



**Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Skills, Education and Learning Directorate**

**REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE  
LOREBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM ITS EXISTING  
BUILDING (GEORGE STREET, DUMFRIES, DG1 1EA)  
TO THE MINERVA BUILDING ON THE DUMFRIES  
ACADEMY CAMPUS (ACADEMY STREET,  
DUMFRIES, DG1 1DD)**

**This report has been issued by Dumfries and Galloway Education and Learning Directorate in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**

This report has been prepared following a review by Dumfries & Galloway Council to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD)

Having had regard (in particular) to: Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period; Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held at Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries on 22 September 2022; and the finding contained within the final report from Education Scotland.

## Publication Information

This report will be published on Dumfries and Galloway Council website:  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations)

Copies of this paper are also available on request from:

Statutory Consultation – Loreburn Primary School  
Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Militia House  
109/111 English Street  
DG1 2HR

E-mail: [statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk)

To request this information in a more accessible format or alternative language, please contact the postal or email address listed above.

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (a) Parents/carers of pupils attending Loreburn Primary School;
- (b) Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;
- (c) Parent/carers of any children expected to attend Loreburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication;
- (d) The pupils of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy;
- (e) The Parent Council of Loreburn Primary School;
- (f) The Parent Council of Dumfries Academy;
- (g) Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- (h) Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- (i) Trade union representatives;
- (j) Loreburn Community Council;
- (k) HMIE;

## Contents

<b>1. Background.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Consultation Process .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Review of proposals following the consultation period.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Responses received .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Issues raised during the consultation process.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. Responses to the issues raised during Public Consultation.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Late Submission .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8. Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland, and Dumfries and Galloway Council’s response.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. Effects on the Community.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10. Alleged Omissions or inaccuracies .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11. Further Review of Alternatives to Closure .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12. Procedure for Ministerial Call-in.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13. Legal Issues .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>14. Financial Implications .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>15. Equality Impact Assessment .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>16. Conclusion .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>17. Recommendation.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>18. Appendices.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## 1. Background

Elected Members agreed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to commence an option appraisal to assist in identifying the optimal solution to the condition, accessibility, and suitability of Loreburn Primary School. An initial scoping of options was generated in consultation with the parent council and staff and the outcome is set out below:

- A. Do nothing
- B. Rebuild on Site – with temporary accommodation/decant village
- C. Refurbish on Site -with temporary accommodation/decant village
- D. Close Loreburn Primary School and redistribute pupils within Dumfries
- E. Relocate Loreburn Primary School
  - (i) Refurbish alternative existing building and repurpose
  - (ii) Combine Loreburn Primary School and another Primary School within Dumfries

Analysis by officers indicated that options A, B, C and D were not viable, and it was recommended that these should not be considered further. Options A - D were not supported by the Parent Council either, however they continued their support for option E(i) as part of the Dumfries Learning Town 2 proposals which would see Loreburn Primary relocated within the footprint of the existing Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

This proposal seeks to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD).

The proposal paper can be seen at (**Appendix A**)

## 2 Consultation Process

The formal consultation process ran from Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 to Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Schools across Dumfries and Galloway were closed on Monday 19th September 2022 as an additional bank holiday to mark the last day of the period of National Mourning in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation timeline was amended to ensure that the consultation period extended to thirty school days as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended and all consultees were notified and the papers reissued.

Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:

- Parents/carers of pupils attending Loreburn Primary School;
- Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;

- Parent/carers of any children expected to attend Loreburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication;
- The pupils of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy;
- The Parent Council of Loreburn Primary School;
- The Parent Council of Dumfries Academy;
- Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- Trade union representatives;
- Loreburn Community Council;
- HMIE;

The proposal paper was also available at the following locations:

- Council Headquarters, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2DD
- Loreburn Primary School, George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA
- Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD
- Ewart Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JB

The proposal paper was also published on Dumfries and Galloway's website at:

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations)

A public meeting was held, the details of which are set out below. The meeting was advertised in advance in the Dumfries & Galloway Standard and detailed within the proposal paper. The minutes of the meetings can be found in **(Appendix B)**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022, 6.00 - 8.00pm, Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1DD.

### **3 Review of proposals following the consultation period**

No written representations were received by Dumfries and Galloway Council and no oral representations were made at the public meeting.

No feedback was received as part of the consultation process for Council officers to consider. A range of officers were in attendance to help facilitate responses which ensured that the Council met the requirements of the 2010 Act.

The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

### **4. Responses received**

There were no written responses received during the public consultation period.

The views of pupils from Loreburn Primary School were sought by means of an age adapted survey that was completed by pupils with support from Education Officers in the form of a focus group. A copy of their responses can be found at **(Appendix D)**

## **5. Issues raised during the consultation process**

No written responses were received during the consultation period.

The minute from this meeting can be found at (**Appendix B**)

## **6. Responses to the issues raised during Public Consultation**

There were no issues raised during the public consultation.

## **7. Late Submission**

No late submissions were received after the consultation period had ended.

## **8. Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland, and Dumfries and Galloway Council's response.**

In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposal. A copy of the report from Education Scotland can be found in (**Appendix C**)

In their Report, Education Scotland recognised the Council's proposal to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD) has potential to improve the learning environment for children, staff and other stakeholders.

In their report, HM Inspectors met with pupils, parents, staff, including headteachers and other stakeholders. All were supportive of the proposal.

In their report, HM Inspectors agreed that co-location between Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy had the potential to enhance access to specialist staff, resources and collaboration between the primary and secondary teaching staff.

HM Inspectors also noted that improved accessibility following the renovation of the Minerva building should enable more inclusive opportunities for children and young people to learn.

Children who met with HM Inspectors were looking forward to bigger classrooms and physical education space.

There were a number of issues identified by both pupils and staff, these are labelled (1 - 8) and are set out below:

*Issue 1*

HM Inspectors believe that the Educational Benefits of the proposal need to be expanded upon in the final consultation report.

*Response 1*

The Council prepared the Educational Benefits Statement which formed section 10 of the proposal document to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building to the Minerva building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

In addition to this statement: -

All children and young people have an entitlement to a curriculum which is coherent with smooth and well-paced progression through the experiences and outcomes, particularly across transitions, from early learning and childcare to primary, from primary to secondary school, and beyond school. The proposal made in this consultative document aligns with this entitlement.

The current condition of the Loreburn Primary building does not provide an ideal learning environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. The proposed relocation and renovation will provide a significant improvement in building condition, as well as an increase in classroom size and provision of high-quality learning environments.

Pupils will have access to flexible, creative, multi-purpose learning spaces which can be used for collaborative working between classes, as well as spaces for Expressive Arts and other practical subjects. These spaces, as well as access to the specialist facilities located within the Academy, will enhance opportunities for STEM learning, and allow the development of Skills for Life and Work. The larger, updated classrooms will allow for the integration and embedding of play pedagogy and enquiry based learning across the primary stages.

Currently, pupils at Loreburn do not have access to suitable spaces to work beyond the classroom. Relocation to the Minerva building will offer this provision and encourage collaborative working. This key element of Curriculum for Excellence develops a variety of inter-personal, communication, social and leadership skills. These spaces will also provide calm, quiet places which will better meet the personal, social and emotional needs of learners. Teachers will have the flexibility and space to adapt teaching to facilitate a variety of different learning styles. The provision of designated meeting spaces, which Loreburn does not currently have, will facilitate pupil leadership opportunities such as committees, as well supporting GIRFEC by providing spaces for external agencies, parents and other partners to collaborate.

At present, Loreburn pupils regularly have to go off-site to access facilities in other buildings such as the Bridge or current Academy building. The increased facilities which will be accessible on the shared site will reduce the need to go off-site as regularly, reducing time spent on transitions and allowing more time for high quality learning experiences within the school day. Additionally, more of the time currently spent by support staff escorting children between sites will be available to support

learners. Access arrangements to the Bridge will be maintained so that, where necessary, the specialist facilities can be accessed in addition to those on the Academy site.

There are varying levels and steps within the current Loreburn Primary building which are an accessibility issue for some pupils. The renovation of the Minerva building will provide a much higher degree of accessibility and facilitate an inclusive learning environment for children and young people to learn. This will ensure all learners have equitable access to all parts of the building and curriculum. The fully accessible Catherinefield Play Park is directly opposite the Academy site and will provide an additional, high quality resource which can be accessed alongside the enhanced outdoor play and social spaces being developed on site for Primary Pupils. This provides an improved outdoor learning and social environment for pupils.

To ensure progression and continuity of learning, there needs to be effective tracking of children's progress from upper primary into secondary. A key element of this is a shared understanding of pupils' progress within and through Curriculum for Excellence Levels. The shared site will enhance existing formal and informal moderation procedures between primary and secondary staff, leading to a more cohesive progression of learning and ensuring a higher level of confidence in tracking pupil progress.

Staff across both sites will have enhanced opportunities for professional dialogue and development. Primary staff will have increased access to subject specialists, providing scope to increase their curricular knowledge, particularly into third level and beyond. This will ensure the most able learners are challenged and supported. Secondary staff will be able to liaise closely with primary colleagues to support secondary age pupils who are accessing the primary curriculum. Support for Learning staff will work across both sites, ensuring consistency of approach and support for those with Additional Support Needs.

The current Primary – Secondary transition arrangements between Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy will be strengthened by the move to a shared site. For all pupils, but particularly those with Additional Support Needs, the familiar physical environment and familiarity with staff will reduce anxiety around transition, as well as provide easy access to informal or enhanced transition visits for those who require it.

### *Issue 2*

Almost all of those who met with HM Inspectors raised concerns regarding the availability of safe, green outdoor space and safe routes to school, particularly during building work at Dumfries Academy campus.

### *Response 2*

The phasing plan for the building works has not yet been fully established. The aspiration of the head teacher and school management team within Loreburn Primary school is to move into the Minerva building as quickly as possible due to the condition of the current school. The initial proposal was to move Loreburn into the Minerva at the end of the overall project. Should it be possible, within the project scope, to move



Loreburn Primary into the Minerva midway through the project there will be a requirement to meet all necessary Health & Safety and CDM regulations to ensure the safety of everyone on the campus.

*Issue 3*

Primary and Secondary pupils are concerned about shared access to toilet facilities.

*Response 3*

The design, although not fully developed, will ensure that the primary pupils are fully segregated from secondary. The Minerva building (Loreburn Primary) will have its own dedicated toilet facilities for primary pupils and staff. Dumfries Academy pupils will not have access to any of the dedicated primary school space within the Minerva building, this will be controlled via access-controlled doors.

*Issue 4*

A few secondary school pupils are concerned about disruption during the transition period.

*Response 4*

A certain level of disruption is unfortunately inevitable given that teachers and staff will not be decanted off site. The site will remain operational, but an effective phasing plan will limit the disruption as much as possible. The principal contractor understood the challenges of the site prior to interview and appointment. Through the appointment process the contractor demonstrated that they understood the need to keep disruption to a minimum and were sympathetic to the schools needs.

Dumfries Academy is currently designed to accommodate twice the number of pupils that attend the school. Relocating pupils into other areas of the school campus that currently exist will enable learning and teaching to continue without a great deal of disruption. Pupils will remain in an environment on the campus that they are already fully familiar with.

*Issue 5*

Almost all the children, young people and teaching staff who met with HM Inspectors have concerns around the shared use of the Minerva building.

*Response 5*

The shared use of the Minerva building extends to 2 Business Studies rooms and library on the first floor. The design will not allow unfettered access between Primary and Secondary pupils. Primary pupils will only access these shared facilities within the Minerva at pre-determined / timetabled times throughout the week. Secondary school pupils will at no time have access to primary school learning and teaching spaces.

Shared facilities also enhance the opportunities to improve the transitional experiences for the primary aged pupils, and allows further opportunities for senior pupils to mentor and lead by example. The majority of primary aged pupils will enrol and move in to Dumfries academy in future years, so any overlap, through a controlled manner will only strengthen the transition journey.

*Issue 6*

Children, young people and teaching staff had concerns around the shared use of the Minerva building including concerns over excessive noise levels.

*Response 6*

Noise / acoustic concerns are understandable. Noise levels will be managed and addressed through design, monitoring and assessment. With the addition of new corridors and walkway spaces there will be natural soundproofing barriers between Primary and Secondary learning and teaching spaces which will help in this regard.

*Issue 7*

Children, young people and teaching staff had concerns around the need for sufficient parking.

*Response 7*

The Dumfries Academy campus external space available is limited. Within the overall project there will be some demolition and redefining of areas that will support infrastructure and improved learning and teaching space. Ultimately the total number of spaces and overall parking provision will be determined through the planning process.

*Issue 8*

Stakeholders would benefit from further information relating to access to the bridge education facility, and how this might impact on its future use by children attending Loreburn Primary School.

*Response 8*

The principal architects for the relocation of Loreburn Primary school and refurbishment of Dumfries Academy project, BDP, have already been hosting engagement sessions with key stakeholders over the past few months including, Primary Pupils and Staff, s1 – s3 / s4 – s6 pupils, Secondary staff, and parent Councils of both schools. BDP will continue to host engagement sessions that will include exploring all opportunities at the bridge that will be available to Loreburn Primary pupils.

It should also be noted that Loreburn Primary School currently use the Bridge for specialist secondary subject areas.

## **9. Effects on the Community**

There will be a level of impact on the Dumfries Academy site during the construction phase of this project. This will be discussed in detail with the school and wider community to ensure disruption is minimised as much as possible.

Relocating Loreburn Primary may impact on Playworks Nursery. Playworks occupy a separate building and their dedicated external space is adjacent to the primary school's external space. Whilst Playworks is not an authority run provider there is historical data to show that a significant number of pupils go on to enrol at Loreburn Primary. There will be some impact on parents who need to drop off/pick up at both sites however, the proximity of the Minerva and flexibility of nursery start, and finish times should minimise any impact.

Existing community use of the Minerva Building will be enhanced following improvements to accessibility and condition.

The condition of the School of Art building generally has a negative reaction from the public. Moving Loreburn Primary to the Minerva building on the Dumfries Academy campus will allow the primary school building to be declared surplus and repurposed with potential for improvements for the community.

## **10. Alleged Omissions or inaccuracies**

No alleged omissions or inaccuracies were raised in this proposal.

## **11. Further Review of Alternatives to Closure**

Not applicable to this proposal.

## **12. Procedure for Ministerial Call-in**

Not applicable to this proposal.

## **13. Legal Issues**

Throughout this statutory consultation Dumfries and Galloway Council has complied in full within the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

No further legal issues were identified in this proposal.

## 14. Financial Implications

The proposal for relocation of Loreburn Primary School looks to deliver on the Elected Member decision to relocate within the Minerva Building at Dumfries Academy. All capital costs associated with this are ringfenced and will be used to improve the educational environment and experiences of the pupils of Loreburn Primary.

There will be opportunities to realise some efficiencies through the co-location and shared campus model. However, the allocated funding for the operation of the schools will not be impacted and will remain unchanged following relocation.

## 15. Equality Impact Assessment

The proposal has been assessed as having no impact on the following Equality areas:

- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy of Maternity
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Looked After Children
- Young Carers
- Children and Young People Living in Deprivation

In respect of age equality, the proposal relates to primary schools and as such primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group and their parents. The proposal is advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children in the area concerned. No negative age-related effects arise. Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of school provision.

## 16. Conclusion

The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response is detailed in sections 6 and 8.

Education Scotland staff engaged with stakeholders affected by this proposal. They also had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal document.

HM Inspectors agreed that the Council provides a strong case to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building into the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy Campus.

HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits as set out in the proposal.

All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal.

### **17. Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Dumfries and Galloway Council approves the proposal to relocate pupils currently attending Loreburn Primary school into the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy Campus,

### **18. Appendices**

Appendix A	The Proposal Document and Appendices
Appendix B	Minutes of Public Meeting
Appendix C	Report from Education Scotland
Appendix D	Copies of Responses from Pupil Consultation



## **Dumfries and Galloway Council Education and Learning Directorate**

### **Proposal document to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD)**

**This Proposal has been issued by Dumfries and Galloway Education and Learning Directorate in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.**

**Statutory Consultation Period: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Schools across Dumfries and Galloway were closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as an additional bank holiday to mark the last day of the period of National Mourning in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation timeline has been amended to ensure that the consultation period extends to thirty school days as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, all consultees have been notified and the papers have been reissued.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to relocate Loreburn Primary School into the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

The proposed changes, if approved, will take place at the conclusion of the Dumfries Learning Town Phase 2 project.

HMle (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) is referred throughout the document in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act (1980). HMle was amalgamated into Education Scotland which was created on the 1 July 2011 as the lead public body for assessment and education improvement in Scotland.

## **Publication Information**

The proposal paper will be available, free of charge, at:

- Council Headquarters, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2DD
- Loreburn Primary School, George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA
- Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD
- Ewart Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JB

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E-mail: [statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk)

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- (b) Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;
- (c) Parent/carers of any children expected to attend Loreburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication;
- (d) The pupils of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy;
- (e) The Parent Council of Loreburn Primary School;
- (f) The Parent Council of Dumfries Academy;
- (g) Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- (h) Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- (i) Trade union representatives;
- (j) Loreburn Community Council;
- (k) HMle;



## **Contents**

- 1.0 Relevant Proposals and Consultees**
  - 2.0 Correction of the Paper**
  - 3.0 Consultation Period**
  - 4.0 Public Meeting**
  - 5.0 Involvement of HMle**
  - 6.0 Consultation Report**
  - 7.0 Time for Further Consideration**
  - 8.0 Explanation of Approach**
  - 9.0 Proposal Paper**
  - 10.0 Educational Benefits Statement**
  - 11.0 Other considerations**
  - 12.0 Recommendation**
- 
- Appendix 1** Loreburn Primary School showing proximity to neighbouring buildings
  - Appendix 2** Loreburn Primary School with route to Dumfries Academy
  - Appendix 3** Loreburn Primary School with 2-mile radius marked to demonstrate eligibility for free school transport

## 1.0 Relevant Proposals and Consultees

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to relocate Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva Building at Dumfries Academy.

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (a) Parents/carers of pupils attending Loreburn Primary School;
- (b) Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;
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- (g) Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- (h) Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- (i) Trade union representatives;
- (j) Loreburn Community Council;
- (k) HMIE;

## 2.0 Correction of the Paper

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal paper, either by Dumfries and Galloway Council or any other person, Dumfries and Galloway Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. Dumfries and Galloway Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMIE will be advised.

## 3.0 Consultation Period

The consultation for this Proposal will run from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and will end on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

Schools across Dumfries and Galloway were closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as an additional bank holiday to mark the last day of the period of National Mourning in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation timeline has been amended to ensure that the consultation period extends to thirty school days as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

### 3.1 Responses to the Proposals

Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposals by making written or electronic representations on the Proposals to:

Statutory Consultation – Loreburn Primary School  
Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Militia House  
109/111 English Street  
DG1 2HR

E-mail: [statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk)

When responding you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc. However, it is not compulsory to do so.

Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Dumfries and Galloway Council”. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 5:00pm.

### 4.0 Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held at Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1DD on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. There will be a short introduction to the meeting at 6.00pm, however, members of the public are able to drop in at any time to ask questions, make representations or discuss anything with the Officers present. The meeting will close at 8.00pm.

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meetings will be convened by the Council and will be chaired by a senior officer of the Council’s Education and Learning Directorate.

The meetings will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. Views of all stakeholders will be recorded so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken at the meeting of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website.

The note will be forwarded to HMIE, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

#### **4.1 Advertisement in Local Media**

A notice announcing the public meeting will be placed in the Dumfries & Galloway Standard and on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website.

#### **4.2 Meetings with Pupils and Staff**

School staff will arrange to discuss proposals with pupils (who are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) in the affected schools. A record of questions, responses and views will be taken, and this will be published in the Consultation Report.

#### **5.0 Involvement of HMle**

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to HMle by Dumfries and Galloway Council. HMle will also be sent, by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period, as well as the summary note of the public meeting that will be held. So far as is practicable a copy of any other relevant documentation will also be sent to HMle, by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022. HMle will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal, to be completed no later than 3 weeks after they receive the consultation papers – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. In preparing their report, HMle may visit the schools and make such enquiries of persons there as they consider appropriate. HMle may also make reasonable enquiries to such other persons they consider it appropriate.

#### **6.0 Consultation Report**

Dumfries and Galloway Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMle report, written representations it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats who submitted a written representation during consultation will be contacted. It will be available on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website as well as Loreburn Primary School, Dumfries Academy, Ewart Library and Dumfries and Galloway Headquarters, free of charge. The report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the HMle report, together with the Council's considered response to the issues raised. The report will include details of any alleged inaccurate and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the Education and Learning Committee.

#### **7.0 Time for Further Consideration**

At this present time Dumfries and Galloway Council intends to publish its report on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. In publishing the report, the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Education and Learning Committee prior to its meeting within a 3-week window; Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website.

The final consultation report will be submitted to the Education and Learning Committee in early 2023. However, this timescale may change depending on the nature of issues raised

during consultation, and the need to give full consideration to those issues. In the latter event, the report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

## **8.0 Explanation of Approach**

The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (S.1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (S.3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000).

## **9.0 The Proposal**

### **9.1 Rationale**

Elected Members agreed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to commence an option appraisal to assist in identifying the optimal solution to the condition, accessibility and suitability of Loreburn Primary School. An initial scoping of options was generated in consultation with the parent council and staff and the outcome is set out below:

- A. Do nothing
- B. Rebuild on Site – with temporary accommodation/decant village
- C. Refurbish on Site -with temporary accommodation/decant village
- D. Close Loreburn Primary School and redistribute pupils within Dumfries
- E. Relocate Loreburn Primary School
  - (i) Refurbish alternative existing building and repurpose
  - (ii) Combine Loreburn Primary School and another Primary School within Dumfries

Analysis by officers indicated that options A, B, C and D were not viable, and it was recommended that these should not be considered further. Options A - D were not supported by the Parent Council either, however they continued their support for option E(i) as part of the Dumfries Learning Town 2 proposals which would see Loreburn Primary relocated within the footprint of the existing Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

This proposal seeks to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD).

### **9.2 Current School Details**

The existing Loreburn Primary School is located on George Street in Dumfries. The school extends to 1,788m<sup>2</sup> and sits on an area of 0.90 acres.

Dumfries and Galloway Council assesses all its schools for suitability and condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. Schools are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory) "C" (poor) and "D" (bad).

Loreburn Primary School building has been previously rated as “C” for suitability and “C” for condition. Some of the findings from the two surveys highlighted issues around functionality, accessibility, access to green space and the proximity to disused buildings.

Appendix 1 shows that Loreburn Primary School is adjacent to the former George Street School of Art which is owned by a third party. It has fallen into a state of disrepair and whilst it is acknowledged the issues will be addressed the timing and the process for this is out with the Council’s control.

The distance between Loreburn Primary School and the Minerva building is 0.27 miles as detailed in Appendix 2. The catchment area does not extend beyond a two mile radius as shown in Appendix 3 so there is no eligibility for school transport currently or after the relocation.

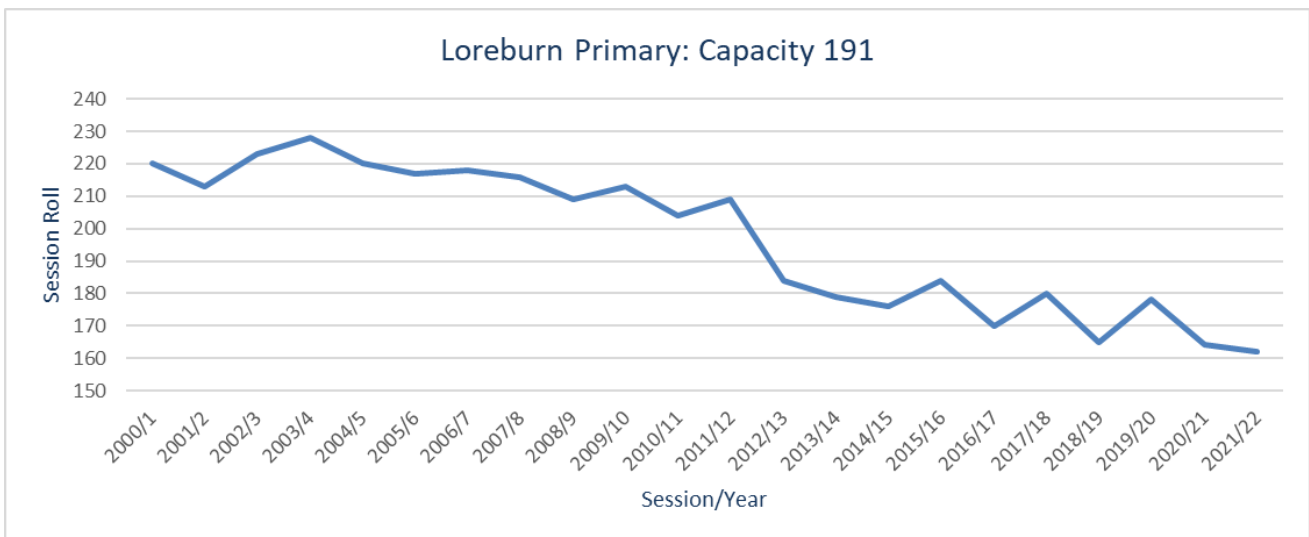
### 9.3 School Profile

**Capacity:** 191 pupils

**Class Numbers:**

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
18	23	20	21	31	22	24	159

### Historic School Roll 2000 - 2022



## 10.0 Educational Benefits of the Proposal

- It is the view of Dumfries and Galloway Council that a relocation of Loreburn Primary from the current site to the Minerva building (Dumfries Academy campus) would improve the education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Loreburn Primary School.
- Working across a range of settings and within different facilities is one of the core elements of a curriculum designed to meet the needs of Twenty First Century learners. This involves pupils working with a range of staff within learning environments with specialist equipment and resources. Relocating to the Minerva building within Dumfries Academy Campus would provide these opportunities and experiences for the pupils of Loreburn Primary School.
- The relocation will broaden the range of opportunities for our children and young people through the access to shared specialist spaces within Dumfries Academy. Areas such as Drama, Science, Physical Education, Craft and Design and Home Economics will be made available to further enhance the opportunities provided to Loreburn Primary pupils.
- The proposed refurbishment of the Minerva building and Dumfries Academy will provide learning environments which will better meet the personal, social and emotional needs of learners. This provision will provide a quiet space for individual and group activities which can be accessed when such needs can't be met within the classroom environment. The range and depth of young people's learning, to support continuity and progression, will also be enhanced due to the very nature of the co-location with Dumfries Academy.
- Working with others is a key element of the curriculum which develops a number of inter-personal, communication, social skills and leadership skills. The current accommodation does not provide suitable spaces for pupils to work beyond their classroom and with pupils from other classes. Relocation to the Minerva building would offer this provision and enhance the development of such skills. With enhanced outdoor play and social spaces being developed as part of the overall refurbishment of the Minerva Building the pupils social and health needs will be enhanced.
- Teachers' professional judgement and shared understanding of pupil progress within and through Curriculum for Excellence levels is a key element of the assessment and moderation process. This process will be further enhanced through closer collaborative working between colleagues in Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy. This may be through formal transition work or informally in shared conversations.
- Loreburn Primary School will have the opportunity through the design development of the Minerva building to ensure that the spaces meet the needs of all learners as far as is reasonably practicable.



- Not all pupils that attend Loreburn Primary have the same fully inclusive opportunities to learn. Accessibility issues throughout the building due to varying levels and steps can be a barrier to learning for some pupils. Relocating to the Minerva building will address many of these issues.
- Although the relocation of Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva building has a direct positive impact on pupils and staff there are wider opportunities in terms of Partnership working with Dumfries Academy due to the very nature of collocating the primary and secondary school on the same site. With a single entrance, new meeting rooms for external agencies, parents and other partners will become shared resources, resources that Loreburn primary school currently does not have.

### **10.1 Impact on Staff**

- Staff will be involved in the development of designs for the facility and the relocation of the school with the design team. Whilst this may involve staff time, it is recognised that their involvement will ensure the needs of the school are captured and incorporated within the design brief for the project.
- The working environment of all staff will be greatly enhanced after moving to the Minerva building due to the level of investment to modernise facilities such as classrooms, learning and social spaces, staff rooms and welfare facilities. By it's very nature this will also improve morale of staff and pupils.
- The current accommodation within Loreburn Primary does not provide suitable spaces for staff to access during Non-Class Contact Time to undertake individual professional learning, paperwork, meet with Parents/Carers/Colleagues and prepare reports. Relocation to the Minerva building would look to address this provision through the design and refurbishment process.

### **10.2 Impact on the Community**

- There will be a level of impact on the Dumfries Academy site during the construction phase of this project. This will be discussed in detail with the school and wider community to ensure disruption is minimised as much as possible.
- Relocating Loreburn Primary may impact on Playworks Nursery, shown in Appendix 1. Playworks occupy a separate building and their dedicated external space is adjacent to the primary school's external space. Whilst Playworks is not an authority run provider there is historical data to show that a significant number of pupils go on to enrol at Loreburn Primary. There will be some impact on parents who need to drop off/pick up at both sites however, the close proximity of the Minerva and flexibility of nursery start and finish times should minimise any impact.
- Existing community use of the Minerva Building will be enhanced following improvements to accessibility and condition.



- The condition of the School of Art building generally has a negative reaction from the public. Moving Loreburn Primary to the Minerva building on the Dumfries Academy site will allow the Primary School building to be declared surplus and repurposed with potential for improvements for the community.

### **11.0 Financial impact**

- The proposal for relocation of Loreburn Primary School looks to deliver on the Elected Member decision to relocate within the Minerva Building at Dumfries Academy. All capital costs associated with this are ringfenced and will be used to improve the educational environment and experiences of the pupils of Loreburn Primary.
- There will be opportunities to realise some efficiencies through the co-location and shared campus model. However, the allocated funding for the operation of the schools will not be impacted and will remain unchanged following relocation.

### **12.0 Recommendation**

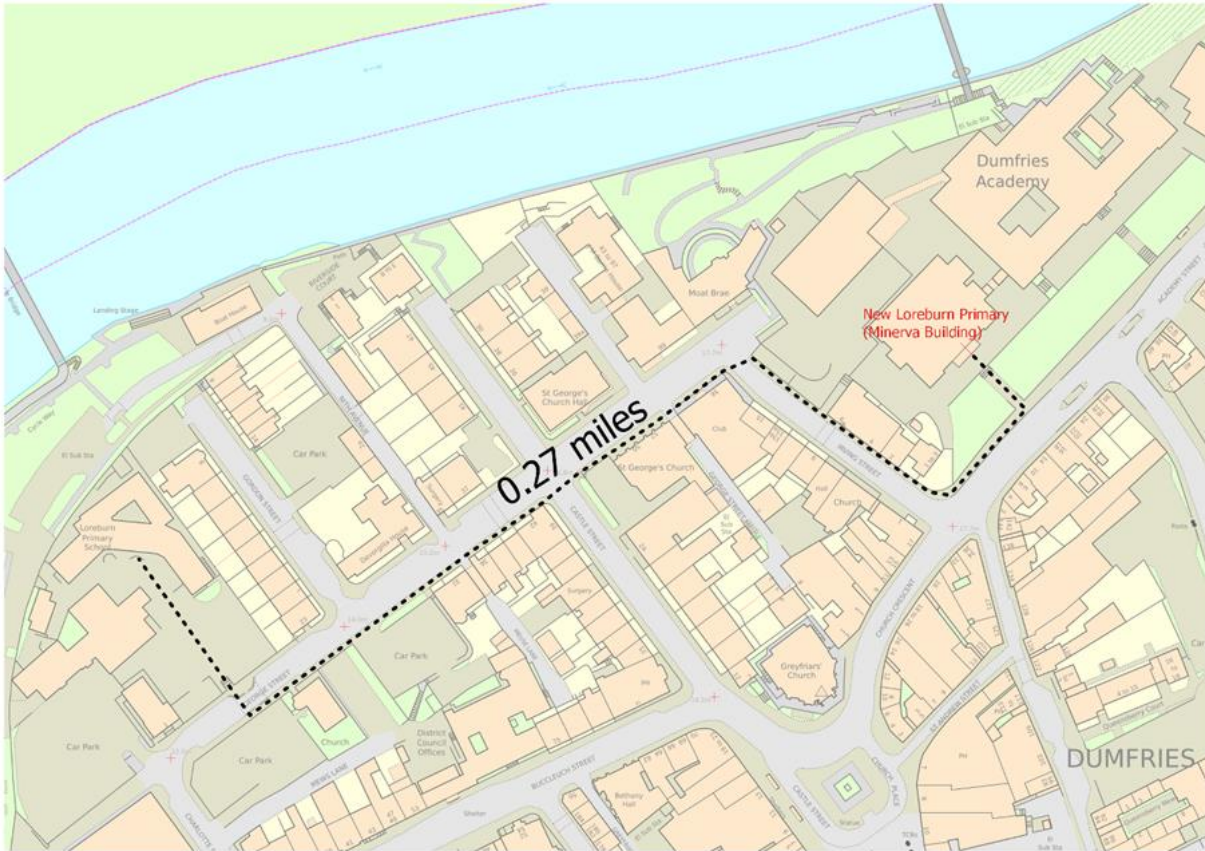
Given the information contained within this report, Dumfries and Galloway Council has determined that the relocation of Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus is the preferred option.

**Appendix 1**



Loreburn Primary School in relation to 1. School of Art 2. Housing 3. Playworks Nursery

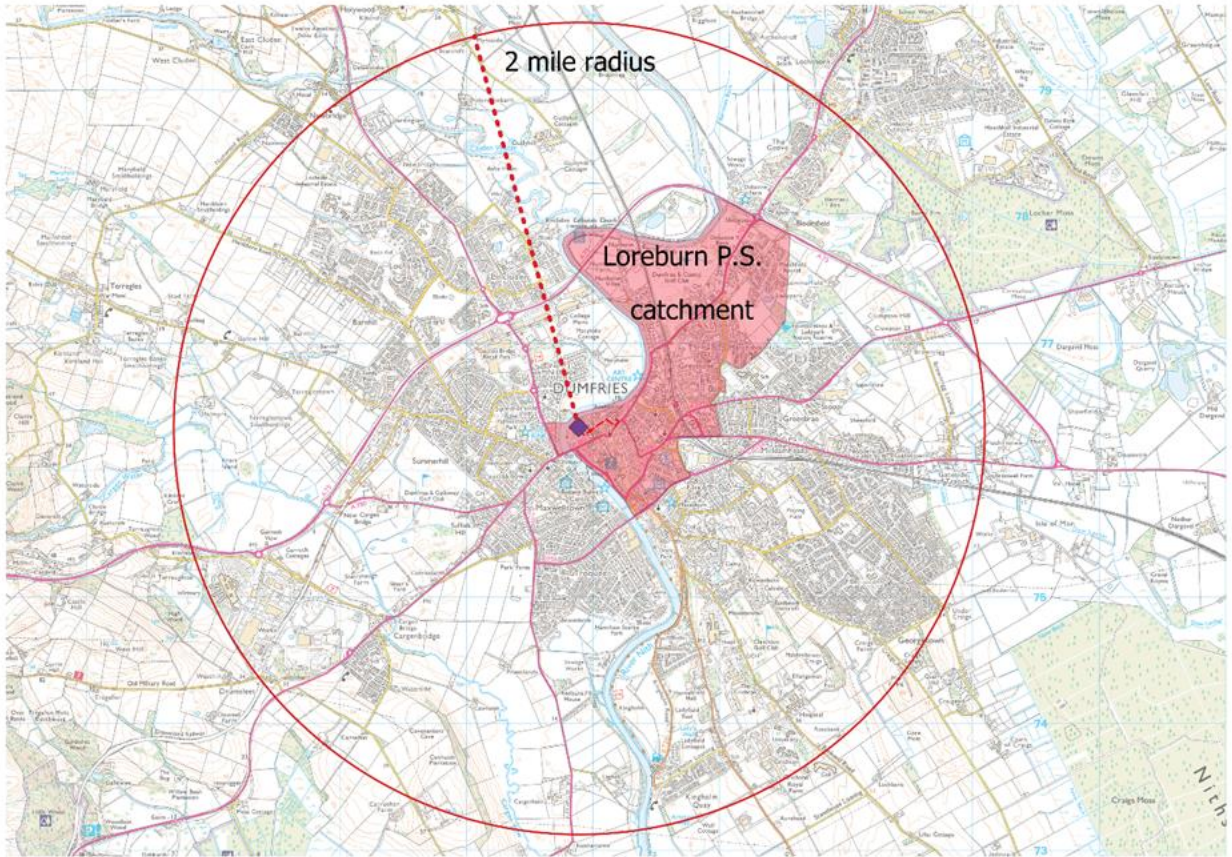
Appendix 2



Distance between main entrance of Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy



**Appendix 3**



Loreburn Primary catchment with 2 mile transport provision marked

**PUBLIC MEETING – Proposal to relocate Loreburn Primary School**

Minerva Building, Dumfries Academy Campus

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

**Education and Learning Directorate Officers present:** John Thin (JT), Larann Foss (LF), Scott Grant (SG), Lesley Farrell (LFa, Headteacher Loreburn PS), Joanne Dillon (JD, Headteacher Dumfries Academy)

Alice Bainbridge (AB), Scott Brown (SB) (notes)

**Stakeholders:** Non in attendance

JT noted that there were no representations made during the course of the public meeting.

Copies of the proposal paper were made available as were copies of the consultation process.

**Officer:** Meeting drew to a close. Noted that any further representations could be made until the 4<sup>th</sup> November and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Meeting ended at 8 pm**

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Dumfries and Galloway Council to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.**

December 2022

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland 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 Dumfries and Galloway Council's proposal to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus. 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' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and 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:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, and
- visits to the site of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy campus, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The main proposal within the consultation is to relocate Loreburn Primary Infant School from its existing building to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

2.3 A public meeting took place at Dumfries Academy campus on 22 September 2022. There were no attendees. No written or electronic representations were forwarded to the council and no expressions of opposition to the proposals were received during the consultation period. The formal consultation ran from 5 September 2022 until 4 November 2022. Copies of the proposal were made available electronically on the council website and in paper format via central locations. School staff met with pupils to discuss proposals. A few stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors expressed the view that communication on the proposal could have been improved.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council set out its rationale for an options appraisal in 2019 to assist in identifying a solution to the poor condition, accessibility and suitability of Loreburn Primary School. Currently, the building is rated C, which is poor for suitability and condition. As a result, an initial scoping of options was developed in consultation with the Parent Council and staff. Analysis by council officers indicated that three out of four options were not viable. The Parent Council agreed with this and supports the option which forms this proposal, namely to relocate Loreburn Primary School.

3.2 The council set out its proposal to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus and the associated educational benefits. HM Inspectors agree that if all the planned renovations are carried out, then relocation to the Minerva building and Dumfries Academy has potential to improve the learning environment for children, staff and other stakeholders. The co-location has potential to enhance access to specialist staff, resources and collaboration between primary and secondary teaching staff. Improved accessibility following the renovation of the Minerva building should enable more inclusive opportunities for children and young people to learn. However, HM Inspectors believe that the educational benefits of the proposal need to be expanded upon in the final consultation report.

3.3 HM Inspectors met with pupils, parents, staff, including headteachers and other stakeholders. All were supportive of the proposal. However, almost all of those who met with HM Inspectors raised concerns regarding the availability of safe, green outdoor space and safe routes to school, particularly during building work at Dumfries Academy campus.

3.4 Children who met with HM Inspectors are looking forward to bigger classrooms and physical education space. However, a few are concerned about access to toilet facilities and sharing a building with older children and young people. A few secondary school pupils are concerned about disruption during the transition period and ongoing co-location.

3.5 Almost all of the children, young people and teaching staff who met with HM Inspectors have concerns around the shared use of the Minerva building. These include noise levels and the need for sufficient parking. Further clarification from the council on how the building will be configured to ensure the needs and concerns of both schools are taken into account would be beneficial. Similarly, stakeholders would benefit from further information relating to access to the Bridge education facility, and how this might impact on its future use by children attending Loreburn Primary School.



## 4. Summary

The council's proposal provides a strong case to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus. HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits as set out in the proposal, however, these need to be expanded in the final consultation report. If the proposal proceeds, it has potential to improve the environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and potentially improved outcomes for learners. Although all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal, they raised a few concerns around the planned shared use of the Minerva building. In its final consultation report, the council will need to consider how they intend to address these concerns.

**HM Inspectors**  
**December 2022**

31/10/22

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Appendix D



### Loreburn Pupil Consultation

<b>Are there any advantages of this proposed change?</b>	Safety - no unused unsafe buildings in our playground. Nicer school grounds. Minerva is nicer inside
<b>Are there any disadvantages of this proposed change?</b>	Younger pupils might be afraid of Sb at the academy
<b>Do you have any suggestions for an alternative to the proposal?</b>	Build a new modern school in town centre. Knock this school down and build school here.
<b>Do you have any other thoughts or comments about this proposed change?</b>	Both current school and Minerva are near roads.
<b>Do you think the change suggested in the proposal should be carried out? Why?</b>	Majority of pupils spoken to think the proposal should be carried out.

Karen Byden - Education Officer  
Martin Armstrong - Education Officer

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