

EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

**Proposal to amend the current
Admissions Policy (Mainstream)**



CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of, and consult on any proposal to establish a new school and on any proposal to establish, terminate or otherwise alter the catchment area of a school.
- 2.2 North Lanarkshire Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the consultation period has been concluded in line with statutory requirements.
- 2.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 30 school days. It begins on Tuesday 6 May 2026 and finishes on Wednesday 24 June 2026.
- 2.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 2.5 Three public meetings will be held on week beginning 1st June 2026.
 - 2.5.1 Council officers will be present at the public meeting to discuss the proposal. There will be limited time at the meeting to discuss all issues fully. To ensure that all issues are covered and that those who may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly are heard, advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised will be accepted in writing up to two days in advance of the meeting – see contact details at 2.9 and 2.10.
 - 2.5.2 At the end of the consultation process, a report will be prepared for North Lanarkshire Council detailing all responses received, summaries of their content and a statement from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Responses to the issues raised through the consultation will also be incorporated in the report. Copies of the report will be available, prior to consideration by the council, in the affected schools and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on Friday 25 September 2026.

Educational Benefits

- 2.6 NLC Education Children & Families faces several challenges in managing school admissions. The increasing demand for school places, particularly in high demand applications for schools, requires us to adopt a more rigorous process to continue to ensure fairness and transparency. Placing requests in certain schools has highlighted the need to review and adjust planning capacity to accommodate more pupils while maintaining the quality of education.

The consultation outlines the council's school admission policy under the legal framework for school admissions, Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
 - 2.6.1 Placing Requests

Placing requests are a vital mechanism for parental/carers choice in Scottish education. While the legal framework provides clear rights and procedures, practical limitations— especially in ASN provision—require ongoing attention. The process will improve transparency, expanded capacity, and better support for appeals could enhance the system's fairness and effectiveness.

The increasing demand for places in our schools requires more rigorous process in place to ensure catchment places are allocated appropriately and that the placing request process is fair and operates within the legal requirements.

Whilst assessing the educational benefits of the proposals, the undernoted factors were considered in section

2.7 Prioritisation of Applications

North Lanarkshire Council's admission policy balances parental/carers choice with the practicalities of school capacity and educational provision. While the system prioritises local access to education, it also provides flexibility through placing requests and early entry options. The structured prioritisation ensures fairness and transparency in the allocation of school places.

2.7.1 Early Years

Early Years establishments have their own admissions policy and will not be impacted by the implementation of this proposal.

Parents/carers of children who are not yet five years old by the usual school starting date may request early entry to primary school. These requests are considered on a case-by case basis, often requiring evidence of the child's readiness for formal education.

2.7.2 School Capacity

The Council aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education in a school that meets their needs, while also managing resources and school capacities effectively. This paper outlines the key components of NLC's school admission policy, including catchment-based registration, placing requests, early entry, and prioritisation criteria. The proposal would help to ensure that the council can provide consistency for pupils in their school career and support choice for parents.

2.7.3 School Management/Staff Teams

School management and staffing structures would not be impacted by the implementation of this proposal.

2.7.4 Transition

Schools will continue to support pupils have a positive transition to their new school destination.

2.7.5 Pupil drop off/pick up

Car parking arrangements would not be impacted by the implementation of this proposal and risk assessments will be conducted as appropriate.

2.7.6 School Transport

The council's school transport policy would not be impacted by the implementation of this proposal.

2.7.7 Breakfast / School Clubs

All pupils will continue to be invited to be part of the wider school community activities as participation in these activities gives pupils the opportunity to enhance their school experiences, learn new skills, encourage positive relationships and develop confidence.

2.7.8 Parental/Carer and Community Involvement

Parental/carers involvement is an essential part of school life and opportunities for parents/carers to be involved in the school community will always be encouraged. By working in partnership with parents/carers the school aims to develop a school that is warm, welcoming and inclusive.

Similarly, community links will continue to be promoted and developed by all schools.

2.7.9 Other School Users

This group will not be impacted by the implementation of the proposal and arrangements such as community lets will continue.

2.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online at [Proposal to amend our Admissions Policy \(Placing Requests\) for mainstream schools | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

2.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to ef.admissionsconsultation@northlan.gov.uk

2.10 Stakeholders can provide their views and/or comments by emailing ef.admissionsconculstation@northlan.gov.uk or by writing to:

Amendment to Admissions Policy (Mainstream), Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street,
Motherwell, ML1 1AB

2.11 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before Wednesday 24 June 2026

PROPOSAL

3.1 The proposal is to consult with stakeholders on amending North Lanarkshire's admissions policy for mainstream pupils.