



HMIE

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
Luchd-sgrùdaidh 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 open a new additional support needs (ASN) provision at St. Andrews RC Primary School, Inverclyde.

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 create a new ASN provision at St. Andrews RC Primary School, Inverclyde. 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; 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 meetings held on 24 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;
- visits to the site of St Andrews Primary, including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- discussion with a representative from the Arch Diocese of Paisley.

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 2026 to 18 March 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and published on the council website. Two public meetings were held on 26 February at St Andrews Primary School. At each meeting two stakeholders attended. The council received ten responses from stakeholders.

Five respondents were in favour of the proposal and five disagreed with the proposal. Overall, stakeholders agreed with the need to increase the number of provisions for children and young people with additional support needs. They raised a range of concerns including the need to ensure there are no negative impacts on both the children who currently attend the school and those who may attend the new provision.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to the proposal to create a new ASN provision at St. Andrews RC 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 young people requiring additional support. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to provide suitable space for a dedicated ASN provision providing specialist provision for primary-aged children matched well to their additional support needs.

3.2 Stakeholders who met HM Inspectors, recognise the need to respond to the increasing number of children and young people with additional support needs across the council area. That the proposal would help meet growing need within the local area so that children may be able to access specialist support more easily and closer to home. That this has the potential to reduce children's travel time. However, a few stakeholders are concerned about transport arrangements for children accessing the proposed provision. Parents highlighted the importance of reliable and appropriate transport to ensure that children can attend safely and without unnecessary disruption. HM Inspectors recommend that the council provide clear reassurance to parents that suitable transport arrangements will be in place.

3.3 Parents, who met HM Inspectors raised several concerns about ensuring that the proposed provision is suitable for the children who will attend it. They emphasised the importance of avoiding situations where children are placed in a setting that does not match their needs. This should include an explanation of why a particular provision is considered appropriate for their child. They also have concerns about transition arrangements. They emphasised the importance of well-planned transitions that support children's wellbeing and help them settle effectively. HM Inspectors recommend that the council work with parents, and where appropriate children, in the assessment of needs, the decisions made about placements and transition planning. This will help families feel confident that their children are being supported appropriately as they move into the new learning environment. HM Inspectors recommend that the council ensures clear communication about how decisions on placement are made and about appropriate transition arrangements to parents and carers.

3.4 Stakeholders, who spoke to HM Inspectors, raised concerns about staff levels and experience. In particular, they felt that teachers should have appropriate training and experience. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal would require additional, appropriately trained staff, including a principal teacher and support staff in line with the teacher and pupil ratios. HM Inspectors recommend that the council provide clear reassurance to parents regarding staffing levels and training. The council should also confirm that staffing ratios will be regularly reviewed to

ensure the school can meet a potentially increased range and complexity of additional support needs.

3.5 HM Inspectors met with representatives of the Roman Catholic. HM Inspectors agree that it will be helpful for the council to ensure it is clear how children who would have otherwise attended a catchment Roman Catholic education are supported to receive their full entitlement within the school's provision. This should include access to sacramental preparation and participation.

4. Summary

Overall, HM Inspectors agree that Inverclyde Council's proposed ASN provision at St. Andrews RC Primary School, has potential education benefits. It is likely to enhance Inverclyde Council's capacity to meet learners' needs and provide suitable pathways for children requiring specialist support. If the proposal is agreed, HM Inspectors recommend that the council provides reassurance to stakeholders on a number of points. These include how it will support children who would normally access a Roman Catholic education receive their full entitlement and that well-planned transitions for children will be in place. It should involve parents and children meaningfully in both the decisions and the overall transition planning in a timely manner. The council will need to ensure, if this proposal is agreed, that staff are sufficiently experienced and supported to deliver this provision to a high standard.

HM Inspectors
April 2026

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