

17 October 2023

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services Proposal to Review Admission Catchment Arrangements at St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy.

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 05 September 2023, authorised Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposal to alter the denominational secondary school catchment areas of:

- St Kentigern's Academy and;
- St Margaret's Academy.

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 17 October 2023 on the following webpage: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The proposal is to change the association of St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy to St Margaret's Academy. This would remove the entire catchment of St Mary's Polbeth Primary School from St Kentigern's Academy catchment and add it to St Margaret's Academy catchment.

The St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School catchment consists of the villages of Polbeth & West Calder; rural areas around Harburn & Harwood; and the Brucefield area of Livingston (Old School Avenue).

Polbeth is slightly closer to St Margaret's Academy (2.5 miles) than St Kentigern's Academy (4 miles). West Calder, is a similar distance to both schools (3.5 miles).

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Sinclair Academy in Winchburgh opened for S1 in August 2023 and will accommodate denominational secondary children from the associated primary schools of Holy Family PS (Winchburgh), St Nicholas' PS (Broxburn) and St Joseph's PS (Linlithgow).

This creates additional capacity at both St Kentigern's Academy and St Margaret's Academy. However due to the historic placing request patterns in Linlithgow where many St Joseph's parents choose Linlithgow Academy and the fact that two associated primary schools that were formerly associated with St Margaret's Academy are moving to Sinclair Academy compared to just one from St Kentigern's Academy there is an imbalance in the capacity created across the two schools

The proposed changes in denominational primary to secondary association ensures that secondary catchments consist of entire primary school catchments while better balancing denominational secondary demand across West Lothian.

What Happens Next?

Hard copies of the consultation document are also available for uplift from the Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF or can be requested in writing from:

Catherine Campbell, Project Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from 17 October 2023 to 5pm on 01 December 2023.

A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at St Mary's (Polbeth) Primary School on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7.00pm-8.00pm.

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Catherine Campbell at the above address or by e-mail to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 01 December 2023.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in March 2024 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and through information gathered from public meetings. Feedback received from Education Scotland will also be offered due regard.

Yours sincerely

Greg Welsh
Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)