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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 8 March 2018**

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**Subject: Placing Request – Reserved Places**

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**Report by: Chief Education Officer**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This paper identifies the number of places requiring to be reserved in Clackmannanshire's schools during academic session 2018/19 to ensure there is sufficient provision for children at their local catchment schools. The Education service annually reviews the number of reserved places it needs in order to manage admission to schools to ensure children who move into school catchment areas after the normal enrolment can still be accommodated.
- 1.2. The Council's placing request policy provides for elected members to give permission for a certain number of reserved places every year. This paper updates the reserved places position for academic session 2018/19.
- 1.3. The paper provides information on the schools where it is recommended that places be reserved.

**2.0 Recommendations**

Clackmannanshire Council agrees to:

- 2.1 approve the recommended places to be reserved for catchment area children for session 2018/19 at the following primary schools : Abercromby, Craigbank, Park, Redwell, St Serf's, Strathdevon and Sunnyside and Lornshill Academy.
- 2.2 delegate authority to the Chief Education Officer to determine allocation of reserved places at specific year stages in each school.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents have the right to express a preference for their child to attend a school of their choice other than the local catchment school. The local authority accommodates these requests where it has no resource or other implication for the requested school.

- 3.2 The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 gives Education Authorities the power to reserve places at specific schools for children who move into school catchment areas after enrolment had been completed. Numbers can be significant through build or other factors. Reserved places may be allocated to particular year stages by the Chief Education Officer or nominated officer.
- 3.3 Clackmannanshire Council continues to experience pressure on school rolls in some schools. Provision for pupils moving into the catchment area needs to be made by utilising the reserved places legislation to reserve spaces within establishments and avoid the need for to provide alternative placements.
- 3.4 The Service continues to work closely with colleagues in Planning over the educational implications of new housing developments.
- 3.5 Places are reserved based on a combination of factors including:
- Anticipated capacity pressures due to planned house build within school catchment areas. Information on this is gathered from local land plan audit and meetings with the Council's planning service.
  - A history of late enrolment. In this context a late enrolment is defined as an enrolment that takes place after placing request decisions are made for the following academic year in April and the end of the session in June
  - The number and size of classes in each school.
- 3.6 The schools at which places will be reserved and the number of places to be reserved are reviewed annually.
- 3.7 In Clackmannanshire certain schools are near capacity at certain year stages and it is recommended that places be reserved at the following schools:

#### 3.7.1 Abercromby Primary School

Abercromby Primary School has received 11 late enrolments for 2017/18 and currently only has 2 spaces available at Primary 2 and 3 for next session. It is also recognised that as the work progresses on the new Tullibody South Campus the popularity of Abercromby Primary will increase. 9 spaces were reserved at Abercromby for this session and it is recommended that these places be maintained at 9 for 2018/19.

#### 3.7.2 Redwell Primary School

Redwell Primary School received 10 placing requests last year, 6 of these were accepted from parents of children who have siblings in the school. The school continues to have a high level of late enrolments (10 in 2017/18), partly due to the continuing build of new houses in the area. The school roll is continuing to rise and it is important that admissions are managed to ensure the school can accommodate catchment children. Last year 12 places were reserved and it is recommended that this number be retained

#### 3.7.4 St Serf's Primary School

The current projection for St Serfs shows the school only having 7 spaces available across Primary 1-3. Based on previous years it is anticipated that 4 places will be sufficient to accommodate catchment children enrolling later in the year.

#### 3.7.5 Sunnyside Primary School

Sunnyside Primary School used the reserved places mechanism to refuse 10 placing requests last year . The projected enrolment for Sunnyside for 2018/19 shows a roll reduction of 30 children and a reduction in pressure on the roll and accommodation. However, given restrictions on class sizes as a result of teachers terms and conditions, there remains some pressure on spaces in Primary 1 and 2. It is recommended that number of reserved spaces be reduced from 14 to 7 in 2018/19.

#### 3.7.6. Strathdevon Primary

The projected roll for Strathdevon for next session has reduced by 9 pupils and following a review of the number and size of classes there are fewer free spaces in every class and it is recommended that 5 spaces be reserved for catchment children.

#### 3.7.7 Park Primary

In order to accommodate the increasing roll of Park Primary an additional class was created in 2017, this was formed by converting the former staffroom. This room is smaller than a standard size classroom of 50 square metres and can only accommodate 21 as a result there is pressure on the remaining classes. It is recommended that 5 spaces be reserved for catchment children.

#### 3.7.9 Lornshill Academy

Lornshill Academy was built with a capacity of 1100, although the current roll is only 1,000 given the projected intake from the cluster primary schools the school now needs to manage its intake to ensure it can accommodate all future catchment children. In addition housing sites in the catchment area particularly in Clackmannan and Sauchie will be fully developed within the next years and it is recommended that the Council now use its reserved spaces mechanism in order to manage the intake. The maximum class sizes for secondary schools is 30 in all subjects It is recommended that 10 spaces are reserved for catchment children for next session.

## 4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 By reserving places the Education Authority can ensure places are available for children moving into the catchment area, including families who may have been placed in temporary accommodation or from travelling families.

## 5.0 Resource Implications

### 5.1 Financial Details

Reserving places supports efficient use of resources and reduces the likelihood of having to deploy additional resources to accommodate catchment pupils at a later date. Failure to secure reserved places could result in resource implications such as additional staffing, transport or building costs.

- 5.2 There will be no financial implications if reserved places are secured in line with recommendations in this report.

- 5.2.1 Finance has been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report.

- 5.3 There will be no staffing implications if reserved places are secured in line with recommendations in this report.

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1 Is this report exempt?    No        ✓

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) Our Priorities

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life                | ✓                        |
| Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential             | ✓                        |
| Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Not applicable

**8.0 Equalities Impact**

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

**9.0 Legality**

9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

**10.0 Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Placing Requests – Reserved Places (Current and Proposed)

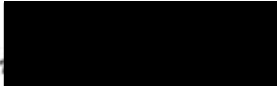
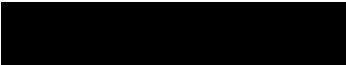
**11.0 Background Papers**

None.

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

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## CLACKMANNANSHIRE EDUCATION SERVICE

### Placing Request – Reserved Places (Current and Proposed)

School	Reserved Places Current 2017/18	Reserved Places Proposed 2018/19
Abercromby Primary	9	9
Redwell Primary	12	12
St Serfs Primary	8	4
Sunnyside Primary	14	7
Park Primary	0	4
Strathdevon Primary	0	4
Lornshell Academy	0	10

