

Inclusion and Additional Support Needs in Falkirk proposals for 2018 onwards

Consultative Document

Falkirk Council
Children's Services

**INCLUSION AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS IN FALKIRK:
PROPOSALS FOR 2018 ONWARDS
A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT**



1 PROPOSAL

Background Additional Support Needs arise from four main areas as defined in the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004:

- Learning environment
- Family circumstances
- Medical and disability
- Social, emotional and behavioural development

In practice, many children who have Additional Support Needs (ASN) experience them across more than one of these areas.

In Falkirk there is a rise in the number of children with significant Additional Support Needs in education arising from:

- Social and communication difficulties;
- Autism;
- Complex needs arising from disability and learning factors;

Falkirk's needs are in line with national trends. In addition there are significant challenges in ensuring that education provision and approaches are sufficiently high in quality to meet children's and young people's Additional Support Needs.

Currently 15 primary schools have Enhanced Provision 3 primary schools have ASN for complex needs. Falkirk Council has identified an increase in demand to support children and young people with social communication difficulties and Autism.

Proposal

It is proposed to establish specialist classes in 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools to providing high quality education provision for children and young people who have social and communication difficulties and autism. The Council aims to provide specialist provisions closer to home wherever reasonable or possible.

Legislation and Current Policy

Schools in the Falkirk Council area are open to pupils of all denominations, all faiths and none. The local authority is required to meet the ASN of all children for whom they are responsible and is required to consider a presumption of mainstream education. This reflects the duties outlined for local authorities in the:

- Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
Education Scotland Act 1981
- Children Act 1998
- Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000
- Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 (amended 2009)
- Equalities Act 2010
- Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2015
- Education (Scotland) Act 2016

The legislation, taken together, provides a range of duties on a local authority to provide adequate education for all children, and to presume that the child should be included in mainstream school. The legislation ensures that local authorities assess and make provision for the additional support needs of children and work in a coordinated approach with partner agencies to both meet children's needs and improve their outcomes.

Outcome of the Proposed Change

The proposed change in the approach to inclusion and meeting Additional Support Needs is intended to:

- ensure each additional specialist provision will be in a position to offer a positive educational experience to children with significant ASN;
- ensure children with significant ASN can have a suitable education and support within their local community;
- reduce the pressure and demand for intake to existing specialist schools and units;
- the specialist knowledge and skills of the staff in the specialist provisions will benefit the children and young people within the whole school;

Who Would Be Affected?	Pupils with significant ASN and their families will be affected as their education will be provided either in their local school or in one of the existing special schools. Staff, pupils and their families will benefit from the increased level of support with the school community.
Date of Change	It is proposed that this change will come into effect for August 2018 onwards.
Educational Benefits	<p>It is proposed that the ASN classes based within the 3 primary schools and the 2 secondary schools will provide additional support for pupils whose needs arise from significant social and communication difficulties. The identified schools will need to have the capacity for 2 ASN classes per school with a maximum of 6 pupils in each. This will provide a total capacity of 60 places.</p> <p>Pupils who are allocated a placement in the ASN classes in all 5 schools will join the school roll. ASN provision seeks wherever possible to enable pupils who require significant additional support to access the mainstream curriculum and environment. The provisions aims for children and young people to be included, engaged and involved as appropriate, in the wider life of the school.</p> <p>All specialist provision within Falkirk is non-denominational. All ASN classes provide small group setting to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to mainstream learning experiences and environment as appropriate and possible; • integrated support from the Speech and Language Therapy Service • significant differentiation of the curriculum using social, communication and autism friendly strategies; • a visual approach to learning and communication • a high ratio of teaching and support staff who are skilled in supporting ASN • associated with social communication difficulties. <p>The provision at the 5 schools will be available to meet the needs of pupils across Falkirk who have been, or may be, assessed as having significant social and communication needs (with or without formal diagnosis) and require significant additional support to access the curriculum.</p> <p>All access to the council's specialist provision, whether by way of placing request or referral, is considered and determined by the council's Pupil Support Referral Group (PSRG). The referral to the PSRG can be made by; the child or the young person's mainstream school or parent/carer placing request. Pupils may be allocated a place within the provision, subject to the council's placing arrangements. The PSRG assesses the referrals made and considers the information which will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific needs of the pupils; • the support strategies required in the learning environment; • the existing or requirement of other agencies; • existing levels of support with current school; • recommendations from other agencies; • team around the child meetings and the child's plan;



2 CONSULTATION

Legislation

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

A formal consultation is required for any proposal to change the Council's policy with respect to the constitution of a special class, not in a special school, and for the establishment of a new special school. This consultation fully accords with the requirements of this legislation.

Consultees

During the consultation period, in accordance with legislative requirements, views are being sought from a range of interested parties including:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Councils of the 5 schools;
- the wider parent forum and the pupils at the 5 schools, the parents of any children expected by the local authority requiring a place at the identified provision within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper, in particular, the children in Nursery and Early Learning establishments, within the localities;
- the staff of the 5 schools;
- the trade unions representative of the staff in affected schools;
- the community councils;
- elected members;
- Education Scotland;
- other local authorities where children attend Falkirk Council schools.

Consultation Period

The consultation is taking place over a 6 ½ week period between 13 September and 10 November 2017.

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Five public meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Easter Carmuir Primary School on Thursday 21 September 2017 at 6pm
- Bo'ness Academy on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 6pm
- Moray Primary School on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 6pm
- Sacred Heart Primary School on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 6pm
- Larbert High School on Thursday 5 October 2017 at 6pm

School staff, parents and carers of these schools will be informed of the dates and times of the public consultation meetings. These will also be published on the council website and social media feeds.

Officers of the Council will be present to discuss these proposals and there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions at the meeting.

How to Respond

Interested parties are encouraged to complete and return the response form which is attached with this proposal document. It asks some questions regarding the proposal, and provides an opportunity to discuss any concerns.

If any interested parties wish to provide a separate written submissions this would be accepted by letter until **Friday 10 November 2017** when the consultation period ends.

All submissions should be in writing to the
Inclusion and Additional Support Needs Consultation,
Children's Services,
Sealock House,
Inchyra Road,
Grangemouth,
FK3 9XB. Telephone conversations will not be recorded as part of the consultation.



Consultative Document

Following the Consultation

Education Scotland will receive details of consultation responses and the public meetings and will provide Children's Services with a report within 3 weeks of the consultation end date.

Children's Services will then prepare a **consultation report** which will be published in **December 2017** on the council website and it will also be made available to read in libraries and in Children's Services HQ (Sealock House in Grangemouth).

The consultation report will be discussed by councillors at the Education Executive who will consider whether these proposed changes should go ahead.

Contact Details

If you would like to discuss these proposals or have any queries regarding the consultation process, please phone 01324 506600.

When completed, please return the attached response form or any further written submission about these proposals to:

Inclusion and Additional Support Needs Consultation,
Children's Services,
Sealock House,
Inchyra Road,
Grangemouth,
FK3 9XB
or by e-mail to educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk

1 RESPONSE FORM

INCLUSION AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS IN FALKIRK: PROPOSALS FOR 2018

Name:

Address:

Contact Telephone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Name of Pupil(s) Concerned:

Name of School(s) Attended:

Your role (e.g. parent, pupil or organisation):

Do you agree with the proposed change to open a class or classes for Additional Support Needs in the 3 mainstream primary and the 2 secondary schools? Yes No

Do you have any further comments on this proposal? (please continue overleaf if necessary)

Please complete and return this form by Friday 10 November 2018 to:

Inclusion and Additional Support Needs Consultation
Children's Services
Sealock House
2 Inchyra Road
Grangemouth FK3 9XB

Or by e-mail to: educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk

