

08 March 2017



Dear Parent/Carer

Burnbrae Consultation Update

Further to the meeting which was held at Burnbrae Primary School on Tuesday 28 February, I thought that it would be helpful if I clarify some information regarding the February Council decision regarding the use of the former Hopefield Primary School site.

Stage 1 - the Council decision. In response to the growing number of pupils coming from the Hopefield Farm housing development and other developments across Bonnyrigg and Lasswade, Councillors agreed the following three recommendations in February 2017 in order to ensure that Midlothian Council can meet its statutory requirements by securing adequate and efficient provision of school education for the Burnbrae area:

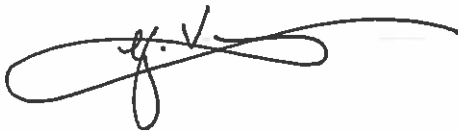
- to revise the May 2016 decision and approve the construction of a joint campus on the former Hopefield Primary School site with one stream as non-denominational and one stream as the replacement St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School;
- to authorise officers to commence formal consultation on the relocation of St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School;
- to approve the use of the non-denominational stream of the school as additional capacity for Burnbrae Primary School until such time as it is no longer required.

Stage 2 - Pre-consultation. This is the stage which we are currently taking part in. The Council is currently consulting with parents and staff of children at Burnbrae Primary School on how this extra capacity will be utilised. At this stage, this is an informal consultation on the use of this extra capacity and we agreed at the meeting on 28 February to undertake a workshop on potential models for consideration. To facilitate this process Council Officers are running two main consultation drop in events this week on 7th and 9th March from 2-7pm in Lasswade Library. There will also be a further drop-in workshop for parents and carers on 15th March 2017 from 2-7pm at Burnbrae Primary School to discuss potential models. The final part of this stage will be a meeting with the School Senior Management Team and Parent Council members in order to discuss the educational benefits of each model. Council Officers will then facilitate the next steps based on the model where the educational benefits outweigh any other model. If the preferred model to be progressed requires formal consultation then this would result in a further report to Council in order to seek approval to commence formal consultation. Families will of course be notified of the outcome of this pre-consultation stage.

It is important to note that, at this stage, this consultation is called pre-consultation (sometimes known as informal consultation) and that, depending on the model proposed, we would then seek to undertake a statutory consultation should this be required under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Where this is not required we would also inform you of the reasons why this is not the case.

I hope that you are able to join in the drop-in session and workshop and we will continue, through the Head Teacher, to keep you informed throughout the process of this informal consultation stage.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Vickers', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr G Vickers
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