



Midlothian Council

Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

Statutory School Consultation

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

This consultation is on the following proposal:

Proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School and re-designate it to Mayfield Early Learning Centre.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise, Midlothian Council proposes that:

- Mayfield Nursery School will close from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be established from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- Mayfield Nursery School will be closed and re-designated to Mayfield Early Learning Centre within the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Nursery School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The re-designation of Mayfield Nursery School to Mayfield Early Learning Centre will take effect from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The new Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of St Luke's RC Primary School

The following schools are **directly** affected by the proposal:

- Mayfield Primary School;
- St Luke's RC Primary School;
- Mayfield Nursery School

In accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, Midlothian Council wants to hear your views on the proposal to establish a new Early Years setting within the Mayfield Learning Community Campus.

Within this consultation paper you will find information about the proposal, the reasons behind it, its likely impact and how you can tell us what you think about it. A short questionnaire is included within the proposal.

Midlothian Council hopes that as many of you as possible will complete the questionnaire and would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views as they are extremely important to us.

We would like to be as open as possible with the results of this consultation so please note that your response will be anonymised and made public at the end of the consultation period. You may wish to ensure that you do not give any identifying details in your response. If you don't wish your response to be made public, you can specify this in the questionnaire and within any written response.

Distribution

A copy of this document will be available on the Midlothian Council website:

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-elc-consultation>

A summary of the proposals will be provided to:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools;
- The parents/carers of the children at the affected schools;
- Parents/carers of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal document;
- The pupils, deemed to be of suitable age and maturity to be able to communicate a view on the proposal, at the affected schools;
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools;
- The trade unions and professional association representatives of the above staff;
- Midlothian Councillors;
- Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church
- Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses;
- Community Planning Partnership;
- Relevant users of the affected schools;
- Constituency MP and MSP;
- Education Scotland.

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Mayfield Nursery School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- Mayfield Primary School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- St Luke's RC Primary School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- Newbattle Community Campus Library, 1 Newbattle Way, Easthouses, EH22 4SX
- Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

This document can be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. If you would like this document in another language or format, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please call 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

To be taken into consideration, responses to the consultation must be received by **Thursday 2 May 2024**. These can be made electronically through the online consultation questionnaire at EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk.

Written responses can be returned to:

Mayfield ELC Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

The affected consultees are:

The pupils attending Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke’s RC Primary Schools;

The Parent Councils and parents/carers of Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke’s RC Primary Schools;

The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke’s RC Primary Schools;

The staff employed by the Council and based at Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke’s RC Primary Schools;

The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff

The Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses;

The Community Planning Partnership.

Consultation with Children and Young People

Children in the directly affected schools will be consulted on this proposal in accordance with the Children’s Commissioner Guidance and further information will be provided to parents/carers via their child’s school/setting.

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Section A: Summary of Process for this Proposal Document

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

1. The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education in its area including the statutory consultation that must be undertaken when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools, including Nursery Schools, such as closure, relocation or change of catchment area. The *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* principle purpose is:

“to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools.”

2. This Proposal Document has been prepared in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, having regard to the statutory guidance published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015 and the complementary guidance published by Education Scotland (revised July 2023), which are available for reference at the following websites:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

Statutory Guidance (14 May 2015):
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/4615>

Education Consultation Guidance for Local Authorities (revised July 2023)
<https://education.gov.scot/media/rh0jzhvo/external-schools-consultation-education-scotland-guide-for-local-authorities-july-2023.pdf>

3. The process for consultation, summarised in this section, details how the Council is undertaking this consultation.

Consideration by Council

4. The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 places a legislative duty on the Council to ensure the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.
5. This Proposal Document has been issued to seek views on the proposals in this paper and report back to Midlothian Council on the outcome of the consultation in order that the Council can make a decision on any proposed changes.

Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Midlothian's website

6. An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings will be issued to the consultees listed on page 3. Advice on where the complete Proposal Document can be obtained will be included and published on <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-elc-consultation>

7. If requested, copies of the Proposal Document will also be made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
8. A “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) document has also been prepared which is also available on <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-elc-consultation>

Publication of advertisement

9. An announcement will be made on the Council’s website and social media platforms.

Length of Consultation Period

10. The consultation period will commence on **06 March** and will last until **02 May 2024** being a period of 8 weeks, which also includes the minimum 30 school days.

Format of Public Meetings

11. A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27 March 2024**, the details of which are set out below in paragraphs 18-22.

Involvement of Education Scotland

12. When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will be sent to Education Scotland by Midlothian Council. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period, or if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Additionally, Education Scotland will receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Council at the public meetings and drop-in sessions that will be held and, as available, a copy of any other relevant documentation.
13. Education Scotland require three weeks within which to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal after the Council has sent them all the representations and documents as mentioned above. The three-week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate.

Preparation of the Consultation Report

14. The Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting, drop in sessions and consultation activities with key stakeholders. It will then prepare a Final Consultation Report. The report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in the local newspaper. It will be available on the Council website, from the affected schools and by request from Council Headquarters, Midlothian House, Dalkeith. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The Consultation Report will include a record of the total number of written representations made at the public meetings and drop-in sessions, the Council’s response to the Education Scotland report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with the Education Scotland report and

other relevant information. It will also set out the actions the Council has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies and omissions notified to it. The Consultation Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published and be available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

Decision

15. The Consultation Report together with any other documentation will be considered after the end of the 3-week period, by the Council who will come to a final decision on this matter.

Scottish Ministers Call-in

16. At the end of the consultation process, Section 15 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* enables ministers to call-in a decision to implement the proposed closure of Mayfield Nursery School.
17. Beginning on the day the final decision is taken, the Council has a period of six working days to notify Scottish Ministers of the decision. Scottish Ministers then have a period of up to eight weeks from and including the date of the Council's decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. The Council must publish the fact that the Scottish Ministers have been notified and that representations can be made to the Scottish Ministers within the first three weeks of the eight week period. The Scottish Ministers will take into account any relevant representations made to them by any person within the first three weeks. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal during the call-in period.
18. If the Scottish Ministers decide to call-in a closure proposal, it is then referred to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels who has a period of seven days after a call-in notice is issued, to constitute a School Closure Review Panel. The Panel may decide to refuse consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit it to the education authority for a fresh decision or grant consent to the proposal, either subject to conditions, or unconditionally. The Panel must notify the education authority of its decision within eight weeks from when the Panel was constituted or within sixteen weeks if the Panel has issued a notice to the education authority that a decision has been delayed. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal until the outcome of the call-in has been notified to the Council.
19. Appendix 1 sets out the timeline for both the Consultation and Scottish Ministers Call-in periods.

Note on Corrections

20. If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy. It may then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of a Proposal Paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised. The person, or persons who have raised concerns will receive an individual response to their submission.

Public Meeting and Drop-In Session

21. A formal in person public meeting and virtual public drop-in sessions will be held to discuss the proposal. The public meeting, which will be convened by Midlothian Council, will be addressed by the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate and other senior officers of the Council, and chaired by an independent person.
22. The public meeting will be an opportunity to:
 - Hear more about the proposal
 - Ask questions about the proposal
 - Have your views minuted so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process
23. The public meeting will be held in person at 7:45pm in Newbattle High School on **17 April 2024**.
24. Virtual drop-in sessions will be held on **19 March** and **27 March 2024**, there will be 20 minute time slots available from 2pm to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm please contact EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk to book a time.
25. A minute will be taken at the public meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. A summary of the points raised and responded to will be added to the FAQs published on the Council website. The minute will be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process as explained above.

Section B: Proposal for Consultation Introduction

Introduction

1. The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 places a legislative duty on the Council to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across its area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand.
2. Section 3D of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as inserted by Section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016) introduces a requirement on education authorities to carry out their duty to ensure the delivery of improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools they manage, with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. It is, therefore, the duty of the education authority to ensure that the education it provides is directed to the development of the personality, talents and the mental and physical abilities of the children to their fullest potential.
3. A National Review of the implementation of additional support for learning in schools was carried out by Angela Morgan (2020) on behalf of the Scottish Government. It considered the implementation of additional support for learning legislation and how this applied to practice across authorities. In seeking to take forward improvements to the education provision for learners with additional support needs, the Education

Service undertook a review of Additional Support for Learning including specialist provisions within its schools (Midlothian Council > Meetings (cmis.uk.com))

4. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the *Local Government in Scotland Act 2003* by continuous improvement in performance of the local authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development. To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as altering catchment areas.

Midlothian's Vision for Education

5. The Council is ambitious for the future of Midlothian. By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer and greener and successful lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions and supporting local people to strengthen the skills they need for learning, life and work.
6. Our outcomes for the next 4 years are:
 - Individuals and communities have improved health and skills for learning, life and work
 - No child or household living in poverty
 - Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030
7. We continue to aspire to deliver a world-class education system through equity and excellence. Our vision is to provide the highest quality inclusive education, learning and employability service for all individuals and families in Midlothian. To realise this vision we will support the priorities set out in the Single Midlothian Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child and will:
 - give all our children the best possible start in life, providing an inclusive learning environment that builds resilience;
 - ensure that every young person has the opportunity to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and an effective contributor who is healthy and happy, especially those who are care experienced;
 - work with our communities to promote high expectations which deliver the best educational outcomes for all learners; and
 - celebrate diversity, reduce inequalities and remove barriers to learning.

Background and context

8. Mayfield Nursery School, Mayfield Primary School and St Luke's RC Primary Schools share a joint campus within the centre of Mayfield which is one of Midlothian's most deprived areas.
9. Mayfield Nursery School is a standalone setting, operating on a term time basis and is currently being supported by a Depute Head Teacher from Mayfield Primary School.

10. The nursery is led and managed by a Depute Head Teacher (DHT) under the overall leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School who is also the Acting Head Teacher at the nursery school. The DHT is seconded full-time to the Mayfield Nursery School from a DHT post at Mayfield Primary School.
11. Other staff include 5 Senior Early Years Practitioners, including one in the Midlothian Speech and Language Therapy Service nursery class. There are also the equivalent of 12 full time Early Years practitioners, 3 full time Learning Assistants and part-time administrative support.
12. The closure of the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision at Mayfield Nursery School and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.
13. Mayfield Nursery School comprises the original 1963 nursery building with a modular unit added in 2018. It has the capacity to provide up to 100 full-time places for 3-5 year old children offering 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare.
14. In October 2023, there were 72 children on the roll which increased in January 2024 to 86 and will increase again in April 2024, bringing the nursery to capacity. These children attend the nursery school full time, and numbers are split between the original nursery building and the modular unit. Approximately 40% of the children who attend have been identified as having an additional support need.
15. The original nursery building has limited space, both indoors and out. The outdoor space has older play equipment and is laid partly to concrete. The modular unit has 2 rooms for learning and extensive outdoor gardens with built-in educational equipment. Both buildings have limited storage facilities and there is one accessible toilet.
16. There is a shared serving kitchen and a shared bathroom for the whole nursery school. Meals are cooked in the primary school kitchen and transported to the nursery in thermal packs.
17. Dedicated spaces for parents, nurture and therapy were not part of the original 1963 plans. As a result, spaces across both settings are used flexibly and creatively with, for example, the staffroom also used as a meeting room and for storage. Despite a lack of dedicated changing stations, nursery staff ensure that the Care inspectorate's standards for nappy changing facilities are complied with. Mayfield Nursery School's most recent Care inspectorate inspection evaluated the setting as Very Good.
18. Midlothian has approved plans to replace Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke's RC Primary Schools. The proposed Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be created on the same site as the schools currently occupy. The existing buildings will be replaced with a new multi-functional and adaptive school campus and community facilities in the heart of Mayfield.

19. The project symbolises Midlothian Council's ethos for a fully integrated, community-orientated building, sending out a clear message on the value Midlothian Council places on the quality of the educational environment and health and well-being for children and young people and citizens of the Mayfield community.
20. The proposed non-denominational Mayfield ELC setting will be situated in St Luke's RC Primary School on the campus and will offer 120 places to children from 3 – 5 years, providing 1140 hours of funded Early learning and Childcare. From the start it will bring together all the children who attend in an integrated ELC setting where they and their families will benefit from the latest and best learning environment and resources and extensive parental and visiting services facilities.
21. All early learning and childcare in Midlothian is non-denominational, even if the setting is in a denominational school.

Midlothian Council Learning Estate Strategy 2017-2047 (Update):

22. The Learning Estate is a significant and valuable resource for the communities of Midlothian.
23. Education remains a key priority for the Council and The Learning Estate Strategy plays an integral role in supporting the National Strategy and informs the Council's Strategic Priorities.
24. The Strategic Plan commits to increasing skills for learning, life and work as well as enhancing life opportunities, aligning with the national aim to give every child and young person the best possible start in life.
25. The Learning Estate Strategy seeks to provide improved, flexible and adaptable learning environments to deliver 21st century education as part of a wider place making agenda. This vision is key to meet the principles of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy and to address the three key national education and skills priorities:
 - Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
 - Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
 - Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)
26. The following core principles are to be embedded into Midlothian Council's Learning Estate and underpin the project proposals for the Mayfield Early Learning Centre
 - Promoting excellence and equity by delivering a more equitable distribution in learning opportunities by ensuring that every one of our children has the right to aim for excellence and to attain excellence in multiple ways;
 - Interrupting the cycle of poverty by school hubs having a role at the heart of their community to help address the inequalities that reduce life chances;
 - Getting it right for every Midlothian child by utilising the school estate to deliver early intervention strategies through, where possible, the co-location of services together with a family learning approach;

- Taking a community-based approach to building schools which meet the needs of communities and enhance the lives of all those who live in those communities.

In short, we aspire to create a learning estate that enhances communities and at its heart supports children and young people through their learning journey from early years, primary and secondary school, college or university to the world of employment, education or training equipped with the skills for life, work and learning both they and society will need to succeed in the growing global knowledge economy of the 21st century.

Midlothian Council Strategy for Digital Learning – Equipped for Learning

27. Midlothian’s award-nominated Equipped for Learning project is the Council’s £10.5 million investment in ensuring every learner has the digital skills and knowledge they need to thrive in learning, in life and in work. Delivered outcomes include:

- Equipping every school-age pupil with a device for learning
- Upgrading wifi networks to provide fast and reliable internet access
- Equipping every learning space with an interactive SMART panel
- Establishing a Google Workspace tenancy for collaborative learning and teaching

28. Ensuring our youngest learners can learn with and through technology is central to Equipped for Learning. To this end, all Early Years practitioners have been equipped with a device and the training they need to ensure devices can be used creatively and as a means of sharing and celebrating learning. Additional devices and technology within Early Learning and Childcare settings provide children with a wide range of technology that can be used to explore the world around them.

29. The core infrastructure at the new Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be fully equipped and functional from day one to ensure good quality connectivity for all.

“Midlothian will take full advantage of the opportunities offered by technology to equip children and young people with the knowledge and skills essential for learning, life and work in the 21st century.”

Right Respecting Schools (RRS)

30. Midlothian Councils vision seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of each and every schools ethos and culture. Midlothian Council’s aim is to improve well-being and develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential.

31. Teaching children about their rights can reduce exclusions and bullying, improve teacher-pupil relationships, raise attainment and make for more mature, responsible students according to re-search published by UNICEF UK.

32. Within Midlothian, a number of schools are embracing this approach and embedding the Right Respecting Schools (RRS) principles in their school improvement plans, featuring it within the curriculum programme, promoting children’s rights on a daily basis in class and displaying class charters in the school.

33. As stated in [Included, Engaged and Involved, Part 1](#), every child has the right to grow up fully included in their learning experience and to be treated with respect. A positive school ethos and culture is essential to developing good relationships and positive behaviour in the classroom, playground and wider community.
34. These principles and their implementation will be integral to the vision and values of the Early Learning and Childcare and primary school settings in the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus

Meeting National Outcomes

35. The National strategy recognises the importance of the learning estate in supporting outcomes that are necessary for a more successful Scotland. This vision is for: *‘A learning estate which supports excellence and equity for all’*.
36. The National Learning Estate Strategy is aligned to the education policy aims set out in the *National Improvement Framework* (NIF) of achieving excellence and equity for all children and young people and closing the poverty related attainment gap.
37. The National strategy sets out ten guiding principles which are:
- Learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
 - Learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
 - The learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
 - The condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
 - Learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;
 - Learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled;
 - Outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
 - Good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
 - Collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and finally,

- Investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
38. This project incorporates the Learning Estate Strategy and NIF priorities and how they will be met through the Campus project.

The proposed non-denominational Mayfield Early Learning Centre (ELC) setting

39. The proposed site start date is September 2024. Once the building has been completed, the demolition of the existing building and completion of sports and external community facilities will then follow.
40. The proposed Mayfield ELC setting will accommodate up to 128 early years children across 4 playrooms. The playrooms have been designed with flexibility in mind, with the spaces separated by sliding-folding partitions and able to be opened up and joined or made into a cellular arrangement as required.
41. Two of the playrooms are served by a dedicated cloaks lobby and toilet area, and each playroom can be opened-up directly to the outdoors to facilitate outdoor learning.
42. The area immediately outside the nursery contains a covered timber canopy structure to facilitate covered outdoor play.
43. The increased capacity will help support meeting the ELC needs of the growing Midlothian population.
44. The Mayfield ELC has been designed to provide a variety of modern learning and teaching settings. It will offer children the opportunity to learn and develop within state-of-the-art facilities which will benefit from modern design and materials.
45. The design and layout for all aspects of the new campus, including the Mayfield ELC setting at St Luke's RC Primary School, will deliver education in purpose-built accommodation which will deliver the curriculum using latest technology. Buildings will be sustainable and energy efficient.
46. Mayfield ELC will also provide excellent facilities for children, families and other users outwith core school hours. It will provide accessible facilities that could be used to meet the learning, leisure, and social needs of the community. It is expected that all children and young people in the area will benefit from the development of the new campus.
47. Facilities at the proposed Mayfield ELC will include a variety of activity spaces which open directly onto secure outside areas, allowing free flow of movement by children and staff between each. A large central dining area will offer a welcoming space to eat and socialise.
48. Two quiet rooms will provide spaces for children where they can enjoy a calm, nurturing and comfortable environment. There will also be a spacious, dedicated parents' room.

49. In addition, there will be dedicated ancillary spaces including, food prep areas, two quiet rooms, utility room, hygiene room, parents room, staff office and associated storage.
50. As well as these dedicated ELC spaces, children and their families will have access to the improved community facilities across the whole campus. These include flexible spaces for community use, a library and café, football pitches and basketball courts, a “wee forest” area and a community garden.
51. The delivery model at Mayfield ELC will continue to reflect the Local Authority commitment to offer a 1140 hour flexible, high quality Early Learning and Childcare Setting and meet the criteria of the *National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers*.
52. The proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School and re-designate it to Mayfield Early Learning Centre will directly affect the following schools and is considered in this Proposal Document:
- Mayfield Primary School
 - St Luke’s RC Primary School
 - Mayfield Nursery School
53. There are no schools indirectly affected by the proposal.
54. The factors which have been considered in the development of this Proposal Document are:
- 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 agreed principles underpinning the development of an empowered school led system set out in the ‘Education Bill Policy Ambition- Joint Agreement’, June 2018
<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8745/downloads>
 - The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area
 - The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services
55. If approved, implementation of the proposal will mean:
- Mayfield Nursery School will close from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
 - Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be established from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
 - Mayfield Nursery School will be closed and re-designated to Mayfield Early Learning Centre;
 - The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Nursery School will close and move to outreach with effect from August 2024;

- The re-designation of Mayfield Nursery School to Mayfield Early Learning Centre will take effect from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The new Mayfield Early Learning Centre will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of St Luke's RC Primary School.

Section C: Educational Benefits Statement

Assessment of Likely Educational Benefits on Pupils

- A. The Educational Benefits Statement for this proposal has been prepared having regard to the guidance and explanatory notes published by the Scottish Government in association with the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and which are available for reference at the following websites respectively:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91982/0097130.doc

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

'An education authority shall endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools managed by them; and they shall exercise their functions in relation to such provision with a view to raising standards of education.'

- B. As required by the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 this Educational Benefits Statement is written from the perspective of benefits, should the proposal be implemented. Additionally, the self-evaluation tool provided by Education Scotland is used to ensure compliance with the amended procedures now in place from the Act.
- C. An early year's provision to support the Mayfield Learning Community Campus, will result in a number of educational benefits. The delivery model will reflect the Local Authority commitment to offer an 1140 hour flexible, high quality early learning and childcare provision and meet the criteria with the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers.
- D. The modern learning environment will fully support the guidelines contained within Realising the Ambition: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families, Curriculum for Excellence and Space to Grow.
- E. Dining and social areas will be much improved as the new environment provides social and flexible spaces to promote healthy eating and positive engagement with food. This, along with the development of external areas to create stimulating and inspiring outdoor learning space, will encourage young children to socialise and improve their health and wellbeing.
- F. The outdoor area will provide an exciting learning space with a variety of areas for physical play to develop gross motor skills, a safe environment for risky play and opportunities for creative and imaginative play. A safe wooden area will promote resilience and challenge following the principles of Forest Kindergarten. This area will further promote opportunities for outdoor learning to meet the needs as set out 'Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning' and Care Inspectorate's 'My World Outdoors'.

- G. Carefully designed spaces for families and professionals to meet together will enhance early learning experiences for children and fully involve families in the life of the school. This will enhance the positive impact family learning and partnership working has on the educational journey for the child.
- H. The location of Mayfield Early Learning Centre to both primary schools will develop working across Curriculum for Excellence and support transitions into both primary schools with a seamless progression in learning across Early Level.
- I. Professional collegiate collaboration for staff will be enhanced as the building will encourage collaboration and co-operation across Mayfield Early Learning Centre, Mayfield Additional Support Needs setting and the two Primary Schools. This will enable a shared understanding and safeguarding of the range of children's needs and the opportunity to provide the best outcomes for our children.

Inclusion

- J. All children and young people with language and communication support needs should have a presumption of mainstream education. Through the development of a Speech, Language and Communication outreach service we will provide a more flexible, integrated range of supports across all of our schools and setting. Providing a stronger outreach service will enable our learners to remain in their mainstream classes, build stronger relationships with their community. Staff in primary and secondary schools work in partnership with educational psychologists and speech and language therapists to maximise children's language and communication skills. Where support needs have been identified, staff, parents and children are involved in developing plans which aim to address those needs and remove barriers to learning.

Learning, teaching, achievement and attainment

- K. Increased high-quality accommodation and resources associated with the proposed ELC setting are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community.
- L. The flexible and high-quality learning environment and enhanced resources will further support planning learning experiences that strengthen the motivation and engagement of children in their learning. Learning and teaching approaches will include the extensive use of modern, digital technologies to enhance high- quality learning experiences for all children. In addition, improved availability and access to extensive up- to- date digital resources by children themselves will promote independence in learning and provide opportunities for them to develop skills for learning, life and work from the earliest stages.
- M. The staff team at Mayfield ELC will lead the continuing development of a range of pathways across all curricular areas to develop skills and attributes through learning aligned to *Curriculum for Excellence*. This learning will continue to maximise opportunities for attainment and achievement for all children from 3-5 years.
- N. The location of Mayfield ELC will further support and develop working across *Curriculum for Excellence* and support positive transitions for the relevant children into both primary schools on the campus and a seamless progression in learning across Early Level.

- O. The new learning environment will also allow for greater movement of children and consequently access to better learning opportunities. This will support the removal of barriers to accessing all curricular areas as well as other learning opportunities. Overall, the improved accommodation and resources associated with the proposed Mayfield ELC setting are likely to have a particularly positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and inclusion of children who face barriers to their learning such as poverty or additional support needs.

Health and well-being

- P. Experience in previous new school/ELC buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired and motivated children and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners.
- Q. Dining and social areas will be much improved as the proposed Mayfield ELC learning environment provides social and flexible spaces and on-site areas for food preparation to promote healthy eating and positive engagement with food. This, along with the development of external areas to create stimulating and inspiring outdoor learning space, will encourage young children to be active and socialise and improve their health and wellbeing overall.

Collaboration and partnership working

- R. Professional collegiate working for staff will be enhanced as the new setting will encourage collaboration and co-operation across the Mayfield Learning Community Campus which will comprise of an Early Learning Centre setting, the proposed Mayfield PS ASN provision and the two primary schools. This will enable a shared understanding and safeguarding of the range of children's needs and of early years learning and teaching, with the opportunity to further improve outcomes for our children.
- S. The proposed Mayfield ELC setting will also enhance integrated working and joint planning with support and other visiting services such as educational psychology, learning support, health and social services and family learning. This will facilitate, for example, better personalised learning for children with additional support needs and improved transition processes for such children.

Local Community

- T. Previous experience with the Newbattle Campus in Mayfield has shown that increased high-quality accommodation and resources associated with the proposed ELC setting are likely to have a positive impact on the motivation, aspirations and enjoyment of children, staff and the wider school community.
- U. The carefully designed spaces for families and professionals to meet in the campus will enhance early learning experiences for children, welcoming and fully involving families in the life of the setting and helping children and families reach their full potential.
- V. Across the campus, spaces are designed to be flexible and allow creative and multiple use by the staff, children and pupils and partner services and also by the community. This will enhance the positive impact family learning and partnership working has on the educational journey for the child.

- W. The new Mayfield Learning Community Campus schools, ELC and ASN settings will continue to play an integral part in their associated school groups and the Midlothian Additional Support needs network and Early Years network. Staff will therefore continue to benefit from the strong culture of collaboration and joint planning across these groups.

Section D: Consideration of Alternative Options and Other Implications

1. The alternative to the closure of Mayfield Nursery School is to continue with an informal shared headship arrangement which is not in line with the Council's vision and values for Education and Early Learning & Childcare.
2. In designing the school estate, it is important to balance the range of provisions within each establishment. The proposed new Mayfield Primary School will have a new additional support needs provision. The proposal to establish the non-denominational ELC at St Luke's ensures both schools provide an educational service beyond that of mainstream classes supporting collaboration and collegiate working across the campus.

Transition Arrangements

1. Subject to the decision of Midlothian Council, it will be essential to support the transition arrangements to the new Mayfield ELC provision for all children and families involved.
2. Should the proposal go ahead, a commitment will be undertaken to ensure the full range of children's needs are addressed and that any disruption to their early learning and childcare is minimised.
3. Care will be taken to ensure that all children, parents/carers and staff are familiar with their new environment.
4. There will be opportunities prior to any move for children, parents/carers, and staff to come together and for familiarisation visits to the new setting to enable them to experience the new learning environment.
5. The current SLC provision in the ELC setting will close and move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS based on the outcome of the ASN review consultation that is currently ongoing. There will be no children attending the speech and language provision in the early learning setting by the time the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus opens.

Transport

6. There are no catchment areas for ELC provisions in Midlothian.
7. A School Travel Plan is a strategy developed by each school, including those which have an ELC setting, to encourage and promote more active travel to school for both staff and pupils. The role of the School Travel Plan is to make alternatives to driving easier and safer, and to give parents/carers and staff plenty of information about the options.

8. A School Travel Plan can help to improve the school run, reduce congestion and increase road safety, make school pupils and staff healthier, make routes to school safer and look after our environment.
9. A School Travel plan for the new St Luke's RC Primary School and Mayfield ELC setting will be developed in consultation with children, pupils, parents, and staff.
10. Owing to the location of the new ELC setting and primary school on the same site as currently occupied, there should be no significant changes to school transport settings for eligible children and pupils.

Staffing Implications

11. The proposed Mayfield ELC setting will be led and managed by a dedicated Early Years Depute Head Teacher under the overall leadership of the Head Teacher at St Luke's RC Primary School.
12. A new Depute Head Teacher post will be created at St Luke's RC Primary School to deliver this.
13. Mayfield ELC would be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the early years setting are carried out. The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children adhering to Care inspectorate guidelines around Safer Staffing.
14. Transfer of staff would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ELC setting.
15. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through HR policies and the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.
16. It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented; forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the ELC setting will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.
17. Transfer of staff from the current SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate.
18. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ELC setting. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise

however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.

Financial Implications

19. The financial implications of closing Mayfield Nursery School and the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision at Mayfield Nursery School can be found in Appendix 2.
20. The approved budget for the ELC setting is £4m.

Integrated Impact Assessment

21. The Council as a public authority has a duty under the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, and the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part one of the Equality Act) to have due regard to their provisions when making strategic financial decisions. This is done through assessing the potential impact of the decision on equality through an Equality Impact Assessment. The Council will undertake the process of assessment during the consultation process in respect of this proposal to ensure that due regard is given to such matters in the decision-making process.
22. The result of the Integrated Impact Assessment will be included in the final Consultation Report document.

Equal Opportunities

26. Having regard to the proposed Mayfield ELC setting, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any equality target groups.
27. The Council must also consider its duty in respect of socio-economic impact. Having the new ELC setting in the community means that this service remains accessible for those who may be economically disadvantaged.
28. As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
29. Under *the Equality Act 2010*, education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. The new Mayfield ELC setting will comply with accessibility requirements and therefore would positively promote equal opportunities for any child who has a disability.

Section E: Conclusion

1. The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance and strengthen Early Learning Centre in Mayfield.
2. This proposal will bring notable educational benefits to the present and future users of the Mayfield ELC setting, and to other children, parents and families and partner services across the Mayfield Learning Community Campus.
3. It will assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are planned and managed and children's learning experiences and achievement are improved.

4. Overall, there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

Appendix 1: Mayfield Early Learning Centre Education Consultation Timeline

	Date beginning	Date ending	Duration
Statutory consultation period Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial consultation report • Public meetings • Drop-in sessions • Engagement with staff, pupils and parent councils 	Wed 06/03/2024	Thurs 02/05/2024	8 weeks
Education Scotland engagement period	06/05/2024	27/05/2024	3 weeks
Publication of full consultation reports	03/06/2024		
Further considerations after publication of the reports	13/05/2024	04/06/2024	3 weeks
Consideration of Consultation Reports by Midlothian Council	25/06/2024		1 day
Scottish Minister's call in	25/06/2024	23/10/2024	8 weeks
School Closure Review Panel	23/10/2024	18/12/2024	8 weeks
School Closure Panel Extended	18/12/2024	05/03/2025	8 weeks

Appendix 2: Financial Implications

Table 1: Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure.			
Mayfield Nursery School (8204)	Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
School costs:			
Teaching Staff	154,861	146,201	8,660
Support Staff	731,005	44,698	686,307
Teaching Staff Training	250		250
Support Staff Training	1,800		1800
Building costs:			
NDR	5,018	5,018	
Water Charges	1,564		1,564
Energy Costs	23,523		23,523
Cleaning (contract or inhouse)	16,826		16,826
Building Repairs and Maintenance	529	529	
Other – Refuse Collection	2,735		2,735
School operational costs:			
Learning Materials	5,080	1,967	3,113
Catering (contract or inhouse)	78,162	33,315	44,847
Other School Operational Costs (e.g. licences)	263	104	159
Transport costs:			
Home to School Transport	9,750		
Total Costs for School	1,031,366	231,832	799,534
Unit Cost per Pupil per Year of 104 pupils	9,917		

Table 2: Capital Life Cycle Costs	
	Average Annual Cost
Capital Life Cycle Costs	0

Table 3: Annual Property costs to be incurred until disposal	
NDR	4,445
Water Charges	
Energy Costs	

Cleaning	
Repair and Maintenance	
Total Annual Cost until Disposal	

Appendix 3: MAYFIELD ELC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of Midlothian Council.

Proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School and re-designate it to Mayfield Early Learning Centre.

Further detailed information about the proposal, which you are encouraged to read to help inform your response, can be found at

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-elc-consultation>

Please note the closing date for submission of completed questionnaires is **02/05/2024**

You can return this electronically to EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk or by post to Mayfield ELC Consultation, Freepost SCO 622, Midlothian Council, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

About You

1. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Organisation (please give details below)

2. Which category best describes you?

	Mayfield PS	St Luke's RCPS	Mayfield NS	Other
Parent/carer of current pupil(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/carer of future pupil(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please give details)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If you are a parent/carer, please indicate which stage of education your child/ children currently attend (please tick all that apply)

- Not yet in education
- Pre-school education
- P1-P3
- P4-P7
- S1-S6
- No longer in school education

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish Mayfield Early Learning Centre?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

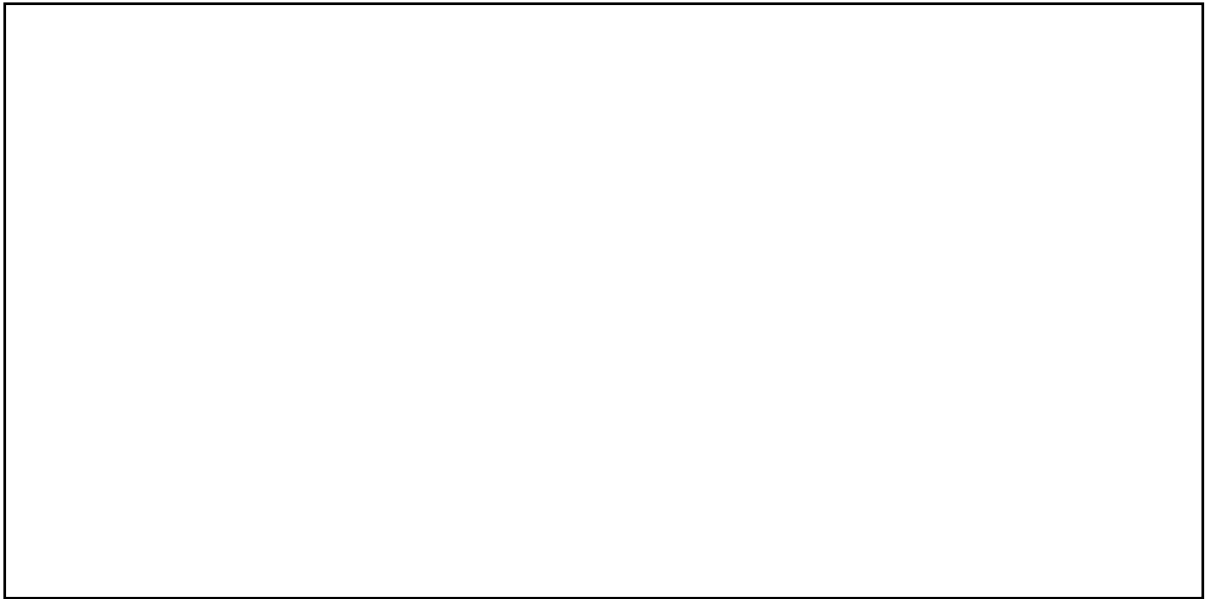
6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Nursery School?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to place Mayfield Early Learning Centre under the Leadership of the Head Teacher of St Luke's RC Primary School?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

8. Please use this box if you wish to give a reason(s) for your view or if you wish to make any further comment on the proposal (if you need to continue on a separate sheet, please attach.)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide reasons or further comments on the proposal. The box is currently blank.

Thank you for completing this Consultation Questionnaire.