

Hi,

Many thanks for consulting on the above proposal. My son is currently in GME preschool.

We live in the Heights of Achterneed which is a small single track road. At present, pupils attending Dingwall Academy are transported from our area on a large 30+ seater coach. It used to be a 16+ seater mini bus and given the small number of kids I'm unclear why a large coach is used on such a narrow windy steep road. A mini bus is used to transport primary children to Strathpeffer Primary.

The proposal to transport primary age GME children via the Dingwall Academy coach makes us feel concerned. I've listed our concerns and questions below.

1) Will GME primary kids be dropped at Dingwall Primary prior to the coach going onto Dingwall Academy?

2) Dingwall Primary is very congested at drop off and pick up times. Where will the coach drop the kids off and how will it turn safely?

3) How will the safety of the primary age children be monitored whilst they are on the coach? On a large coach on our narrow windy steep road, the driver will be concentrating on the road not what is happening on the coach. Expecting very young kids of 5/6 years old to sit amongst teenagers doesn't sit comfortably with us unless properly monitored. The large coach is currently more than half empty.

4) Would it be possible for a mini bus to be used instead? We appreciate that depends on the numbers of children but at present we understand that a 16-21 seater would be sufficient for GME primary kids and academy pupils. This seems like a good compromise but is Highland Council able to dictate what vehicle the bus company uses?

Much appreciated

Cerian Baldwin