

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to introduce an Additional Support Needs provision to King's Oak 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 introduce an ASN provision to King's Oak 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; 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:

- 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 King's Oak Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees including parents, the Parent Council, children and staff; and
- viewed plans for the new provision and visited the part of the school affected by the proposal.

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 2nd February to 18 March 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders on the council website. Two public meetings were held on the afternoon and evening of 23 February 2026 at King's Oak Primary School. One stakeholder attended the evening session. Twenty stakeholders responded to the consultation. Of these the

majority, 11, were in favour, seven were not in favour and two were undecided. Stakeholders, including parents, raised a range of concerns, including around about staffing levels, and whether there will be sufficient support of children with higher levels of need.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agreed there are potential educational benefits to the proposal to establish an Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision at Kings Oak 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. King's Oak Primary School currently operates at around 52% of its planned capacity. Council projections predict a declining roll over the coming years. That King's Oak could accommodate up to 24 places over time without the need to expand the footprint of the building. HM Inspectors agree the proposal has the potential to provide suitable space for a dedicated ASN provision without displacing existing learners or compromising the learning environment. That the plans to furnish and resource existing areas are appropriate and have the potential to benefit both the children within the mainstream and those attending the new provision. These proposals include a purpose build sensory area, which all children will be able to use, and improved access to the building from outside.

3.2 Children who spoke with HM Inspectors are very positive about the proposal. They feel that establishing an ASN provision would support more children across the school community. They will welcome new pupils. Children emphasised that they would draw on their school values of Respect, Responsible, Resilient, Included and Nurturing, to ensure new children felt welcomed and supported. It is the view of HM Inspectors that the proposal would be beneficial in helping all learners experience and appreciate, increased diversity within their school.

3.3 Parents who spoke with HM Inspectors are positive about the proposal. They recognise the importance of increasing specialist provision across Inverclyde and felt that the proposal would help meet growing need within the local area. Parents appreciated that, in future, their own children may be able to access specialist support more easily and closer to home. That this should reduce children's travel time.

3.4 Staff who spoke with HM Inspectors expressed concerns about the level of specialist expertise that would be available within the new provision. In particular, they felt that teachers should have appropriate training and experience. The Council state that they intend to staff the provision with a Principal Teacher and specialist teaching and support staff, with staffing increasing in line with children's needs and roll growth. HMI Inspectors agree that it is important that staff have sufficient expertise to ensure high-quality learning experiences for children within the proposed new provision.

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. King's Oak Primary School has sufficient capacity to accommodate this provision. 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