**EDC Access to Secondary School Consultation – Update December 2020**

Please find below latest position with regard to the EDC Access to Secondary School Consultation and ongoing engagement with EDC regarding our concerns around the proposed new policy.

**Additional Meeting held on 3rd December at Bearsden Academy**

This meeting was to enable further engagement with stakeholders to discuss the potential amendments that are now under consideration as a result of Stakeholder feedback and also additional information provided under the Frequently Asked Questions on the Consultation page of the Council Website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/school-admission-faqs>.

There was a low turnout – not unexpected as many parents had attended previous sessions and provided feedback already however EDC were interested to get parents views on the new areas currently under consideration.

**As communicated previously the following amendments are now under consideration as part of the consultation based on stakeholder feedback:**

If a non-denominational secondary school is oversubscribed the following criteria is proposed for allocating places (includes amendments):

1. Children, who live in the catchment area, and have a sibling in the school when the placement takes effect

2. Children, who live in the catchment and attend an associated primary school or an East Dunbartonshire primary school, **where the associated secondary school is not within 5 miles of the primary school;** has additional support needs/medical needs that require to be met within that school; **if within this category further prioritisation was required it would be length of time in attendance at the primary school**; then if further prioritisation was required, it would be distance from the school.

3. Children, who live in the catchment and attend another primary school; has additional support needs/medical needs that require to be met within that school; then if further prioritisation was required it would be distance from the school;.

**Point 2 is of particular relevance to St Nicholas as if approved will retain our prioritisation with the children in non-denominational primary schools within our catchment areas. This is our primary goal.**

**In particular Jacqui MacDonald stated that all children from St Nicholas will have access to their catchment non-denominational secondary for the period 20/21.**

**Other areas covered were:**

1. Current impact on St Nicholas as some children are leaving St Nicholas already – a word of caution regarding Point 1 under consideration for those children moving or planning to move their children – length of time at associated primary will be a consideration. Based on the commitment from EDC this should not impact P7s who have already moved.
2. Proposed planning within Milngavie & Bearsden – representative from planning advised that the maps currently in circulation are proposed areas for consideration and this does not mean that all will be approved. The final agreed proposal will take into account support services including education.
3. Future roll projections taking into account new builds. There was some challenge from parents on how the statistics are calculated and Killermont Primary was used as an example – new extension is planned.
4. Placing requests – it was reiterated that this consultation does not cover the placing policy which will remain unchanged. For clarity catchment children come first (a placement with a sibling already at the school will still be lowest priority).
5. Requests for projection rolls – these are already available on EDC site under FAQs.
6. Transfer to preferred school midway through secondary should a place become available and possible disruption to child’s social cohesion.
7. Distance to denominational secondary school is being calculated from St Nicholas school not from individual addresses.
8. **In light of the amendments those stakeholders who have provided comments previously can add additional comments regarding the amendments under consideration. Email** **education.consultation@eastdunbarton.gov.uk****.**

**For those still concerned regarding remaining in St Nicholas I particularly recommend you attend Councillor Jim Goodall, Convener of the Education Committee, surgery at the Fraser Centre, Milngavie Precinct, Milngavie, G62 6PA. 11am to 12 Noon on the 14/12/2019 or email him jim.goodall@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.**

**Points of Order**

Can I please dissuade all parents/carers from engaging in speculation which is causing unnecessary distress.

1. Boclair is not being considered as a feeder school for all children at St Nicholas. As confirmed by EDCs legal team St Nicholas cannot be made an associated primary school of Bearsden Academy, Boclair or Douglas Academy due to the 1918 Education Act which created the right to Catholic Education. The new proposals will give St Nicholas the same “rights” as associated schools to attend their catchment secondary school.
2. A joint campus at Boclair is not under consideration by either EDC nor the Archdiocese
3. The Archdiocese position has been made clear that there is existing catholic secondary provision in place within EDC which can be utilised by St Nicholas children if parents wish to send their children i.e. Turnbull
4. St Nicholas is not going to be taken over by Bearsden Primary
5. EDC have made it clear on numerous occasions that their aim is to accommodate all children within their catchment area and that the new policy will only apply in the event of oversubscription. None of the elements above are part of the proposals under this or any other ongoing consultation.

**What can you do?**

1. **As before please complete the consultation with our recommendation to reject based on the points below (feel free to add any others) by the 10th January (extended date previously 6th December).**
* Our lack of local catholic secondary school provision setting us apart from the rest of the EDC Estate and our right to a local education
* Potential detriment to new St Nicholas school intake and potential transfers out resulting in oversubscription to local non-denominational primary schools and a significantly under populated new £10m school.
* Impact on current P7s expecting to move under existing catchment policy to local secondary school and proposal to delay implementation if approved to following year.
* Please complete the online form [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsulation](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/schooladmissionsconsulation)
1. **Contact your local councillors either by email or attend their surgeries face to face citing the objections above prior to the 10th January 2020.** <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/search/site/councillor%20surgeries?page=1>
2. **Contact your local parishes and Archdiocese requesting their support and consideration for us to become an associated school to Bearsden, Boclair & Douglas given our unique position.**
3. **Continue to monitor EDC website in particular their FAQs page** <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/school-admission-faqs>

**Future dates to be aware of.**

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| Consultation End Date | 10th January 2019 |
| Education Scotland prepare report | 20th January to 6th February 2020 |
| Consultation Report Published with final proposals | 6th February 2020 |
| Consultation Report Submitted to Education Committee | 27th February 2020 |
| Notify Scottish Ministers if approval given by Council | 27th February 2020 |

Kind Regards

Rosemary Greenlees-Smith - Chair

St Nicholas Parent Council