

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Lifelong Learning Committee – 25 February 2009****RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS 2009/2010****Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)****ABSTRACT**

This report proposes the number of reserved places for session 2009/2010 within primary and secondary schools in accordance with Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended. This allows places to be protected for local children in their catchment school.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 approves the number of reserved places, within schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces at specific stages, for session 2009/2010 as shown in Appendix 1;
- 1.2 instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to revise these numbers each year to reflect historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area, and any current residential development; and
- 1.3 delegates responsibility to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to review the reserved places for all schools in light of any building work and in light of residential development.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Reserved places refer to the number of places, in the opinion of the education authority, which are reasonably required to accommodate pupils likely to become resident within the catchment area of a school during the period of considering placing requests and during that school year.

This allows the education authority to calculate and retain a certain number of places for children from families likely to move into the catchment area of schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces in some or all stages. The legislation permits the education authority the right to refuse some or all placing requests made for a particular school on the grounds that children from within the catchment area may become resident during the year and places are reserved to try to accommodate these children, where possible, in their catchment school. This allows the education authority to take positive steps to protect places in schools for catchment pupils.

- 2.2 The introduction of reserved places initially applied only to situations where no equivalent school was available within walking distance in terms of the amendments made to the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 by the Education (Scotland) Act 1996. Section 44 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 amended the legislation further, and an education authority now has discretion to determine reserved places whether or not there is an equivalent school nearby. The strategy for its implementation within Perth and Kinross Council was approved by Committee in March 1997 for session 1997/98 (Report No 97/145 refers). Further reports have been approved for each subsequent session.
- 2.3 The criteria used for the number of reserved places within schools for the current session is now:
- a) schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces at specific stages;
  - b) the guidance contained in the Scottish Office Circular 8/96 gave examples of the types of situation which could be taken into account including historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area and any current residential development in the area;
  - c) the possible pattern of movement indicated by the current session's trends and roll projections for 2009/2010; and
  - d) the scheme be justifiable and operated fairly, particularly as parents can appeal to the relevant Education Appeal Committee and thereafter to the Sheriff Court.

### **3 OPERATION OF CRITERIA 2009/2010**

- 3.1 The introduction of the scheme caused some difficulties at the outset as schools adjusted to having places reserved for incomers, as well as deciding which stage within school the places should be reserved. The current proposals have been informed by the resolution of these difficulties.
- 3.2 There have been no appeals made on the basis of questioning the justification of the reserved places within any schools in Perth and Kinross since the implementation of the scheme in 1997.
- 3.3 The historical pattern of migration should continue to be monitored to ensure as accurate information as possible is used to reserve places.
- 3.4 For session 2009/2010 there are some fluctuations in the reserved places. There are a number of schools whose reserved places have been altered in light of past experience in administering placements throughout session 2008/2009. In schools where additional building work has been undertaken, this has led to the reduction in the requirement for reserved places. Reserved places have been increased where residential build has taken place or is planned within school catchment areas. Reserved places have also been altered where school rolls have increased or decreased.

In addition to these factors, it was necessary to increase or introduce reserved places in certain schools to manage the introduction of the then Scottish Executive's Reducing Class Sizes Initiative. This reduced Primary 1 classes from 30 pupils to 25 pupils per teacher, and was effective from August 2007.

#### **4 PROPOSALS**

It is proposed that the reserved places required for session 2009/2010 are accepted as outlined in Appendix 1. The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) will publish the Reserved Places in Schools 2009/2010 and implement this in full for session 2009/2010.

#### **5 CONSULTATION**

The Executive Director (Corporate Services), Head of Democratic Services, Head of Legal Services, Headteachers and Service Managers (Education Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no resource implications contained within this paper.

#### **7 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2006-2010**

7.1 This report takes forward the Service's Statement of Intent and links to Business Management and Improvement Plan objective:

- Develop the range and quality learning experiences for all

The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy areas:

- Change and Improvement
- Communication and Consultation
- Inclusion and Equality
- Maximising Resources

7.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2006-2010 lays out five objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

## **8 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT**

The reserved places procedure presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further assessment.

## **9 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The reserved places procedure presented in this report was considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further action as they do not qualify as a plan, programme or strategy as defined by the Act.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

The reserved places procedure complies with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended, to allow children moving into a catchment area of a school a greater likelihood of attending that school.

More accurate historical or anticipated patterns are being established as accurate information is collected over the years.

The annual revision of the reserved places procedure on an annual basis ensures that Education and Children's Services stringently manage pupil intakes for each school ensuring, where possible, that local children can attend their catchment school.

**JOHN FYFFE**  
**Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)**

**Note:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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## Appendices:

### Appendix 1 – Reserved Places 2009/2010

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## RESERVED PLACES 2009/2010

## Appendix 1

	Reserved Places 2008/2009	Reserved Places Required 2009/2010
<b>Secondary Schools</b>		
Kinross High School	4	20
Perth High School	7	5
	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Primary Schools</b>		
Abernethy Primary School	21	21
Arngask Primary School	12	8
Alyth Primary School	0	2
Auchtergaven Primary School	0	18
Balhouses Primary School	8	9
Braco Primary School	0	6
Breadalbane Primary	4	8
Caledonian Road Primary School	16	17
Cleish Primary School	8	4
Community School of Auchterarder	20	28
Coupar Angus Primary School	24	8
Craigie Primary School	45	19
Crieff Primary School	0	8
Dunbarney Primary School	50	31
Dunning Primary School	6	10
Errol Primary School	25	31
Forgandenny Primary School	6	7
Fossoway Primary School	10	14
Goodlyburn Primary School	14	16
Grandtully Primary School	2	2
Greenloaning Primary School	6	6
Guildtown Primary School	4	4
Hill Primary School	26	15
Inchture Primary School	0	12
Invergowrie Primary School	12	16
Kenmore Primary School	9	5
Kinnoull Primary School	15	19
Kinross Primary School	0	6
Letham Primary School	8	18
Longforgan Primary School	12	13
Luncarty Primary School	14	2

	<b>Reserved Places 2008/2009</b>	<b>Reserved Places Required 2009/2010</b>
<b>Primary Schools (continued)</b>		
Madderty Primary School	4	4
Meigle Primary School	11	9
Methven Primary School	12	3
Milnathort Primary School	18	21
Moncreiffe Primary School	12	13
Murthly Primary School	12	8
Muthill Primary School	7	2
North Muirton Primary School	20	20
Oakbank Primary School	14	20
Our Lady's RC Primary School	0	2
Pitcairn Primary School	4	0
Pitlochry Primary School	12	15
Portmoak	4	3
Ratray Primary School	0	2
Robert Douglas Memorial School	18	13
Royal School of Dunkeld	2	8
Ruthvenfield Primary School	5	7
St John's Primary School	0	7
St Madoes Primary School	2	15
Stanley Primary School	10	13
Tulloch Primary School	8	18
Viewlands Primary School	16	16
	<b>568</b>	<b>602</b>