

# Crosshouse Primary School & Communication Centre



## FAQ for Parents

**As part of “Transformation 1”, East Ayrshire Council undertook to review the school estate and to provide new facilities where appropriate.**

### [Why is it necessary to split the mainstream classes over two buildings?](#)

This is a temporary measure in order to relieve current pressures on the school until an updated scope of works for the planned £6.2m upgrade is agreed. The Early Childhood Centre is already located within this community building and managed by the Head Teacher of the Primary School and Communication Centre.

### [Why did we choose to move Primaries 5, 6 and 7?](#)

This group is best placed to take advantage of the opportunities that this move will provide.

### [How will this impact on my Primary 5/6/7 child?](#)

In addition to classroom spaces, the children will have access to a light, bright and spacious dining area. It is planned to use this space for STEM, health & wellbeing and art/music/drama activities. With easy access to outside space, staff will be able to develop further outdoor education activities.

### [Will the teaching materials and classroom resources be transferred from existing classrooms?](#)

Yes, all teaching resources and furniture will be transferred. All resources that are required will be provided, if it is not suitable to transfer these from existing classrooms.

### [Will the move impact on my child's learning?](#)

Every effort has been taken to ensure that the physical environment will not impact on the learning and teaching. 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.

### [How will my Primary 7 child deal with transition now and at the end of June?](#)

The space being provided in the community building will allow for a greater range of transition activities in conjunction with Grange Academy. The school is rightly very proud of the resilient young people it has prepared for the future and are confident that the children will take this move in their stride.

### [What are the decant arrangements?](#)

Pupils in Primary 5, 6 and 7 will be decanted to the community building with effect from Monday 19 February 2018. It is anticipated that the children will not return to the main school building until all works are completed within the primary school. This is not likely to be before session 2018/19.

### What traffic safety measures have been considered?

There is a Crossing Patrol Officer in place to cross children at the church over the Kilmarnock/Irvine Road before and after school and at lunchtime. This officer stands at the junction of Playingfield Road and can cross children at this point. Arrangements are already in place for crossing the pupils to and from the school to the community building for gym.

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

It is expected that there will be minimal change to transport arrangements. Anyone affected will be made aware of the arrangements.

### How long have these plans been in place?

Discussions began several weeks before the end of last term to try to find a solution that is in the best interests of all children – Early Childhood Centre, Primary and Communication Centre. It is acknowledged that it is a difficult time to move classes in the middle of a term, however, staff and senior leaders will ensure that there is minimum impact on learning and teaching and will support the children as they always do.

### What alternatives were considered before this decision was made?

Alternatives have been investigated. Other locations were discussed and visited before deciding on what is considered the best solution for all children. The Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, Head of Education and Strategic Education Group Manager have been involved in all discussions and are in agreement with the solution proposed.

### Can further clarity be provided on a timeline? When is the proposed extension planned?

Plans have been in place for some time to increase space for the Communication Centre. This is currently the only primary facility in the authority.

Initial plans were drawn up and it became clear that as numbers continued to rise that the scope of works had to be re-considered. It also became clear that investment was required in the school as well and therefore the original budget would not be sufficient.

In order to address the increase in numbers and address updates required to the building itself it was agreed that an increased budget would be requested.

A request for funding was agreed by Cabinet on 24 January 2018 - £3.2m for the Communication Centre and £3.0m for the school. A new scope of works will be developed and parents will be made aware of the proposed timeline. Parents will be consulted in depth about the new builds for the Communication Centre and school.

To further reduce pressure on Crosshouse Communication Centre, Cabinet was also asked to approve funding for other communication centre-type facilities in the authority.

Whilst it is frustrating that the process has been prolonged, now that funding has been approved a new scope of works will see all children in the school, mainstream and communication centre, benefit.

### Has there been any upgrading works carried out in the Community Centre ahead of the decant?

Yes, accommodation will be upgraded and adaptations made as necessary before pupils move in to the building on 19 February 2018. This includes updating security in the building - children will have their own dedicated entrance which will be locked. Children arriving late will have to access the classes via the main community centre entrance and escorted through security doors to the classroom area.

### **The school has already lost the ICT suite. Has ICT provision been considered for Primary 5, 6 and 7 at the Community Centre?**

There will be no disruption to IT provision in the community building.

Four interactive panels have been purchased and will be fully operational in the three classrooms in the community building as well as an additional panel for the dining/multipurpose area for group teaching and whole-school activities.

In addition to the laptops and iPads that were provided when the ICT suite space was reconfigured, we have also purchased a class set of 30 laptops which will be housed in a secure charging trolley for the senior primary pupils.

### **Where will the Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils have their lunches?**

Following the information meeting, the Head Teacher has agreed to survey the children and parents to find out whether they would prefer to continue having their lunches in the main school dining hall.

### **Will my child see his/her younger siblings in the main school building?**

There will be a weekly assembly for all children. The school community will be consulted on other ways to ensure they feel connected. Some ideas include:

- Planned visits to classes to share learning
- Paired class activities
- Inputs from different classes at assembly to share learning more widely
- Individual plans for children who particularly wish to visit a sibling at lunchtime
- Opportunity at golden time to visit friends and family
- Pupil Council will meet regularly to discuss any issues
- It is also hoped that closer links with the Early Childhood Centre can be made through the closer proximity.

### **What playground space will be available?**

Secure playground space is located at the back of the building with access from the building where the new classrooms will be located.

Following the information meeting, the playground space (including the language centre area) has been checked again and is large enough for the number of children to be accommodated in the community building.

If the survey results indicate that children and parents are happy for lunches to be served in the community building and for the children to play in this area, a rota will be arranged in the better weather to take the children to the park area where the multi-use sports area is located.

### **Will my child still have access to the tuck shop at playtime?**

Yes children will still have access to the tuck shop.

### **What are the arrangements for the Primary 7 monitors?**

This will be dependent on the outcome of the survey. If it is decided that the pupils are to have their lunch in the community building, a monitoring rota for Primary 5 and 6 will be drawn up. Primaries 1-4 will be monitored by school staff. There would be no requirement for Primary 7 to come back to school for wet weather monitoring.

If it is decided that the pupils are to have lunch in the main building, monitoring arrangements will remain as at present.

### 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. we'll make the necessary arrangements to get your child home and keep you fully informed.

### Will there be a medical facility in the Community Centre?

A small private area has been identified to deal with any confidential medical conditions and a second area to deal with all other scrapes, bumps and bruises.

### What about toilet provision?

Children will use the toilets they currently use whilst having PE lessons in the building. There is adequate toilet provision in the building to accommodate the number of pupils and staff using the building.

### Will the school day be affected?

The school day will not change with the start time at 9am and school ending at 3.10pm.

### How can I collect my children from two different buildings if they finish at the same time?

Primary 5, 6 and 7 children can safely walk from the community building to Playingfield Road to be met there.

### My child attends after school care at 'Oor Wee Den' – how will this be affected?

Staff members will collect the children from the community building and escort them to the meeting point.

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

Yes, teachers plan to have an open afternoon once classes are established in their new environment.

### How will this affect the proposed extension at Crosshouse Primary and Communication Centre?

East Ayrshire Council is committed to improving Crosshouse Primary and Communication Centre's facilities and will consult with the children, teaching staff and parents to develop a plan.

### How will the decant affect the Buddy system for the new Primary 1 children?

There will be more opportunity for children in Primary 6 to meet and get to know the pre-school children as they will be in the same building. It is anticipated that in the next academic session the Primary 7 buddies will be able to come over to the main school to support their Primary 1 buddies at playtime and lunchtime for the first few weeks of school and thereafter on a planned basis between Primary 1 and Primary 7. It is also possible to identify Primary 4 buddies to complement the Primary 7 buddies as an additional support at playtime.

### Will pupil numbers in the Communication Centre continue to rise even after the extension is complete?

To address the expected increase in provision for children with additional support needs, the revised Capital Programme, which was presented to Cabinet on 24 January 2018, identifies where other facilities can be built in other areas of the authority which will provide a more strategic overview of ASN provision.

### Parents, at the information session, asked why the library and science room could not be used?

These two rooms have been considered **again** after the information meeting. There are positive aspects to using these rooms but unfortunately the disadvantages greatly outweigh the advantages.

### **Advantages**

- The Communication Centre classes currently sharing one room would have more space.
- All classes would continue in the same building.

### **Disadvantages**

- The school would lose its two supplementary classes - this would seriously impact on activities for the whole school e.g. choir practice, instrumental tuition, short sessions of additional support, time-out sessions.
- The children would be travelling back and forward to the community building throughout the day and this would also demand additional staffing.
- All resources currently stored in these rooms would have to be transferred to the community building removing ad hoc opportunities for staff to access resources to adapt lessons to meet the needs of individual children.
- There would be no space available for parental meetings and ASN reviews - the latter would require children to travel back and forward to meetings.
- The move into the community building, where the ECC is located, offers an opportunity to have a dedicated STEM/Health & Wellbeing/Creative Arts room where enhanced transitions can take place.
- The loss of space in the school would impact on every child.

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

The school will continue to keep you informed directly.