



## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE

#### REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SERVE THE NESS CASTLE AND NESS-SIDE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal:

To establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-side housing developments, and to amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Holm Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period:
- Oral representations made to it (by any persons) at the public meeting held at Holm Primary School on 8 November 2017:
- The report from Education Scotland.

this document has been issued by the Highland Council under the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 Background.
- 2.0 Consultation process.
- 3.0 Responses Received.
- 4.0 Issues raised during the consultation period, and Highland Council's responses.
- 5.0 Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland.
- 6.0 Responses to Issues raised by Education Scotland

- 7.0 Review of Catchment Proposals
- 8.0 Effects on the Community.
- 9.0 Effects on School Transport
- 10.0 Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements
- 11.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies.
- 12.0 Overall Review of Consultation Exercise
- 13.0 Legal issues
- 14.0 Conclusion
- 15.0 Recommendation

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 -** The Proposal Paper
- Appendix 1a-** Appendix to Proposal Paper – Holm/Ness Castle catchment option A
- Appendix 1a(i)-** Appendix to Proposal Paper – Holm/Ness Castle catchment option Ai
- Appendix 1b-** Appendix to Proposal Paper – Holm/Ness Castle catchment option B
- Appendix 1c-** Appendix to Proposal Paper – Holm/Ness Castle catchment option C
- Appendix 1d-** Appendix to Proposal Paper – Proposed location of school
- Appendix 1e-** Latest HMle report for Holm Primary
- Appendix 2 -** List of Responses Received
- Appendix 2a - 2q** Copies of written and other submissions received.
- Appendix 3 -** Minute of public meeting held at Holm Primary Portree on 8 November 2017
- Appendix 4 -** Report from Education Scotland
- Appendix 5 -** Revised Roll Projections

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Highland Council's People Committee, at its meeting on 19 October 2017, agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-side housing developments, and to amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Holm Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

1.2 **Appendix 1** is the original consultative paper and provides full details of the above proposal. **Appendices A-F** are the appendices to the original proposal.

## 2.0 Consultation process

2.1 The formal consultation period ran from Monday 23 October 2017 to Friday 1 December 2017. Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Holm Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) Parents of pupils attending Lochardil Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iii) Parents of pupils attending Aldourie Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iv) The Parent Councils of the above schools.
- (v) Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (vi) Staff of Holm Primary School; Lochardil Primary School; and Aldourie Primary School
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) Lochardil and Drummond Community Council;
- (viii) Dores and Essich Community Council
- (ix) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convener
- (xi) The Inverness Community Planning Partnership

2.3 The proposal document was advertised on the Highland Council website.

2.4 A public meeting was held at Holm Primary School on 8 November 2017. The meeting was advertised in advance on the Highland Council website and Facebook page, and in the *Inverness Courier*.

2.5 Following receipt of written representations received by Highland Council and consideration of oral representations made at the public meetings, officials reviewed the proposals.

2.6 The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

## 3.0 Responses received

3.1 A list of those who responded in writing during the public consultation is at **Appendix 2**, whilst copies of the actual responses are at **Appendix 2a-2q**. Pupils (including the nursery class children) at Holm Primary School completed, or were assisted to complete, age adapted questionnaires.

- 3.3 Overall, a large majority of the children expressed support for the proposal. 203 of the returned questionnaires (72.7%) expressed support for the new school with 76 (27.3%) expressing opposition. The various points raised in opposition are addressed in Section 4 below.
- 3.2 Five other written responses were received. Two responses specifically expressed support for the new school, and none expressed direct opposition. The majority of the comments received concerned the proposed options for the school's catchment, and three responses suggested the Council needed to look not just a new school at Ness Castle but at all educational provision across this part of Inverness, including Lochardil Primary, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, and secondary school provision. These matters are also addressed in Section 4 below.
- 3.3. The note of the public meeting is at **Appendix 3**. The note records a total of 36 questions. None expressed direct opposition to the proposed new school. A number of questions sought clarification on future enrolment, placing requests etc. Others expressed concern about potential negative effects on Holm Primary, whilst others expressed similar views to those written responses that suggested the Council needed to look at wider educational provision across Inverness. Again, these matters are addressed in Section 4.
- 4.0 Issues raised during the consultation period**
- 4.1 The main arguments opposed to the proposal are summarised below, together with the responses from the Council. In many cases different responses have made the same or very similar arguments, and where this occurs the arguments have been addressed only once.
- 4.2 The points raised in the written responses are at Issues 1-12 below. Points of concern raised by the pupils at Holm Primary are at Issues 13 – 22 below.
- 4.3 The majority of questions raised at the public meeting were answered directly during the meeting, the note of which is at **Appendix 3**. Other issues were addressed in follow-up correspondence from Highland Council.

**Issue 1**

The size of the new school needs to take into account the overall growth of the area over the next decade or more, therefore it needs to be based on the bigger catchment option i.e. Option A.

**Response 1**

Section 7 below reviews the points made in respect of the recommendation on future catchments.

**Issue 2**

Future residents of Ness-side may want to have some choice on the catchment (i.e. based on proximity/travel) but it is important to future proof the capacity of the new school in terms of having a bigger capacity.

**Response 2**

Once a decision has been taken on the future catchment areas of Holm Primary and Ness Castle Primary, those will be the formal catchments for each school. The Council does have arrangements to consider placing requests for pupils seeking placement at a school other than their catchment school. Given the majority of houses within the new housing development have still to be built, residents of houses yet to be built on Ness-side will be able to take the school catchment into account when deciding on a purchase.

Highland Council agrees that the new school should be future proofed in terms of capacity, and is basing its plans for the school on long-term school roll projections. With this in mind we are continually reviewing our roll projections for the area, to ensure decisions are based on the most up to date information.

**Issue 3**

It is important that new school provision does not reduce the resources available for existing primary schools in the area.

**Response 3**

Highland Council agrees with this comment.

**Issue 4**

There is a need to start looking into the additional secondary school requirement for this side of Inverness.

**Response 4**

Decisions on future secondary school provision in Inverness would be taken independently of this present consultation, and would not affect the outcome of the current exercise. Response 2 above advises that Highland Council continually reviews our roll projections for the area, and bases its decisions on the most up to date information regarding future rolls. The receiving secondary school for Ness Castle Primary and Holm Primary is Inverness Royal Academy, and projections of the impact on secondary provision are also factored into the Council's capital investment plans. Any proposal for a new secondary school in Inverness are likely to be some years away, and would be subject to a separate statutory consultation process.

**Issue 5**

Boundaries on options A/B do not fare well for Holm primary, would this affect the quality of the teaching in the school is under capacity.

**Response 5**

In establishing a new Ness Castle Primary School, given there remain capacity pressures across the City of Inverness, the Council is committed to ensuring ongoing sustainable provision within the existing Holm Primary school. Section 7 below sets out further updated projections relating to school rolls, which demonstrate that the Council is planning for Holm Primary to continue with a healthy school roll which would make use of the capacity of the school.

The Council does not consider there would be any detrimental impact to the quality of teaching at Holm Primary.

The Council will ensure that the pupils at Holm Primary are taken care of and offered a suitable education, that continues the existing high standards.

**Issue 6**

Holm Primary Parent Council would like to see the feasibility on an option for an “all singing/dancing” school for the area.

Should there be an option for one school and closing or re-organising Holm Primary School?

**Response 6**

The Council considered this before publishing the Proposal Paper. If the new school were also to replace Holm Primary, that would result in a very large primary, perhaps up to 1000 pupils. That would be an unprecedented size of primary school within a Highland setting. The new school site that has been reserved as part of the planning conditions would not be big enough for a school that size, and we are unclear whether parents would favour a school with such a large roll. Holm Primary is in reasonable condition relative to the 200 or so schools in Highland. There is an A-D rating system we have to follow, for the condition and suitability of our schools. Holm Primary is rated B for both. There are about 70 schools in Highland with a “C” rating. In terms of decisions on investment, the need for work at this school has to be judged against the 70 or so schools that rated “C” for “Poor”. Although there is no way around a new school in some form to meet the needs of the new housing developments, it is very difficult to argue for significant additional investment to replace a school such as Holm Primary, which is relatively modern and is in reasonable condition.

On balance, Highland Council does not favour the option of closing Holm Primary and replacing it with one new school for both Holm and Ness Castle.

**Issue 7**

The boundaries for the existing areas should all be looked at as all the schools are under pressure.

Boundaries for the schools need to be re-addressed.

**Response 7**

We agree there are school capacity issues right across the city of Inverness. The Council has been asked a number of times about redrawing catchments across Inverness. The reality is that redrawing catchments will not solve the capacity issues. The number of houses being built – which is a very positive thing – means we will have to increase the number of schools in Inverness and/or increase the number of places in the current schools. Whilst the Council has not closed its mind to redrawing catchments where there is evidence that educational benefit could arise, in overall terms our opinion is that redrawing the lines will not solve the problem.

Any proposal to amend a catchment area would also be subject to statutory consultation.

**Issue 8**

Would it be an option to move the existing Gaelic medium school and replace it with an English medium school to deal with overcrowding coming from that side of the boundary?

**Response 8**

The Council recognises that BSGI is also under capacity pressure, and house-building means there are English medium capacity pressures in the Slackbuie area also. It's too early to state what changes may be progressed in that catchment at this time. We think that it is legitimate to present this current proposal as a self-contained one, without prejudicing future options that may be considered regarding BSGI and Slackbuie, and whether that in turn has implications for the Lochardil catchment. The proposal as outlined in this report and consultation is limited only to the existing Holm Primary catchment.

**Issue 9**

There is an issue with Safe-Routes-to-School with all the options.

Has the safe routes to school had a look at the potential distance and main roads for the children to cross to get to this new school?

**Response 9**

Should the new school be approved, there will be intensive discussion with stakeholders about the detailed design requirements, including Safer Routes to Schools (STRTS). The formal Planning process for building a new school would also require the Council to consider traffic and other assessments.

The Council acknowledges that in this area the houses would be close to the new school and children will be unlikely to use public transport. Some will be dropped off by car but many will be walking or cycling to school. The Council will be looking to provide safe routes for walking and cycling, as these have a positive social impact.

A Stakeholder Group will be formed to provide input to the specification, design and construction of the new Ness Castle Primary school. That Group would also be engaged in discussion in regard to SRTS matters.

**Issue 10**

The Council should look at the potential overcrowding for the next three years at Holm school now before it becomes an afterthought.

**Response 10**

The Council undertakes regular review of the school estate, and annually updates school roll forecasts to consider both short and long-term capacity and investment requirements. Additional modular accommodation has been added where necessary, to reflect the rising roll of the school. We acknowledge that the situation at Holm Primary is difficult, and this is one of the reasons for building the new school to address capacity pressures within the area. In the intervening period the Council will ensure that Holm PS has sufficient capacity to accommodate pupils, and also that the quality of education is maintained.

**Issue 11**

Will the catchment boundaries be enforced?

**Response 11**

Highland Council's enrolment system specifies that children must be enrolled in their local catchment school, at least initially. However, legislation enacted at national level, gives parents the right to request that their child attend a school other than the catchment school. These are termed "placing requests" and Highland Council can only refuse placing requests under certain specified circumstances. These include where a school is or is likely to become overcrowded, or where accepting children on placing requests would require the Council take an additional teacher into employment. Any placing requests made in respect of either Holm Primary or the new school would be assessed



within the context of the above.

### **Issue 12**

Catchment Options A, Ai and B look sensible. Slightly favour Option B, as those existing housing areas that have long been connected to Holm Primary (and Lochardil in the case of Essich Gardens) are better served continuing that link, and are distinct enough as established areas of housing and communities to link with the existing school/s. It also slightly improves the viability of Holm Primary in the revised roll post-opening of Ness Castle.

With an eye on the formation of the new community in this area, Option C should be avoided. The local Church of Scotland Parish includes the Slackbuie housing from Fairways across to Holm Dell, Ness Castle and Ness-side. It fits the model of Ness Castle and Ness-side in their entirety being in one school catchment. Of course people don't live and form communities according to church parishes anymore, but the church is seeking to be a catalyst to a cohesive community as the new housing goes up in Ness Castle and Ness-side. We hope ourselves to be geographically present in a building that will serve as a community centre as well as a place of worship, in the Ness-side area.

Splitting the new community of housing in Ness-side as per Option C militates against forming strong community identity. It will lead to a situation much like in Bramble Close at present, where children with different school uniforms head off in different directions every morning, and families living next to each other have no common community connection of a school to build community around.

There is concern amongst some that a radically reduced roll at Holm School in the future will challenge its viability. However Option C not only militates against the formation of new community in Ness-side, but also continues to squeeze Holm Primary beyond the capacity it was built for. There should be less concern about the new school being of a larger size as a result - it can be built for that purpose more successfully than Holm PS can be adapted beyond its reach.

### **Response 12**

Section 7 below reviews the points made in respect of the recommendation on future catchments.

### **Issue 13**

New children should come to Holm as it is a good school.

Holm Primary is really fun.

**Response 13**

Although the Council agrees that Holm Primary is a good school, we think it will become too overcrowded if we don't build the new school.

**Issue 14**

A new school would take up too much space amongst the new houses.

We would be taking up more land.

Building a new school would not be good for the environment.

**Response 14**

With the number of houses being built in the area, it was always known that a new school would be needed, and space has been reserved within the housing development to build a new school. The new school will be constructed to modern standards of energy efficiency. The Council's expectation is that the new build would have a CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent impact of about 15 tonnes per year at most.

**Issue 15**

Holm Primary could have an extension added, or another storey, which would be less expensive than building a new school. A new school would cost too much money.

**Response 15**

The Council's roll projections suggest that the projected long-term rise in the local pupil population could not be addressed by simply adding more accommodation to Holm Primary School.

Even were this not the case, it would not be enough simply to add extra classrooms to Holm Primary. Adding more pupils to the roll at Holm Primary will put further pressure on the communal facilities such as the gym hall/dining room and the playground.

**Issue 16**

People from other schools would move to the new school.

**Response 16**

Past experience in Highland does suggest that new schools have something of a "magnet" effect and that placing requests will be submitted from parents in other school catchments. Response 12 above sets out how the Council would handle such requests.

**Issue 17**

There won't be many children left in Holm.

**Response 17**

Holm PS will be left in a stable and sustainable position. The different catchment options will have different ramifications for Holm, but the figures are only projections. Section 7 sets out further information on the catchment options and the Council's recommendation.

**Issue 18**

Children would lose their friends if they moved to the new school.

**Response 18**

This might happen to some children, but no-one who is already in the P1-7 classes at Holm Primary will be made to move to the new school when it opens.

**Issue 19**

Children should be allowed to go to whichever school they want to.

**Response 19**

In common with other local authorities in Scotland, Highland Council places all of its communities within designated school catchments. Pupils enrol into the designated school for their home address, at both primary and secondary level. This system is necessary for the efficient planning of educational provision. If parents choose another school, then this must be by means of a placing request. See Response 12 for further details.

**Issue 20**

Children from Ness Castle who have come to Holm School might have to move again.

**Response 20**

If a child is already enrolled within the P1-7 stages at Holm Primary, they would, if they wished, be able to continue at that school. We wouldn't force children already at Holm Primary to attend Ness Castle.

Children from the Ness Castle catchment whose parents wanted them to attend the new school could do that.

**Issue 21**

The new school may not have enough pupils.

**Response 21**

The need for the new school has been identified because of the number of new houses being constructed in the area, and the likely number of children that will be living in the area as a result. Highland Council staff have looked at this issue in detail, and we think the evidence supports the need for a new school. The current capital programme also proposes the new school is delivered on a 2 phase basis, phase 1 to meet the immediate school roll forecasts, with further expansion later as additional housing is completed.

**Issue 22**

We should build the new school, but also plant more trees to offset the carbon emissions from both the school and the houses.

**Response 22**

It is Council policy that any building and site development takes account of a holistic environmental assessment of the area, including the minimisation of carbon emissions from the buildings and mitigation measures for the impact on the site caused by the development. The new buildings will meet the requirements of the Scottish Building Standards for energy and sustainability.

Beyond this, the school will have a landscaped external environment which will be developed to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site.

**5.0 Summary of the issues raised by Education Scotland**

- 5.1 In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposals. A copy of the report from Education Scotland is appended – **Appendix 4**.
- 5.2 In its report, Education Scotland concludes that a new primary school is required to meet a growing pupil population arising from new housing developments in the area. Children attending the new school would benefit from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities. Education Scotland adds that the Council's proposal paper provides a strong case for a new school and outlines the clear educational benefits which will result. Parents, staff and children from all three schools who spoke with HM Inspectors fully supported the proposal to establish a new school. They expressed a variety of views on the council's approach to catchment area options.
- 5.3 Education Scotland recommends that the Council's final consultation report needs to consider the views of stakeholders on the catchment options and

provide reassurance to stakeholders on educational arrangements locally during the three year period before the new school becomes operational. They add that the council should also address local concerns about road safety in relation to the new school and the new housing. The issues raised are addressed in Section 6 below.

## 6.0 Responses to the Issues Raised by Education Scotland

### Issue 23

The council will need to consider stakeholders' views on the proposed changes to school catchment areas. The educational benefits of Option C for Holm Primary School are not sufficiently clear. Should the council decide to proceed with this option it will need to clarify the educational benefits and provide details of arrangements for accommodating the additional number of children at Holm Primary School.

### Response 23

Section 7 below reviews the points made in respect of the decision on future catchments. The Council is not recommending option C.

### Issue 24

The council will need to provide reassurance to stakeholders on arrangements during the three-year period proposed to build the new school. It will need to ensure that the temporary arrangements for accommodating additional pupils at Holm Primary School can be delivered without negative impact on children's learning experiences. The council should provide details for its plans for the transition from existing arrangements to establishing a fully operational new school.

### Response 24

The Council undertakes continual monitoring of school rolls and adjusts its roll projections annually on the basis of actual enrolments, statistics for the 0-5 age group in each area, planned housing developments, and other factors. Additional classroom accommodation will be provided at Holm Primary as and when required.

The Council acknowledges that additional classroom space will put pressure on dining and play space within the school.

A local Stakeholder Group will be formed including parent and other representatives, and its remit will include transition arrangements as well the development of the new school building. The Council will look to discuss with the local Stakeholders Group how the accommodation pressures at Holm Primary can be managed. This would include consideration of additional hard play space.

**Issue 25**

The Council will need to address concerns raised by stakeholders about road safety and safe walking routes to the new school and to Holm Primary School from the new housing developments.

**Response 25**

Holm Primary has had a very active School Travel Team led by the Parent Council who worked with Highland Council for a number of years on their School Travel Plan/SRTS scheme. Through this a number of projects were successfully funded/implemented, including:-

- Improvements to the steps at the back of the school
- Cycle Storage
- 2 SID signs on Stratherrick Road
- Footprints
- Fence
- Hi Viz Vests
- Park Smart Banners

The Council acknowledges that further review of travel plans will be required, particularly recognising that in the short term, until the new school is built, there will be additional pupils attending Holm Primary, many of whom will be travelling from the new Ness Castle and Ness-Side Housing developments.

As part of the planning process the Road Safety Team will work with the nominated School Travel Teams from both the new school and Holm Primary School. These School Travel Teams are responsible for putting together the school travel plans for their schools with assistance and guidance from the Road Safety Team.

All parties will have to take cognisance of the constraints within the existing Holm Primary school site and the routes accessing this site.

**7.0 Review of Catchment Issues**

- 7.1 The Proposal Paper set out 3 potential options for the future catchments of Ness Castle and Holm Primary Schools, as well as a variation to one of the options.
- 7.2 There was no consensus, in the responses to consultation, about the best shape of the new catchments. Lochardil and Drummond Community Council favoured Option A; whilst Holm Primary School Parent Council expressed concerns about Options A and B. The local Church of Scotland Minister expressed opposition to Option C. Whilst having no strong preference between Options A and B, he slightly favoured Option B.

- 7.3 Education Scotland raised concerns about Option C on the grounds that the projected roll for Holm Primary would eventually exceed the capacity for the accommodation that could be provided at that school.
- 7.4 Highland Council also agrees with the argument advanced at Issue 12 above, i.e. that splitting the new housing in Ness-side as per Option C would militate against the formation of a strong community identity. It would lead to a situation where families living next to each other lack the common connection of a school to build a community around.
- 7.5 For the above reasons, Highland Council does not propose to adopt Option C for the new school catchments for Holm and Ness Castle Primary Schools.
- 7.6 One response argued in favour of Option A, on the grounds that the new school needed to have the capacity to absorb as much of the anticipated population growth as possible, and to relieve pressure on the existing schools (see Issue 1)
- 7.7 Holm Primary School Parent Council expressed the opposite concern, based on the roll projections outlined in the Proposal Paper. These suggested that future rolls at Holm Primary could fall as low as 112 under Option A or 126 under Option B. The Parent Council were concerned at the potential effect of such a fall on the quality of teaching at the school.
- 7.8 Highland Council reviews its roll projections on an annual basis. An update to the projections was published in December 2017, since the Ness Castle Proposal Paper was published.
- 7.9 In addition, considerable further work has been carried out on the roll projections for all of the schools in this part of Inverness, following the decision taken by Highland Council in March 2018 about its priorities for future capital projects. The adjusted roll projections anticipate a much larger school at Ness Castle as well as ongoing capacity pressures at Lochardil, Cauldeen and Hilton Primary Schools.
- 7.10 This work also indicates that the resident pupil population within a revised Holm Primary school catchment would be higher than had been previously forecast. As a result of these capacity pressures, the adjusted roll projections incorporate a remodelling of the optimal level of placing requests each year at Holm Primary and Ness Castle Primary, with the aim of keeping the school rolls at Lochardil, Cauldeen and Hilton below 95% capacity if possible.
- 7.11 The remodelled roll projections also assume that 50% of the pupils from the new housing will move to Ness Castle PS when it opens in 2021, but 50% will choose to remain in Holm PS. Although the 50% figure is merely an assumption, it is a more realistic figure than the previous assumption that all of the existing Holm PS pupils from the new housing would move to the new school when it opens.

- 7.12 New roll projections for both schools have been prepared, based on the new assumptions set out above. The revised figures are attached at **Appendix 5**. The new projections take session 2021/22 as their starting date, in line with the potential opening date for the new school.

Some key figures to highlight from the appendix 5 are as follows:

- By year 2032/33, as far as current roll forecasts project, the new Ness Castle Primary school would have a roll of approximately 630 pupils.
  - At the point of opening, 2021/22, the new Ness Castle Primary School is forecast to have a roll of 198 (Option A) and 143 (Option B), rising steadily each year thereafter. Both figures may vary based on the pace of house building and occupation, and parent choices, but are based on current forecasts.
  - Holm Primary School would have a reasonably stable school roll over the period shown, with that roll within the current capacity of the school. Under option A, the roll is lower than option B, in the main due to the different catchment boundaries of both options, and the retention of Holm Dell housing within the Holm catchment under option B.
- 7.13 Although initially Option A shows a higher roll for Ness Castle Primary and a lower roll for Holm Primary, over time the numbers become more aligned, due to the anticipated effect of placing requests from neighbouring catchments.
- 7.14 The original Proposal Paper gave a figure of 244 for the permanent planning capacity of Holm Primary. The provision of additional accommodation at the school in Autumn/Winter 2017 has since raised this figure to 308.
- 7.15 Option B has the advantage of using a natural feature – Holm Burn – as the boundary for part of what will be the Holm/Ness Castle catchments. It also allows for the existing houses at Holm Dell to remain part of the Holm PS catchment, as they are at present. This option has the advantage of using logical and natural boundaries for establishing the catchment, and in doing so maximising the school roll within the existing Holm Primary. It would also leave all of the new Ness Castle and Ness-Side developments within the new school catchment.
- 7.16 Having considered all of the above, Highland Council proposes to adopt Option B from the Proposal Paper as the new catchment areas for Holm Primary School and Ness Castle Primary School.

## **8.0 Effects on School Transport**

- 8.1 An assessment of the effects on school transport can be found at S.8 of the Proposal Paper, and the assessment has not changed since.
- 8.2 Safer Routes to Schools issues are addressed at Responses 9 and 25 above.



**9.0 Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements**

9.1 An assessment of the effects on school transport can be found at S.9 of the Proposal Paper, and the assessment has not changed since.

**10.0 Effects on the Community**

10.1 An assessment of the effects on the community can be found at S.10 of the Proposal Paper, and the assessment has not changed since.

**11.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies**

11.1 No alleged omissions or inaccuracies were identified during consultation.

**12.0 Overall Review of Consultation Exercise**

12.1 The consultation exercise has not identified any significant opposition to the Proposal. Aside from the pupil responses, only five written representations were received and none expressed opposition to the establishment of the new school.

12.2 The Council's assessment of the options for the proposed new catchment areas is set out at Section 7 above. Having reviewed the consultation responses and carried out more work on roll projections, the Council is proposing to recommend the new catchments are delineated as per Option B of the Proposal Paper.

**13.0 Legal issues**

13.1 Throughout this statutory consultation Highland Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

13.2 As provided for in section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within Highland. The above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.

**14.0 Conclusion**

14.1 The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response detailed in sections 4 and 6 above.

14.2 Education Scotland staff visited Holm Primary School and Lochardil Primary School to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal document, all written responses, and the notes of the public meetings.

14.3 The Director of Care and Learning, on reviewing all of the submissions, the notes of the meeting, and the Education Scotland report; concludes that the Proposal for a new school should be implemented and that the catchment area should be delineated as per Option B of the Proposal Paper. The reasons for this conclusion are set out above.

**15.0 Recommendation**

15.1 It is therefore recommended that Highland Council proceeds with the course of action set out at Paragraph 14.3 above.

**Bill Alexander**  
**Director of Care and Learning**  
**1 May 2018**

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**The proposal is to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments**

### EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

#### **THIS IS A PROPOSAL PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

The Highland Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process:

- To establish a new primary school in Inverness to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-side housing developments.
- To amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Holm Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

In this paper, the new school will be referred to by the provisional name of "Ness Castle Primary School". In the event that the new school is approved, the final name of the school will be subject to detailed consultation with stakeholders.

Three options are under consideration to create the delineated area of Ness Castle Primary School:

- Under **Option A**, the boundary of the delineated area for Ness Castle Primary will begin on the River Ness at a point just below Whin Island, from there running east to the B862. It then runs in a south westerly direction along the B862 to where it meets the Inverness Distributor Road, after which the boundary extends east along that road to the point where it meets the Lochardil PS catchment. The areas of the present Holm PS catchment that are south and west of this line will become the new school's catchment area;
- Under **Option B**, the boundary of the delineated area for Ness Castle Primary will begin on the River Ness at a point just below Whin Island, from there running east to the B862. It then runs in a south westerly direction along the B862 to where it meets the Holm Burn, after which the boundary extends south and east along the burn to where it meets the Lochardil PS catchment. The areas of the present Holm PS catchment that are south and west of this line will become the new school's catchment area;
- **Option C**, under which the delineated area for Ness Castle Primary will be that part of the current Holm Primary catchment that lies south of the current Holm Burn, and south of a line that would leave part of the proposed Ness-side housing development within the Holm Primary catchment.

Maps of the options for the new Ness Castle Primary and revised Holm Primary catchments are at **Appendices A, B and C**. This paper invites views on the identified options.

The paper also discusses a potential variation to Option A, which includes Essich Gardens, (currently part of the Lochardil PS catchment), in the new Ness Castle Primary. A map of this variation can found at **Appendix A(i)**.

## SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

### PUBLICATION INFORMATION

#### Proposal Paper Published

The proposal paper will be available for inspection, free of charge, at:

- Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX
- Holm Primary School, Stratherrick Road, Inverness IV2 4YL
- Lochardil Primary School, Lochardil Road, Inverness IV2 4LB
- Inverness Library, Farraline Park, IV1 1NH

and published on the Highland Council website:

Copies of this Proposal Paper are also available on request from:

Brian Porter  
Head of Resources, Care and Learning Service  
Highland Council HQ  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX  
E-mail: [brian.porter@highland.gov.scot](mailto:brian.porter@highland.gov.scot)

To request this information in an alternative format, e.g. large print, Braille, audio formats, or suitable language, please contact The Business Support Team (South and HQ) Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. Email: [business.support@highland.gov.scot](mailto:business.support@highland.gov.scot)

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Holm Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) Parents of pupils attending Lochardil Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iii) Parents of pupils attending Aldourie Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iv) The Parent Councils of the above schools.
- (v) Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (vi) Staff of Holm Primary School; Lochardil Primary School; and Aldourie Primary School
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) Lochardil and Drummond Community Council;

- (viii) Dores and Essich Community Council
- (ix) Education Scotland;
- (x) Highland Youth Convener.

### **Advertisement in Local Media**

A notice announcing the public meeting will be placed in the local press and on the Highland Council's Facebook page.

### **Consultation Period**

The consultation for this Proposal will begin on Monday 23 October 2017 and will end on Friday 1 December 2017. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

### **Public Meeting**

A public meeting will be held, the details of which are set out below:

7.00pm on Wednesday 8 November at Holm Primary School.

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Council, will be chaired by a senior elected councillor, and will be addressed by officers of the Care and Learning Service.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal; to ask questions about the proposal; and to have the views of all stakeholders recorded so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website. The meeting will also be recorded.

The note will be forwarded to Education Scotland, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

### **Meetings with Pupils and Staff**

School staff will arrange to discuss the proposal with pupils (who are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) in the affected schools. A record of questions, responses and views will be taken and this will be published in the Consultation Report.

### **Responses to the Proposals**

Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposals by making written or electronic submissions on the Proposals to:

Brian Porter  
Head of Resources, Care and Learning Service  
Highland Council HQ  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX  
E-mail: [carelearningadmin@highland.gov.uk](mailto:carelearningadmin@highland.gov.uk)

Or via an online form, a link to which can be found on

[www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

When responding, you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc. However it is not compulsory to do so.

Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Highland Council”. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available. All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, Friday 1 December 2017 at 5.00pm.

### **Involvement of Education Scotland**

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Council. Education Scotland will also be sent, by 8 January 2018, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period. Education Scotland will also receive the summary note of the public meeting that will be held and so far as is practicable a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 26 January 2018. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such enquiries of people there as they consider appropriate.

### **Further Consultation**

Highland Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This Report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be sent to anyone who submitted a written representation during consultation. It will be available on the Council website as well as at the affected school and local library, free of charge. The Report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the Education Scotland Report, together with the Council’s considered response to the issues raised. The Report will include details of details of any alleged inaccuracies and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the People Committee, who will make a recommendation to the full Highland Council.

In publishing the report the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Committee prior to its meeting. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Highland Council website.

### **Timescale Following Consultation**

At the present time the Council intends to publish its Report in April 2018, prior to submission to the People Committee on 30 May 2018. However, this timescale may

change depending on the nature of issues raised during consultation, and the need to give full consideration to those issues. In the latter event, the Report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

Any proposal approved at People Committee would require to be confirmed by a subsequent meeting of the full Highland Council.

If approved, the Proposal will then move to the implementation phase. A Stakeholder Group will be established to act as a formal forum for the dissemination of information relating to this development, and to ensure that there is an effective two way flow of information between the Group and the Council, Project Team and Contractor (once appointed). The Group will also have the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the Council's proposals in relation to the new school. It is anticipated that the requirements of design, planning permission and build will require a further 30-36 months after the conclusion of the statutory consultation process.

### **Note on Corrections**

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal paper, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. The Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMI will be advised.

### **Legislative Background**

- 1.1 The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (S.1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (S.3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000). As with all Council duties, the Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure best value, and in securing best value the Council is required to maintain an appropriate balance between, inter alia, the quality of its performance of its functions and the cost to the authority of that performance (Local Government in Scotland Act 2002, section 1). Each of the above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.
- 1.2 A statutory consultation on this proposal is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the following grounds:
  - i. Proposal to establish a new school;
  - ii. Proposal to alter the catchment area of a school or schools.

### **Reason for the Proposal**

- 2.1 This proposal is being advanced because on current projections the pupil numbers at Holm Primary School will exceed the school's capacity within the foreseeable future. The capacity issue arises from the construction of a new housing development at Ness Castle and proposed developments at

Ness Castle. A map showing the proposed site of the new school, can be found at **Appendix D**.

- 2.2 The consultation process, together with the planning process, and the design and construction of the new school, is likely to take at least 3 years. Additional modular accommodation will be installed as required at Holm Primary in the intervening period. This accommodation will be an interim measure and will not offer a long term solution to the capacity issues that will arise at Holm Primary.

### **Current Details – Holm Primary School**

- 3.1 Holm Primary School is a non-denominational school serving a residential area of Inverness. The school opened in 1974 and was extended in 1979. There are four main buildings:

The Administration Block, which contains the office accommodation; staffroom, hall, dining area and kitchen;

Teaching Block A, where the P.1 and P.2 stage classrooms are situated;

Teaching Block B, where P.2/3, P.3, P.4, and P.4/5 stage classrooms are situated

Teaching Block C, where P.5, P.6, P.6/7, and P.7 are situated.

In addition, a new Nursery building was opened in 2012.

Each of the Teaching Blocks has a central "open area" adjacent to classrooms. The "open areas" are provided as classroom extensions. Each Teaching Block has its own toilet facilities.

- 3.2 The school has outside playing and recreational areas. The grass area provides space for sports and the tarmac quadrangle in the centre of the school grounds can be used for playground games and other activities. There is a basketball court at the edge of the playing field and an Adventure Trail. There are other grassy areas, which have picnic benches for the children, a 'bottle' greenhouse, an outdoor classroom and our school garden which is looked after by our pupils.
- 3.3 The school has both car parking and drop-off facilities for visitors and parents of nursery children.
- 3.4 At the time of writing, the P1-7 roll for the 2017-18 session is 281 pupils. Without taking account of a new Ness Castle Primary, current roll projections for future years are as follows, taking account of the estimated impact of the new housing developments at Ness Castle and Ness Side:

2020-21	- 383
2021-22	- 416
2022-23	- 437
2023-24	- 469
2024-25	- 504
2025-26	- 539
2026-27	- 567
2027-28	- 602



2028-29 - 637  
2029-30 - 672  
2030-31 - 700

- 3.5 The school had a permanent planning capacity of 244 at the start of the current school session, with a roll of 281. A modular two classroom unit has since been installed at the school to provide additional accommodation to address this immediate pressure but further temporary units will be required in the coming years as the roll continues to grow.
- 3.6 The size of the school roll at Holm Primary has led to the school already being capped to prevent enrolments as a result of placing requests.
- 3.7 The Highland Council assesses all of its schools for Suitability and Condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. School buildings are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory), "C" (poor) and "D" (bad). Holm Primary School is currently rated as "B" for educational suitability and "B" for building condition.
- 3.8 The most recent HMle report was published in May 2015. A copy is at **Appendix E**.
- 3.9 The year group numbers for the 2017-18 session are as follows:
- P1 – 34
  - P2 – 37
  - P3 – 45
  - P4 – 38
  - P5 – 47
  - P6 – 34
  - P7 – 46

### **Proposed New School**

- 4.1 The new school would be of modern design, environmentally efficient, and allowing pupils the opportunity to enjoy a comfortable, naturally lit and well ventilated environment designed to meet the needs of modern learners and teachers; meeting the requirements for "A" assessments for both Suitability and Condition; and influenced by good practice elsewhere.
- 4.2 The projected roll of the new school varies according to which catchment area option is chosen, but is estimated as follows:

#### **OPTION A (Appendix A)**

2020-21 - 265  
2021-22 - 303  
2022-23 - 321  
2023-24 - 357  
2024-25 - 392  
2025-26 - 427  
2026-27 - 455

2027-28	- 490
2028-29	- 525
2029-30	- 560
2030-31	- 588

Option Ai would result in a marginal upward variation to the figures in Option A

#### OPTION B (Appendix B)

2020-21	- 239
2021-22	- 282
2022-23	- 304
2023-24	- 343
2024-25	- 378
2025-26	- 413
2026-27	- 441
2027-28	- 476
2028-29	- 511
2029-30	- 546
2030-31	- 574

#### OPTION C (Appendix C)

2020-21	- 95
2021-22	- 115
2022-23	- 142
2023-24	- 168
2024-25	- 189
2025-26	- 217
2026-27	- 245
2027-28	- 266
2028-29	- 294
2029-30	- 322
2030-31	- 343

- 4.3 Pre-school accommodation would be provided, and the pre-school accommodation would be suitable for use by breakfast clubs and after-school clubs, should any be created. Flexibility will be built in to take account of the increased entitlement to free provision required by 2020.
- 4.4 It would be important to include a degree of flexibility and adaptability within the design in order to provide options to alter spaces in the future in response to the changing needs of the school. This approach would optimise the use of available space.
- 4.5 The needs of every child would be placed at the centre of developing the design in recognition of the transitions from pre-school to primary and ultimately to secondary education. The design would be planned to enable the flexibility required to meet the evolving needs of the school curriculum and other developments, including:
  - The Pre School educational area having sufficient space to accommodate a variety of activities to support early years learning, together with close internal

links with the infant department in order to encourage regular collaborative learning through active play and to enhance the transition between pre-school and Primary 1.

- Learning and teaching spaces for primary age pupils which have access to internal shared activity areas and external teaching spaces which provide flexibility and opportunities to maximise the use of space inside and outside the building.
- HT office, reception/admin office, staff room, and meeting room/staff base.
- Kitchen with dining area.
- Games hall with changing facilities (potentially accessible to community outwith school hours).
- Grass playing field, and Multi-use Games Area.
- A variety of other spaces to support activities within the school, including general purpose space and spaces specifically designed for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- Design which will maximise the use of natural daylight and natural ventilation, together with heating, ventilation and electrical systems which provide modern requirements in an energy efficient and sustainable manner.
- The landscaping around the school will be designed in conjunction with the school users to ensure that there is an interesting “play and learning” environment.
- Safe access to the school with the appropriate arrangements for those arriving/departing on foot, by bicycle, by bus or by car.

4.6. The above overview provides an outline of the design opportunities that exist taking into account recent experience with similar primary school projects elsewhere within Highland. These opportunities will be developed in conjunction with the school communities to ensure that the new school design takes account of the aspirations of future users of the facility.

4.7 The Scottish Government’s Climate Change Policy specifies that new buildings should be nearly zero in terms of carbon emissions. The Council’s expectation is that the new school would have a Carbon Dioxide equivalent impact of about 15 tonnes per year at most.

## **Educational Benefits**

5.1 Highland Council is of the view that the school environment should be of a quality that sustains and improves education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Highland.

5.2 With the above aim in mind, Highland Council has adopted the above indicators in reviewing its school estate:

1. Pupils should be educated in facilities which are rated at least category B for each of Condition and Suitability.
  2. Pupils should be members of an age-appropriate peer group.
  3. Pupils should have the opportunity to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum, including music, sports, drama and art.
  4. Pupils with Additional Support Needs should be educated in the most appropriate local setting.
  5. Pupils should not ordinarily be required to travel for longer than 30 minutes from the nearest classified road pick-up point to school (primary) although it is recognised that this may not always be possible in a rural Council area such as Highland.
  6. School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.
  7. School delineated areas should reflect geography, travel routes and population distribution.
  8. Safe school transport should be provided and safe traffic management in and around school sites should be implemented.
  9. Teachers should be members of a professional learning community comprising at least 3 members located in the same facility.
  10. The implications of school location to local communities should be considered.
  11. Schools, wherever possible, should be located where there is a recognised village or other built up community.
- 5.3 The projected rolls at paragraph 3.4 indicate that the new school is required in order to address point 6 of the Highland Council criteria *“School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.”* The Ness Castle/Ness-Side housing developments mean that in future Holm Primary will no longer meet this criterion. There is a need for a new school to balance the number of children in the area with the facilities that are available.
- 5.4 Should the new school be constructed, the revised projected rolls for Holm Primary would be as follows. Again, the projections vary according to which catchment option is chosen:

Option A (Appendix A)

2020-21	- 118
2021-22	- 113
2022-23	- 116
2023-24	- 112
2024-25	- 112
2025-26	- 112
2026-27	- 112
2027-28	- 112
2028-29	- 112
2029-30	- 112
2030-31	- 112

## OPTION B (Appendix B)

2020-21	- 144
2021-22	- 134
2022-23	- 133
2023-24	- 126
2024-25	- 126
2025-26	- 126
2026-27	- 126
2027-28	- 126
2028-29	- 126
2029-30	- 126
2030-31	- 126

## Option C (Appendix C)

2020-21	- 290
2021-22	- 297
2022-23	- 300
2023-24	- 308
2024-25	- 315
2025-26	- 322
2026-27	- 329
2027-28	- 336
2028-29	- 343
2029-30	- 350
2030-31	- 357

- 5.5 The roll projections provide an overwhelming case for the construction of a new school. It is clear that without a new school in the area, Holm Primary, and probably other local schools, would be faced with an unmanageable level of overcrowding. Indeed, under Option C above, capacity issues could still arise at Holm Primary, even after the building of the new school. The delineation of the catchment will therefore be a significant factor in deciding on the size of the new school.
- 5.6 It is of course impossible to predict future school rolls with complete accuracy. Much will depend on the pace of housebuilding in the area. The projections shown are also partly based on the past pattern of local placing requests, but this pattern could itself be changed by the construction of the new schools. The Council is also looking at new school capacity for the Slackbuie area, which might further affect the above projections.
- 5.7 By alleviating future capacity pressures expected to arise at Holm Primary, the proposal would improve the learning environment for the pupils of both Holm Primary and Ness Castle Primary.
- 5.8 In summary, the new school offers the possibility of educational benefit arising through averting future overcrowding at Holm Primary.

## **Alternative Solutions**

- 6.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this report, the Council has considered alternative solutions. However, none of the neighbouring schools have the capacity to accommodate the number of additional pupils that will arise from the new housing. It has been recognised from the outset that the housing development at Ness Castle would require the construction of the new school.

## **Options for New Catchment**

- 7.1 Under Option A and its variant, Ai, the area of existing housing known as "Holm Dell" would transfer to the Ness Castle catchment, and Option Ai would also affect the Lochardil catchment, in that the small area of housing at Essich Gardens would transfer to Ness Castle.
- 7.2 A separate review is underway regarding education provision in the Slackbuie area of Inverness, the outcome of which could have implications for the Lochardil PS catchment. Full consideration of the best future catchment area for Lochardil PS will be included within any forthcoming proposal arising from that review, and Highland Council does not recommend altering the Lochardil catchment as a consequence of the current proposal for Ness Castle Primary.
- 7.3 Under Option B, "Holm Dell" would remain within the Holm Primary catchment, and the Ness Castle catchment would encompass all of the Ness Castle and Ness-side developments.
- 7.4 Option C would offer Ness Castle Primary a smaller catchment than the other options and would leave a significant amount of new housebuilding within the Holm Primary catchment. It would therefore lead to a larger roll at Holm Primary than would any other catchment option, and would potentially still result in some capacity issues at Holm Primary in the future, which would need to be addressed.
- 7.5 As mentioned above, the delineation of the catchment area will have a significant effect on the required size of the new school.
- 7.6 Highland Council would welcome the views of local people on which of the catchment options would be the most appropriate.

## **Effects on School Transport**

- 8.1 Pupils attending Holm Primary are not entitled to school transport as the home to school distances are within walking distance. Appropriate arrangements would be made for any transport required for pupils due to Additional Support Needs.
- 8.2 The construction of the new school will not therefore have any significant impact on school transport.

## **Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements**

- 9.1 An appropriate management structure will be put in place at the new school, reflecting the size of the school and consistent with such arrangements

elsewhere in Highland. Consideration will be given to the need for transitional arrangements, to fully establish Ness Castle Primary.

- 9.2 The staffing arrangements for Ness Castle Primary will also be consistent with the staffing of other schools in Highland. Staffing levels will be arranged in accordance with local and national agreements, and relevant legislation.
- 9.3 The projected roll at Holm Primary would fall under catchment options A and B above, which would mean less staff being required at the school. This would however be within the context of an overall rise in roll within the Inverness area, and consequently there would be numerous redeployment opportunities for staff, not least at Ness Castle PS itself.
- 9.4 At the present time the new school is too far off to be able to look at the effect on individual staff. The Council will at all times follow its redeployment policy, should there be a need to assign any staff to a new school.

### **Effect on the Local Community**

- 10.1 The establishment of the new school provides the opportunity to improve and expand access to community facilities, within the new school, and through the continuation of the existing Holm Primary school. The scope of, and access to, community facilities would be considered through the briefing and design stage following conclusion of the Statutory Consultation.

### **Financial Consequences**

- 11.1 The capital and revenue implications of constructing the new school will be taken account of within the Council's capital programme and revenue budget planning.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 12.1 The proposal has been assessed as having no impact on the following Equality areas:
- Gender
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy or Maternity
  - Marriage/Civil Partnership
  - Race
  - Religion or Belief
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Looked After Children
  - Young Carers
  - Children and Young People Living in Deprivation
- 12.2 In respect of age equality, the proposal relates to 2 primary schools and as such primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group, and their parents. The proposal is advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children in the area concerned. No negative age related effects arise. Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of schools provision.

- 12.3 The proposed new school would be built to modern standards, offering disabled access for children, parents and the wider community, as well as purpose built teaching accommodation for children with additional support needs. It would therefore have a positive impact on disability issues.

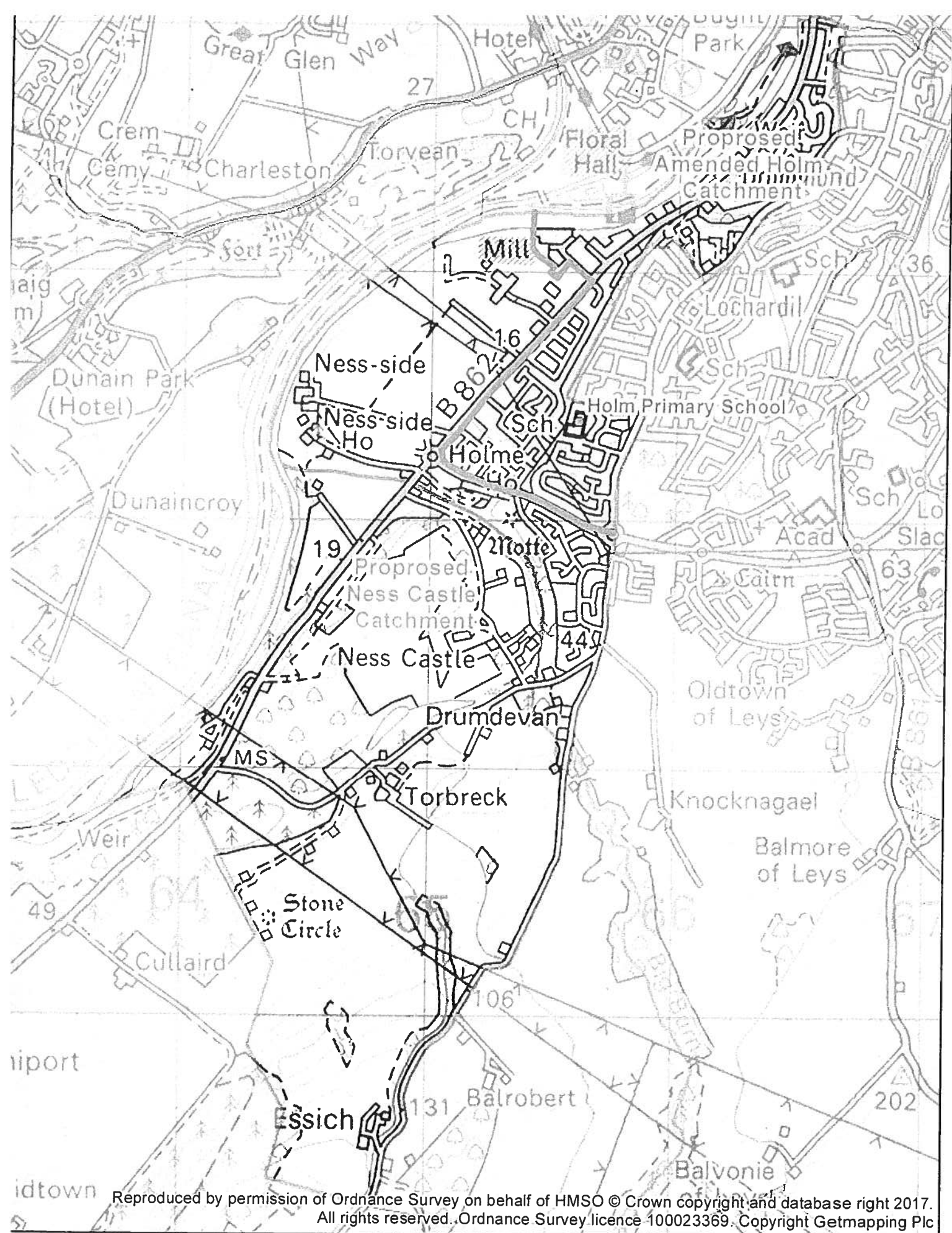
### **Mitigation of Adverse Effects**

- 13.1 Adverse effects from the proposal could include the separation of pupils who previously attended the same school, with implications for existing friendships.
- 13.2 When Ness Castle Primary School opens, any pupils from within the delineated area of the new school who are already enrolled within the Nursery or P1-7 classes at Holm Primary, will be given the opportunity to enrol in the new school or to continue attending Holm Primary, without having to submit a placing request. Where the latter option is taken, this opportunity will also be extended to any younger siblings of pupils attending Holm Primary at the time of the younger child's admission. This is to enable siblings to attend the same school.
- 13.3 Subsequent to the opening of Ness Castle Primary School, any pupils not falling within the above categories will be enrolled in their catchment school. Parents who wish their children to attend an alternative school may submit placing requests to that effect.

### **Recommendation**

- 14.1 Taking the above into account Highland Council recommends that a new primary school is constructed to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side Housing Developments. The new school's catchment area would be chosen from one of the three options shown at Appendices A - C.
- 14.2 This proposal paper is issued in terms of the authority's procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report reviewing the consultations, and the submissions received, will be presented to the People Committee of the Highland Council.

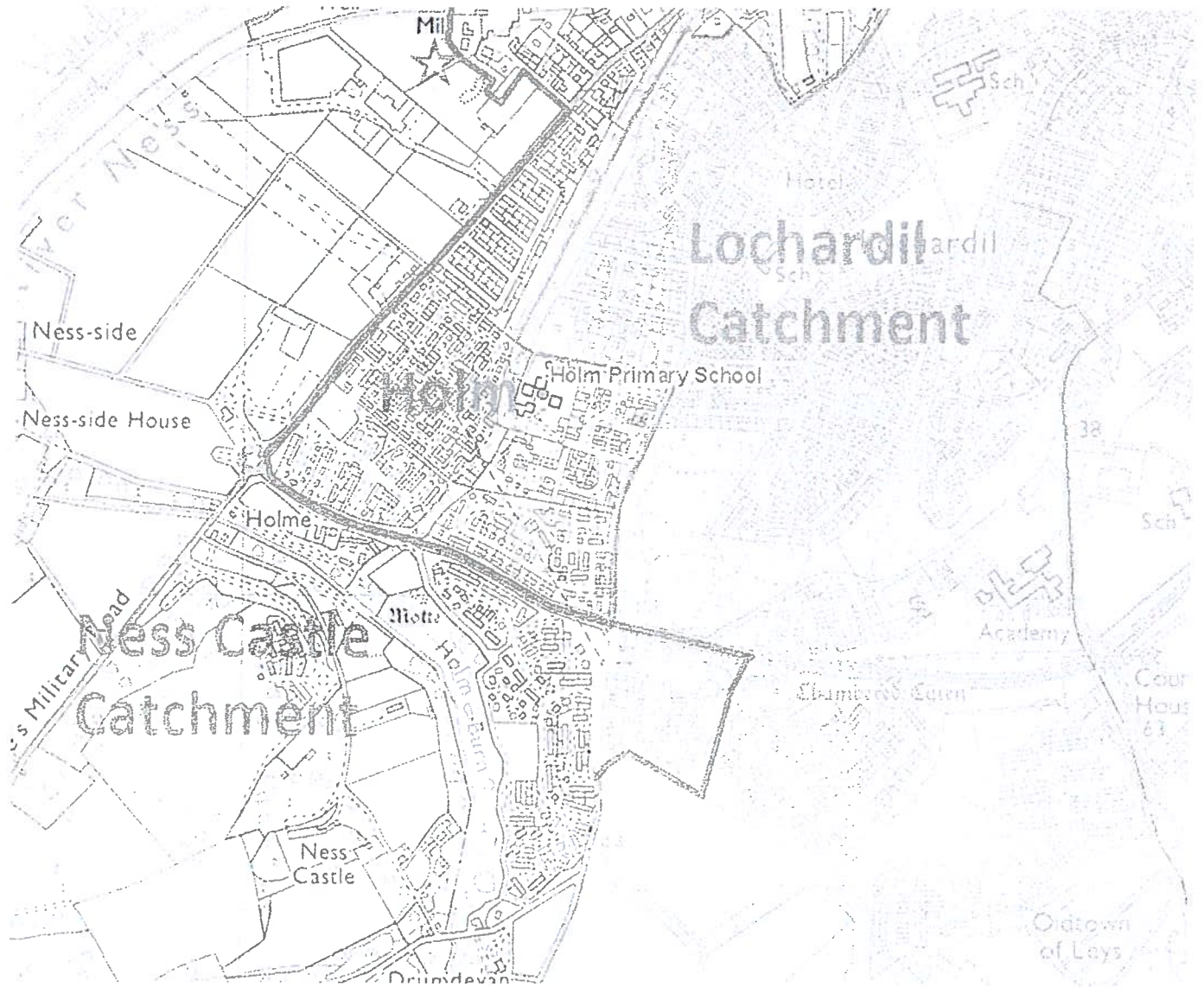


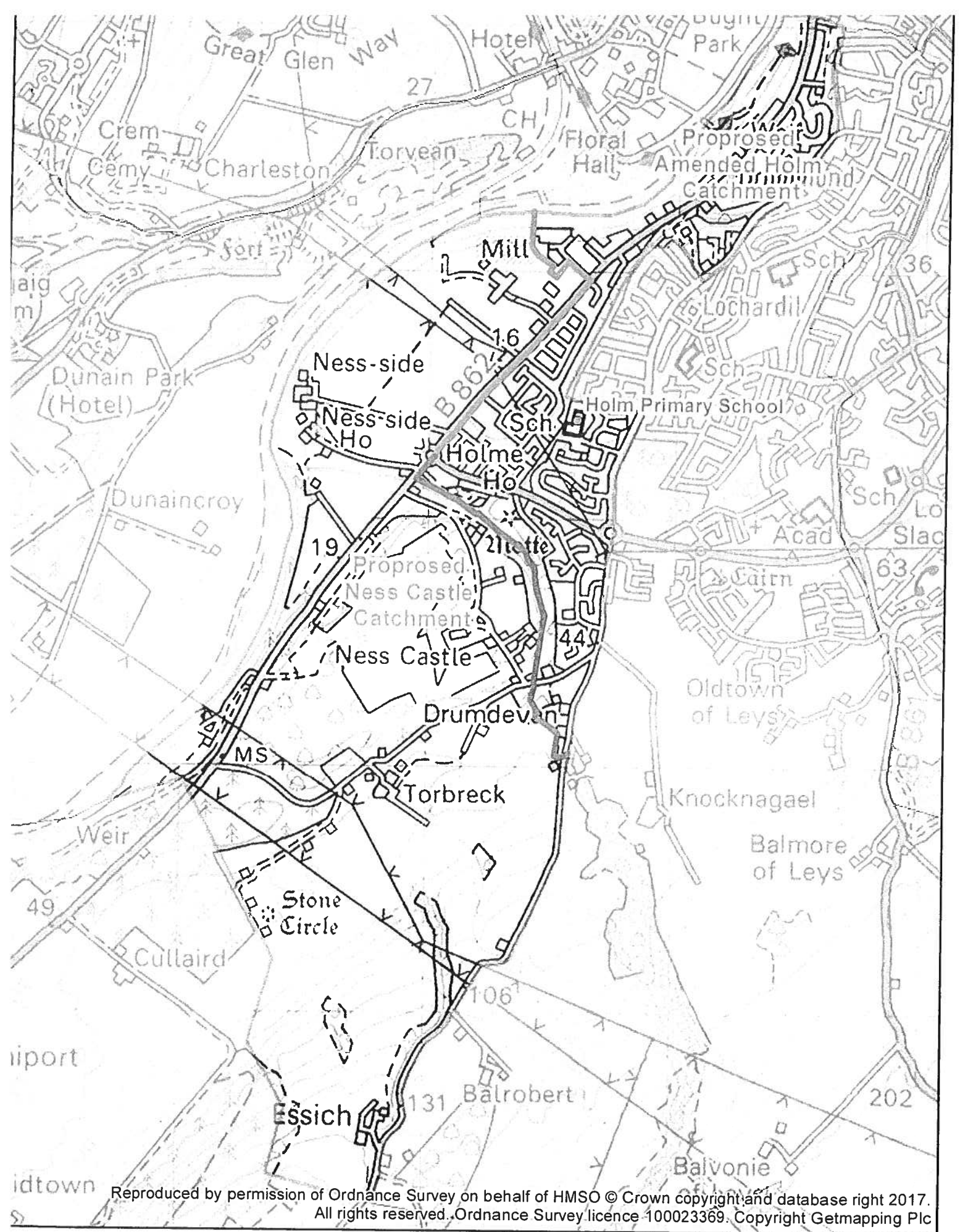


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# Option A

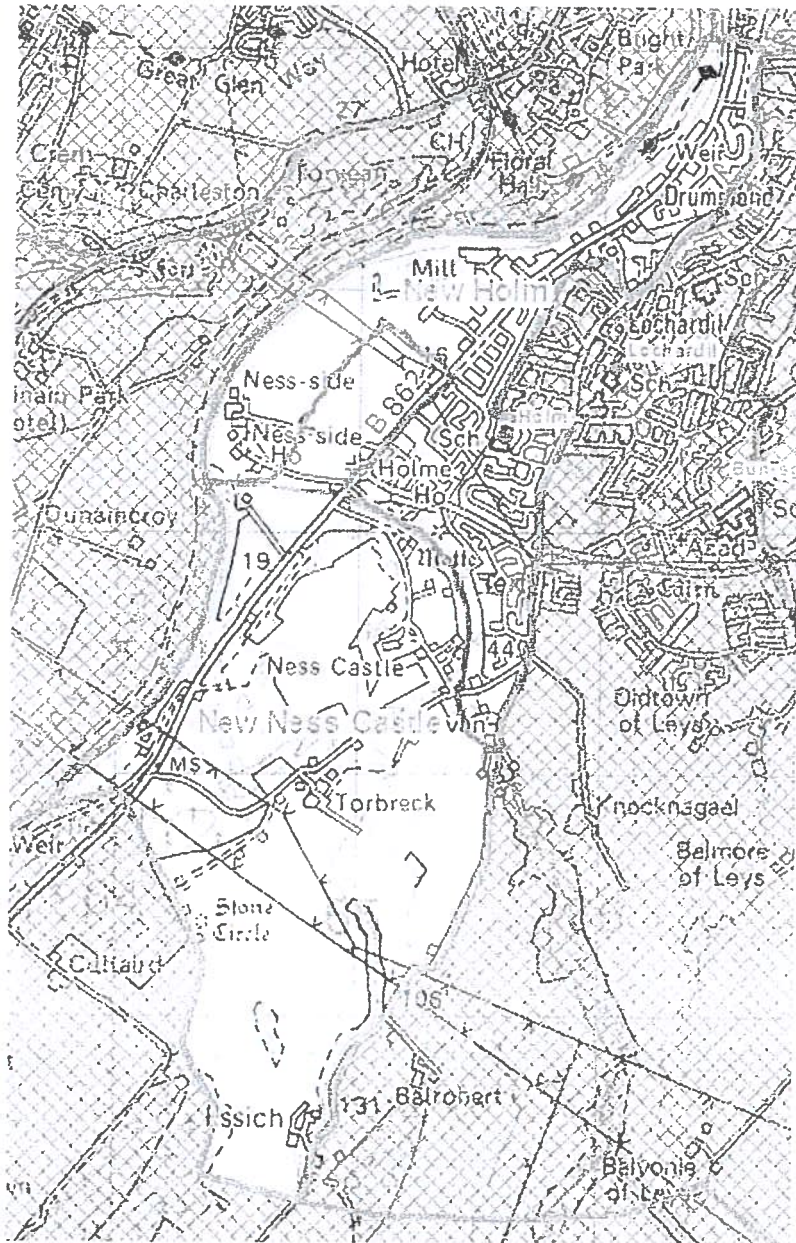




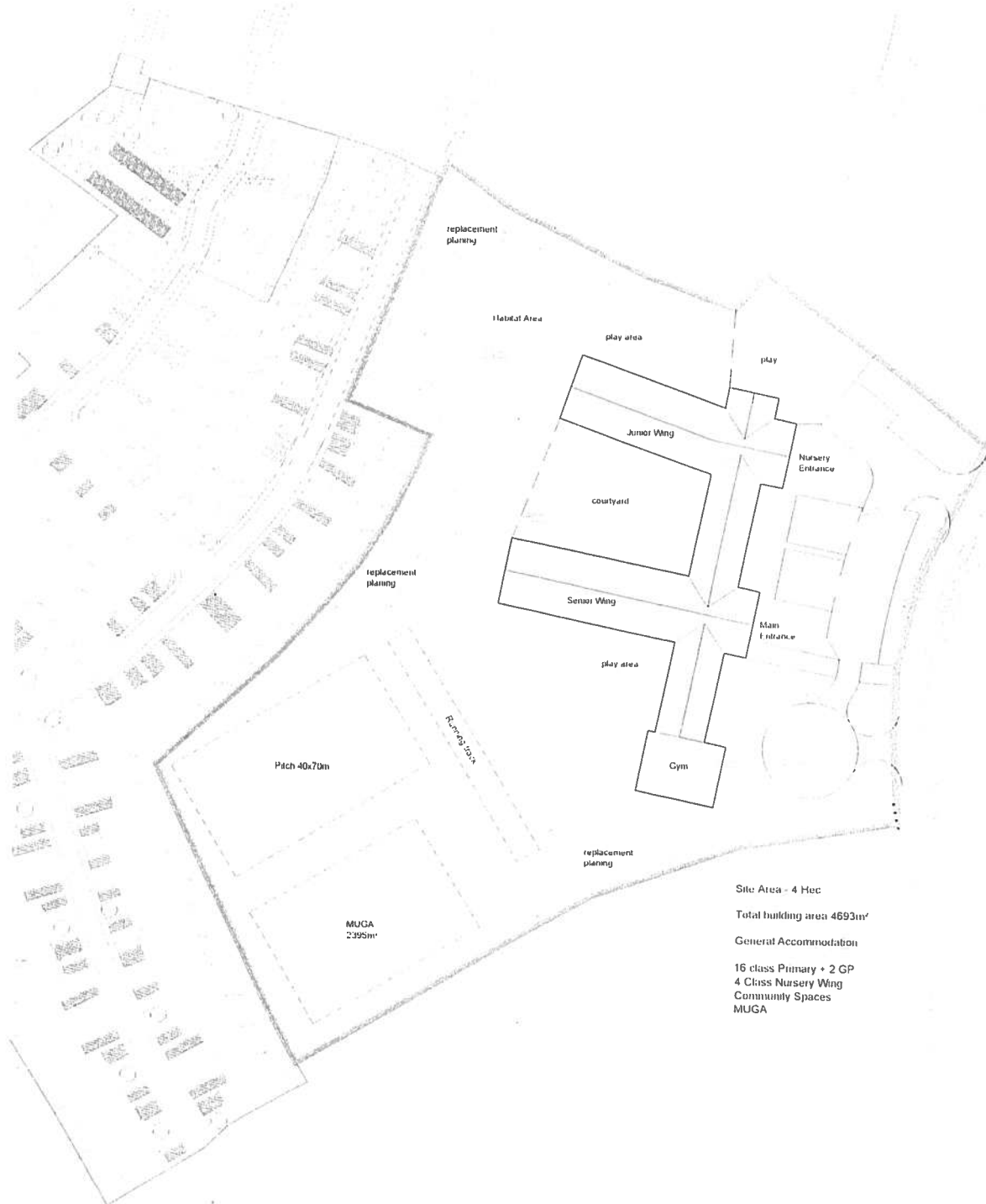


# Option B





**Ness Castle Option C**



Site Area - 4 Hec  
Total building area 4693m<sup>2</sup>  
General Accommodation  
16 class Primary + 2 GP  
4 Class Nursery Wing  
Community Spaces  
MUCA

Location Plan



Ness Castle - Primary School - sketch layout 1:1000

19 May 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

**Holm Primary School and Nursery Class  
The Highland Council**

Recently, as you may know, my colleagues and I inspected your child's school. During our visit, we talked to parents and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We wanted to find out how well children are learning and achieving and how well the school supports children to do their best. The headteacher shared with us the school's successes and priorities for improvement. We looked at some particular aspects of the school's recent work, including approaches to developing the curriculum and children's involvement in setting targets for their own learning. As a result, we were able to find out how good the school is at improving children's education.

**How well do children learn and achieve?**

Children in the nursery and at the primary stages are keen to learn and are achieving well. All children say that they enjoy coming to school and that staff are helping them to become more confident. Nursery children are increasingly deciding what and how they will learn during their play. For example, they voted to learn about space and to have weekly baking sessions. They are learning to co-operate with each other by sharing toys and taking turns. Children are proud of their individual learning journey folders. Staff should develop the use of these folders further to encourage children to talk about the next steps on their learning journey. Overall, teachers in the primary classes plan interesting activities that often enable children to learn together in groups. Children willingly contribute to projects and activities linked to their school and community, such as their work on the Eco Schools Scotland initiative and their recent whole-school topic to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school. Children have made a good start to setting personal targets for their learning and to evaluating their own work. They now need to be given more opportunities to develop high-order skills such as creativity and problem-solving, and to have more opportunities to learn outdoors. Children benefit from participating in a wide range of sporting, cultural and musical activities and often achieve awards at local and national competitions.

Children are making good progress in their learning. In the nursery, most children listen well at circle time and can express their ideas and opinions confidently to adults. They have explored what makes a good question and have created their own questions to learn about how babies are cared for. Most children enjoy books and listening to stories. They benefit from lots of opportunities to develop their early writing skills and write their own name when they self-register each day. A few children enjoy the challenge of writing less familiar words, such as the names of their friends. Most

children are developing early numeracy skills well. In their pretend shop, they are exploring the use of money in a meaningful way. They would benefit from more opportunities to develop their early reading, writing and numeracy skills in real-life situations and nursery routines. Overall, across the primary classes, most children are making good progress in literacy and English language. Almost all children listen attentively and most build very well on each other's contributions during group and class discussions. At the upper stages, children are developing their listening and talking skills by taking part in topical debates. Staff have recently introduced new approaches to teaching writing and this is leading to improvement. Across the primary stages, children write well, often linked to topic work or to an enterprise task. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure and many children choose to do so. At the upper stages, children would now benefit from reading and talking about more challenging texts. Staff have identified the need to review and improve the teaching of phonics beyond the early stages. Across the primary classes, most children are making good progress in mathematics. Children are learning the relevance of numeracy and mathematics through activities and tasks linked well to school life. For example, all classes are using the Easter Fayre as a context for developing children's skills in using money. Children at P7 are enthusiastic about mathematics. They enjoy the ways in which their teacher makes mathematics lessons interesting for them. They are able to use problem-solving strategies well and can explain their thinking. At P4, children are good at estimating the reasonableness of their answers, and their speed, fluency and accuracy in mental mathematics is very good. The school has identified the need to ensure that children's application of their skills in mental mathematics is strong at all primary stages.

### **How well does the school support children to develop and learn?**

In the nursery and at the primary stages, staff work well as a team to provide a very caring and supportive ethos for children. All staff contribute to helping children feel safe and well cared for. They proactively seek advice and help from a range of partners and charities in order to support children and their families. In the nursery class, staff meet the learning needs of children well. They take good account of what children already know and provide support to those who need extra help. Parents are increasingly involved in children's learning, for example through organised sessions such as Rhyme Time and Stay and Play, and through the routine sharing of children's learning journey folders. In the primary classes, most lessons are pitched at the right level for most children. However, tasks and activities are at times not challenging enough to meet the needs of higher-achieving children. Whilst staff are good at identifying children who have barriers to their learning, aspects of the school's arrangements for supporting children with additional needs require to be improved. We have asked staff to provide clearer, better-planned support for children who need individual programmes for their learning.

The curriculum ensures a broad and balanced range of learning for all children. In the nursery and at the primary stages, staff are improving programmes of work by using Curriculum for Excellence guidance. Teachers have recently improved the programmes for English and mathematics. As a result, children now use information and communications technology in more creative ways to enhance their learning, for example to produce blogs and make movies of puppet shows which they produce. Staff should now continue with their plans to develop the curriculum further to ensure

that children progress well across all areas of their learning. Children are particularly well supported in moving from the Pink Panthers pre-school group into nursery, and then as they move on to P1. Early years staff are working together closely to develop these transition arrangements yet further. Well established links with Inverness Royal Academy help children at P7 to prepare well for secondary school.

### **How well does the school improve the quality of its work?**

The headteacher knows the strengths and development needs of the school very well. She is well respected by children, parents and staff. They appreciate the way she has improved the school ethos for all and led developments in learning and teaching and in refreshing the curriculum. In order to maintain this pace of change in a sustainable and effective way, the remits of the school leadership team need to be reviewed. Along with staff, the leadership team should use self-evaluation approaches in a more focused way to bring about further improvements. Children across the school are now more involved in taking aspects of school improvement forward through working in their citizenship groups. Parents are also keen to work with staff and children in helping to improve the school.

This inspection found the following key strengths.

- Articulate and confident children who are keen to learn and very proud of their school and nursery.
- Very effective approaches to ensuring younger children make a smooth start to nursery and to P1.
- The commitment of all staff to providing a caring and supportive ethos for learning.
- The headteacher's leadership in improving the school ethos, managing change and in leading learning.

We discussed with staff and The Highland Council how they might continue to improve the school and nursery class. This is what we agreed with them.

- Improve arrangements for meeting the needs of children who require additional support.
- Use self-evaluation in a focused way to secure further improvements in children's attainment; learning and teaching approaches; and curriculum development.

### **What happens at the end of the inspection?**

We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. As part of its arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of education, The Highland Council will inform parents about the school's progress.

Lesley A Johnstone  
HM Inspector



Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your school can be found on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/HblmPrimarySchoolHighland.asp>

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0141 282 5000, or e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.

**List of Respondents to Statutory Consultation Exercise – Establishment of a new Primary School to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments, Inverness**

1. Summary of views from nursery children at Holm Primary School
2. Summary of views from P1 class at Holm Primary School
3. Summary of views from P1/2 class at Holm Primary School
4. Summary of views from P2 class at Holm Primary School
5. Questionnaires completed by P3 class at Holm Primary School
6. Questionnaires completed by P3/4 class at Holm Primary School
7. Questionnaires completed by P4 class at Holm Primary School
8. Questionnaires completed by P5(N) class at Holm Primary School
9. Questionnaires completed by P5 (H) class at Holm Primary School
10. Questionnaires completed by P6 class at Holm Primary School
11. Questionnaires completed by P6/7 class at Holm Primary School
12. Questionnaires completed by P7 class at Holm Primary School
13. Inverness Community Planning Partnership (Email response)
14. Dr. Maria de la Torre o/b of Lochardil and Drummond Community Council (response via letter)
15. Mr. Martin Fitzgerald o/b of Holm Primary School Parent Council (response via online form)
16. Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald, parent (response via online form)
17. Scott McRoberts, Minister of St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Inverness (email response).

Nursery

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

We don't think your School, Holm Primary, will be big enough to take these children.

Highland Council thinks it would be a good idea to build a new school for the children in the new Ness Castle and Ness-side houses. Holm Primary would still stay open for the children who live close to it. We think we need to keep Holm Primary and have a new school for the children in the new houses.

Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	8
NO	7

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

- We should build a big one for everyone to fit
- We need a bigger room
- It needs to be a yellow room
- a whole new school for new children
- they should come here because it's a good school
- a new school school because it's got space
- it's good here.

Primary  
I

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

Mrs  
Wojcik

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	22
NO	1

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

No vote - 'The school would take up too much space for new house'

Yes vote - 'People can learn new stuff'

'They can be happy and make new friends'

'There will be a big field to run fast'

'The new school will have cool things in it'

'A new school will be fun'

'You can make lots of new friends'

'There will be lots of new toys'

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	25
NO	0

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Yes so that all the other children have a school to go to and learn.

Yes so that children can make new friends.

Yes because it will give the children their right to education.

## Hello, Everyone!

### Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	22
NO	0

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

- 'the new children have a right to learn but they need more space' Layla
- 'If there are too many children the classes would be too big which would not be good for the teachers' Innes
- 'Children need to learn + they deserve a good school with space' Liam
- 'the little ones may not be safe in a busy school because the older ones could bump into them' Zara
- 'we can't meet everyone's rights if the school is too busy' Kyle
- 'if it was too full we would not have enough seats or space for everyone' Lennox

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because we all diser school.

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Yes because every child  
deserve a school in



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES ✓	
NO	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because that will be  
more room.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because it would  
be new

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because more children need education!



Ruby

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because I like  
Holm Primary  
it's really fun!!!  
fun!!!

Grace

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because you would be able to walk to school instead of going in the car.

Ryan W

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	✓

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



H amish

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

<p>because more people need to go to school so they can learn</p>
---

A.N.B

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Because top many  
kids would mean  
many tables and too  
teacher would have the  
many Red too teach too



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because PePole from Athol  
Schools will move to  
the new school

Ollie Finley

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Handwritten response area containing faint pencil drawings of buildings and a road, likely representing the school and surrounding area.

Stephanie

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because mor people ned to go to school
---

L.M.L

Hello, Everyone!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

BECAUSE if that was not  
I school pepl wood not lern

**Hello, Everyone!**

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Because it would be a good school

see

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because most peple can lern.

# Michael

Hello, Everyone!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

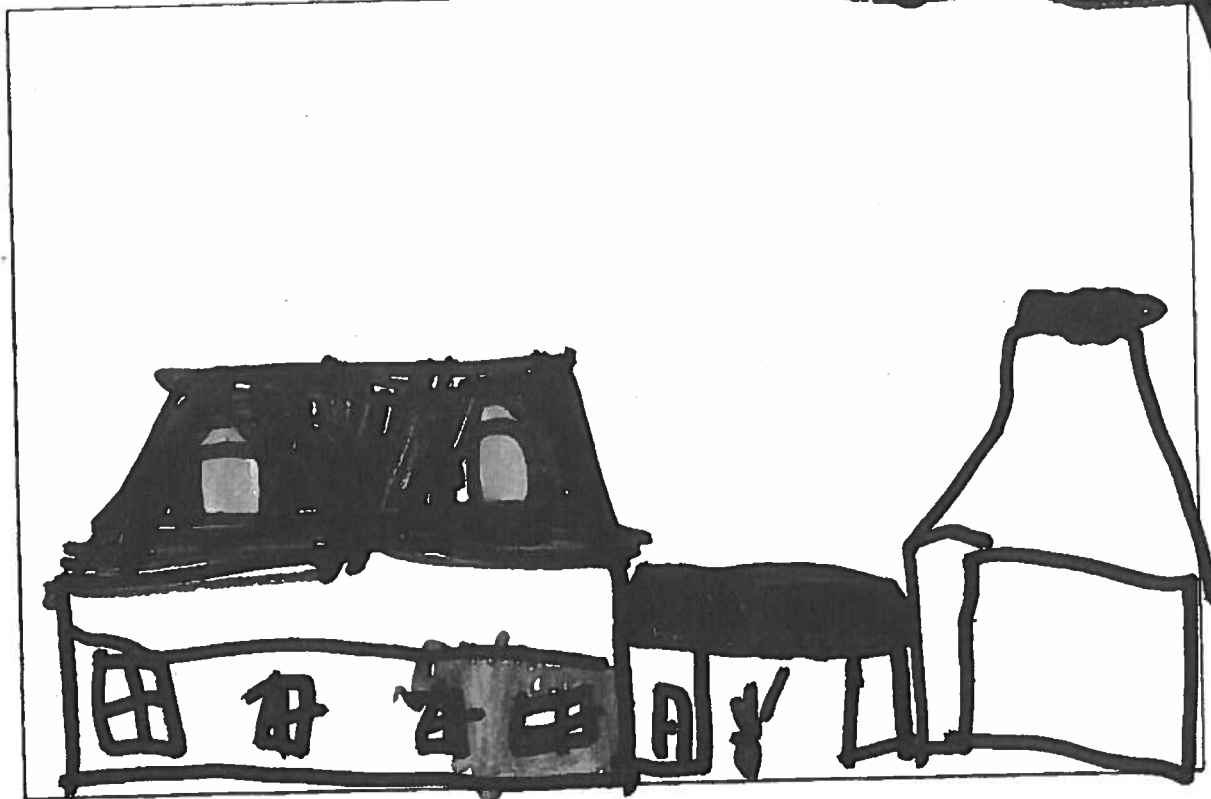
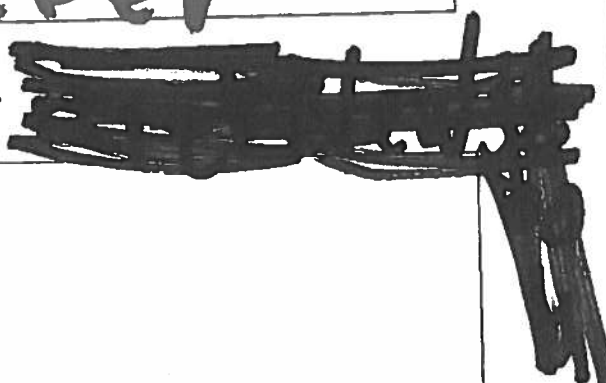
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES ✓	Yes it will be
NO	beter

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because we are  
taking more  
land



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	X

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because its using  
all the envourmant  
and filling the Land

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Highland Council thinks it would be a good idea to build a new school for the children in the new Ness Castle and Ness-side houses. Holm Primary would still stay open for the children who live close to it. We think we need to keep Holm Primary and have a new school for the children in the new houses.

Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because Peopple can't  
walk

Suha

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because Erwan can  
lun.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because I like Holm Primary
--------------------------------

Ryan S

Hello, Everyone!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO ✓	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because it is  
tach gruwdup.

11/1

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because  
everyone like this  
school

JUSLIM

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because you can  
get a good job

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because there are many children in the houses.



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because lots of Peppel  
ned to go to School and  
Because this School is  
geting Bussy

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

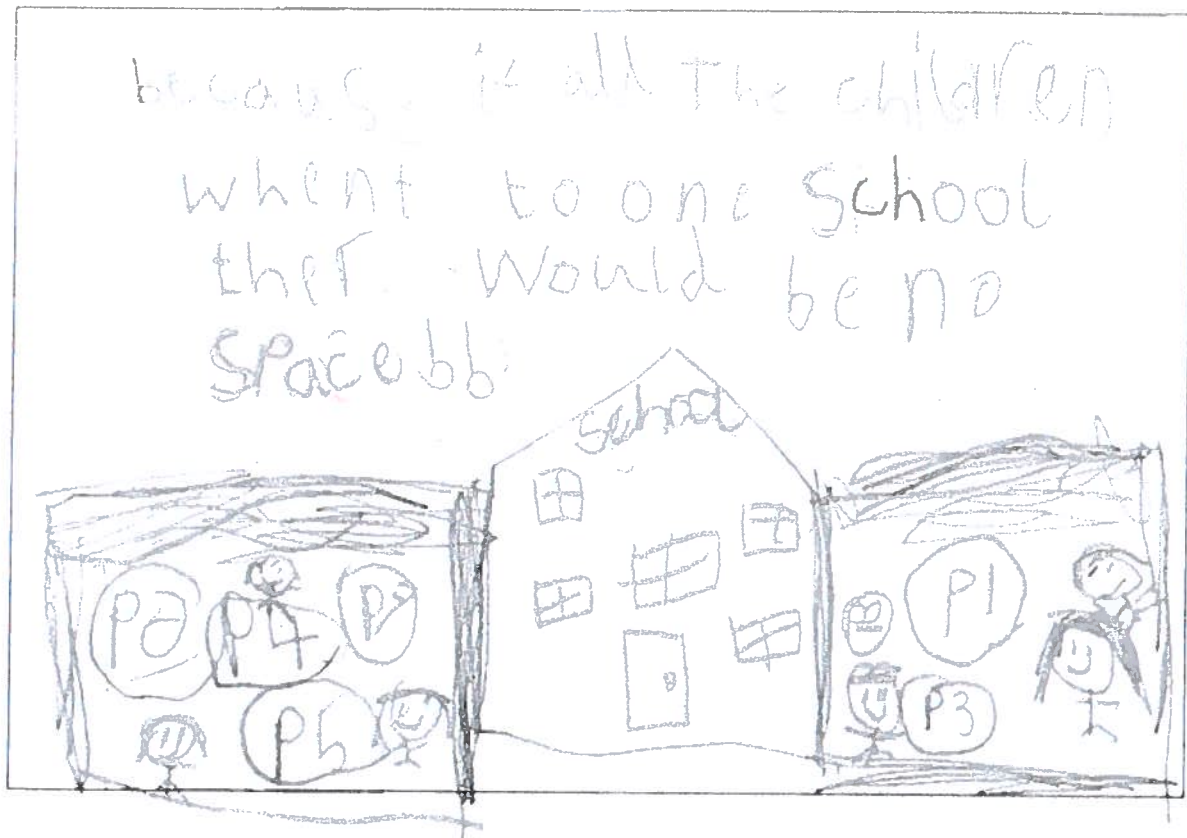
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



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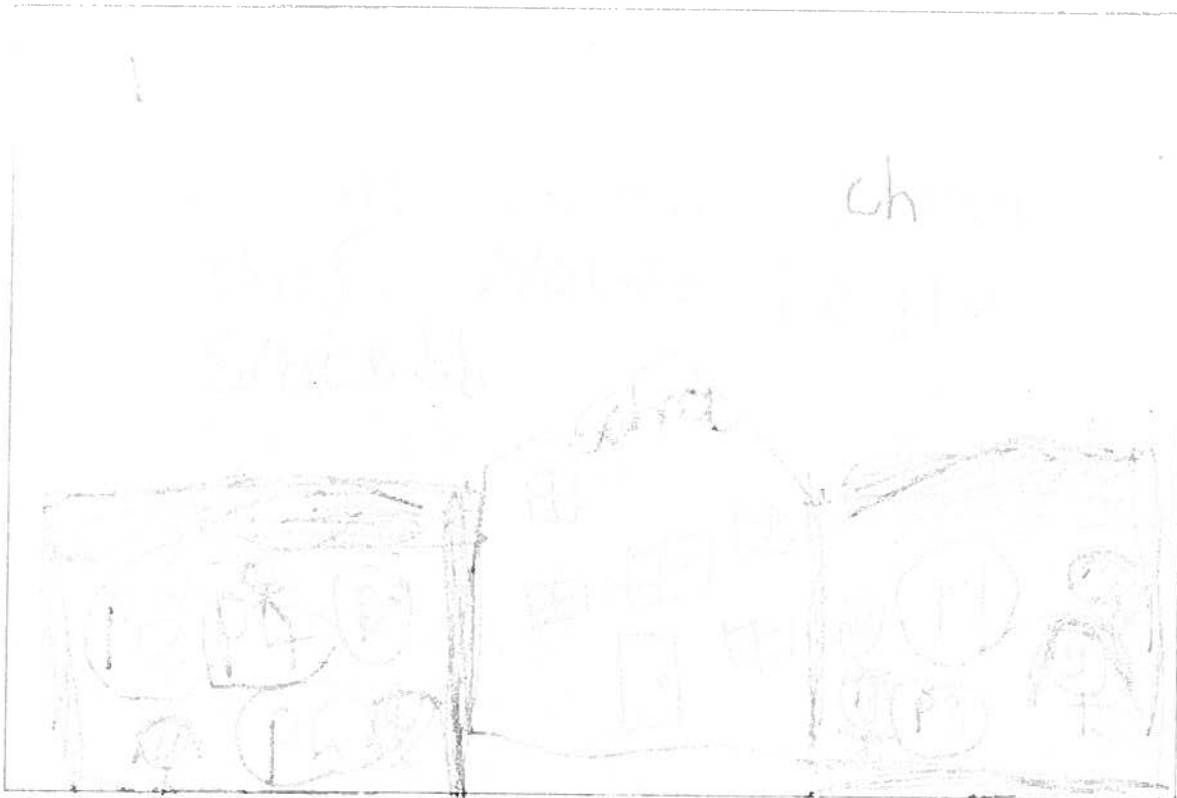
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

B C

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because the Some  
children might Live  
not close.



The illustration shows two simple stick figures on the left, one with a smiling face and one with a neutral face. To their right is a drawing of a house with a triangular roof and a grid-patterned body, representing a school building.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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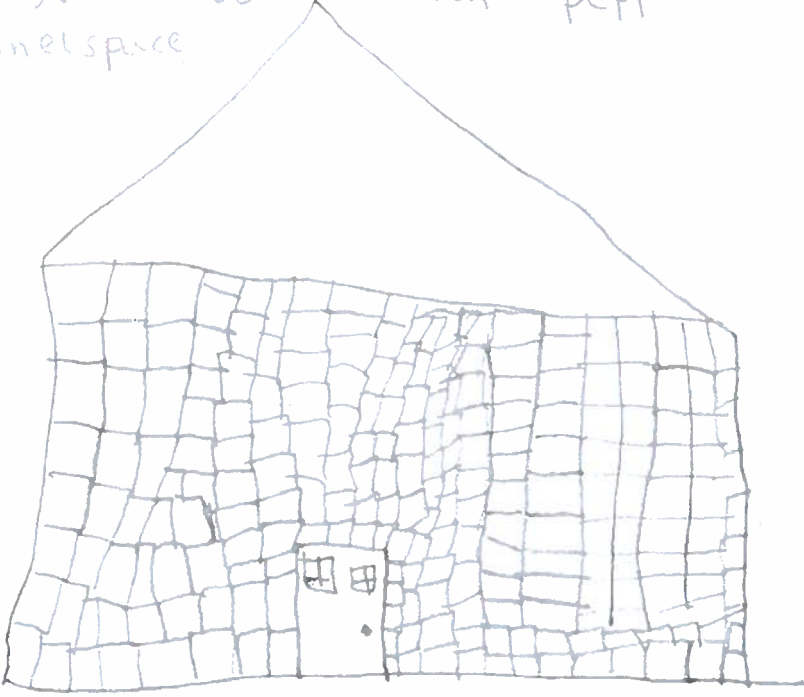
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b> ✓	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because too much people and  
perish space



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because children  
have the rite to a  
education



The illustration shows two simple stick figures representing children. The one on the left is taller and thinner, while the one on the right is shorter and has a body with a grid of dots. To the right of the figures is a simple heart shape. The entire drawing is done in a dark, thick marker or paint.

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**





**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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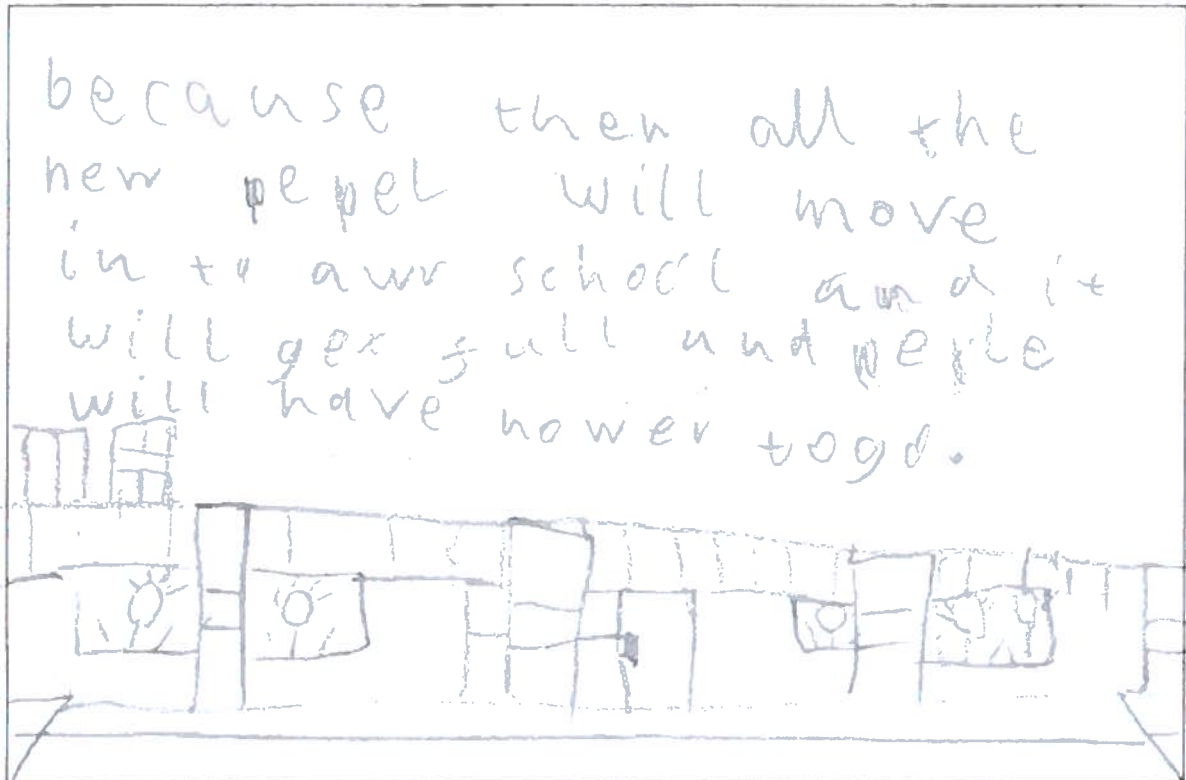
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**



Friday

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

We don't think your School, Holm Primary, will be big enough to take these children.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

It would be good to have a new upgraded school



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

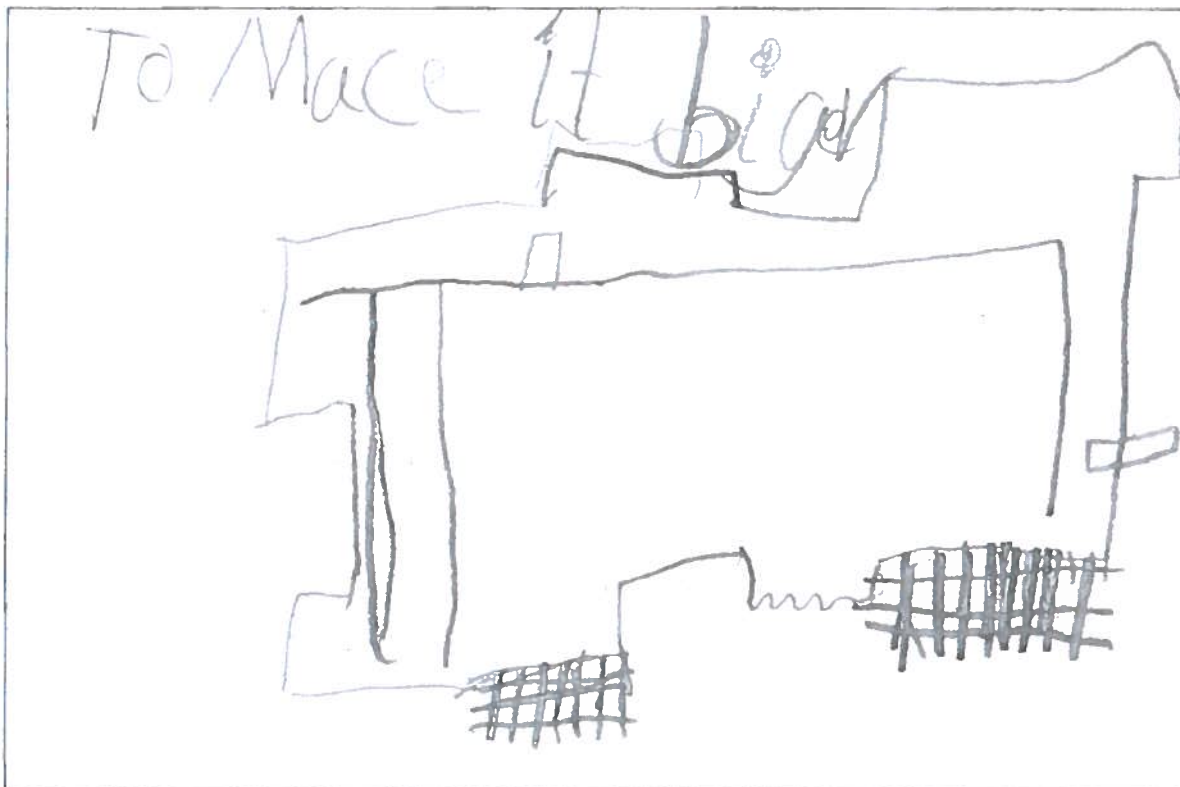
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	✓ ✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

be cause my friend  
might have to  
move school and  
I would miss him.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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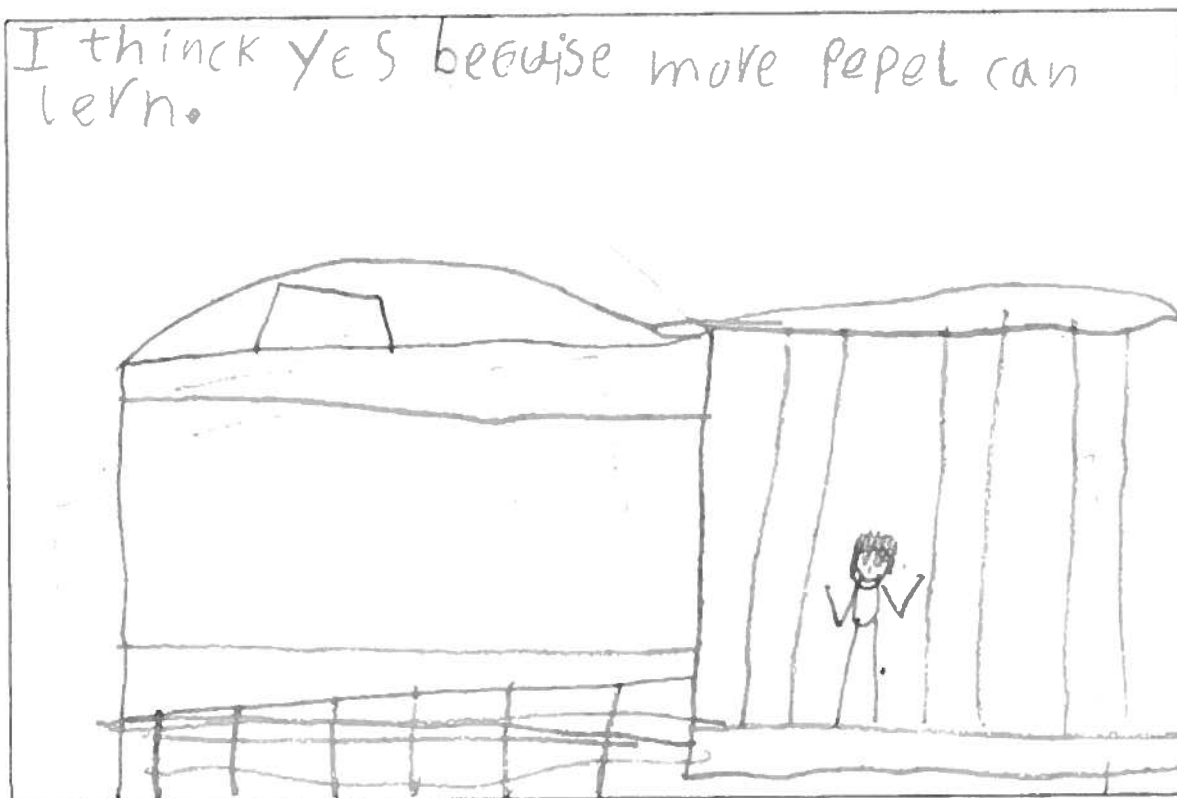
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I think yes becuise more pepel can lern.

A hand-drawn sketch of a school building. The building has a large, rounded roof and a chimney on the left side. There are several windows and a door. A person is standing in front of the building, with their arms raised. The drawing is simple and appears to be done by a child.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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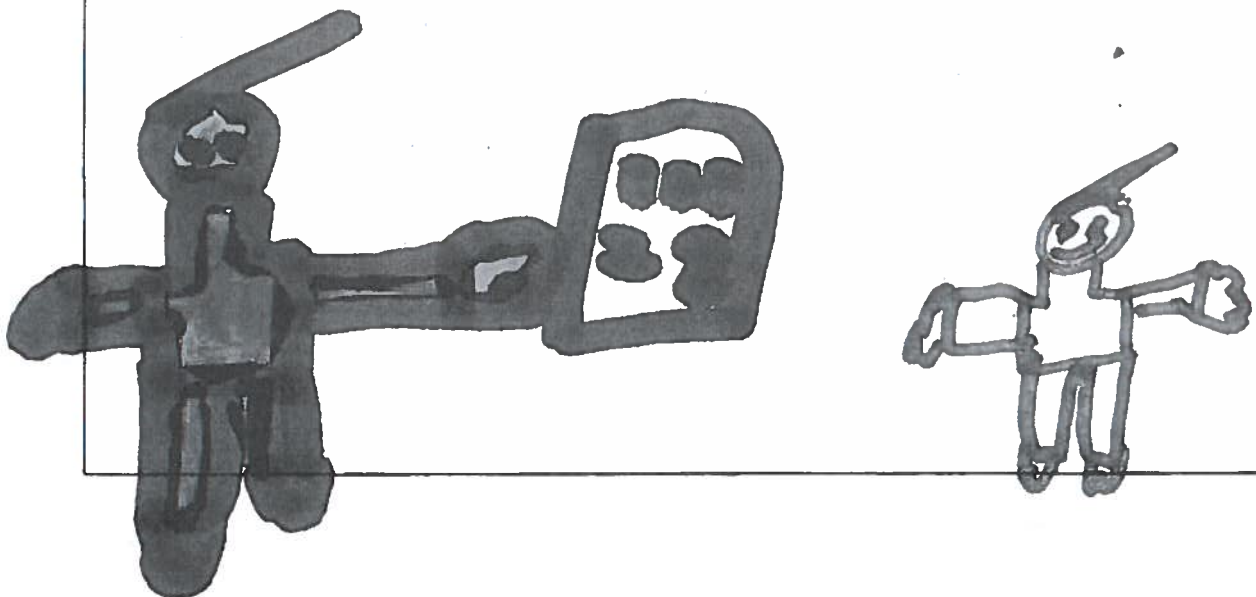
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because othr piple could cum  
and litra.





**Hello, Everyone!**

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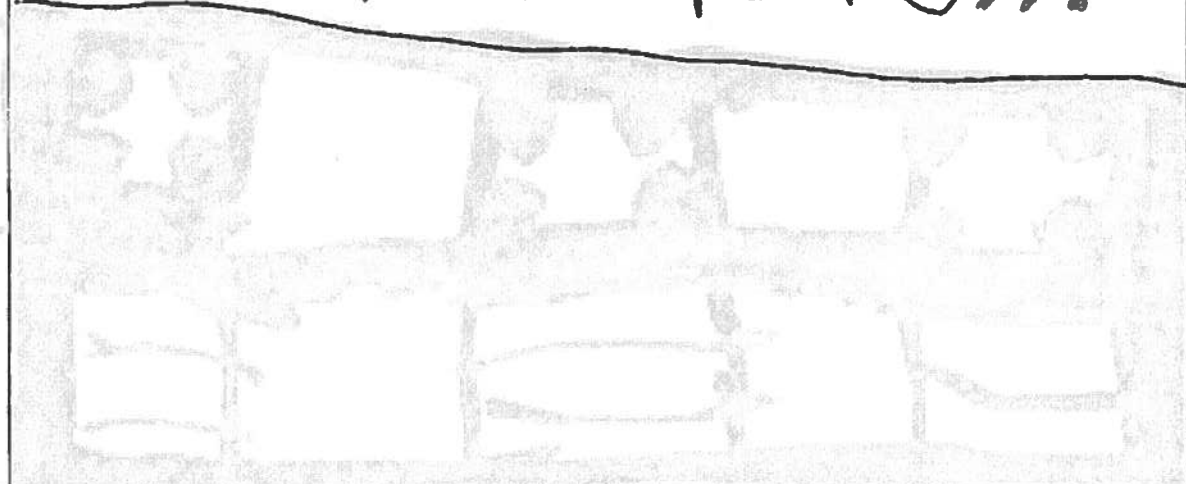
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because there is  
to mone peopl...



**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	because children need the right for a school
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**



# Hello, Everyone!

## Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because more pepel can get to School.



**Hello, Everyone!**

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

because we nate go to  
th your school

---



## Hello, Everyone!

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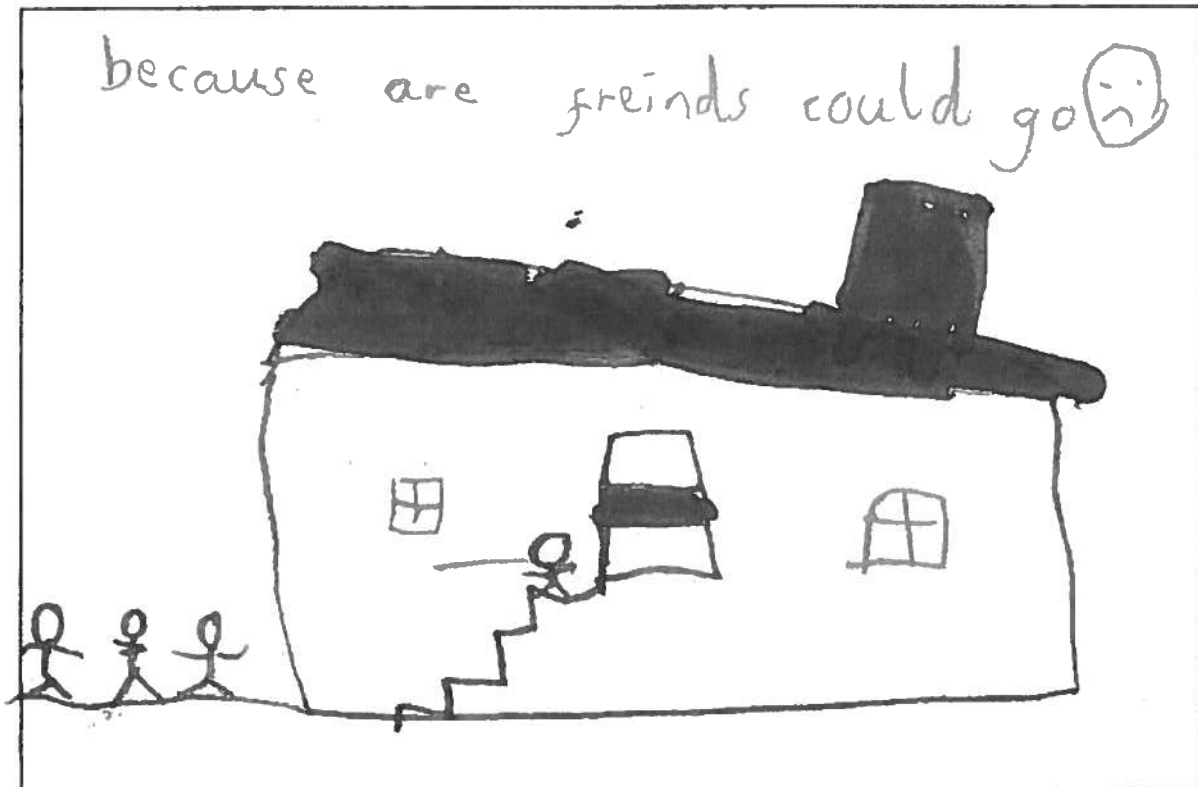
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YES	
NO	

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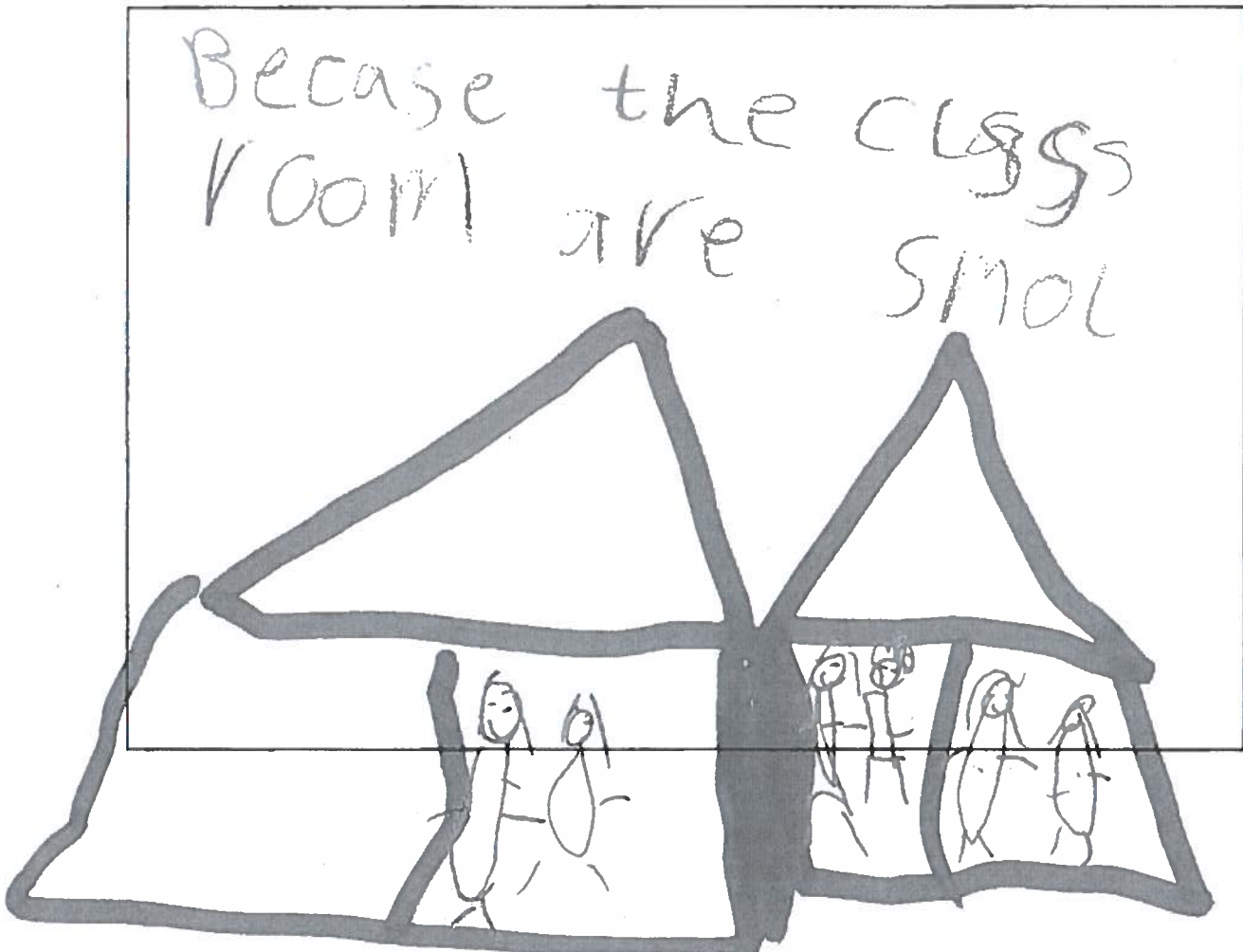
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YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



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<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because children ar growing  
and pepole have the  
right to a education

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<b>YES</b>	
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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because it will take up room.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

It might waste some money and I think Holm could handle more students

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because I'm moved in Ness Castle  
and people will have a chance to  
go to a easy getting to school

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because children should be allowed to go to whatever school they want to

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because you can just add a new block in our school.

Aidan 6

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Yes because would be  
enough room in our school  
for them

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I think no because I would like an extension to be built on to holm primary school. It would take up some space in the field and some time but it would be worth it. Please try?



Jessica

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

We don't think your School, Holm Primary, will be big enough to take these children.

Highland Council thinks it would be a good idea to build a new school for the children in the new Ness Castle and Ness-side houses. Holm Primary would still stay open for the children who live close to it. We think we need to keep Holm Primary and have a new school for the children in the new houses.

Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Because a wtf school has over 200 pepl.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

**We don't think your School, Holm Primary, will be big enough to take these children.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because there mums and Dads whant  
be happy but you can put an Instrechings

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

yes because then it wont take up as much  
Space for our school.  
ye because they want a new school

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

More peaple can learn.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because there wont be many people in Holm primary. It will cost alot of money.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because if you can make it to  
the school biger.

Douglas

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

We don't think your School, Holm Primary, will be big enough to take these children.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

Because it will waste money!!! BTW he would build the new school :D

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

you can just build  
the school bigger.



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because You can just billed a new bit onto our School.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Yes because holm Primary School  
is a bit far away from  
Ness castle and some people  
cant drive.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

yes because they could not all fit  
and we would have less play space.  
It is braking one of our rights.

Gabby

Hello, Everyone!

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	NO PLZ

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

well Lois is my best Pal so if Lois moves  
school my heart is broken or any of  
my other Pals leave school, so i think  
we should just have one school. To  
keep everyone together. Also cant  
you just build more blocks to fit  
more peple in one school it's less  
money than building another school. I think?

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because if theres no room in  
home Primary the children that  
have moved School here close wont to have  
a School close to them.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	✓

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

I don't want a new school cause I like the world just how it is at your friends. Move school you will be sad 😞

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	X
NO	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

**YES** because we would not have any room to play and it is breacing one of are rights!!

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	✓

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

you can just build a bit more onto our school. :)



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because it is a good idea

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because there is a lot  
of people

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because this school already  
is why full.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

YES	
NO ✓	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

It's a vevory  
cool  
SCHOOL

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b> ✓	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I dont think they should build  
anew School because its a  
waste of money.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?



**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

There will not be enough class rooms in this school.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I said NO because a new block was just build and their two class rooms 1 has the p7's in it but the 2nd one isn't been used so it could be used for ather people and one class room in b block is free aswell.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

**A lot of new houses are being built nearby, at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. This means that lots of children in these new houses will need a school to go to.**

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**Highland Council thinks it would be a good idea to build a new school for the children in the new Ness Castle and Ness-side houses. Holm Primary would still stay open for the children who live close to it. We think we need to keep Holm Primary and have a new school for the children in the new houses.**

**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because it wouldn't be enough class rooms anywhere else.

**Hello, Everyone!**

**Can you help the Council with an important decision?**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

Because Holm primary school will get to big and if you build a new school there will be more space and people that live in Ness castle and Ness side it will be quicer to get to

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I think yes because this is fair  
And there is alot of houses  
getting built down at ness  
castle and ness side  
and our school is  
a small school

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because then they can get Education.

**Hello, Everyone!**

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NO</b>			

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because i see loads of children because i live there and there's still loads of houses and still bolder sites

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because it would  
be a good idea



Hello, Everyone!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

BECAUSE YOU COULD  
BUILD THIS SCHOOL  
EVEN BIGGER

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b> ✓	
<b>NO</b>	

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I think yes because what if there is not <sup>enough</sup> ~~anough~~ space in the school And a lot of houses.

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

I say yes because the playground gets really full and then everyone would get squished

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**Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.**

<b>YES</b>	
<b>NO</b>	✓

**Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?**

because all my friends  
w@ld be gone