



## **FAQ for Parents**

### **Why is it necessary to decant the children?**

Significant upgrade works to the school will be carried out between **August 2020 and July 2021**. The safety of pupils and staff is paramount and therefore a decant is considered the best option for the following reasons:

- Operating in a live school is fraught with difficulties in order to safely segregate children from what will be a building site for the duration of the extension works.
- It would be very difficult to safely segregate the internal refurbishment works planned for the building from pupils and staff.
- The noise and dust generated by the works would make normal activities of a school impractical and negatively impact on learning and teaching.
- During the normal progress of the works there will be times when utilities - water, electricity and gas - will need to be either switched off temporarily or for a prolonged period to allow for essential works to take place safely.

### **Has the council decanted schools previously when upgrading works were being done?**

East Ayrshire Council has decanted a number of schools in recent years. Whilst every school decant is different, staff have a rigorous process in place which includes mitigating measures to address potential issues and challenges. The focus is rightly on ensuring that there is no impact on learning and teaching and minimising disruption for the children, staff, parents and carers.

### **Why is the school being decanted to Kirkstyle PS?**

As a former primary school, the layout and accommodation within the building is suitable and a programme of updating to the fabric of the building has been undertaken. The building is also big enough to accommodate all Crosshouse primary classes and the Communication Centre children.

### **Will the school day be affected?**

In order to ensure that the journey to and from Kirkstyle PS does not impact on the number of hours of learning and teaching, the children will be picked up slightly earlier and returned to the drop-off points slightly later (exact timings are noted in the paragraph below).

### **What are the transport arrangements?**

- The pickup and drop off points will be;
  - (i) **Crosshouse pupils** – pick up and drop off at the **Area Centre Car Park**
  - (ii) **Knockentiber pupils** – pick up and drop off at one central point on **Kilmaurs Road, just past Castle Terrace, adjacent to the swing park.**
- Coaches will arrive at the pick-up point at **8.20am** and will leave at **8.40am prompt** to travel directly to Kirkstyle PS.
- A member of the school staff will accompany the children on the coach journey.
- Coaches will leave Kirkstyle PS at **3.10pm prompt** and return to the respective drop-off points at **3.30pm approximately**.
- Children who attend the Communication Centre will be picked up in time to arrive at Kirkstyle Primary School at 9am.
- Children who attend the Communication Centre will depart Kirkstyle at **3pm**.

**Will there be a trial run for the whole school getting to Kirkstyle for 9am as the roundabout at Bellfield is very busy?**

Yes. There will be a trial run prior to the end of the term in June 2020

**Can there be an open day for pupils and parents before the move?**

It may be possible for children to have a brief look around the building on the day of the trial run, however, Kirkstyle is currently a working decant school for Loanhead and so any visit for parents/carers will be once the Crosshouse children are settled there.

**Will there be proper seat belts for the little ones (especially new primary 1) or just lap belts?**

All coaches are fitted with seat belts that meet statutory guidelines.

**Will there be a toilet on the buses in case a wee one needs to go and the bus is held up in traffic?**

It is very unlikely that there will be a toilet on the buses.

**Will there be school staff on the buses and how many?**

There will be 1 member of staff on each bus, as per all previous and current decant arrangements.

**Will the children be able to leave from Knockentiber some days and Crosshouse on other days if their childcare varies throughout the week?**

Such arrangements cause difficulties as children are allocated to coaches depending on the number of seats available (it is unlikely that all coaches will have exactly the same number of seats). It is not easy, therefore, to simply switch a child from one bus to another on different days of the week, however, any such requests should be discussed with the Head Teacher who will determine whether this can be accommodated or not.

**Can I take my child to Kirkstyle Primary School?**

It is preferable that the children travel together to Kirkstyle, however, should there be significant issues with this arrangement in relation to child care then this can be discussed separately with the Head Teacher. It should be noted that roads leading to the entrance to the school are narrow and busy with residential parking and there will be taxis transporting Communication Centre children to the school so additional vehicles would be problematic.

**My child presently gets a taxi to school – how will this be affected?**

All Mainstream pupils will travel by coach during the decant arrangements. In relation to Crosshouse Communication Centre pupils, current transport arrangements will remain in place and they will be taken directly to and return from Kirkstyle PS.

**My child has an additional support/medical need. How can I be sure he/she will be safe on the journey to and from Kirkstyle PS?**

Children will be escorted on the coaches by staff who already know them and their respective needs well. Any medicines, medical information and/or additional information will be carried by staff on the coach journeys.

**What happens if my child misses the bus?**

If your child misses the bus from the pick-up point in the morning, it will be your responsibility, as parent/carers, to get your child to Kirkstyle Primary School.

### **How will my child get home if they are sick during the day?**

If your child has to return home during the school day, arrangements will be as present i.e. the school will make the necessary arrangements to get your child home and keep you fully informed.

### **Will Mr Hamilton the janitor be moving with the children?**

This will be for facilities colleagues to agree.

### **Has there been any upgrading works carried out in Kirkstyle PS ahead of the decant?**

Yes, minor adaptations and upgrading have been completed.

### **Will the teaching materials and classroom resources be transferred from Crosshouse PS?**

Yes, all teaching resources will be transferred. Every effort will be taken to ensure that the physical environment will replicate that at Crosshouse. All teaching staff will continue to be committed to providing the same excellent, high standard of education and ensure that every child reaches his/her full potential - the only change will be the location of the learning and teaching.

### **When will the staff be able to pack up resources?**

In circumstances such as this, East Ayrshire Council can apply to the Scottish Government for permission for exceptional school closure to give staff time to pack up resources at Crosshouse and set up again at Kirkstyle. It is anticipated that EAC will request exceptional closure on Thursday 25 June and Friday 26 June, Tuesday 18 August 2020 and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

If permission is granted, this would mean that the children would finish the current school session at Crosshouse on Wednesday 24 June 2020 and start the 2020/21 school session at Kirkstyle Primary School on Thursday 20 August 2020.

### **How will dining arrangements work?**

The children will be able to have a cooked lunch or packed lunches as per present arrangements.

### **What will the arrangement be for the new Primary 1 children?**

On Thursday 20 August, Primary 1 children and an accompanying parent/carer will be picked up at 9.40am and transported to Kirkstyle. The coach will transport parents/carers back to the respective pick-up point after they have escorted the children into Kirkstyle and settled in class.

At the end of the school day, the Primary 1 children will travel back to the drop-off with the rest of the children. From day 2, arrangements for primary 1 children will be as per the rest of the school.

### **What arrangements will be in place for Parents' Evenings?**

Parents' Afternoons/Evenings will be held as normal in Kirkstyle Primary School. This means that parents/carers will be able to view the children's work and displays.

### **Will there be an opportunity for parents to visit the new facility to view the class arrangements?**

Yes, staff plan to have an open afternoon, early in the new term, once classes are established in their new environment.

### **Will I still be able to use Parent Pay?**

Yes. Arrangements will be set up to ensure Parent Pay can be used as present.

### [Where can I get more information?](#)

An information session for all parents has been arranged for **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm**. Officers will be in attendance to answer any questions.

Please also check the Council's [news page](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages which will be updated with any further information when it is available.

**Throughout the decant period, it is even more important that school staff have the correct contact details and are kept fully up-to-date with any medical or other issues of which they should be made aware.**

The school will continue to keep you informed directly.