

**SUPPLEMENT TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - TRANSITION OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO THROUGH PRIMARIES**

Issued 22 Jan 2010



During the consultation there have been concerns raised about the transition plan associated with the proposal to develop Featherbank and Newlaithes into through primary schools. Two alternatives have emerged which have some support, which may influence your views on the proposal as a whole, and they are described below. They were discussed at the public meetings, and this document confirms the details of those plans, along with the issues raised.

**PROPOSED TRANSITION PLAN - as described in the consultation document.**

The legal steps:

**2011 Featherbank reduces admission limit to 30; Newlaithes reduces lower age limit to 5, and continues to admit (an extra) 60 into year 3.**

**2013 Newlaithes admits into year 3 for last time**

**2014 Featherbank increases its upper age limit to 11**

FEATHERBANK SITE							NEWLAITHES SITE							OVERALL																
Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes				
60	60	60					180	6				60	60	60	60	240	8	2010	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	
30	60	60					150	5	2011	60			60	60	60	60	300	10	2011	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	450	15
30	30	60					120	4	2012	60	60		60	60	60	60	360	12	2012	90	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	480	16
30	30	30					90	3	2013	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2013	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	510	17
30	30	30	30				120	4	2014	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2014	90	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	60	540	18
30	30	30	30	30			150	5	2015	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2015	90	90	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	570	19
30	30	30	30	30	30		180	6	2016	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2016	90	90	90	90	90	90	60	60	60	600	20
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210	7	2017	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2017	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	630	21

- Allows both schools to plan for a clear transition.
- Guarantees every child entering either school from 2011 would stay there until transition to high school.
- Children already in Featherbank in 2011 all transfer in year 3 as they had expected to on entering the school. In practice this means most go Newlaithes. Children already in Newlaithes stay until transition to high school also as expected. No peer groups are disturbed, whichever school they enter, whichever year.
- Featherbank should not suffer financially during this period, as small school protection funding and safety net funding will provide an estimated £45k to £60k in funding protection. This subsidy is only required because the transition involves the school becoming smaller, and would apply for up to 5 years at varying levels.
- Gradual staff reductions are needed at Featherbank initially, and potentially some additional posts are created at the same time in Newlaithes. Subject to the agreement of the governing body of Newlaithes, and the structure they create, these could be ring fenced for Featherbank staff, and could be on a secondment basis allowing them to return when Featherbank grows into Key Stage 2.

**ALTERNATIVES .**

These all rely in splitting the cohorts already in Featherbank, which cannot be enforced. To enable any children to stay, the upper age limit has to be increased. This means ALL children already on roll are legally entitled to stay, and we cannot limit the numbers staying or force a split. However, it is possible for Newlaithes to have a reception admission limit, and also admit a controlled maximum number of additional children into year 3. The standard admissions policy would determine priority for these places. Any scheme which allowed Featherbank to retain children into year 3 from the start could have the following significant benefits:

- Allows both schools to avoid shrinking from their current size.

**SUPPLEMENT TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - TRANSITION OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO THROUGH PRIMARIES**

Issued 22 Jan 2010



- Could therefore minimise the need for staff reductions.
- Introduces some element of choice at the end of year 2 for those children already in Featherbank

**SUPPLEMENT TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - TRANSITION OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO THROUGH PRIMARIES**

Issued 22 Jan 2010



**ALTERNATIVE 1 - with up to 30 admitted to yr 3 at Newlaithes**

FEATHERBANK SITE									NEWLAITHES SITE									OVERALL										
Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes		
60	60	60					180	6				60	60	60	60	240	8	2010	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	
30	60	60	30-60				180-210	6-7	2011	60		0-30	60	60	60	240-270	8-9	2011	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	450	15	
30	30	60	30-60	30-60			180-240	6-8	2012	60	60	0-30	0-30	60	60	240-300	8-10	2012	90	90	60	60	60	60	60	480	16	
30	30	30	30-60	30-60	30-60		180-270	6-9	2013	60	60	60	0-30	0-30	0-30	60	240-330	8-11	2013	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	510	17
30	30	30	30	30-60	30-60	30-60	210-300	7-10	2014	60	60	60	60	0-30	0-30	0-30	240-330	8-11	2014	90	90	90	90	60	60	60	540	18
30	30	30	30	30	30-60	30-60	210-270	7-9	2015	60	60	60	60	60	0-30	0-30	300-360	10-12	2015	90	90	90	90	90	60	60	570	19
30	30	30	30	30	30	30-60	210-240	7-8	2016	60	60	60	60	60	60	0-30	360-390	12-13	2016	90	90	90	90	90	90	60	600	20
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210	7	2017	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2017	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	630	21

- This does introduce some element of parental choice for those already in Featherbank, allowing children to stay at the end of year 2 if they prefer. It cannot guarantee all a place at Newlaithes, as had been expected when they joined. It does potentially introduce some disruption to peer groups.
- Both schools grow until they are established as through primaries. This means permanent staff already at both schools would face minimal disruption.
- It does introduce some uncertainty for both schools in planning transition, until parental preference is known each year.
- It could result in 'bulge years' being managed through Featherbank, and small years in Newlaithes. This makes it harder to plan building works at both schools. It could, at one extreme, mean Featherbank accommodating up to 300 children on site, with temporary accommodation. It could also mean use of temporary staff and / or staffing reductions if a school downsizes again after 'bulge years' leave.

**ALTERNATIVE 2 - with up to 60 admitted to yr 3 at Newlaithes**

FEATHERBANK SITE									NEWLAITHES SITE									OVERALL										
Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Pupils	Total Classes		
60	60	60					180	6				60	60	60	60	240	8	2010	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	
30	60	60	0-60				150-210	5-7	2011	60		0-60	60	60	60	240-300	8-10	2011	90	60	60	60	60	60	60	450	15	
30	30	60	0-60	0-60			120-240	4-8	2012	60	60	0-60	0-60	60	60	240-360	8-12	2012	90	90	60	60	60	60	60	480	16	
30	30	30	0-60	0-60	0-60		90-270	3-9	2013	60	60	60	0-60	0-60	0-60	60	240-420	8-14	2013	90	90	90	60	60	60	60	510	17
30	30	30	30	0-60	0-60	0-60	120-300	4-10	2014	60	60	60	60	0-60	0-60	0-60	240-420	8-14	2014	90	90	90	90	60	60	60	540	18
30	30	30	30	30	0-60	0-60	150-270	5-9	2015	60	60	60	60	60	0-60	0-60	300-420	10-14	2015	90	90	90	90	90	60	60	570	19
30	30	30	30	30	30	0-60	180-240	6-8	2016	60	60	60	60	60	60	0-60	360-420	12-14	2016	90	90	90	90	90	90	60	600	20
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210	7	2017	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	14	2017	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	630	21

- This option would allow complete parental preference for children in Featherbank at the start of transition. All children would still be entitled to stay at Featherbank, and equally all children would be able to transfer to Newlaithes - although is most likely that some would stay and some would choose to transfer.

**SUPPLEMENT TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - TRANSITION OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO THROUGH PRIMARIES**

Issued 22 Jan 2010



- There is still uncertainty, with a wider range of possible numbers at each school. This means the possibility of Featherbank still shrinking remains, and so staffing reductions remain a possibility. Equally, the possibility of bulge years remains. The uncertainty also affects the planning of additional building at both schools.

Legally these two options look very similar, and only differ in the number of additional places offered in year 3 at Newlaithes. The legal steps are:

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
2011	Featherbank increases upper age limit to 11, and reduces admission limit to 30 Newlaithes reduces its lower age limit to 5 with an admissions limit of 60, and also admits up to 30 into year 3	Featherbank increases upper age limit to 11, and reduces admission limit to 30 Newlaithes reduces its lower age limit to 5 with an admissions limit of 60, and also admits up to 60 into year 3
2013	Newlaithes admits into year 3 for the last time	Newlaithes admits into year 3 for the last time

In summary, these alternatives:

- Both introduce uncertainty which makes planning more complex, BUT they introduce some additional ability to meet parental preference for those already on roll at Featherbank.
- Alternative 1 removes the need to downsize Featherbank, but limits the places available at Newlaithes in year 3.
- Alternative 2 provides the maximum choice for parents, but widens the range of numbers possible in each year group in each school.

These alternatives may influence your views on the basic principle of creating two primary schools, or on the relative merits of other options described in the booklet. Please consider these alternatives when responding to the consultation.