

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DECEMBER 2020

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

**MERGER OF DALES PARK
AND MEETHILL SCHOOLS WITHIN
PETERHEAD COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

**Consultation open between
7 December 2020 – 26 February 2021**

**If you have difficulty reading this document please contact
the Learning Estates Team on 01771 676600 or
LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

Proposal for the future provision of primary education within the Peterhead area

SUMMARY PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

Education provision at the existing Dales Park and Meethill Schools should be discontinued with effect from July 2025.

Existing and future pupils of Dales Park and Meethill Schools should continue their education within the new Peterhead Community Campus located at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead from August 2025.

This document has been issued by Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The Act requires that changes to the school estates, include the proposed relocation and merger of schools are subject to rigorous statutory consultation.

The schools affected by this proposal are:

Dales Park School
Meethill School

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website:
<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/> or by e-mailing:
LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This document will be provided to: -

- Parent Councils of Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Parents of nursery/primary pupils of Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Pupils at Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Staff at Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Relevant users of Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Early Years Partner Providers within Peterhead
- Pupil Councils at Dales Park and Meethill Schools
- Education Scotland
- Peterhead Community Council
- Trade Union representatives of the above staff
- Local Councillors

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Aberdeenshire Council, Buchan House, St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QF
- Peterhead Library, St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QD (subject to COVID-19 restrictions)
- Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre, Balmoor Terrace, Peterhead, AB42 1EP (subject to COVID-19 restrictions)
- Learning Estates Team. Call 01771 676600 or email LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to request a copy

1 Legislative Background

- 1.1 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 (Section 1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavor to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (Section 3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000).

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all pupils in its schools.
- 2.2 On 31 October 2013 Education, Learning and Leisure Committee approved the adoption of a set of principles in relation to the Learning Estate. It was agreed that a workshop should be held with elected members and stakeholders to apply strategic principles to the Peterhead network.
- 2.3 On 26 March 2015 the Learning Estates Strategy was presented at Education, Learning and Leisure Committee which stated the approach in Peterhead, following extensive local engagement, provides education and other benefits for pupils, parents and the wider community in a way which is sustainable in the longer term.
- 2.4 Peterhead Community Campus project has been a Council priority since 2016 and has been a project within the Education & Children's Services Service Plan 2016-2019.
- 2.5 Extensive engagement of stakeholder events has taken place since 2016 as part of the development process for the campus. In February 2017, Aberdeenshire Council agreed to bring the Peterhead Community Campus project forward through the Asset Management Development Group and thereafter to Committee.
- 2.6 At Education & Children's Committee and at Communities Committee in March 2017 it was agreed that two options would be further explored.
- 2.7 At the full meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 8 February 2018 a replacement Community Campus at Peterhead was agreed for the Aberdeenshire Council's Capital Plan and at its meeting on 27 June 2019 the site at Kinmundy was approved.
- 2.8 On 3 December 2020, Aberdeenshire Council Education & Children's Services Committee were asked to agree to the commencement of a statutory consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained within the document until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will make a decision on the proposal.

- 2.9 The Peterhead Cluster consists of ten primary schools, Boddam, Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Meethill, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus. One secondary school, Peterhead Academy and one special school, Anna Ritchie School. All schools are located within the Buchan area of Aberdeenshire.
- 2.10 Longhaven School is currently mothballed and the subject of a separate engagement.
- 2.11 This proposal document is focused upon two primary schools within the Peterhead Cluster, Dales Park and Meethill within the town of Peterhead.
- 2.12 The distance between Dales Park and Meethill Schools is 0.5 miles, both Schools are approximately one mile from the Peterhead Community Campus.
- 2.13 This consultation focuses solely upon the merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools at the Peterhead Community Campus. Other elements of the campus will be subject to separate engagements.
- 2.14 This proposal does not impact upon secondary provision at Peterhead Academy.
- 2.15 This proposal document contains maps. Pdf copies of all maps will also be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website at the address given at the beginning of this document. Printed copies of the maps will also be available at Peterhead Library, Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre and at Aberdeenshire Council, Buchan House, Peterhead.
- 2.16 The consultation will run from 7 December 2020 until 26 February 2021. A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal at 6.30pm on 3 February 2021 within the Theatre at Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre, Balmoor Terrace, Peterhead, AB42 1EP. A link to the meeting will also be made available and can be found <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>
- 2.17 The consultation process for this proposal is set out in detail within Section 12.

3 Reason for Proposal

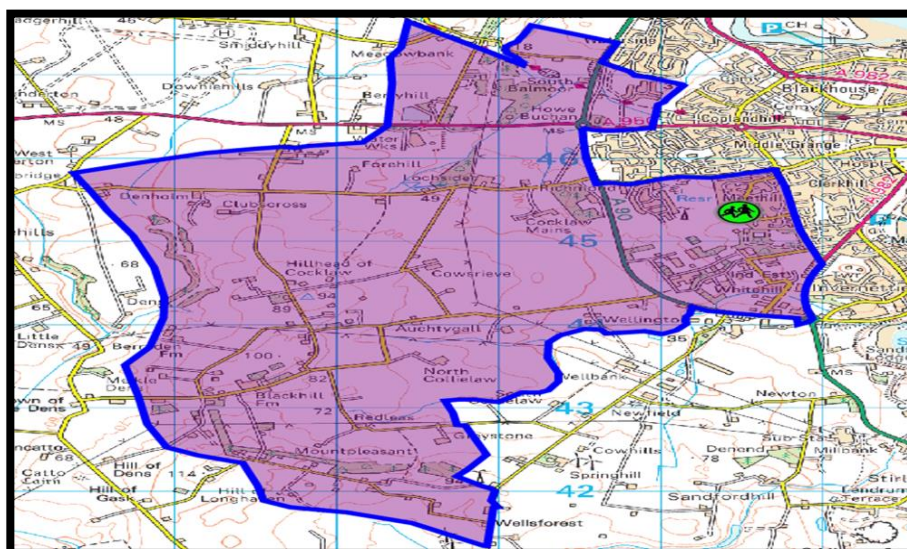
- 3.1 A series of stakeholder events regarding Peterhead Community Campus have taken place since 2016. During February and March 2019 informal engagements were held within Peterhead to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the project.
- 3.2 The current proposal follows informal discussions between Aberdeenshire Council officials, local elected members, and community members. Informal meetings with the community were held during October and November 2019.
- 3.3 On 1 and 2 October 2019 the Learning Estates Team hosted two engagement drop-in sessions for parents/carers of Dales Park and Meethill Schools within Peterhead.
- 3.4 For further engagement an online survey was also circulated to all nursery and primary school parents/carers within the Peterhead Cluster on 11 October 2019, enabling them the opportunity to express their views on Primary School provision at the proposed new Community Campus.

- 3.5 On 29 and 30 January 2020 further assemblies were held for pupils showing the facilities that are within a new build primary school. Further engagement sessions were also held on those days for parents of pre school pupils and evening workshops took place to encourage parents to share their views.
- 3.6 These informal meetings and survey results proved very useful as participants expressed views on the merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools at the Kinmundy site.
- 3.7 The questions raised during the various informal engagement sessions and online survey were addressed within Appendix 1. This document was also distributed to all parents/carers concerned on 13 March 2020. A particular concern was the use of the existing site at Meethill School. Accordingly officers will work with parents and the wider community to identify appropriate uses for this site, adhering to the council disposal policy, in a way which will may add to the local facilities. All options will be considered including using the area for recreational use.
- 3.8 Of the 10 Primary Schools within the Peterhead Cluster six are within the town of Peterhead; Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Meethill and Peterhead Central.
- 3.9 As part of the Peterhead Master Plan a 120 place nursery is currently under construction at the Kinmundy site which will be completed in August 2021.

Dales Park

- 3.10 Dales Park School is situated in Berryden Road, Peterhead, at the South West of Peterhead. The school is an open plan building constructed in 1978. Between 2000 and 2005, the water tank was replaced as well as an upgrade to the kitchen ventilation system, boiler, lighting and windows. It has also received some general maintenance and minor upgrades.
- 3.11 Dales Park School is the designated Enhanced Provision Centre for the Peterhead area with adapted facilities for pupils with additional needs. The school complies with the Equality Act (2010).
- 3.12 The catchment area for Dales Park School is shown in the Map 1 below.

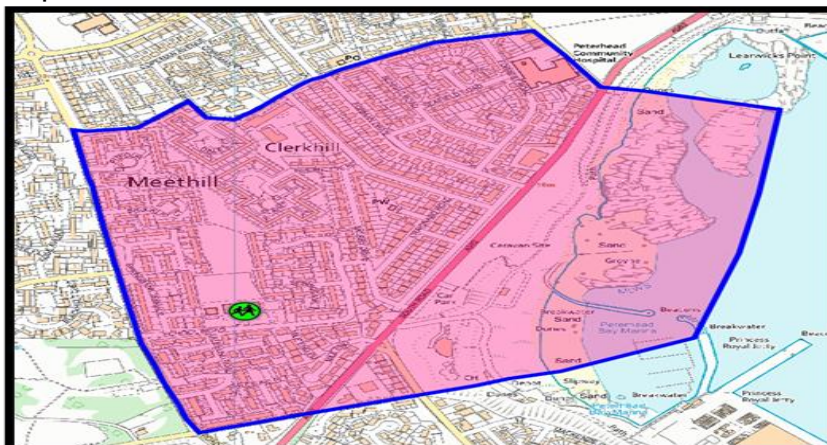
Map 1 – Catchment area of Dales Park School



- 3.13 Dales Park School has capacity for 317 pupils. There are currently 13 classes as the current roll at Dales Park School is 251 pupils (SEEMIS extract on 21 September 2020). This represents 79% use of capacity.
- 3.14 The nursery at Dales Park School runs two sessions per day and has capacity for 40 pupils during each session, their current roll is 63 pupils. The 1140 hours will be introduced at the nursery from August 2021.
- 3.15 Dales Park School is divided into four separate teaching areas, with the library dispersed throughout the school. There is also a large multi-purpose hall and open plan dining area. There are two courtyard areas, one is being developed as a garden area. The other includes a climbing frame and is used by Early Learning (ELCC) and Early Stages for outdoor learning.
- 3.16 The extensive playground is mostly grass with several tarred areas, some marked with playground games. The front of the school is used by the ELCC as an outdoor learning area. Bulbs have been planted around the playground and planters are cared for by different pupil groups. A small seating area is available, including benches with wheelchair access.
- 3.17 The school includes a Multi-Sensory Room, Therapy Room and Life Skills Room as additional learning spaces to meet the requirements of enhanced provision.
- 3.18 The Enhanced Provision caters for a maximum of ten pupils with a range of additional support needs. For the majority of the curriculum these pupils access mainstream classes and receive additional support for literacy and numeracy.
- 3.19 Prior to March 2020 Dales Park School ran a breakfast club. It is hoped that this will re-instated when COVID-19 restrictions change.

Meethill School

- 3.20 Meethill School is situated in the south of Peterhead in School Road, Peterhead, and opened in 1973. The school has been well maintained and received an upgrade to the nursery during 2000 and the kitchen ventilation in 2005, as well as general maintenance and minor upgrades.
- 3.21 The catchment area for Meethill School is shown in Map 2 below.
Map 2 – Catchment area of Meethill School



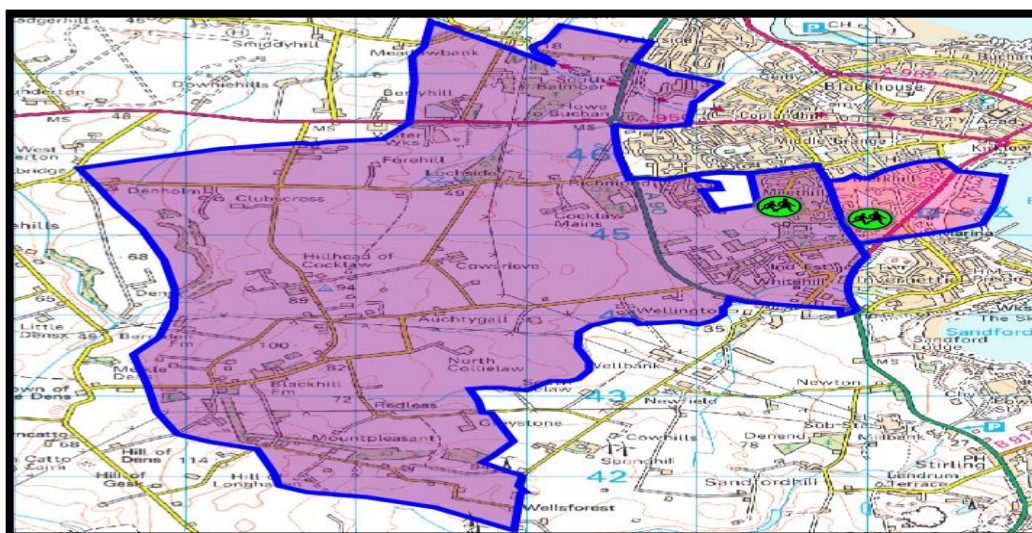
- 3.22 Meethill School and has capacity for 279 pupils. There are currently 11 classes as the current roll at Meethill School is 202 pupils (SEEMIS extract on 21 September 2020). This represents 72% use of capacity.
- 3.23 The nursery at Meethill School currently has two sessions each day and the capacity for 40 pupils at each session, currently there are 43 pupils attending the sessions. The 1140 hours will be introduced at the nursery from August 2021.
- 3.24 The accommodation includes the main school building and a separate built nursery unit. The main building comprises of two open plan teaching areas, administration offices, the main hall, a learning hub, a quiet room, staff room and a dining hall. The nursery block is also open plan in design.
- 3.25 The outside area consists of a concrete playground surrounding the school with a grass and playing equipment to the front of the school and an additional grass area to the rear of the school.
- 3.26 Meethill School does not operate a breakfast club or after school club.
- 3.27 Suitability is a measure on whether a school is fit for the purpose of delivering the education curriculum. Dales Park School overall suitability grading is “A (86.78%) – Good”, performing well and operating efficiently (school buildings and grounds support the delivery of the service).
- 3.28 Meethill School overall suitability grading is “B (71.73%) – Satisfactory”, performing well but with minor problems (school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services).
- 3.29 The existing condition of a school is concerned with the current state of the fabric of the school and with safety and security. Dales Park and Meethill School are scored “B – Satisfactory”, performing adequately but showing minor deterioration (physical element carries out function satisfactorily, many show signs of age and including consideration of some transverse elements) for condition.
- 3.30 Suitability and condition are both outlined in the Core Facts returns that are submitted annually to the Scottish Government.
- 3.31 Both Dales Park and Meethill Schools are classed as “other urban” by the Scottish Government, settlements with population between 10,000 and 124,999.
- 3.32 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that when a school is to be relocated then a consultation must be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders.

4 Details of the Proposal

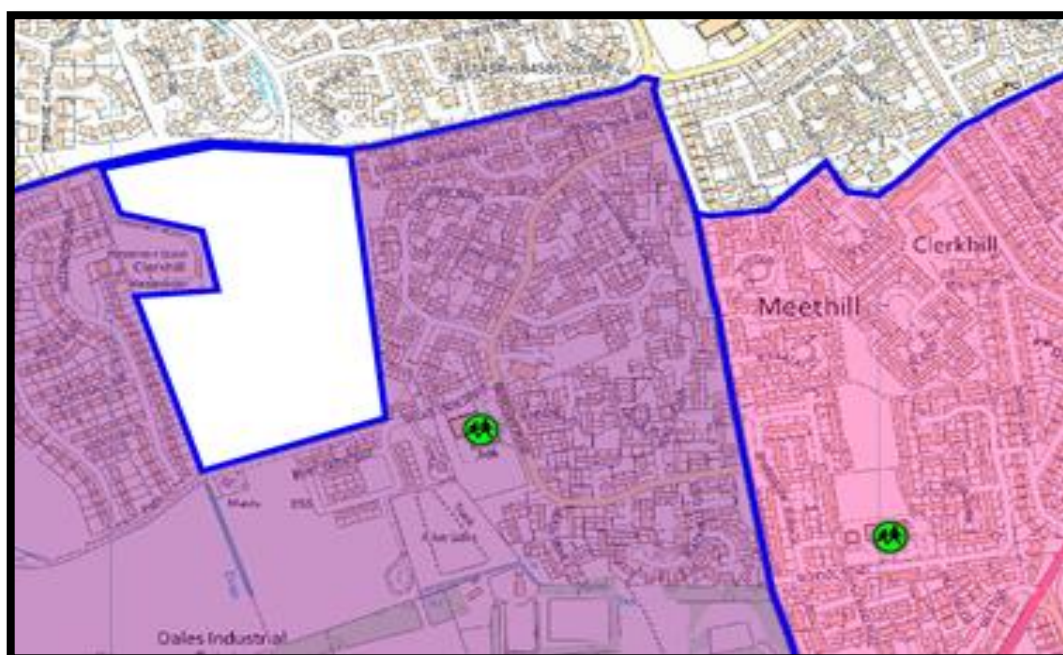
- 4.1 Since 2016, a number of options have been explored for the possible location for the Peterhead Community Campus, including site investigations. Following a number of engagement sessions during February and March 2019 the vast majority of the public voted for the site at Kinmundy as the preferred location for the new community campus. In June 2019 the site was approved by Aberdeenshire Council.

- 4.2 The Council has approved the replacement of the current Peterhead Academy as part of a new campus development, funded by the Scottish Government, and at its full meeting in February 2018 the Peterhead Community Campus project is within the Council's Capital Plan.
- 4.3 The community campus gives opportunity to include primary education therefore this proposal is to merge both Dales Park and Meethill Schools into a single primary school at the new Peterhead Community Campus.
- 4.4 To ensure a holistic approach has been adopted, it was important to engage widely and consider ways to improve educational, social and related opportunities for all children, young people and the wider community. Accordingly, informal engagement with both Dales Park and Meethill School staff, parents and carers was an essential part of this process. This engagement process identified opportunities for both Schools.
- 4.5 The Kinmundy site is within the Dales Park School catchment area and is approximately one mile from both Dales Park and Meethill Schools. It will have minimal impact on travel time for pupils attending the new school who are currently transported by bus or by car. There may be an increase in travel time to school for pupils who walk or cycle to and from school. Pupils from the current Meethill catchment will have to cross Meethill Road.
- 4.6 Concerns have been raised regarding pupils crossing Meethill Road to the Kinmundy site. A full and thorough assessment of safe walking routes to school would be required and any safety measures identified would need to be implemented before the new primary school opens.
- 4.7 In accordance with Aberdeenshire Council Policy, pupils living out with two miles of the new school at the Kinmundy site would have an entitlement to school transport.
- 4.8 The location of the existing Dales Park and Meethill Schools, catchment areas and the site at Kinmundy are shown in Map 3 below. Map 4 shows the Kinmundy site in proximity to Dales Park and Meethill Schools.

Map 3 – Catchment areas of Dales Park, Meethill School and Kinmundy site



Map 4 - Kinmundy site in proximity to Dales Park and Meethill Schools



4.9 The name of the new merged school and the uniform would be subject to further engagement prior to the opening, as the schools are merging it may not be appropriate to name the new school either 'Dales Park' or 'Meethill'. The pupils at the school and the local community would be involved in deciding what the new school name and uniform will be.

4.10 Table 1 and 2 below show the current school roll forecast for Dales Park and Meethill Schools. These figures are working data based on the rolls during census week (21 September 2020). These differ from the 2019 published school roll forecasts which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/school-roll-forecasts/>

Table 1 – Dales Park

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	251	279	327	346	369	372	374	359

Table 2 – Meethill School

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	202	197	212	210	200	205	195	187

4.11 The combined school roll forecast for Dales Park and Meethill School is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Combined Dales Park and Meethill

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	453	476	539	556	569	577	569	546

- 4.12 The primary element of the community campus will be designed for the capacity of 600 pupils. An assessment of school catchments can be carried out before the opening of the campus to ensure it does not exceed capacity and to ensure the sustainability of the remaining schools.

5 Educational Benefit Statement

5.1 Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy 'Connecting People, Places and Learning', which was developed by Scottish Government and COSLA, contains ten guiding principles. Local Authorities are required to take account of these principles in planning changes to their school estate, namely;

- Learning environments should support and facilities excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of the learners;
- Learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transition for all learners;
- The learning estates should be well managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximizing occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
- The condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
- Learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;
- Learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled;
- Outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximized;
- Good consultation about learning environments, direct manage with learning and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- Collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximizing its full potential;
- Investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

5.2 In 2013 Aberdeenshire Council set minimum standards for the various elements of educational buildings to achieve optimal educational benefit, which were approved by committee;

- Accommodation should ensure delivery of the curriculum in accordance with modern standards and in particular physical education (two hours minimum national standard); play spaces; social spaces; dining experience;
- Provision for pre-school and ante pre-schools
- Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs;
- Full compliance with the Equalities Act 2012;
- Provision of on-site playing fields;
- Provision on on-site car and bus parking and turning areas, with good segregation of pedestrians and vehicles;
- Provision of accommodation for non-teaching staff and non-class contact elements of the work of teaching staff

- 5.3 In October 2018 the ECS Committee approved a Strategic Approach to the Learning Estate for Aberdeenshire Primary Schools.
- 5.4 The proposal presents an opportunity to develop a sense of belonging, engagement and ownership for all pupils and staff across an inclusive campus with a richer cultural and learning experience. Co-location of specialist and mainstream schools could promote wider staff awareness, understanding and celebration of diversity and raise expectations of professional behaviour and practice.
- 5.5 Opportunities for inclusive and collaborative learning (where appropriate) through access to flexible learning spaces can further promote positive attitudes to diversity and difference.
- 5.6 The proposal would provide an improved wireless-enabled learning environment to allow use of mobile devices throughout the campus, and promote digital literacy and independence in learning. Further, the increased use of mobile devices would promote the use of specialist and alternative technologies for pupils with speech, language and communication needs as they access the wider learning environment across the campus.
- 5.7 The new building will be fully responsive to future learning requirements and the design process will ensure that all spaces support learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum.
- 5.8 The proposal will enhance learning for all pupils across the campus by improving the depth, breadth, coherence, relevance, challenge, and enjoyment provided by the curriculum.
- 5.9 Facilities such as science labs, technology workshops, music suites, drama suites, dance studios and libraries will support and enhance learning as well as supporting transitions. These facilities will also benefit pupils who access mainstream/Enhanced Provision learning arrangements across the wider campus. With carefully considered timetabling, pre-school and primary-aged pupils would have access to these spaces and facilities across the campus.
- 5.10 Both pupils and staff will benefit from access to a range of learning spaces and resources, such as science labs, technology workshops, drama suites, dance studios and libraries. Access to these resources would facilitate a personalised approach to curriculum delivery as well as supporting transitions.
- 5.11 Primary pupils will have access to all spaces and facilities across the campus, although consideration would need to be given to the movement of younger children around the campus through careful timetabling.
- 5.12 The new campus will provide a high-quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for a range of school activities, including before and after school. This level of holistic care ensures pupils are supported to develop personal and wider achievement.

- 5.13 A new campus with shared and flexible learning spaces would encourage staff to work collaboratively and provide more opportunities for pupils to work co-operatively supporting depth, pace, and challenge to learning.
- 5.14 Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of learning and teaching approaches including active, interdisciplinary, and outdoor learning. New and flexible learning environments inspire pupils and have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. They can also increase ethos, aspirations, attainment, achievement, and positive destinations beyond school.
- 5.15 The new campus will ensure that accessibility for all including learners with disabilities complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act (2010). It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learning including those with Additional Support Needs.
- 5.16 The new Peterhead Community Campus will include new community and sports facilities which will significantly enhance opportunities for Physical Education and related activities. Pupils will have the opportunity to receive all their educational entitlement at the same location supporting them to make links within and across disciplines through interdisciplinary learning adding depth and relevance to experiences. It would be expected that these improvements in facilities and the associated impact on practices would have a positive impact on Health and Wellbeing.
- 5.17 The proposal will provide an improved working environment and access to modern resources and facilities. Being part of a larger professional community, including primary, secondary, special school and enhanced provision will promote opportunities for joint professional development and increased opportunities for leadership development. A greater concentration of teaching staff in one location, with a broader range of staff experience will allow for better sharing of good practice as well as a broader range of materials and resources. Staff will be able to work more collaboratively and effectively on improving professional and reflective practice and self-evaluation.
- 5.18 The new campus will provide excellent facilities for children, families, and other users out with core school hours and will support engagement across the community.
- 5.19 A wider pool of community support and expertise will be available. This extended network will provide opportunities to enhance learning, support after school activities and ensure pupils have access to community and business opportunities which will support the development of skills for learning, life and work.
- 5.20 There could be an opportunity to provide a Breakfast or After School Club within the campus.
- 5.21 Pupils from Meethill will benefit from a range of resources not currently available to them including a sensory room, dark room, nurture, and life skills areas as well as low stimulation areas, disabled parking and disabled toilets. Pupils will further benefit from improved dining facilities and an increased range of state-of-the-art sports resources as well as improved access to digital learning.

- 5.22 Both schools will benefit from designated nurture spaces which support individual and small group work.
- 5.23 Pupils, parents, carers and the extended community from Dales Park and Meethill would benefit from cross generational learning, activities and wrap around care which could be supported by the campus. This opportunity to enhance partnerships, co-operation and collaboration places learning at the heart of strong community partnerships and ambitions for the future.
- 5.24 Dales Park pupils will benefit from increased circulation space, improved dining facilities and additional space to support collaborative activities as well as state of the art sports resources and improved access to digital learning.
- 5.25 Pupils from both schools will be able to work collaboratively to develop and personalise their identity as a newly formed school community. They will be supported to identify existing partnerships they wish to sustain and to identify key values and ways of working they want to embody in the life and work of the community campus.
- 5.26 At both schools pupils are encouraged to participate in a range of pupil groups. Currently Dales Park have Pupil Council, House Captains, Rights Respecting School and an Eco Committee. Meethill School have Pupil Council, House Captains, Eco Committee and a P7 Buddy System.
- 5.27 Within the larger school pupils will have the opportunity to develop wider relationships and friendships which will see them better prepared to meet the social and learning opportunity and challenges ahead in the context of a secondary school with the capacity of 1400 pupils. This is important in terms of developing their education through their school journey.
- 5.28 There will be a greater number of staff than at either Dales Park or Meethill Schools. This will result in an increased range of staff specialism. Knowledge, expertise, skills and talent as well as increased scope in the deployment of staff to meet the needs of respond to the differing interests and curricular choices of individuals. There will also be an opportunity to share experiences with staff from Anna Ritchie School.
- 5.29 Through a newly reformed Parent Council, parents from both schools will have the opportunity to become part of a large parent community, providing more opportunities to engage in their children's learning and development. The benefits of parental involvement in their children's education are clearly recognised and any increased in parental involvement has the potential to directly benefit children and their learning.

6 Alternatives to the proposal

6.1 A range of alternative possibilities have been considered as noted below;

- Continuing the status quo with Dales Park and Meethill School remaining in situ.
- Relocate one primary school only.
- The inclusion of other primary schools within the community campus.

6.2 These have been discounted for the following reasons;

- Government Guidelines within the Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy "Connecting People, Places and Learning" Guiding Principle states that "The Learning Estate should be well managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value."
- The council's aims to provide the best possible education opportunities for the young people educated within the schools.
- School criteria of combined capacity, locations, pupils rolls and trends, and the learning estate core facts.
- The council aims to reduce the overall number of buildings which will result in a reduction of carbon footprint and energy consumption.
- Education and Children's Services want to deliver improvements for the estate that will impact the greatest number of buildings

7 Effect on the local community

7.1 This proposal will not negatively impact on local, social or economic activities.

7.2 The new school co-located in the community campus will have access to comprehensive purpose-built community and leisure facilities as part of the complex.

7.3 The community campus will extend and enhance availability for groups and individuals to make use of the facilities available through the letting system. Members of the community will be able to access the community and leisure facilities and a range of specific facilities located at the Community Campus.

8 School Transport

8.1 Currently there are eight pupils who are transported to Dales Park School by an "In house" vehicle to Dales Park School.

8.2 There are no pupils currently receiving school transport to Meethill School.

8.3 Given that the site at Kinmundy is approximately one mile from both Dales Park and Meethill Schools, it is not anticipated that there will any changes to current school transport arrangements.

8.4 Travel times for pupils commuting to the new Community Campus on foot would vary from the commuting time to either Dales Park or Meethill Schools, this would either be an increase or decrease depending on where they reside.

- 8.5 Travel times for pupils commuting to schools by either bus or car would also change slightly depending on where they reside.
- 8.6 As mentioned in paragraph 4.6 above concerns have been expressed regarding pupils crossing Meethill Road. A full and thorough assessment of safe walking routes to school would be required and any safety measures identified would need to be implemented before the new primary school opens.

Map 5 and Table 4 below shows the distance to either Dales Park or Meethill School compared the distance to the Kinmundy site.

Map 5

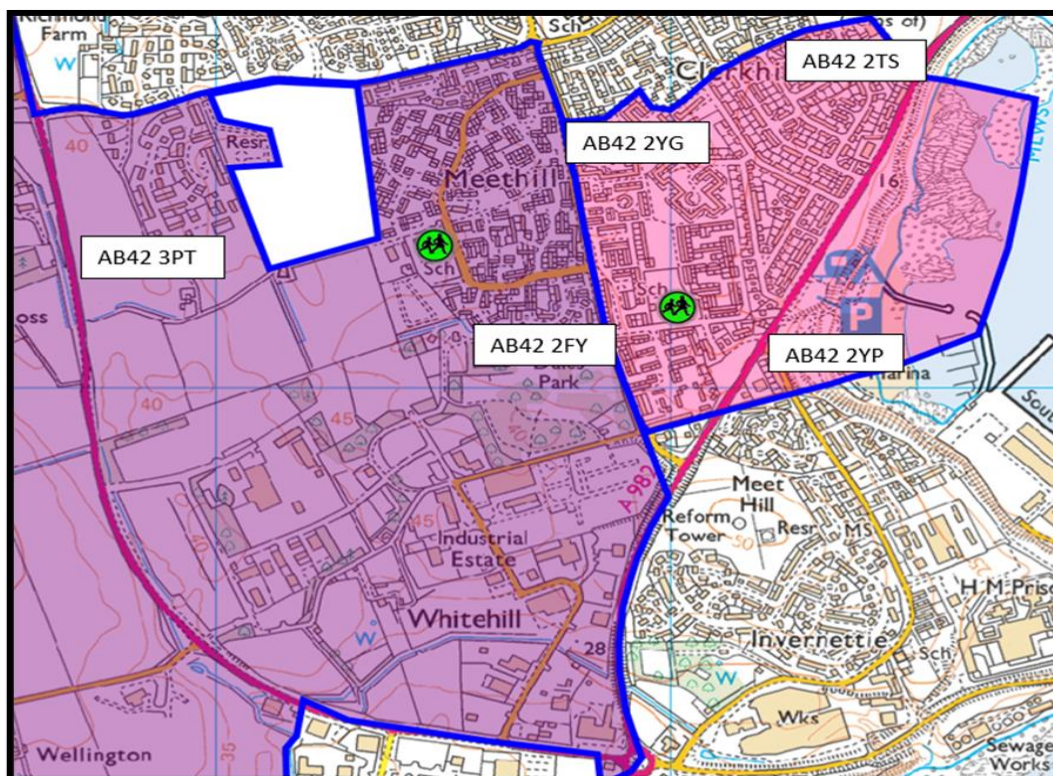


Table 4 – Distance to Dales Park or Meethill Schools

Post Code	Distance to Meethill School	Distance to Dales Park School	Distance to Kinmundy Site
AB42 2TS	0.7 miles	-	0.9 miles
AB42 2YP	0.5 miles	-	1.2 miles
AB42 2YG	0.4 miles	-	0.6 miles
AB42 3PT	-	1.1 miles	0.4 miles
AB42 2FY	-	0.2 miles	0.8 miles

9 Sustainability

- 9.1 Sustainability is a key factor in the design of the new school and is being incorporated into every feasible aspect. This ranges from the materials used in construction, to the heating system and the lighting provided, and the landscaping of the external site to encourage biodiversity.

- 9.2 The new schools design, construction and operation will be environmentally and energy efficient; contributing directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 9.3 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with short-term targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. The Council have an essential role in supporting the Scottish Government in meeting its targets.
- 9.4 Managing and reducing carbon footprints forms part of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy in order to generate a substantial CO₂ emission and energy consumption reduction and as a result significant costs savings.
- 9.5 Expansion of outdoor learning and increased use of outdoor learning environments will have an essential impact on reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable learning environments will support adaptation to continuous climate changes.
- 9.6 Any changes to transport arrangements will be minimal which will have a minimal environmental impact.

10 Equal Opportunities

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a statutory requirement of the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. It also affords an opportunity for the Council to consider the impact on the education service. In addition, an EIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children and parents.
- 10.2 The aim of an EIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 10.3 Careful transition planning will ensure positive transition to the community campus. Individual plans will allow for enhanced transitions.
- 10.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
- 10.5 Under the Equality Act 2010 education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favorably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. Existing arrangements in place for pupils with additional support needs within either Dales Park or Meethill Schools will continue. The new Peterhead Community Campus will be fully accessible and designed to be inclusive, and would not have a negative impact on any child who has a disability.

11 Implications for staff

- 11.1 On completion of the new community campus at Kinmundy it is anticipated that teaching and support staff based at the existing school will transfer to the new school, in line with their existing contract and HR & OD policies and procedures.
- 11.2 There are no anticipated negative implications for school staffing beyond relocation of workplace.
- 11.3 Further consultation is required with reference to catering and janitorial staffing, and officers will liaise closely with relevant staff members within the context of the wider project development.
- 11.4 Consultation will take place with individual members of staff themselves and with Trade Unions representing these staff at a time closer to the opening of the new school, should this proposal be accepted.

12 Consultation Arrangements

- 12.1 At its meeting on 8 October 2020 Aberdeenshire Council's Education & Children's Services agreed to adopt the proposal to relocate Peterhead Academy to the new Community Campus at Kinmundy.
- 12.2 At its meeting on 3 December 2020, Aberdeenshire Council Education & Children's Services Committee were asked to agree to the commencement of a statutory consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained within the document until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will make a decision on the proposal.
- 12.3 As this consultation is occurring as part of wider capital building project, activity will continue in terms of the planning process to ensure that if this proposal is accepted the building programme will be able to finish within the timescales required set for securing the funding from the Scottish Government.
- 12.4 The period for consultation will extend from 7 December 2020 until 26 February 2021 which covers a minimum period of 30 school days.
- 12.5 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to all of the consultees listed on the first page of this document and it will also be published on the Council's website: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>
- 12.6 A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal at 6.30pm on 3 February 2021 within the Theatre, Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre, Balmoor Terrace, Peterhead. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting must book a place through Eventbrite. Details on how to book a ticket at the face to face public meeting or to attend the virtual meeting will be available one week prior to the meeting on the following web page <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>. Anyone who has difficulties booking a place should contact the Learning Estates Team at LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or 01771 676600. The meeting will be convened by the Council and the Council will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal.

- 12.7 A meeting will be organised for Dales Park and Meethill School staff to discuss the proposal and opportunities will be arranged for all current pupils at the school to engage in the consultation.
- 12.8 An online survey will be available as part of the consultation. This can be completed at the following address: [OnlineSurvey/MergerDalesPark&Meethill](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-survey/mergerdalespark&meethill)
- 12.9 The Council will also take into account any written comments which should be emailed to LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, any comments can be hand delivered or sent to Buchan House, St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QF. Any comments should be received no later than 5pm on 26 February 2021.
- 12.10 A copy of this document will also be sent to Education Scotland. They will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation period. They will also receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public meeting and a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, they may visit the school and make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

13 Consideration of Consultation Responses

- 13.1 The Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. The Council will then prepare a report on the consultation, this report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be available on the Council website and Buchan House, Peterhead. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.
- 13.2 The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The report will also contain a statement explaining how the Council has complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.
- 13.3 The Consultation Report will be published at least three weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

14 Decision making

- 14.1 The consultation report will be considered firstly by the Buchan Area Committee who will be asked to make a recommendation as to whether the proposed changes are implemented.
- 14.2 Following discussion at Buchan Area Committee, Education and Children's Services Committee will consider the report and be asked to make a recommendation to Full Council. This is expected to be during Summer 2021.

15 Conclusion

- 15.1 There are strong educational and financial arguments in favour of this proposal.
- 15.2 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the provision of primary education within the Peterhead area.