

Shawfair school Statutory Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

When will the school open?

Shawfair School is expected to open at the start of the 2028/29 academic year (August 2028).

Why is a new school needed?

The new school is required to:

- Address current and future capacity pressures caused by housing growth in and around Shawfair.
- Ensure children living in the area have access to a local catchment school.
- Support Midlothian's Learning Estate Strategy and long-term planning for modern, flexible learning environments.

Consultation Process

How long is the consultation?

The statutory consultation runs from 26 March 2026 to 27 May 2026.

Where can I read the full proposal document?

It is available online at:

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

Are public meetings being held?

Yes. There are several opportunities to ask questions and share views:

- **In-person public meeting:**
Thursday 21 May at 7pm, Danderhall Primary School
- **Virtual drop-in sessions:**
Tuesday 12 May and Thursday 14 May 2026
20-minute slots, 2–4pm and 5–7pm.

To book a virtual session, email EducationConsultation@midlothian.gov.uk

A minute of the meeting will be taken and added to the published FAQs.

Will His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland (HMIES) be involved?

Yes. HMIES will:

Review all documentation and consultation responses.

Produce an independent report after the consultation ends.

Their review period runs 1 June – 19 June 2026.

About the New School

Will all age groups be together in the new building?

No. There will be different entrances and playgrounds for each stage of the school. For example, the primary school will have separate entrances and playgrounds from the secondary school.

There may be opportunities for children at different stages of their education to mix but this will be carefully planned and will be for specific activities. For example, a Senior phase pupil visiting the nursery to gain experience of early learning and childcare as part of a qualification.

Catchment Changes

Will nursery catchments change?

No. Midlothian does not operate nursery/Early Learning catchment areas, so this remains unchanged.

Transition Arrangements

When will children start at the school?

All children who are due to start P1 and S1 in August 2027 will be catchment to Shawfair School.

The school will not be operational in 2027, therefore these children will be hosted in other schools in Midlothian. When Shawfair School opens in August 2028 these children and young people will transfer to the new building and form the P2 and S2 year groups.

P1 children who are hosted will be placed in a class together, and S1 children who are hosted will be placed in a class together. This will allow them to begin forming the friendships and the school community that will transfer with them to the Shawfair School in August 2028.

Hosted children will be included in everyday life of their hosted school and will have a dedicated teacher who will move with them to Shawfair School to ensure continuity of education.

Hosted children will be provided with transport where required in line with the Integrated Transport Policy

Catchment children who are due to start P1 or S1 in August 2028 will start at Shawfair School.

What are the primary transition rules?

- For August 2027 entry, new P1 pupils in the Shawfair catchment will register for Shawfair Primary.
- From August 2027 entry to 2029 entry, sibling choice applies. This means P1 pupils with a sibling at Danderhall Primary School may choose either Shawfair or Danderhall Primary School.
- From 2030 onwards, all children in the new catchment attend Shawfair Primary. Those wishing to attend Danderhall Primary School must submit a Placing Request.

What are the secondary transition rules?

- 2025/26 P7 cohort remain catchment to Dalkeith High School.
- 2025/26 P6 cohort may attend Dalkeith High School *or* Shawfair Secondary school.
- 2025/26 P4–P6 cohorts with a sibling at Dalkeith High will be treated as catchment to Dalkeith High School if they wish
- 2025/26 P1–P3 cohort wishing to attend Dalkeith High School must submit a placing request.
- Families moving into the area:
 - 2025/26 S1+ or P7 cohorts will be catchment to Dalkeith High School.
 - 2025/26 P6 and below cohorts will be catchment to Shawfair school.

Transport

Will free school transport still be available?

Yes. Free transport continues in line with existing Integrated Transport Policy.

Children attending Dalkeith High School as part of a transition arrangement will receive transport in line with the Integrated Transport Policy.

Parents choosing a non-catchment school via placing request must arrange their own transport.

Will there be a safe walking route to Shawfair school?

As the school and the wider Shawfair area is developed, a variety of shared use paths will be built. A School Travel Plan will be prepared before the school opens, which will detail suitable routes to school.

Decision-Making

When will a final decision be made?

Key dates:

- Consultation closes: 27 May 2026
- HMIES (formerly Education Scotland) report: by 19 June 2026
- Consultation Report published: 31 August 2026
- Final Council decision: 22 September 2026