

**This is a Consultative Document**

**East Ayrshire Council**

**Department of Educational and Social Services**

**Report by Director**

**The proposed creation of a specialist facility for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in Doon Academy, Dalmellington**

**This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Ayrshire Council for consultation in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc (Scotland) regulations 1981 and amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.**

**East Ayrshire Council  
Department of Educational and Social Services**

**This is a consultative document**

<b>The proposed creation of a specialist facility for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in Doon Academy, Dalmellington</b>
--

**Report by Director**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Department of Educational and Social Services is committed to improving opportunities for all through quality, equality, access and partnership. In order to maintain this commitment it is necessary from time to time to systematically review the range and distribution of provision in given service areas.
- 1.2 The Local Government etc (Scotland) Act, 1994 places a duty on all Councils to exercise economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. There is also a requirement under Section 15 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 to ensure that wherever possible children with special educational needs are educated in a mainstream setting.
- 1.3 East Ayrshire Council maintains an extensive commitment to support pupils with special educational needs. A wide range of resources have been developed over the years to allow both the non-segregation of pupils with special educational needs and provision of high quality specialist services. The Authority maintains a high level of financial commitment both in terms of placements with other authorities and in the transport of young people.
- 1.4 The proposals in this document result from a detailed consideration of these issues.

**2. PRESENT POSITION**

- 2.1 At present, East Ayrshire Council makes a range of provision for children with special educational needs. This includes specialist schools with complex and multiple learning difficulties. In addition Park School in Kilmarnock and the base at Cumnock Academy provide for children with moderate learning difficulties and who are of secondary age. There is an acknowledged shortfall in the south of the Authority and the establishments of a base for children with moderate learning difficulties would address the issue.

- 2.2** In 1998 the Authority established the Supported Learning Centre at Patna Primary School. This facility has proved to be highly successful. There is, however, no equivalent facility for secondary-aged pupils.
- 2.3** In the secondary aged population there are 20 children living in the Doon Valley area with special educational needs. Of these 6 are placed with South Ayrshire Council at the Mainholm Academy base, or elsewhere at a cost of £10,618 per pupil, at costs prevailing in 2001/2002. The remainder are integrated into mainstream provision, including the Cumnock Academy base which receives 4 pupils from the Doon Valley area. Places at the Cumnock Academy base are at a premium, with the base running at or above its capacity for the last 2 years.
- 2.4** For the primary-aged population there are 10 children with moderate learning difficulties in the Doon Valley area. 6 children attend the Supported Learning Centre at Patna Primary School.

## **2.5 DOON ACADEMY**

Doon Academy is situated in the small town of Dalmellington approximately 12 Miles south-east of Ayr. The school serves Dalmellington, the Doon Valley and an extensive rural area towards the extreme southern boundary of the Authority. The associated primary schools are Bellsbank, Dalmellington, Littlemill and Patna. Dalrymple Primary School is also associated with Doon Academy for purposes of educational development and administration, but pupils attend Carrick Academy, Maybole in South Ayrshire. The location of Doon Academy is shown in Appendix 1.

The building is of modern construction. Part of the building is single storey, while the remainder is two storey. There is a lift available for pupil and staff use. In 2000 the building was adapted to accommodate Dalmellington Primary School. During 2002 extensive building work had to be undertaken due to traces of asbestos being found.

The building offers bright and modern accommodation. The school is adjacent to a swimming pool the use of which is well integrated into educational programmes. All necessary educational facilities together with a dining room are already on site. The entrance area has been re-modelled and access for the disabled has been provided.

Doon Academy has a present planning capacity of 516, the current roll is 397.

The breakdown of the current roll is:

<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>S4</b>	<b>S5</b>	<b>S6</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
68	74	90	66	65	34	397

The projected roll is

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Without the effect of housing	411	427	423	418	407	388	361

Detailed roll projections are given at Appendix 2.

### **3. MAIN ISSUE**

- 3.1** Currently, secondary pupils with special educational needs from the Doon Valley area who are not integrated into mainstream provision have to travel to special schools or units in South Ayrshire or to schools in the Kilmarnock or Cumnock areas. This takes them away from their community and peer group. It also means that some resources, which could be retained in East Ayrshire, and directly managed, are diverted elsewhere.

### **4. PROPOSAL**

- 4.1** It is proposed that a specialised facility for a maximum of 20 pupils be developed within the surplus accommodation of Doon Academy with effect from August 2003 or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **5. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL**

- 5.1** There will be a number of advantages from this proposal:

- a) young people will be educated within their community.
- b) there will be continuity from the Patna Supported Learning Centre
- c) Funds saved from inter-authority payments will be retained within East Ayrshire.
- d) there will be economies from reduced pupil travel.
- e) support from East Ayrshire professional services such as educational psychology and social work will be facilitated.
- f) there will be limited extension to local employment
- g) parental liaison will be facilitated
- h) it will fulfil the requirements imposed by recent changes in the law.
- i) it will provide an alternative to the Cumnock Base

## 6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

### 6.1 Staff

Staffing levels for the Centre would be as set out in SJNC TSSE SE/81.

Based on a roll of 20 pupils the teaching staff entitlement would be 3.6 FTE inclusive of one principal teacher post:

1 x principal teacher* @ £32,817	£32,817
2.6 x teachers @ £28,707	£74,638
0.6 x SEN auxiliary @ £12,771	£7663
Employment costs @ 20.1%	<u>£23,139</u>
TOTAL	£138,257

In addition the needs of the school population would be taken into account.

\*subject to job sizing under “A Teaching Profession for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

The principal teacher would report to a nominated deputy headteacher of Doon Academy and thereafter to the headteacher.

6.2 There would be no effect on community use of the school under this proposal.

6.3 It is envisaged that accommodation will be utilised alongside existing classroom space to be identified by the headteacher in consultation with staff. This will result in a considerable enhancement of the school’s facilities.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

7.1 The minimum estimated revenue savings arising from this proposal per annum would be:

a. Inter authority payments	£21,236
b. Transport costs	<u>£10,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£31,236</b>

7.2 The staffing costs would be £138,257.

7.3 The facility will also require an allocation of classroom supplies and other running costs in line with equivalent establishments in the special educational needs sector. There will also be initial start-up costs to include furniture fittings and equipment. This will be £10,000. These costs would be met from the National Priorities Action Fund.

## **8. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL**

**8.1** Under this proposal, a facility for special educational needs will be established at Doon Academy, Dalmellington. This development will be a significant improvement to the range of educational opportunities and services available in the Doon Valley area. It will be a considerable enhancement of the facilities of Doon Academy itself. Establishment of this facility will provide continuity from the Patna Supported Learning Centre and thereby ensure that the needs of children with special educational needs will be met within their own community.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee agrees to adopt the proposals that

- (i) a facility for pupils with special educational needs should be established within the building occupied by Doon Academy.
- (ii) the facility should be managed by the headteacher of Doon Academy.
- (iii) the facility should make provision for secondary school aged children, or in appropriate circumstances young people covered by the legislation on Records of Needs or its equivalent.
- (iv) this facility should be established at start of session 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter.

It is also recommended that:

- (i) this report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties.
- (ii) all interested parties including the relevant school board be invited to make written representation to John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock no later than Friday 25 October 2002; and
- (iii) the Director prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**

**GS/gs**  
**5 September 2002**

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

**Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools (tel: 01563-576089) or John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services (tel: 01563-576017)**

Written comments on this proposal should be sent to John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock no later than Friday 25 October 2002.

**Appendix 1: Location Map of Doon Academy**

## Appendix 2: Detailed Roll Projections for Doon Academy

### Excluding Housing

Year	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL
2002	68	74	90	66	65	34	397
2003	86	68	74	90	58	35	411
2004	88	86	68	74	80	31	427
2005	73	88	86	68	65	43	423
2006	76	73	88	86	60	35	418
2007	62	76	73	88	76	32	407
2008	58	62	76	73	78	41	388
2009	59	58	62	76	64	42	361

Note: Placing requests do not have any significant effects on roll projections and have therefore been excluded from the analysis.

### AGENDA