

Loanhead Additional Support Needs (ASN) Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Is the proposal to establish a new additional support needs (ASN) stage within Loanhead Primary School or is this in relation to the current provision?

A. The consultation and establishment of the new ASN stage within Loanhead PS formalises the current provision, ensuring a stable and dedicated environment. The ASN provision was initially a temporary hosting arrangement, implemented while a review of the learning estate was undertaken. This review aimed to enhance the range of provisions and ensure that the environments were suitable to meet the requirements of children and young people with additional support needs.

Q2. How will the new ASN stage impact the current children and staff at Loanhead Primary School?

A. The new ASN stage, which formalises the current hosted provision, is designed to integrate seamlessly into the existing school structure, causing minimal disruption to current pupils and staff. This will ensure that the support and resources already available for children in the provision continue to follow a structured and consistent approach to meeting their needs. Midlothian Council ensures that Additional Support Needs (ASN) provisions are allocated additional staffing and management time to effectively support children and young people.

Q3. Why will the provision come under the Loanhead PS Head Teacher?

A. The provision, which has been managed by the Head Teacher of Loanhead PS, will continue under their leadership to ensure consistent management, streamlined communication, efficient resource allocation, and enhanced staff support, thereby creating a cohesive and integrated approach to the new ASN stage. This consultation will formalise this arrangement. Please also refer to the response to Q1.

Q4. Why is a consultation only taking place now to formalise the ASN provision which has been hosted for a number of years?

A. The consultation is taking place now to formalise the ASN provision, which has been hosted since 2021/2022, because Midlothian Council's Learning Estate Review has determined that this aligns with the strategic goals of optimising educational facilities and resources across the authority and enhancing educational support and inclusivity for all children. The ASN arrangements will stay the same but the consultation is to make this a formal and permanent arrangement.