Infant classes at Kingspark also receive Kodály lessons within their classroom environments, supported by teaching and care staff.

In the 2024/25 session, the Kodály Programme further extended its ESA provision to mainstream schools including St Fergus RC Primary School, Rowantree Primary School, and Ballumbie Primary School, tailoring early musicianship opportunities to meet pupils' individual learning needs. These structured music sessions have significantly contributed to the development of shared attention, emotional regulation, social interaction, and play. For children with sensory sensitivities, the programme has provided a creative outlet, encouraging pitch matching, speech development, musical expression, and relationship-building with instructors and peers.

- c Mainstream Primary Offering & Teacher Engagement - The structure of the mainstream Kodály offering evolved in 2024/25, with Primary 2 pupils receiving three terms of Kodály lessons on a two-week rotation—equating to 15 weeks of instruction, complementing the 20 weeks they completed in Primary 1. In the third term, the focus shifted to Primary 1 pupils, establishing a strong musical foundation before the summer break, which will be expanded upon as they transition into Primary 2.
- d

Whole Class Activity

Where appropriate, the Instrumental Music Service offers whole class activity in primary schools to encourage as many pupils as possible to take part in music making in their school. Whole Class Activity has been part of the Instrumental Music Service delivery since 2014, initially as part of the Aspire Dundee Music project. Although the Aspire Dundee Music project came to an end in 2020, the Whole Class Activity model has been developed to build on the skills of the delivery team but adapted to suit the needs of each individual school.

Ballumbie Primary Rock School

The Braeview Cluster Rock School has become a highly popular project amongst both pupils and staff. Designed as an inclusive, performance-based model, it develops confidence, teamwork, peer-to-peer learning, social skills, and an understanding of musical and cultural history—all alongside instrumental tuition.

Pupils receive group instruction in classic rock and pop instruments, including drums, guitar, bass, keyboard, and vocals. They are encouraged to experiment with different instruments before selecting one (or two) to specialise in. Once they've chosen, they form small bands and collaborate on music as a group. Their repertoire spans rock and pop history from the 1950s to today, with pupils encouraged to contribute their own song choices.

Throughout the Rock School's lifetime, engagement, attendance, and attainment have all shown significant improvement, helping the music department thrive. Initially, sessions focus on developing core instrumental and musical skills. As the bands progress, members work together on performances, building their skills in a supportive and creative environment.

Following consultations with the Senior Leadership Team at Greenfield Academy, and the Principal Teacher of Music and Drama, plans are underway to ensure that the learning and teaching elements of Rock School align with the newly developed project-based curriculum for the school. This project aims to utilise the state-of-the-art facilities on campus to maximise pupil engagement and skill development among S1-3 pupils, creating a seamless transition into the Senior Phase for those who wish to continue.

Beyond rehearsals and performances, Rock School will equip Senior Phase students with essential industry skills, including event booking, marketing strategies, equipment maintenance and repair, as well as recording and producing their own demos. This comprehensive approach will not only enhance their musical proficiency but also prepare them for future opportunities in the music industry.

b Claypotts Castle Primary School & Rowantree Primary School Wind & Brass Programme

The Claypotts Castle & Rowantree Wind & Brass Programme continues to expand, offering instrumental instruction to pupils and fostering a vibrant musical community across both schools.

At the beginning of the school year all Primary 6 pupils receive introductory lessons in clarinet, trombone, and trumpet in large group settings. This approach concentrates on reading notation, note production, and ensemble playing. When pupils reach Primary 7, lessons shift to smaller groups or one-to-one instruction, allowing pupils to progress at a pace suited to their individual needs.

As the programme progresses, pupils have the opportunity to explore additional instruments, including flute and saxophone. Participation is opt-in, requiring parental consent rather than being a mandatory class activity. This structure has proven highly effective, encouraging more pupils to join after seeing their peers engaged in music. The programme remains fully inclusive, ensuring that children with additional support needs can participate and benefit.

The impact of the programme extends beyond their primary education. A notable increase has been observed in the number of pupils continuing instrumental instruction at Craigie High School. The 'Jammie Dodger' club has played a significant role in this transition, providing a supportive social environment for musicians during break times. The 'Jammie Dodger' club has strengthened pupils' confidence, helping them adapt to secondary school life while fostering a sense of belonging within the music department.

Craigie High pupils are increasingly engaging with Central Bands and Orchestras, showcasing their musical achievements beyond the school setting. The continued success of this programme highlights the importance of accessible instrumental tuition in developing musical skills, boosting confidence, and reinforcing social connections among pupils.

c Doods, Toots and jSax at Fintry Primary School

Now in its fourth year of running, Doods and Toots was started in 2021 at Fintry Primary School. The aim of the project is to develop pupils' musical abilities with wind instruments through the use of Nuvo Dood, Toot and jSax instruments, and to continue on musicianship skills learned in Kodaly music lessons in primary 1 and 2. Through weekly lessons Primary 6 pupils develop these skills with the instruments and work towards various performances to the whole school throughout the year, building pupil confidence and creating a link within the school community. The benefits of this project continue after primary 6 with all pupils being offered the chance to continue tuition on to woodwind instruments with a specialist instructor in primary 7.

d World Percussion Project

The World Percussion Programme is available to all P6 and P7 classes across Dundee. This two-term project focuses on exploring music from Africa and Brazil. Throughout the sessions, pupils are introduced to the fundamentals of music-making and movement while gaining insight into the rich cultural traditions from which the music originates.

The programme emphasises inclusivity, ensuring that every child can actively contribute to the success of the final performances. These culminations include both school-based and community events, with a recent highlight being a half-time performance at Dens Park. The project consistently receives praise for its ability to engage all pupils effectively and foster a sense of collective achievement. Overall, the programme has enriched pupils' educational experiences by combining cultural learning with creative expression, leaving a lasting positive impact on their personal and social development.

e Mill of Mains Piping and Drumming Project.

This pilot programme is designed to introduce Primary 7 pupils at Mill of Mains Primary School to Scotland's national instruments—the bagpipes and pipe band snare drum. Using a whole class teaching model, every pupil will have the opportunity to learn and practice with the Practice Chanter and Drum Pad and Sticks.

The programme's primary aim is to provide an engaging introduction to the bagpipes, exploring their origins from the early 1600s to their prominent role in modern Scottish culture. Pupils gain a deeper appreciation of the instrument's historical and cultural significance. Complementary activities will highlight the connections between music, song, and dance, incorporating Scots Song and Scottish Country Dancing into the sessions.

Over the course of ten weekly sessions, pupils will participate in hands-on music learning alongside foundational music theory. This will include concepts such as rhythm, tempo, and note construction.

Due to staffing vacancy within the Service, the programme was postponed but is set to resume for the 2025/26 session, with plans to expand it to schools across the city. By introducing pupils to these instruments and traditions, this project aims to inspire a lasting appreciation for Scotland's vibrant musical heritage.

Instrumental Music Service at Anxiety in Motion (AIM)

- a Anxiety in Motion (AIM) is an educational programme designed to support young people who face chronic non-attendance at school due to emotional, health, and well-being challenges. These barriers significantly impact their personal development and access to learning opportunities.
- b Since 2019, the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) has been an integral part of AIM, providing weekly musical instruction to young people who are unable to attend mainstream schools. This initiative ensures that these individuals have access to music education, which they would otherwise miss out on. Instruments such as keyboards, guitars, bass guitars, and drum kits are taught, with the aim of fostering confidence and self-esteem.
- c The selection of the music instructor was approached with great care, prioritising not only musical expertise but also empathetic and listening skills to align with AIM's ethos. The IMS works with six pupils, focusing on building confidence not only in music but also in their interactions with peers and adults. Much of this work is extracurricular, offering a creative outlet and a break from the anxiety these young people experience.
- d Staff at AIM have observed noticeable improvements in the confidence of pupils who participate in the IMS programme. This collaboration exemplifies the vision of IMS: to provide inclusive learning and support for all children and young people, including those with significant needs.

Whole Class Singing at St Ninian's RC Primary School

This initiative builds upon the successful P1 and P2 Kodály Musicianship Sessions and is delivered collaboratively by two staff, who share the roles of rehearsal leader, accompanist, and conductor. The project provides a choir experience for all P3 pupils at St Ninian's, following the positive impact observed at SS Peter and Paul's RC Primary School in session 2024/25.

Launched in August, the project has been consistently supported and valued by the St Ninian's SLT and teaching staff. The Primary 3 teachers diligently document evidence of pupils' progress, providing valuable insights to share with parents. The whole-group teaching approach has been well received, with pupils demonstrating enthusiasm and responsiveness throughout the sessions.

- a Each one-hour session is structured into distinct components: warm-ups, musicianship revision, interactive game time, choir practice, and a concluding cool-down period. Learning is scaffolded progressively from week to week, ensuring consistent development.
- b Sessions begin with whole-body and vocal warm-ups, which are repeated weekly to reinforce learning and set clear expectations for behaviour and focus. Warm-ups are accompanied by piano, familiarizing children with this timbre and reinforcing song structure elements such as introductions and endings. The

repertoire consists of a combination of NYCOS materials, *Go for Bronze*, and additional choral selections, with a particular emphasis on songs featuring the pentatonic scale.

- c Pupils confidently demonstrate their understanding of pentatonic pitches using Curwen hand signals while singing. The Kodály team intends to expand this offering, incorporating certification to align with the Dundee Instrumental Music Service exams.
- d Beyond its impact on pupils, the project also serves as an invaluable CLPL (Career-Long Professional Learning) collaboration for the Kodály team and non-specialist teachers. As far as known through networks across the country, this initiative represents a uniquely integrated choral experience specific to Dundee, made possible by the expertise and dedication of the Kodály team.

Youth Music Initiative Guitar Programme

The Instrumental Music Service currently holds eight classes on Tuesday evenings at Coldside Campus. Each week from October to March, four classes of twenty Primary 5 pupils and four classes of twenty Primary 6 pupils participate, continuing their musical education from the previous year. To ensure consistency across Dundee, all tutors follow the same curriculum, allowing pupils to progress using a unified teaching method. This approach ensures that, upon entering Primary 7 pupils transition seamlessly into the central Junior Guitar Ensemble and a year later into secondary school guitar lessons.

As part of Dundee's Instrumental Music Service graded exam system, guitar instructors have structured the course to prepare students for the Initial Grade and Grade One exams. To date, 171 pupils from the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) Guitar Programme have opted to take a graded exam.

The vision of the Instrumental Music Service is that this structured approach will encourage more children to continue their musical education, fostering long-term engagement with guitar studies.

Partnerships with IMS

Included below are selection of local and national organisations that the Service currently work with.

a **Benedetti Foundation**

In November 2024, in partnership with the Benedetti Foundation, 128 young string players from across the city joined together at Coldside Campus for a day of workshops and performances. Children from all of our primary schools, junior pupils from our secondaries, and Big Noise Douglas pupils worked in collaboration and friendship on three pieces of music, two of which were composed especially for the day.

b **Dundee Chamber Music (DCM)**

The Dundee Chamber Music Club (DCM), established in 1929, has a long-standing mission to promote interest in and the study of chamber music in Dundee. In 2022, DCM partnered with the IMS to explore innovative ways to support young musicians. This collaboration has focused on creating practical opportunities for young people to engage with professional musicians, fostering positive role models, building confidence, and enhancing performance skills.

A significant shift in approach was implemented in 2023, emphasising active participation in chamber ensemble workshops over passive listening experiences. To date, five workshops have been conducted, focusing on piano, wind, and string instruments. These workshops have directly engaged 117 pupils from all eight secondary schools in Dundee. Participants were provided with music in advance, ensuring a focused and productive learning environment. The workshops emphasised small ensemble playing without a conductor, promoting teamwork and musicianship.

Looking ahead, the program has ambitious plans to further expand its reach and impact. In December 2025, a clarinet workshop will be led by a renowned clarinetist and teacher, followed by a brass ensemble workshop featuring Brass Tacks in 2026.

c **Royal Scottish National Orchestra- Singing Project**

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) secured funding to develop and deliver an ambitious three-year initiative (sessions 2024/25–2026/27) aimed at enhancing singing opportunities for children in Dundee. This initiative will focus on improving singing provision in primary schools, equipping teachers with high-quality resources, and building non-specialist teachers' confidence in leading singing activities.

During the first year, RSNO will design a comprehensive suite of whole-school and classroom singing resources tailored to primary school settings. These resources will include lesson plans, vocal warm-ups, and song arrangements. To pilot these materials, 6–8 workshops will be conducted in Camperdown, St Clement's, St Joseph's and Victoria Park primary schools, in collaboration with Dundee's Instrumental Music Service's Kodaly team. Insights from the pilot phase will guide the program's refinement and expansion in subsequent years.

The project's aims to evolve into a "choir creation" model. Participating schools will work towards establishing their own choirs, potentially culminating in a large-scale joint performance that celebrates the musical achievements of participating schools.

d **National Youth Orchestra of Scotland- Engage Project**

NYOS Engage is a collaborative project aimed at beginner and intermediate musicians from local authority Instrumental Music Services. The program offers young participants the chance to experience orchestral music in an inclusive and welcoming environment. By working closely with local authorities, NYOS Engage is tailored to meet the specific needs of each Instrumental Music Service, ensuring both accessibility and effectiveness.

This program is entirely free of charge for all participants. Additional support, including transport assistance, catering, and snacks, will be provided to ensure no barriers to participation. NYOS Engage embodies the principle that all young people, regardless of circumstances, should have the opportunity to learn, grow, and perform.

In October 2025, NYOS Engage Dundee will begin, marking a significant partnership between NYOS tutors—experienced in leading mixed-ability ensembles—and Dundee IMS instructors, who bring invaluable insights about their pupils. This collaboration seeks to offer transformative opportunities that neither NYOS nor Dundee IMS could achieve independently. The project aspires to enhance musical skills, build confidence, and foster a strong sense of community among the young musicians involved.

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2025

REPORT ON: SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS: 2027/28 AND 2028/29 AND AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025/26

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 198-2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the scheme for school terms and holidays for sessions 2027/28 and 2028/29 and an amendment to the school terms and holidays 2025/26.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes and approves

- a. the scheme (Appendix 1 refers) of school terms and holidays for sessions 2027/28 and 2028/29.
- b. the amendment to the school terms and holidays for session 2025/26, a change to the last day of session.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 This report seeks Committee approval for the school term and holidays for sessions 2027/28 and 2028/29 in order to give families and staff as much advance notice as possible.
- 4.2 Reference is made to Article IV of the Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Families Services Committee held on 26 June 2023 (report no. 187-2023 refers) where the start of sessions 2025/26 and 2026/27 were agreed.
- 4.3 The scheme proposes a school session of 195 days for teaching staff and 190 days for pupils.
- 4.4 It is proposed that, in 2027/28, in-service days for teaching staff should be held on 16 August 2027, 11 and 12 November 2027, 15 February 2028 and 26 May 2028. In session 2028/29 it is proposed that these dates should be 14 August 2028, 16 and 17 November 2028, 13 February 2029 and 25 May 2029.
- 4.5 It is proposed that, in 2027/28 the February mid-term holiday be held on 11 and 14 February 2028 with the in-service day following on 15 February 2028. In session 2028/29 it is proposed that these dates should be 9 and 12 February 2029 with the in-service day following on 13 February 2029.
- 4.6 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of the meeting of this Committee of 24 May 2010 (report no. 279-2010 refers), where the Education Committee agreed that from session 2011/12 onwards, the October holiday should be held in the second and third weeks of October. It is proposed that, in 2027/28, the autumn fortnight will begin on 11 October 2027. In session 2028/29, it is proposed that the autumn fortnight will begin on 9 October 2028.
- 4.7 In session 2027/28 Christmas Day falls on a Saturday. It is therefore proposed that schools will close on Wednesday 22 December 2027 and re-open for the spring term on Thursday 6 January 2028. In session 2028/29 Christmas Day falls on a Monday. It is therefore proposed that schools will close on Friday 22 December 2028 and re-open for the spring term on Monday 8 January 2029.

- 4.8 In session 2027/28 Good Friday is on Friday 14 April 2028. Schools will therefore close on Friday 31 March 2028 and re-open after the spring break on Monday 17 April 2028. In session 2028/29 Good Friday is on Friday 30 March 2029. Schools will therefore close on Thursday 29 March 2029 and re-open after the spring break on Monday 16 April 2029.
- 4.9 In session 2027/28 the May Day holiday is on Monday 1 May and the Victoria Day holiday is on Monday 29 May 2028. In session 2028/29 the May Day holiday is on Monday 7 May and the Victoria Day holiday is on Monday 28 May 2029.
- 4.10 The end of session in 2027/28 will be Thursday 29 June 2028. The end of session in 2028/29 will be Friday 29 June 2029.
- 4.11 In addition, this report seeks Committee approval for the amendment to the school term and holidays for session 2025/26.
- 4.12 The scheme proposes a school session of 195 days for teaching staff and 190 days for pupils, however, there is an error in the dates approved for session 2025/26. Reference is made to Article IV of the Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Families Services Committee held on 26 June 2023 (report no. 187-2023 refers) where the dates for 2025/26 were agreed.
- 4.13 The dates agreed have 189 days for pupils and as a result the last day of session 2025/26 will be amended from Thursday 2 July to Friday 3 July 2026 to ensure there are 190 days for pupils. The proposed amendment to include the additional day was the subject of consultation with all parties referred to in 6.1 below and no issues were raised.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Council Leadership Team, Head Teacher representatives, teacher union representatives, support staff unions, parent council representatives and the appropriate Directors in Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

Pamela Nesbitt
Strategic Education Manager

APPENDIX 1

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2027/28				IN SERVICE DAYS	PUPIL SCHOOL DAYS
Autumn	Start	Staff	Monday 16 August 2027	Day 1	
Term	Start	Pupils	Tuesday 17 August 2027		
	End		Friday 8 October 2027		39
Autumn	Start		Monday 11 October 2027		
Holiday	End		Friday 22 October 2027		
			(10 school days)		
Winter	Start		Monday 25 October 2027		
Term			Thursday 11 November 2027	Day 2	
			Friday 12 November 2027	Day 3	
	End		Wednesday 22 December 2027		41
Christmas	Start		Thursday 23 December 2027		
Holiday	End		Wednesday 5 January 2028		
			(10 school days)		
Spring	Start		Thursday 6 January 2028		
Term			Fri/Mon 11/14 February 2028 (Mid Term)		
			Tuesday 15 February 2028	Day 4	
	End		Friday 31 March 2028		59
Spring	Start		Monday 3 April 2028		
Holiday	End		Friday 14 April 2028		
			(10 school days)		
Summer	Start		Monday 17 April 2028		
Term			Monday 1 May 2028 May Day		
			Friday 26 May 2028	Day 5	
			Monday 29 May 2028 Victoria Day		
	End		Thursday 29 June 2028		51
			TOTAL		190
Total Number of School Days for Pupils					190
Total Number of Working Days for Staff					195

CLOSURE DAYS 2027/28

Closure Day 1	Monday 16 August 2027	Citywide
Closure Day 2	Thursday 11 November 2027	Citywide
Closure Day 3	Friday 12 November 2027	Citywide
Closure Day 4	Tuesday 15 February 2028	Citywide
Closure Day 5	Friday 26 May 2028	Citywide

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2028/29				IN SERVICE DAYS	PUPIL SCHOOL DAYS
Autumn	Start	Staff	Monday 14 August 2028	Day 1	
Term	Start	Pupils	Tuesday 15 August 2028		
	End		Friday 6 October 2028		39
Autumn	Start		Monday 9 October 2028		
Holiday	End		Friday 20 October 2028		
			(10 school days)		
Winter	Start		Monday 23 October 2028		
Term			Thursday 16 November 2028	Day 2	
			Friday 17 November 2028	Day 3	
	End		Friday 22 December 2028		43
Christmas	Start		Monday 25 December 2028		
Holiday	End		Friday 5 January 2029		
			(10 school days)		
Spring	Start		Monday 8 January 2029		
Term			Fri/Mon 9/12 February 2029 (Mid Term)		
			Tuesday 13 February 2029	Day 4	
	End		Thursday 29 March 2029		56
Spring	Start		Friday 30 March 2029 (Good Friday)		
Holiday	End		Friday 13 April 2029		
			(11 school days)		
Summer	Start		Monday 16 April 2029		
Term			Monday 7 May 2029 May Day		
			Friday 25 May 2029	Day 5	
			Monday 28 May 2029 Victoria Day		
	End		Friday 29 June 2029		52
			TOTAL		190
Total Number of School Days for Pupils					190
Total Number of Working Days for Staff					195

CLOSURE DAYS 2028/29

Closure Day 1	Monday 14 August 2028	Citywide
Closure Day 2	Thursday 16 November 2028	Citywide
Closure Day 3	Friday 17 November 2028	Citywide
Closure Day 4	Tuesday 13 February 2029	Citywide
Closure Day 5	Friday 25 May 2029	Citywide

REPORT TO: CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2025

REPORT ON: CLOSURE OF ST PIUS X RC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY –
OUTCOME OF FORMAL CONSULTATION

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 200 – 2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the Consultation Report, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the proposal to permanently close St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery and rezone the school catchment to St Francis RC Primary School, for full consideration by Committee.
- 1.2 This report also seeks approval to proceed with the recommendations contained within the Consultation Report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- i. notes the feedback from the statutory consultation and the Children and Families Service response to each key theme.
 - ii. approves the proposal to:
 - a. Close St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26.
 - b. Rezone the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School to include the existing St Pius X RC Primary School catchment area.
 - iii. approves the recommendations that:
 - a. Free transport is provided for all children who currently attend St Pius who choose to continue their primary education in St Francis for the duration of their primary school education.
 - b. The Children and Families Service commits to working in partnership with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives to ensure that Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach to be agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.
 - c. The Children and Families Service commits to continuing to collaborate with representatives from the Diocese of Dunkeld to jointly develop a strategic plan for the future of Catholic education in Dundee. This plan will be completed by the end of the 2025/26 academic year.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The closure of St Pius X RC Primary School would result in a reduction in expenditure within the Children and Families Service revenue budget amounting to approximately £677,422 in a full financial year, with a part-year reduction of £423,389 in financial year 2026/27.

- 3.2 If the children who currently attend St Pius choose to continue their primary education in a denominational school a closed contract bus will be arranged for the duration of their time at St Francis. The estimated cost would be up to £95,000 per year. This would be in place for up to 6 years. This would be an addition to the Children and Families Service revenue budget however included within the overall reduction within 3.1.
- 3.3 The Children and Families Service is committed to working with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives regarding the provision of Religious Education in Claypotts Castle. The approach would have to be agreed, but it could involve up to 0.5 FTE teaching commitment costing approximately £35,417.
- 3.4 There will be additional one-off capital costs associated with disposing of the property amounting to approximately £300,000. Once the school building is demolished, any related City Development property costs would result in a reduction in their annual commitments.
- 3.5 The land will be handed back for City Development to market and dispose of, with the potential for future housing development. Any potential sale of the land would be brought back to committee in due course.
- 3.6 A financial template with full details is included as Appendix 1.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 To ensure that the learning estate provides the best value for money, the Children and Families Service must efficiently match the number of pupil places to the number of pupils living in each catchment area. To support this, the Children and Families Service conducts regular reviews of the learning estate. These reviews must consider changing demographic patterns, which lead to fluctuating school rolls in different parts of Dundee, planned housing developments, and other factors that might impact the need for school places, including the demand for places in denominational schools.
- 4.2 Except for the Council's Edwardian and Victorian primary schools, the St Pius X RC Primary School building is now one of the oldest schools, built post-1970, and the financial implications of maintaining appropriate levels of condition and suitability become greater year on year. The building condition was graded at C and the suitability scoring was graded at B. In the summer of 2024, repair work was undertaken to the St Pius roof, costing over £142k. During the previous five financial years, there has been significant additional investment of more than £441K to replace various sections of the school roof. As a result of the significant improvement work undertaken during financial year 2024/25, the building was reported as B for condition in the May 2025 Scottish Government School Estates Core Facts return. This cumulative expenditure—exceeding £583,000 for the roof alone—highlights the ongoing cost burden associated with maintaining the fabric of the building to a satisfactory condition. It is anticipated that the age profile and condition of the St Pius X building may result in ongoing financial commitments at a similar level.
- 4.3 In academic session 2021/22, primary pupil rolls reached their peak, and the citywide primary pupil population began a decline. National Records of Scotland (NRS) population projections suggest that this will continue.
- 4.4 The St Pius X RC Primary School roll is in decline. The capacity of St Pius is 242 pupils. In September 2019 the school roll was 195. The school roll at the September 2024 census was 162. This equates to an occupancy level of 67%. St Francis RC Primary School opened in 2017 with a pupil roll of 407. The school roll at the September 2024 census was 299. This fall in roll over the last five to seven years may indicate that there is insufficient demand for the number of denominational primary school places currently available within the North East and East End Wards.

- 4.5 Following the Primary 1 enrolment period, the estimated August 2025 school roll for St Pius is 153 and the estimated school roll for St Francis is 295, evidencing a further reduction in occupancy levels.
- 4.6 Taking into account the above information, a proposal was developed regarding the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and the rezoning of the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School.
- 4.7 At the Children, Families and Communities Committee on 28 October 2024, the report seeking approval to formally consult on the closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (Report 296-2024 refers) was deferred to allow further consultation with Catholic Church representatives.
- 4.8 At the Children, Families and Communities Committee on 2 December 2024, on a reference to Article II of the minute of meeting of the Committee of 28 October 2024 wherein the report on the consultation was deferred, there was submitted Agenda Note [AN36-2024](#) reporting that there had been further engagement with representatives from the Diocese of Dunkeld. The Committee approved the recommendations:
- i. To formally consult on the proposal for the permanent closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/2026.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. To report the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the statutory consultations.
- 4.9 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that local authorities undertake a formal consultation process whenever changes are proposed to the location or catchment area of a school; or when a school is being considered for closure.
- 4.10 This report presents the statutory Consultation Report, as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It outlines the proposal to close St Pius X RC Primary School and nursery, and to rezone the catchment area to St Francis RC Primary School. The report is submitted for consideration by the Committee and seeks approval to proceed with the recommendation contained within the Consultation Report.
- 5.0 COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**
- 5.1 In relation to any school, an education authority must comply with the following requirements before proceeding with a formulated relevant proposal:
- Prepare an educational benefits statement (EBS).
 - Prepare and publish a proposal paper.
 - Give notice of the proposal to the relevant consultees and invite representations.
 - Hold and give notice of a public meeting.
 - Involve Education Scotland.
 - Review the proposal.
 - Prepare and publish a consultation report.
- 5.2 The preparation of the EBS provided the Children and Families Service with the opportunity to set out the reasons for the proposal. The proposal paper includes contextual and relevant evidence and information supporting the proposal. The EBS was included within the published proposal paper, allowing consultees to consider the whole case together.

- 5.3 Within the proposal paper, the Children and Families Service considered the wider community and other issues beyond the purely educational aspects. These considerations are relevant to the context, timing, and detail of the proposal, as well as the community and other implications required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 5.4 The Children and Families Service advised the relevant consultees of the proposal by Consultation Notice dated 6 January 2025. The consultation period lasted for seven weeks, from 6 January 2025 to 19 February 2025, including 30 days of term time. During the consultation, responses in either written or electronic format were invited and accepted.
- 5.5 Two public meetings were held during the consultation period, with advance notice of the date, time, and location provided to the relevant consultees and HM Inspectors (HMI), Education Scotland. The public meetings were as follows:
- 27 January 2025 - St Pius X RC Primary School
 - 28 January 2025 - St Francis RC Primary School
- 5.6 These meetings provided an opportunity for all parents/carers and interested parties to attend. The meetings were publicised through letters of notice and social media. The meeting on 27 January was attended by 83 people, and the meeting on 28 January was attended by 8 people. HMI representatives from Education Scotland attended both public meetings.
- 5.7 As required, HMI representatives from Education Scotland were involved in considering the proposal. Their report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process and considers the educational aspects of the proposal. It also assesses compliance with the requirements of the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the particular requirements of a proposal relating to a rural school. Education Scotland published their report on the same day as the publication of the Consultation Report by Dundee City Council (X May 2025). Section 7 outlines the process of reviewing feedback and publishing the Consultation Report.
- 5.9 In addition to paragraph 5.10, the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 apply. The Service must also publish on its website the fact it has notified Scottish Ministers of this decision and the period in which consultees have the opportunity to make representations to Ministers asking for the proposal to be called in. Ministers have the power to call in proposals, but only where it appears to Ministers that the council has failed in significant regard to comply with the Act's requirements or, in coming to its decision, has failed to take account of material consideration relevant to the proposal. Ministers have up to 8 weeks from the date of the council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice.
- 5.10 In accordance with paragraph 5.10 above individuals who wish to make representations to the Scottish Ministers must do so within the first three weeks of the eight-week call-in period. Detailed information will be available on the Dundee City Council website for those who wish to make a representation.
- 5.11 If Committee agrees to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 (ii), and the Catholic Church does not agree, as this proposal relates to the closure of a denominational school, the proposal must be submitted to Scottish Ministers for their consent prior to implementation in terms of Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
- 6.0 CONSULTATION REPORT**
- 6.1 The published Consultation Report, included in Appendix 2, summarises the key themes identified from feedback received throughout the formal consultation process and provides the response from Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service to each of these key themes.

6.2 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires the publication of a Consultation Report that provides:

- a record of the total number of any written representations made to the education authority (by any person) on the proposal during the consultation period.
- a summary of those written representations and any oral representation made to it (by any person) at the public meeting.
- a statement of the authority's response to those written and oral representations.
- a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report and a copy of that report.
- a review of the proposal by the authority having regard in particular to any relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period, oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting and Education Scotland's report.
- details of any omission or inaccuracy (including a statement of the authority's opinion on it), a statement of the action taken in respect of the omission or inaccuracy, or if no action has been taken, of that fact (and why).

6.3 In total, 102 written responses were received in response to the consultation on the proposal. In addition to the two public meetings held, the Children and Families Service held engagement sessions with pupils, staff and parent councils of each school named in the proposal paper, as well as a further engagement with Catholic Church representatives.

6.4 As required, Education Scotland was involved in considering the proposal. Their report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process and considers the educational aspects of the proposal. It also considers compliance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Education Scotland published their report on the same day as the publication of the Consultation Report by Dundee City Council (30 May 2025).

6.5 The Children and Families Service reviewed the proposal in light of the written and oral representations received, the engagement meetings with pupils, parent councils and staff, and the report from Education Scotland.

6.6 Following review, the Service has prepared and published the Consultation Report. Key points identified during the consultation period were summarised in the Consultation Report and Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service has responded to these

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 This report provides the detailed Consultation Report (Appendix 2) required following the decision of Committee on 2 December 2024 to consult on the proposed closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery and the rezoning of the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School. The Consultation Proposal paper and Consultation Report meet the requirements of the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

7.2 After reviewing the proposal in light of the feedback received, the Children and Families Service is satisfied that there will be educational benefits as a result of this proposal. It is recommended, therefore, that approval be given to implement the proposal to close St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery Class and rezone the school catchment area to St Francis Primary School, with effect from July 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.3 In doing so, as detailed in the Consultation Report, the Children and Families Service is committed to:

- Working closely with representatives of the Diocese of Dunkeld to address the key points raised in relation to this proposal but also to develop, in partnership, a strategic plan for the future provision of Catholic education in Dundee. A strategic group including Church

representatives, senior officers of the Children and Families Service and Head Teachers has been set up and has already had an initial meeting to agree how to take this work forward.

- The Service also commits to ensuring that Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.
- Ensuring that children who currently attend St Pius X who choose to continue their primary education in a denominational school can have access to a closed contract bus for the duration of their time at St Francis.

8 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

9 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

Dundee City Council
5 City Square
Dundee

May 2025

APPENDIX 1

Financial Template for Proposed Closure of St Pius X RC Primary school and Nursery

Table 1 Current revenue costs for St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery proposed for closure			
	Costs for full financial year 2024/25	Additional financial impact on receiving schools	Annual recurring savings
School costs			
<i>Employee costs</i>	£1,159,724	£577,302	£582,422
teaching staff	£738,503	£194,320	£544,183
support staff	£416,803	£380,656	£36,147
Other staff costs	£4,418	£2,325	£2,093
<i>Building costs:</i>	£189,922	£0	£189,922
non domestic rates	£46,761	£0	£46,761
water & sewerage charges	£6,509	£0	£6,509
energy costs	£32,169	£0	£32,169
cleaning	£49,193	£0	£49,193
building repair & maintenance / Health and safety contracts	£25,289	£0	£25,289
facilities management costs	£30,001	£0	£30,001
other – rent	£0	£0	£0
<i>School operational costs:</i>	£116,633	£116,633	£0
learning materials	£15,318	£15,318	£0
catering (contract or inhouse)	£98,254	£98,254	£0
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£3,062	£3,062	£0
<i>Transport costs:</i>	£77	£95,000	(£94,923)
home to school	£0	£95,000	(£95,000)
staff travel	£77	£0	£77
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£1,466,357	£788,935	£677,422
<i>Income:</i>			
Sale of meals	(£4,911)	(£4,911)	£0
Other	(£30,736)	(£30,736)	£0
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	(£35,647)	(£35,647)	£0
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£1,430,711	£753,289	£667,422

Table 2		
Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school
Demolition costs	£300,000	

Table 3 Annual Property costs incurred (mothballing) until disposal	
property insurance	£8,192
Non domestic rates	£63,639
water & sewerage charges	£8,679
energy costs	£42,892
security costs	£40,000
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£163,402

Table 4 Non-recurring revenue costs.	
Removal and decommissioning costs (disposal of property)	£25,000
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	£ 25,000

APPENDIX 2**CONSULTATION REPORT****REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST PIUS X
ROMAN CATHOLIC (RC) PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TO REZONE THE CATCHMENT AREA OF
ST FRANCIS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL****30 May 2025**

Table of Contents

1. The proposal	3
2. Reasons for the proposal	3
3. Introduction	3
4. Background	4
5. Consultation process	5
6. Pupil Engagement	6
7. Responses to the consultation exercise	6
8. Main issues arising from the consultation, with responses	7
9. Education Scotland	14
10. Children and Families Service response	15
11. Compliance with section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.....	16
12. Opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Ministers	17
13. Appendix 1 Education Scotland Report	19
14. Appendix 2 Summary of any oral representations made at any public meeting.....	24
15. Appendix 3 Thematic summary of responses.....	75

1.0 THE PROPOSAL

1.1 Dundee City Council proposed, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to:

- Close St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26.
- Expand St Francis Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School catchment area to include the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School catchment area.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

Declining school rolls

- 2.1 The St Pius X RC Primary School roll is in decline. The capacity of St Pius is 242 pupils.
- 2.2 In September 2019 the school roll was 195. The school roll at the time of the September 2024 census was 162. This equates to a current occupancy level of 67%.
- 2.3 St Francis RC Primary School opened in 2017 with a pupil roll of 407. The school roll at the time of the September 2024 census was 299. This fall in roll over the last five to seven years may indicate that there is insufficient demand for the number of denominational primary school places currently available within the North East and East End Wards.
- 2.4 Across the North East and East End wards the average occupancy levels for all primary schools is 72%.
- 2.5 In academic session 2021/22, primary pupil rolls reached their peak, and the citywide primary pupil population began a decline. National Records of Scotland (NRS) population projections suggest that this will continue as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 NRS, 2018-based, principal population projections for Dundee children aged 5 to 11

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
5-11 yr olds	10,216	9,952	9,860	9,698	9,604	9,492

School Building

- 2.6 Except for the Council's Edwardian and Victorian primary schools, the St Pius X RC Primary School building is now one of the oldest schools, built post-1970, and the financial implications of maintaining appropriate levels of condition and suitability become greater year on year.
- 2.7 The current building condition has dropped to a C grading and the suitability scoring is B. This has resulted in recent and significant investment to undertake work on the school roof which cost approximately £142k. It is anticipated that the age profile and condition of the St Pius X building will result in ongoing financial commitments of a similar nature.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 This consultation report has been prepared in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

3.2 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written representations made during the statutory consultation period.
- Provide a summary of the written representations.

- Provide a summary of oral representations made at the Public Meetings held on 27 and 28 January 2025.
- Provide a statement of the Children and Families Service's response to those written and oral representations.
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of Children and Families Service response to this report.
- State how the Children and Families Service reviewed the above proposal with regard to the representations received during the statutory consultation period and the report from Education Scotland.
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper and state how Education Services acted upon it.
- Explain the opportunity that may arise to make representation to the Scottish Ministers in connection with Section 15(4) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

4.0 BACKGROUND

Learning Estate

- 4.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education which includes early learning and childcare across their area.
- 4.2 Councils also have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experiences for every child through provision that offers high quality, flexibility and accessibility.
- 4.3 To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the organisation of the learning estate is kept under regular review.
- 4.4 As section 2 details, St Pius X Primary School is a school with a declining roll, which is now 67% of the capacity.

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

- 4.5 At the meeting of the Children, Families and Communities Committee on 2 December 2024 (report no. 296-2024 refers), elected members gave approval for the Executive Director of the Children and Families Service to formally consult on the closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 (2 July 2026); and, the expansion of St Francis RC Primary School catchment area.
- 4.6 This document has been issued by Dundee City Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.7 The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.
- 4.8 Children and Families Service published a Proposal Paper on 6 January 2025 which included an Educational Benefits Statement, financial information and an explanation of the reasons for

the proposal. Educational benefits of this proposal are set out in section 9 and 10 of the Proposal Paper.

- 4.9 The educational benefits in the Proposal Paper relate to the provision in the re-zoned catchment of St Francis RC Primary School.

5.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 5.1 The Proposal Paper was published on 6 January 2025 on the Dundee City Council website.

- 5.2 Formal proposal papers were:

- published in both electronic and printed form,
- available for inspection at all reasonable times and without charge at 5 East City Square and, at any affected school and nursery or at a public library or some other suitable place within the vicinity of the school and nursery

- 5.3 A copy of this document was provided to:

- Parents and carers of all primary and nursery age pupils living in the catchment areas of Ballumbie Primary School, Claypotts Castle Primary School, Craigiebarns Primary School, Fintry Primary School, Longhaugh Primary School, Mill of Mains Primary School, St Francis RC Primary School & St Pius X RC Primary School.
- Affected schools' parent councils.
- Nursery and School staff and trade unions at the affected schools.
- Elected Members of Dundee City Council.
- Local Community Planning Partnerships.
- The Diocese of Dunkeld Church representatives.

- 5.4 A Notice of Consultation was emailed to the consultees listed above on 6 January 2025. This provided details of how to access the Proposal Paper and how to submit responses to Dundee City Council, Children and Families Service, and the date of the in-person public meetings.

- 5.5 The Notice of Consultation, the Proposal Document and the Public Meetings were advertised on the Council's Website and social media.

- 5.6 Consultation was undertaken over a 7-week period between 6 January 2025 and 19 February 2025.

- 5.7 Children and Families Service Officers attended in-person meetings with representatives of Local Community Planning Partnerships, all affected schools' parent councils, nursery staff, school staff and pupils and children currently attending St Pius nursery.

- 5.8 An in-person public meeting was held at St Pius X RC Primary school on 27 January 2025 at 6:30pm.

- 5.9 An in-person public meeting was held at St Francis RC Primary School on 28 January 2025 at 6:30pm.

- 5.10 The formal consultation included:

- giving notice of the proposal to parents/carers and other statutory consultees,
- giving notice of the proposals to the children at the affected schools (in so far as they are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity),
- giving notice of the proposals to the staff at the affected school,
- giving notice of the proposals to Trades Unions representing staff at the affected schools,

- inviting any person to make written representation to the Executive Director of Children and Families Services,
- public consultation in the local area,
- consultation with staff,
- consultation with parents of the children at the affected schools,
- consultation with the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend the affected schools within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper,
- consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions,
- consultation with the Diocese of Dunkeld in respect of this proposal,
- meetings with other interested bodies such as the Local Community Planning Partnership,
- meetings with staff,
- meetings with school and nursery children.

5.11 This Consultation Report contains Dundee City Council's response to the issues raised regarding the proposal during the consultation exercise. It will be published on Dundee City Council's website for a period of no less than 3 weeks prior to the final consideration of the proposal at Children Families and Communities Committee on 23 June 2025.

5.12 A summary note of all meetings held during the consultation period outlining questions asked is attached as Appendix 2 with the Children and Families Service responses.

6.0 PUPIL ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Pupils' views are a significant part of the consultation process. A record of comments made by pupils attending affected schools is within Appendix 2.

6.2 St Pius X Primary School pupils were asked how they feel about the proposed closure. None of the pupils at St Pius X RC Primary School were in favour of the school closure proposal. Their responses are summarised under the following themes:

- Separation from friends and school staff
- Distance to other denominational school
- Cost of alternative transport to school
- Sadness at the thought of their school closing
- Concerns about size of alternative schools/classes

7.0 RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

7.1 There were 102 written representations which includes four representations signed by two people, ninety-eight submissions were received from parents, carers, young people and members of the local community. One submission contained an online petition objecting to the proposal with 533 objectors. There was also representation made from Sistema Scotland (Big Noise Douglas) and the Diocese of Dunkeld.

7.2 The total number of consultees who attended the Public Meetings was 91, as follows:

- 27 January 2025 – In-Person meeting at St Pius X RC Primary School attended by 83 people.
- 28 January 2025 – In-Person meeting at St Francis RC Primary School attended by 8 people. This included 2 people who also attended the meeting at St Pius on 27 January.

7.3 The issues raised at the public meetings by consultees are grouped by key themes which are summarised below, and a minute of each meeting is included in Appendix 2.

- Class sizes and capacity available at St Francis RC Primary School
- Effectiveness of smaller schools and class sizes

- Impact upon local area through closure of buildings
- Financial justifications and cost savings
- Building condition and improvement works
- Meeting needs of all children including those with additional support needs
- Impact on children's mental health and relationships
- Loss of active travel options/ wider travel concerns, including distance to other schools
- Continuity of faith-based education

7.4 In accordance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, copies of all written representations and 'Frequently Asked Questions/Comments' were submitted to HM Inspectors of Education on 27 February 2025.

7.5 The issues raised from the written responses and submissions are grouped by key themes which are summarised below, and a thematic summary is included in Appendix 3.

- Impact upon local area through closure of buildings
- Social and emotional impact on children's friendship groups and relationships
- Impact of proposal upon school staff
- Loss of active travel options/ wider travel concerns, including distance to other schools
- Continuity of faith-based education
- Quality and continuity of educational experiences
- School capacities and infrastructure
- Financial justifications and cost savings
- Transition arrangements following possible closure and communication of relevant support for pupils and staff
- Meeting needs of all children including those with additional support needs

8.0 MAIN ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION, WITH RESPONSES

This section of the report includes the Children and Families Service's statement in response to each theme.

8.1 Impact upon local area through closure of buildings

Concern was raised about the impact on the local community of Douglas. Consultees expressed concerns about the potential fragmentation of the local community and the displacement of pupils to less familiar settings. Consultees highlighted the role of the school and nursery in supporting vulnerable families and maintaining social cohesion. Concern was raised in the context of another consultation in relation to the relocation of services to the new Drumgeith Campus which many consultees stated they believed would lead to the closure of Douglas Community Centre.

Response

The Children and Families Service recognises that schools can serve as community hubs, where they offer important support services beyond education, including after-school activities, community events, and local partnerships. It should be noted that following recent consultation and review of services within the East End Community Consultation, committee approved the continued operation of services from the Douglas Community Centre. Therefore, the Douglas Community Centre will not close.

Should the proposal be approved:

- The Service is committed to working with families, local organisations, the Diocese of Dunkeld, and community leaders to explore opportunities for maintaining vital community links and initiatives. Where relevant, alternative spaces for community engagement and parental support groups will be identified to ensure continuity of social and afterschool

activities allowing children to maintain appropriate community links and to sustain existing wider achievement pursuits within the Douglas area.

- The Service will ensure that a bespoke and comprehensive transition programme is co-constructed with children and families, one which reinforces a sense of belonging and maintaining the positive community spirit that has been valued at St Pius X Primary School. Community integration programmes and familiarisation visits will be organised to help pupils and parents/ carers feel welcomed in their new nursery/ school environments to maintain community links and engagement opportunities for families with minimal disruption.
- The Service will also ensure that children with additional support needs have an individualised transition plan – informed by children and parent/ carer's views through the Team around the Child process – in place to ensure a smooth transition to the child's new school.
- The Service would commit to working with the wider community to, perhaps, consider a St Pius X Legacy Project developed with input from pupils, staff, parents, and the local parish. This could include a commemorative mural or plaque at St Francis RC Primary School, a digital heritage book documenting the school's history and community stories, and a closing celebration event to which all former pupils and staff are invited.

8.2 Social and emotional impact on children's friendship groups and relationships/Impact on children's mental health and relationships

Issues around the emotional wellbeing of pupils were raised, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Parents/ carers feared that the transition to a new school environment would disrupt existing support systems and social relationships.

Response

Should the proposal be approved:

- It was acknowledged by all children within the alternative schools that they would welcome St Pius X children and would support them in creating new friendships. It is accepted that children from St Pius X RC Primary School may attend another primary school other than St Francis, however, this does not prevent them from socialising and maintaining friendships outside of school hours. Consideration would be given to maintaining wider achievement or extracurricular clubs which are currently attended by St Pius X children within their existing community in alternative venues.
- The Service will co-construct - with children, families, staff and the Diocese of Dunkeld – and deliver a universal and comprehensive transition programme. This could include, for example, buddy programmes, familiarisation visits to new settings/ schools, share the learning events, new teachers visiting children in St Pius and other informal events. The Service will also work with Communities colleagues to develop out-of-school programmes based in the Douglas community.
- The proposal provides the opportunity for relationships to be maintained as children can attend the same alternative school by going to St Francis RC Primary School. Schools will always ensure there is the opportunity to create and establish new friendships and bonds. The proposal timeline has been developed to allow up to a full academic session to co-construct and implement transition plans.
- Dundee's Educational Psychology Service (DEPS) would be involved in ensuring that children, staff and parents/ carers were adequately supported throughout the transition.

DEPS would also be involved in ensuring that there was a research-informed focus on developing new friendships in Term 1 of the 2026/27 academic session.

8.3 Impact of proposal upon school and nursery staff

Staff expressed concerns regarding job security and potential redeployments. The emotional toll on staff, many of whom have long-standing relationships with pupils and families, was also highlighted.

Response

Should the proposal be approved:

- All permanent staff will be redeployed within the service in accordance with Dundee Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (DNCT) 9 for teachers and the Recruitment and Selection – Redeployment Policy for local government staff.
- A communication plan and timeline will be developed with staff and trade union representatives to ensure that staff are kept informed in a timely manner. As well as group updates, each individual staff member will have one-to-one meetings with a manager to discuss options and to ask any questions.
- Staff wellbeing will also be prioritised, with access to relevant employee support services to help manage the emotional impact of the transition. Regular communication with affected staff will be maintained throughout the process to address concerns and provide clarity regarding timelines and expectations.
- The Service recognises that nursery and school staff play a vital role in providing continuity, stability, and support for children and their families. Efforts will be made to ensure that the redeployment process is as smooth as possible, taking into consideration service needs, preferences, skill sets, and areas of expertise.
- Dundee's Educational Psychology Service (DEPS) would be involved in ensuring that all staff were adequately supported throughout the transition.

8.4 Loss of active travel options/ wider travel concerns, including distance to other schools

Parents had specific concerns regarding children's ability to maintain independent travel to school. Many children currently walk to St Pius X Primary School, and increased distance to alternative schools could result in a reliance on transport which would be a financial burden. Families were concerned about the location of alternative schools and the feasibility of children attending a school that they feel is significantly further away from their homes.

Response

Should the proposal be approved:

- In conjunction with Dundee City Council Active Travel Officers, the Service would review all affected school travel plans in partnership with the sustainable transport team, local police, children and parent/ carer representatives. These plans would identify safe walking and cycling routes to the receiving schools and explore any necessary infrastructure upgrades, such as new or improved zebra or pelican crossings, the placement of crossing patrol officers, enhanced lighting, and improved signage.
- Additionally, the Service will explore initiatives such as walking buses and cycle-to-school programmes to encourage active travel options. These measures align with national and local sustainability goals, helping to reduce congestion and carbon emissions while

supporting pupils' health and wellbeing. any identified barriers to independent and active travel will be considered as part of the transition planning process.

- St Francis RC Primary School will be the new denominational catchment school. The Service will provide free transport for all children who currently attend St Pius who choose to continue their primary education in St Francis for the duration of their primary school education. The use of the former bus terminus turning circle on Longhaugh Road as a drop off/pick up location would eliminate the potential congestion of using Lothian Crescent.
- The Service commits to working in partnership with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives to ensure that Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.
- Parents have a right to submit placing requests for any school. The Service will ensure that parents and carers have clear information about school capacities, enrolment procedures, and any available support regarding transitions as detailed elsewhere in this report.
- The Service will continue to work within national and local transport policies, engage with transport providers, and prioritise environmental sustainability. North East Campus is currently an Identified school within our safer street's initiative, creating safe active travel zones around our local schools. It is acknowledged that there remain concerns with the number of vehicles accessing this zone during restricted times. Sustainable Transport Officers are actively working with planners to explore the opportunities of creating further safe zones for pick up and drop off near to North East Campus. We will communicate any transport updates promptly to ensure families have clear and timely information regarding travel arrangements should the proposed school closure be approved.

8.5 Continuity of faith-based education

Parents and faith leaders expressed concerns about the loss of Catholic education for pupils attending St Pius X. The Bishop of Dunkeld voiced opposition to the closure, emphasising the importance of Catholic schools in Dundee.

Response

Dundee City Council has 10 denominational primary schools out of a total of 33 primary schools. The Council remains committed to the provision of Catholic Education. The Children and Families Service has set up a strategic planning group – in partnership with the Diocese of Dunkeld – to develop a strategic plan in this regard.

Should the proposal be approved:

- St Francis RC Primary School will be the new denominational catchment school. The Service will provide free transport for all children who currently attend St Pius who choose to continue their primary education in St Francis for the duration of their primary school education. St Francis RC Primary School will provide continuity of the Catholic educational experience, ensuring pupils have access to faith-based learning and sacramental preparation in a full Catholic school experience.
- The Service remains committed to working with the Diocese of Dunkeld and school communities to support a smooth transition for pupils, ensuring that pastoral care and faith-based learning opportunities remain central to their educational experience.
- For those who choose not to avail of the transport options to St Francis, the Service commits to working in partnership with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives to ensure that

Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.

8.6 Maintaining quality and continuity of educational experiences/Effectiveness of smaller schools and class sizes

Consultees sought assurances about the continuity of educational standards and the impact of potential overcrowding at receiving schools. Parents also raised concerns about curriculum consistency and the ability of new schools to integrate pupils effectively.

Response

Should the proposal be approved:

- All schools follow the Curriculum for Excellence, and all schools are staffed in line with class maxima agreements and local DNCT agreements. A Strategic Education Manager will ensure that the transition plan (including the curriculum transition) is comprehensive and implemented effectively to ensure educational continuity.
- To support continuity in learning, additional resources will be allocated to receiving schools where required. Staffing levels will be monitored, and where necessary, adjustments will be made to accommodate increased pupil numbers, ensuring class sizes remain within nationally agreed limits and pupils receive the support they need.
- Furthermore, the Service will work closely with the leadership teams of receiving schools to implement a structured transition plan, including orientation visits, curriculum alignment discussions, and dedicated pastoral support to help pupils settle into their new learning environment with minimal disruption. Specialist support staff will be available to assist children who may need additional help during the transition, ensuring that no child's education is negatively impacted by the change.
- The Service support all schools in maintain high quality learning experiences. All schools are supported by a central education team through school improvement activities and evaluated against quality improvement measures set out by Education Scotland HM Inspectorate to support schools to maintain continuity of education.
- The Service will continue to engage with parents and school staff to ensure that any concerns related to curriculum delivery, classroom environment, and pupil support are addressed effectively throughout the transition process.
- The Service remains committed to providing high-quality education while making strategic decisions to ensure long-term sustainability across the school estate. The Council acknowledges the depth of feeling surrounding this proposal and will continue to work with families, staff, and community members to support a well-managed transition, should this be required.

8.7 School capacities and infrastructure/Class sizes and building capacity available at St Francis RC Primary School

8.8

Questions were raised about whether St Francis Primary School had sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils without causing overcrowding.

Response

- Assessment has been undertaken to ensure that St Francis RC Primary School has the necessary capacity to accommodate all children currently attending St Pius X RC Primary

School. Similar analysis has been undertaken to reflect children attending non-denominational alternative schools to confirm appropriate capacity is available to ensure that receiving schools can accommodate additional pupils without detriment to education and learning.

- St Francis RC Primary School has been identified as having adequate space to include pupils from St Pius X Primary School, additional classrooms are available within the North East Campus, in which St Francis is located. This building has a combined capacity of over 900 which would meet demand and any required increase in capacity or roll.

Projected school rolls for St Francis RC Primary School and St Pius X RC Primary School

School	Capacity	'25/26	'26/27	'27/28	'28/29	'29/30
St Francis RC	392	302	295	277	271	270
St Pius X RC	242	158	154	150	150	142

Projected school roll for St Francis RC Primary School if all children attending St Pius X RC Primary School transferred to St Francis AND future P1 intakes projected for St Pius X all selected St Francis

	'26/27	'27/28	'28/29	'29/30
St Francis RC Primary School	449	427	421	412

- The Service remains committed to monitoring school capacity across Dundee, considering projected population changes and new housing developments. Additionally, future expansion possibilities are considered should enrolment levels increase significantly over time. Continued engagement with school leadership teams and the wider community will ensure that any concerns related to infrastructure or capacities are considered and addressed.
- Unlike primary schools, early education and childcare settings do not have catchment areas and are located across the city. Adequate provision remains to meet the existing and future needs of families in Dundee and the service continually work with parents/carers to identify their first, second and third choice of nursery at the point of application. When these choices cannot be accommodated, the Central team work with families on an individual basis to secure a funded place within the city.

8.9 Financial implications of proposals including costs related to additional travel/ Financial justifications and cost savings/Building condition and improvement works

Concerns were raised regarding the long-term financial savings versus the social costs of closure. Some respondents questioned the logic behind investing in repairs if the school was under consideration for closure.

Response

- The Service has explained that financial sustainability and the declining roll of St Pius X RC PS were key factors in the proposal. Savings from the closure will be reinvested into the broader education system.
- The Service regularly evaluates the sustainability of its school estate to ensure that funding is allocated efficiently. The costs associated with maintaining a school with declining enrolment can limit resources available to other schools across the city. By consolidating resources, the Service aims to enhance learning environments, support staff retention, and provide a broader curriculum for pupils.

- While recent repairs to St Pius X were essential for maintaining condition and suitability, the decision to consult on closure is based on long-term strategic planning rather than short-term maintenance needs.
- Following recent investment, the current building condition of St Pius X RC Primary School has returned to a B grading and the suitability scoring is B. It is anticipated that the age profile and condition of the St Pius X building will result in ongoing financial commitments.
- Should the proposal be approved, the Service will make financial commitments to the provision of travel subsistence in the form of a closed bus contract which will provide transport of children currently in attendance at St Pius X RC Primary School to St Francis RC Primary School for the remainder of their primary school experience until such time as they transition to secondary education.

8.10 Transition arrangements following possible closure and communication of relevant support for pupils and staff

Parents and staff stressed the need for structured transition support, including buddy systems and clear communication throughout the process. Concerns were raised about children experiencing multiple transitions within a short period.

Response

Should the proposal be approved:

- The Service is committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive transition including enhanced support and transitions for children with additional needs. This will involve teams from within the Service and outwith, including Dundee's Educational Psychology Service (DEPS) and Community, Learning and Development (CLD).
- A comprehensive transition programme will be implemented to support pupils, parents, and staff. This will include:
 - Familiarisation visits: Pupils will be given opportunities to visit their new school and participate in orientation activities to ease anxiety.
 - Buddy programmes: Pupils from receiving schools will support new pupils to help them settle in socially and academically.
 - Targeted ASN support: Children with additional support needs will receive personalised transition plans based upon existing planning documentation, scripting and interventions, working with school staff and partners to ensure their needs are met.
 - Parental engagement: The Council will facilitate regular updates and meetings to keep parents informed about transition plans, school policies, and available support services.
- The Service will commit to providing a comprehensive transition programme reinforcing a sense of belonging and maintaining the positive community spirit that has been valued at St Pius X Primary School. Community integration programmes and familiarisation visits will be organised to help pupils and parents feel welcomed in their new school environments to maintain community links and engagement opportunities for families with minimal disruption.
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders and continued communication will take place to support the implementation of structured transition plans, to ensure transparency. Council Officers and senior leadership teams will oversee all aspects of transition, ensuring that pupils, parents, and staff are supported at every stage of the process. The Council will also

conduct post-transition evaluations to assess the effectiveness of its strategies and make further improvements where necessary.

- The Service has experience in managing school transitions, drawing on lessons from previous school mergers and closures. Officers will work closely with the receiving school leadership teams to ensure a seamless integration of pupils and staff into the new setting.

8.11 Meeting needs of all children affected by proposals including those with additional support needs/ Support for children with other additional support needs

Concerns were raised regarding how children with additional support needs (ASN) would be supported in the transition process. Parents feared that ASN provisions may be diluted in a larger school setting.

Response

- Children and Families Service commits to ensuring that ASN provisions remain in place and that appropriate support measures will be implemented to accommodate the needs of all affected children.
- All primary schools in Dundee are provided with their staffing allocation on an annual basis which includes Support for Learning teaching staff, Learning and Care Assistants and Primary & Early Years Support Assistants. All schools also have a link Educational Psychologist who works directly with schools to support children with additional support needs.
- As allocations are based on school roll and level of identified need, the level of staffing allocation can be higher in a larger school. As a service, a range of professional learning opportunities are offered regularly with a particular focus on ensuring all staff are confident when supporting children with additional support needs. This includes working with key professional partners, both for individual pupils and across the service. Within St Francis RC Primary School, staff have a wide range of experience and currently support children with additional support needs well. All schools across Dundee are experienced in dealing with neurodiverse children across all stages and their practice reflects this.
- St Francis RC Primary School currently has an Enhanced Provision within the school which supports children with a higher level of need that require individualised planning to enable them to access the curriculum and engage in learning. There is therefore a highly skilled workforce within the school who have significant experience of planning for children who require additional support, ensuring an inclusive, nurturing approach is embedded across the school. The resources available would strengthen the support for children with complex additional support needs.
- The Service will work closely with specialist staff, the Accessibility & Inclusion Service, DEPS and partners to ensure that children requiring additional support experience minimal disruption during the transition. Measures will include:
 - Individual transition plans: Developed in consultation with parents and ASN teams to ensure that each child's needs are addressed and aligned with existing planning and interventions.
 - Continued access to support staff: Ensuring that staffing levels and specialist provision are maintained at receiving schools.

- Physical adjustments if required: Any necessary changes to school facilities will be implemented to support accessibility and inclusivity in line with relevant planning documentation.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation: Reviewing the impact of the transition on ASN pupils and adjusting where needed.
- The Service will also ensure that children with additional support needs have an individualised transition plan – informed by children and parent/ carer's views through the Team around the Child process – in place to ensure a smooth transition to the child's new school.

9.0 EDUCATION SCOTLAND

9.1 In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the Proposal to close St Pius X RC Primary School. This report is attached as Appendix 1.

9.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 27 and 28 January 2025 in connection with the council's proposals.
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery, St Francis RC Primary School, Claypotts Primary School and Rowantree Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees.

9.3 Here is the "summary" in HM Inspectors' report:

- *HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to provide educational benefits regarding accessibility and modern facilities. It also presents opportunities for the council to make efficiency savings. HM Inspectors agree that such a change may lead to more sustainable and stable pupil rolls in the longer term. However, HM Inspectors consider it is not sufficiently clear that these potential benefits outweigh the challenges that would result in moving children from their current school. HM Inspectors disagree that this move is required to enable children to participate in team sports and active recreational activities. In its consultation report, the council should be clear how it will address the potential negative impacts on children and families of closing St Pius X RC Primary School and nursery. The council should also be clear about the benefits of moving children to alternative settings. Should the council proceed with the proposal, it should continue to consider the views of church representatives and work with stakeholders to address their concerns. It will also be important that the council works closely with stakeholders to support children's transitions.*

10.0 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE RESPONSE:

- The Executive Director has carefully considered the implications arising from the consultation process and the Education Scotland report, in particular where the report highlights specific issues such as increased traffic and congestion, the cost for additional travel and the reduction in active travel options. The importance of transition

arrangements in the event of the school closing, wellbeing of staff and children and the closing of St Pius X being a loss to the community were also noted during the consultation period. Having reviewed the proposal in light of the representations and the Education Scotland report, it is clear that any highlighted issues were either identified in the proposal or are referred to directly in this consultation report.

- ii. Children and Families Service believe that the mitigations and actions proposed within this paper will address issues and concerns raised whilst maintaining continuity of educational experiences and outcomes for children within St Pius X RC Primary School. Children and Families Service will continue to support staff, parents and children through any changes that will result from a closure and continue to engage with families to provide reassurance concerning the capacity of Schools, Early Learning and Childcare provision. This will support Dundee City Council in meeting its commitment to ensure no children or families are disadvantaged as a result of a closure.
- iii. Having reviewed the Education Scotland report and looked at the consultation responses in detail, including those issues raised at the public meetings, this report provides further clarification that the benefits of moving children from their current school outweigh the challenges of the proposal. It is recommended that the proposal to close St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26 and the expansion of St Francis Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School catchment area to include the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School catchment area should go ahead.
- iv. Children and Families Service did not state within its proposal that a move was required to enable children to participate in team sports and active recreational activities however the Service did say that a larger school would provide more opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities. This is the case with the affected schools in this proposal.
- v. Children and Families Service will continue to support all staff, parents/carers and children through the changes that may result from the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and Nursery as detailed throughout this consultation report.
- vi. Children and Families Service will maintain engagement with parents/carers to provide reassurance regarding any concerns in relation to the capacity of Schools, Early Learning and Childcare provision.
- vii. Children and Families Service will implement robust transition planning, including educational continuity, emotional and social support, and logistical arrangements for transport and accessibility. Council Officers and senior leadership teams will oversee all aspects of transition, ensuring that pupils, parents, and staff are supported. Ongoing engagement will be undertaken and ensure that the needs of the school community are met throughout this process.
- viii. Children and Families Service will ensure clear travel plans are collaboratively developed in conjunction with and adapted by alternative schools within the locality to support the transition and integration of children and families into their new school communities.
- ix. Children and Families Service will identify alternative spaces for community engagement and parental support groups to ensure continuity of social and extracurricular activities allowing children to maintain appropriate community links and to sustain existing wider achievement pursuits within their own local area.
- x. Children and Families Service will ensure all actions required to upgrade current routes to school to deliver safe and appropriate active travel are undertaken.

- xi. Children and Families Service will provide a free transport for all children who currently attend St Pius who choose to continue their primary education in St Francis for the duration of their primary school education.
- xii. Children and Families Service will work with the Diocese of Dunkeld to address all concerns and in partnership provide support to any children transitioning to non-denominational primary schools who are preparing for sacrament. The Service commits to working in partnership with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives to ensure that Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.

11.0 COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010.

- 11.1 The proposal meets the requirements of the above Act, and, accordingly, the Executive Director is not required to apply to Scottish Ministers for dispensation from the standards.

- 11.2 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

After the education authority has received Education Scotland's report, the authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- I. written representations received by the authority (from any person) during the consultation period,
- II. oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,
- iii. Education Scotland's report.

- 11.3 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, 102 responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at public meetings held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.

- 11.4 The feedback from the consultation was considered by relevant officers within the Children and Families Service. Data and factual information were checked where required and advice and input was sought from other council services where needed to consider the issues raised. This ensured that the council met the requirements of Sections 9 (1) of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

- 11.5 Children and Families Service has reviewed the educational benefits statement that was prepared in the Consultation Proposal Paper. The review has concluded that the educational benefits; and effects as identified therein are still valid, and that there are positive educational benefits to be derived should education provision at St Pius X RC Primary School be permanently discontinued.

- 11.6 The consultation feedback received has not led Children and Families Service to the view that it is necessary to reconsider the educational benefits statement. It is recognised however, that by highlighting the benefits of St Francis RC Primary School, Children and Families Service are not implying that many of these benefits do not already exist in St Pius X RC Primary School. The educational benefits in the Consultation Proposal Paper relate to the provision in the re-zoned catchment of St Francis RC Primary School. It is further recognised that should this proposal be approved then it will be incumbent on Children and Families Service to ensure that children and families are well supported in their transition from St Pius X RC Primary School to St Francis RC Primary School.

12.0 OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS

- 12.1 As this proposal relates to the closure of a denominational school, the proposal must be submitted to Scottish Ministers for their consent prior to implementation in terms of Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
- 12.2 In addition to 12.1 the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 apply. The Service must also publish on its website the fact it has notified Scottish Ministers of this decision and the period in which consultees have the opportunity to make representations to Ministers asking for the proposal to be called in. Ministers have the power to call in proposals, but only where it appears to Ministers that the council has failed in significant regard to comply with the Act's requirements or, in coming to its decision, has failed to take account of material consideration relevant to the proposal. Ministers have up to 8 weeks from the date of the council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice.
- 12.3 In accordance with paragraph 12.2 above anyone wishing to make representations to the Scottish Ministers should do so within the first 3 weeks of the 8 week call in period by emailing: schoolclosure@gov.scot or by letter to:

Scottish Government
School Infrastructure
Unit Area 2B
North Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Audrey May Executive Director of Children and Families Service

May 2025

APPENDIX 1**Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Dundee City Council to close St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery and expand the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School.

March 2025

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Dundee City Council to close St Pius X Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School and Nursery and expand the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act. Where a council is proposing to close a school, there are specific additional obligations. These include notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 27 and 28 January 2025 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal; and
- visits to the sites of St Pius X RC Primary School, St Francis RC Primary School, Claypotts Castle Primary School, and Rowantree Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Dundee City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The statutory public consultation ran from 6 January to 19 February 2025. Prior to the public consultation, the council undertook a pre-engagement meeting with church representatives to discuss potential educational benefits. The proposal was made available on the council website and provided to key stakeholders. The council held public meetings on 27 and 28 January 2025 in St Pius X RC Primary School and St Francis RC Primary School respectively. The council recorded a total of 91 attendees. The council received 102 written representations from parents, carers, children, staff, community members and church representatives, including the Diocese of Dunkeld. A parent also organised an online petition to save St Pius X RC Primary School, which has received support from 533 signatures. Almost all written representations received by the council do not support the proposal. During the public meetings and through written representations stakeholders raised a range of questions and concerns. Stakeholders are concerned about fewer parents choosing a denominational education. They also expressed concern about the potential negative impact the proposal may have on families if the catchment area moved to St Francis RC Primary School. These included increased traffic and congestion, the cost for additional travel and the reduction in active travel options. A few suggested that the nursery class at St Pius X RC Primary School could become a standalone facility.

2.3 The council undertook engagement sessions with children, parents and staff from the schools which may be impacted by this proposal. Children across most schools are positive about the potential for making new friendships. However, they noted concerns including additional travel and the potential for current friendship groups being split. They are also sad that St Pius X RC Primary School may close and how that would make children currently attending the school feel. A few parents noted the importance of transition arrangements in the event of the school closing. They also expressed that the school would be a loss to the community.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Dundee City Council highlights the need to achieve best value and optimum efficiency. It notes that the school rolls for St Pius X RC and St Francis RC Primary Schools are in decline. The council believes that this may indicate there is insufficient demand for the number of denominational school places. The proposal notes the school roll for both schools is 162 and 300, respectively. The average occupancy rate of all primary schools in the North East and East End Wards of the city is 73%, the occupancy level of St Pius X RC Primary School is 64%. The council states that a small school roll can limit the ability to offer a full range of curricular and learning opportunities and restrict opportunities for team sports and active recreational activities. However, it is the view of HM Inspectors that a small school roll, in itself, does not impede the offer of curricular and learning opportunities. The council outlines educational benefits to the proposal from the planned catchment change and the closure of St Pius X RC Primary School and nursery. A catchment change would ensure an equitable distribution of children across schools and lead to viable and sustainable pupil rolls. Over time, this will mitigate any detrimental impact upon teaching and learning experiences of the children in the school. HM Inspectors agree that such a change may lead to more sustainable and stable pupil rolls in the longer term.

3.2 The council state that the condition of the current school building is rated as B for suitability and C for condition, and the increasing financial implications of ongoing maintenance. The council notes that the proposal provides educational benefits from children learning in more modern, vibrant learning environments. These will contribute to the effective delivery of pupil entitlements. It believes that this could have a positive impact on mental health and emotional wellbeing of

children and help address accessibility issues that presents challenges to children requiring additional support. The council believes that carefully planned transitions to the alternative schools will allow children to widen their network of friends. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to provide these educational benefits. However, in its proposal the council is not sufficiently clear how their stated educational benefits will outweigh the benefits to children of remaining in St Pius X RC Primary School.

3.3 All of the stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors understand the financial pressures and the need for the council to make efficient use of resources available. All parents and most staff who met with HM Inspectors do not agree with the proposed closure of the school and nursery. All parents raised concerns about the increase in traffic surrounding St Francis RC Primary School and the North East Campus. They believe that this will lead to congestion and have negative environmental impacts. Parents and staff from St Pius X RC Primary School are concerned that the proposal may have the potential to impact negatively on the number of children attending denominational schools. Parents are concerned about the additional travel and the financial implications this will have for families. A key concern for working parents is the uncertainty over nursery placements, the availability of term-time places and how they will manage multiple drop-offs. Parents value highly the support they receive from St Pius X RC Primary School staff and believe that children currently benefit from a wide range of in class and extra-curricular activities. They believe that the school is an integral part of the community. Parents are concerned that they will lose their well-established relationships with families and the support network formed around the school and local community. They fear that if the council proceeds with the proposal, it could have a detrimental impact on mental health and wellbeing of children and families. HM Inspectors agree that should the proposal proceed, it will be important that the closure of the school and nursery is managed well, and transition arrangements are developed with stakeholders.

3.4 Almost all children who met with HM Inspectors do not support the proposal. All children attending St Pius X RC Primary School enjoy the individualised support they receive from school staff. They were able to express the advantages of the range of learning experiences, team sports and active recreational activities they currently benefit from, including afterschool clubs. Children are sad that their school may close and are worried that they will lose existing friendships. They are also concerned that they could be overwhelmed by attending schools with a larger number of children. Children from the other schools are positive about welcoming new pupils to their school and see the benefits of having larger friendship groups. However, they too expressed some concerns over busier playgrounds and less space in classrooms.

3.5 HM Inspectors met with church representatives, including the Diocese of Dunkeld. Although they understand the financial pressures the council faces, they do not support the proposal. They believe that, should the proposal proceed, it may limit choices available to parents due to circumstance such as socio-economic context, geography or employment. They note the non-denominational primary schools will now be closer to homes than relocating to St Francis RC Primary School. They highlighted the need to provide support to any children transitioning to non-denominational primary schools who are preparing for sacrament. They remain committed to having further discussions on alternatives. HM Inspectors recommend that the council continue to work closely with the Diocese and families to address their concerns.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to provide educational benefits regarding accessibility and modern facilities. It also presents opportunities for the council to make efficiency savings. HM Inspectors agree that such a change may lead to more sustainable and stable pupil rolls in the longer term. However, HM Inspectors consider it is not sufficiently clear that these potential benefits outweigh the challenges that would result in moving children from their current school. HM Inspectors disagree that this move is required to enable children to participate in team sports and active recreational activities. In its consultation report, the council should be clear how it will address the potential negative impacts on children and families of closing St Pius X RC Primary School and nursery. The council should also be clear about the benefits of moving children to alternative settings. Should the council proceed with the proposal, it should continue to consider the views of church representatives and work with stakeholders to address their concerns. It will also be important that the council works closely with stakeholders to support children's transitions.

HM Inspectors
March 2025

APPENDIX 2

Summary of any oral representations made at any public meeting.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Ballumbie Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Ballumbie Primary School

29 January 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: 10 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Where is St Pius?

A: St Pius is in the Douglas area of Dundee.

Q: Are you only thinking of closing St Pius?

A: Yes, the only school we are consulting on regarding a possible closure is St Pius X RC Primary school.

Q: If St Pius was to close, what would happen to the building?

A: The building will likely be demolished.

Q: If the school was to close and children go to other schools what would happen to the friendship groups?

A: Depending on what school's children go to will determine if friendship groupings are retained. Unfortunately, if friends don't go to that same school, then they may need to make new friends within school but can continue friendships outside of school. If the proposal went ahead, work would be done with the children in terms of transition activities related to the receiving school to support the development of friendships.

Q: What would happen to Head Teacher of St Pius, would they still be a Head Teacher if they were to go to another school?

A: Head Teacher at St Pius is in an acting position, that means it's not permanent therefore they would move back into their previous role within another school.

Q: Would St Francis have extra space for all the extra pupils?

A: Yes, we have modelled this and make reference to it in the proposal paper, North East Campus is the building that St Francis is located in, this has capacity for extra children.

Q: Do all schools teach the same thing?

A: Yes, the broad general education within a curriculum for excellent is the model used to allow appropriate experiences and outcomes to be delivered across different primary stages.

View Shared:

- I think it's a good idea, because there is an opportunity for Dundee City Council to do other things in the area if the building was closed and something else could be built in its place.
- I don't think it should close, teachers moving to new jobs and children having to break up friendships. Also, uniform change is expensive and there may not be room in other schools to take all the children.
- I think it's a bad idea; their school is an important part of their education.
- I don't think it should be closed as parents want their children to have a catholic education.
- I don't think it's good as parents might not drive and might have difficulty getting their children to school. Traveling to your local school is better than having to go to another which is a further distance away.
- It could impact upon children's learning if they don't have the same teacher or support staff.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Ballumbie Primary School Staff

Venue: Ballumbie Primary School

29 January 2025 3.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Rachel Cook Depute Head Teacher.

Staff were aware of the session and invited to join the meeting, no-one attended the drop in to share their views on the proposal. G Laidlaw also raised awareness during the school staff meeting.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session with Parent Council

Venue: Ballumbie Primary School

27 January 2025 9am

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: 5 parent members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: What happens to the staff at St Pius, do they get re-allocated to other schools?

A: If the school was to close, a staffing exercise would be undertaken with all permanent staff to determine which school they would go to?

Q: All schools get PEF funding, what would happen with the amount given to St Pius if it were to close, would this be given to other schools?

A: Distribution of PEF is determined on SIMD profile of children attending schools, if children were to move schools, they would be considered within the receiving school's allocation.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Claypotts Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Claypotts Primary School

7 February 2025 9am

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees :9 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Some classes have a maximum number, if boys and girls came here would they increase?

A: Class sizes would only rise to their maximum 25 for P1 or a composite class, 30 for P2 & P3 or 33 children for all other stages. The make-up of classes is reviewed at the start of a new session which would include any children from St Pius, should their school close and they move to a different school.

Q: What happens to St Pius clubs, would these shut down?

A: Clubs and activities delivered by staff and organisations may have the opportunity to continue but in other schools.

Q: Say St Pius closed, would anyone lose their Job?

A: All permanent staff would keep their jobs but would move to different schools.

Q: If St Pius was to close, would it be more likely that they would go to the other catholic school rather than here?

A: The school children might move to would be the choice of the children and their parent/carer

Q: If they moved to this school, would they still get their catholic experience?

A: If a child moved to Claypotts and they wished to still have a catholic experience, this would need to be considered with the support of the church.

Q: If the school shuts, would it get knocked down?

A: The building will likely be demolished.

Q: If St Pius children came here, would children come in and mix in our classes?

A: Yes, no different to any other child that newly enrolls at the school.

Q: Is there a proposal for the community centre?

A: Yes, there is a separate proposal being consulted on related to services within the new East End Community Campus.

Q: What happens for the children moving to secondary?

A: Children in P7 would transition to their chosen secondary school as normal.

Views shared:

- It will be difficult for them to make new friends so anyone new to our class we would sit with them and speak to them and make them feel welcomed.
- I moved here from St Pius, it was a bit scary and took a few days/weeks to settle but everyone was friendly, so know what that would feel like.
- It can be difficult to move and make new friends but is made easier when people have friend groups already in the new school you might move to.
- If St Pius was to close, I would feel happy for anyone to come here to experience our learning environment and enjoy our learning experiences.
- If St Pius children came here, a person from each class could buddy them and help introduce them.
- When someone new comes to our classes, we get a group of children to support them and help them settle in their new class.
- For anyone moving school could be scary, and we would want to try and make it better for them.
- We need to make sure St Pius is Ok and should try and help one another to come together if their school closes because that would be difficult and sad for them.
- I have a friend a St Pius already, so it would be nice for them to come here, and I could introduce them to my other friends.
- It would be good for them to take part in our learning at Claypotts.
- I think we should really help their children as the younger ones would have just made friends and that would be upsetting if they went to different schools and friendships were broken up.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Claypotts Primary School Staff

Venue: Claypotts Primary School

11 February 2025 12:15pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended to share their views on the proposal.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session with Parent Council

Venue: Claypotts Primary School

11 February 2025 11:15am

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: 1 parent member (parent council chair)

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal. The chair had engaged with parents from the community and brought their views to the meeting.

The following question was raised:

Q: Is St Pius taking in P1 this year?

A: Yes.

The following information was shared:

- Some parents are keen to know if St Pius children would still get the opportunity to experience a catholic education.
- If the schools came together, it would be a good thing for the Douglas community. It would be great for the kids to mix.
- We recognise that both schools have a similar level of need and coming together could help support that.
- It will be Important that the needs of St Pius children and staff are met should there be a period of transition prior to possible closure.
- Would additional staffing be available if there were larger classes, both Teaching and Support Staff.
- Transport would be an issue for some families in the area, less so if they came to Claypotts but it would be likely challenging if they had to travel further to St Francis.

- We would have concerns if the St Pius building wasn't demolished following its closure as it may attract vandalism.
- St Pius is a rating C for condition, does that mean schools with a similar rating may be considered for closure in the future?
- It will be sad if the school closes for the community, but if that happens, we will embrace them and hoping to reach out and meet with their parent group regardless of the consultation outcome to strengthen our relationship.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Craigiebarns Primary School Staff

Venue: Craigiebarns Primary School

15 January 2025 3:30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Karen Clarke Head Teacher, Arlene Findlater Depute Head Teacher.

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended to share their views on the proposal.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session with Parent Council

Venue: Craigiebarns Primary School

15 January 2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer (GL).

Other attendees: Karen Clarke Head Teacher, Arlene Findlater Deputy Head Teacher, 12 Parent members and staff.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

GL shared that the purpose of his visit was to discuss the consultation of the possible closure of St Pius PS and the change in catchment area for St Francis. The reason he was visiting Craigiebarns PS was due to the school being mentioned in the proposal as an affected school. He wanted to bring the consultation to our attention and hopefully answer any questions we may have.

GL shared that the consultation would run for 30 school days (not including school closures and INSET days) from the 6th of January till the 19th of February. Should the proposal go ahead the impact for Craigiebarns may be an increase in school roll. St Pius family's impact would be that they now will have the choice of St Francis (denominational school) or one of 7 non-denominational schools depending on the family's home location. The seven schools are Claypotts PS, Ballumbie PS, Craigiebarns PS, Longhaugh PS, Rowantree PS, Mill o Mains PS and Fintry PS.

GL brought attention to the consultation document (including proposal) being available online on the DCC website. The link is [Consultation Proposal | Dundee City Council](#). GL shared that the impact of the proposal extends the catchment area of St Francis PS. GL said DCC foresee no detriment to CPS, however, invites families to share their thoughts on the consultation form.

GL shared that DCC are to hold two public meetings to discuss proposals. These are on the 27th of January at St Pius RC PS at 6pm (viewing of proposal)/6.30pm (public meeting) and the 28th of January at St Francis RC PS at 6pm (viewing of proposal)/6.30pm (public meeting). GL will be in attendance at these meetings. GL met with the learning council today and had a drop-in session with CPS staff to share information and to allow pupils and teachers the opportunity to ask questions. GL's answers to any questions that are in these minutes will be added to the consultation document.

GL shared that the consultation report will be collated, reviewed by Education Scotland in March and available to public in April- taking into account all views shared in meetings GL said it is anticipated that the children, families and communities committee will decide to approve or reject the final proposal at a meeting in June 2025. In the case of a school closure the Scottish Government Ministers have the power to call in decisions. Ministers would have up to 8 weeks to decide whether or not to issue a call in notice. GL then opened up for any questions from the partnership members.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Costs implications of the project, including the costs to the remaining school (St Francis), and the cost of securing and disposing the St Pius site if it was closed. Also, the capacity of St Francis to receive the full roll of St Pius if required?

A: GL began by directing MS to appendix one of the proposals where it shares demolition costs to be an estimated £300,000 as well as all other cost implications and savings detailed. GL then directed attention to section 4.4 of the proposal which shows the projected primary rolls for primary schools within the east end and north east wards. GL explained the overall capacity of the North East Campus (the building that houses St Francis RC PS) is 907 and the current role of LPS is approximately 260 and St Francis 310. Should all children from St Pius choose to transfer to St Francis RC PS the combined roll provisionally based on census figures would be in the region of 462. GL explained that the cost implications for St Francis RC PS (and any other school impacted) would be minimal as money would move with children to their new schools to increase staffing and resource budgets.

Q: If the closure goes ahead, is it for the 2025-2026 session?

A: GL explained that the earliest it can go ahead, if elected members agree to the closure, is a closing date of 2nd July 2026. It will not affect current primary 7 and 6 pupils only primary 5 and lower. The school would still have an intake of P1s in the 2025-2026 session. GL wanted to point out that this is a consultation on a proposal and there may be valid reasons not to close the school and it is all still to be determined.

GL reminded parents that the webpage is live on DCC website now and thanked them for his attendance.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Craigiebarns Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Craigiebarns Primary School

15 January 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Karen Clarke Head Teacher., 11 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: In a week Craigiebarns would spend money on lots of food for 300 children, activities and bills, how much does St Pius school spend?

A: In the proposal paper, we projected £1.4m a year, which is around £27k a week.

Q: If St Pius closing would most children move to St Francis?

A: A choice would give to parents /carers and children., we could accommodate them if they all choose to go there.

Q: How do they save money; do they build something else when the school closes?

A: The building would likely be demolished, then they may sell off land.

Q: how big is St Pius, does it cost more compared to us?

A: Around 160 children, It is likely it costs more if you average the cost per pupil because the school building has around half the number of children.

Q: Are there more staff for less children?

A: it costs more for less children as you still need certain numbers of staff to teach and support classes, smaller class sizes can be less efficient.

Views shared:

- Could or could not be a good idea because children could move with friends, but some might get separated and have to make new friends.
- Its fine either way, if they close its good because other schools get more children, also land for shops and gyms could be available.
- It's good in a way because it better spends money, but some children would be sad to move away from the school they have always been at.
- Feel it would be bad because they would need to travel further and possibly get busses but it's not good spend of money as we could have more children costing less money.
- might be good idea, as they may want to move school, P1 are just making new friends anyway, a bit harder for older children.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Fintry Primary Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Fintry Primary School

5 February 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: 8 children across a range of stages

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: How long ago was St Pius made?

A: The current St Pius X RC Primary School building was built before 1970's so will be more than 50 years old.

Q: If Pupils from St Pius came here, would we need more classrooms?

A: Not necessarily, we have capacity in Fintry to take more boys and girls if we needed to. If the proposal went ahead and some children did come here, we would look at changing the number of classes sets and grouping of children. This is something we would do normally each year before the new school session in August.

Q: If they did close St Pius, could they save up money and build a new school in the future?

A: Any money saved might be spent on other things within the Children and Families Service which includes any remaining schools.

Q: If a new school was built, would it have a different name?

A: If a new school was being built and not replacing an existing one, yes, they would consider a new name.

Views shared:

- If you move school that could be difficult and making new friends can be hard which means you might not have anyone to play with.
- Their school isn't very big but if the children from St Pius came here, we would treat them how we would want to be treated with kindness and friendship to help them make new friends with us.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session with Parent Council

Venue: Fintry Primary School

5 February 2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer. (GL)

Other Attendees: Nick Weryk Head Teacher, Laura Clarke Principal Teacher, 6 parent members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

We welcomed visitor GL tonight to explain & discuss the consultation on the proposal to close St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School & Nursery at the end of academic session 2025/26. They are also looking within the proposal to expand the St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area to include the existing St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area. The Children, Families and Communities Committee approved the proposed consultation which could see the permanent closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic School & Nursery.

GL will be attending a total of 33 meetings to let everyone know about the proposal & the reasons behind the proposed closure. Some of the reasons are due to the condition of the building, the number of pupils enrolled in St Pius have declined over the last 5 years and there is a big enough capacity at St Francis to allow all pupils from St Pius to move there however some children may decide to go to other schools within the City which Fintry may be one of those schools. Once all the consultation meetings have been done, Education Scotland will undertake their own engagement into the proposal, a report will then be published in after April.

Should the proposal be agreed later this year, Dundee Council would help support any transition, catchment area issues and the proposal date for closure is suggested to be the 2nd of July 2026. We had the opportunity to ask questions however GL explained everything really well so nothing to add but if anyone thought of anything after the meeting, they could give questions or written feedback which is welcomed by e-mailing children.families@dundeecity.gov.uk or contacting Audrey May (Executive Director of Children & Families in writing).



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Fintry Primary School Staff

Venue: Fintry Primary School

5 February 2025 4.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw, Education Officer

Other attendees: Nick Weryk Head Teacher, Barbara Webster Deputy Head Teacher, Laura Clark Principal Teacher, Lee Horne Principal Teacher.

Staff in attendance: 14

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Could you explain further the reasons for the possible closure?

A: Two main aspects of the proposal are the ongoing cost to maintain the condition levels of the building at St Pius and the declining pupil role. The school building is currently reported as a “c” rating for condition. Although works are regularly undertaken to address areas which reduce the condition scoring, the associated costs tend to be more due to the age of the building. The primary pupil role over the past 5 years has been declining across the city, which impacts upon smaller schools such as St Pius, its current roll is around 162 pupils which less than other schools in the area.

Q: Do the other schools in the area have capacity to take these children?

A: Yes, we have undertaken modelling and analysis to demonstrate some examples within the proposal paper.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Longhaugh Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Longhaugh Primary School

22 January 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Danny Albayati Deputy Head Teacher, 7 children across a range of stages

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: How likely is it that this will happen?

A: It depends on what views are shared during the consultation, but no decisions have or will be made until the consultation report and recommendations are put to committee in June 2025.

Views shared:

- They (St Pius pupils) might enjoy more opportunities like astro pitches, games equipment and team games because there are more children in North East Campus, better facilities and a newer building.
- Everyone can get around our school even if they have disabilities.
- It's nice to learn in a newer building with better equipment, pencils and resources.
- They (St Pius pupils) would be nervous attending a new school. We welcome them and make them feel at home in Longhaugh; we would want to help them make new friends.
- There is more staff and things to do in bigger schools so lots of people to get to know one another through games and activities.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Longhaugh Primary School Staff

Venue: Longhaugh Primary School

22 January 2025 3.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Danny Albayati Deputy Head Teacher.

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended to share their views on the proposal.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session with Parent Council

Venue: Longhaugh Primary School

22 January 2025 4pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw, Education Officer

Other attendees: Nicola Jenkins Head Teacher, Danny Albayati, Deputy Head Teacher, 4 parent members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Would transport links be improved, such as the frequency of number 10 bus?

A: A commitment to review transport arrangements and engagement with travel providers has been given within the proposal paper should the closure proposal approved.

Q: Traffic is already an issue outside North East Campus, an increase in children being dropped off could potentially make this worse?

A: There is already a safer streets initiative in place, only cars with approval should be within this area during designated times, this would need reviewed and enforced further in necessary. Should a considerable number of children transfer to St Francis and drop/off pick up becomes more congested, this would need to be looked at to maintain safe access and routes to school.

Q: If all 160 children chose to attend St Francis, would this negatively impact upon the capacity of Longhaugh?

A: No, the capacity of Longhaugh would remain the same, North East Campus has additional accommodation not currently allocated to either school and designed to support an increase in pupil roll. This accommodation could be allocated to St Francis to increase their capacity for the period of time that it is required.

Q: Does the proposal affect the nursery in the same way?

A: No, the nursery does not work on a catchment basis in the way the school does, and page 12 of the proposal paper provides information on potential options available for nursery parents/carers.

Views shared:

- The streets at St Francis are very congested currently during drop off/pick up at school.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Mill of Mains Primary School Staff

Venue: Mill of Mains Primary School

20 January 2025 12.15pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Ashley Matheson Head Teacher, Aine Wise Depute Head Teacher.

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended to share their views on the proposal.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Mill of Mains Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Mill of Mains Primary School

20 January 2025 1.15pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees :15 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: What's the difference between an RC school and non-RC school?

A: Denominational schools experience a Roman Catholic faith-based teaching and learning experience.

Q: If this were to happen, when would the school close and new children would come to schools like ours?

A: 2026.

Q: Could rooms in St Pius like spare classrooms be used for other for other purposes for the community?

A: Possibly but there are currently no other groups applying for lets to use the building outside school hours.

Q: If the school closed what would happen to the building?

A: The building will likely be demolished.

Q: How many children does the school have now?

A: Approximately 160 children.

Q: What's the reason for the roll going down?

A: A few reasons including less primary aged children across Dundee or families moving to different areas.

Q: Why do buildings close?

A: Buildings can be close for different reasons, in this situation, we are proposing the closure because of its condition and the yearly cost to repair it or make improvements, we are also considering this because of the decreasing pupil roll.

Q: Would the teachers be jobless?

A: No, staff with permanent contracts would be redeployed to other schools in Dundee

Views shared:

- The proposal has positives and negatives, due to travel and missing friends, but making new friends is a good thing and being in a larger school with lots of children.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Mill of Mains Primary School Parent Council

Venue: Mill of Mains Primary School

21 January 2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Ashley Matheson Head Teacher, 4 parent members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

No parents had directly approached parent council to express any concerns or feedback.

The following questions were raised:

Q: What would happen to the land where St Pius building is currently?

A: The building would likely be demolished and the site clear. The council may then consider sell the land.

Q: What will happen to the school staff?

A: Staff with permanent contracts would be redeployed to other schools in Dundee.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Rowantree Primary School Staff

Venue: Rowantree Primary School

6 February 2025 3.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Tina Ross Head Teacher

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Rowantree Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: Rowantree Primary School

6 February 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Tina Ross Head Teacher, 14 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: If the school would be knocked down. What would happen to the site?

A: They would look to possibly sell it on for re-development such as housing.

Q: What the reason were for the closure?

A: This is due to a drop in school roll and related to the building condition.

Q: How many people are happy and how many are unhappy?

A: We don't have an answer to that however the purpose in the consultation meetings is to gain people's views.

Q: Where would teachers go?

A: Permanent staff would be re-deployed to other schools.

Q: Would they get new jotters?

A: Pupils normally get new ones issued at start of new term.

Q: If the school closed, could it reopen?

A: Unfortunately, no.

Q: Could children come to Rowantree?

A: YES, they would be welcome to come to Rowantree.

Q: What would go on the St Pius ground?

A: Not sure of this yet but building would likely be demolished.

Q: Where would the resources go?

A: They could be re-distributed to other schools.

Q: Will it impact our school?

A: Only in a way where you may receive new pupils and possibly staff coming to Rowantree.

Q: Would St Pius teachers come here?

A: Yes, probably if pupils came here, some might.

Q: What if there is not enough room in the schools?

A: This has been worked out by looking at the school buildings, there is space for the children in other schools.

Q: How would the children get to the other schools if they don't have cars?

A: Children and Families Service would need to consider how they support families with transport difficulties.

Q: Is the building unsafe?

A: No, the building is not unsafe, but it continues to cost money to maintain its condition level.

Q: What will happen to Prom for P5's going into P7?

A: P7's would be included in the plans for their new school which they would move to.

Views shared:

- It is sad that school may closed and how would children feel.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session Rowantree Primary School Parent Council

Venue: Rowantree Primary School

6 February 2025 1.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer (GL)

Other attendees: Tina Ross, Head Teacher, 4 parent council members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: When does the proposal open?

A: 6th January 2025 – proposal opened.

Q: When does it close?

A: 19th February 2025 – proposal closes.

Q: When is it proposed to close St Pius?

A: If the proposal is approved, the closure of St Pius would be in July 2026.

Q: Can we look at the expansion of St Pius to stop the role declining?

Q: What state is the building in?

A: Condition rating C – around £140k spent recently on the roof.

Views Shared:

- Some families may decide to send pupils to Rowantree Primary
- **Parent A** felt that their views would not be considered, and the decision would be taken by the committee regardless. They also asked how many schools were council owned? This was shared.
- **Parent B** said that she appreciated that the spending on the roof was expensive.
- **Parent A** feels that the council is taking from the public and closing buildings which are important.

GL explained that the building was already declining – **Parent A** said that if problems were dealt with in terms of buildings this would be happening.

- **Parent B** understood the declining role in a school that is requiring work would be costly.

- **Parent B** asked if there was a problem with the safety of the building and **GL** explained that the building was safe.
- **Parent C** asked where the proposal was and were directed to online.
- **Parent C** stated that starting transition too soon would not support the young people.
- **GL** explained that there is a full academic session prior to any proposed closure allowing time for clear transitions.
- **Parent D** asked re transport as she is concerned that the primary school children will have to get on the bus – same bus as high school children – concerns raised re older children with younger children. Concerns also raised regarding increased volume of traffic as parents feel Douglas is already congested.
- **Parent B** asked what happened following the final decision.
- **GL** explained that the decision is finalised at this point.
- Parents shared concerns over schools becoming overcrowded leading to potential for less individualised support.
- **Parent C** asked will there be enough teachers.
- **GL** confirmed that there would be a transfer of staff and local authority commitment to Newly Qualified Teachers. Staff with permanent positions would have jobs elsewhere – if the school closes.
- **Parent A** said that some schools were already struggling with the number of pupils they already have – how would this work.
- **GL** confirmed modelling had been done within the proposal paper to demonstrate the schools could manage the pupil numbers.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Pius X RC Primary School Pupil Focus Group

Venue: St Pius X RC Primary School

4 February 2025 2.30pm

Officers: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Ciara Smith Head Teacher

Pupils in attendance: 14 children, across a range of stages.

Children were asked if they were aware of the proposal – Yes.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q. What would St Francis get called if St Pius Joined.

A. Its name wouldn't change as this is a proposal to close St Pius and not merge schools.

Q. What would they do with the site and build here, Houses?

A. If the proposal went ahead, the building would be demolished once the school closed, and the site cleared. Whilst there are no decisions, yes, it is possible that houses could be built.

Q. What would happen to staff.

A. The permanent staff in the school would be given the opportunity to work in other schools or nurseries.

Q. If a lot of children from St Pius went to a certain school, would it get extended?

A. Depending on the capacity of the schools we would need to consider what are the best options for accommodation, but this is unknown as the consultation is only currently a proposal.

Q. What would happen to the laptops?

A: Resources may be re-distributed to other schools.

Q. If the school closes down, most children I think would go to St Francis, would that mean they would need to spend more money of resource and meals?

A: The Local Authority would continue to provide the appropriate finance to support each child within their school

Q. What is the capacity of St Pius Primary?

A: Approx 270.

Q. Would our teachers come to the different schools?

A: Permanent teachers and support staff would be allocated to different schools.

Q. P5's what would happen to their P7 residential?

A: They would get the chance to do a P7 residential at their new school, unsure if something would be arranged for the St Pius P7 should the school close.

Views shared:

- Some people are saying because St Pius is so old it shouldn't get closed down but it's falling apart, and children leave each year so its roll might not get any better.
- They should not shut it because it's been here for ages and has a lot of memories.
- People that don't have cars so they need to walk and that will be hard as schools are further away, and they might need to move.
- Some people come because they are catholic like me and it's my local school and I enjoyed making my sacraments and wouldn't get the same experience at a not catholic school.
- It would be really sad for P5, if the school closes, then they wouldn't get their P7 year together.
- It will be hard to make new friends moving to another school and we have been with most people in our class since the start.
- It will have a huge impact on younger brothers and sisters getting them to different schools.
- Douglas is popular and St Francis is not close to our area only leaving Claypotts as an option for school.
- I feel like you would be taking away a community from us which our school is part of and taking away other buildings will make it boring.
- We might be going to separate schools with friends and cousins so it will be sad not seeing them as often.
- I'm not a catholic but really like learning here.
- I play for the football team and closing the school will remove clubs will take away the history.
- Some people don't have cars so it's difficult for them to get to St Francis.
- It took me ages to make friends, and changing school would be very difficult having to do that all over again.
- It will be sad for the P1-3 as they would have to move to a new to the school as they would be forced to start again with learning and making friends.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Pius X RC Primary School Nursery Focus Group

Venue: St Pius X RC Primary School

10 February 2025

St Pius consultation with children in the early years – focus group of 8 children

What do you like best about St Pius Nursery?

I like the garden, watering the plants and feeding the birds. I like outside and inside because everyone plays with me. I like making pictures and seeing the ladies. The Duplo and my lady. Oh, and sitting at snack talking. I like seeing [staff names] at the door in the morning. I like building with sticks in the garden. Running about in the garden and feeding the wildlife. The whole playroom. There are loads to do. I like [staff names] and the person from Big Noise.

What are your favourite things to do in nursery?

Draw. I like lunchtime. Draw for my mum and dad. Learning to ride my bike and in the home corner. Play with the big bricks and small ones with my friends. Learn about the sun, the moon, and planets. Play with the bikes and planting. Play in the home corner and spend time with [staff name]. The mud kitchen is my favourite. I like mixing. We use sticks and make up games. I like singing and the yellow guitar. I like to play water and sand with me, my friend and [staff name].

When you are not at nursery, what do you miss most?

The teachers (staff). My friends, I actually love them. Everything the nursery. The art area and my friends. I miss feeling responsible, at home I don't get responsible. My friends. Seeing the ladies (staff) and my friends every day. Outside and running around being busy. The sticks too. I don't have them at home. I just like nursery all the time. I miss [staff names] and the person from Big Noise.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Pius X RC Primary School Staff

Venue: St Pius X RC Primary School

4 February 2025 3.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer, Tracey Stewart, Education Officer

Other attendees: Ciara Smith Head Teacher, Stephanie Low Depute Head Teacher, 22 staff.

Staff were aware of the session and the proposal.

G Laidlaw provided an overview of the proposal and consultation process.

Views Shared:

- I think knowing the children of our school and the needs they have is important due to its size.
- Concerns about classrooms filled (full), may mean needs won't be met. We are a small school and it's a concern that the needs of the children won't be met if class sizes are larger.
- It said in the report that there are more opportunities at bigger schools, but we believe that smaller class sizes are better for attainment. John Swinney reporting that he wants to bring classes smaller.
- We have lots of opportunities in this setting for children – in community and clubs.
- Staff turnaround – there is not a high turnaround of staff or pupils, relationships built with families is not mentioned in the report. Parents need this community.
- For a lot of families, the financial implications will be huge if they need to move further away to get to another school (£88 a month to get a bus to another school), even if not getting the bus 3 miles (an hour's walk minimum) to get to another school. Not many would walk 3 miles to work – we shouldn't have higher expectations for others that we wouldn't do ourselves.
- Housing being built close by – big family houses. Where will all these families go to school?
- Nurseries – the alternative places mentioned in the report these term time places are full. Are these going to be expanded? We are full and so are others so where are they going to go and this may be a different place to sibling.
- Attendance – feel this will be detrimental moving to a school 3 miles away, as well as late coming – there will be an impact.

- In the report, extending the catchment of St Francis, but the community want to stay in Douglas so may choose Claypotts and they would have to find space for them. Is the capacity considering this and will there be room for everyone.
- Lots of children attend for gymnastics and football in the community, very cheap. Will they be able to get back in time for clubs.
- Will siblings be guaranteed to be placed together.
- Concerns of traffic at St Francis and the new campus – all in same area, that will be the route children would take and there will be traffic concerns.
- On one hand we are encouraging families to walk to school, yet we are saying now walk 3 miles.
- Families come here who need a lot of support – where are they going to get this in the short term until relationships are built.
- So much uncertainty for families, and for staff, it's a very long time. We were told that we would have our wellbeing supported if we close but we need this now, there is a lot of uncertainty.
- What happens to the staff if this goes ahead?
- Questions – who decides how redeployment is handled, who goes first, if there is not a job role vacant in another establishment, what would happen.
- Catholic teachers – would they be placed in a catholic school, would there be a priority. Would there be a say where we go, give a list of preferences. Concern about where they will be placed. Many have bought houses in a certain area.
- Is there an option for the nursery to be a standalone nursery – it's less than 10 years old. Established nursery, great team, lots of parents prefer the size, good care inspectorate report and feedback from parents.
- Would there be options to utilise parts of the school, the annexe is also newer than the main building. e.g. if everyone wants to go to Claypotts there won't be space, could bits be used, could Claypotts link with these particular parts.
- Really good community links. What would happen to Big Noise for our children.
- Achievements of the children have been so much. They wouldn't get these opportunities if school is so far away. Big Noise children are collected from here. We do a lot to support access to the community right after school.
- There's also been a lot of money spent on our school. It's in better condition than other schools. 68% capacity – there are other schools' lower capacity. We've taken another 7 children this week.

- Small intimate classes, great nursery, real family.
- Are we taking the choice of a small school away? It is also taking away the choice of a catholic school and leaving only one school in the east of the city – 3 miles away. Opportunity should be there for everyone. No Catholic provision in Monifieth, Broughty Ferry – we take children from these areas because families want to send child to a Catholic school.
- At the public meeting – there was so much passion there from the parents, we hope that this is considered. Emotions are high.

Meeting ended: 4.08pm



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Sessions St Pius X RC Primary School Parent Council

Venue: St Pius X RC Primary School

4 February 2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer (GL), Tracey Stewart Education Officer

Other attendees: Ciara Smith Head Teacher, Stephanie Low Depute Head Teacher, 8 parent members.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

GL gave background – part of consultation, public meetings statutory meetings. Emphasised that this is still a proposal. Engagement and consultation timeline – 6 Jan – 19 Feb.

Consultation is a proposal on closure of St Pius Primary and Nursery at end of school session 2026 and expansion of St Francis catchment area.

Declining school roll and investment in maintaining the building.

All evidence gathered will be shared with Education Scotland – they will then have a 3-week period of engagement. Once concluded they will write a report. DCC will then produce an outcome report. A paper will be submitted by committee in June and decisions will be made. Written responses can be submitted up to 19th February.

Views shared:

- £80 for ticket for bus for adults every 4 weeks, per person. Could be different people picking up and dropping off. This is for adults taking and picking up their children. e.g. P1, P3 and nursery child and child in a pram – is there really an expectation that this will be allowed. What about safety? That's even without the new school open.
- The road floods, beside the super campus, traffic will be heavy.
- Buses frequently get cancelled. Or bus stopped moved. Only one bus – Drumgeith road or no 10 (only every half hour) or walk further with no bus shelter. No 10 bus only single decker bus – only allowed 2 buggies on a bus.
- A lot of children walk to school currently on own. They would have to walk past Drumgeith Park which is always flooded. This will be chaos. Even today roads in the area were flooded.
- Parents get phone calls at any time of the day if there is an issue – how are they supposed to get there (St Francis).

- Out of school care – have children go on different days – how will this work.
- Will children have the same support they get in St Pius.
- What will happen to the staff in this school.
- Facilities at St Francis – big open spaces but at St Pius it's so much better, smaller environment. For some children they need the smaller space. The alternatives being offered are too big. These buildings are not suitable for all children.
- Children with Autism how will they cope. What is being thought of putting ESA places in high school.
- Children will get lost (going to school). Very concerned.
- Will children get the same help. Father at the church knows every child as well.
- Children will need to make friends again and this will be really difficult. Also difficult for the adults as well – we always support each other.
- Concern about doing the school run – impossible to do and fit it in, too far away. It will be a 40 minute walk each way to get to St Francis.
- Taking other facilities away from the community – sports centre.
- Catholic education and Big Noise – only St Pius get this at this side of the City. No other school in the area that they can get both. They get great support.
- Send my children here to give security and support. Feel that all staff support children. Not just teaching staff, part of a family.
- Will be like starting Primary 1 again, concerns that children will develop anxiety.
- Claypotts is bursting at the seam. Where will all the children go.
- Extension on St Francis? GL clarified that it is not an expansion of the building its expansion of the catchment area.
- Children with additional needs – how will they get all the children out of the building in a fire.
- How many times has the roof been fixed on St Pius over last 20 years – parent commented that it is only once.
- When will we get answers. GL – explained the outcome report, April 2025, puts it into themes and the local authority is obliged to respond to all these.
- More pupils have enrolled in school in the last week. Why is the school being closed if it is so popular.
- What is needing fixed to make the school a Grade B. Could we look at lottery funding.
- What about the number of staff. Other schools won't understand my child's needs.
- St Francis is on the main road – not as safe.
- Have got my child settled here and now she will be upset.

- Traffic outside North East Campus is very heavy. Accident waiting to happen.
- Have members of the emergency services been contacted to give their views of the high volume of traffic and pedestrians. Buses now don't go past the school (St Francis)– they have been moved due to the high level of cars in the area.
- Lot of things just not thought about. Lot of things that still need to be thought about. Too many things preventing it from happening.
- After school clubs – won't be able to get back for them. Good provision at St Pius.
- No traffic lights on the road beside St Francis.
- A lot of children walk on their own – what about their safety.
- Attendance is going to go down, late coming will rise.
- Holiday club, breakfast club, tea club provision close by at St Pius – won't manage to get to St Francis for this. Kids will go hungry.
- Older children will lose out on their independence as the school is too far away and won't get them prepared for secondary school. Taking rights away from them. Not getting the same experiences at younger age which will prepare them for high school.
- Will P7s get additional support – going to St Francis then moving to secondary, will there be enhanced transition to support the preparation to get to secondary.
- St Pius nursery and P1 will reduce this year as parents are putting their children to other schools. Nursery staff are great too. Children will miss out on opportunities. There is a lot to be said for small schools and nursery.
- Children under social work – there are some families who deliberately separate their children between different schools.
- Claypotts don't want parents in the playground, St Pius HT and DHT out speaking to parents every day, it's like a family. Would never get it anywhere else. Simple things will be missed.
- Children will struggle going to such a big school (St Francis).
- Need to get it right for all the children here. It feels like they are just being treated as a number. Children are worrying already. Children asking their parents where they are going.
- School has been in the community for generations and within walking distance for everyone, everyone looks out for everyone else and roads are safe, speed bumps. To get to the other school you need to cross busy roads and big lorries on the road close by.
- Don't hear about bullying about St Pius – we do hear about this at other schools. We know our child is safe.

- Have you thought about the number of counsellors you will need to support the children's health and wellbeing.
- Safety – the Dighty burn, too dangerous.
- Head Teacher and Depute at St Pius sort things out immediately, they know everyone.
- A lot of children are going through significant life changes with their family, and now they need to deal with another significant change. As adults we are supposed to deal with this.

Meeting ended – 18.51pm



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Pius X Public Meeting

Venue: St Pius X RC Primary School

27 January 2025 6.30pm

Attendance: Audrey May Executive Director, Paul Fleming Head of Service (PF), Pam Nesbitt Education Manager, Lesley Gibb Education Manager, Helen Gray Education Officer, Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Ciara Smith Head Teacher, Stephanie Low Depute Head Teacher, Tereasa Little Church representative (TL).

Members of public present: 83

Meeting started at 6:32pm

Presentation by Paul Fleming, outlining the consultation process and the proposal, Paul Fleming chaired the meeting.

No questions in relation to consultation process.

Q. Why do we pay out council tax if you are refusing to fix the roof?

A: The roof was repaired during this academic session.

Q. The money being spent to knock the building down; couldn't this be invested into improving the school.

A: Reason why we hold these meetings to allow you to share views such as you are sharing tonight.

Q. Who decided to extend the catchment area? Different area altogether.

A: Important to stress not decision has been made regarding closing the school or extending the St Francis catchment area. Consultation gives everyone an opportunity to share their views. Education Scotland have an input then a report is created and submitted to the council for consideration.

Q. Who proposed this all?

A: We are looking at the efficiency of our whole school estate.

- Q.** Who would want to send their child to a school with a capacity of over 500 when St Pius capacity is 242 and a small school. This is a deprived area, and you are not taking this into account. Ballumbie has a capacity of 59% and you're not closing it.
- A:** Yes, but it is not just about school capacity, other factors are considered. The nursery is included, and parents will have choice based on factors of location of work/family. All people are invited in consultation over the next few weeks. Opportunities have been explained on ways to share views other than just tonight. Timeline explained report in April and outcome will go to committee in June 2025.
- Q.** What happens if there is a baby boom, what do you do about the schools.
- Q.** Where do the projections come from, schools like Ballumbie have an occupancy of 59% which is lower than the capacity of St Pius.
- A:** We do future projections which are considered as part of the report.
- PF.** Views shared today will be submitted as part of a report for committee to consider, these are key things within the proposal paper.

Feedback

- I don't think you are taking people's views into consideration; this is a deprived area, and you are looking to close our school.
- There will be nothing left in the area, you are closing our school and other buildings in the area.
- I feel this is just like a tick box; I know Dundee city council need to make savings, but I don't think they are taking into consideration children in the area and their needs.
- I feel the council are always barking on about saving the environment, but now all these families are going to be traveling and driving to the other school and it's not good for the environment.
- At this school we have a large number of children seen under social work not just a number, if they go to a bigger school how are they going to be supported and where are they going to go.
- I have a grandson I take care of sometimes, he has additional needs, sometimes I get called up to the school, if I need to get a bus it could take up to 45 minutes, by the time I get there and back the day is gone.
- Children do not cope moving to another school, it's very challenging for everyone involved.
- Who will guarantee the safety of these kids, who will consider their safety going up the road to St Francis and back.
- Douglas is a high SMID, £22 for weekly bus ticket, big cost to parents, are you going to put on buses on.
- Generations, grandparents picking up kids, parking an issue at NEC, problems with crossing controllers.
- Travel plans would need considered. Locality plan – again cost of living, travel, food offered by St Pius. 20-minute neighbourhood referenced, flies in face of this by the proposals. This won't happen if it all closes in Douglas. I do hope these views will be genuinely responded to.

Strong relationships through generations will be eliminated, the support the school has offered. Accept that through consultations decisions have not been made but we want guarantees that all the points highlighted will be seriously considered. Closure of St Pius would contradict finding of 2027 plan, it's extremely worrying that points may be overlooked and not considered.

- On behalf of the Church, we very forcefully voice against closing a Catholic school, Catholic education is so important, and this is unjust suggesting closing this area in Dundee.

PF: We have and will most certainly consider the noted concerns around the feelings re the importance of a Catholic education.

- I would like to speak on behalf of the church, speak so strongly about catholic education, 6 catholic primaries in the west, completely in just for children to go to St Francis. Who's to say the roll would decrease when there is a lot of housing being developed in the area.
- As a Chaplain and parish priest of St Pius, emphasise, there is a very connection between parish and school, I know many of the children and parents and know how the parish is supporting them, I wonder if from all the indication, is the based upon finance and have not put much emphasis on the children, parents and their needs. The council making this decision, they need to focus on the children and parents as subjects which are valued over finance. If it's not for the good of their education.
- If it achieves the goal of educating the children properly then it's achieved its goals. Please consider this because the upset that it would case to the families, it will create big challenges if they need to arrange their lives.

PF: We will continue to engage with the church

- How are the building the East End Campus if it's being built on a site where a school was already subsiding.
- Think it's ludicrous knocking down a beautiful school like this (St Pius), taking away the community centre and sports centre as well as the school is madness.
- The money that would be saved, would this go back into to the children within Douglas, would this be re-invested into the area.
- Spending the money on improving the paths, roads, and streets with the money you are saving to make it safer.
- This potential closure may affect St Pauls Academy (school roll)
- House values will depreciate if the school closes.
- How is Dundee City Council getting it right for children in this community.
- Why do we have to lose our identity, how can we retain this with Claypotts.

PF: You have the opportunity to feedback information through Parent Council, Head Teacher and the school.

TL: Offering to take further views to committee on communities' behalf.

- How's closing the school going to help our children's education.

- Council feedback in terms of education benefits.

PF. There will be a report made, you will have an opportunity to see that your views have been considered and represented.

Q. Will we be able to see the report and ensure our views are in it. I know you said there will be a report publish, when will that be, is there someone going to be there to give our view.

PF. Education Scotland undertake their work for three weeks, an outcome report will be available for all to see in April prior to any recommendations.

- Why can't St Pius become a campus school you are so keen to build everywhere else.

Q. Are there going to be other meetings during the day or at weekends.

PF. Comments can be fed in via Parent Council, the church, email, by post. Other meeting times and dates are being offered.

- St Pius and nursery have raised the bar high in terms of support, can you guarantee that the same support will be delivered elsewhere.

PF. We do have inspectors that have visited our schools, and this has been considered.

- Right now, Claypotts and St Pius are both open, if there are issues, parents may move the children between the schools, important to have choice within area, you would be taking this away.
- Are pupils with additional support needs being considered within this proposal.
- Have you ever proposed to close other schools in the past 10 years.
- Every year the finance department must consider cuts, who takes charge of this and makes these decisions.
- Staff and school are like a family, we support one another and close-knit community, you will lose this.
- Were any other schools taken into consideration.
- If this is a proposal, why at the other end of the town are you not considering older schools like SS Peter and Paul and merging these with other schools, why is it always this end of the town that are being faced with the cuts.
- It's a great small school; you are going to unsettle these children by putting them to a different school and setting.
- Someone said they are saving £1m, where is the £1m coming from.
- Can I ask the Head of the council if you weren't getting your bonuses would this not help pay for the school.
- A lot is free at this schools, move to St Francis OSCC is £18, how do you expect a working family to afford this.

TL: I will report at committee and will make sure views are known and represented.

Meeting concluded 7:23pm



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Francis RC Primary School Pupil Focus Group

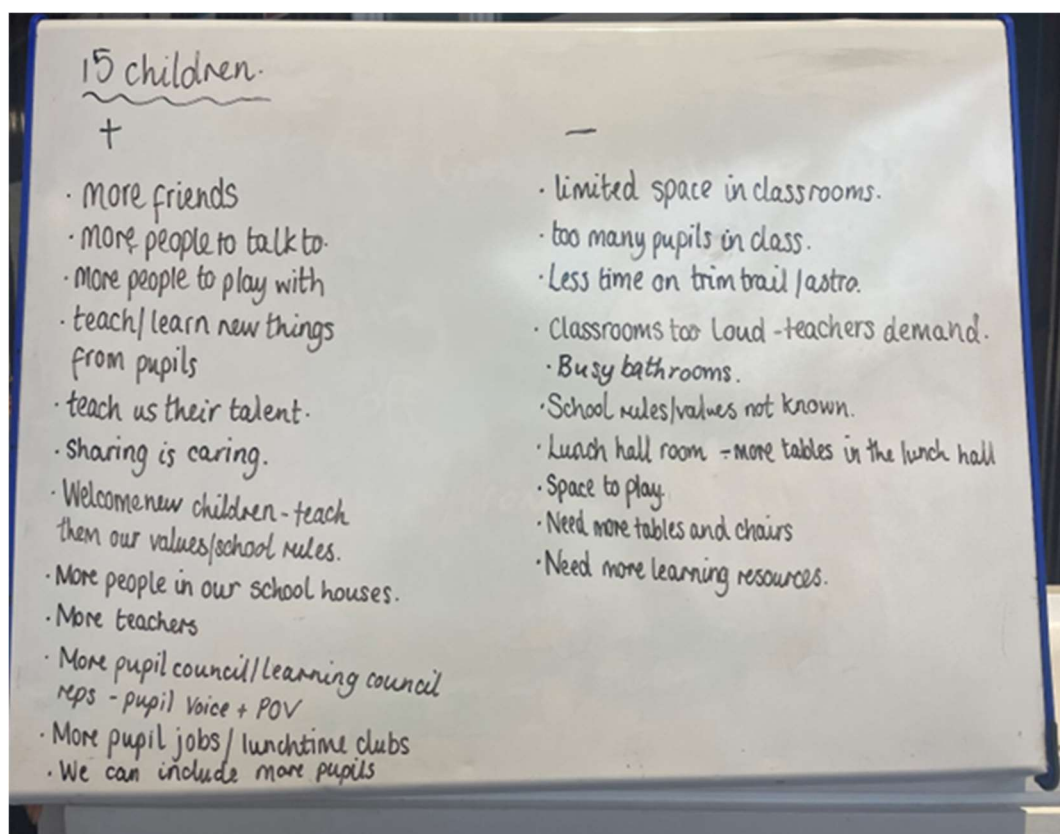
Venue: St Francis RC Primary School

30 January 2025 2.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Judith Duncan Head Teacher, Carla Page Class Teacher, 15 children across a range of stages.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.





School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Francis RC Primary School Staff

Venue: St Francis RC Primary School

30 January 2025 3.30pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Judith Duncan Head Teacher.

Staff were made aware of the session, but no-one attended to share their views on the proposal.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Session St Francis Primary School Parent Council

Venue: St Francis RC Primary School

30 January 2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer

Other attendees: Judith Duncan Head Teacher.

A meeting was arranged to discuss the proposal with the Parent Council. The parent council felt the meeting was not necessary as the chair and other members attended the St Francis public meeting and were able to ask questions and provide their views during that event.



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Sessions Public Meeting

Venue: St Francis Primary school

28 January 2025 6.30pm

Attendance: Audrey May Executive Director (AM), Paul Fleming Head of Service (PF), Pam Nesbitt Education Manager, Lesley Gibb Education Manager, Helen Gray Education Officer, Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer.

Other attendees: Judith Duncan Head Teacher, Tereasa Little Church representative (TL).

Members of public present: 8

Meeting started 6.31pm

Paul Fleming (PF) introduced and shared purpose of the meeting.

PF outlined the proposal and requirements of the school's consultation act.

Highlighted meetings with relevant consultees and engagement sessions

Information shared regarding the nursery part of the proposal and difference to primaries in terms of provision.

Teresa Little (TL), RC church representative shared forth coming meetings and previous meetings with the council in terms of the proposal and her role to share/represent views of parents/carers.

Church keen to work with the local authority in terms of the proposal.

PF shared key dates in regarding to the steps following the consultation period.

Feedback/ Questions

Q: What consideration has been given to ASN children and concerns dilution and sizes of classes.

PF. Due consideration every year, universal or individual, small group provision or class support. ASN review working with Ed Scot, inclusion strategy to meet needs in local schools. Class size maxima and small group provision set out. Staffing support and provision depending upon the children's needs. St Francis decline in role since open and staffing would be provided based on roll.

Q: Not further forward in relation to parking and traffic. Housing and potential increase in cars, people parking where they like, no support of things moving forward. Its huge in terms of 200 children coming into the area. What is being considered in terms of addressing this.

- PF:** Travel plan would be considered, and this school is included in the safer street's initiative. St Francis not unique in terms of transport, St Pius has similar issues in term of parent drop off.
- AM:** Very aware of the traffic issue, not just in this area and meeting with the police to try and address these issues, this was happening regardless of the consultation.
- Q:** Children using buses, even just getting off at bottom of road due to the amount of traffic and people parking everywhere. Fear of increase of pupils and families coming into the area and the removal of crossing controller. With the increase of traffic for the EECC you need extra crossing patrols and support from the police.
- PF:** As this is being considered as an option, we would consider these things in terms of a proposal, depending on the outcome of the consultation.
- Big noise, travel plan, is this something you want to hear in terms of a reply to the consultation.
 - Travel coming through as a theme in relation to the proposal, you can share tonight or as a written reply to the proposal.
- Q:** If this proposal is going ahead, how does this impact upon our leadership team at our school, this works so well as a joint campus, it would be disruptive if the teams were to change.
- PF:** Good question, hope that HT isn't going anywhere, all I can say is that this won't feature, however if the roll increases, the formula we have will act accordingly based on any change in pupils' number, any increase will add to staffing.
- Q:** I know St Francis want to keep their staff but if proposal was to go ahead, important that children would have some of their staff at new school. Children with ASN will they get more support in terms of a move as this will be very challenging for them.
- PF:** Important question, due to big transition point, if school did closes what receiving schools would need, to support children. Enhanced transition and transition, very clear that we consult with staff, beyond formulas and universal provision, what do we need to consider that is additional for children and enhanced school support.
- Q:** Children with transport – ASN, will they be included In the travel plan?
- Presumption of mainstream and needs of children, needs being met in their school, rather than be transported across the city.
- PF:** Conversations already ongoing in terms of the ASN review and our inclusion approach to prevent children transferring across the city.
- Q:** Nursery at St Pius – It would be a shame to split these staff up and they have had a very good inspection, and children get a great experience.
- PF:** It is very clear that if this goes ahead, we will ensure a plan for a year to ensure smooth transition.
- Q:** What is the maximum capacity of this school (St Francis). If we merge both schools, we are over capacity.
- PF:** If we go ahead there will be a choice of schools within the Douglas area. The overall capacity is 907 for a campus, there is accommodation that can be allocated to either school if required.
- Q:** Further concern expressed over a bigger school.

- PF.** Explained that class capacity and legislative guidelines and small group settings when required will be used.
- Q.** Concern raised over a son not able to travel due to ASN needs and with safer streets will a pass be given.
- PF.** A pass would be given.
- Q.** If a family decide that St Francis is not for them what do they do.
- PF.** Placing request system is in place for this and to address concerns.
- Q.** I wonder if it would be useful to share with all parents the ongoing costs of repairs and maintenance for the St Pius building. That way they may appreciate that this is more about the condition and suitability of the building. This might reduce parent fears and concerns.
- Q.** You are saying all children may not move to St Francis, but transport of travel options not available to them and would have to attend a non-Catholic school. This isn't fair and yet would be an option in a non-Catholic school. These families rely heavily upon their neighbour and network to support getting their children to school. They are struggling to think about how they will get their child from A to B. You are taking away the choice of what faith they are bringing their child schooling up in. Very much in the minds of these families.
- PF.** Hearing you concerns and taking note. There is clear approach to providing catholic education and this being provided out with their school provision by the church.
- Q.** Breakfast club, are you going to have the capacity hear to deliver it? Are you going to guarantee the staff.
- PF.** We would work with families depending on the outcome of the consultation and provide appropriate ratio to make sure children are appropriately supported.
- PF.** Encourage everyone to put things into writing and respond to the consultation.
- TL.** Helpful new points raised this evening, and similar points made to yesterday's meeting., we have you concerns and issues and will look to address your concerns. Remember this is a proposal and a consultation, no decisions have been made and important that people keep an open mind.
- PF** Thanked everyone for attending and reminded other avenues for feedback including Parent Councils.

Meeting closed at 7:15pm



School Estate Proposals

FORMAL CONSULTATION ACTIVITY

Engagement Sessions with LCPPs

January/February 2025

East End LCPP Meeting MS Teams Meeting 21/01/2025 6pm

Attendance: Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer (GL)

Other attendees: Alan Gunn Communities Officer, 10 LCPP members

Representatives were asked if they were aware of the proposal – Yes, this had been shared by Alan Gunn following LCPP notification on 6th January 2025.

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Clarification on the dates, time, and format of the meetings.

A: Meeting to be held on Monday 27th January 2025 at St Pius Primary School. A viewing of the proposal will take place at 6pm to allow people to discuss any aspect of the proposal. Those present will be asked to sign a register to confirm attendance at the meeting. The public meeting will then take place at 6:30pm, this will consist of a short presentation followed by an open forum for feedback. A meeting minute will be taken for all activity. The same format will be undertaken for the St Francis meeting on Tuesday 28th February at North East Campus. GL re-iterated that these are open to any member of the public.

Views Shared:

- Children and their families that engage with Big Noise have shared their worries about uncertainties within the local community and unsure what the implications would be for the big noise service which currently operates from St Pius at times during the week.
- GL encouraged anyone who had any further thoughts, views or questions to submit an e-mail to Audrey May as set out in the briefing document or to attend one of the upcoming public meetings.

North East LCPP 13th February 2025 10am Finmill Centre

Attendance: Paul Fleming Head of Service, Gordon Laidlaw Education Officer (GL)

Other attendees: Natalie Mackland Communities Officer, 11 LCPP members

A brief discussion was undertaken to provide context behind reasons for the closure proposal.

Views Shared:

- Consultation so far has highlighted some concerns around travel and the need to ensure adequate support for ASN pupils, views shared by some that ASN is better supported in a smaller school setting.
- Traffic congestion outside North East Campus in the vicinity of St Francis RC Primary School is a concern, this may increase with additional parents dropping/off and picking up children.
- Angus Housing Association have a development site opposite St Francis PS which will be on stream withing the same timescale if the closure were to proceed. Worth being aware of potential traffic management issues. The road is already very bust at key times of school day, and there will require increased awareness of safe walking routes and access to the school.

The Ferry LCPP 13th February 2025 6pm Balmossie Fire Station

The Ferry meeting was informal, and a minute was not produced. St Pius X closure was discussed briefly as it had been widely circulated both to the LCPP and the Community Council, no objections or issues were raised.

APPENDIX 3**Thematic summary of responses.**

33 meetings were undertaken between January 2025 and February 2025

102 written submissions were received

Emergent themes from oral representations included:

- Impact upon local area through closure of buildings including the nursery provision.
- Social and emotional impact on children's friendship groups and relationships resulting from possible closure.
- Impact of proposal upon school staff.
- Loss of active travel options.
- Distance or location of alternative primary schools.
- Transport concerns to alternative primary schools including environmental issues.
- Continuity of faith-based education.
- Quality and continuity of educational experiences.
- School capacities and infrastructure.
- Financial justifications and cost savings.
- Transition arrangements following possible closure and communication of relevant support for pupils and staff.
- Meeting needs of all children affected by proposals including those with additional support needs.

Wider themes from the overall feedback include:

- Transition and support for pupils and staff.
- Travel concerns including environmental issues.
- Costs related to additional travel implications.
- Children's friendship groups and relationships.
- Meeting needs of all children affected by proposals including those with additional support.

This page is intentionally left blank

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 200-2025

Document Title: Proposed closure of St Pius X Roman Catholic Primary School and expansion of St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School catchment area.

Document Type: Strategy

Description:

This report presents to committee for full consideration the consultation report in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the proposal to permanently close St Pius X RC Primary School and rezone the catchment to St Francis RC Primary School.

Intended Outcome:

This report seeks approval to proceed with the recommendations contained within the consultation report.

Close St Pius X RC Primary School at the end of academic session 2025/26

Rezone the catchment area of St Francis RC Primary School to include the existing St Pius X RC Primary School catchment area.

Period Covered: 06/01/2025 to 03/07/2026

Monitoring:

This will be monitored by Children and Families Service.

Progress and monitoring will take the form of stakeholder communication and engagement undertaken with relevant groups throughout all stages of implementation through structured transition planning. To ensure transparency, Officers and school Senior Leadership Teams will oversee all aspects, ensuring the pupils, parents, staff and wider community are supported at every stage of the process. The Service will undertake ongoing evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the strategies and make further improvements where necessary. Officers will address feedback and matters arising timeously, ensuring the Chief Education Officer has oversight.

Lead Author:

Gordon Laidlaw, Quality Improvement Education Officer, Children and Families Service,

gordon.laidlaw@dundee.gov.uk , 07824342715,

5 East City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BA

Director Responsible:

Audrey May, Executive Director of Children and Families Service, Children and Families Service

audrey.may@dundee.gov.uk, 01382 433071

5 East City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BA

Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: Negative

We have identified some negative impacts in relation to younger people: consultation feedback suggested the majority of children were not in favour of the proposal. Children at St Pius X did not agree with the proposal and have identified concerns regarding the closure of their school including:

- Separation from friends and school staff
- Distance to other denominational school
- Cost of alternative transport to school
- Sadness at the thought of their school closing
- Concerns about size of alternative schools/classes

The potential closure could affect continuity of care and education, which is particularly critical for younger children with additional needs. Where possible, children placed in the same new school would be in the same class as their friends to reduce social disruption. Receiving schools will use assessment information to engage in the process, providing support from the beginning and ensuring continuity of experience. Enhanced safeguarding and inclusive approaches will ensure all children's needs are met throughout the transition process.

Children and Families Service have considered the following appropriate mitigation actions to counterbalance these. Delivery of a range of transition activities, including buddy programs and enhanced support for pupils with additional needs. A comprehensive transition programme will be developed to reinforcing a sense of belonging and maintaining the positive community spirit that has been valued at St Pius X Primary School. Community integration programs and familiarisation visits will be organised to help pupils and parents feel welcomed in their new school environments to maintain community links and engagement opportunities for families with minimal disruption.

A feature which schools always provide is the opportunity to create and establish new friendships and bonds during young people's educational journey for a variety of reasons. A school is neither a barrier nor a lone factor in maintaining the continuity of friendship. Existing relationships could be maintained as all children can attend St Francis RC Primary.

All children within the other affected schools - Ballumbie, Craigiebarns, Claypotts, Longhaugh, Rowantree, Fintry, Mill of Mains and St Francis RC Primary School said that they would welcome St Pius X children and would support these children in creating new friendships. It has been demonstrated within the consultation paper that capacity exists in North East Campus and St Francis Primary School to accommodate all children from St Pius Primary School. It is accepted that children from St Pius X RC Primary School may attend another primary school other than St Francis, however, this does not prevent them from socialising and maintaining friendships outside of school hours. Consideration would be given to maintaining wider achievement or extracurricular clubs currently attended by St Pius X children within alternative venues in their community.

Disability: Positive

On balance the outcome is positive however where negative impacts have been identified, mitigations have been identified as follows: there are potential benefits as the alternative schools identified in the proposal are fully accessible and require ongoing suitability assessment for access in relation to disability. An increase in accessible facilities may result in increased access to a wider range of activities and spaces better equipped to meet individual needs. Alternative schools may be a further distance for some with particular physical disabilities to travel. Work will be required to identify and enable support for children to improve communication and access to transport networks. There may also be hidden disabilities such as fear and anxiety resulting from the move into a new building/school, however all school communities would promote their welcoming environments through pupil engagement with the wider school community. To help address any concerns, building familiarisation sessions will be offered and led by pupils, school staff and communities staff.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: Negative

Parents/Carers and the Catholic Church expressed concerns about the potential loss of Catholic Education for children attending St Pius X RC Primary School. The Bishop of Dunkeld has voiced opposition to the closure, emphasizing the importance of Catholic schools within Dundee.

Dundee City Council confirmed that Catholic education will continue to be provided within the city, with St Francis RC Primary School designated as the receiving school. Families will have the option to apply for placements at other denominational schools as well. Dundee City Council recognises the significance of faith-based education and the role that denominational schools play in supporting religious education and values-based learning. St Francis RC Primary School or other denominational schools will provide continuity of the Catholic educational experience, ensuring pupils have access to faith-based learning and sacramental preparation in alignment with Catholic traditions.

Families also have the option of submitting placing requests to other denominational and non-denominational schools within Dundee should they prefer an alternative to St Francis. Children and Families Service remains committed to working with the Diocese of Dunkeld and school communities to support a smooth transition for pupils, ensuring that pastoral care and faith-based learning opportunities remain central to their educational experience.

Additionally, the Council will facilitate transition activities between St Pius X and St Francis to ensure continuity in religious education, school ethos, and community traditions. This includes opportunities for pupils to visit their new school, engage with staff, and participate in faith-based activities that reinforce their sense of belonging.

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	Positive
East End:	Positive
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: Not Known

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Almost all families engage with the school and their children participate in learning activities. Continuity of experience can be provided within alternative schools, and work will be undertaken by staff at St Pius X and other schools to make sure relevant information is passed on to support any planning or interventions for specific children. Further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Carers: Not Known

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Should St Pius X close, further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Lone Parent Families: Not Known

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Should St Pius X close, further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Single Female Households with Children: Not Known

Household Group Impacts and Implications

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Should St Pius X close, further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Greater number of children and/or young children: Not Known

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Should St Pius X close, further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: Positive

In the short term there may be slight constraints to the learning provision during the transition period however mitigations have been considered to support continuity of educational experiences, faith based learning, familiarisation and transition activities. The long term benefits of the proposal could enhance opportunities for our children to attain a wider range of skills for learning, life and work within more modern learning environments. The Children and Families Service commits to working in partnership with Diocese of Dunkeld representatives to ensure that Religious Education provision (by a Church approved teacher) and support for sacramental preparation is available in Claypotts Castle Primary, with the approach to be agreed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld and Executive Director of Children and Families.

Income: Not Known

Children and Families Service have proposed travel subsistence in the form of a closed contract bus service to removed additional costs for families sending their children to St Francis RC Primary School.

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Not Known

It is not known how the closure may impact upon this household group. Should St Pius X close, further engagement and consultation would be undertaken with this affected user group to identify and mitigate any adverse impacts which may arise as a result of transitions to a new school or nursery setting.

Affordability and accessibility of services: Not Known

Children and Families Service have proposed travel subsistence in the form of a closed contract bus service to removed additional costs for families sending their children to St Francis RC Primary School. Alternative schools and buildings are available in the immediate area of St Pius X Primary School and work would be undertaken to facilitate access to these facilities for any partners or groups to ensure future continuity of the service they provide to the existing school and its community.

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: Positive

In the short term there may be slight constraints to the learning provision during the transition period however mitigations have been considered to support continuity of educational experiences, faith based learning, familiarisation and transition activities. The long term benefits of the proposal can lead to more efficient use of funding and enhanced opportunities for our children to attain a wider range of skills for learning, life and work, through delivery within more modern learning environments. This proposal will also offer more diverse social opportunities, increased peer interaction and supports collaborative learning.

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: Not Known

The proposal could potentially enhance the availability of activities to support physical and emotional health and wellbeing and could provide enhanced social and recreational opportunities. Potential positives include more modern learning environments and new social opportunities. In contrast, there are potential negatives such as loss of familiarity and routine or contact with friends & known teachers/trusted adults, however It is not known whether this proposal would impact on this characteristic. Further evaluation would be required to evidence any impact. Following evaluation, any issues found would be addressed or potential negatives identified. Planned mitigations would be put in place e.g. planned familiarity and integration days at the new school(s).

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: Positive

Free transport will be provided for all children who currently attend St Pius X Primary School who choose to continue their primary education in St Francis RC Primary School for the duration of their primary school education.

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: Negative

There may be a short term negative impact through the provision of a closed contract bus service to support children travelling from Douglas to St Francis RC Primary School. This will only be provided for children currently in attendance at St Pius X Primary School so will not have a negative impact long term once all these children have transitioned to secondary school. At this point, the bus service will no longer be required.

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: Positive

Resulting from a potential reduction of 2 buildings to 1, less energy will be consumed and greater utility cost efficiencies will be realised.

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Positive

Resulting from a potential reduction of 2 buildings to 1, there would be an anticipated decrease in waste generated and requirement to recycle. Both schools already have an eco-school commitment.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Negative

There could be negative public comment and press coverage in relation to children and concerns regarding accessing these buildings and the transition of activities to new locations. However, work will be undertaken with the school and its community to identify and address any concerns and continue to promote welcoming and nurturing environments. Any potential staffing concerns and move of working location will be addressed with any staff for whom there may be an impact as a result of this proposal in relation to job security and any change in working conditions. Work will be undertaken to provide reassurance to relevant stakeholder groups and organisations in respect to the closure and provision of similar and improved facilities within other schools.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Positive

There is a potential cost reduction in maintenance as a result of closing buildings and the move into newer facilities.

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

There are moderate levels of risk associated with the subject matter of this report. However, having undertaken a full analysis of the upside and downside risks there is a clear benefit in what is proposed and we are satisfied that adequate controls are available to mitigate the downside risks. The downside financial exposure to the Council is less than £250,000 and this together with other areas of risk can be effectively managed