

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate Fallside School and Portland School to the vacated Mavisbank School building.

January 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE 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 a proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate Fallside School and Portland School to the vacated Mavisbank School building. 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for young people 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 and young people 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 9 December 2025 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 site of Portland, Fallside and Mavisbank Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The public consultation ran from 24 November 2025 to 19 January 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. The council held a public meeting on 9 December 2025. No stakeholders attended the public meeting. The council received one written query. Young people at both Fallside and Portland School were supported to

complete forms on their views of the proposal. They were aware that both the current staff and their peers will move to the new site if the proposal is agreed. Partly due to this, most were in support of or unconcerned about the proposal. The council held a focus group with staff. Staff recognise the poor condition and limitations of the Portland site where both schools are currently based. They are in favour of moving to a site in better condition. They raised several practical questions around the proposed school site including the teaching facilities that will be available and parking.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Fallside School has recently moved to a shared site with Portland School following a failure in the heating system. Both Fallside and Portland School sites are both in poor condition and the council consider them to be beyond repair. HM Inspectors agree the Mavisbank site is in better state of repair and could provide a suitable space for both schools. The Mavisbank site has the potential to be developed to provide enhanced learning facilities that better meet the needs of the young people in both schools. Partly as a result of interventions and projects, both Fallside and Portland Schools have seen a reduction in their rolls over that last three years. Fallside School currently has nine young people and Portland School has 12 young people. HM Inspectors agree that following refurbishment there should be sufficient space at the Mavisbank School site to accommodate both schools successfully.

3.2 HM Inspectors agree there are potential educational benefits in permanently moving the schools to a shared campus. Both schools operate within North Lanarkshire Council's We Aspire College, which provides educational support to children and young people with significant social, emotional, and behavioural needs. They have a shared headteacher and staff use the same approaches to planning and delivery of the curriculum. Being part of a permanent, shared campus creates the potential to extend this shared approach further and increase opportunities for joint profession learning and support.

3.3 Young people who spoke to HM Inspectors recognise that the current building is in poor condition. They are positive about the potential for the Mavisbank site to provide improved outdoor opportunities, particularly for sports including football. The Portland site only has a hard surface area for play. The Mavisbank site has a mix of outdoor areas, including some covered and green outdoor spaces. Young people want to ensure, that if the proposal is agreed, that space for learning using technology is maintained and that there are cooking areas. The council have confirmed that these are planned. Young people would like to visit the Mavisbank site and then be involved in the design of the space. HM Inspectors agree that such involvement would help them to feel ownership of their schools.

3.4 Parents and staff who spoke to HM Inspectors recognise the potential benefits of the proposal. However, they are aware that if the proposal is agreed this will involve moving young people for whom change can be difficult. This may be particularly the case for those young people attending Fallside School, for whom this will be a second move having recently moved to the Portland School site. HM Inspectors agree, that if the proposal is agreed, there will be a need to plan bespoke transitions for each young person to reduce the risk of any disruption to attendance and learning. HM Inspectors recommend that the council progress its plans to involve staff closely in the timeline for any move. This should support staff to involve young people and their families well in making the transition. It would also support them to meet each young person's needs and reduce the risk of disengagement during this change in location.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree there are potential education benefits to this proposal. The current Portland School site is in poor repair, the Fallside School site is currently unusable and the Mavisbank site has the space to be a more suitable venue for both schools. The staff teams of both schools are already working together. However, a permanent shared campus could enhance opportunities for professional learning and support. If the proposal is agreed, HM Inspectors recommend the council work closely with the headteacher and the staff teams to plan the timeline for moving. This will help staff to deliver bespoke transitions for each young person to support continuity of learning.

HM Inspectors
January 2026