

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE
18 SEPTEMBER 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Class Size Reduction P1 to P3 – Progress Report
Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

SUMMARY

This report provides members with a progress report on the implementation of the Scottish Government's policy to reduce maximum class sizes to 18 in P1 to P3. A further update will be reported to the November ECS Committee when all relevant information has been gathered at which time there will be a detailed implementation plan for members to consider.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2007 the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning announced that a key policy of the new Scottish Government would be the reduction of P1 to P3 class sizes to 18.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government has not set a definitive deadline for the implementation of this new policy. Instead local authorities have been asked to move towards the implementation of this new policy as quickly as possible. In addition local authorities have been asked to demonstrate a staged progress on an annual basis.
- 1.3 The anticipated benefits from reducing class sizes in P1 to P3 are as follows:
- Improved pupil:teacher ratios can assist learning and teaching, particularly with children experiencing difficulty in the curriculum.
 - Improved discipline as behaviour management is easier with small groups.
 - Improved pupil engagement due to more individual teacher attention.
- 1.4 Within the approved ECS Capital programme there is £1.362M specifically identified for class size reduction

2.0 The Current Position

- 2.1 The current class size requirements within the Primary school sector are as follows:
- P1 – maximum class size is 25 pupils
 - P2 and P3 – maximum class size is 30 pupils
 - P4 to P7 – maximum class size is 33 pupils
 - For all composite classes (eg P2/3) the maximum class size is 25 pupils

The proposal within the Concordat is that local authorities work towards reducing class sizes to 18 pupils for P1 to P3, including any composite classes including P1 to P3 pupils.

2.2 There are 183 Primary schools within Highland. Due to the rural nature of the authority 100 of the schools have classes at or below 18 in P1 to P3.

83 (45.65%) have class sizes greater than 18 in P1 to P3, either in single or composite classes. The relevant details are provided in **Annex 1**. There is a further analysis of this data in **Annex 2** that identifies the number of P1 to P3 single classes greater than 18 pupils and the number of composite classes greater than 18 pupils that contain P1 to P3 pupils.

3.0 The action plan

3.1 In advance of recommendations being available for consideration by elected members there is a significant amount of detailed preparatory work required. The following actions are currently underway:

- By the end of October 2008 a survey detailing the utilisation of all rooms within Primary schools will be complete .
- This will reflect the school roll census data captured on the 22nd September and the related numbers age by stage and the current class configurations.
- In addition those rooms that are defined as being available for curricular use will be physically measured. (An example of the data being collected is shown at **Annex 3**).
- The availability of the above data will enable the following information to be provided for each:-
 - ❖ the physical capacity,
 - ❖ the operational capacity
 - ❖ the notional capacity reflecting the revised class sizes for P1 to P3

The initial priority is to focus on the 83 Primary schools where class sizes in P1 to P3 are greater than 18.

3.2 The availability of the above data will inform decisions when implementing reduced class sizes in P1 to P3. Potential future requirements will include the following:

- The requirement for additional classroom accommodation, for example where existing classrooms are not large enough to accommodate pupil numbers **and/or**:
- The requirement for structural alterations within school buildings to accommodate the future configuration of class sizes **and/or**:
- The requirement for additional teaching staff for team teaching where existing classrooms are large enough to permit this **and/or**:
- The requirement for additional support staff, for example classroom assistants and learning support auxiliaries, where there is a greater number of classrooms within the school.

3.3 The report to the ECS November Committee will identify which of the above requirements will be necessary in relation to the 83 Primary schools where class sizes require to be reduced to 18 in P1 to P3. In addition summarised indicative costs will be identified for each of the requirements identified in paragraph 3:2 above.

4.0 Resource and equality implications

4.1 Annex 2 indicates that there are 132 single classes and 101 composite classes with a class size greater than 18. It would be a significant over simplification to state that the additional number of teachers required is 233. However national bodies, included the Association of Directors of Education (ADES), are currently considering how the number of teachers can be increased. Further analysis of the financial implications of implementing this policy will be reported to subsequent ECS Committees starting in November 2008.

5.0 Recommendations:

5.1 Members are asked to note:

- i the progress made to date in implementing class size reduction to 18 in P1 to P3 inclusive in all Primary Schools
- ii the commitment to bring a more detailed report to the ECS November Committee outlining indicative costs for full implementation and an implementation timetable.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Date: 3rd September 2008

Ref: HF/RM

Background Papers:

ANNEX 1

P3	P1/2	P1-3	P1-4	P2/3	P3/4	P3-5	Current school roll	School roll 2012/13
	21				19		83	50
	19			22			103	124
		22					37	48
	19				17		72	83
22							143	139
29	24						227	295
				25	18		244	241
	18					21	62	65
26				24			269	203
	22			20	23		127	118
	23			21			117	94
	18					21	57	67
				24	23		171	243
	19				23		103	98
	15					12		
	18			19			108	96
				21	20		101	110
13							167	136
	20				16		60	41
26							138	135
25				25			204	217
	17			21			106	62
28	21				25		244	266
	20			25	25		139	153
30	25				25		256	229
28	24			25			327	296
	24 + 11			24	25 + 14		294	218
28	12			14			364	383
		21					60	57
	22			23			116	86
	23			22	22		188	219
28 + 26	22			16			478	419
29							154	112
29	23				24		235	143
26	22			24			279	280
					25		136	132
					22		123	101
26	19			25			271	206
26							178	149
	20			19			109	96
28 + 29							328	325
	25			23	25		205	265
29	25				23		297	507

20							157	147
	22				13		71	88
23							157	147
	22					23	67	85
				20			137	181
19							150	148
					20		97	132
		21				22	67	64
28	25			23			241	307
20	19						104	94
	20			19			99	89
	21			20	21		104	77
23 + 23	27						277	402
25	22				24		287	296
				3				
		9						
28				24	23		315	282
25							166	166
				24			211	204
	23					14	65	73
	20				17		81	58
			20 + 11				69	53
				18	19		95	90
19							159	149
	20				18		81	94
26	23			22			226	189
	20			22	22		202	177
	21			23	22		235	222
				22				
30							189	215
26							144	279
							87	86
27 + 25	24			25			435	360
28	23			24			235	272
30	23						170	121
				22			116	86
17	19						79	93
25				25			169	162
23							167	137
25	24			24			214	249
	19				19		70	68
	15				23		76	92
	20					12	47	46
	21			23			174	140
	17				14			
				23	21		126	115

PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS ANALYSIS - FEBRUARY 2008.

**ANNEX
2**

	School	Current school roll	School roll 2012/13	Number of straight classes	Number of composite classes	Total number classes	FSM %
1	Merkinch	277	402	5	1	6	48
2	Dalneigh	188	219	1	3	4	39
3	South Lodge	170	121	2	1	3	39
4	Hilton of Cadboll	109	96	0	2	2	37
5	Coulhill	256	229	3	2	5	36
6	South Wick	116	86	1	1	2	33
7	Cauldeen	204	217	2	1	3	32
8	Obsdale	81	94	0	1	1	32
9	Bishop Eden's	57	67	0	1	1	31
10	North Wick	159	149	3	0	3	28
11	Ardersier	103	124	0	2	2	26
12	Raigmore	144	279	4	0	4	24
13	Smithton	235	272	2	2	4	23
14	Caol	167	136	1	0	1	21
15	Kinlochleven	67	85	0	2	2	21
16	Park	226	189	3	1	4	19
17	Upper Achintore	126	115	0	2	2	19
18	Central	244	266	3	2	5	18
19	Hilton	328	325	6	0	6	18
20	Knockbreck (Tain)	97	132	1	1	2	18
21	Lybster	99	89	0	2	2	18
22	Pennyland	202	177	2	2	4	18
23	Brora	108	96	0	1	1	17
24	Kinmylies	137	181	1	1	2	17
25	Mount Pleasant	166	166	3	0	3	17
26	Bridgend	171	243	2	2	4	16
27	Broadford (E/M)	103	98	0	2	2	16
28	Conon Bridge	139	153	0	3	3	16

29	St Josephs	169	162	2	1	3	16
30	Beauly	117	94	0	2	2	15
31	Miller Academy	315	282	3	2	5	15
32	Castletown	138	135	2	0	2	14
33	Dingwall	478	419	5	1	6	14
34	Aviemore	227	295	2	1	3	13
35	Craighill	294	218	1	3	4	13
36	Croy	60	57	0	1	1	13
37	Millbank	287	296	3	2	5	13
38	Golspie	123	101	1	1	2	12
39	Portree E/M	235	222	0	3	3	12
40	Pultneytown Academy	189	215	3	0	3	12
41	Ballachulish	62	65	0	1	1	11
42	Kilchuimen	71	88	0	1	1	11
43	Kyle	67	64	0	2	2	11
44	Cawdor	106	62	0	1	1	10
45	Kiltearn	157	147	3	0	3	10
46	Rosebank	435	360	5	2	7	10
47	Tomnacross	76	92	0	1	1	10
48	Abernethy	83	50	0	2	2	9
49	Banavie	127	118	0	3	3	9
50	Grantown	271	206	3	1	4	9
51	Ullapool E/M	174	140	0	2	2	9
52	Duncan Forbes	279	280	3	2	5	8
53	Hillhead	178	149	3	0	3	8
54	Inshes	297	507	5	1	6	8
55	Inverlochy	157	147	2	0	2	8
56	Strathpeffer	167	137	2	0	2	8
57	Tarradale	214	249	2	2	4	8
58	Glenurquhart	136	132	2	1	3	7
59	Kirkhill	150	148	3	0	3	7
60	Arisaig	37	48	0	1	1	6
61	Auldearn	143	139	1	0	1	6
62	Crown	364	383	3	0	3	6
63	Lochyside RC	104	94	2	0	2	6
64	Maryburgh	104	77	0	3	3	6

65	Muirtown	211	204	2	1	3	6
66	North Kessock	95	90	1	1	2	6
67	Spean Bridge	79	93	0	1	1	6
68	Avoch	244	241	2	1	3	5
69	Cradlehall	327	296	3	2	5	5
70	Dornoch	154	112	2	0	2	5
71	Drakies	235	143	3	1	4	4
72	Teanassie	70	68	2	0	2	4
73	Tore	47	46	0	1	1	4
74	Auchtertyre	72	83	0	2	2	3
75	Balloch	269	203	3	1	4	3
76	Carrbridge	60	41	0	1	1	3
77	Culbokie	116	86	0	2	2	3
78	Holm	205	265	2	2	4	3
79	Mulbuie	65	73	1	0	1	3
80	Newtonmore	69	53	0	1	1	3
81	Lochardil	241	307	3	1	4	2
82	Munlochy	81	58	1	0	1	2
83	Bunsgoil Ghaidlig	101	110	1	2	3	1
84	Resolis data not yet available	87	86	0	0	0	1

	TOTAL			132	101	233	
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TABLE 2

	Description	Number of rooms
1	Dedicated Public Library	0
2	Sports Hall	1
3	Dining Room	1
4	Community rooms - Note 2	0
5	Learning Support rooms for severe and profound	0
6	Physiotherapy, medical, sensory etc.	0
7	General Purpose rooms - Note 1	2
8	Stage areas	
9	Nursery/Playgroup rooms - Note 3	0
	TOTAL - Table 2	4

SCHOOL NAME
Lochside RC Primary

ROOM UTILISATION
Aug-08

ANNEX 3(b)

Please provide details of the rooms in Annex A - Table 1 that are currently OCCUPIED.

TABLE 3

Occupied rooms	Class stage	Number of pupils
Room 1	P5/6	23
Room 2	P4/5	23
Room 4	P3	20
Room 5	P1/2	19
Room 10	P7	17
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		

Total number of pupils		102
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TABLE 3 Continued

Occupied rooms	Class stage	Number of pupils
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		
Room		

Total number of pupils		0
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TABLE 4

PUPILS BY STAGE	English	Gaelic
Primary 1	8	
Primary 2	11	
Primary 3	20	
Primary 4	13	
Primary 5	14	
Primary 6	19	
Primary 7	17	
TOTAL	102	0

**TABLE 5
Nursery**

Room		
Room		
Room		
Total		