

To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 9 March 2017

Report by: Director of Children's Services

**Heading: Removal of roll caps in Houston Primary School and
Rashielea Primary School**

1. Summary

- 1.1. At its meeting of 3 November 2005 Council approved a roll cap of 66 at all stages in Houston Primary School.
 - 1.2. At its meeting of 7 February 2007 the lifelong learning and work policy board approved a similar roll cap limiting the primary 1 intake of Rashielea Primary School at 60 pupils.
 - 1.3. In August 2015 the education and children policy board approved the revision of standard circular 60: "The Capacity of Primary Schools" through the adoption of Scottish Government guidance "Determining Primary School Capacity".
 - 1.4. In applying this revised guidance to the application of the Council's placing request policy it became evident that the roll caps were redundant and that a fuller investigation of the implications of limiting class sizes in these schools was required.
 - 1.5. This investigation has determined that the physical size of the classroom spaces in these schools can accommodate larger numbers of pupils than the caps are allowing; without these increased pupil numbers adversely impacting on the overall capacity of the school.
 - 1.6. It is therefore recommended that the caps in these schools be permanently removed.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Education and Children Policy Board:
 - approves the removal of roll caps at Houston Primary School and Rashielea Primary School.

3. Background

- 3.1. At its meeting of 3 November 2005 Council approved a roll cap of 66 at all stages in Houston Primary School.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 7 February 2007 the lifelong learning and work policy board approved a similar roll cap limiting the primary 1 intake of Rashielea Primary School at 60 pupils.
- 3.3. These caps were designed to ensure that maximum class sizes of 25 at primary 1 did not result in pressure on accommodation at the upper stages of primary education in both these establishments.
- 3.4. In August 2015 the education and children policy board approved the revision of standard circular 60: "The Capacity of Primary Schools" through the adoption of Scottish Government guidance "Determining Primary School Capacity".
- 3.5. This investigation has determined that the physical size of the classroom spaces in these schools can accommodate larger numbers of pupils than the caps are allowing; without these increased pupil numbers adversely impacting on the overall capacity of the school.
- 3.6. It is therefore recommended that the caps in these schools be permanently removed.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**
None.
4. **Legal Implications**
This change does not affect the application of the council's placing request policy.
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None.
6. **Information Technology Implications**
None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

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 Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Report on the formal consultation on the provision of non-denominational primary education in the Linwood and Houston area.
- (b) Background Paper 2: Implementation of class size reduction in P1 and S1 and S2.
- (c) Background Paper 3: Revised Standard Circular 60: Determining Primary School Capacity.

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 Ian Thomson, Education Manager, ext 7241 email ianthomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Children's Services

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1 March 2017

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