

**Lochardil Primary School**  
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Dear Parents/ Carers,

In response to the important matter raised during AOCB at our most recent Parent Council virtual meeting on 30.09.2020, with regards to the ELC delivery of 1140hrs here at Lochardil Primary School, we would like to take the opportunity to update you on this situation.

As you are aware, at Lochardil Primary School we had been preparing to offer the 1140hrs model in our ELC provision from August 2020, however the plans for this changed in line with local and national guidance during Lockdown due to Covid-19. Advice and guidance was sought from Highland Council on this matter and as a result we then had to revert to original model 16hrs per week model that was previously offered. The plan for roll out across Highland was shared at the Highland Council Committee meeting on 30.09.2020.

I am pleased to let you know that as part of on-going review, we aim to be able to deliver this provision from January 2021. Outlined below are a number of points to provide you with information for further understanding on various factors affecting the decisions made for the delivery of 1140hrs in Early Learning and Childcare.

### Campus

- **Pupil roll 2020/2021** – Lochardil Primary starts this new school session with 13 classes – 337 pupils in P1-7, and 83 pupils enrolled for Early Learning and Childcare at present. 420 pupils total school roll.
- Current school role is 420 currently (September 2020) and potentially increasing to 437+ from April 2021. School capacity is set out for 317. This puts pressure on the campus as a whole as there are no available rooms for break out areas, etc. The room assigned (Room 12) for the additional increase in ELC provision, is next door to the other two nursery rooms and is currently used as the classroom for CCR teaching of classes P4-P7 throughout the week, music tuition, visitors working with groups/ classes etc. This is also our current Breakfast & Out of School Care provision.
- Moving to 1140hrs would mean this room would be used as a 3<sup>rd</sup> nursery space (now named the Blossom Room for this purpose). We do have the Care Inspectorate change of purpose agreement in place for it to be used for this additional nursery space purpose. Challenges include moving the Breakfast & OoSC to a different area to manage numbers for nursery capacity, CCR will have to return to classrooms (this is currently happening due to Covid-19 risk assessment mitigations) however puts additional pressure on where the class teacher can then work.
- Room 12 at the moment is planned temporarily to be used as an extended staffroom as we can only fit 6-8 in the staffroom due to covid-19 mitigations and have almost 60 staff. Our gym hall will also now be planned to be used as we move towards delivering hot meal provision again and particularly to get this running for the colder months. If used as originally planned for ELC this would have an impact on our staff team culture which teachers, EYPs and PSAs are finding challenging as it is as we usually work so closely with each other.
- If the school roll increases next session to move to 14 classes as we have in previous years, we would have no space for another classroom, as Room 12 (the Blossom room) is now planned to be changed to ELC space.
- We have registration in place now to offer 75 children a place at one given time across the 3 rooms and also Wee Macs (prior to Covid-19 this was part of our plans however this is not in use at present again which places pressures on our capacity).

## Culture

- We need to advertise and appoint an EYP for 35hrs so we have the full complement of staff for the new increased hours. This may have a ripple effect on other current positions if the successful candidate is internal and we need time to plan for other post(s) being created to fill this vacancy.
- Staff absence – our Childcare Manager is signed off this term and we are unsure of her return date, as is our Depute Head Teacher who has responsibility for supporting the nursery curriculum. This absence of key staff is a pressure across the whole school.
- Staff will require new rotas and changes to hours in order to meet the needs moving from 16hrs to 30hrs.

## Curriculum

- A move to 1140hrs from January will allow staff to be in place and those absent to hopefully be back. This will improve outcomes for those children currently in the setting and also support the childcare aspect for parents/carers wishing to use the service. Quality education and experiences are a priority for our ELC provision as our youngest pupils continue to be a big part of our school community, and provision needs to be in place across all aspects to ensure it is not to any detriment of any other part of the school. Planning and moving at a pace suitable for us all will support this move to be a success.

## Community

- Our provision is a well-used provision and with current data and prediction of hours there will be a high demand for the funded 30hrs.
- This demand does impact on flexibility and as a result the preferred choice of pattern of hours may not be achieved.
- We work extremely closely as an ASG and we work well together.
- The delay in opening of Ness Castle PS also may cause an increase in pressure on services to deliver 1140hrs and this indirectly impacts on the rest of the school, so we want to make sure we are in the best position feasible to offer this service while continuing to provide a high standard of education, our key priority for every child.

We have an extremely supportive community where we work together to reach a solution and always aim high to support attainment and achievement as a whole school moving forwards together. As Head Teacher, an offering of 1140 hours from January 2021, or if possible slightly before this, is a realistic expectation to ensure all other aspects of our school and environment continue to progress and run smoothly.

Regards



Audrey Kellacher  
Head Teacher