

**ABERNYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSED SCOPE****SCOPE OF WORK****Introduction of a Nursery**

Abernyte Primary School has a capacity of 44 pupils. Learning and teaching spaces comprise of a classroom at the main entrance of the school which can accommodate 20 pupils and a classroom at the rear of the school that can accommodate 24 pupils.

The school is on one level and also offers a hall for dining and PE, toilets, resources room, school office/staff room and a kitchen.

If nursery provision was to be implemented within the existing school, this would require one of the current classrooms to be used for nursery provision and the school capacity would reduce to either 20 or 24 pupils. Reducing the capacity of the school to 20 or 24 pupils to include a nursery would have a significant impact on the potential scope for increasing the catchment area as there would be a reduced number of spaces available for additional primary school pupils.

A high-level assessment has been undertaken to consider the establishment of a nursery for eight children. It is proposed that the following accommodation would need to be considered;

- Nursery accommodation in one existing classroom with integral toilet facilities including a changing space;
- Storage space;
- Snack preparation space; and
- Lobby and access to external play space.

Other works which are likely to be required but will be determined by a feasibility study would be: new radiators, new ceiling and lights, decoration and flooring. It is likely that a ramp would have to be formed to the external play space and the nursery play area would be fenced.

A feasibility study would need to be undertaken by Property Services to determine fully the costs, timescales involved, and which classroom was most suitable.

It should be noted that agreement on the implementation and final requirements for a nursery would need to be agreed with the Care Inspectorate, and cognisance taken of any other works that may be required to the school building. The costs of works could increase, and the proposed capacity of the nursery may change depending on the outcome of these discussions.

As part of the assessment for nursery provision within the existing school building, creating a standalone facility or outdoor nursery could also be explored. A standalone nursery is likely to have the same facilities as detailed above but would also need to include a plant room, staff WC, staff/parent room and cloakroom.

## **Proposed Principles to be considered in the Options Appraisal**

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so.

Currently, there is no requirement for a statutory consultation to take place for the inclusion of a nursery in a school but there would be a requirement for a statutory consultation to take place on any proposed changes to a catchment area.

The Scottish Government's Rural School List 2017 classifies Abernyte Primary School as an "accessible rural" school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. In considering the options, account will be taken of the fact that Abernyte Primary School, and all its adjoining primary school catchment areas, are classed as rural schools.

A catchment review can, in principle, be a reasonable option, to increase the potential roll, and therefore sustainability, of a school. It is proposed that the following principles should be considered:

- Any option to be considered will not cause a detrimental impact to the school roll or sustainability of another small rural school of 70<sup>1</sup> pupils or fewer;
- Any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll for Abernyte Primary School;
- Any option to be considered would relate to a catchment area geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area;
- Any option would not result in a pupil travelling through another primary school catchment area to reach their catchment school;
- Any option would not result in a significant increase in the travel time or distance for a pupil to reach their catchment school;
- There should be no adverse pupil impact in terms of educational benefit in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- There must be support from those parents/carers and pupils living in the affected catchment areas.

## **Other Factors to be considered in the Options Appraisal**

In developing an options appraisal, the following factors will also be investigated:

- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of including nursery provision within the school;
- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of a catchment review affecting the school;
- Impact on other schools adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area considered as part of a catchment review;

---

<sup>1</sup> A small school is defined as 70 pupils or fewer in terms of the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) - Pupil Numbers: Scottish Government Pupil Census 2019. Pupils in Small Schools: Pupils in primary schools of less than 70, in settlements in Scottish Government urban/rural classifications 5 and 6 (Source: Scottish Government Education Analytical Services Directorate)

- Impact on the Early Learning and Childcare provision for the Carse of Gowrie as a result of including nursery provision within the school; and
- Financial impact and Best Value.

## Options for Consideration

The following potential options could be explored to establish if they could build a sustainable roll for Abernyte Primary School:

- **Option 1** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.
- **Option 2** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site.
- **Option 3** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site.
- **Option 4** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.
- **Option 5** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School and retain the existing catchment area.
- **Option 6** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision and a limited increase to the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School.

## Engagement

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 Statutory Guidance promotes informal consultation or “pre consultation” regarding a proposal being formulated. The Statutory Guidance recommends ‘early engagement with a view to:

- Establishing possible alternatives;
- Information gathering and sharing; and
- Engaging and empowering individuals to understand and help shape the proposals that affect them.

As the options appraisal is only considering a catchment review and/or the addition of nursery provision and is not considering the closure of the school, only parents/carers, prospective parents/carers, staff and children affected by proposals will be consulted.

It is proposed the following individuals/groups will be consulted:

- Headteachers and staff at Abernyte Primary School and any other schools involved in the catchment review;
- Parent Councils at Abernyte Primary School and any other schools involved in the catchment review;
- Parents/Carers of pupils currently attending Abernyte Primary School and any other schools involved in the catchment review;
- Parents/Carers of pupils living within the catchment areas of Abernyte Primary School and any other schools involved in the catchment review who do not currently attend their catchment school; and
- Parents/Carers of children under the age of 5 living in the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and any other catchment areas involved in the catchment review.

In order to develop a more accurate understanding of the potential for a catchment change leading to an increased roll at Abernyte Primary School, all families (parents/carers living with primary or children under 5) known to the Council living in potential new catchment areas will be invited to attend individual meetings to discuss the potential catchment change and nursery provision.

These meetings will be conducted either over the telephone, virtually or face to face if safe to do so whilst considering the restrictions currently in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents/Carers of pupils already attending primary school will be asked whether they would move their children to any new catchment school in order to ascertain projected school rolls.

Parents/Carers that attend the meetings will also be asked to provide comments on the options or suggest alternatives.

## Pupil Population

### School Roll – Current and Projected<sup>2</sup> Pupil Numbers

School	Capacity	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Abernyte Primary School</b>	44	10	12	12	11
<b>Longforgan Primary School</b>	144	103	106	103	99
<b>Inchtute Primary School</b>	264	224	231	226	222

### Nursery Pupils - Projected<sup>3</sup>

School	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Abernyte Primary School</b>	2	0	0
<b>Longforgan Primary School</b>	22	19	10
<b>Inchtute Primary School</b>	56	56	28

### Abernyte Primary School – P1 Pupils - Projected v Actual

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Pupils living in catchment who could attend Abernyte Primary School</b>	2	2	1	2	1	2	2
<b>Total number of P1's starting at Abernyte Primary School<sup>4</sup></b>	2	1	0	0	0	0	3

<sup>2</sup> Does not include pupils from house building. It is estimated that an average of 6 further children per year could attend Inchtute Primary School from house building planned in this catchment.

<sup>3</sup> Information supplied by NHS at April 2020 up to 2024. Total number of pupils living in the catchment that could attend the ELC provision in those years. Does not include 2 year old provision.

<sup>4</sup> The number of P1s starting at Abernyte Primary School include children that attended the school through placing requests and are not just catchment children.

## Nursery Population

### Carse of Gowrie – Early Learning and Childcare

School	Capacity 2020/21 (Full Time Places)
Errol Primary School	53
Inchture Primary School <sup>5</sup>	61
Invergowrie Primary School	32
Longforgan Primary School <sup>6</sup>	32
St Madoes Primary School	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>

- There are currently 97 children attending on a full-time basis and 62 children attending on a part time basis across the Carse of Gowrie ELC settings.
- Children attending on a part time basis attend between 1 and 4 days per week.

---

<sup>5</sup> Capacity in new building.

<sup>6</sup> Capacity in new nursery.

### Appendix 3

#### Abernyte Primary School – Catchment Map

