

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 FEBRUARY 2013**

**REPORT ON: PRIMARY CLASS SIZES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 61-2013**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to revisit the current class size arrangements for P1-P3 in the primary sector. This proposal would take effect from the start of academic year 2013-14.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the current provision of P1 class sizes of 18 in thirteen primary schools is changed to a maximum class size of 25 in fifteen primary schools. The number of schools in this category will be reviewed on an annual basis.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 This change will mean a reduction of 17 FTE teachers which would result in a saving of £372,000 in financial year 2013-14 and £595,000 in a full year. Any surplus staff identified will be redeployed to meet the demands of increasing pupil numbers in the primary sector. Taking account of the increased pupil roll this proposal will result in a net staffing reduction of 3 FTE teachers and actual savings of £66,000 in financial year 2013-14 and £105,000 in a full year.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 In January 2010 Education Committee approved the introduction of P1-3 class sizes of 18 in a number of primary schools (Report 26-2010). This class size change was introduced at the start of the academic session 2010-11.
- 4.2 The implementation of the change would increase maximum class sizes from 18 to 25 in the identified schools. This will have the impact of providing Head Teachers with greater flexibility when planning classes and deploying the teaching resource in order to meet the needs of pupils. Primary Head Teachers are in full agreement with this proposal and believe that this change will allow for greater continuity and consistency in class size between stages.
- 4.3 The proposal to increase the maximum class size from 18 pupils to 25 pupils at P1-3 will impact on 15 primary schools (see Appendix 1). Class sizes in the remaining schools will remain unchanged and will be based on current legislation for P1-3 class sizes and the conditions as agreed by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) for P4 to P7. The maximum class sizes in primary schools are currently as follows:

P1 - 25 pupils  
P2 - P3 - 30 pupils

P4 - P7 - 33 pupils

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be available on the Council Web Site at <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services, primary Head Teachers and Unions.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

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Director of Education

24 January 2013

**Appendix 1**

The 15 primary schools to be prioritised for the introduction of maximum class sizes of 25 from P1 to P3.

<b>School</b>	<b>Pupil Roll</b>
Ardler Primary School	148
Ballumbie Primary School	344
Camperdown Primary School	333
Gowriehill Primary School	139
Longhaugh Primary School	306
Our Lady's Primary School	107
Rosebank Primary School	115
Rowantree Primary School	323
Sidlaw View Primary School	128
St Peter and St Paul's Primary School	324
St Clement's Primary School	172
St Fergus Primary School	133
St Luke's and St Matthew's Primary School	249
St Pius Primary School	131
St Vincent's Primary School	274