



## **Educational Services – November 2023**

### **Consultation Report**

Report on the outcome of the statutory consultation relating to the proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility within Dalmilling Primary School

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Council's Cabinet, at its meeting of 29 August 2023, approved the progression of a statutory consultation on proposals to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the Extended Learning Facility (ELF) at Dalmilling Primary School, Ayr, to a new facility within Heathfield Primary School, Ayr.
- 1.2 The proposal document was made available to all consultees as prescribed by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 and a copy of the proposal document was available from the Council's website at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations). The consultation process ran from Monday 04 September 2023 to Wednesday 25 October 2023, a period of more than 30 school days as required by statute.
- 1.3 As part of the consultation process, Educational Services undertook the following activities:
  - Published the consultation on the Council's '[Consultations](#)' web pages.
  - Provided a press release to all local media outlets to raise awareness of the consultation.
  - Promoted the consultation through the Council's '[News & Announcements](#)' web pages.
  - Publicised the consultation exercise and public meetings through letters to parents/carers and other prescribed stakeholders.
  - Placed copies of the proposal document in Dalmilling Primary School, Heathfield Primary School, Ayr Academy, South Ayrshire Council County Buildings, and South Ayrshire Council Information & Advice Hub, Ayr.
  - Undertook a consultation with children.
  - Held a public meeting in Ayr Academy on Wednesday 04 October 2023.
  - Gathered responses using a dedicated email address for the consultation.
  - Gathered responses using an online survey.

## 2.0 Considerations

The proposals that were issued for consultation were:

- 2.1 to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School (Harthall, Ayr, KA8 0PD), to a new and larger facility within Heathfield Primary School (Heathfield Rd, Ayr KA8 9DR), and;
- 2.2 that, should the proposals be agreed, the relocation will take effect on the completion of alterations to Heathfield Primary School which are expected to be completed by the summer of 2024 for the new school session starting that August.

## 3.0 Outcome of the consultation

The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and all prescribed consultees were given an opportunity to participate in the consultation process and submit views on the proposals. In addition to this, any individuals or groups with an interest in the proposals were able to participate in the consultation and submit their views.

Full details of the proposals were made available to consultees who were given the opportunity to provide comments and answer 1 question; *do you agree with the proposal to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to an expanded facility within Heathfield Primary School?*

### 3.1 Overview of responses to the consultation

3.1.1 A total of 63 written responses were received during the consultation period. This is considered low, taking into account that there are nearly 750 learners attending the affected schools and of the 63 responses received, 17 were from members of staff at either school.

3.1.2 Table 1 below provides a summary of the number of responses received to the question that consultees were asked, and while the majority of the public respondents did not agree with the proposal, a number of the responses were in favour of the move or indicated no preference on where the ELF is located. Educational Services have also progressed with measures, following the consultation period, to further address concerns raised by stakeholders, by arranging various meetings with parents, carers, staff and Head teachers on proposals for transition, on the educational benefits of the proposed relocation and on arrangements at Heathfield Primary School relating to accessible transport and parking.

*Table 1. Summary of number of responses to the consultation*

<b>Do you agree with the proposal to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to an expanded facility within Heathfield Primary School?</b>			
Consultee	Yes	No	No Preference
Dalmilling Primary Parent/Carer	1	11	0
Dalmilling Primary Staff	1	9	2
Dalmilling Primary Pupil	0	1	0
Dalmilling Primary - Other	3	5	1
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>
Percentage/Dalmilling	15%	76%	9%
Heathfield Primary Parent/Carer	2	16	2
Heathfield Primary Staff	4	0	1
Heathfield Primary Pupil	0	0	0
Heathfield Primary - Other	2	2	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>
Percentage/Heathfield	28%	62%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Percentage/Total</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>10%</b>

- 3.1.3 A number of the responses received included positive comments about the proposals and recognised the benefits that the proposed relocation offered. The positive responses referred to the need for an increase in the capacity of additional support needs education provision within South Ayrshire that the proposed relocation will bring, and on the positive opportunities at Heathfield Primary through existing and proposed, new facilities coupled to the established inclusive ethos at the school.
- 3.1.4 Of the concerns raised from consultees indicating that they did not agree with the proposed relocation, with responses querying the benefits of the proposed move, raising concerns over transport and parking and referring to the impact of pupil transitions. These concerns are summarised in section 3.2 along with a response to each from the Council. A full summary of all the consultation responses is shown in Appendix 1, and a copy of the detailed responses have been made available to Education Scotland and the Elected Members of South Ayrshire Council.
- 3.1.5 A public meetings was held on Wednesday 04 October 2023 at Ayr Academy with 29 people in total attending. Both the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education, as well as the Assistant Director of Education, were in attendance along with other officers from Educational Services including representation from the Council's Education Inclusion Team. The Service Lead for Education Support Services gave a presentation outlining the proposals and the consultation process. This was followed by a question/answer session.

Questions asked at the public meeting, reflected concerns raised through written responses received during the consultation, including queries on transitions for learners, particularly P6 and P7 pupils, on the proposed capacity, location and plans for additional support needs education provision within Heathfield Primary and on accessible transport issues. A note of the points raised and views expressed at the public meetings can be found at Appendix 2.

- 3.1.6 Consultation was also undertaken with the children and young people from Dalmling Primary School and Heathfield Primary School. The schools used the consultation guidelines "Participants not Pawns" issued by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and the outcomes from the consultations are summarised in section 3.3, with the full children and young people consultation documents from each school shown at appendix 3.

## **3.2 Summary of the main points and views expressed during the consultation**

- 3.2.1 The main issues/views gathered during the consultation period are listed below at table 2 and include a response from Educational Services.

*Table 2. Overview of queries/views expressed and Council response*

<b>Question/View Expressed</b>	<b>South Ayrshire Council's Response</b>
<p>What are the council thoughts on the currently primary 6 children who would be transitioning to Heathfield Primary for 1 year and then having to transition again for Secondary?</p>	<p>Transition plans for all of our learners attending the Extended Learning Facility within Dalmilling Primary School will be put in place from an early stage, as soon a decision is made on the proposal in January 2024. These plans will be discussed thoroughly with parents/carers staff and children. The transition period required for every individual learner will vary, and this will also be thoroughly considered. No unnecessary transitions will take place.</p>
<p>Will the ASN summer school and holiday clubs currently operating from Dalmilling Primary School continue. Either at Dalmilling or Heathfield?</p>	<p>Existing school holiday education provision will not be reduced. The location of this provision will be considered should the proposal to relocate the extended learning facility be approved.</p>
<p>Can the staff visit Heathfield Primary?</p>	<p>Although the areas within Heathfield Primary are not developed yet, visits have already been arranged for staff to view the areas of the school proposed for the relocation, and any feedback received will be factored into development of designs and provision of facilities.</p>
<p>I have been advised that the capacity would be 40 at Heathfield, therefore what happens when there is an increase in children attending the extended learning facility?</p>	<p>Where there is an increase in the number of learners, the staff compliment is increased proportionately and in accordance with Educational Services' Devolved School Management Scheme (DSM).</p> <p>Proposed, dedicated accommodation for additional support needs education provision at Heathfield Primary, and the capacity of class bases, will be kept under review in accordance with the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) agreement on Conditions of Service (Part 2 - Appendix 2.9 – Class Size Maxima), which outlines the maximum class sizes for additional support needs education.</p>
<p>How do you know that 40 pupils will be generated from the new housing on the Mainholm site?</p>	<p>The Council can never guarantee the number of pupils that will be populated in South Ayrshire Schools from new housing developments, specifically in this case the 160 new homes being constructed within the catchment area of Dalmilling Primary School. However, an agreed calculation is used to project pupil numbers, which is shared by many local authorities in Scotland and has been tried and tested from previous, completed housing developments in South Ayrshire.</p>
<p>Are there plans to build a new Dalmilling Primary School?</p>	<p>There are currently no commitments within the Council's twelve year, 2023-24 to 2034-35 Capital Investment Programme, for a replacement of</p>

	Dalmilling Primary School.
What are the benefits for the children?	<p>-Proposed facilities at Heathfield Primary School would be purpose built for the needs of learners.</p> <p>-A new and modern learning centre for children and young people with additional support needs at Heathfield Primary School will enhance learning experiences and outcomes.</p> <p>-Dedicated sensory spaces and quiet spaces will be built into the proposed, new facilities at Heathfield Primary School, with quiet areas integrated into each classroom. A central sensory space will be custom designed within the new space to ensure the sensory needs of learners are met</p> <p>-A safe and secure play area will be provided as part of the proposed facilities at Heathfield Primary School. This will ensure young people can access the outdoors safely. Access to a safe outdoor space, which is not accessed by the public will be significant. This ensures young people can use the developed outdoor space as part of their day and further develop opportunities for safe outdoor learning experiences. This will further enhance safe opportunities for safe experiential play, sensory play and loose parts play.</p> <p>-Children and young people with additional support needs will benefit from access to a range of facilities within Heathfield Primary School such as modern and dedicated music rooms, double gym hall facilities and a large modern library area. There are numerous additional benefits within the community from which the children will benefit. This includes the proximity to local parks and beaches and sports facilities such as the tennis club and swimming pool.</p> <p>-There are no issues with Capacity at Heathfield Primary, as there are at Dalmilling Primary School.</p> <p>-The benefit for future learners at Dalmilling Primary School is that there will be additional capacity to accommodate the projected increase in roll, including all future learners anticipated to arise from housing development.</p> <p>-This will mitigate the likelihood of requiring additional, external and temporary, modular classrooms at Dalmilling Primary School if the proposals are not approved.</p> <p>-This will also mitigate any re-directions having to take place and increase the likelihood of non-catchment placement requests into the school being accepted.</p>
Where is the proposed area within Heathfield Primary School for ASN accommodation?	The initially proposed location for additional support needs accommodation at Heathfield Primary School is within a centralised area

	<p>on the ground floor, near to the lower school classrooms, ensuring integration with the rest of the school</p> <p>Proposed accommodation includes 3 adjoining classrooms, with a 4<sup>th</sup> classroom, general purpose room, sensory room and accessible changing room across the corridor.</p> <p>A secure playground for the proposed extended learning facility is also included at the back of the school, with direct access from the additional support needs accommodation.</p> <p>Visits have already been arranged for staff, parents and carers, to view the areas of the school proposed for the relocation, and any feedback received will be factored into development of designs and provision of facilities.</p>
<p>What is the Council's Plan B if proposals are not approved?</p>	<p>If the proposal is not approved, additional, temporary, modular accommodation would be required at Dalmilling Primary School.</p>
<p>The children are very much part of Dalmilling Primary and integrate very well with all children.</p>	<p>There is absolute confidence from Educational Services and staff at Heathfield Primary School that the integration of children and young people potentially moving to and being part of their school would be a success.</p> <p>Staff at Heathfield Primary School have commented that there is an existing, positive and inclusive ethos at the school, where all staff and pupils will support and enhance transitions to the new school location, should the proposal be approved.</p> <p>During the public meeting a Heathfield Primary parent of a learner with additional support needs commented that they understood that parents, carers and children will be anxious about the proposed move, however from their experience they could advise that their child has a fantastic relationship with staff and pupils at Heathfield Primary and is very much included within the school.</p>
<p>What about the stability of staff/leadership?</p>	<p>The expectation would be that all staff will transfer to Heathfield Primary School, unless they decided themselves that they do not wish to move.</p> <p>The Head Teacher at Heathfield Primary School, who was previously Head Teacher at Dalmilling Primary School, would become responsible for the extended learning facility again.</p>



<p>If the proposal goes ahead, would the children move before the end of term?</p>	<p>This will be factored into the considerations and transition plan for every pupil currently attending the extended learning facility at Dalmilling Primary School. Staff at both schools are committed to completing individual, bespoke transition plans for each child to ensure all considerations have been taken into account. This tailored approach will include the voice of young people, parents and carers.</p> <p>Parents have already had the opportunity to visit the proposed location, view initial plans and hear more about the educational benefits of the proposed relocation. An assessment of needs is currently being undertaken by education staff, in consultation with individual parents and carers, regarding the most suitable transition plan and timescale for learners moving to the proposed new facility should the plans be taken forward.</p>
<p>Is there scope for more than 4 classrooms being available to the extended learning facility at Heathfield Primary School?</p>	<p>Currently there are no plans to allocate more than 4 classrooms for additional support needs education provision at Heathfield Primary.</p> <p>The capacity of class bases will, however, be kept under review in accordance with the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) agreement on Conditions of Service (Part 2 - Appendix 2.9 – Class Size Maxima), which outlines the maximum class sizes for additional support needs education.</p>
<p>Will there be a dedicated drop off and pick up point?</p>	<p>If the consultation is approved, dedicated drop off and pick up points for free school transport and parents/carers of children attending the proposed extended learning facility will be made available.</p>
<p>How will mainstream children feel at Dalmilling?</p>	<p>As part of the consultation, a dedicated pupil consultation has been undertaken at Dalmilling Primary School and Heathfield Primary School, and the responses to those consultations are summarised in section 3.3 of this report, with the full children and young people consultation documents from each school shown at appendix 3.</p>
<p>Will transport be provided for after school appointments and events</p>	<p>In accordance with the Council's guidelines on Additional Support Needs transport, free school transport will be provided to all learners attending the proposed extended learning facility at Heathfield Primary School, to and from their home address. Free transport to and from after school appointments and events cannot be provided.</p>

<p>The kids at the ELF base should take priority over hypothetical children that may or may not need to go to school at Dalmilling Primary. Braehead, Newton and St John's are all under capacity.</p>	<p>New housing being developed on the site of the former Mainholm Academy site is within the non-denominational catchment area for Dalmilling Primary School, and the denominational catchment area for St John's Primary School. Pupils arising from those new homes are not zoned for either Braehead primary School or Newton Primary School.</p>
<p>Are South Ayrshire Council going to arrange transport. If you're going to arrange transport for anybody, why not the imaginary able-bodied children that you don't actually have yet?</p>	<p>New housing being developed on the site of the former Mainholm Academy site is within the non-denominational catchment area for Dalmilling Primary School. The families of pupils arising from that development will expect that their children and young people can be accommodated in their catchment schools.</p> <p>Free School transport will be provided for any young person attending the proposed extended learning facility at Heathfield Primary School.</p>
<p>As a parent and local resident further work needs to be done with access to Heathfield by parents and guardians. School drop off and collection time is a free for all in the local area. Cars are abandoned in staff car park, across residents drives and in specified no parking areas.</p>	<p>If the consultation is approved, dedicated drop off and pick up points for free school transport and parents/carers of children attending the proposed extended learning facility will be made available, and a review of the school's Travel Plan will be undertaken, with advice sought from the Ayrshire Roads Alliance.</p>
<p>Heathfield primary is already a busy school and I cannot see how they feel there is capacity for more children.</p>	<p>Heathfield Primary School has a current planning capacity for 635 pupils. The published pupil roll for the 2023/24 school session at Heathfield is 414, which is 65% of the school's capacity and 33 less than the 2022/23 school session. The school roll has been in decline for the past seven years.</p> <p>There is capacity within Heathfield Primary School to relocate and expand the Extended Learning Facility and the Council have identified 4 classrooms that can be altered to accommodate young people attending the proposed facility.</p>
<p>How will the lunchtime rush at Heathfield be addressed as, at the moment, it's very busy and often children don't get enough time to finish their lunch and are felt rushed to be sent back outside to the playground to let the next lot of primary classes in.</p>	<p>If the consultation is approved, timings and management of all dining arrangements will be reviewed by the senior leadership team at the school.</p>
<p>Can you please provide details and the feasibility studies that has been completed for this project. I would like to know where the proposed site for the new provision is within the existing Heathfield</p>	<p>As above, Education Services and Property colleagues have identified 4 classrooms and additional spaces/accommodation in a central area on the ground floor of Heathfield Primary School for alteration.</p>

<p>Primary School building and how this will affect current learning services.</p>	<p>Stakeholders will be involved in the design process if the consultation is approved. Visits have already been arranged for parents, carers and staff to view the areas of the school proposed for the relocation, and any feedback received will be factored into development of designs and provision of facilities.</p>
<p>I feel Heathfield Primary is not the best place to relocate to due to some facilities at Heathfield being lost such as ICT room and the diamond's den which greatly supports my daughter in her learning and other children within Heathfield Primary.</p>	<p>If the consultation is approved, all existing facilities in the 4 classrooms identified at Heathfield Primary School for alteration will be provided elsewhere in the school, including music, ICT and the mainstream support facilities.</p>
<p>As a parent of an ASN child I have concerns about you switching location of these ASN children's school and then potentially losing staff that have built up trust and learn to read these children.</p>	<p>The expectation would be that all ELF staff will transfer from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School, unless individuals decide that they do not wish to move.</p>
<p>Dalmilling primary is an excellent school and there is no reason to move this provision other than a financial one. The new housing estate should have had a new primary school built purposely for it if there was to be an issue with existing services</p>	<p>New housing on the site of the former Mainholm Academy school site is within the non-denominational catchment area for Dalmilling Primary School. The proposal will allow for pupils arising from the new housing development to be accommodated in their catchment school. The proposed number of pupils arising from the new housing would not warrant the construction of a new, non-denominational primary school.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the impact of the introduction of the Extended Learning Facility. The introduction of the children from the facility into the Heathfield classes has the potential to cause significant upheaval. As the parent of a child that has already had disrupted years whilst at the school, I do not want to see anything happen that detracts from or poses any obstacles to my child's education. Should you move ahead with this proposal we would likely consider our options and look to move to another school in Prestwick.</p>	<p>If the consultation is approved, Education Services do not anticipate any negative impact on learning and teaching for existing learners at Heathfield Primary School.</p> <p>Comments provided by members of staff during the consultation included that children and young people at the school will embrace their new friends with open arms, learning from them and involving them wherever they can.</p> <p>It is also considered that staff who transfer from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School will bring a wealth of experience with them that they can share with the staff at Heathfield Primary.</p>

### **3.3 Consultation with children and young people**

- 3.3.1 Children and young people learning at both Dalmilling Primary School and Heathfield Primary School were also given the opportunity to take part in the consultation process and responses were sought on their views around the benefits or concerns about the proposed relocation of the extended learning facility.
- 3.3.2 A total of 136 children and young people were engaged in the consultations, with 54 learners from Heathfield Primary School and 82 learners from Dalmilling Primary School taking part. Through their conversations with members of staff, Children and young people from both schools provided a long list of perceived benefits and concerns that would come from the proposed move taking place.
- 3.3.3 The views of children and young people currently learning at Dalmilling Primary School included a list of benefits relating to the new facilities proposed for Heathfield Primary School, along with the benefits for learners in meeting new people and making new friends. The increase in space was also viewed as a benefit. However, there were concerns raised by the learners at Dalmilling Primary School which had a focus on the loss of established friendships and relationships between learners and staff.
- 3.3.4 The views of children and young people currently learning at Heathfield Primary School included a list of benefits referring to opportunities to meet new friends and the advantages of learning more about additional support needs. However, there were concerns raised by the learners at Heathfield Primary School which had a focus on the potential for having to change classrooms and share facilities and resources.
- 3.3.5 Should the proposal be approved, involving learners at both schools and arranging transition activities with them will be vital. This will help our children and young people acclimatise to the move and deal with any resulting changes in relationships. The staff cohort in both schools are very experienced at supporting the integration of new children in to their schools and a similar approach will be taken in advance of any move.
- 3.3.6 A full list of the benefits and concerns raised through the consultations with our children and young people is detailed at Appendix 3.

### **3.4 Responses from staff**

- 3.4.1 Staff from both schools responded to the consultation individually, either through the online, public survey, or via written responses submitted to the dedicated consultation e-mail address.
- 3.4.2 Of the 17 written responses received from members of staff at either school, just under half of those indicated that they either agreed with the proposed relocation of the extended learning facility, or had no preference on where the facility was located.
- 3.4.3 Members of staff who view the proposed relocation positively, referred to their beliefs around the existing inclusive ethos at Heathfield Primary School, that transitions will be well supported by new and existing skilled staff, that the expanded and improved facilities planned for Heathfield primary will provide educational benefits, and that many positive opportunities arise from a school embracing learners with a range of additional support needs.

- 3.4.4 Members of staff who provided a written response to the consultation and who did not agree with the proposed relocation, raised concerns around unnecessary transitions for children, concerns over the proposed location of the new facilities at Heathfield Primary, the disbenefits to mainstream learners in Dalmilling Primary, and the Dalmilling community, if the proposal is approved, and the impact of change on children who are happy and comfortable being taught in their current school.
- 3.4.5 A full summary of all the consultation responses, including those provided by members of staff is detailed at Appendix 1.

#### **4.0 Report by Education Scotland**

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires HM Inspectors from Education Scotland to be involved in the formal consultation process. As part of this process HM Inspectors undertook a number of activities in considering the educational benefits of the proposal. A copy of Education Scotland's report on the educational benefits of the proposal is attached as Appendix 4.

#### **4.1 Process**

- 4.1.1 Inspectors considered all relevant documentation provided by the Council's Educational Services in relation to the proposal, and related consultation documents, including all written and oral submissions from parents and carers and other stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 In addition, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities;
- consideration of the Council's initial Proposal Paper and Education Benefits Statement in relation to the proposal;
  - attendance at the public meeting held in Ayr Academy on Wednesday 04 October 2023 in connection with the Council's proposal; and,
  - visits to both Dalmilling Primary School and Heathfield Primary School on Friday 27 October 2023, to meet with the Head Teachers of each school, to meet with representative staff and parent/carer groups, and also to meet with representative groups of pupils from each school, including at Dalmilling Primary School, a group of pupils from the extended learning facility and a group of pupils from mainstream education.

#### **4.2 Education Scotland summary**

- 4.2.1 The HM Inspectors report can be read in full at Appendix 4, and as outlined in section three of the report, HM Inspectors agree that in order to deal with the projected increase in roll at Dalmilling Primary School, and as the Council is required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education, the declining roll and space available at Heathfield Primary School provides the Council with a reasonable option to relocate the Extended Learning Facility.
- 4.2.2 HM Inspectors also agree that the proposed relocation provides potential educational benefits for children living within the Dalmilling Primary School catchment zone, as the move will ensure appropriate classroom space is available in Dalmilling Primary School for any future roll increases. Therefore, children moving into or living within the Dalmilling Primary

School catchment area will be less likely to require external and temporary modular classrooms.

- 4.2.3 A further benefit identified by HM Inspectors in completing their report, is the benefit to children in accessing a modern, purpose-built learning environment. However, the report also states that in the view of HM Inspectors, many of the proposed ELF learning environment's facilities mentioned in the Proposal Paper are ones that children already benefit from at Dalmilling Primary School and therefore, before making a decision, the Council should provide more detailed examples to parents of how relocating to Heathfield Primary School will enhance their child's learning experiences, when compared to their current facility.
- 4.2.4 HM Inspectors also state, in the summary of their report that, regarding transitions for learners, it will be important for the Council to work with stakeholders and address their concerns before coming to a decision and that this should include working in partnership with parents, carers and children to ensure that there are no unnecessary transitions.

### **4.3 Response to the main actions raised by Education Scotland**

- 4.3.1 South Ayrshire Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which acknowledges the potential educational benefits of the proposal. Officers from Educational Services have considered the content of the report and the recommendations detailed in the HM Inspector's summary at section 4. These are listed below along with proposals to address them.

- 4.3.2 **Paragraph 3.1:** *"HM Inspectors recommend that the council provide more detailed examples to parents of how relocating to Heathfield Primary School will enhance their child's experiences, when compared to the current facility."*

Council response: The Council appreciates that staff, parents and carers and other stakeholders will find it challenging to appreciate the educational benefits of the proposed relocation while detailed designs and proposals for the areas within Heathfield Primary identified are not yet developed. However, since the publication of the report, visits have already taken place for parents and carers to view the areas of the school proposed for the relocation and provide feedback. All feedback received will be factored into the development of classroom designs and in the provision of staff support and facilities and equipment required within the additional support needs education provision at the school.

- 4.3.3 **Paragraph 3.3:** *"HM Inspectors recommend that the council continue to take appropriate measures to ensure that pick-up and drop-off points are safe and accessible. The council should share these arrangements with parents, staff and relevant members of the local community."*

Council response: If the proposal is approved, dedicated drop off and pick up points for free school transport and parents/carers of children attending the proposed extended learning facility will be made available. A review of the school's Travel Plan will also be undertaken, with advice sought from the Ayrshire Roads Alliance on any additional measures that can be put in place to discourage inconsiderate behaviours involving vehicles parking near the school, or in areas they shouldn't, at pick-up and drop off times.

- 4.3.4 **Paragraph 3.4:** *"HM Inspectors recommend that the council continues with plans to undertake individualised transition planning for all children to make any move smooth and purposeful as possible. However, HM Inspectors agree with stakeholders that the proposal has potential to result in unnecessary transitions, specifically for those moving into P6 and P7 in August 2024."*

Council response: Should the proposal be approved, progress on transition plans for all of our children and young people attending the Extended Learning Facility will be developed from the earliest stage possible, and as soon a decision is made in January 2024. These plans will be discussed thoroughly with parents/carers staff and children. The transition period required for every individual learner will vary and this will also be thoroughly considered. No unnecessary transitions will take place.

Although we recognise no decision has been made regarding re-location, planning for individual transition has already started. This will ensure that all considerations are included within individual plans and that key timescales can be achieved should approval be granted. Meetings with parents and carers will be a key part of this process to ensure their views are integral in the process. Meetings have already been arranged to discuss transition plans, and should the proposal be approved, an assessment of needs will be undertaken by the Educational Services Inclusion Team, in consultation with individual parents and carers, regarding the most suitable transition plan and timescale for learners moving to the proposed new facility.

## **5.0 Review of the proposal**

The Council's Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education has considered the responses to the statutory consultation, including Education Scotland's report, and has contributed to the responses to points raised/views expressed, and the actions that will be taken to address these.

The Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education remains of the view that the proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility should be approved, and that this will deliver educational benefits for current and future learners at both Heathfield Primary School and Dalmilling Primary School.

### **5.1 Omissions and inaccuracies**

5.1.1 Members of staff from Dalmilling Primary School noted in their written responses that referring to the "North Ayr" Extended Learning Facility throughout the consultation was inaccurate, as the facility is more commonly known as the Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility. These observations have been noted, and the content of this consultation report reflects advice received.

5.1.2 A Member of staff from Dalmilling Primary School also noted in their written responses that the figure of 27 pupils attending the Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School was incorrect and that this had risen. At the time of preparing this consultation report, the number of pupils has risen to 31, requiring additional space in the school to be used and, from Educational Services perspective, putting a greater focus on the need to consider the relocation of the facility to Heathfield Primary, where there are less capacity pressures and more room to expand.

## **6.0 Decision making process**

In accordance with the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010, this report will be published on Thursday 07 December 2023 and made available for further consideration for a minimum period of 3 weeks. Copies of the report will be made available in Dalmilling Primary School, Heathfield Primary School, Ayr Academy, South Ayrshire Council County Buildings, and South Ayrshire Information & Advice Hub, Ayr. The report will also be made available on the Council's website at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations).

A report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet meeting of Tuesday, 16 January 2024 and will include a copy of the consultation report and recommendations for consideration and a decision.



## Proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility within Dalmilling Primary School

Summary of responses and comments received.

Do you agree with the proposal to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to an expanded facility within Heathfield Primary School?

Nr.	Date	Status	Response to Question (Yes / No or No Preference)	Comments
1	04/09/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	I'm writing today to say I not happy that my daughters might be getting moved to Heathfield primary because I have no way of getting them from school if they get no well and I won't be able to attend to any meeting / parents' night for the girls because I have no transport and the girls loves it at this school and have come on leaps and bounce since attending to this
2	06/09/2023	Dalmilling Other	Yes	The reasons stated for the relocation seem acceptable. However I would hope reasonable steps would be made to ensure the young people have no difficulty with the transition and this would be taken into account. The safety and security of young people would be paramount in any move.
3	07/09/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	I was just wondering if there was any update on the meeting yesterday to do with the additional support part of the school. I couldn't make it but I did want to put forward that I was not keen on my son being moved from dalmilling as he has been moved about a lot and is thriving in his current position at dalmilling school.
4	07/09/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	N/A
5	08/09/2023	Dalmilling Other	No	It's Chaos in Doon Avenue with all the parents picking up their kids from school, blocking driveways and pavement parking, increasing the schools capacity is only going to make the situation worse
6	13/09/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	I find the proposal laughable. To relocate 27 kids from a school that is at capacity to fit a proposed 40 is a joke. The kids at the ELF base should take priority over hypothetical children that may or may not need to go to school at Dalmilling Primary. Braehead, Newton and St John's are all under capacity. Give Dalmilling Primary the new building they deserve and keep our children where they are. ASN kids being ignored and disregarded, again. Shame on you all.

7	19/09/2023	Dalmilling Other	No	By carrying out this action, South Ayrshire Council are demonstrating that the rights of neuro-divergent children and their families are of less importance than the rights of POTENTIAL able-bodied children whose families haven't even moved into the area yet and who may not even go to Dalmilling Primary when they do move in. Neuro-divergent children require structure and routine in order to avoid unnecessary distress. Some of those children also have able-bodied siblings in the main body of the school which provides further reassurance and safety for the kids involved. The teachers and staff at the facility have been involved with these children for some time and so have forged bonds with them which could prove traumatic for the children if they are suddenly broken. A new environment with no recognisable connections is a disaster waiting to happen. And are South Ayrshire Council going to arrange transport? In this day and age, sending neuro-divergent children away with complete strangers places those children at unnecessary risks. If you're going to arrange transport for anybody, why not the imaginary able-bodied children that you don't actually have yet? You may find that it ends up costing less because most of their parents will have their own transport or will travel on public transport. Stop looking at spreadsheets and money and start looking at people.
8	19/09/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	There is no solid evidence that there will be 50 additional pupils looking to attend dalmilling from the new housing estate. The move will cause alot of upset and distress due to change in school, uniform, staffing etc. The children have built strong relationships with not only teachers but support staff, dinner ladies, office staff etc. Not all children are accepting of differences, dalmilling primary children have always had the children from the facility so are accepting of there differences. The children of the facility are the most vulnerable and need the structure and security that dalmilling offers them. Children that are going to primary 7 next year aren't going to settle as they will move to academy the following year. That is two major transitions in the space of 12 months.
9	24/09/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	I am writing to express my concerns for the extended learning unit moving to HEATHFEILD primary. As my son has just started at dalmilling in the unit I would like to express my worries after months of transition before school and holidays and weeks of uncertain for my son changing his routine has major effects on his day to day living. He has been going since start of year and now has settled in great and he is loving it am worried another change will be too much for his as he was same changing nursery last year due to house move aswell, When we was looking at schools we choose dalmilling as we felt it was best suited for my son and we would love for it it to stay where it is. I understand your views for other children no just children in the unit but my first priority is my son and to keep his life from a huge up heval and lot of stress for him which it will be our family want the ELF to stay in dalmilling primary. If you had to walk a day in our shoes and reliasing what a change like that can really affect our children in a huge way and try to think of it from our kids perspective which they won't be able to understand just by telling them the facts
10	28/09/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	The priority for Heathfield Primary school should be to extend the nursery to cater for the children that struggle to get a place to help them with their transition into primary school. The parking is already dangerous and this would need addressed as getting into the school entrance is difficult and any more vehicles collecting would be a safety risk. It is far too busy a school and it would not only impact the students at Heathfield but is not the best environment for children that need support as the key transitional points of their day entry and exit. If my child was a tudent of Dalmilling support school I would hope for a btter space for relocation and not the busiest school with the worst parking

11	28/09/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	As a parent and local resident further work needs to be done with access to Heathfield by parents and guardians. School drop off and collection time is a free for all in the local area. Cars are abandoned in staff car park, across residents drives and in specified no parking areas. Make Doon Avenue One way and traffic will flow better. Make a drop off car park at the corner or The large field at Hunters Avenue. Its good enough as a car park while the bowling is on so make it a permanent space with a crossing.
12	04/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	I do not agree at all with the proposal. Heathfield primary is already a busy school and I cannot see how they feel there is capacity for more children. I grew up around dalmilling area and have worked very hard to move away from this area/people to enable my child a better chance at what I feel is a better school/education. I absolutely do not want my child exposed to children from this area/ learning facility.
13	04/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	No..... The school is busy enough. The children at heathfield already do not receive enough attention and we as parents do not receive enough communication. You cannot just uproot children with these needs and relocate them to new areas and new surroundings and expect them to be ok. It is also a potential danger to our children too.
14	04/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	Yes	How will the lunchtime rush at Heathfield be addressed as at the moment its very busy and often children dont get enough time to finish their lunch and are felt rushed to be sent back outside to the playground to let the next lot of primary classes in. There is a space outside the dinning hall that at the moment isnt used and I feel that this area could have a roof put on it and used as an additional place for children to sit to have their lunch, perhaps children who take a packed lunch. Also the school park is continually used by parents who will insist in coming into it to drop of their children, There is signs on the gate that clearly states that its a staff carpark but parents/carers ignore this. A barrier is required here now and that way the carpark could only be accessed by staff/after school staff and obviously emergency services.
15	04/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No Preference	Can you please provide details and the feasibility studies that has been completed for this project. I would like to know where the proposed site for the new provision is within the existing Heathfield Primary School building and how this affect current learning services.
16	04/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	Yes	I agree with this proposal as long as there is no disruption to learning and teaching. I would hope that other educational facilities have been considered, such as Ayr Academy, which is within the catchment area of Dalmilling Primary School.
17	05/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	I understand this facility is greatly needed in South Ayrshire for children with additional support needs. However,I feel Heathfield Primary is not the best place to relocate to due to some facilities at Heathfield being lost such as ICT room and the diamond's den which greatly supports my daughter in her learning and other children within Heathfield Primary. I would have concerns about parking issues as parking at the school is safety issues to the pupils at times. I know Heathfield Primary is a large building but the spaces available for 400 plus children and 54 EYC children are needed for their continuous learning and support throughout their years at school.The EYC benefits from using some of the schools facilities,this may be more challenging if North Ayr facility should relocate.
18	05/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	The school is already stretched extremely thin for resources and staffing in this area kids were moved from dalmilling to Heathfield becausee the issues at dalmilling as well I think money time and staffing should be put into making the resources better available for the kids already at the school rather than moving a huge number of kids over to it and adding there's so many kids already not getting the right amount of support and help and they will just end up completely lost and with nothing if this is done , I think it's a shambles of an idea , especially when my son being tested for adhd and Autism can't get approved for transport but all these other kids will , it's

				a huge move to make resulting in to many kids losing the support they have disagree with it completely
19	05/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
20	05/10/2023	Heathfield Staff	Yes	<i>No comment provided</i>
21	05/10/2023	Heathfield Staff	No Preference	<i>No comment provided</i>
22	05/10/2023	Heathfield Staff	Yes	Heathfield has a positive and inclusive ethos where all staff and pupils will support and enhance the transition to a new school location. Our school facilities and capacity would support the expansion and provide a range of areas to access such as our large gym hall, stage and music room. From professional discussions and my own personal perception, I believe that staff at Heathfield have identified many positives and opportunities to learn from the experience of the highly skilled staff that work within the extended learning facility. There is a welcoming staff team who would be committed to ensuring a smooth transition and continue to support the Extended Learning Facility to feel valued and part of the life of our school.
23	05/10/2023	Heathfield Staff	Yes	<i>No comment provided</i>
24	05/10/2023	Heathfield Staff	Yes	I feel the proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility to Heathfield Primary is a positive move for all. In my opinion, the children will be moving to a large school, with excellent space and facilities., which will be designed to best meet their needs. The children and families will have the opportunity to have input in this design, effectively making it their dream space.. Staff are welcoming at Heathfield and there is a very positive ethos which can be felt as soon as you walk in the building. Our children will embrace their new friends with open arms, learning from them and involving them wherever they can. Staff will bring a wealth of experience with them they can share with the staff at Healthfield. All in all, the relocation would be a positive point for everyone involved.
25	07/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
26	08/10/2023	Dalminging Parent/ Carer	No	This is not practical at all this will confuse my son who is in the middle of doing so many days into mainstream so this will mean he will be going to heathfeild then when he's ready go to his mainstream school at forehill this will be far to much for him to cope with it's far 2 much for them to cope with
27	11/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
28	17/10/2023	Heathfield Other	No	It's chaos in doon avenue with the current level of cars at the moment but the incense in pupil's will make it untenable
29	17/10/2023	Heathfield Other	Yes	Heathfield has the language provision already based there and as a previous SLT employee I believe being based together would be a positive move

30	17/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
31	17/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	Yes	Yes and no. We ultimately need MORE ASN support in Ayrshire. There aren't enough spaces in current schools and there is NO support in mainstream schools. SAC are kidding themselves if they think that sending some ASN children to mainstream is a good thing. Your putting children's mental health and futures at risk! Not to mention their carers. You need more provisions NOW! However, as a parent of an ASN child I have concerns about you switching location of these ASN children's school and then potentially losing staff that have built up trust and learn to read these children. Just build and staff more provisions, then you won't have to move children that are already settled. The impact that you will have on these children is immeasurable. We do need more spaces tho - so please built the new facility and more, but keep the existing facility at Dalmilling running please!
32	17/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
33	18/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	Dalmilling primary is an excellent school and there is no reason to move this provision other than a financial one. The new housing estate should of had a new primary school built purposely for it if there was to be an issue with existing services
34	18/10/2023	Heathfield Other	No	Dalmilling primary school has always has adequate facilities for children and young people with additional support needs, personally speaking, I don't see any reason to relocate, but if it must be done, it must be done
35	18/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	I am concerned about the impact of the introduction of the Extended Learning Facility. The introduction of the children from the facility into the Heathfield classes has the potential to cause significant upheaval.As the parent of a child that has already had disrupted years whilst at the school, I do not want to see anything happen that detracts from or poses any obstacles to my child's education.Should you move ahead with this proposal we would likely consider our options and look to move to another school in Prestwick.
36	18/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	No	Use the funding provided to enhance offerings at each designated unit.It's detrimental to SEN kids who need structure, attention and routine to upheave them, reduce 1:1 time/availability and put them in a strange environment with strange people.
37	18/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	As a parent who's son may have to attend the ELF in the next year I also have a daughter at Dalmilling primary and it wouldn't be easy getting them both to school on time I think the ELF department at Dalmilling primary should be kept open for catchment children only. We do not know how many children will be relocated in the new housing development as of yet and many of them may actually attend Dalmilling primary school already. There is also room for extending Dalmilling primary school
38	18/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	<i>No comment provided</i>
39	19/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	Completely object to this proposal.

40	19/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	No Preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If proposal successful, please ensure a trauma informed lens is used in the planning from the outset to ensure the building was responsive to the needs of the children and conducive to staff wellbeing.</li> <li>• Please ensure continued engagement with those NHS Dept who currently provide support services to the primary schools.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to the potential for increased car traffic in and around the school, ensuring there is sufficient space for drop off of those children who come via taxi, etc. and its provided in a way that maximises safety for pedestrians.</li> </ul> <p>Could clarity be given around those who could otherwise have gotten to the school on foot/wheel, would that still be possible – are there good active transport links between sites/around this site?</p> <p>We request that planned transition events for those moving to the new location is included to ensure a smooth a transition as possible, taking into account the mental health and wellbeing needs of each pupil, and their need to feel included with a sense of belonging within their new, wider school community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finally, we request that learning from the experiences of other similar moves is taken into account, to enable this transition to be as smooth as possible, for example in East Ayrshire the move from Willowbank School to Onthank Campus with the establishment of an additional Early Years Transition Facility within the relocated Willowbank Primary School.</li> </ul>
41	19/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	Yes	<p>I do agree for the future of the facility that this could be a good move (more work needed to make it a great move). I do seriously question whether its a great move for the older children at Dalmilling as this is a major change for them. If we take a P6 child as an example they will transition to Heathfield to then transition to their secondary school all in a 12 month period. That's an awful lot for a child to be put through. Maybe a phased move to Heathfield would be better. Older children could see out their primary education at Dalmilling and younger children could move to Heathfield as they can settle at Heathfield before they move on again. I would also like the council to look at future proofing the facility at Heathfield by maybe looking to extend it further. The current plan is 4 classrooms (which Dalmilling already has). I would suggest 5 classrooms with a possibility of a 6th. With increase in demand but also gives the option of smaller classrooms. Having 10 children might be capacity for a classroom, however it's not always ideal for the classroom to be at capacity as the children have specific needs. Having been to Heathfield and seen a rough idea what it could look like , I would have to say I'm excited. However I know the work that's involved with the transition will be immense so the council will need to give us the best possible platform to succeed.</p>
42	20/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No Preference	<p>One of the main concerns parents have is the increased traffic, mainly taxis, around the school if the facility is moved to Heathfield Primary. There is currently a huge problem with unsafe parking at Heathfield at morning drop off and the end of the day pick up. Doon Avenue at the rear of the school is overly congested already. Cars park across the gates, blocking the view of young children who are trying to cross to a car or just cross the road. Cars are also parking within the staff car park and ignoring the signs asking them not to. The increased traffic with the taxis delivering children to the facility is going to make the problem worse. A permanent access barrier to the car park would need to be in place if this relocation goes ahead. Also concerns over children losing their ICT suite due to where the rooms for the facility would have to be placed. We do not want our children to lose access to computers and suggest that classrooms are given additional computers with keyboards, not just tablets or iPads that mean children are not learning to type with a keyboard. Concerns over children losing part of their playground too. If an area of the P1/P2 playground is taken away then the garden area besides the bays would need developed into a proper play area and doors out to the garden created in the bays. Extending the existing trim trail in the field to include more accessible equipment for the children from the facility and for</p>

				current pupils would be good.
43	21/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	The extended learning facility is at the heart of Dalmilling Primary School, and as such, would be a significant loss to the school community, ethos and family. Our children benefit greatly from the integration experiences, love, support and care shown by all. Having worked in both the extended learning facility and mainstream classes, I would be greatly saddened and disappointed to see this proposal go ahead, as many of our families benefit greatly from the community, close support networks, experience and familiarity that Dalmilling has to offer. For the children in the extended learning facility, many of whom are vulnerable and highly dependent on the familiarity, safety and security that this facility has to offer, this change would be devastating!
44	22/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	Yes	Yes as long as there remains enough capacity for those currently at Dalmilling to attend, or for those to stay at Dalmilling if this would suit their needs better eg for consistency and routine. A heathfield base requires a larger car park at the school
45	22/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	I feel that the proposed move for the children and young people currently using the facility at Dalmilling Primary would cause far too much emotional distress to the children and young people. Where children are seen to be resilient, the majority of children using the facility at present are not resilient and they require strict routines in order to be safe, healthy and happy. I understand fully the reasons behind the proposal paper, however, I feel that the education and council leaders are not fully understanding the severity of what they are expecting from these children. The children will not even have an opportunity to see a completed area in the proposed new facility but rather they may get to visit empty rooms before a decision is made. Again this is not getting it right for every child as most of the children in the facility at present are visual, they won't be able to "imagine" sensory equipment being present or tables and chairs being present. Another issue that needs to be seriously addressed is the fact that these children may be facing two monumental transitions in one year, if they are in Primary 6 moving into Primary 7 (the possible transition to a new facility) and the transition of moving into S1. Currently Dalmilling Primary have the grounds to extend the building and creating a safe environment for all children who attend the school, this could be done instead of moving some of the most vulnerable children to a completely new setting.
46	22/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	No	My grandson Tucker has settled into Dalmilling extended learning unit and it would be a great upheaval for this to be moved to another location. He is settled and has started making good progress and our family fear would be that moving him and upsetting his routine would cause set backs that would be unnecessary. His sister attends Dalmilling primary and his young brother attends the nursery at Dalmilling and will follow onto Dalmilling primary and this lets the whole family attend the same location rather than separating the family and segregating Tucker into a whole new environment where it could affect his long term development. We understand the need for more facilities but making a move could be detrimental to a child like Tucker with his special learning needs and it would be better to keep to the same location and make more facilities within Dalmilling primary. Add more space on. Build on the school that is already there in place rather than a move that will cause upheaval not only to my grandson but to the other children using the extended learning facility. Our family is from Dalmilling and Tucker is familiar with the area around the school.
47	22/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	Big is not always better, especially for ASN children. Of those that made this proposal, how many have taught in schools, or have children with ASN?

48	23/10/2023	Heathfield Parent/ Carer	No	I feel that as Heathfield Primary are already a big and full Primary school they would struggle to find the space to accommodate this unit. I am also concerned about the disruption on the learning of my own daughter at Heathfield Primary and possible violent and aggressive behaviour. I know the plan is to integrate some of the children into mainstream classes which I'm not comfortable with so I don't agree with the proposal.
49	23/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	<p>I am not in favour of the relocation of Dalmilling ELF to Heathfield. In this document I would like to highlight a number of points in the consultation document where I feel that clarification is important, as well as providing further detail as to the existing ELF provision at Dalmilling and the benefits that brings to pupils, parents and teachers alike. Numbering included in this response corresponds to the numbering in the consultation document.</p> <p>Heading "<i>Proposed Relocation of the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility</i>" - the Extended Learning Facility is wrongly named in the proposal title and in the proposal paper thereafter. The Extended Learning Facility has always been known as Dalmilling Primary Extended Learning Facility and indeed is on South Ayrshire Council website and used in all meetings. The term 'North Ayr' is extremely confusing as it can be mixed up with North Ayrshire. This renaming gives the impression that the facility is a standalone facility easily capable of being situated anywhere within 'North Ayr' as opposed to the very much integrated facility that it is within Dalmilling Primary School</p> <p>5.7 "<i>There are 160 new houses being built on the site, and Educational Services anticipate these new homes will produce circa 40 additional pupils likely to attend Dalmilling Primary School as their non-denominational catchment primary school.</i>" On what basis has the figure of 40 new pupils been estimated? Some of the families from the nearby Braehead area could be moving to these houses and it would be likely that their children would still continue to attend Braehead Primary nearby. Has consideration been given to altering the catchment area for the new housing rather than removing pupils from their current specialist facilities in order to make room for an as yet unknown number of mainstream pupils?</p> <p>6.2 (first one) "<i>The projected pupil roll for the 2023/24 school session at Dalmilling Primary School is 325 pupils, or 95% of capacity, and this includes 27 pupils, from throughout South Ayrshire, attending the three classroom Extended Learning Facility. This number is up from 22 pupils in the 2022/23 school session.</i>" – this is inaccurate. The Dalmilling Primary Extended Learning Facility had 30 pupils attending 4 classes at the start of the 2023/2024 session. This was decided at the end of the 2022/2023 session, at few months before the proposal was made public. Because of the needs of the children it was decided to have the children in 4 classes.</p> <p>6.2 (second one) "<i>an area of the school has been identified for a proposed alteration to create a larger, more modern and fit for purpose, 4 classroom Extended Learning Facility</i>" &amp; 6.3 "<i>proposed facilities would include a dedicated, secure play space and support accommodation</i>" this gives the impression that the new ELF would be a separate entity within the same campus at Heathfield rather than fully integrated within the school as it is at Dalmilling (which is to the benefit of the mainstream and ELF pupils). I would hope that if the proposal proceeds that this is treated as an essential part of the process.</p> <p>6.3 "<i>This will increase the capacity of the specialist education provision in North Ayr</i>". We currently already have the option of two secure play spaces within Dalmilling. Currently we are using 4 classes because of the level of needs, and the proposal indicates creation of 4 classes at Heathfield. In what way is the capacity being</p>



increased? Potentially we could have up to ten pupils in each extended learning facility class as we have had in the past (we had ten in classes in session 22/23). It is not anticipated that there will be a significant change in the level of need for a while. If there is indeed a need to increase capacity, why is this not being considered at the current location?

**Comments on the Educational Benefits Statement**

7.1(1) *“This proposal will allow Dalmilling Primary School to reconfigure space currently used by the Extended Learning Facility to ensure children within the catchment area are able to attend the school for the foreseeable future.”* – This considers only those moving into the catchment area. There is no mention of the negative impact to the remaining pupils at Dalmilling Primary School in losing a significant number of their pupils who form and integral part of the school and school community.

*“There will be no impact for mainstream children at Heathfield Primary as the school has sufficient capacity.”* – Having sufficient capacity does not automatically mean that there would be no impact in the proposed change. For inclusion to be effective there would have to be an impact on the pupils of Heathfield. Currently Dalmilling ELF are very much included in the day to day life of Dalmilling mainstream pupils, inclusion at the heart. If a move to Heathfield Primary has no impact on the mainstream pupils then that is a major negative impact on the pupils of ELF.

*“The provision will create a safe, nurturing environment with a safe and secure outdoor space.”* – This suggests that those attending ELF do not already have this. Pupils who require it, already have access to a safe outdoor space which includes equipment that they have helped to make. Dalmilling Primary School received the National Nurturing School Award in 2018 becoming the first primary school in Scotland to receive it. Indeed, at Dalmilling our values are ‘We Care.’

7.1 (2) *“The proposal will ensure that children and young people attending the North Ayr Extended Learning Provision will have access to a bespoke learning environment, designed specifically to meet the wide range of learner’s needs.”* – This gives the impression that those attending ELF do not already have this. The pupils at Dalmilling ELF currently access a bespoke learning environment with SAC paying for a sensory room and a Magic Carpet for the Extended Learning Facility in 2022, also accessed by mainstream. Classrooms have already been designed and planned to meet the individual needs of the pupils, and do so successfully.

*“They will have access to a building and resources that enable them to fully participate in all areas of the curriculum. The learning experiences gained will contribute fully to a broad curricular programme progressing to a senior phase of learning that will ensure the reaching of their full potential and their transition into a long-term sustainable destination.”* Again this suggest that this is not already the case. We currently have high quality resources. Teachers strive to provide learning experiences that give our pupils a broad curricular programme. Indeed, the Skills Academy provided by one of our teachers allows pupils to engage in life skills to give them skills for learning, life and the future workplace. Our pupils where they can and where it is appropriate enjoy inclusion within mainstream classes. Our senior pupils are involved in Enterprise activities and attend the school residential in P7. If any further resources or improvements are required these could surely be provided for at the current location.

7.1 (7)(b) *“learning environment will support the education and emotional needs of children and young people with additional support needs by ensuring that quiet, safe and calm areas are available within each learning setting”* pupils currently have their emotional needs met by the highly skilled and supportive staff within the ELF and also with SLT.

7.1(7)(e) *“Children and young people will benefit from increased confidence and a sense of being valued*

*sufficiently to merit a significant investment in their learning.*” In fact I suspect that quite the opposite feeling will arise – it is clear that the primary purpose of this proposal is to make space at Dalmilling for more mainstream pupils and the effect of moving ELF pupils to Heathfield is likely to give the impression that they are less valued members of the Dalmilling school community.

10.2 *“Along with the proposed reconfiguration of classrooms back to mainstream education provision, a feasibility study will be undertaken on plans to extend the gym hall and dining accommodation at the school, also to accommodate the projected increase in pupil roll.”* Since change appears to be necessary at Dalmilling in any event, has any feasibility study been considered or undertaken to accommodate the increased pupil roll at Dalmilling, whilst allowing ELF to remain in its current location?

#### Negatives

Whilst the report comments on the perceived benefits there is little consideration of the negative impacts. These are significant and should be weighed up against the perceived benefits. At the very least these warrant further consideration to ensure that these negative impacts can be minimised as far as possible in the event that the proposal goes ahead. In my view the following are negative impacts, including some specific examples I am aware of:-

- There would be a major impact on the pupils of Dalmilling ELF as well as the pupils in the mainstream at Dalmilling (older pupils have already been approaching ELF staff saying they don't want us to go) – a big upheaval for pupils and more transitions happening. Older pupils in the ELF who are already undertaking transitions to move on from ELF are going to have to undertake even more transitions in a short space of time and the impact of that cannot be underestimated. The transitions needed by most of our pupils would need to be robust.
- The level of transition required, as well as time for staff to set up and relocate classrooms will have an impact on the pupils' time for education over an extended period which will disadvantage their education.
- There would be a major impact on parents of children attending Dalmilling ELF – one parent has already indicated she may need to put her child in mainstream P7 if proposal goes ahead. This would create a need for an additional school assistant. Another parent has indicated that moving their child to Heathfield would mean a drop in wages in order to get their child to school as they do not want to take a taxi.
- There would be a major impact on staff at Dalmilling – mental health of staff needs to be considered. The proposal itself is already putting staff (as well as some parents) under emotional stress.
- Currently the ELF is very much part of the school with the two younger classes being across from each other and each of the other classes sitting separately from each other but next to two other mainstream classes. This works extremely well and helps pupils feel more included and part of the school. It is not clear from the proposal that this would be an essential part of the move to Heathfield.
- Personally, the very nature of the proposal has made me feel that our pupils aren't being treated as an

				<p>integral part of Dalmilling School. This suggests, and begs the question, if the proposal is to go ahead, could we just be moved from pillar to post again in the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Records of Scotland show that there is a decline in the population including South Ayrshire, therefore classrooms may sit empty if Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility is relocated.</li> <li>• Mainstream classes at Dalmilling are not sitting at maximum numbers.</li> <li>• Heathfield building is rated at a B – satisfactory. Dalmilling building is rated at A – good.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In summary</u></b>  For Dalmilling ELF pupils:-  As I have outlined in my comments above, Dalmilling ELF pupils will not be significantly better off moving to Heathfield and in fact, if they are not fully integrated into Heathfield, then no matter how good the facilities they will miss out on the enrichment they currently get from their mainstream peers. To put them through so much for little or no benefit does not seem fair or sensible without considering potential solutions for the potential increased pupil roll to be accommodated within Dalmilling itself, or another school.  For Dalmilling mainstream pupils:-  Again there is no benefit to the mainstream pupils of Dalmilling in losing a central part of their school community. Their lives are enriched by working with the ELF and they will feel the loss for years to come.  For Heathfield pupils:-  If the proposal were to go ahead properly, there should be a significant impact on the pupils of Heathfield, as their school should not simply be giving up space to allow the ELF to form a self contained unit within, but rather the whole school should see a shift towards working together with ELF pupils. Such a change is not quickly or easily achieved, but would be to the benefit of all in the longer term if the proposal must proceed.  I would like my response in its entirety to be forwarded to Education Scotland as I feel I have very valid points on the proposal.</p>
50	23/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	No	My understanding is that this new facility will be in the centre of Heathfield Primary which is unsuitable for children with additional support needs due to their varying needs and disabilities. SAC should have thought about the increased need for pupils at Dalmilling Primary before giving planning permission for the new house at Mainholm.
51	24/10/2023	Dalmilling Other	Yes	<i>No comment provided</i>

52	24/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	As a staff member of Dalmilling Primary I have already seen the stress and upset this proposal has caused to other members of the staff team as well as the mainstream pupils and ELF pupils. Pupils in my mainstream class made comments that they felt 'it was like part of the family going away and never coming back' which personally I found heartbreaking. Many of the pupils within my class have bonds and friendships with the ELF pupils, they are widely accepted here and I don't think this will be the case if the ELF was to move to Heathfield. As a school community we do not want this move to happen. The ELF are not separate from the rest of the school - they are the school. I believe strongly this is not the right thing for the staff or the children. Children who already don't cope well with small changes will have to cope with a whole new school building, new staff, new children and a new area they don't know. I know funding will be put in to create safe and sensory areas for the children but they have that at Dalmilling and I don't believe moving them would be right for the pupils we currently have within the school. Also the impact the ELF pupils have on our children is huge. They are taught acceptance, love, friendship, helpfulness and they get a huge boost from being able to help the ELF pupils and the ELF pupils love working with the mainstream children through inclusion of them in our lessons. I strongly disagree with this proposal and hope the council reconsider.
53	24/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No Preference	I first encountered the ELF at Dal milling ,when I was supporting a wee boy through transition to mainstream to Extended learning facility at Dalmilling. This for boy was a fantastic move as the boy could not cope In mainstream school. This wee boy has gone through lots of changes in his life its a shame if he has to go through another change .At end of March this year I encountered ,myself back at the EXTENDED LEARNING FACILITY , at Dalmilling primary with another transition of a wee boy with Autism. This little boy find changes very hard, I feel heartbroken for him, that one again his life will be upheaval once again through changes. I do pray and hope to God, the whole transition will be done with good thought and good transition. I am certainly not saying that I am not into change because I am, if done probably. Years ago I was involved in closing if a institution for adults with extended learning needs, into the community. I do accept change is part of life, if this is to be it will happen no matter what.
54	24/10/2023	Dalmilling Young Person	No	<i>No comment provided</i>

55	24/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	<p>I am writing today about the suggested proposal of Dalmilling Primary's Extended Learning Facility moving to Heathfield Primary. This proposal was brought to us in August and after being to 3 meetings and a visit to the potential new school. I have some concerns. I have read the proposal and would like to bring up a couple of mistakes that I have noticed in it. North Ayr Extended Learning Facility During my 6.5 years at Dalmilling Primary, I have never known the facility to be named the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility. It's always been called Dalmilling Primary's Extended Learning Facility. When did the name change?"The projected pupil roll for the 2023/24 school session at Dalmilling Primary School is 325 pupils, or 95% of capacity, and this includes 27 pupils, from throughout South Ayrshire, attending the three classroom Extended Learning Facility. This number is up from 22 pupils in the 2022/23 school session. "Within Dalmilling's Extended Learning facility, we have 4 classrooms instead of 3. The facility also has 31 children instead of 27. In the school session of 22/23, we had over 30 pupils again. "There will be no impact for mainstream children at Heathfield Primary as the school has sufficient capacity."I noticed this statement in the proposal when it talked about the benefits of the move. I feel that it will have a massive impact on the children who attend Heathfield Primary because their surroundings will change. They will have 40 (if the proposal goes ahead then this has been the chat on what the numbers will go up to) children with additional support needs who now attend their school. Things within their school will change to accommodate our children moving into the new school. The infant department will lose some of their playground to accommodate our children so they can play safely. The dinner hall will be a new experience for them because our children need a lot of support and are unable to sit for long periods of time. I am sure the Heathfield children will get used to having us in their school but I do think it will take time for them to adapt to how our children react and do the things they do. On our visit to Heathfield we were shown around the school. It is a lovely school with nice classrooms but unfortunately I don't think it would be the right fit for our kids as currently proposed. They have given us 4 classrooms situated near the nursery and infant department. 3 of the classrooms are together with the 4th one down a hallway on its own. At Dalmilling we are known for being in the heart of the school. Our Classes are all split up but we are still close enough so that we can support one another if need be. Our classes are also next to the mainstream classes which is great because sometimes our children get the chance to go and do their learning with their peers if they are at that stage. It was also discussed on the visit to Heathfield that they are planning on building a room within a room. This room is for children to regulate how they are feeling and is to be used to calm our children down. I'm unsure of this plan as it feels like we are being hidden away from the rest of the school. In Dalmilling we have our Sensory Room which is used for both negative and mostly positive activities. The sensory room is a great resource to have and is a change of scenery from the classroom that some of our children need. I feel that if we keep our children in the classroom when they are upset, this could cause disruption to our other children within the class. If there is shouting involved this can affect our children who are sensitive to hearing loud noises. Above I mentioned our Sensory Room. This was just recently put into Dalmilling and all of our kids love it. Even our mainstream children. On our visit, it was asked if there would be panels put into the new sensory room. We were told that they would need to have the discussion to see what Dalmilling has paid for and what things can be taken from Dalmilling to Heathfield. During this consultation period and the three meetings I have attended, it has been sold to us as if we are getting a brand new facility with all new equipment but on our visit we were told otherwise. If this is the case of having to wait to see what can be taken from Dalmilling then why not keep our children where they are now. They have all the resources that they need and it sounds to me that they are gaining no new resources to improve the new facility. All the resources that have been mentioned in the meetings we already have at Dalmilling. Moving the sensory room from Dalmilling to Heathfield would also have a massive impact on our</p>
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				<p>mainstream children at Dalmilling as this is used alot for some of the children who can't be in class the whole day. One of my main concerns is the timing suggested and whether there would be enough opportunities for the children to have an enhanced transition. There has been no clear timeline to when transitions, organisation of classrooms and planning will take place for this. At the public meeting, a parent brought this up at the end and asked what plan B was and was told there wasnt one. This is concerning as it has caused alot of uncertainty to parents and staff. The school year has been an unsettled one and I don't feel as though the feelings of staff members, parents and the most important of all, our children has been taken into consideration. Our mainstream children at Dalmilling play a massive part in our children's lives. They have made friends. We have monitors who support our children on a daily basis and they are willing to jump in to help whenever they see us in the corridors. It would be sad for our children at Dalmilling to lose the facility. Our mainstream children are asking us why we have to leave and this is sad to see our children like this. We have been the heart of Dalmilling for 25 years and strong relationships have grown through out all the children it would be a shame to break this.</p>
56	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Parent/ Carer	No	Reasons listed within attachment saved in p drive/mailbox
57	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	I wish to lodge an objection to the Extended Learning Facility (ELF) being moved from Dalmilling Primary. At the moment the ELF classes are currently an integral part of Dalmilling Primary with the pupils from both mainstream and Elf benefitting from each other. We pride ourselves at Dalmilling of being a caring, inclusive school and ELF is very much a part of that. The pupils mix extremely well and learn great social and emotional skills from each other. As a school we would be very upset if this were to change.
58	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	Overall, we believe that the move would have a more negative than positive impact in relation to both our staff and pupils - *Our mainstream children work alongside facility pupils and have already built positive relationships which will ultimately be broken if the move goes ahead - this can also be said with regards to staffing relationships. *Pupil's needs have not been thought through thoroughly re transition - as we feel that changes will need to start now to ensure pupils are prepared, comfortable and secure for the move (not later on as recorded). *The new environment will be completely different i.e. much bigger school, new staffing, pupils and new learning communities too which can be very overwhelming for a child within the facility. *Dalmilling staff have been put in a difficult position themselves in that they have been given a choice to either go with the children to ensure a smooth transition (or not). However, this would mean that they would then need to leave the relationships that they know/ have worked hard to build - which could have a negative impact on their own mental health and well-being. *The transition itself will also have an impact on the pupils at Heathfield re their learning; personally and collaboratively. *On the plans, all of the ELF classes will be in one area of the school - but in Dalmilling our classes are all spread out to promote/ support inclusion for all.

59	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	<p>I am a teacher in the Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility (not the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility that is incorrectly titled on the proposal paper) that has been part of our school for almost 25 years now. I myself have been privileged enough to have been part of the Dalmilling primary school family for 7 wonderful years now...I am not ready for it to end and neither should I be.</p> <p>When I interviewed for the job and was successful in gaining the position of class teacher I envisaged myself spending my teaching career in Dalmilling. With our demographic and opportunity to teach as part of the Extended Learning Facility there was a unique opportunity for me to have all that I dreamed of as a teacher. Furthermore, there is an atmosphere unlike any other school I have ever worked in and that is no coincidence, it has been created by us the staff, the pupils, the children and wider community.</p> <p>As I mentioned above, we view ourselves as a family in our school and as such, we share the passion and commitment to give every single child in our care the best opportunities possible. We have an immensely strong and supportive team who understand the needs of all children in Dalmilling including mainstream and the Extended learning Facility.</p> <p>Our shared aims are to create positive and inclusive classroom climates which nurture pupils and where pupils are engaged in their learning.</p> <p>Our vision is to inspire, engage and succeed together and underpinning all that we do are our values – At Dalmilling We Care!</p> <p>We care so much about the learners we are responsible for and given the disruptive magnitude of the proposals indicated, we are deeply concerned. We have a wide range of neuro-diverse children in our care, most of whom find transitions and change a real challenge. This can follow them home and impact their lives outside of school as well as during the school day. Every day we ensure consistent routines where possible, we notify learners in advance of even the smallest of changes and we provide them and their families with all of the support we can. Given the nature of the proposal I am shocked at the apparent lack of consideration and disregard that seems to have been afforded to our children and families who are an integral part of the Dalmilling Primary School community. We are not simply a chess piece on a game board that can be moved around at will to accommodate other pieces. It feels like we are being treated as such and that makes me as a teacher feel completely worthless, undermined and undervalued. It creates unnecessary anxiety and distress for children and families who already have plenty of that in their lives and it creates a sense of being torn away from your safe place, your happy place, your family. It is an absolutely sickening and heart-breaking feeling.</p> <p>I have given absolutely all of myself to Dalmilling Primary school and the children in my care not just because it is my job but because it is the job and the place that I love. It is the children and families that I love. It is a team whom I would go every extra mile with to make the stars of every Dalmilling learner shine that bit more brightly than they already do.</p> <p>3.4 To continue this work and to highlight the commitment to improving the school estate, over the next decade the Council will invest more than one hundred and ten million pounds in our school buildings. – Surely if the council is able to invest more than £110m in our school buildings then there is a better solution than moving us to a new school building. An investment in our own current building would be far more suitable and far less disruptive. The other option that would be less disruptive would be altering the catchment boundary lines.</p> <p>5.1 Dalmilling Primary School is a non-denominational school for primary-aged children and young people. The school serves a catchment area in North Ayr and provides education for primary-aged children in mainstream education. The North Ayr Extended Learning Facility, which is for young people of primary age with additional support needs, from throughout South Ayrshire, is an integrated specialist facility located within Dalmilling</p>
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				<p>Primary School and utilises three classrooms within the school. – The incorrect wording has been used to title the Extended Learning Facility as previously mentioned in my opening paragraph. A further error in the paper is that we currently utilise 4 classrooms within the school and not 3 as stated in the paper.</p> <p>5.6 The requirement to consider a proposed relocation of the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility, currently situated within Dalmling Primary School, has been prompted by capacity pressures at the school in recent years and the projected impact of new affordable housing being built on the site of the former Mainholm Academy in Ayr, which is located within the catchment area of the school. – This creates the impression that we are worthless. Children who are moving into the new houses are viewed as more important than the children who are already here.</p> <p>7.1 (1) The proposal will ensure that children and young people attending the North Ayr Extended Learning Provision will have access to a bespoke learning environment, designed specifically to meet the wide range of learner’s needs. – This incorrectly implies that all the hard work that staff are already doing in the Dalmling Extended Learning Facility is in some way not meeting a wide range of learners needs. Again, this is demoralising and creates resentment and a lack of trust.</p> <p>In summary, I cannot see how this proposal is a positive for learners and staff at Dalmling Extended Learning Facility. We already do an outstanding job working together as a team to meet the needs of all learners. All learners needs are met in Dalmling school and all areas of the curriculum are accessed including mainstream integration – something that our mainstream children are potentially going to be missing out on and that is a real shame.</p> <p>Dalmling Extended Learning facility is the beating heart of our school and by moving us it would leave a massive hole that would not be replaced. We bring so many positives to our school and the way we are being treated feels as though a child is being taken away from the family to make way for another with no reason given. It is a heart breaking feeling and I hope that this proposal does not come to fruition.</p> <p>I would like my response and views to be considered and this email sent forward in its entirety</p>
60	25/10/2023	Heathfield Other	Yes	<p>Integration of the base will bring a richness of nurture, inclusion &amp; diversity to the Heathfield School community &amp; skilled educational practitioners. Parking at Heathfield is difficult. Taxis &amp; parents for the base may find it difficult to access &amp; further increase the risk of a bump or accident involving a pedestrian. Please introduce parking control to mitigate this risk. The dining room at Heathfield is a busy, noisy environment, suitable for children from the base who may have additional sensory needs? Our upper/lower classes use separate playgrounds, how will the base be integrated &amp; supervised to ensure safe play for all? The outdoor learning space adjacent to the P1/2 bays could be improved to increase space in the rear playground. Having identified spare capacity within the school please increase EYC capacity at Heathfield. The current provision is too small in comparison to the size of our school. Anti-pre places are often allocated at Space Place which makes it difficult for families with siblings at Heathfield. Space Place is well located &amp; reputable for those who chose to use it, however it is not what many of our families want as can be seen by the wait lists for Heathfield. The GP and cloakroom spaces could be used to increase EYC capacity without compromise to the school. Please ensure ICT provision is relocated in all classrooms to ensure the children have digital access. We look forward to welcoming the children &amp; staff if the ELF base moves to Heathfield.</p>



61	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	<p>I am a teacher at Dalmilling Primary in the Extended Learning Facility (ELF) and wish to provide a response in regards to my objection to the proposed move to Heathfield Primary School. Firstly, the children in the ELF do not see themselves as pupils of North Ayr's Extended Learning Facility. They consider their school as Dalmilling Primary. The mainstream children treat the children and their classes as just another pupil/class in Dalmilling Primary. This proposed move would see them relocated from the school they know and see as theirs to a new, unfamiliar school that will require lots of adjustments for them to reach the level of familiarity and feeling of belonging that they currently have at Dalmilling. The children in the ELF find a structured, consistent routine valuable to helping them to traverse the day-to-day life in school. With this proposed move, even with an enhanced transition, we are asking neurodivergent children to adjust to a number of large changes at the same time. As many of our children find changes to teachers and classmates, even ones they are familiar with, and classrooms to be the source of a lot of anxiety for them, we start our transitions for the new school year very early in term four. As this move would require alterations to be completed to "create a larger, more modern and fit for purpose, 4 classroom Extended Learning Facility", this transition cannot start until this is finished. The children need to be able to see the environment they are moving to in its completed form to make this transition as easy as possible for them. If this is not completed before they finish the current school year, they would require to start the school year with this enhanced transition, meaning that there are going to be periods of time where they are not accessing their school full-time until they have had suitable time to adapt to all of the changes that would take place. This could be even more challenging for those children who find the first few days back into the school routine to be stressful. Finally, this move, if it were to go ahead, would take away a vital benefit for the mainstream children at Dalmilling Primary. The inclusion of neurodivergent children as part of Dalmilling has allowed the mainstream children to develop their ability to accept other children, regardless of any differences they have. Although there will always be neurodivergent children in mainstream classes at Dalmilling, the movement of the ELF would limit this as they would not have the same exposure to develop their acceptance of people that are different to them.</p>
62	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No	<p>I have referred to sections of the proposal throughout this response, the numbers represent these sections. The proposal title - Our facility is called Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility, it was named at its conception 25 years ago and this is how we are referred to in the South Ayrshire website and in authority meetings, however in the proposal we are named as North Ayr Extended Learning Facility, a name of which no-one is familiar with or were aware of. We have never been referred to as North Ayr Extended Learning Facility and this major name change has been made without any consultation or advance notice to parents, pupils or staff. This, to some, may seem trivial but to the Dalmilling Primary community of which we are a part of, the change comes across as unprofessional and disrespectful.</p> <p>5.1 - There are currently 4 classes in the Extended Learning Facility not 3 as stated in the proposal.</p> <p>5.7 - The proposal for the move is not because the provision will be 'better' and purpose built but because there is not enough space at Dalmilling in the future due to new houses in the catchment area. The catchment area could have been amended prior to the houses being built so that the pupils accommodated in those houses would attend Braehead Primary which has capacity for this. Mainstream classes at Dalmilling are not sitting at maximum numbers at the moment and the National Records of Scotland show that there is a decline in the population including South Ayrshire, therefore classrooms may end up sitting empty if Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility is relocated.</p> <p>6.2 – Heathfield is a larger school than Dalmilling and the pupils in the Extended Learning Facility will be expected to cope with the sensory demands of a larger school and larger number of pupils.</p>

The new provision for the Extended Learning Facility, however, at Heathfield is not larger, as stated, it has 4 classrooms and a sensory room which is what we have already at Dalmilling.

6.3 – There will not be an increase in capacity as there will be the same number of Extended Learning Facility classes as there is at the moment in Dalmilling. Dalmilling also has 2 secure play spaces at the moment.

7.1 (1) “There will be no impact for mainstream children at Heathfield Primary as the school has sufficient capacity.”

I was part of the conception of Dalmilling Extended Learning Facility 25 years ago I have first-hand knowledge and experience of the impact the new facility will have on the mainstream children at Heathfield Primary. The main reason for having a facility within a mainstream school is for inclusion so to say there will be no impact as “the school has sufficient capacity” suggests that the mainstream population of the school will not see/hear or experience the pupils attending the facility. This would be a very negative difference to what they experience at the moment in Dalmilling where they are included in mainstream classes where they are able to and have the same break and lunch times as mainstream in the same playgrounds and lunch hall.

This is concerning, we are constantly reviewing inclusion and how we can make it more beneficial for pupils and it appears this has not been considered.

The 4 classrooms allocated for the provision in Heathfield are at the end of the school and all placed together, this feels very old fashioned and not in line with what we have developed at Dalmilling over many years. In Dalmilling our 4 classes are dispersed throughout the school amongst mainstream classes, as they always have been, to aid inclusion and integration. Dalmilling pupils do not refer to our facility classes as ‘facility classes’ they call them by the teacher’s name the same as any mainstream class.

(2) The facilities at Dalmilling may not be modern but a highly effective facility is much more than modern 4 walls and new resources. It is people, relationships, attitudes, understanding, acceptance and care along with many, many other things. The facility does not run standing alone, it takes the care and respect from pupils and staff throughout the school to make it the very successful provision it is and much of this will be lost if the proposal goes ahead. We are very much part of the Dalmilling Community, as a staff member stated “it feels like the heart of Dalmilling is being ripped out”.

There is long term damage to the pupils of Dalmilling if the proposal is carried out as they benefit from growing up with pupils with complex needs and developing understanding and acceptance in daily interactions instead of lessons. They learn by doing not just by being taught. Over the 25 years I have witnessed countless incredible positive changes in mainstream pupils, many of who have challenging family situations and significant behaviours, when they have contact with our pupils. In an increasingly diverse world we have a head start on developing pupils understanding of differences and accepting the needs of individuals. How will this be continued at Dalmilling if the facility is moved to Heathfield?

7.1 (3) There is no mention of the negative impact on the Dalmilling community if the proposal goes ahead.

7.1 (4) As stated previously, there will not be any more space than is already available at Dalmilling.

No pupils have had to be transported for their specialist education elsewhere because Dalmilling is at capacity and there will be no more capacity at Heathfield as there will be the same number of classes.

7 (a) This statement implies that the current provision at Dalmilling does not provide quality learning and teaching for pupils and it is not a bright, stimulating and safe environment for them. The Dalmilling facility has been praised every year by the authority for its provision of quality learning and teaching and highly effective and safe environment. Many pupils who have been withdrawn from mainstream classes throughout South Ayrshire have been provided a place in the facility because the staff are skilled in dealing with pupils who are

				<p>often distressed and overwhelmed and unable to cope with a school day for a multitude of reasons. The staff have worked tirelessly to find out the 'whys' and reasons behind the distress and use strategies to develop emotional understanding in these pupils with huge successes.</p> <p>(d) This implies that pupils from Heathfield community will access the facility, however, access to the facility is decided through the Central Admissions Group (CAG).</p> <p>10.2 If there is a feasibility study to be undertaken on plans to extend the gym hall and dining accommodation why can there not be a study done to plan to extend other parts of the building to accommodate the growing needs of the area. To move extremely vulnerable pupils instead of spending money on development of their current provision seems cruel and unnecessary.</p> <p>I request that every word of my response is sent to Education Scotland for their consideration.</p>
63	25/10/2023	Dalmilling Staff	No Preference	<p>Professionally I see the benefit of the move in that our mainstream pupils would have more classroom space and this would accommodate a projected increase in pupil numbers. We do have some capacity for growth without the facility moving but this involves temporary accommodation. The Extended Learning Facility is a huge part of our community and as a team we are committed to the children and their learning. It would be a huge loss to our community to no longer have this facility within Dalmilling Primary and it could negatively impact some children's plans.</p>

## Proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility within Dalmilling Primary School

### 1. Notes of Public meeting held at Ayr Academy on Wednesday 04 October 2023, 7pm

Number of attendees: 29

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the council thoughts on the currently primary 6 children who would be transitioning to Heathfield Primary for 1 year and then having to transition again to Secondary?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the ASN summer school and holiday clubs currently operating from Dalmilling Primary School continue. Either at Dalmilling or Heathfield?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the staff, pupils and parents visit Heathfield Primary?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have been advised that the capacity would be 40 at Heathfield, therefore what happens when there is an increase in children attending the extended learning facility?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you know that 40 pupils will be generated from the new housing on the Mainholm site?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there plans to build a new Dalmilling Primary School?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the benefits for the children?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where is the area within Heathfield Primary School?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Plan B?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The children are very much part of Dalmilling Primary and integrate very well with all children. Would this be the same at Heathfield?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about the stability of staff and leadership?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the proposal goes ahead, would the children move before the end of term?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there scope for more than 4 classrooms being available to the extended learning facility at Heathfield Primary School?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be a dedicated drop off and pick up point?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will mainstream children feel at Dalmilling?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do I ensure my comments are included in the consultation?</li> </ul>

**Proposed relocation of the Extended Learning Facility within Dalmilling Primary School**

**Consultation with children and young people**

<b>School:</b>	Dalmilling Primary School
<b>Number of children and young people involved in the consultation</b>	82
<b>Date of Consultation:</b>	5/10/23

<b>Benefits of Proposal</b>	<b>Concerns about the Proposal</b>
<p>The children moving might get a bigger garden to play in – and it might be closer to their classroom and they won't have to walk round and get wet.</p> <p>They might get a better sensory room – more children can visit at one time.</p> <p>They will get to make new people/ friends and teachers.</p> <p>The children will have more money spent on them – for things what will help them to develop and grow more.</p> <p>Going to a new school might give children who struggle the opportunity to start a fresh.</p> <p>Other children and staff can get to know the pupils from Dalmilling and get to help their special needs.</p> <p>They will have bigger classrooms which will allow more children to join them. It would be a good opportunity for children who need to use a wheelchair – as we only have a few ramps here.</p> <p>It might be calmer for the base children if they are in a school that is quieter and doesn't have as many children who are loud/ can disrupt their learning.</p> <p>Meet new friends and teachers.</p> <p>New building and equipment for them.</p> <p>They will have fun.</p> <p>They will meet more children in the base classes.</p> <p>They have a better school than Dalmilling.</p> <p>They have more room for more people.</p>	<p>Staff have worked hard at making all of the base children part of Dalmilling and it would be sad for her to no longer see/ help them.</p> <p>Our teacher won't have aircon in the huts to help her special needs so she might have to leave Dalmilling and get a job somewhere else.</p> <p>We will miss the children from the base classes who we are friends with. We won't be able to be buddies with some of the children anymore which is not fair on us all.</p> <p>The children will not be able join in with our assemblies anymore – so we will no longer be one big school family anymore.</p> <p>Some parents might not want their children to move from Dalmilling to the new school.</p> <p>The school will lose some staff – teachers and classroom assistants who we like and can talk to if we need help.</p> <p>Huts will be removed – then some classes will have to go back into the main building where it can be noisy. Mrs S is kind to me in the playground and sometimes she plays with me/ other children too and I will miss it.</p> <p>We will miss Mrs L helps us to do lots of things in the school garden – using tools and making things.</p> <p>Some teachers might not want to move schools.</p> <p>If the children leave Dalmilling, then we will miss out of Makaton, Signs of the Week.</p> <p>Some children might not want to leave here as we are their friends and they look out for us to help them throughout the school.</p> <p>The children in the new school might not like them as</p>

<p>It would be good to have a bigger class.</p> <p>It would be good because they get new equipment.</p>	<p>much as we do.</p> <p>The new staff might not know how to help some of our children and then they won't get the help that they need.</p> <p>The children will be scared as they do not know the school that they are going to.</p> <p>Some parents might not like the new Head Teacher as much as ours.</p> <p>If the children do not settle well then, they can't come back to Dalmilling.</p> <p>When we have special days like Dally Mudder, Outdoor Learning Day then they won't be able to take part with us.</p> <p>They might be scared and worried about meeting people.</p> <p>They might not want to go.</p> <p>They are our family.</p> <p>They might not fit in.</p> <p>They might miss Dalmilling.</p> <p>They might feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>New teachers.</p> <p>I won't see my friend again.</p> <p>They may not live near Heathfield.</p> <p>We won't have enough teachers for the new people.</p> <p>They might get lost at their new school.</p> <p>We will miss the teachers.</p> <p>Maybe some people from the base class don't like change.</p> <p>It's like part of our family leaving forever</p>
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## Consultation with children and young people

<b>School:</b>	Heathfield Primary School
<b>Number of children and young people involved in the consultation</b>	54
<b>Date of Consultation:</b>	13/10/23

<b>Benefits of Proposal</b>	<b>Concerns about the Proposal</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feels good</li> <li>• New friends</li> <li>• Exciting</li> <li>• Positive but might be awkward with new people.</li> <li>• I will learn how to be with people with disabilities and this will help me when I grow up.</li> <li>• More population</li> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• Good reputation</li> <li>• More teachers and head prefects</li> <li>• More access for disabled people</li> <li>• More people to play with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't want to have to change classrooms.</li> <li>• I am shy with new people.</li> <li>• The school might be crowded.</li> <li>• What if they need help</li> <li>• Will our school shut down?</li> <li>• Will it affect my lunch time?</li> <li>• Do we get more toilets?</li> <li>• Will we have less time for stuff?</li> <li>• Will we need to move classrooms around.</li> </ul>

## Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

### Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by South Ayrshire Council to relocate the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School.

October 2023

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of South Ayrshire Council's proposal to relocate the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility (ELF) from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 4 October 2023 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of Dalmilling Primary School and Heathfield Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees.

#### 2. Consultation process



2.1 South Ayrshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 from 4 September 2023 to 25 October 2023. The council's proposal was available to members of the public and published on the council website. In addition, copies of the proposal were made available to the public from Dalmilling Primary School, Heathfield Primary School, Ayr Academy and two South Ayrshire council buildings, located in the town of Ayr. The council held a public meeting, with 29 attendees, on 4 October 2023. At the meeting attendees asked a range of questions that representatives of the council responded to. Most questions related to whether the current educational experiences of children will be the same, if the ELF relocates.

Members of the public provided a total of 63 written representations to the council by email or through using the council's online form. Seventeen of the written responses were submitted by members of staff. About half of the responses received by staff were in favour of the proposal. Staff in favour of the proposal welcome the opportunity to include children with a range of needs in another school and the potential to access more facilities than currently available. Those in disagreement with the proposal cited concerns around safe transport drop off zones, unnecessary transition for children with additional support needs, challenges of joining a busy school, loss of identity and impact of the change on children settled within their current primary school location. The majority of the public respondents do not agree with the proposal to relocate the extended learning facility (ELF). A minority of public respondents were in favour of the move or had no preference where the ELF was located.

2.2 The council gathered the views of children at Dalmilling and Heathfield Primary Schools, in line with their consultation arrangements. Children expressed their worry about missing out on educational experiences at Dalmilling Primary School and losing friendships and relationships they have developed. However, children could articulate benefits they may experience as a result of the ELF changing. For example, they recognise the potential for more classroom and outdoor spaces and newer resources.

### **3. Educational aspects of proposal**

3.1 South Ayrshire Council sets out a number of educational benefits for the relocation of the ELF at Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School in its proposal. HM Inspectors agree with the council's statement that there are educational benefits for children to access a modern, purpose-built learning environment for children with additional support needs. However, it is the view of HM Inspectors that many of the proposed ELF learning environment's facilities are ones that children already benefit from in their current ELF. Additionally, children, their families and staff believe that the current ELF provides a safe, nurturing environment with appropriate outdoor spaces for children to learn in. Before the council reaches its final decision, HM Inspectors recommend that the council provide more detailed examples to parents of how relocating to Heathfield Primary School will enhance their child's experiences, when compared to the current facility.

3.2 South Ayrshire Council has identified correctly the need to consider how to accommodate a projected increase to the roll at Dalmilling Primary School. In doing so, HM Inspectors agree that the council is required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education. The council projections show an increased school roll at Dalmilling Primary School due to new affordable housing being built within catchment area. The current ELF at Dalmilling Primary School uses three classrooms and one sensory room. If the school roll does increase as projected, it is the view of HM Inspectors that there is no suitable classroom space for new children to learn in. Equally, there is no suitable classroom space within the school for children in the ELF to relocate to within the current school. Heathfield Primary School has a declining roll leaving many classrooms available. This provides the council with a reasonable option to relocate the ELF from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School. It is the view of HM Inspectors that this will ensure appropriate classroom space is available in Dalmilling Primary School for any future roll increases. Therefore, children

moving into or living within the Dalmilling Primary School catchment area will be less likely to require external and temporary modular classrooms. This has potential educational benefit for children living within the Dalmilling Primary School catchment zone.

3.3 As children are selected by the local authority for attendance at the ELF, they may not be from the school catchment area. Therefore, the council provides transport for these children when accessing the ELF. During the public consultation period, stakeholders shared concerns regarding safe drop off of children attending the ELF if relocated to Heathfield Primary School. They noted there will be an increase to traffic in the local area as a result. To reassure parents, HM Inspectors recommend that the council continue to take appropriate measures to ensure that pick-up and drop-off points are safe and accessible. The council should share these arrangements with parents, staff and relevant members of the local community.

3.4 The council has stated that if the proposal is agreed that transitions will be designed around the needs of all individuals through an extended process. If the proposal progresses, HM Inspectors recommend that the council continues with plans to undertake individualised transition planning for all children to make any move smooth and purposeful as possible. However, HM Inspectors agree with stakeholders that the proposal has potential to result in unnecessary transitions, specifically for those moving into P6 and P7 in August 2024. For these children, the council should work in partnership with children, their parents and appropriate agencies to ensure that there are no unnecessary transitions. This may mean that some children in P6 or P7 continue to be educated in Dalmilling Primary School until they move to secondary, in line with their needs.

3.5 The council places a strong emphasis on the positive impact the reallocation of the ELF will have on the Heathfield Primary School community. HM Inspectors agree that children with additional support needs will experience a very welcoming and inclusive school at Heathfield, similar to Dalmilling Primary School. There is potential for staff at Heathfield Primary School and staff from the ELF to share good practice across the school. This can build capacity and enhance planning to support all children across the Heathfield Primary School community. However, this gain for Heathfield Primary School has the potential to be a significant loss for Dalmilling Primary School. There is existing strong and inclusive links between staff in Dalmilling Primary School and the current ELF. They regularly share their knowledge and skills to enhance planning for all children. Children regularly access mainstream classrooms and join school activities. HM Inspectors recommend that the council works with staff to consider how to continue this practice if the ELF is reallocated.

#### **4. Summary**

HM Inspectors agree that there is a need to address the projected increase to the roll at Dalmilling Primary School. Heathfield Primary School has a roll below the capacity of school building, providing the council with a reasonable option to relocate the ELF from Dalmilling Primary School to Heathfield Primary School.

HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for children to access a modern, purpose-built learning environment for children with additional support needs. However, if the council progresses with the proposal, it will be important that the council work with stakeholders to address their concerns. This includes that for children in P6 and P7, the council works in partnership with children, their parents and appropriate agencies to ensure that there are no unnecessary transitions. The council should provide more information to parents of how relocating to Heathfield Primary School will enhance their child's learning outcomes and experiences. The council should also take appropriate measures to ensure that pick-up and drop-off points are safe and accessible.

**HM Inspectors  
October 2023**