



# **Statutory Consultation Meeting**

**Proposed Variation to the Admissions  
Arrangements to Primary and Secondary  
Education.**

# Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Format and purpose of meeting
- Statutory Consultation Process
- The Proposal
- Educational Benefits
- Questions
- Close and Thanks

# Introductions



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Name	Role
Alastair Delaney	Independent Chair
Fiona Robertson	Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships
Midlothian Council Officers Children, Young People & Partnerships Directorate	
Education Scotland	Observers

# Purpose of the meeting



- Proposal document published
- Council staff will present the proposal
- Opportunity for questions
- All comments and questions are noted

# Statutory consultation process



- Proposed permanent change – council must follow process contained in national legislation
- Consult for minimum 6 weeks
- Must hold a public meeting
- Must publish its final report

# Relevant legislation



- The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area in the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980*
- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act*
- The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

# Statutory Consultation Process and Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 02 April 2025.
- Statutory Consultation Period – 02 April 2025 to 02 June 2025.
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Report by Education Scotland within 3 weeks of end consultation
- Service takes account of all feedback

# Statutory Consultation Process



- Preparation of Final consultation Report – after 02 June 2025
- Final consultation report published 18 August 2025
- Decision by Midlothian Council – 09 September 2025



# Context



- Midlothian Council is recognised as Scotland's fastest-growing local authority, faces significant educational challenges due to rapid growth. Midlothian schools are under pressure, necessitating intake limits to several schools to ensure children and young people can attend their catchment schools.
- The growing population and housing developments in Midlothian are increasing pupil numbers, posing a significant risk that the council will not have a place for every pupil at their catchment school. The Council's Learning Estate Strategy addresses this strategically.
- In the short term, intake limits, placing request reviews, and prioritising baptised Roman Catholic children and young people at denominational schools mitigate this risk.
- Pupil enrolment for the 2025/26 school session has concluded, with 1,338 Midlothian primary and 1,187 Midlothian secondary pupils registered. This includes 213 pupils who intend to defer entry to primary school.

# Proposals



- Proposal to vary the Admissions Arrangements to Primary and Secondary Education will be implemented from September 2025, subject to Council decision.
- The enrolment and allocation of Midlothian school places will change.
- The proposed changes **do not affect** the current admissions process for August 2025. A consultation report will be presented to Midlothian Council elected members for a decision.
- If approved, the changes will take effect from September 2025 for the August 2026 intake.
- Midlothian Children and Young People living within the designated catchment area of a Midlothian school will be given priority.
- Midlothian Children and Young People living within the designated catchment area of a Midlothian school and who are baptised in the Roman Catholic Faith will be given priority.
- Non-catchment and out of authority placing requests will be granted only if there are places available after all Midlothian catchment Children and Young People are placed.

# Non-denominational schools



Where there is insufficient capacity, priority will be given in the following order:

- Children who have been offered a place in the school's Complex Needs Provision class by the Education Resource Group (ERG).
- Catchment children who have been prioritised based on exceptional circumstances.
- Catchment children who will have siblings attending the school at the same time.
- Remaining catchment children
- Out of catchment placing requests.
- Out of authority placing requests.

# Denominational schools



Where there is insufficient capacity, priority will be given in the following order:

- Children who have been offered a place in the school's Complex Needs Provision class by the Education Resource Group (ERG)
- Catchment children who have been prioritised based on exceptional circumstances.
- Catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will have siblings attending the school at the same time.
- Catchment children who are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith
- Catchment children, who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith and will have siblings attending the school at the same time.
- Remaining catchment children.
- Out of catchment placing requests.
- Out of authority placing requests.

# Educational Benefits Overview



- **Inclusion:** The proposals will ensure that local children attend their local catchment school, growing up as part of their community. The process for allocating places to children with additional support needs will not be affected by the variation to the School Admission Policy.
- **Fairness for Midlothian Pupils:** The proposal aims to eliminate the disadvantage for pupils living within a Midlothian catchment area when applying for school places, due to placing requests from pupils living outside Midlothian. This ensures that local pupils are not unfairly impacted by external placing requests.
- **Transition:** The proposed School Admission Policy variation will not impact existing transition programmes but will improve the primary to secondary transition for pupils from feeder primary schools via placing requests. Prioritising these pupils ensures a smoother, more inclusive transition, maintaining continuity with their peer group.
- **Denominational Schools:** Baptised Roman Catholic pupils attending Midlothian denominational schools will be prioritised for places at the only denominational secondary school, ahead of non-baptised pupils or those without siblings at the school. This proposal supports their continued denominational education at the secondary level.

# Educational Benefits Overview (2)



- **Flexibility in Admissions:** Introducing more flexibility in admissions will help Midlothian Council prioritise catchment pupils, ensuring they transition to secondary school with their peer group. This approach enhances continuity and reduces the likelihood of separating Primary 7 pupils at a critical transition stage.
- **Learning and Teaching:** All children and young people in Midlothian follow the national Curriculum for Excellence, regardless of the school they attend. The proposals will allow local children to benefit from the agreed local curriculum arrangements, reflecting the local community and opportunities available to all young people.
- All Midlothian children have access to the Midlothian Learning and Teaching Frameworks, supporting their learning in Literacy, Numeracy, and Health and Wellbeing. Guidance and professional development are available to all Midlothian staff, ensuring consistent learning environments and quality universal provision for all children. This will not change as a result of the Admissions policy changes.

# Outcomes



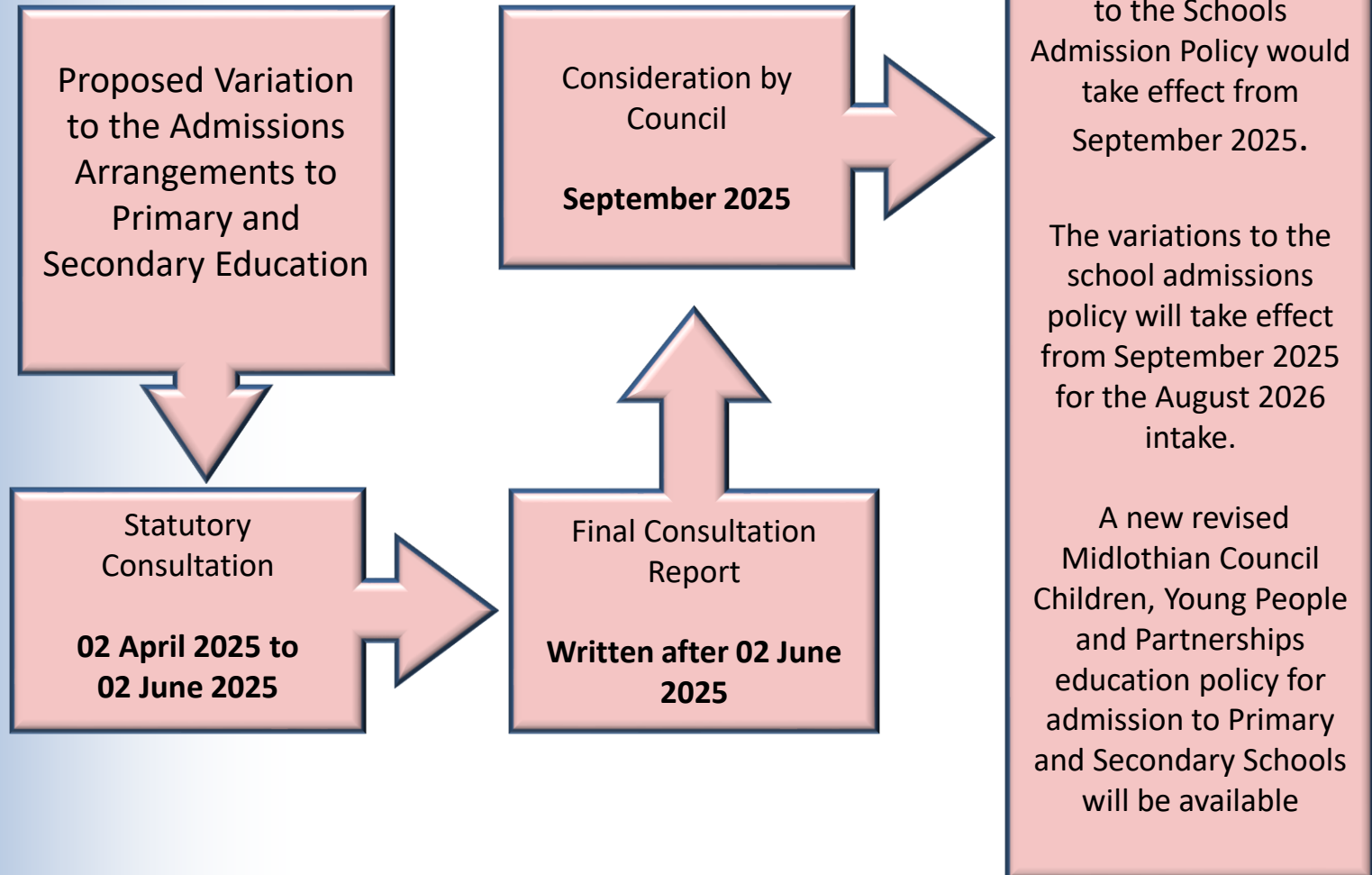
If the decision is taken to vary the admissions arrangements to primary and secondary education:

- Subject to the decision by Midlothian Council elected members in September 2025, the proposed variation to the Schools Admission Policy would take effect from September 2025.
- The variations to the school admissions policy will take effect from September 2025 for the August 2026 intake.
- Midlothian Council will share the outcome of the decision made by elected members on our website, social media platforms and shared with the Head Teachers.
- A new revised Midlothian Council Children, Young People and Partnerships education policy for admission to Primary and Secondary Schools will be available.

# Project Timeline



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# Questions?



For any further or more specific questions  
please email  
[educationconsultation@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:educationconsultation@midlothian.gov.uk)

For any further or more specific questions  
regarding East Lothian Council, please email  
[educationenquiries@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:educationenquiries@eastlothian.gov.uk)