



Dumfries and Galloway Council
Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing

Proposal Document: September 2026

Closure of St Teresa's Nursery Class

Proposal for the closure of St Teresa's Nursery Class

Summary Proposal

Dumfries and Galloway Council are proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to close St Teresa's Nursery Class.

It is proposed that St Teresa's Nursery Class be closed with effect from 2 July 2027.

Reasons for this proposal

This is considered to be the most appropriate option to address the reasons for the proposal, which are:

- North West Dumfries has significant over provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), families within the area will continue to have flexibility and choice of ELC settings with two Council run, two Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries plus childminders.
- In common with all local authorities, Dumfries and Galloway Council faces significant financial pressures and are facing a £30 million funding gap over the next three financial years.
- Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing a significant and sustained decline in its child population, with the National Records of Scotland forecasting an 18.5% reduction in the 0–15 age group between 2022 and 2036.
- Along with several other rural Councils, Dumfries and Galloway Council is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff.

This document has been issued by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. It has been prepared by the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate with input from other Council Directorates.

Publication Information

The proposal paper will be available, free of charge, at:

- St Teresa's RC Primary School, Dumfries;
- North West Community Campus;
- Lincluden Primary School; and
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Headquarters.

And published on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website:

<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/council-elections/have-your-say/consultations-engagements/statutory-consultation-proposal-closure-st-teresas-nursery-class>

Copies of this paper are also available on request from:

Statutory Consultation – St Teresa’s Nursery Class
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

E-mail: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

To request this information in a more accessible format or alternative language, please contact the postal or email address listed above.

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available to the consultees listed as follows:

- a) the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school,
- b) the parents of the pupils at any affected school,
- c) the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper,
- d) the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity),
- e) the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school,
- f) any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (e),
- g) the community council (if any),
- h) the community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated,
- (ha) any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant,]
- i) any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant,
- j) any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant.

1.0 Background

St Teresa’s Nursery Class is currently located within St Teresa’s RC Primary School, Dumfries.

St Teresa’s Nursery Class has a Care Inspectorate registration for 36 children aged from 3 years upwards to those who are not yet attending primary school. The nursery class operates from 8:30am – 3:30pm during school term time. The nursery is not registered for eligible two-year olds.

Dumfries and Galloway Council operates 45 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings across the school estate. The school estate comprises 94 primary schools, of which 52% have a nursery class. All Council-run ELC provision is delivered through nursery classes located within primary schools. In addition, there are 35 Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector nursery providers operating across the region. A small number of these providers are accommodated within Dumfries and Galloway Council primary schools or other Council-owned properties. In addition, there are also 23 childminders delivering funded ELC provision.

On Thursday 26 February 2026, Elected Members of Dumfries and Galloway Council considered budget savings necessary to achieve a balanced budget. It was agreed to consult on the closure of small nurseries in order to deliver budget savings.

Dumfries and Galloway Council – Thursday 26 February 2026 – Item 5

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=6523&Ver=4>

Councils have a statutory duty, introduced in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to make arrangements to secure ‘best-value’.

Councils, as Education Authorities, have a statutory duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. This duty is reflected in the Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023–2028, Education and Learning Directorate.

Dumfries and Galloway Council aims to improve education and learning opportunities to help all children, young people, and citizens fulfil their potential. This begins with pre-school, continues through school, and progresses into further or higher education or transition into work. Dumfries and Galloway Council works with partners to create and promote lifelong learning opportunities so that everyone in the region can live a meaningful and fulfilling life and contribute to their community. The strategic outcomes of Dumfries and Galloway Council include:

- Places of learning are inclusive, sustainable, and meet the needs of local communities
- We get it right for every child
- Children, young people, and adults transition successfully through all life stages
- Young people and adults succeed in what they want to achieve
- Participation in creativity and play is part of early and lifelong learning experiences
- Local people can build their skills and confidence

2.1 Reasons for this Proposal

It is proposed that St Teresa’s Nursery Class be closed with effect from 2 July 2027.

This is considered to be the most appropriate option to address the reasons for the proposal, which are:

- North West Dumfries has significant over provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), families within the area will continue to have flexibility and choice of ELC settings with two Council run, two Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries plus childminders.
- In common with all local authorities, Dumfries and Galloway Council faces significant financial pressures and are facing a £30 million funding gap over the next three financial years.
- Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing a significant and sustained decline in its child population, with the National Records of Scotland forecasting an 18.5% reduction in the 0–15 age group between 2022 and 2036.
- Along with several other rural Councils, Dumfries and Galloway Council is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff.

2.2 Additional Considerations

In addition to the main reasons outlined above, the following considerations have also informed the proposal to discontinue education provision at St Teresa's Nursery Class:

- The educational benefits, as set out in Section 5, to current and future nursery-aged children.
- The number of nursery aged children enrolled at St Teresa's Nursery Class has fallen to a very low level.
- Councils have a statutory duty, introduced in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to make arrangements to secure 'best-value'.
- Dumfries and Galloway Council currently has in excess of 42% surplus capacity across Council run ELC settings in North West Dumfries. It must be acknowledged that the costs-per-pupil in under-occupied nurseries are excessively high and that underutilised nurseries are expensive to maintain and operate.

3.0 Nursery Roll/Changing Demographics

The data presented below is drawn from the pupil headcount, conducted after each intake, intakes occur in August, January and April. All data presented is from the April intake as this represents the total maximum number of nursery aged pupils in attendance. Historical school roll figures reflect past headcount data, while future projections are based on NHS birth data and local development forecasts (where available). It is important to note that nursery rolls may fluctuate due to families moving in or out of the area and parents/carers exercising their right to transfer their children to other ELC provision.

3.1 Demographics of Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is currently experiencing a significant and sustained fall in pupil numbers with the National Records of Scotland predicting a further 18.5% fall in the 0-15 age group from 2018 to 2032. Despite the expansion of ELC to 1140 hours and the inclusion of eligible two year olds the number of children continues to fall across Dumfries and Galloway.

The nursery rolls for all ELC settings (including partner providers (including childminders)) in Dumfries and Galloway are detailed in Figure 1 below:

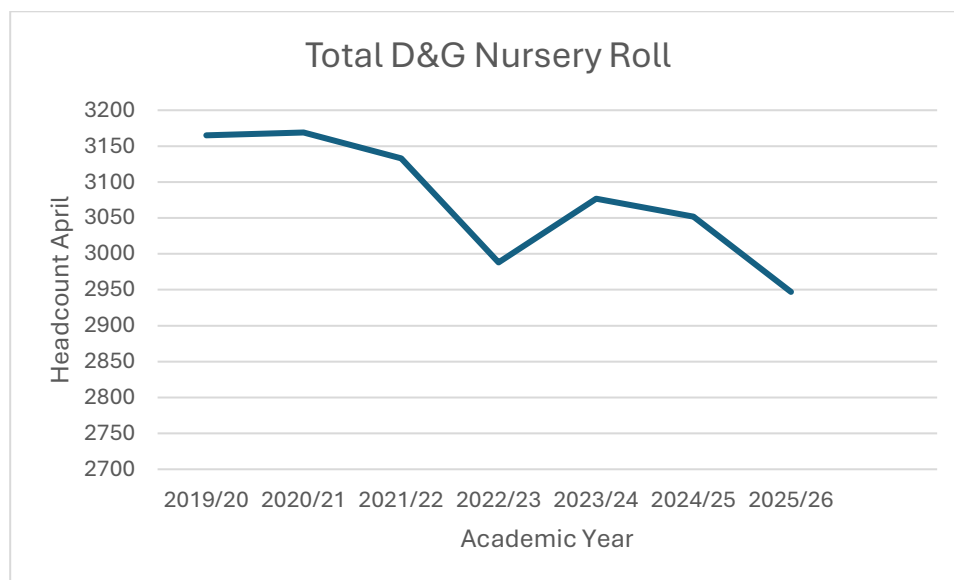


Figure 1: Dumfries and Galloway Total Nursery Pupil Roll

The graph below (Figure 2) shows the equivalent information for North West Dumfries. This data also includes partner providers (including childminders).

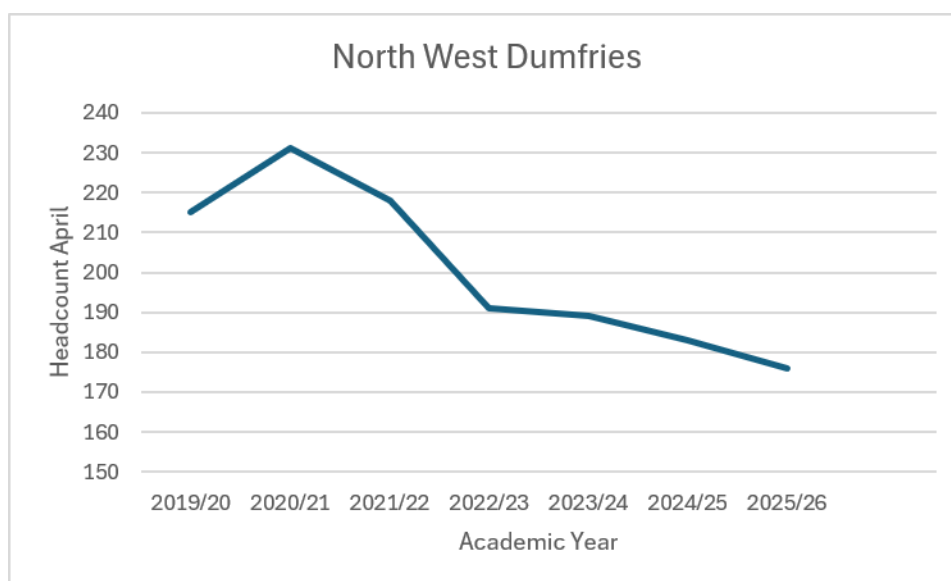


Figure 2: North West Dumfries Total Nursery Pupil Roll

It is recognised that the graph shown in Figure 2 does not represent the total number of children residing within the North West Dumfries area. Rather, it reflects the April headcount for each nursery in the locality. Consequently, the figures may include children who live out with North West Dumfries, while not necessarily capturing all children resident within the area.

3.2 Early Learning and Childcare Provision in North West Dumfries

Current Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision in North West Dumfries is made up of three Council run ELC settings and two Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Providers plus childminders.

Council run ELC is available at:

ELC Setting	Capacity	Roll (April 27)	Opening Hours
Lincluden Nursery	50 (no more than 10 under 3)	42	8.30am – 3.30pm Term Time
North West Nursery	70 (no more than 10 under 3)	42	8.30am – 3.30pm Term Time
St Teresa's Nursery	36	6	8.30am – 3.30pm Term Time
Total	156	90	

The current PVI providers are:

ELC Setting	Capacity	Places Funded April 2026	Opening Hours
Maxwelltown Playcare	55 (2 years to primary 7 of whom no more than 25 are aged between 2 to under 3 years at any one time)	51*	8am – 5.30pm 48 weeks per year
MaxPlay2	30 children at any one time aged from 12 weeks up to and including primary 7, of whom no more than 9 children are under the age of 2 years.	19*	8am – 5pm 48 weeks per year

*Information correct April 2026.

The current capacity of Council run establishments compared to the current and projected following enrolment for academic year 2026/27 demonstrates that capacity is considerably in excess of what is required to meet demand.

Lincluden Nursery opened in 2009 as part of the newly built Lincluden Primary School (there was a nursery in the former Lincluden Primary School). North West Nursery opened in 2018 as part of the newly built North West Community Campus which saw the merger of Lochside Primary School and St Ninian's Primary School, both primary schools had nurseries prior to the merger.

The distance from St Teresa's Nursery Class to alternative provisions are as follows:

ELC Setting	Distance from St Teresa's Nursery Class
Lincluden Nursery	0.35 miles
North West Nursery	0.39 miles
Max Play 2*	0.64 miles
Maxwelltown Playcare*	0.49 miles
Playworks*	1.28 miles
Calderbank*	1.25 miles
Laurieknowe Nursery	1.33 miles

*denotes PVI provider

Dumfries and Galloway Council ELC settings do not have catchment areas, instead nursery zones are used to prioritise places at the point of enrolment particularly where ELC settings are oversubscribed.

3.3 St Teresa's Nursery Class

St Teresa's Nursery Class is currently located within St Teresa's RC Primary School, Dumfries.

St Teresa's Nursery Class has a Care Inspectorate registration for 36 children aged from 3 years upwards to those who are not yet attending primary school. The nursery class operates from 8:30am – 3:30pm during school term time. The nursery is not registered for eligible two-year olds.

The nursery roll at St Teresa's Nursery Class has fluctuated over the period from academic year 2019/20 to 2026/27 as can be seen in Figure 3 below. Following an increase from 14 children in academic year 2019/20 to 16 in 2020/21, the roll declined to 11 children by 2022/23. Numbers then recovered, rising to a peak of 17 children in academic year 2024/25. However, a subsequent decline is evident, with the roll reducing to 13 children in 2025/26 and 6 pupils enrolled for academic year 2026/27.

Overall, while pupil numbers remained relatively stable between 11 and 17 children for most of the period, the forecast for 2026/27 indicates a significant reduction in the nursery roll compared with previous years.

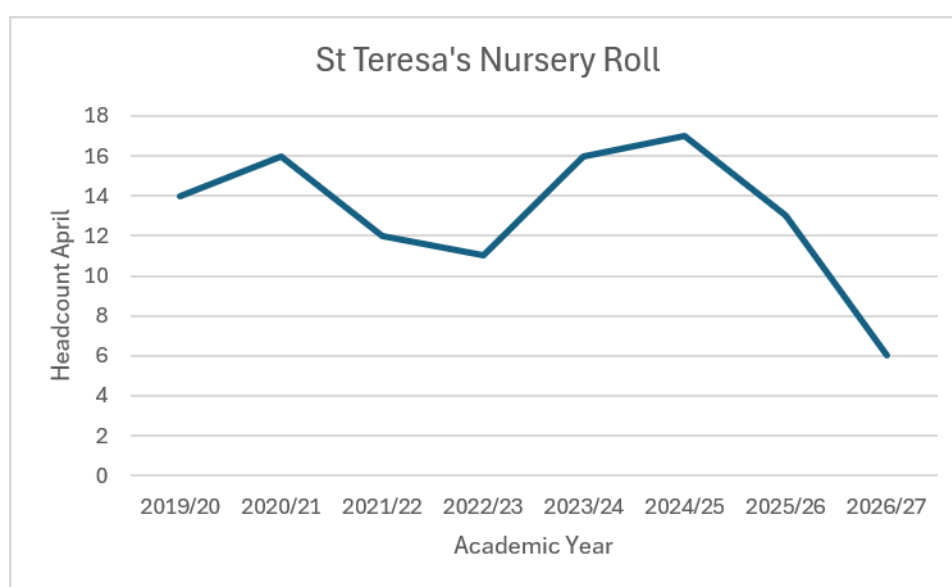


Figure 3: St Teresa's Nursery Class Total Nursery Pupil Roll

The data presented in Figure 3 is based on the April headcount for each academic year. The academic year 2026/27 figure reflects the most recent enrolment information available at the time of writing.

For academic year 2026/27, six nursery-aged children are enrolled at St Teresa's Nursery Class. All six children are expected to attend between 9.00am and 3.00pm, within the nursery's operating hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm each day. Based on the attendance patterns requested by families, five children will be in attendance on four days of the week, with all six children attending together on one day each week.

The number of children attending on any given day is as follows:

From August 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Number of nursery pupils	4	4	5	4	4

From January 2027 (expected attendance)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Number of nursery pupils	5	5	6	5	5

It should be noted that there is currently no additional nursery pupils enrolled who are expected to commence attendance in January 2027. Therefore, if no further enrolments are received, attendance levels will remain as detailed in the August 2026 table.

Dumfries and Galloway Council does not prepare pupil projections for individual nurseries, as birth rate data is held by NHS Scotland. Under the Council's data-sharing agreement with the NHS, information relating to children due to start nursery in the subsequent academic year is provided solely to support the enrolment process.

3.4 St Teresa's RC Primary School

St Teresa's Nursery Class is located within St Teresa's RC Primary School. The nursery is a non-denomination nursery whilst the primary school is a denominational school with a large catchment area as detailed in Figure 4 below:

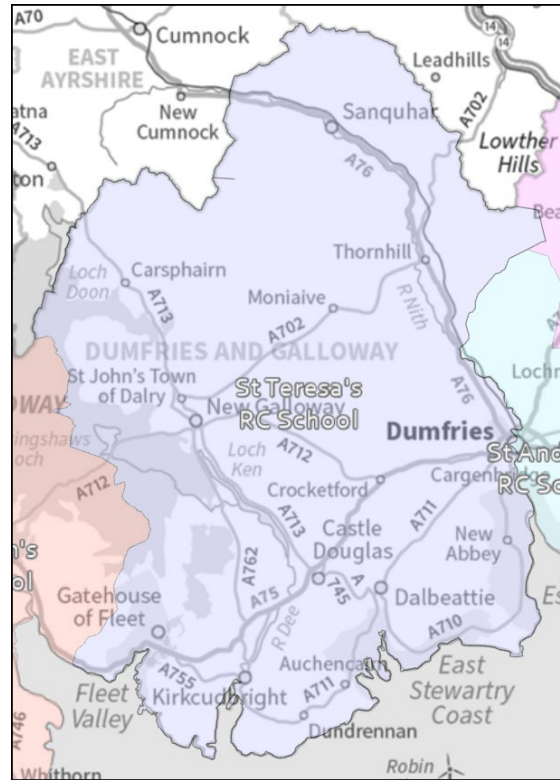


Figure 4: St Teresa's RC Primary School Catchment Area

All households in Dumfries and Galloway are assigned both a non-denominational and a denominational school catchment area. In line with the Dumfries and Galloway School Admissions Policy and Procedure 2025/26, Roman Catholic pupils are given priority for places at their designated denominational catchment primary school. Likewise, where a Roman Catholic pupil applies to attend an alternative denominational primary school, they are afforded priority over non-denominational placing request applicants.

Detailed below in Figure 5 is the school roll of St Teresa's RC Primary School for academic years 2025/26 and 2026/27;

Academic Year	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
2025/26	8	5	6	2	4	10	6	41
2026/27	8	8	7	7	2	2	10	44

Figure 5: St Teresa's RC Primary School Roll

The school roll figures shown in Figure 5 vary slightly between the two academic years because the 2025/26 data is based on the September 2025 school census, while the 2026/27 figures reflect rolls as of September 2026 (prior to the completion of the census for academic year 2026/27). Variations in school rolls between academic years are normal and occur as pupils enrol, transfer, or leave schools throughout the year.

For the 2026/27 academic session, a total of four pupils enrolled at St Teresa's RC Primary School (excluding the nursery class) have identified their religion as Roman Catholic and this data recorded within SEEMiS ((Scottish Educational Management Information System) this is the main education management information system used across Scotland)).

Within Dumfries Burgh, St Andrew's RC Primary School is located approximately 2.09 miles from St Teresa's Nursery Class. St Andrew's also offers a non-denominational nursery class alongside its denominational primary school provision. As such, families who wish their child to attend a non-denominational nursery while progressing to a denominational primary school may wish to consider St Andrew's Nursery Class as an alternative option alongside those immediate nurseries within North West Dumfries.

Dumfries and Galloway Council does not produce pupil projections for St Teresa's RC Primary School, as it does not hold data on children who have been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church.

4.0 Housing Development

Dumfries and Galloway Council's second Local Development Plan 2019 (LDP2) is the key planning document that sets out how land and property should be used across the region, guiding decisions on future development. It identifies where different types of development, including housing, businesses, community facilities and infrastructure, may take place and provides the policy framework against which all planning applications are assessed. Adopted in October 2019, LDP2 plays a central role in shaping long-term growth, protecting the environment and supporting sustainable communities.

Specifically within North West Dumfries, The Lochside Regeneration Project is a long-term partnership between Wheatley Homes South, Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Scottish Government, and the local community to transform the Lochside area of Dumfries into a more sustainable, attractive, and connected neighbourhood. To date, the project has been shaped through extensive community engagement, with residents, tenants and local businesses contributing to the development of the proposals. The community feedback focussed on the need for specialist accommodation, accommodation for older people and improved family accommodation for residents.

In June 2025, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee approved the Lochside Masterplan, providing the strategic framework for the area's redevelopment over the next 15 years. It is important to note that this approval did not grant planning permission in totality and each phase will be presented as separate planning applications.

At Planning Applications Committee on 9 September 2026, the first phase of the regeneration project for the land to the east of Syme Road/Findlater Court/Riddell Avenue and west of Glasgow Road was approved. This phase comprises of 52 units, the breakdown of unit types is detailed below:

House Type	Size	No. Units
Bungalow	1Bedroom/2Person	2
Bungalow (AHSCP)*	1B/2P	6
Bungalow (AHSCP)*	2B/3P	6
Cottage Flat	1B/2P	3
Cottage Flat	2B/4P	3
House	2B/4P	16
House	3B/5P	12
House	4B/6P	2
House	5B/8P	2

*AHSCP- This refers to the Health and Social Care Partnership, these units are designed to promote independent living through adapted/specifically designed accommodation.

This phase of the regeneration project is due to complete in October 2028.

A further phase of the regeneration project is currently in the planning application process, this will see a further 104 units on the former Maxwelltown High School site. This phase similarly to site listed above is a mixture of house types with adapted accommodation and 27 livingwell flats (designated for over 55s)

Dumfries and Galloway Council ensures that officers across relevant Council services work collaboratively in relation to large-scale housing developments and maintain close working relationships with key housing providers, including Wheatley Homes South. As part of this coordinated approach, the potential impact of new housing developments on education provision is assessed at nursery, primary and secondary school level. Pupil projections are routinely undertaken to estimate the likely number of children arising from proposed developments, enabling the Council to monitor capacity and plan appropriately for future demand. This approach helps to ensure that sufficient educational capacity is available to accommodate any changes in pupil numbers resulting from housing growth, while supporting the effective delivery of education services across the region.

To assist with these projections, a Pupil Product Ratio (PPR) is applied to housing developments to estimate the likely number of children that may arise from new residential units. Dumfries and Galloway Council maintains a generic PPR that can be utilised in areas where there has been limited recent housing development and where local evidence is not available. However, where more robust local data exists, the Council seeks to apply development-specific assumptions to improve the accuracy of pupil forecasts.

In the case of the Lochside regeneration, information and occupancy data derived from recent developments delivered by Wheatley Homes South and Cunninghame Housing Association in the Heathhall area of Dumfries has enabled the Council to apply a more refined, house type-specific PPR. This approach considers the proposed dwelling types and number of bedrooms within the development, providing a more accurate assessment of the potential impact on nursery, primary and secondary school rolls. Applying these house type-specific (PPRs) to the Lochside Regeneration Masterplan

as a whole, rather than solely to those phases that have been approved or are currently progressing through the planning process, indicates a projected increase of approximately 24 nursery-aged children over the planned five-year regeneration period.

Assessment of current and projected capacity within nursery provision across North West Dumfries demonstrates that these additional children can be accommodated within existing ELC settings. Accordingly, the anticipated growth arising from the Lochside regeneration is not expected to create a requirement for additional nursery capacity within the area. The Council will continue to monitor housing delivery and pupil numbers as the regeneration programme progresses to ensure that education provision remains aligned with emerging demand and that sufficient capacity is maintained to meet the needs of local families.

5.0 Educational Benefits Statement

The 2010 Act reflects the Scottish Ministers' view that educational benefits should be at the heart of any proposal to make a significant change to schools and nursery provision. The Council must therefore prepare an Educational Benefits Statement and include it within the proposal paper. In relation to this proposal, the Council has considered the educational benefits for current and future children who may attend the nursery, the impact on their families and carers, and the effect on other early learning and childcare provision within the area. The Council has also considered potential adverse effects and the measures that would be taken to avoid, reduce or mitigate these wherever possible.

Should this proposal be implemented, Dumfries and Galloway Council believes that there will be considerable educational benefits, centred around:

- Meeting the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare
- Care and Learning in Early Learning and Childcare

Curriculum for Excellence, Realising the Ambition, the national practice guidance for Scotland, and Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers recognises the unique communities and contexts in which all schools and nurseries sit. Headteachers, Nursery Managers and their teams have the flexibility to deliver Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in a way that best suits the needs of children and families in their local context.

St Teresa's Nursery is classified as located in an 'other urban area' (Scottish Government classification) within the North West Community Campus cluster are Lincluden Primary School and North West Community Campus.

Within the area there are also two funded providers who deliver Early Learning and Childcare on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council; Maxwelltown Playcare and Max Play 2. All four of these services meet the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare and have recently received positive inspection reports from Care Inspectorate, the regulatory body for daycare of children's services, across all quality themes/indicators.

In Dumfries and Galloway, a parental choice model ensures that families benefit from choosing an ELC provider that best suits their needs. This includes term time or all year round provision and can be taken across one or more services through a blended approach.

Lincluden Primary Nursery is located in the same geographical area as St Teresa's Nursery. The Nursery is part of the Primary School and has their own Headteacher and Nursery Manager. The Nursery Manager and staff team are responsible for the operational day to day running of the service.

North West Community Nursery, is also in the same area and sits within the North West Community 2–18 campus. The Nursery and Primary School have their own Headteacher and Nursery Manager. The Nursery Manager and staff team are responsible for the operational day to day running of the service.

Maxwelltown Playcare, are a not-for-profit voluntary provider, funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council to deliver ELC and is also located in the same area. Maxwelltown Playcare voluntary committee are the providers of the service. The committee employs a suitably qualified and experienced peripatetic Nursery Manager who has responsibility for the management of the nursery. The Nursery Supervisors plan and provide the day-to-day management and care for the children.

Maxwelltown Playcare voluntary committee is also the provider of Max Play 2, also located in the area. The peripatetic Nursery Manager has overall responsibility for the management of the nursery. The Nursery Supervisors plan and provide the day-to-day management and care for the children.

Children from St Teresa's Nursery who join Lincluden Nursery, North West Community Campus Nursery, Maxwelltown Playcare or Max Play 2 will benefit from care and learning alongside a greater number of peers of the same age and stage. These larger numbers will allow children to benefit from increased friendship groups, developing their social skills through building these relationships in supportive, nurturing environments that respect and advocate children's rights.

5.1 Meeting the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare

The national practice guidance for Early Learning and Childcare Realising the Ambition 2020 states that *'Evidence from both UK and international evaluations and studies of early years programmes support the fact that all children, and especially those from the least advantaged backgrounds, can benefit in terms of social, emotional and educational outcomes from attending high quality ELC provision'*

Lincluden Nursery, North West Community Campus Nursery, Maxwelltown Playcare and Max Play 2 all deliver a broad and relevant curriculum through a play based pedagogical approach. These nurseries have a strong focus on ensuring that the experiences, spaces and interactions are of high quality and this is reflected in their

recent inspection reports from Care Inspectorate. All four nurseries are either meeting or exceeding the National Standard.

Prior to September 2025 Care Inspectorate inspected four themes:

- How good is our leadership?
- How good is our care play and learning?
- How good is our setting?
- How Good is our staff team?

From September 2025 services are inspected under the new Quality Framework for Early Learning and Childcare settings under the themes:

- Leadership
- Children play and learn
- Children are supported to achieve
- Children thrive and develop in quality spaces- (this is not routinely awarded an evaluation)

The table below sets out the evaluations awarded at the most recent Care Inspection.

Services	Date of Inspection	Leadership / How good is our leadership?	Child Play and Learn / How good is our care play and learning?	Children are Supported to achieve	Children thrive and develop in quality spaces / How good is our setting?	How Good is our staff team?
Lincluden Nursery	22/05/2025	Good	Good	Not evaluated under the previous framework	Very Good	Good
North West Community Campus Nursery	19/03/2026	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Not assessed	Not evaluated under the new framework
Maxwelltown Playcare	16/10/2025	Good	Good	Good	Good	Not evaluated under the new framework
Max Play 2	29/08/2025	Good	Very Good	Not evaluated under the previous framework	Very Good	Very Good

The National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare ensures that services are led and delivered by appropriately qualified staff. Staff are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Staff are accountable for undertaking continuous professional learning, to ensure they have the skills and attributes to provide nurturing care and support, meaningful experiences and scaffold learning. All services adhere to the Health and Social Care Standards which includes having appropriate staffing structures and ratios in place to meet children's needs.

8.2 Care and Learning in Early Learning and Childcare

At Lincluden Nursery, Northwest Community Campus Nursery, Maxwelltown Playcare and Max Play 2 there are well-planned play spaces and motivating learning opportunities both indoors and outside. These are complemented by experiences within the wider community. This broad balance of learning experiences provides opportunities for children to thrive whilst developing their emerging skills across developmental domains and the Early Level Curriculum for Excellence.

Curriculum for Excellence enables staff to plan learning experiences which take account of the local context and community, and which are responsive to children's interests and motivations whilst developing early literacy, numeracy and knowledge and skills and across the full range of curriculum subjects. A clear focus on ensuring children's wellbeing underpins approaches to developmentally appropriate pedagogy.

Children's rights are at the heart of Early Learning and Childcare practice so that their voices are heard and they can influence and shape interesting, motivating learning experiences. This helps the children to develop as confident individuals, effective contributors, responsible citizens and successful lifelong learners.

Each child is seen as unique, competent and capable and is supported by the nursery manager and practitioners to develop their social skills, self-regulation, communication and language, confidence, creativity and curiosity, movement and coordination, cognitive skills and learning attributes.

The physical environment plays a significant part in the delivery of high-quality play opportunities and all services have free flow access between high-quality stimulating playrooms and interesting and diverse outdoor spaces so that children have agency over where and with whom they wish to play and learn. Access to outdoors is a fundamental part of ELC and supports physical activity, healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and resilience. Children are encouraged to care for their environment and learn about the natural world.

All four nurseries benefit from the support of an additional member of staff, an Equity and Excellence Lead (EEL). The specific remit of the EEL is to provide additional support for children, to close the poverty related attainment gap and lead and support family learning. This ensures that children accessing these services are fully supported to learn and develop.

'Lincluden Nursery is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children aged from 2 years to not yet attending primary school at any one time of whom no more than 10 children are aged under 3 years.'

Children are being cared for in a secure nursery suite, which is a part of Lincluden Primary School. They have the use of their own rooms and timetabled use of spaces in the main school, where they have opportunities to be part of the whole school community as well as for active and energetic play indoors. The nursery has its own outdoor area and uses parts of the school playground so that children have opportunities to learn about the natural world.' (Care Inspectorate Report May 2025)

Lincluden Nursery operates between 08:30 and 15:30, there are 36 three to five year old children currently and seven eligible two year olds enrolled for 2026-27.

At Lincluden Nursery there is a strong focus on supporting children's health and wellbeing. Positive relationships with parents and carers underpin the nursery's approach, with ongoing communication supporting children's wellbeing and learning. The nursery delivers programmes such as Health Movers and Think Equal supporting children's physical, social and emotional literacy.

Play spaces ensure children have access to stimulating learning environments which support engagement, curiosity and exploration. Children benefit from a curriculum that extends beyond the nursery through experiences and opportunities, including regular visits to local community outdoor spaces, where they can explore and interact with the natural world. The Nursery is committed to promoting children's rights and participation and, along with the school, has begun its journey towards achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, ensuring children's views and contributions are valued.

Staff identify and respond to children's learning needs. For example, through the provision of targeted opportunities and interventions for children to develop literacy and numeracy skills, through play-based experiences including games, songs and rhymes. This supports children's progress in learning.

The nursery has achieved Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland accreditation. The nursery offers regular family learning opportunities reflecting its commitment to supporting children to have the best start. The nursery has effective partnerships with wider agencies to support children's needs. Staff work effectively with other providers to support continuity in learning and smooth transitions, including for children who have a blended placement with more than one ELC service.

'North West Community Campus Nursery is registered to provide a daycare of children's service to a maximum of 70 children aged from two years to an age not yet attending primary school. Of whom, no more than 10 are aged two to under three. Children have access to a large playroom that offers direct access to an enclosed garden. A smaller playroom offers younger children a play space that can be accessed from the main playroom. The service is part of a large community campus that offers primary and secondary education, is close to green spaces, local amenities and can be reached by public transport links.' (Care Inspectorate report March 2026)

North West Community Campus operates between 08:30 and 15:30, there are 35 three to five year old children currently registered for 2026-27 and the nursery has five two eligible two year olds enrolled.

At North West Community Campus Nursery staff ensure that the learning environments support children to be autonomous learners. A balance of adult and child initiated/led experiences and rich invitations to play promote children's sustained curiosity and engagement and provide depth and progression in learning. Children have access to a range of digital technologies to support and extend learning, developing a range of knowledge and skills. Children also learn about sustainability and global citizenship developing a sense of responsibility and care.

The Think Equal programme is in place to develop children's emotional and social literacy, supporting empathy, wellbeing, positive relationships, pro-social behaviours and inclusion. The staff have achieved a Bronze accreditation for Inclusive Friendly Learning Environments (IFLE) ensuring inclusive, nurturing communication strategies are in place for all children, supporting self-regulation, social communication and wider access. A range of strategies and interventions are in place to ensure children get the support that they need. The nursery and school are working towards the Rights Respecting Schools Gold award establishing a wider understanding and application of children's rights.

Families are valued as crucial partners with strong relationships and open communication a key feature. There are well-established opportunities for family learning including weekly Bookbug and PEEP sessions where parents/carers may also work towards a qualification. Children benefit from intergenerational learning through a programme with a local residential care home in the community supporting children's social development and sense of belonging.

The nursery works effectively with other partners and providers to ensure smooth and well supported transitions.

Maxwelltown Playcare is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 70 children at any one time from age 12 weeks up to and including Primary 7. Of those 70, no more than 15 children aged from 12 weeks to 2 years with a maximum of 2 under the age of 6 months. No more than 55 children over the age of 2 years to primary 7, of whom no more than 25 are aged between 2 to under 3 years at any one time. The nursery accommodation includes 3 playrooms for children aged under 2, aged between 2 and 3 years and children over the age of 3. The rooms are inter linking which means that children can see what's happening in the setting. All rooms have direct access to the outdoors so that children can freely choose whether to be out or indoors. There is a separate kitchen and dining area which enables children to feel included and part of the nursery. Creative use has been made of space so that children are able to rest and sleep safely.' (Care Inspectorate report October 2025)

Maxwelltown Playcare operates all year round 48 weeks of the year and is open between 08:00 and 17:30. Seven two year olds and 44 three to five year olds are enrolled for funded ELC for 2026-27.

At Maxwelltown Playcare staff have a focus on ensuring that learning environments support children's creativity, for example through their engineering and construction play spaces. Children are engaged in creative processes rather than product driven activity. Developing environments for role play inside and outdoors has been a recent focus supporting children's imaginative play. Children can play out of doors in all weathers and benefit from access to various green spaces including in the orchard. There is a risk benefit approach to play and problem solving is encouraged.

Relationships with families underpin the Nursery's approach to ELC. Parents are involved in planning for children's next steps in learning through regular Care and Share meetings. The Nursery regularly shares information about children's learning through digital platforms. Families are supported through regular Stay and Play sessions and Brew and Blethers. The nursery has effective communication and works

well with other local providers to ensure smooth transitions for children, including those who have a blended placement with more than one ELC service.

Maxwelltown Playcare has also engaged with Inclusive Friendly Learning Environments (IFLE) accreditation highlighting strong, nurturing interactions and has been awarded the Bronze accreditation. Programmes are in place to support children's developing numeracy and literacy skills. Children benefit from developing their digital skills through using technology purposefully to research and enhance their learning.

'Max Play 2 is registered to provide a daycare service to provide a care service to a maximum of 30 children at any one time aged from 12 weeks up to and including primary 7, of whom no more than 9 children are under the age of 2 years.

The nursery accommodation includes a 0-3 years playroom, a sleep room, a 3-5 years playroom, a dining room and large enclosed outdoor play space.' (Care Inspectorate Report August 2025)

Max Play 2 also operates all year round 48 weeks of the year and is open between 08:00 and 17:00. There are currently four two year olds enrolled and 16 three to five olds are enrolled for funded ELC for 2026-27.

Max Play 2 also has a strong focus on learning out of doors and in all weathers; children are encouraged to solve problems and manage risk. Partnership working with Let's Get Sporty supports children's physical development and skills and encourages healthy lifestyle habits.

Positive relationships are in place with families, their contributions to improving the service are valued and they have contributed to the co-creation of the nursery vision, values and aims. There are regular opportunities to engage in family learning activities through Stay and Play sessions supporting families to build relationships in their community and support their children's learning. The service is inclusive of all families within the community, supporting everyone to be actively involved.

Children's voice is valued with children helping to shape their learning experiences as staff respond to current interests across a variety of play spaces indoors and outside in the nursery gardens. Children are encouraged to revisit their learning to consolidate skills and understanding. Children benefit from experiences in the wider community and in using digital technologies to enhance learning experiences and document their learning. Children also benefit from the service's positive relationships and good communication with other services to support transitions. Effective partnership working ensures that children's needs are well supported.

In all of the four nurseries there is a focus on equity and understanding families' circumstances including socio-economic factors. A sound knowledge of children's needs and barriers contributes to robust GIRFEC approaches and strong partnership working ensuring children and families benefit from relevant support at the right time. Services work in partnership with families, to ensure children's needs and any barriers to learning are understood and well planned for. Every child has a Personal Plan in place which sets out how the service supports the individual's care, health and welfare needs. Services work hard to ensure transitions into, within and beyond the service are well planned for.

Managers and staff assess and track children's progress. This information supports planning to ensure children access developmentally appropriate experiences across the curriculum which offer pace and challenge to ensure progress is made.

Children from these four nurseries, will likely transition to Lincluden Primary or North West Community Campus Primary maintaining social connections with their peers and community. However children may also access primary education in a variety of schools.

5.3 Implications for staff

Registrations are currently below registered capacity and therefore children that may attend St Teresa's Nursery may be accommodated in other local nurseries. This provides a range of options, both term time and all year round, to meet parental needs. Dumfries and Galloway Council recognises that the proposed closure of the nursery may create a degree of uncertainty for affected staff and may give rise to the need for redeployment. Should the proposal proceed, any staffing implications would be managed sensitively and in accordance with the Council's established workforce policies and procedures. Staff would be kept informed throughout the process. The Council operates a no compulsory redundancy policy and would seek to identify suitable alternative employment opportunities where required. The valuable contribution of staff to the nursery and wider school community is recognised and appreciated, and every effort would be made to support employees through any changes arising from the proposal.

The skills and experience of the team at St Teresa's will further support other Early Learning and Childcare services. Staff from St Teresa's Nursery may benefit from being part of a larger team, with colleagues to work alongside and share professional ideas and learning. Effective collaboration among staff better meets children's needs, enhances professional development, and improves children's overall experiences.

5.4 Educational benefits for any future children who would be likely to enrol at St Teresa's Nursery (but for implementation).

Children whose families may have opted to enrol them at St Teresa's will benefit from the broad range of educational experiences and opportunities outlined above in any of the four other services.

Through the proposal, the roll of other nurseries could increase, depending on parental choice of receiving service. This would be beneficial for these nurseries, as due to an overall falling population, it would extend the peer group for all children, both now and in the future.

Pupils who would have otherwise attended St Teresa's would benefit from the educational experience outlined above. They would also benefit from daily interactions with a larger number of peers and a wider range of shared experiences and

opportunities for friendships. This, in turn, will support a successful transition into primary education.

5.5 Educational benefits likely for pupils in any other nursery and school in the Local Authority.

The current roll of St Teresa's Nursery (6 children) has an indirect negative effect on pupils across Dumfries and Galloway. The running costs of the Nursery have a disproportionate impact on Dumfries and Galloway Council. If St Teresa's Nursery were to close, the current costs would be redirected back into Dumfries and Galloway Council.

There would be no other significant impacts, positive or negative, from this proposal on pupils within the local authority who attend other nurseries.

5.6 Placing Requests

In line with the provisions governing Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland, the proposed closure of St Teresa's Nursery would not affect the ability of parents and carers to request a funded nursery placement for their child at a setting of their choice, subject to availability and the Council's allocation arrangements. There would be no change to the existing application, enrolment or allocation process.

5.7 Educational Benefits Statement Summary

Dumfries and Galloway Council considers that the proposed closure of St Teresa's Nursery would deliver educational benefits for current and future children through access to high-quality Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) services that meet the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare. Children would be able to attend nearby funded providers, including Lincluden Nursery, North West Community Campus Nursery, Maxwelltown Playcare and Max Play 2, all of which are located within one mile of St Teresa's Nursery.

All four services have received positive Care Inspectorate evaluations and are meeting or exceeding the National Standard. They offer nurturing, play-based learning experiences aligned with Curriculum for Excellence and the national guidance Realising the Ambition.

A key educational benefit is that children would learn and play alongside larger groups of peers of a similar age and stage. This would support the development of friendships, social skills, communication, confidence and resilience while providing broader opportunities for collaboration, play and learning. Larger peer groups would also support smoother transitions into primary education, particularly as most children would progress to either Lincluden Primary School or North West Community Campus.

The receiving nurseries provide stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environments with strong emphasis on children's wellbeing, inclusion and participation. Children

benefit from a wide range of experiences that support literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, creativity, problem solving, digital skills, outdoor learning and community engagement. Services also place strong emphasis on family partnership, ensuring parents and carers are actively involved in their child's learning and development.

Additional support is available through dedicated Equity and Excellence Leads within all four settings, helping to address barriers to learning and reduce the poverty-related attainment gap.

The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on staffing within the receiving nurseries, current enrolments remain below registered capacities and there is sufficient space to accommodate all children currently attending St Teresa's Nursery.

Future children who might otherwise have attended St Teresa's Nursery would continue to have access to a range of high-quality funded ELC options, including both term-time and all-year-round provision, allowing families greater flexibility and choice.

Overall, the Council believes that the proposal would provide children with access to high-quality Early Learning and Childcare, improved opportunities for social interaction and learning, a broader range of educational experiences, while maintaining parental choice and ensuring continuity of high-quality provision within the local area.

6.0 Financial Impact

In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: technical guide and financial template, a comprehensive financial analysis is provided in Appendix 1, outlining the estimated costs associated with maintaining St Teresa's Nursery Class as a fully operational and occupied facility. These figures are based on the 2025/26 financial year.

Column 2 of Table 1 at Appendix 1 shows the annual running costs of St Teresa's Nursery Class (from on financial year 2025/26 actuals). The annual recurring savings (or costs) are shown in Column 4.

In the 2025/26 academic year, the cost per pupil at St Teresa's Nursery Class was £9,270.63 based on a nursery roll of 13 pupils (based on April headcount figures). This figure is based on an operational cost for that year of £120,518.24. Figures for financial year 2026/27 are likely to remain at a similar value as costs are predominantly associated with staffing. Staffing levels have remained unchanged despite a reduction in the nursery roll from 13 to six children. Consequently, the estimated annual cost per child, based on a roll of six, exceeds £20,000.

Table 1, School Costs. There are no figures included for column 3 as the receiving school as the staffing allocation is reviewed for each academic year following the enrolment process and settings staffed accordingly. All staff employed by Dumfries and Galloway Council would redeployed in line with Dumfries and Galloway Council's policies and included as part of the annual workforce planning exercise.

Table 1, Building Costs. There are no figures associated with St Teresa's Nursery Class building costs as the nursery is part of the wider school, these costs remain of despite the status of the nursery class. There are no figures included for column 3 as the receiving schools do not require any additional accommodation for the incoming nursery pupils – the small number of additional pupils attending St Teresa's Nursery Class can be accommodated in the existing ELC settings. Property insurance is set at zero in the financial template, as all Dumfries and Galloway Council properties are insured under a collective policy. As such, no individual insurance costs are attributed to specific properties. The non-domestic rates is associated with the entire school building, therefore there is no reduction in the rate.

Table 1, School Operational Costs. Each nursery class has a Devolved School Management (DSM) budget this allocation is adjusted each year to reflect new arrangements in line with Dumfries and Galloway Council's funding formula and is a redistribution of funding rather than an additional cost. There are no additional costs associated with school catering.

Table 1, Transport Costs. There are no transport costs associated with St Teresa's Nursery Class or the receiving nursery classes as there is no statutory duty on Scottish Councils to provide free transport for children attending ELC settings.

The financial impact of closing St Teresa's Nursery Class has been assessed across key areas including operational costs, staffing, transport, and funding. Analysis of 2025/26 data highlights high per-pupil costs indicating that continued operation is not financially sustainable. The expected annual recurring saving is £120,518.24. Overall, the proposal supports a cost-effective and sustainable approach in line with Dumfries and Galloway Council policy.

7.0 Impact Assessment

Dumfries and Galloway Council will undertake an impact assessment and Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) during the consultation process in respect of this proposal, to ensure that due regard is given to whether the decisions we make are likely to impact on different groups of people across the region. The result of the impact assessment should highlight any barriers or discrimination that might affect the communities of St Teresa's Nursery Class, ensuring we meet our statutory duties under the Equality Act including the Fairer Scotland Duty.

8.0 Consultees

A summary of this document will be issued free of charge to all of the consultees listed at page 3 of this document and it will also be published on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website: <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/council-elections/have-your-say/consultations-engagements/statutory-consultation-proposal-closure-st-teresas-nursery-class>

9.0 Consultation Period

As part of the consultation process, the Education Authority must publish the proposal paper, advertise it, and notify HMIE and all relevant consultees, as prescribed by Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, inviting them to make representations on the proposal. The consultation period will run from 10 September to 5pm on 6 November 2026, which includes at least 30 school days.

10.0 Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 6pm in St Teresa's RC Primary School. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting and participate is welcome to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate, and Officers will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. There will be an opportunity for questions to be asked and comments to be made. A note will be taken so that comments can later be summarised and considered.

11.0 Responses to the Proposal

Representations may be made on the following:

- the proposal; and
- suggestions of other alternatives.

Dumfries and Galloway Council will consider all representations, and these should be received no later than 5.00pm on Friday 6 November 2026 by one of the methods detailed below:

Online Survey: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/TEeNAbUcqD>



Letter to: Statutory Consultation – St Teresa’s Nursery Class
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

Email to: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

Respondents are required to clearly state the capacity in which they are expressing their views and agree to their name and any statement/comments being published as part of the Statutory Consultation process and published in the final Consultation Report (all other personal information will be redacted).

12.0 Meetings with Pupils

The Quality Improvement Officer and Early Years Principal Teacher, alongside St Teresa's Nursery staff, will provide appropriate play-based opportunities for children to express their views on the proposal. Participation will be tailored to the age, stage and individual needs of the children involved. The views shared during these activities will be recorded and summarised within the Consultation Report.

13.0 Involvement of HMIE

Following the close of the consultation, Dumfries and Galloway Council will provide HMIE with copies of the written representations submitted, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, and any other relevant documentation. This will allow HMIE to prepare a report on the proposal within a period of three weeks.

14.0 Consultation Report and Time for Further Consideration

After receiving HMIE’s report, Dumfries and Galloway Council will then prepare and publish a Consultation Report in accordance with Sections 9, 10, and 13 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It is expected that on 16 February 2027, Members of the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee will thereafter make their final decision on whether to implement the proposal. The decision will be made a minimum of three weeks after publication of the Consultation Report. If the Education, Skill sand Community Wellbeing Committee makes a closure decision, Dumfries and Galloway Council shall notify the Scottish Ministers within six working days of that decision and publish the fact that the Scottish Ministers have been notified, and that representations can be made to them. The Education Authority would also be required to publish a notice on its website of the decision to implement the proposal and explain why it is satisfied that closure is the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal.

15.0 Explanation of Approach

The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (Section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980) and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (Section 3 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000).

16.0 Call-in of Closure Proposal and Determination of Case

The Scottish Ministers will have a maximum of eight weeks to call in any closure decision made by Dumfries and Galloway Council in certain circumstances. This eight-week timeframe would consist of an initial three weeks from the date of decision, during which representations can be made to the ministers, and a further five weeks for the Scottish Ministers to decide whether to issue a call in notice. During this period the Education Authority will not proceed to implement any closure decision.

If the Scottish Ministers call in a closure proposal, it is referred to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels. The Convener must constitute a School Closure Review Panel within seven days for determination. The Education Authority may not implement a closure decision in whole or in part until the Panel has made its determination. It will usually issue a decision within eight weeks of the Panel being constituted.

If the School Closure Review Panel refuses to consent to the closure decision, or following publication of the Consultation Report Dumfries and Galloway Council decides not to implement the closure proposal, a further closure proposal cannot be published in relation to the school for five years, unless there is a significant change in the school's circumstances.

17.0 Grounds for Call-In etc

The Scottish Ministers may issue a call-in notice where it appears to the Scottish Ministers that Dumfries and Galloway Council may have failed:

- (a) in a significant regard to comply with the requirements imposed on it by (or under) the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended so far as they are relevant in relation to the closure proposal, or
- (b) to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.

18.0 Conclusion

Having considered the significant and sustained decline in nursery-aged children across Dumfries and Galloway, the very low roll at St Teresa's Nursery Class, the

existing surplus ELC capacity within North West Dumfries, and the Council's statutory duty to secure Best Value, Dumfries and Galloway Council proposes to discontinue education provision at St Teresa's Nursery Class with effect from 2 July 2027. The Council considers that sufficient alternative funded ELC provision exists within the local area to accommodate current and future children, whilst continuing to offer parents and carers a range of high-quality term-time and all-year-round options. The educational benefits identified through this proposal include access to larger peer groups, wider opportunities for social interaction and learning, and continued access to settings that meet or exceed the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare. The proposal would also contribute to the sustainable and efficient use of Council resources at a time of considerable financial challenge and declining demand for nursery places. The Council is therefore satisfied that the proposal represents an appropriate and sustainable approach to ensuring high-quality Early Learning and Childcare provision is maintained for children and families in North West Dumfries.

It has been assessed that the proposal is the most appropriate means of addressing the underlying reasons for formulating it, which are:

- North West Dumfries has significant over provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), families within the area will continue to have flexibility and choice of ELC settings with two Council run, two Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries plus childminders.
- In common with all local authorities, Dumfries and Galloway Council faces significant financial pressures and are facing a £30 million funding gap over the next three financial years.
- Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing a significant and sustained decline in its child population, with the National Records of Scotland forecasting an 18.5% reduction in the 0–15 age group between 2022 and 2036.
- Along with several other rural Councils, Dumfries and Galloway Council is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff.

In addition to the main reasons outlined above, the following considerations have also informed the proposal to discontinue education provision at St Teresa's Nursery Class:

- The educational benefits, as set out in Section 5, to current and future nursery-aged children.
- The number of nursery aged children enrolled at St Teresa's Nursery Class has fallen to a very low level.
- Councils have a statutory duty, introduced in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, to make arrangements to secure 'best-value'.
- Dumfries and Galloway Council currently has in excess of 42% surplus capacity across Council run ELC settings in North West Dumfries. It must be acknowledged that the costs-per-pupil in under-occupied nurseries are excessively high and that underutilised nurseries are expensive to maintain and operate.

Financial Template

Appendix 1 - Financial Template

Table 1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Row 1	Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
Row 2	Name of School	Costs for full financial year 2025/26 (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact on receiving school	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
Row 2	St Teresa's Nursery Class			
Row 3	School costs			
Row 4	Employee costs - note 1			
Row 5	teaching staff	-	-	-
Row 6	support staff	£117,173.33	-	£117,173.33
Row 7	teaching staff training (CPD etc)	-	-	-
Row 8	support staff training	-	-	-
Row 9	Supply costs - note 2	£1,667.15	-	£1,667.15
Row 10				
Row 11	Building costs:			
Row 12	property insurance	-	-	-
Row 13	non domestic rates	-	-	-
Row 14	water & sewerage charges	-	-	-
Row 15	energy costs	-	-	-
Row 16	cleaning (contract or inhouse)	-	-	-
Row 17	building repair & maintenance	-	-	-
Row 18	grounds maintenance	-	-	-
Row 19	facilities management costs - note 6	-	-	-
Row 20	revenue costs arising from capital	-	-	-
Row 21	other	-	-	-
Row 22				
Row 23	School operational costs:			
Row 24	learning materials	£1,677.76	-	£1,677.76
Row 25	catering (contract or inhouse)	-	-	-
Row 26	SQA costs	-	-	-
Row 27	other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	-	-	-
Row 28				
Row 29	Transport costs: note 3			
Row 30	home to school	-	-	-
Row 31	other pupil transport costs	-	-	-
Row 32	staff travel	-	-	-
Row 33	SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£120,518.24	-	£120,518.24
Row 34				
Row 35	Income:			
Row 36	Sale of meals	-	-	-
Row 37	Lets	-	-	-
Row 38	External care provider	-	-	-
Row 39	Other	-	-	-
Row 40	SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£0.00	-	£0.00
Row 41				
Row 42	TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£120,518.24	-	£120,518.24
Row 43				
Row 44	UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£9,270.63		

Appendix 2 – Notice and Summary Document
Statutory Consultation – St Teresa’s Nursery
Class
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

E-mail: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

10 September 2026

Dear Consultee,

**Notice and Summary of Proposal for the closure of St Teresa’s Nursery Class,
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.**

Consultation Period – Thursday 10 September – Friday 6 November 2026

Public Meeting - Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 6pm in St Teresa’s RC Primary School

Dumfries and Galloway Council is consulting on the proposal to close St Teresa’s Nursery Class. This notice provides a summary of the proposal; it is a requirement for you to be notified of the consultation as a consultee, in accordance with Schedule 2 Section 1 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 201.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is conducting a public consultation from Thursday 10 September to Friday 6 November 2026. This is the period in which you will be able to make representation to Dumfries and Galloway Council in respect of the proposal. It is important that everyone we are consulting with tells us about their thoughts on the proposal. This summary provides further information on where a full copy of the proposal can be obtained and also advises as to how you can make representation.

The Proposal

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to close St Teresa’s Nursery Class.

It is proposed that St Teresa’s Nursery Class be closed with effect from 2 July 2027.

Reasons for this Proposal

This is considered to be the best option to address the reasons for the proposal which are;

- North West Dumfries has significant over provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), families within the area will continue to have flexibility and choice of ELC settings with two Council run, two Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries plus childminders.
- In common with all local authorities, Dumfries and Galloway Council faces significant financial pressures and are facing a £30 million funding gap over the next three financial years.

- Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing a significant and sustained decline in its child population, with the National Records of Scotland forecasting an 18.5% reduction in the 0–15 age group between 2022 and 2036.
- Along with several other rural Councils, Dumfries and Galloway Council is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff.

Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-2028

Councils, as an Education Authority, have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. This is reflected in Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-2028, Education and Learning Directorate.

The Council will improve education and learning opportunities to help all our children, young people and citizens fulfil their potential. This starts with pre-school, then school, before progressing into further or higher education or transition into work. We will work with our partners to create and promote lifelong learning opportunities so everyone in the region can live a meaningful and fulfilling life and contribute to their community.

Strategic Outcomes:

- Places of learning are inclusive, sustainable and meet the needs of local communities
- We get it right for every child
- Children, young people and adults transition successfully through all life stages
- Young people and adults succeed in what they want to achieve
- Participation in creativity and play is part of early and lifelong learning experiences
- Local people can build their skills and confidence

What we will do –

We will consult by:

- Providing a notice of the consultation and a summary of the proposal to the relevant consultees **this is that notice and summary**
- Placing an advert in the local press
- Putting information on our website - www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations
- Holding a public meeting to explain the proposal
- Ask all consultees to tell us what they think of the proposal

What to do now –

- Please read the full proposal document
- Please attend the public meeting which will be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 6pm in St Teresa's RC Primary School
- Let us know what you think by 5pm on Friday 6 November 2026 by:

Online Survey: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/TEeNAbUcqD>



Letter to: Statutory Consultation – St Teresa’s Nursery Class
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

Email to: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

Respondents are required to clearly state the capacity in which they are expressing their views and agree to their name and any statement/comments being published as part of the Statutory Consultation process and published in the final Consultation Report (all other personal information will be redacted).

What Next?

Dumfries and Galloway Council is seeking your views on the proposal during the consultation period; it does not assume that the proposal will go ahead. All points raised during the consultation period will be included in the final consultation paper before being presented to Elected Members at Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee on 16 February 2027 where a decision will be taken as to the outcome of this process.

Please note that this summary document is for convenience only. Copies of the Proposal Paper can be obtained from:

- St Teresa’s RC Primary School, Dumfries;
- North West Community Campus;
- Lincluden Primary School; and
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Headquarters.

And published on Dumfries and Galloway Council website:

<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/council-elections/have-your-say/consultations-engagements/statutory-consultation-proposal-closure-st-teresas-nursery-class>

Yours faithfully

Larann Foss
Head of Education Resources