

Appendix 2



Stirling and Clackmannanshire Education Service



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

Abercromby Primary School



Summary Report

Abercromby Primary School

Abercromby Primary School was built in 1951. The majority of the school is single storey with flat roof with the exception of a 2 storey viewing area and store to the assembly hall and duplex height of the assembly hall and gymnasium.

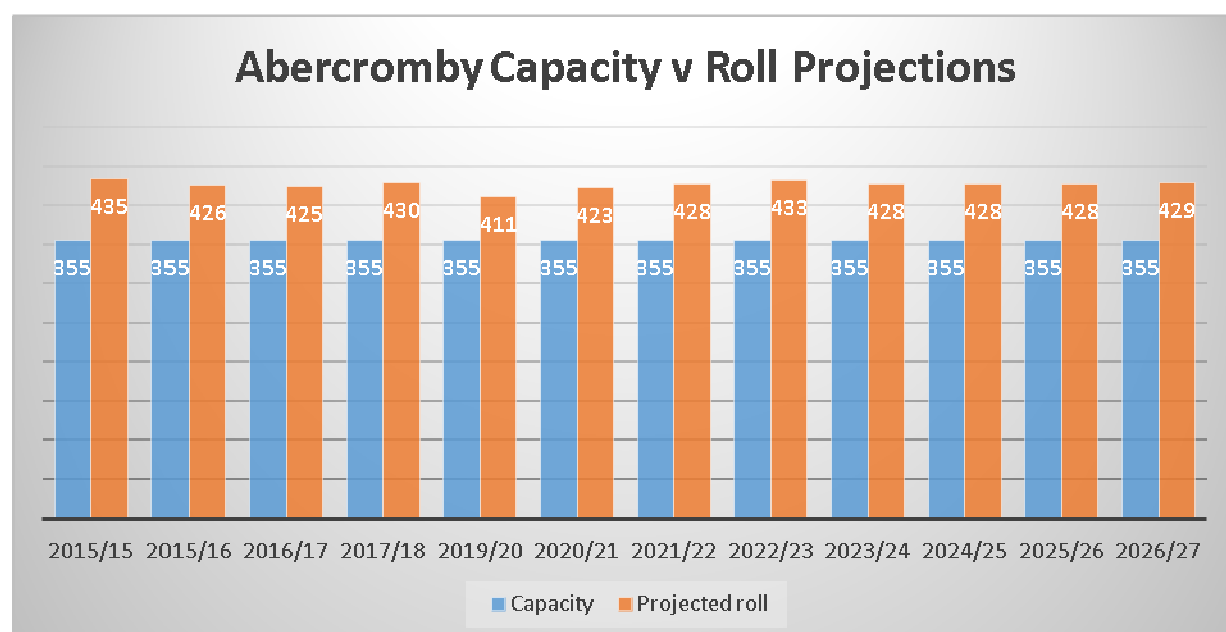
The school is located on School Road in Tullibody and provides education facilities for approximately 425 pupils from a mixed catchment area of local authority and private housing developments.

The main school comprises 17 classrooms, a dining room with a servery, a gymnasium and an assembly hall. Four classrooms are included in a separate annexe located at the south side of the building..

In 1985 a purpose-built nursery unit was constructed located to the rear of the school grounds. The nursery has a capacity of 60 pupils per session.

Capacity

The working capacity for Abercromby Primary School is 355 pupils. Currently the school roll is sitting at 425 pupils. As can be seen from the graph below roll projections suggest that capacity issues will remain for the foreseeable future.



The school operating well above its working capacity and available space at a premium, this is having a detrimental knock on effect on the learning and teaching experience for the pupils.

Condition

As of June 2014 Abercromby Primary School is rated as a borderline 'B' condition school scoring 61.94 is the most recent condition survey. The condition survey identified that £1.054m was required to be spent over the next five years to allow the school to remain in 'B' condition. Elements of the school were rated as 'C' condition (i.e. Poor). These include:-

- Internal Walls, Windows and Doors
- Sanitary Services
- Mechanical Services
- Electrical Services
- Fixed Internal Facilities.

Suitability

Abercromby Primary School was rated 'C' category school in terms of the most recent suitability survey carried out in October 2014.

The main issues arising from the suitability survey include:-

Functionality: Classrooms are a mix of sizes. Some classes in the main building are relatively large and bright. Capacity issues however, mean that all classes in school are full and although children can be seated reasonably comfortably there is very little space for group/independent working with the classrooms. This is a particular issue with classrooms in the infant and senior annexes.

There are no breakout spaces for a large proportion of the pupils to do any group/individual or independent working. There is no space for private study anywhere in the school. All spaces within the school are used for basic functions which leads to a lack of flexibility within learning spaces.

Accessibility: The school has three separate buildings which gives rise to accessibility issues. Communication between the buildings can be challenging – the school uses walkie-talkies to communicate. The transportation of ICT equipment is a further challenge.

Ramps have been fitted to offer entrance and safe exits at various points throughout the school but the location of these means that children with disabilities are frequently managed in a different way to their peers – i.e. they enter and exit via different doors etc. The location of some rooms make it impossible for some children with disabilities to be housed in these classes. Therefore, some classes do not follow the usual transition from classroom to classroom.

Environmental Condition: Temperature causes difficulties in some areas of the school. Due to limited space and full capacity, the annexe can be very stuffy and uncomfortable. In the summer months temperatures can build to unacceptable levels. The main corridor classrooms are generally well heated and ventilated. The administration block however, and the infant annexe remain very cold at times. These rooms are heated using fan heaters, otherwise they would be unusable in the winter months.

Safety and Security: Having three buildings increases the risk that the school can at times be insecure. Children and adults move between the buildings and the doors can at times, be left open. The location of the toilets is of major concern. The access doors to the school need to be left open to allow access to the toilet during break and lunch leaving the school insecure for periods of time. No workable solution to this problem has yet been found.

Fixed Furniture and Fittings: Storage in the school is inadequate. To house rising population much of the original storage space has been altered to create more working space which has increased pressure on classrooms, e.g. cloakrooms have had to be changed to create a nurture room, a music room and IT suite.

IT connection and capacity is a major issue for the school.

Internal Social Spaces: The main hall is large and spacious and in a good condition. Over capacity however, means that this is no longer large enough for whole school events. Whole school events are now being held in the civic centre (when available).

The dining hall is too small to meet the number of pupils. The dining space room limit is 76 for a school housing 425 pupils. The recent P1-3 trial has increased free school meal uptake by roughly 80 meals a day taking it to approx. 260 meals served per day. The kitchen is inadequate in terms of size.

The staffroom is adequate to meet the needs of the size of the staff.

There are no other social spaces.

Internal facilities: Space is an issue throughout the school. The reception area is very small and not large enough to meet the needs of a large school. Queues frequently form and at times will extend outside the school entrance.

Administration space is not adequate with both Depute Head Teachers (DHT) sharing an office which also doubles as the only meeting room in school thus meaning that DHTs cannot always access their work stations. The Head Teacher's office is also frequently used to house meetings meaning that Head Teacher cannot work in his office. Meetings sometimes have to be cancelled due to lack of space to hold them in.

The school library is now housed in two very small former offices – they have no reading/study/IT space. No more than 5 children can access the library at any one time.

Teachers in the annexe working after school hours can be left alone in that building giving rise to lone working concerns.

There are only two toilet cubicles for women – in excess of 60 female staff access the school building weekly.

Pupil toilets in the main building have been renovated and are of a good standard. There are however, only two toilets in the annexe serving up to 132 pupils.

There is a lack of cloakroom space. Cloakrooms had to be utilised to house learning space meaning that the cloakrooms now are inadequate. The cloakroom for the annexe is housed in an entirely separate building leading to security issues for pupils' belongings.

There are no lockers or space for lockers in the school for either staff or pupils.

External Social Spaces: The large veranda area cannot be used due to Health and Safety concerns – paving is badly damaged and dangerous. The Pupil Council is accessing 'Grounds for Learning' funding to improve the playground experience.

Parking is limited for a school of this size. There is only parking for roughly a third of the staff. The civic centre car park is use as a second staff and parent car park.

There is no CCTV.

Bike racks are inadequate. These are not covered and there are only 10 racks.

Summary

Abercromby Primary School will require considerable investment in the short term to remain in a satisfactory condition. The accommodation is restricted by both design and capacity pressures and as a result considerable investment will have to be made to ensure that not only is the building in an acceptable condition with sufficient accommodation to meet demand, but that it is also fit for purpose in terms of delivering an effective 21st century educational experience for the community it serves.