

**Intake Figures and Limits for Primary and Secondary Schools Session 2021/22**  
**Report by Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships****Report for Noting****1 Recommendations**

Council is requested to note:

- the estimated intake figures for primary and secondary schools in Section 3 tables 1 - 3;
- the requirement to apply intake limits at a number of schools in order to safeguard places for pupils to be able to attend their catchment school.

**2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

This report provides Council with an update on the enrolment of pupils and intake for the school session 2021/22. The report identifies a number of schools where there is pressure on school capacity and the need to apply intake limits to safeguard places for catchment children and to manage placing requests.

### 3 Intake August 2021

- 3.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1996 Placing Requests Part IV: Section 33 allows education authorities to reserve places for incoming pupils into catchment areas of schools. This helps education authorities to manage their schools and prevent them being at capacity at commencement of an academic year, and further more enabling them to accommodate incoming catchment pupils at their catchment schools when they move into the area during the academic year.
- 3.2 Section 28A (3A) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (as amended) provides a general principle that, so far as is compatible with the provision of suitable instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents. Acceptance of a placing request for a child who is resident outwith the catchment area of a specified school could prevent the education authority from retaining reserved places at a specified school or in relation to any particular stage of education at the school. It is for this reason that the education authority may refuse to grant a placing request that would impact on the ability to reserve places in schools.
- 3.3 The progress of house building in parts of Midlothian is continuing to generate significant growth in pupil numbers. This combined with parental placing requests for certain schools with limited capacity means that pupil intake limits are required in order to safeguard places for pupils to be able to attend their catchment school.
- 3.4 The Council's approach to pupil placement is to provide a place for every pupil at one of their catchment schools and to grant placing requests for siblings whenever this is possible. Where catchment schools are over-subscribed the pupil placement process reserves places at neighbouring schools to ensure every pupil is afforded the opportunity to attend a local school. Maintaining this commitment is becoming increasingly challenging with the growth in pupil numbers we are experiencing and the consequent pressure on school capacities.
- 3.5 The following factors are considered for both primary and secondary schools when determining the appropriate number of reserved places that are likely to be required for pupils moving into the catchment area of the school during 2021/22:
  - The proposed level of capping at the school and number of expected pupils
  - Current and planned housing developments
  - Projected school rolls
  - Projected migration into the catchment area
  - Information about reserved places from previous years
  - School capacities
  - Information known to us, for example, families indicating a move into the area before/after commencement of the academic year.
- 3.6 Pupil enrolment for the 2021/22 school session is well underway. 1,328 primary pupils and 1,113 secondary pupils have been registered to date for the August 2021 intake. 159 requests to defer entry to primary school have been received. The national deadline for the submission of placing requests is 15 March 2021, and decisions on those requests will be made and communicated by letter to parents/carers during April. The placing request appeal panel will meet in May to consider appeals in respect of placing requests which have been refused.

## Primary Schools

- 3.7 For August 2021, the primary schools where the number of P1 pupils residing in their catchment exceeds P1 intake capacity and the schools which are oversubscribed are King's Park, St David's, Newtongrange, Moorfoot, and Roslin Primary Schools. The tables below show the estimated primary intake based on current registrations assuming all current placement requests and deferrals are granted.

**Table 1: Primary non-denominational schools' catchment numbers, estimated P1 numbers and intake limits.**

<b>Non Denominational Primary Schools</b>	<b>Catchment P1s</b>	<b>P1s registered net of Deferrals</b>	<b>Estimated P1 Intake August 2021</b>	<b>P1 Intake Limit August 2021</b>
Danderhall Primary School	62	53	59	90
King's Park Primary School	89	75	89	80
Woodburn Primary School	149	96	95	110
Tynewater Primary School	17	16	22	33
Lawfield Primary School	88	59	43	60
Mayfield Primary School	60	34	39	50
Newtongrange Primary School	75	61	61	58
Gore Glen Primary School	81	60	58	60
Gorebridge Primary School	55	42	39	60
Stobhill Primary School	32	28	24	33
Moorfoot Primary School	15	13	25	14
Bonnyrigg Primary School	47	36	50	60
Burnbrae Primary School	98	70	59	72
Hawthornden Primary School	66	40	36	54
Lasswade Primary School	50	38	46	60
Rosewell Primary School	39	30	27	33
Loanhead Primary School	23	20	21	25
Paradykes Primary School	57	46	49	60
Bilston Primary School	34	30	22	33
Roslin Primary School	34	30	46	42
Glencorse Primary School	8	2	0	14
Mauricewood Primary School	52	42	44	54
Cornbank St James Primary School	47	38	42	47
Cuiken Primary School	48	41	41	60
Strathesk Primary School	57	43	36	54
	<b>1,383</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,316</b>

**Table 2: Primary denominational schools' catchment numbers, estimated P1 numbers & intake limits**

<b>Denominational Primary Schools</b>	<b>Catchment P1s</b>	<b>P1s registered net of Deferrals</b>	<b>Estimated P1 Intake August 2021</b>	<b>P1 Intake Limit August 2021</b>
St David's RC Primary School	317	46	37	30
St Luke's RC Primary School	148	34	29	33
St Andrew's RC Primary School	258	18	15	25
St Mary's RC Primary School	261	30	33	33
St Matthew's RC Primary School	39	4	5	10
St Margaret's RC Primary School	148	4	1	14
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	212	14	9	25
	<b>1,383</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>170</b>

- 3.8 Due to the impact of housing development across Dalkeith, the estimated P1 intake exceeds the available capacity of the three Dalkeith primary schools, King's Park, Woodburn and St David's. The intake at St David's Primary School will be managed with the application of the pupil intake limit and by giving first priority to those children who are baptised Roman Catholic. Pupils not granted a place at St David's will increase the estimated intake at the other schools, primarily Woodburn.
- 3.9 We will maximise the P1 intake numbers that King's Park and Woodburn can manage for 2021 and 2022, after which additional primary capacity for Dalkeith will come on stream.
- 3.10 Newtongrange Primary School has fifteen class spaces with the P1 intake capacity normally limited to 56 places due to the small size of many of the school's classrooms. The Cockpen development of 131 houses, which is in the school's catchment area, has completed 80 houses to date and the remaining 51 are scheduled to complete by the end of next year. This has already given rise to some increase in the number of Newtongrange catchment pupils and we expect this will continue to grow for some years before it levels out. The new primary school in Easthouses, planned for completion by August 2023, will provide some additional capacity for the area and ease the pressure on Newtongrange Primary School.
- 3.11 The estimated August 2021 P1 intake of Newtongrange is 61. We will work with the school to maximise the intake capacity for 2021 however it is likely that alternative placements will have to be found for a small number of catchment children. We will work with parents to identify the most acceptable solution and where possible grant placing requests to other schools.
- 3.12 Moorfoot is a 4-class primary school with capacity for a normal annual intake of 14 P1 pupils. Moorfoot's school accommodation is generous for four classes and we will explore with the school's management how it can accommodate five classes, should this be needed. If this can be done it will provide greater flexibility to accommodate placing requests while maintaining capacity at all stages for families moving into the catchment.
- 3.13 The estimated P1 intake of 25 at Moorfoot includes 13 catchment children. The intake will be managed with the application of the pupil intake limit and by giving first priority for placing requests to those who will have a sibling attending next year.

- 3.14 Roslin Primary School has nine classes available for August 2021 with plans to add two classrooms by August 2023. The normal P1 intake for a nine class school is 34 pupils. Given the planned addition of two classrooms and the projected number of pupils in P2 to P7, the intake for August 2021 will be increased and capped at 40, with a number of places reserved for children moving into the catchment area. The estimated August 2021 P1 intake of 46 at Roslin includes 29 catchment children. The intake will be managed with the application of the pupil intake limit and by giving first priority for placing requests to those who will have a sibling attending next year.
- 3.15 The intake at denominational schools will be managed with the application of pupil intake limits and by giving first priority to those who are baptised Roman Catholic. Intake limits will be set in the context of the number of applications from pupils who are baptised Roman Catholic, the availability of suitably qualified teachers and the capacity of all schools serving each catchment area. We do not anticipate that the number of qualifying pupils wishing to attend the denominational schools will exceed their intake capacities.

### **Secondary Schools**

- 3.16 The secondary schools where the number of S1 pupils residing in their catchment exceeds S1 intake capacity are Dalkeith, Lasswade and Newbattle High Schools. This is reduced by the numbers who choose to attend St David's.
- 3.17 Since August 2017 the Council has provided home to school transport for pupils residing in the Loanhead area who choose to attend Beeslack High School rather than Lasswade, which is their catchment secondary school. This has had some success in easing the pressure of pupil numbers at Lasswade with approximately 40% of pupils resident in Loanhead opting to attend Beeslack next year.
- 3.18 The table below shows the estimated S1 intake for August 2021, assuming all placing requests are granted. This shows that only Newbattle High School has an estimated S1 which is above the intake limit, although Lasswade High School is only just below its intake limit.

**Table 3: Secondary schools catchment numbers, estimated S1 intake & intake limits August 2021**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Catchment S1</b>	<b>Estimated S1</b>	<b>S1 Intake Limit</b>
Beeslack High School	84	139	160
Dalkeith High School	237	193	200
Lasswade High School	330	298	300
Newbattle High School	315	248	240
Penicuik High School	131	101	180
St David's RC High School		140	160
	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,240</b>

- 3.19 Newbattle High School has capacity for 1,200 pupils with a school roll this year of 1,004 pupils. An S1 intake of 248 pupils is likely to result in Newbattle exceeding its capacity by 2023.

<b>Newbattle High</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>S4</b>	<b>S5</b>	<b>S6</b>	<b>Total</b>
2020/21 Census	197	223	186	169	158	71	1,004
2021/22 Projection	247	197	223	186	152	118	1,123
2022/23	256	247	197	223	167	101	1,191
2023/24	244	256	247	197	201	112	1,257
2024/25	249	244	256	247	177	134	1,307
2025/26	266	249	244	256	222	118	1,355

- 3.20 A new high school is planned to be provided in Gorebridge by summer 2025 which will relieve the pressure on capacity at Newbattle. In the meantime we will work with the school's management to maximise the number of pupils the school can accommodate at Newbattle and set pupil intake limits accordingly.
- 3.21 Pupil enrolment for the six high schools will be managed by use of intake limits, proactive management of placing requests and early engagement with parents and schools on the optimal placement of S1 pupils for August 2021.

### **Pupil Placement Guidelines**

- 3.22 The policy guidelines on Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools have been updated to take effect for the process of admitting pupils for the forthcoming school session – Appendix 3.

### **Summary**

- 3.23 The full extent of the pressure on each school's capacity will not be known until mid-March, which is the national closing date for receipt of placing requests, by which time decisions will have been taken about deferred entry.
- 3.24 As in previous years pupil intake for August 2021 will be assessed regularly, ensuring effective management of the pupil placement process by taking account of placing requests and reserving places in neighbouring schools to provide places for pupils whose catchment school is over-subscribed. Intake limits based on schools' capacity will be applied as necessary in order to prevent schools from becoming overcrowded.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

There are no direct resource implications arising as a result of this report.

### **4.2 Risk**

There is a risk that the council will not have a place for every pupil at their catchment school which is mitigated by the application of limits on pupil intake, reviews of deferral and placing requests, and, in the case of denominational schools, by giving first priority to those who have a declared affinity with the Roman Catholic faith.

#### 4.3 **Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

#### 4.4 **Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Key priority: Reducing the gap in learning outcomes.

GIRFEC outcomes: Children and young people are supported to be healthy, happy and reach their potential; Inequalities in learning outcomes are reduced.

#### 4.5 **Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The aim of this paper supports the priority to reduce the inequalities in learning outcomes by improving the quality of learning and teaching, leading to raised levels of achievement and attainment, by providing every child with the opportunity to attend school in their local community.

#### 4.6 **Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The Council's approach to pupil placement adopts a preventative approach by maximising the opportunities for pupils to attend school in their local community.

#### 4.7 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

This report informs Council of the potential impact on communities arising from pressure on school places.

#### 4.8 **Ensuring Equalities**

This paper informs Council of the impact of managing pupil admissions in line with national and local policy and procedure.

#### 4.9 **Supporting Sustainable Development**

The sustainability issues relating to this report relate to the sufficiency of schools places particularly in areas of housing development, the provision of additional capacity is being taken forward via the Delivery Plan for the Learning Estate coupled with the School Catchment Review Programme.

#### 4.10 **IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising directly as a result of this report. The IT requirements arising in order to put in place the additional capacity for each school will be identified as part of the development of the project specifications. The budget required to fully equip additional classes for August 2021 will be developed in liaison with Digital Services.

**11 March 2021**

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**Appendices**

- Appendix 1    Primary School Pupil Census 2020
- Appendix 2    Secondary School Pupil Census 2020
- Appendix 3    Policy Guidelines - Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools

**Background Papers:**

Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047, Midlothian Council 26 September 2017