



Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Contact: Andrew Jones  
Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, South

Date: 16 January 2023

To: Parents/Carers of pupils at all Aberdeen City schools

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION:  
Proposals to establish catchment areas for the Gaelic Medium Education  
provision at Hazlehead Academy and Gilcomstoun School**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with details of some changes which are being proposed by Aberdeen City Council, which would affect the existing provision of Gaelic Medium Education (GME), based at Gilcomstoun School and Hazlehead Academy.

The Council is proposing to create new school catchment areas for these provisions, which would cover the city as a whole. This change would take effect from August 2023.

When GME provision was first introduced at Gilcomstoun School and Hazlehead Academy in the early 1990s, no specific catchment areas were identified for the provision. This proposal aims to confirm the catchment areas for the provision at the two schools, and it is proposed that these should cover the whole city, so that all pupils who live inside the boundaries of the city would be eligible to attend the GME provision if they wish to do so.

The existing catchment areas for English medium education at Gilcomstoun School and Hazlehead Academy will remain unaffected by this proposal.

Before a decision is taken on whether to introduce the new catchment areas, the Council wishes to hear the views of pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders who may be affected by the changes.

A public consultation has therefore been launched, so that members of the public can give their views about the proposed catchment areas, before a decision is taken on whether they should be implemented.

Full details of the changes which are being proposed, including maps to show the proposed new catchment areas, are available in our consultation proposal paper, which can be downloaded from: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk>

A copy of the proposal paper is also available to view at: Marischal College, Central Library, Hazlehead Academy and Gilcomstoun School.

The public consultation is open from today, Monday 16 January 2023, until Friday 3 March 2023, and views and comments about the proposals can be submitted at any time during this period.

A public consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 February 2023, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at Aberdeen Grammar School. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to ask questions of Council officers and/or express their views about the proposal.

The full wording of the proposal is as follows:

Proposal:

**To establish a catchment area for the existing Gaelic Medium Education provision at Hazlehead Academy, which is bounded by Aberdeen City's local authority boundary;**

And:

**To establish a catchment area for the existing Gaelic Medium Education provision at Gilcomstoun School, which is bounded by Aberdeen City's local authority boundary;**

And:

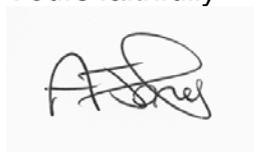
**That the new catchment areas should take effect from 1 August 2023.**

You can submit your views about the proposal online, using the Council's consultation hub, which can be accessed from: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk>. You can also send your comments by email, to: [schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

All of the comments and views received during the consultation period will be summarised and included in a final consultation report, which will be submitted to the Council's Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 23 May 2023. Members of the Committee will consider all of the comments submitted before making a decision on whether the proposed changes should go ahead.

Should you have any questions about the consultation process, please write to us or send an e-mail to us, using the addresses above. I look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully



Service Manager, Assets & Finance