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**To:** Education and Children's Services Policy Board

**On:** 17 January 2019

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**Report by:** Director of Children's Services

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**Heading:** Class Sizes in Primary School

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## **1. Summary**

1.1. The legal maximum class size at each stage of primary school is laid out in The Education (Lower Primary Class Sizes) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 as amended for P1-3 and the SNCT handbook for P4-7.

1.2. These regulations state the following:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Maximum Class Size</b>
P1	25
P2, P3	30
P4 – 7	33

1.3. Renfrewshire Council currently operates a model where the class size maximum in primary 2 is normally 25.

1.4. However, this continues to be challenged because the statutory limit is 30. Where there is a challenge, for example due to a placing request, the council does not have grounds to refuse the request. Therefore, it is very difficult to maintain the current position.

1.5. As a result of the position the council continually finds itself in, it is proposed that this local arrangement is removed and national regulations are followed.

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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1. The education and children's services policy board is asked to agree that with effect from August 2019 in line with national regulations, all schools will have maximum class sizes of 25 in primary 1, 30 in primary 2 and 3 and 33 in primary 4 – 7.

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### **3. Background**

- 3.1. On 9 May 2013, the education policy board agreed to maintain class size maxima in primary 2 at 25.
  - 3.2. As a result of a number of challenges to this agreement the class size in primary 2 has been breached each year since the implementation of this agreement.
  - 3.3. Primary school staffing is based on the number of classes required to meet nationally agreed requirements (P1-25, P2&3-30, P4-7-33).
  - 3.4. Where a class is made up of children from more than one year group then the maximum class size is 25 at all stages. This is called a composite class. There are no changes proposed to this national regulation.
  - 3.5. Not all classes in primary two will rise to a maximum of 30. This would still be dependent on the overall numbers in each of the primary groupings throughout each school.
  - 3.6. In line with the recommendation, changes made would only come into effect from August 19 ensuring that all current classes are unaffected.
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### **Implications of this report**

1. **Financial**  
The annual staffing exercise will ensure the financial resources are adequate.
2. **HR and Organisational Development**  
Any staff redeployment would occur as part of the normal staffing exercises.
3. **Community/Council Planning**  
None.
4. **Legal**  
None.
5. **Property/Assets**  
None.
6. **Information Technology**  
None.
7. **Equality and Human Rights**  
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

- 8.     **Health and Safety**  
None.
  - 9.     **Procurement**  
None.
  - 10.    **Risk**  
None.
  - 11.    **Privacy Impact**  
None.
  - 12.    **Cosla Policy Position**  
None.
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### **List of Background Papers**

None.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, 0141 618 7194.

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***Children's Services***

*GMcK/LG*

*11 December 2018*

**Author:** Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, 0141 618 7194, [gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gov.uk)