

Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00 Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Renaming Fox Covert RC Primary School

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	Almond; Drumbrae/Gyle; Inverleith; Corstorphine/Murrayfield

Executive Summary

Following consultation within the community of Fox Covert RC Primary School, a majority of those consulted voted in favour of re-naming the school to more clearly reflect its unique identity. A second round of consultation identified the name *St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School* as the preferred name.

Links

Coalition Pledges	Not applicable
Council Priorities	C01 and C02
Single Outcome Agreement	S03

Renaming Fox Covert RC Primary School

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Fox Covert RC Primary School be renamed as Saint Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School.

2. Background

- 2.1 Fox Covert RC Primary School is part of a shared campus with Fox Covert Primary School. Both schools with very similar names creates a number of ongoing challenges around maintaining and promoting clear and distinct identities. These are due to the following issues:
- 2.2 *Visibility:* there is often a lack of awareness of two schools on the campus and of the existence of a Catholic school in the area. Many visitors to the campus are unaware that there are two schools on site. This includes new families, partner agencies and external links with businesses. Families new to the associated parishes are often unaware that there is a local Catholic School.
- 2.3 *Pupils' and school's achievements unrecognised, wrongly attributed:* Staff work hard to promote the achievements of pupils, and reinforce the school name and identity. Despite this there are regular and frequent occasions where pupil and school achievements are wrongly attributed. Recent examples include the opening of the school Credit Union bank, children's stories published in an anthology, a visit to the local MPs surgery as part of school work on the Global Campaign for Education – each time despite the school name being emphasised, it was wrongly recorded or reported. Children are frequently disappointed by their achievements being attributed to Fox Covert Primary School.
- 2.4 *Language and terminology:* Good relationships exist between both campus schools. However, despite continued attempts to address the issue of appropriate language, pupils and parents, refer to their neighbours as the 'RCs' and the 'NDs'. Such language is unhelpful in fostering good relationships and causes confusion.
- 2.5 *Administration:* Difficulties regularly arise regarding school administration. Confidential reports from Health, Social Work and Police Scotland are regularly sent to the wrong school.

- 2.6 Should Fox Covert RC Primary have a more individual name it would become easier to build and sustain the unique identity of the school. Children, staff and the school community would receive full recognition for their achievements and be more readily identifiable within their own community.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Fox Covert RC Primary School is the only denominational school in the city without a Saint's name or a name which reflects its Catholic ethos. The Catholic Education Commission: Scotland states that in Catholic Education, 'the idea of community is central, not merely as a concept to be taught, but as a reality to be lived and experienced. Formed by this experience we are better able to build community in the differing areas of our lives, in our families, our places of work, our neighbourhoods, our schools and our parishes.'
- 3.2 Renaming Fox Covert RC Primary School with a Saint's name would assist the school to promote its Catholic ethos and assist families within the parish communities to recognise the existence of their local Catholic Primary School.
- 3.3 It is therefore recommended that the Committee approve that Fox Covert RC Primary School be renamed as Saint Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School. Following Committee approval the necessary steps will be taken to officially change the name including submission of the appropriate documentation to the Scottish Government.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Renaming of Fox Covert RC Primary to reflect the ethos and values of its nature as a Catholic School will enhance and promote that sense of community, enabling that community to create a clear and strong identity.
- 4.2 There will be a heightened awareness of the existence of a Catholic school in the locality.
- 4.3 Pupils, staff and school community will be recognised for their achievements.
- 4.4 Appropriate language will be used across the campus community.
- 4.5 Partner agencies will correctly identify children with appropriate school and confidential information will not be shared inappropriately.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is a potential financial impact to parents in association with any uniform changes. Following parental consultation, gradual phasing in of any agreed uniform changes would take place to mitigate any financial burden.
- 5.2 Any further rebranding costs will be contained within the school's budget.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There is no perceived risk to the Council arising from this proposal. While a minority of those consulted were not in favour of the name change there is a substantial overall level of support for the proposal. The necessary compliance and governance for the name change to proceed are approved by Committee and submission of the details for the name change to the Scottish Government to ensure a proper record of the process is retained.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The proposal has no significant financial implications and will not have any negative environmental implications. The name change will improve the identity of the school and enhance the social cohesion within the local community.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 In May 2016 consultation took place with parents, pupils, staff, associated parishes and the wider community, including Fox Covert Primary staff, breakfast and after school clubs and associated agencies, to determine whether or not support existed for a change of name.
- 9.2 A 66% - 34% majority voted in favour of a name change.
- 9.3 In June 2016 parents were invited to submit their suggestions for a new school name. The two most popular names were then put to a vote by parents, pupils and staff. St Andrew's Fox Covert RC was voted as the most popular name. A majority of those consulted preferred to retain the name Fox Covert in recognition of the school's history and campus links.
- 9.4 This proposal has the support of the Bishop's conference, the Diocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh and the school's linked parishes of St Kentigern's and St John's.

10. Background reading/external references

None.

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges	Not applicable
Council Priorities	C01 - Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed. C02 - Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities.
Single Outcome Agreement	S03 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	