

Abernyte Primary School

The following information is key information which may be helpful regarding the process.

Why do I need to complete a questionnaire?

One of the principles which we must consider as part of our report to Lifelong Learning Committee is whether there is support from parents/carers for a change to the catchment area. If you do not respond we will not know whether you support the potential change.

If the catchment area changes, it could mean that your local school would change from either Inchtute Primary School or Longforgan Primary School to Abernyte Primary School

Why is my address in the area being considered?

Lifelong Learning Committee approved the scope and principles to be used to underpin the options appraisal to be developed for a further catchment review for Abernyte Primary School.

An analysis of the agreed principles has been carried out which established that the areas to the north of the A90 in the existing Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas will be considered as part of an extended catchment area for Abernyte Primary School because of the following reasons;

- Both of these areas are geographically adjacent to the Abernyte Primary School catchment;
- If these areas are included within the Abernyte Primary School catchment it would not cause a detrimental impact to the school rolls at Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School;
- There are enough children living in these areas to contribute to a sustainable school roll at Abernyte Primary School if there is sufficient support from parents/carers.

The Council is therefore contacting families living in these areas, including the existing Abernyte Primary School catchment, to establish whether there is sufficient support for the proposed catchment change.

If the catchment review concludes that the catchment area for Abernyte Primary School should be changed to include the area to the north of the A90 within the Inchtute Primary School catchment area and/or the area to the north of the A90 within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area will my child/children or siblings have to attend Abernyte Primary School?

Children currently attending another primary school would not be required to move schools if the catchment area change goes ahead. Younger siblings, not yet attending school may be able to attend the same school as their siblings by making a placing request. Parents always have a right to make a request that their child be placed in a school of their choice and,

where there are available places, Perth and Kinross Council will always prioritise pupils with siblings above all other placing requests.

If my catchment area changes to Abernyte Primary School will my child/children be transported to school if they attend Abernyte Primary School?

Any child/children living further than the statutory walking distance from their catchment school will be entitled to transport. The statutory walking distance for a primary school age child is 2 miles.

Children may also be entitled to transport on road safety grounds.

If a catchment review or nursery provision is implemented when is it likely this will start?

Timescales are subject to change although any change to the catchment area will not take place until August 2022 at the earliest. The operational date of any nursery will be dependent on any building works required.

A statutory consultation will be required if a change to the catchment area is progressed.

If nursery provision is created will the nursery be accommodated within the existing school building?

A number of options will be investigated regarding nursery accommodation. These will include creating the nursery within existing teaching spaces, an extension to the school building or in a stand alone building. In addition, parents/carers may like the Council to explore another option for nursery provision that has not been considered. The impact nursery accommodation within the school would have on any catchment review will also be considered.

How many pupils could attend Abernyte Primary School following a catchment review and/or the introduction of nursery provision?

The current capacity of the school is 44 pupils based on two teaching spaces. If nursery provision is created within the school the school capacity will be reduced to either 20 or 24 pupils. One teaching space has a capacity for a total of 20 pupils and the other teaching space has capacity for 24 pupils.

If nursery provision is created out with the existing school building it is likely the school capacity will remain at 44 pupils.

What is the current school roll for Abernyte Primary School?

The current school roll is 12 pupils. The table below shows historic school rolls.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Abernyte Primary School Roll	7	5	6	10

Who will see the information I provide and how will it be used?

The information you provide via the questionnaire will be used to inform the options appraisal. All information will be anonymised to ensure no individuals can be identified. A summary of the feedback received will be included within the options appraisal considered by Lifelong Learning Committee.

Once parents/carers have responded to the questionnaire. What happens next?

An options appraisal will be submitted to Lifelong Learning Committee which will make a recommendation on next steps in May 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Frequently asked questions

What is an options appraisal?

An options appraisal looks in detail at a wide range of information which can differ in content dependent on the matters being considered.

These could include aspects such as future pupil projections, changes to the school building, travel arrangements, financial information and educational benefits.

What is a statutory consultation?

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the consultation process that local authorities must follow when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools - such as a closure, relocation or change of catchment area.

When proposing a major change to a school the local authority must:

1. Publish a proposal paper, including a statement of the educational benefits of what's proposed;
2. Set a consultation period of at least 6 weeks of term time;
3. Let statutory consultees, which includes, parents and the Parent Council, know about the consultation and invite responses;
4. Hold a public meeting;
5. Invite Education Scotland to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal; and
6. Publish a consultation report which responds to issues raised through the consultation period.
7. Report on the outcome of the consultation and then consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee to agree whether or not to implement the proposal.

The Statutory Consultation period lasts at least 6 weeks, but the whole process of making a change to the school, including the stages outlined above, can take up to 1 year from when the process commences.