



**Midlothian Council**  
**Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate**

**Statutory Consultation Report**

**Report on the outcome of the consultation on the  
Proposal to establish an Additional Support Needs  
(ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.**

**June 2026**

This Consultation Proposal has been issued by Midlothian Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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## **Midlothian Council**

### **Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate**

This report has been prepared following a statutory consultation on the following proposal:

#### **Proposed establishment of an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.**

Subject to the outcome of the consultation:

- An Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be formally established at Woodburn Primary School from August 2026;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Woodburn Primary School;

The following schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- Woodburn Primary School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

- There are no schools indirectly affected by the proposal.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting which was held on 18 March 2026
- c) Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- d) Oral representations made to it by pupils
- e) His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report on the proposal

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Midlothian Council has identified a sustained increase in the number of children and young people requiring Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision. In response, and as part of the Council's strategic approach to inclusive education, it is proposed that a dedicated ASN stage be established at Woodburn Primary School.
- 1.2 An ASN stage for Woodburn Primary School was being hosted in Easthouses Primary School prior to a planned consultation exercise. Due to the sudden relocation of Mayfield Primary School to Easthouses Primary School in December 2024, the Woodburn Primary School ASN classes needed to move into the school earlier than planned. This consultation exercise is being undertaken to formalise this arrangement as planned.

- 1.3 Woodburn Primary School is also currently hosting Mayfield Primary School ASN classes. These classes will move to the new Mayfield Schools Campus when it opens in 2027.
- 1.4 Currently, ASN provision in the area is delivered through a combination of mainstream inclusion, enhanced resource bases, and specialist settings. While this model has supported many learners effectively, the Council recognises the need to strengthen and expand local provision to meet growing demand.
- 1.5 This proposal seeks to enhance support for children and young people with a range of additional needs by creating a dedicated, nurturing ASN stage within the existing mainstream environment at Woodburn Primary School. The development of this provision would reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive education that meets the needs of all learners across Midlothian.
- 1.6 Woodburn Primary School has recently benefited from a major capital investment project, completed in 2024. This included the construction of new classrooms, a purpose-built activity hall, and the redevelopment of outdoor spaces. These modern facilities provide an adaptable environment that is well-suited to supporting children with a wide range of needs.
- 1.7 The Head Teacher at Woodburn PS has overall responsibility for the leadership and management of the school, including the hosted ASN provision outlined above.
- 1.8 By formally establishing the ASN provision within Woodburn Primary School under the leadership of its Head Teacher, this will continue to ensure that children receive consistent, high-quality support in line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This approach will foster an inclusive environment where every child's right to education, protection, and development is upheld, thereby enhancing their overall well-being and educational success.
- 1.9 Creating a permanent ASN provision within a primary school setting offers significant educational benefits. It supports continuity of learning, strengthens inclusive practice, and enables children to learn within their local community. This approach promotes emotional well-being, social development, and access to a broad curriculum tailored to individual needs. It also ensures that staff can develop specialist expertise within a whole-school inclusive ethos, benefiting both ASN learners and the wider school population through improved differentiation and collaborative approaches.
- 1.10 This is a Consultation Report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the above proposal.
- 1.11 The purpose of this report is to:
  - Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period
  - Provide a summary of the written responses
  - Provide a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting which was held on 18 March 2026
  - Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations

- Provide the full text of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
- Provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Consultation Proposal Document and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* when reviewing the above proposal.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 *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.
- 2.2 *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.
- 2.3 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)).
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education in its area. These include carrying out a statutory consultation when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools, including Nursery Schools, such as closure, relocation or change of catchment area.
- 2.6 The principal purpose of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* 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.”*

- 2.7 This report has been prepared in accordance with the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#), having regard to the [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015 and updated in 2026, and the [complementary guidance for local authorities](#) published by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (revised February 2026).
- 2.8 The following information has also been used to prepare this report:
- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
  - Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting which was held on 18 March 2026
  - Oral representations made to it by pupils
  - Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
  - His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIES) report on the proposal

### **3. Midlothian’s Vision for Education**

- 3.1 Midlothian Council is committed to establishing a permanent provision for primary-aged children with additional support needs (ASN) within Woodburn Primary School. This initiative aims to create a dedicated and nurturing environment where children can receive tailored support to meet their individual needs. The proposed provision will continue to offer high-quality educational experiences, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- 3.2 Under the leadership of the Head Teacher at Woodburn Primary School, the ASN provision will adhere to the principles of the UNCRC. This commitment guarantees that children’s rights to education, protection, and development are upheld, fostering an inclusive atmosphere that promotes their overall well-being and educational success.
- 3.3 The permanent ASN provision will include the required facilities and resources to support children with additional support needs. These enhancements will ensure that children have access to the necessary tools and environments to facilitate their learning and growth. By integrating this provision within Woodburn Primary School, Midlothian Council aims to provide consistent, high-quality support that aligns with best practices in inclusive education.
- 3.4 Midlothian Council’s Strategy for Digital Learning, ‘Learning in the Digital Age’ (2016) is a commitment to equip children and young people with the knowledge and digital skills essential for learning, life and work. Every Midlothian school-age pupil is equipped with a device for learning.

- 3.5 Supporting children and young people with additional support needs requires effective partnership working. Midlothian's Digital Inclusion and Learning Team works closely with schools and partners to identify assistive technology that is bespoke and will meet learners' needs. The team works closely with Digital Services to overcome technical barriers where these arise and plan for improvements. Along with Digital Services, the team facilitates quality training for pupils, families and staff to ensure assistive technology is used to its full potential.
- 3.6 Furthermore, the establishment of this permanent provision will address the increasing demand for ASN services within the community. It will offer a stable and supportive setting where children can build meaningful relationships, develop essential skills, and achieve their full potential. Midlothian Council's dedication to this initiative reflects its ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for all children, particularly those with additional support needs.

#### **4. Considerations**

- 4.1 The main considerations relating to the proposed establishment of an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School are fully explained in the consultation proposal document. The main points are highlighted below:
- 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

#### **5. The Consultation Process**

- 5.1 The Council has met the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 with regards to ensuring the views of the community were listened to and their views are included in this report. To further ensure compliance with the Act, an independent consultant was engaged to chair all meetings to ensure impartiality.
- 5.2 The Council believes that this report accurately reflects the views of the community, which have been gathered through a range of engagement events and response mechanisms.
- 5.3 It is for members of Midlothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.
- 5.4 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.

- 5.5 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on Midlothian Council's website on 12 February 2026 and paper copies distributed on 12 February 2026 to:
- Woodburn Primary School, 5 Cousland Road Dalkeith · EH22 2PS
  - Dalkeith Library and Arts Centre, 2 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE
  - Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZG
- 5.6 Copies of an information leaflet on the consultation were emailed to affected consultees (see list below) and schools and others on 09 February 2026.
- 5.7 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- The pupils attending Woodburn Primary School
  - The pupils attending the additional support needs provision
  - The Parent Council of Woodburn Primary School
  - The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Woodburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
  - The staff employed by the Council and based at Woodburn Primary School
  - The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff
  - The Community Council of Dalkeith and District
  - Community Planning Partnership
- 5.8 The following schools are directly affected by the proposal:
- Woodburn Primary School.
- 5.9 The consultation period commenced on Thursday 12 February 2026 and lasted until Thursday 2 April 2026 being a period of seven weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.
- 5.10 The proposal on which the consultation took place was:
- The proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.
- 5.11 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.
- 5.12 An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was issued to the consultees listed in the Consultation Proposal Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Proposal Document could be obtained was included and was published on Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub:  
<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/woodburn-asn-consultation>
- 5.13 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
- 5.14 In addition, the consultation was publicised and received engagement in the following ways:

- There were 10 Facebook posts: Best performing Facebook post reached 34,319 news feeds and 186 people engaged with the post.
- There was 01 X post (formerly known as Twitter): The X post achieved 267 impressions with 14 engagements.
- Midlothian Council website consultation page had 45 views.
- The consultation was pushed during Council news slots on a local radio station.

5.15 A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.

5.16 A public meeting was held at Woodburn Primary School on 18 March 2026 at 6:30pm.

5.17 In addition, virtual drop-in sessions via MS Teams were offered on 26 February 2026 and 03 March 2026, which members of the public and staff were welcome to attend. No one attended these sessions.

5.18 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire on Midlothian Council's Citizen Space Consultation Page. The questionnaire asked a specific question and enabled general comments and views to be entered.
- Digital leaflets, Council web and social media announcements linked to the Consultation Page. These detailed a specific Education Consultations email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period.
- Midlothian Council Head Teachers used established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
- The Council consulted with children and young people potentially affected by this proposal by holding a Pupil Voice session.

5.19 The Consultation Report is the Council's response to the points raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Proposal Document.

5.20 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by Midlothian Council on 23 June 2026.

## **6. Responses to the Consultation Exercise**

6.1 As part of the consultation process, the Council sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The Council provided stakeholders with a short online or paper questionnaire and arranged to receive additional written responses. The Council received 65 responses to its questionnaire during the consultation period. All representations that had been made during the consultation period were submitted to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland and any issues or concerns raised are also subject to the Council's response in this Consultation Proposal.

The questionnaire responses are summarised by category in the following tables:

**Table 1 – Number of respondents by type of respondent**

| Type of Respondent     | No. of Responses | % of Responses |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Individual             | 65               | 100.0%         |
| Organisation           | 0                | 0.0%           |
| Not Answered           | 0                | 0.0%           |
| <b>Total Responses</b> | <b>65</b>        | <b>100%</b>    |

*\*Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

**Table 2 – Number of respondents by category**

| Individual Respondent     | No. of Responses | % of Responses |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Parents                   | 59               | 56.2%          |
| Pupils                    | 5                | 4.8%           |
| Staff                     | 13               | 12.4%          |
| Member of Local Community | 17               | 16.2%          |
| Other/Unknown             | 11               | 10.5%          |
| <b>Total Responses</b>    | <b>105</b>       | <b>100.0%</b>  |

*\*The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.2 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to formally establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School?

**Table 3 – Number and percentage of responses by opinion**

| Response               | No. of Responses | % of Responses |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Strongly Agree         | 44               | 67.7%          |
| Agree                  | 13               | 20.0%          |
| No Opinion             | 2                | 3.1%           |
| Disagree               | 3                | 4.6%           |
| Strongly Disagree      | 3                | 4.6%           |
| <b>Total Responses</b> | <b>65</b>        | <b>100.0%</b>  |

**Table 4 – Number of responses by category**

|                            | <b>Agree/Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>No opinion/Not answered</b> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parents                    | 52                          | 5                                 | 2                              |
| Pupils                     | 4                           | 1                                 | 0                              |
| Staff                      | 11                          | 2                                 | 0                              |
| Members of Local Community | 13                          | 4                                 | 0                              |
| Other                      | 9                           | 2                                 | 0                              |
| <b>Total Responses</b>     | <b>89</b>                   | <b>14</b>                         | <b>2</b>                       |

*\*The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Woodburn Primary School? The responses were as follows:

**Table 5 – Number and percentage of Responses by Opinion**

| <b>Response</b>        | <b>No. of Responses</b> | <b>% of Responses</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly Agree         | 33                      | 50.8%                 |
| Agree                  | 18                      | 27.7%                 |
| No Opinion             | 3                       | 4.6%                  |
| Disagree               | 7                       | 10.8%                 |
| Strongly Disagree      | 4                       | 6.2%                  |
| <b>Total Responses</b> | <b>65</b>               | <b>100.0%</b>         |

*\*Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

**Table 6 - Number of respondents by category**

| <b>Respondents</b>        | <b>Agree/Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Disagree/Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>No opinion/Not answered</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parents                   | 47                          | 9                                 | 3                              |
| Staff                     | 4                           | 1                                 | 0                              |
| Pupils                    | 10                          | 3                                 | 0                              |
| Member of Local Community | 12                          | 3                                 | 2                              |
| Other/Unknown             | 9                           | 2                                 | 0                              |
| <b>Total Responses</b>    | <b>82</b>                   | <b>18</b>                         | <b>5</b>                       |

*\*The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.4 The comments made as part of the questionnaire submissions are included in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

#### **Response Analysis from Organisations**

- 6.5 There were 0 responses from organisations.

#### **Public Meeting**

- 6.6 A public meeting was held at Dalkeith High School on 18 March 2026 at 6:30pm.
- 6.7 Additionally, virtual drop-in sessions were arranged for 26 February 2026 and 03 March 2026, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. No one attended the drop-in sessions.

#### **Pupils and Staff**

- 6.8 During the consultation period, Council officers facilitated a pupil voice session with pupils from both the ASN provision and mainstream classes at Woodburn Primary School, as part of the consultation on the proposal to establish an ASN stage.
- 6.9 A copy of the information leaflet and a link to the consultation page was sent to all staff, inviting them to respond to the consultation via the online survey and highlighting the consultation mailbox for any queries.

## **7. Support for the Proposal**

- 7.1 57 of all questionnaire respondents (65 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School.
- 7.2 The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.
- 7.3 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Concerns around Mayfield PS 2027 move
  - Will the school be allocated sufficient budget for the provision?
  - How will the ASN stage operate within the wider school?
  - Has Midlothian considered establishing ASN stages at other primary schools?

## **8. Opposition to the Proposal**

- 8.1 Six of all questionnaire respondents (65 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School.
- 8.2 The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.
- 8.3 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Concerns about leadership capacity

## **9. No Opinion on the Proposal**

- 9.1 No respondents indicated that they had no opinion on the proposal to establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School.

## **10. Education Authority Response to the Main Issues Raised**

### **Concerns around Mayfield PS 2027 move**

The construction of the new Mayfield primary school includes an Additional Support Needs (ASN) Provision which is scheduled to open in May 2027. A supported transition will take place from August 2026 in the lead up to the children starting in the new provision in August 2027. This ASN provision will serve all primary school-aged children in the Newbattle community.

Midlothian Council will support staff to plan a supported transition for all Newbattle community learners who are currently hosted in Woodburn ASN provision to return to their new locality provision. The provision has been built to ensure that children are safe and secure and

appropriately supported. As this provision is in your catchment mainstream school, this will also allow us to ensure that your child can be supported to reach their full potential in their local community and aid their transition to their catchment secondary school, Newbattle Community High School, in the coming years.

### **Will the school be allocated sufficient budget for the provision?**

In all mainstream schools with an ASN class or provision, the Headteacher holds responsibility for managing the budget and overseeing staff recruitment. A Devolved School Management (DSM) budget for ASN classes/provisions will be allocated to distinct Cost Centres within schools' Budget statements.

The allocation for ASN provisions and classes includes class teachers, promoted staff, non-class contact time and support staff (including EY Practitioners, Learning Assistants, Youth Workers).

### **How will the ASN stage operate within the wider school?**

The provision at Woodburn will provide a dedicated ASN stage overseen and managed by the Woodburn Primary School Head Teacher. Strategic overview and support is provided by the ASN central team. The provision has links to a dedicated ASN Quality Improvement Officer, Education Support Officer and relevant ASN Networks within Midlothian Council. This leadership model will ensure a cohesive, inclusive environment for learners with ASN, alongside their peers in the mainstream school, and promotes the wellbeing and aspirations of all learners.

The provision has been hosted at Woodburn Primary School since December 2024. The success and impact of the provision on the wider school community is monitored on an ongoing basis. Ongoing dialogue with staff, pupils, and families will inform adjustments to ensure that the learning environment remains inclusive, respectful, and supportive for everyone.

### **Has Midlothian considered establishing ASN stages at other primary schools?**

Midlothian has seen a sustained increase in the number of children and young people requiring Additional Support Needs provision. Midlothian Council's Learning Estate Strategy, 2017-2047, recognised the need to plan for this increase, and 'ensure that each learning community is equipped to support pupils with a range of complex needs in Primary and Secondary Schools.' In 2020/2021 Midlothian Council's Education Service undertook a comprehensive review of the provisions for children with additional support needs, leading to several changes across the learning estate, aimed at expanding and improving the range and quality of support available. These changes have been crucial to meet the increasing demand for such provisions.

The establishment of the ASN provision at Woodburn will further enhance Midlothian's commitment to providing an inclusive, world-class education system to all Midlothian children and young people.

### **Concerns about leadership capacity**

The proposal to formally establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School under the leadership of the Head Teacher will be supported by a robust leadership structure that includes a Depute Head Teacher and Principal Teacher. This leadership capacity is critical to the success of the provision and aligns with Midlothian Council's strategic priorities for inclusive education.

## **11. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report**

11.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. The purpose of the report is to establish a new additional support needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School. The His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report can be read in full at Appendix 4.

11.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 18 March 2026 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Woodburn Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

11.3 The Summary section of the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

*HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for children with complex needs arising from the council's proposal to establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School. All of the children, staff and parents who met with HM Inspectors support the council's proposal. If the proposal is agreed, the council should continue to work with stakeholders to develop further the provision to ensure that it can fulfil the proposed educational benefits. In particular, the council should continue to review the learning environment to ensure that it is sufficiently and appropriately resourced to meet children's complex needs. The council should also provide clarity and support for parents and families of children who may need to transition to the new Mayfield Primary School when it opens. In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies notified to it.*

### **Midlothian Council's Response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's Report**

11.4 Midlothian Council welcomes the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal and the Education Authority accepts its findings. Officers from the Education Authority met to consider the content of the report and the action highlighted in the summary.

- 11.5 In response to the findings contained within the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report Midlothian has been asked to address the following points:

*“If the proposal proceeds, children in Mayfield Primary School’s ASN classes may be required to make another transition that could be unnecessary. HM Inspectors recommend that the council begins to work closely with parents of these children to provide clarity and make plans for any children who may be moving to the ASN classes in the new Mayfield Schools Campus. The council should ensure that any transition arrangements are well planned and clearly communicated to all affected children and families, and staff.”*

*“The council states that the Woodburn ASN provision offers a purpose-built, safe, and accessible learning environment designed to meet the complex needs of its learners. However, the staff and parents that met with HM Inspectors questioned this. Stakeholders acknowledge that adaptations have been made to accommodate the current ASN classes since they were moved to Woodburn Primary School earlier than planned. The reasons for which are set out within the council’s proposal. The staff who met with HM Inspectors raised a few concerns around personal care and dignity within the current environment. Their concerns relate mostly to the extensive use of clear glass throughout the building and what they feel are insufficient toileting and changing facilities for the number of children who require intimate care. HM Inspectors recommend that the council continues to work with staff and parents to ensure that the ASN classes and other resources meet sufficiently well the range and complexity of children’s needs.”*

**Midlothian Council’s response:**

- 11.6 Midlothian Council have begun to engage with parents of children who attend Mayfield Primary School’s ASN classes in order to aid transitions and support families. Communications have been sent to the relevant families with transitions set to begin in August 2026 for the August 2027 school year.
- 11.7 The specific classrooms at Woodburn PS were not purposefully built, but the atrium and classrooms where the ASN Provision at Woodburn is hosted, have been adapted to better support children with complex needs. Adaptations include ensuring children can access learning in a safe, structured, and inclusive way with direct access to a safe, secure outdoor space. Classrooms are organised with reduced sensory clutter and calm, predictable layouts to help minimise anxiety and support focus. Specialist resources such as sensory equipment, communication aids and tailored learning materials are readily available, while flexible seating and quiet spaces allow children to regulate their sensory and emotional needs. The wider school atrium area has been adjusted with accessible pathways, visual signage and a designated calm sensory room, enabling children to move around the building more independently and confidently.

**12. Transition Arrangements**

- 12.1 It is proposed that there will be no change to the current process for referrals and the allocation of specialist primary support spaces.

- 12.2 An enhanced transition to secondary education will be offered to all children attending the ASN provision based on the individual needs of each child.
- 12.3 Children will be supported to transition to their catchment area secondary school.
- 12.4 Where a child's additional support needs continue to require additional specialist support, a referral will be made to the Education Resource Group. Following assessment and consultation on their needs, they may be allocated specialist support in one of our provisions.

### **13. Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies**

- 13.1 Section (10) (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Consultation Proposal Document which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.
- 13.2 An alleged inaccuracy was identified during HMIES consultation period and this has been responded to in Section 11.

### **14. Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

- 14.1 Section 9(1) of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* states that:

After the Education Authority has received His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,
- (iii) His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's report.

- 14.2 Following receipt of the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report, 65 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.
- 14.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by relevant officers within the Council's Children, Young People and Partnership Directorate. Data and factual information was checked where required and advice and input was sought from other Council Services where needed to consider the issues raised. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

## **15. Legal Issues**

- 15.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.
- 15.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality under the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, and the Fairer Scotland Duty (Part one of the Equality Act).
- 15.3 Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:
- a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
  - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on 18 March 2026;
  - c) the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland report;
  - d) preparing a Consultation Proposal; and
  - e) waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.
- 15.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in paper form, if required, on 01 June 2026, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Midlothian Council.

## **16. Staffing Implications**

- 16.1 The proposed ASN provision will be led and managed by the Head Teacher at Woodburn Primary School.
- 16.2 The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children. The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provision based on assessment of their needs in partnership with the Head Teacher.
- 16.3 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.
- 16.4 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 ASN provision will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

## **17. Environmental Issues**

- 17.1 Overall, there are no environmental impacts as a result of this proposal.

## **18. Conclusions**

On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that:

- a) The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance provision for children with additional support needs in Midlothian;
- b) This proposal of formally establishing the ASN provision within Woodburn Primary School is educationally beneficial for several compelling reasons. It ensures that children with additional support needs receive consistent, high-quality support in a familiar and stable environment, which is crucial for their emotional and academic development;
- c) The integration of ASN provision within Woodburn Primary School fosters inclusivity, allowing children to interact and build relationships with their mainstream peers, promoting social integration and a sense of community.
- d) The continuity and stability are essential for fostering a conducive learning environment where children can thrive. Maintaining the ASN provision at Woodburn Primary School is the most beneficial option for the children's educational and social development, ensuring their right to a high-quality, inclusive education is upheld.
- e) This proposal will bring educational benefits to both current and future users of the additional support needs provision. It will ensure that children's learning experiences and achievements are consistently assessed and enhanced as needed, fostering continuous improvement and development.
- f) Overall, there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

## **19. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council approves the following:

- The establishment of an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School under the Leadership of the Headteacher at Woodburn Primary School.

## Appendix 1 - Comments from Questionnaire Responses

Of the 65 total responses, 39 contained comments of which 33 declined permission to make their comments publicly available. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in Section 10 of the Consultation Report. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining six responses who did not choose the option to decline permission to make their comments publicly available.

| Comments   |
|--|
| Takes the head teacher away from the mainstream school, its already a huge school as it is so I think a dedicated one for the asn side would be better   |
| Sufficient time and further deputy may be needed for headteacher as the school is already large and headteacher has a large workload already.  |
| My child has settled into woodburn ASN class very well, to move him will cause great distress to him   |
| Woodburn already has a large ASN base - it would be better to spread these more across the authority to more future proof ASN Provision.<br>The Head Teacher becomes more and more removed from day to day classroom management as more organisational tasks appear - can then lack a clear understanding of challenges and pressures that are affecting staff, children and carers - Woodburn is already a very large school. |
| I think it is very important to have this as so many children haven't been assessed and fall behind. I've had nothing bar support from all the members off staff with my child and how far she has came on is because how they can handle my child knowing her needs etc I think this would help a lot of parents who dont understand why their child is different understand why and be able to help them at home also x      |
| No where do you explain what exactly a ASN stage is or any implications of it. How can anyone respond without knowing what it means.   |

## **Appendix 2 - Pupil Voice Session Responses**

### **Proposal to establish an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School from August 2026 under the leadership of the Head teacher at Woodburn Primary School**

#### **Woodburn Primary School Pupil Voice Session**

**24 March 2026**

Katy Maclean (KM), Rachel Tulloch (RT) and Mary Noone (MN) met with a selection of Woodburn Primary School pupils, supported by Mrs Laura Collin (LC), Principal Teacher to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

KM explained what a consultation is and why we were doing it.

#### **What do you think about formalising the ASN stage in Woodburn?**

Good idea – I like being in Woodburn, I love the classes and playing in the MUGA. (ASN child)

Good idea - I like Woodburn but I've not had much to do with the ASN classes.

Good idea - I like Woodburn and the complex needs classes. I have a buddy in one of the ASN classes – I go down to his class and he comes to mine. On a Friday we play football.

Good idea - I like the ASN – we've played a couple of times with them. I enjoy it, it's fun.

Good idea - I've been in the class quite a lot – it's good to get an understanding of the children and playing with them.

Good idea - The buddies in the ASN class are a good fit in Woodburn Primary – nothing wrong with them being here. They have experience of coming into our classes too.

Good idea - I think it's really nice – they've fitted in well and feel more respected. It's really good.

Good idea – I am in the badgers class and like it. I also get to go to P5 class which is good. I like going into the big playground. (ASN child)

#### **Is anyone unsure about the proposal?**

Everyone - No.

#### **Has anything changed in the school since the ASN classes were housed here temporarily?**

Yes - We've all been learning sign language which is a great new skill.

#### **When will the decision be made? (ASN Child)**

KM advised on the Consultation timescales and explained that there will be a meeting of the Midlothian Council elected members before the school summer holidays, when the final decision will be made.

#### **Can other pupils have a say – some in my P7 class are buddies with children in the ASN class but they are not here?**

KM – That's a good idea.

LC suggested we ask all the P7 teachers to ask to collect others thoughts and send it to KM for inclusion.

## **Appendix 3 – Public Meeting Minutes**

### **Statutory Public Consultation Meeting**

#### **Proposal to establish an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.**

**Location:** Woodburn Primary School

**Date:** 18 March 2026

#### **Attendees:**

Alastair Delaney, Independent Chair

Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer

Carolyn Robertson, Quality Improvement Manager

Julie Fox, School Group Manager (Early Years)

Katy Johnstone, Learning Estate Resource Officer

Mary Noone, Business Support Officer

Joanna Findlay, Head Teacher (Woodburn PS)

Members of staff from Woodburn Primary School

Ann Kivlin, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education Scotland

1 member of the public was in attendance.

Alastair Delaney (AD) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers.

AD Introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

AD explained the statutory consultation process and the work that would need to be undertaken by the Council in order to adhere to the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Michelle Strong (MS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and then outlined the proposals and spoke through the presentation slides.

## 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 & Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 12 February 2026.
- Statutory Consultation Period – 12 February 2026 to 2 April 2026.
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland within 3 weeks of end consultation

# Statutory Consultation Process & Timeline (2)



- Service takes account of all feedback.
- Preparation of Final consultation Report – after 12 May 2026.
- Final consultation report published 1 June 2026.
- Decision by Midlothian Council – 23 June 2026.

# Proposals



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

- Establish an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.

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

- An Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be formally established at Woodburn Primary School from August 2026;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Woodburn Primary School;

# Background



- Over recent years, Midlothian has experienced a significant rise in the number of children identified as requiring ASN support.
- An ASN stage for Woodburn Primary School was being hosted in Easthouses Primary School prior to a planned consultation exercise.
- Due to the sudden relocation of Mayfield Primary School to Easthouses Primary School, the Woodburn Primary School ASN classes needed to move into the school earlier than planned.
- This consultation exercise is being undertaken to formalise this arrangement as planned.

# Educational Benefits Overview



## **Learning Environment:**

- Dedicated classrooms, outdoor areas, nurture rooms, sensory space, life-skills atrium – enable personalised learning and therapeutic approaches
- Appropriate personal care facilities – support complex needs, promote dignity and belonging

## **Inclusion:**

- Central to Woodburn ASN
- Appropriate, flexible transitions into mainstream classes
- Links maintained with local schools
- Responsive model - promotes meaningful participation, social integration, reduced isolation
- Aligns with Midlothian's commitment to accessible, equitable, achievement-focused education

## **Learning, Teaching and Achievement:**

- Personalised, tailored to individual's abilities and learning needs
- Adapted strategies and total communication approaches to support engagement
- Progress measured through individual growth in life skills, communication and social development

# Educational Benefits Overview (2)



## **Health & Wellbeing**

- Support's motivation and overall wellbeing
- High staff-pupil ratio – enables consistent, nurturing, responsive support, meets sensory and emotional needs

## **Curriculum**

- Flexible and personalised
- Focus on sensory learning, life skills and communication
- Adapted experiences and outcomes – individual needs met
- Children supported to make meaningful choices promoting engagement
- Collaboration with external agencies – curriculum enriched

## **Local Community**

- Supports local and wider Dalkeith learners which:
  - Helps connections with peers and schools
  - Strengthens community ties
  - Promotes shared responsibility for inclusion
  - Reflects Midlothian's commitment to community-based support for children with complex needs

## **Staffing**

- Skilled staff team
- Highly trained to support complex needs – consistent, informed, and compassionate support, critical to development and wellbeing.

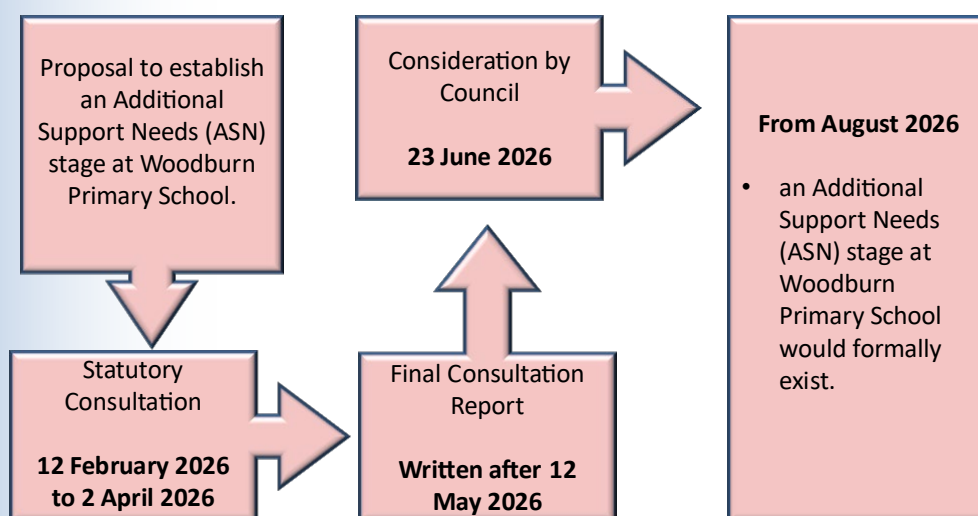
# Outcomes



If the decision by Midlothian Council elected members in June 2026 is to approve the proposal to establish an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School, from August 2026:

- An Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be formally established at Woodburn Primary School from August 2026;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Woodburn Primary School;

# Project Timeline



**Question: I thought this was about Woodburn Primary School but your information talks about Midlothian. Which is it?**

MS advised the proposal is to establish an Additional Support Need (ASN) stage from August 2026 under the Headteacher at Woodburn Primary School if agreement from Council given. Reiterated it was just a proposal, and we'll gather feedback ahead of any decision.

MS: Although ASN support needs are rising across Local Authorities, we were always planning to have an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School. Originally, the Woodburn provision was hosted at Easthouses Primary School until the consultation had been completed. However, Mayfield Primary School had to decamp to Easthouses Primary School which accelerated the Woodburn provision moving to Woodburn school. This consultation is about formalising the permanent ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School.

**Question: Who will access the provision?**

MS: Number of aspects and legislation about meeting learner's needs and ensuring children with ASN are supported and thrive. 46% of Midlothian's school age children have a need, not necessarily diagnosed. Majority are supported in mainstream classrooms. MS explained different stages of AS needs. Stage 1 support needs can be supported via class teacher, and that's a successful model. Stage 2 require additional support and resources beyond class teacher - learning takes place in mainstream but also in more specialised settings.

Stage 3 learn in mainstream education for part of school week but also on a placement. Stage 4 access full time provision placement, either within a school or Saltersgate depending on specific needs.

Each child with ASN is assessed and what stage they're at determines the strategy / support they receive. So, higher needs might be in a Woodburn mainstream class part of the week and specialist ASN provision for the rest of the week.

Ideally, we want children educated in their local community. Some children have specific needs and need to attend a provision outwith their locality but within Midlothian. Eg. For those with Hearing Impairment, we have one school for deaf children and therefore children are transported across Midlothian to that location. The Education Resource Group (ERG) reviews the needs of individuals and assesses the best place for them to receive their education.

**Question: What's happening with the Mayfield Primary School children who are currently being hosted at Woodburn?**

Mayfield Primary School had some complex needs classes but they were evacuated due to building concerns. Those classes will potentially move back to that campus when the new campus opens. If some of those children remain at Woodburn the resource moves with the child regardless of where they're educated. Over recent years there's been a 500 percent increase in neurodiversity, as a service we are looking at how we can respond to that level of need. The environment at Woodburn is demonstrating they're doing a great job for a range of children and we want to continue that arrangement.

Across Midlothian we have lots of Primary and Secondary provisions. Each year we are having to add to those provisions due to level of need and the number of children needing support. Each year we assess what we need and we respond to that. It is changing each year, with each new cohort of children.

AD: if you make a change at one school you have to look elsewhere. There are 11 primary provisions. The need changes all the time.

Woodburn Teacher: it's been a joy to have those children at the school. The model is replicated at other schools in the authority and sharing across schools is really valuable.

**Question: Is it just Woodburn or for other children too?**

In ideal world you'd just want Woodburn children in Woodburn Primary as with any other school, but part of the joy is having a mix of children as they'll all transition into a bigger high school together. E.g. the Hearing Impaired ASN classes at Easthouses Primary School have a peer group and real community. It's given them a true experience, and wider experience and peer support. Woodburn has great staff and it's been joyous to watch the children thrive despite quick move to Woodburn Primary School.

AD: Midlothian Council should be able to balance the resource element.

Woodburn staff Member reassured attendee it's worked really well and families see it as a positive.

AD and MS thanked the attendees.

Meeting was concluded.

# Appendix 4 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland Report

## Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Midlothian Council to establish an additional support needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School.

April 2026

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Midlothian Council to establish an additional support needs (ASN) stage at Woodburn Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 18 March 2026 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Woodburn Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

### 2. Consultation process

2.1 Midlothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The public consultation ran from 12 February to 2 April 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. A public meeting was held on 18 March 2026 at Dalkeith High School, attended by one member of the public. Discussion at the meeting centred around who would access the proposed provision.

2.3 Sixty-five stakeholders completed an online survey expressing their views on the provision and the proposal for the ASN stage under the leadership of the headteacher. The majority of respondents (52%) were current parents of Woodburn Primary School. Most respondents (87%) were in favour of the proposal, and most respondents (78%) agree that it should be led by the headteacher. Stakeholders value the inclusive approach and feel that an ASN stage would meet children's educational needs. A few respondents raised concerns about the future capacity of the school and the potential increased workload for the headteacher.

2.4 A pupil voice session was held at Woodburn Primary School on 24 March 2026 with a selected number of pupils, supported by staff. All children were in favour of the proposal. Children within mainstream provision spoke positively about developing their understanding of ASN and playing with children from the ASN classes.

### **3. Educational aspects of proposal**

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for primary children with complex needs arising from the council's proposal to establish permanently an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School. In its proposal, the council has set out clearly the educational benefits. There is potential for these to be realised within Woodburn Primary School. Educational benefits include an established ethos of inclusion within the school and personalised learning and teaching. There is a strong emphasis on health and wellbeing, supported by a flexible, relevant, and accessible curriculum. Stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors recognise that the temporary ASN classes can already demonstrate many of the educational benefits outlined in the proposal. All children, staff, and parents who met with HM Inspectors expressed support for the council's proposal. They highlighted several aspects that they feel are working well as a result of the temporary establishment of the four classes. Children who met with HM Inspectors communicated that they feel settled, safe and happy with positive relationships made with peers and staff.

3.2 ASN staff who met with HM Inspectors stated that they enjoy being part of a larger staff community and are feeling less isolated since the temporary move to Woodburn Primary School. Staff who met with HM Inspectors highlighted the benefits of increasing opportunities to share knowledge between ASN and mainstream teachers. If the council make permanent the proposal, there is potential for staff to continue to contribute to staff development and support planning for children who require additional support in mainstream classes. Additionally, there is potential for mainstream teachers to support moderation and planning for children in the ASN stages.

3.3 In its proposal, the council states that "Woodburn Primary School is also currently hosting Mayfield Primary School ASN classes, these will move to the new Mayfield Schools Campus when it opens in 2027". Parents and staff, who met with HM Inspectors, would like further information about this. HM Inspectors agree that the council should provide clarity on this aspect of the proposal. In doing so, the council should engage further with parents to clarify for them what school choices will be available for their child and the arrangements for school transport. If the proposal proceeds, children in Mayfield Primary School's ASN classes may be required to make another transition that could be unnecessary. HM Inspectors recommend that the council begins to work closely with parents of these children to provide clarity and make plans for any children who may be moving to

the ASN classes in the new Mayfield Schools Campus. The council should ensure that any transition arrangements are well planned and clearly communicated to all affected children and families, and staff.

3.4 The council states that the Woodburn ASN provision offers a purpose-built, safe, and accessible learning environment designed to meet the complex needs of its learners. However, the staff and parents that met with HM Inspectors questioned this. Stakeholders acknowledge that adaptations have been made to accommodate the current ASN classes since they were moved to Woodburn Primary School earlier than planned. The reasons for which are set out within the council's proposal. The staff who met with HM Inspectors raised a few concerns around personal care and dignity within the current environment. Their concerns relate mostly to the extensive use of clear glass throughout the building and what they feel are insufficient toileting and changing facilities for the number of children who require intimate care. HM Inspectors recommend that the council continues to work with staff and parents to ensure that the ASN classes and other resources meet sufficiently well the range and complexity of children's needs.

3.5 During the consultation period, parents and staff identified alleged inaccuracies in the proposal. The council will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to investigate these alleged inaccuracies. In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies notified to it.

#### **4. Summary**

HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for children with complex needs arising from the council's proposal to establish an ASN stage at Woodburn Primary School. All of the children, staff and parents who met with HM Inspectors support the council's proposal. If the proposal is agreed, the council should continue to work with stakeholders to develop further the provision to ensure that it can fulfil the proposed educational benefits. In particular, the council should continue to review the learning environment to ensure that it is sufficiently and appropriately resourced to meet children's complex needs. The council should also provide clarity and support for parents and families of children who may need to transition to the new Mayfield Primary School when it opens. In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies notified to it.

**HM Inspectors**  
**April 2026**

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland