

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 10 March 2010

RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS 2010/2011

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

ABSTRACT

This report proposes the number of reserved places for session 2010/2011, 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 2010/2011 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.
- 2.2 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.

Places are reserved to try to accommodate these children, where possible, in their catchment school, allowing the education authority to take positive steps to protect places in schools for catchment pupils.

- 2.3 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 the implementation of reserved places 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.

- 2.4 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) interpretation of the guidance contained in the Scottish Office Circular 8/96 which gives examples of the types of situation which can 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 2010/2011; and
 - d) that the scheme is 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 2010/2011

- 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 2010/2011 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 2009/2010. 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 2010/2011 are accepted as outlined in Appendix 1. The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) will publish the Reserved Places in Schools 2010/2011 and implement this in full for session 2010/2011.

5 CONSULTATION

The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Legal Services and Headteachers 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 2009-2012

7.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 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:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
- (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

This report relates to the Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens objective.

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

- Change and Improvement

8 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

The reserved places procedure presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (Eq1A) with the following outcome:

- i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of Eq1A

9 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

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 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 2010/2011

RESERVED PLACES 2010/2011

Appendix 1

	Reserved Places Required 2009/2010	Reserved Places Required 2010/2011
Secondary Schools		
Community School of Auchterarder	0	2
Kinross High School	20	12
Perth Academy	0	12
Perth Grammar School	0	8
Perth High School	5	4
Total Secondary	25	38
Primary Schools		
Abernethy Primary School	21	24
Arngask Primary School	8	8
Alyth Primary School	2	0
Auchtergaven Primary School	18	21
Balhousie Primary School	9	11
Braco Primary School	6	9
Breadalbane Primary	8	7
Cleish Primary School	4	6
Community School of Auchterarder	28	28
Comrie	0	14
Coupar Angus Primary School	8	14
Craigie Primary School	19	16
Crieff Primary School	8	10
Dunbarney Primary School	31	35
Dunning Primary School	10	10
Errol Primary School	31	11
Forgandenny Primary School	7	5
Fossoway Primary School	14	10
Goodlyburn Primary School	16	18
Grandtully Primary School	2	3
Greenloaning Primary School	6	4
Guildtown Primary School	4	5
Newhill Primary School	15	16
Inchture Primary School	12	14
Inchview Primary School	17	15
Invergowrie Primary School	16	16
Kenmore Primary School	5	6
Kinnoull Primary School	19	27
Kinross Primary School	6	16

	Reserved Places Required 2009/2010	Reserved Places Required 2010/2011
Primary Schools (continued)		
Kirkmichael Primary School	0	4
Letham Primary School	18	17
Longforgan Primary School	13	12
Luncarty Primary School	2	14
Madderty Primary School	4	7
Meigle Primary School	9	7
Methven Primary School	3	6
Milnathort Primary School	21	21
Moncreiffe Primary School	13	11
Murthly Primary School	8	7
Muthill Primary School	2	6
North Muirton Primary School	20	14
Oakbank Primary School	20	16
Our Lady's RC Primary School	2	4
Pitcairn Primary School	0	2
Pitlochry Primary School	15	19
Portmoak	3	3
Ratray Primary School	2	7
Robert Douglas Memorial School	13	11
Royal School of Dunkeld	8	12
Ruthvenfield Primary School	7	8
St John's Academy (Primary)	7	3
St Madoes Primary School	15	21
St Ninian's Episcopal PS	0	7
Stanley Primary School	13	13
Tulloch Primary School	18	18
Viewlands Primary School	16	16
Total Primary	602	665
TOTAL	627	703