

Dear parents / carers

### **South West schools review: Suggested closure of Balerno High School**

I am getting in touch with you on behalf of Balerno High School Parent Council.

On 2 February City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) sent a letter to all parents providing an update on progress with the Edinburgh Schools Review. The letter makes reference to alternative suggestions which have been given via feedback by members of the public. These are listed in the presentations given at each community meeting (different content for each school) and can be found on [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolsreview](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolsreview) It is important that you are aware that one suggestion in particular has the potential to have a significant impact on both Balerno High School and the wider community, namely, **to amalgamate Currie HS and Balerno HS in a new building on the existing Currie HS site** i.e. Balerno High School would face closure if this option was pursued.

Balerno HS held our informal consultation event on Monday 22 January where this option of closing Balerno HS was first presented. It provoked a strong, negative reaction and feedback from those present and this has been noted by Council staff.

However, it is apparent that very little feedback has been posted online by parents. Of 800+ comments left to date, only 50 are from people in the existing Balerno HS catchment.

It is hugely important that ALL parents in ALL affected communities take the opportunity to speak up and give their feedback on the proposals. We need to provide CEC with information and opinion on both the published proposals (which include the option to rebuild / refurbish and increase the capacity of Balerno HS) and the new suggestions (which include the option to close Balerno HS and merge with Currie HS). We need to consider how the different options impact our own school and community and also our neighbouring schools and communities. You can do so via the 'Have your say' button on the weblink above. Even if you have already left comments online, further comments can be left if you want to add more.

At the community meeting attendees were asked to provide comment under the headings of impact on

- Schools and Education;
- Community;
- Travel

In addition to any personal thoughts you have, I would encourage you to give feedback using these headings. Please note (from previous experience) that the weblink may 'time out' so it is best to compose your submission in a separate document and then paste it into the weblink when ready! A key role of the Parent Council is to represent the views of our parents / carers so if you are willing to share a copy of your submission with us (to help us ensure our response to CEC is representative of all parents / carers) then please forward a copy to [balernoehspsc@gmail.com](mailto:balernoehspsc@gmail.com).

Our next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 12 March at 6.30pm at Balerno High School and the majority of our meeting will be spent discussing the Schools Review. Parents / carers are always welcome at our meetings.

In the meantime, please do get in touch with us via the email address above if you have any other questions or comments. Please do take the time to be familiar with the proposals and alternative suggestions and make the most of your chance to have your say.

Kind regards  
Andrea Brewster  
Parent Council Chair