

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2005

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCHOOL REFERRAL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Education Committee of the Scottish Executive's response to the referral made to them in June 2004 to rationalise the St. Joseph's Academy (Cumnock Campus) into the school's Kilmarnock campus in August 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.2 Following extensive public consultation throughout May and June 2004, Education Committee agreed on 22 June 2004 to refer the decision to approve the rationalisation of the Cumnock Campus into the Kilmarnock Campus in August 2005 to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.3 The Scottish Executive's written response was received on Thursday 23 December 2004.

3. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

- 3.1 The proposal to accelerate the timing of the rationalisation of the twin campuses, from August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter to August 2005, was referred to the Scottish Executive as the distance from the Cumnock campus to the Kilmarnock campus is greater than 10 miles..
- 3.2 In correspondence dated 22 December 2004 Scottish Ministers have approved the decision to proceed with the earlier programme of rationalisation of the twin campuses.

4.1 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The Executive Director has previously given a clear statement of commitment to engage with staff, pupils and parents to ensure that a successful transfer of pupils from the Cumnock campus to Kilmarnock is achieved.
- 4.2 Progress achieved to date includes the setting up of a pupil group with the specific aim of representing student views on how best to proceed. The Senior Management Team has prepared a procedural plan which sets out how the

school will ensure a smooth transfer. The Senior Management Team will continue to meet with the Student Group to ensure the fullest consultation is achieved with pupils.

4.3 Members of the Directorate staff have visited the school and will continue these liaison meetings throughout the remainder of the academic year. They will continue to provide advice and support to the school management, including the school board who represent the views of parents.

5. LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of the Education Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

11 January 2005
EC/JBS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Education Committee 22 June 2004- Agenda Item 1 (Response to Consultation Document : Proposed Rationalisation of St. Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus)

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, Tel: (01563) 576090.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE