

**HMIE**

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
Luchd-sgrùdadh an Rìgh airson Foghlam ann an Alba

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to change the constitution of the Communication and Language Base, Additional Support Needs provision at All Saints Primary School.

April 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 Inverclyde Council to change the constitution of the Communication and Language Base (CLB) Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision at All Saints 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' 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 children of the school; 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 meetings held on 23 February 2026 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 All Saints Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Inverclyde Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The public consultation ran from 2 February to 18 March 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. There were five responses to the consultation. Four disagreed with the proposal and one agreed.

2.3 Two public meetings were held on 23 February 2026 at All Saints Primary School. Two stakeholders attended the meeting at 1 pm. and three attended the meeting at 7 pm. Five stakeholders responded to the council consultation. Of these one agreed with the proposal and four disagreed. Stakeholders raised a range of concerns including, staffing levels, the impact of proposed changes on children currently attending the provision and accommodation space.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agreed there are potential educational benefits to the proposal to change the constitution of the CLB ASN provision at All Saints Primary School. This proposal is one of five proposals Inverclyde are currently undertaking to address the needs of the increasing number of children across Inverclyde who require specialist provision. These align with national policy on Additional Support for Learning and the presumption of mainstreaming by increasing local capacity to meet a broader range of learner needs within a mainstream setting. This is also part of a wider programme of proposed reforms to support children with ASNs.

3.2 The CLB was originally established to meet the language and communication needs of identified children. Whilst it continues to do so, the profile of children's need has become increasingly varied. Inverclyde Council proposes to reconstitute the CLB as a provision for children with moderate learning difficulties. The proposed change would alter the staff to learner ratio. Initially, the council intends to cap this at 1:8, with the option to increase to 1:10 depending on future needs. The current agreed ratio for language and communication provisions is 1:6. This change would allow more children to access the ASN provision. In the view of HM Inspectors, this proposal offers educational benefits by increasing capacity to support a broader range of learners. However, the council intends to staff the provision within its current staffing allocation. They will need to review and evaluate the effectiveness of this arrangement as the provision develops and the roll grows. This approach will be essential for ensuring high-quality learning experiences for all children within the newly constituted provision.

3.3 HM Inspectors spoke to children in the school about the proposal. Children were very positive about the proposed changes. They demonstrated a clear understanding that learners have a range of different needs and that some children require specialist support to access learning. Children indicated that the school values of kindness and respect were important in the school. They felt that the school would provide a welcome environment where new children would feel included.

3.4 HM Inspectors spoke to staff and parents. Staff were very positive about the existing provision and the levels of inclusion within the school. Both parents and staff raised concern about an increase in the number of children within the existing learning environment. They highlighted the need to review carefully the impact of the proposed changes on children who are currently attending the provision. The local authority will need to ensure appropriate staffing levels to ensure that the needs of children attending the provision continue to be met well. Staff noted that continued professional learning will be required to meet the increasingly varied needs of children attending the provision.

3.5 Staff, that spoke to HM Inspectors, highlighted issues relating to the size and upkeep of the outdoor play area currently used by children in the CLB. To ensure that this remains suitable for an

increased roll, the Council should continue to monitor the outdoor play arrangements to ensure their suitability for children with additional support needs.

4. Summary

Overall, HM Inspectors agree that the proposal offers potential educational benefits. It is likely to enhance Inverclyde Council's capacity to meet learners' needs and provide suitable pathways for children requiring specialist support. Overall, the proposal is justified and the council has provided sound reasons for its belief in the anticipated benefits. In taking this forward, the council should closely monitor the effect of any increase in pupil numbers and ensure that appropriate support and accommodation remain in place to meet the needs of all children.

HM Inspectors
April 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland