

Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00, Tuesday 12 October 2021

New Primary School Name

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	Morningside; Southside/Newington
Council Commitments	28

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the content of this report and agree which survey method for determining the name of the new school should be progressed.

Julien Kramer

Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services

Contact: Crawford McGhie, Senior Manager Estates and Operational Support

E-mail: crawford.mcghie@edinburgh.gov.uk

New Primary School Name

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the process being undertaken to establish a name for the new primary school currently under construction in Canaan Lane, Edinburgh.

3. Background

- 3.1 A new non-denominational primary school is being constructed in Canaan Lane and is due to open in August 2022. The primary school will open with nursery and primary one pupils only and the roll of the new school will grow each year.
- 3.2 The catchment area for the new primary school is made up of sections from the catchment areas of three existing primary schools – Bruntsfield, South Morningside and James Gillespie's. The primary school is being constructed on a site which is adjacent to the St Peter's RC Primary School and is the current location for the South Morningside Primary School Deanbank Annexe. Ideally, the name for the new school needs to be decided in advance of the school opening so that all the administrative requirements for the opening of a new school can be established.
- 3.3 A report was submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 August 2021 and the following recommendations were approved:

To agree to continue the report to the October Education, Children and Families Committee to provide further details on the consultation/engagement methods used to gather views of local interest groups on options for names of the new primary school and to carry out the following actions:

- 1) To confirm with Headteachers what information has been sent to parents regarding the list of options for the new school name.*
- 2) To circulate the correspondence sent to parents from the Council on the naming option of Canaan Lane Primary School.*
- 3) To agree to include North Morningside Primary School on the list of options for school names.*
- 4) To engage with ward councillors and community councils on the options for names of the new primary school and the options for conducting the consultation.*

5) *To approach the groups and individuals responsible for the suggested suitable names to allow them the opportunity to create a briefing/leaflet on the context surrounding their name option.*

3.4 The remainder of this report provides an update on these five requests. Options for taking forward the process of naming the school are provided and Committee is asked to decide which option should now proceed.

4. Main report

4.1 The information sent to parents is included in appendix 1. A related email shared with ward councillors in June 2021 is also included. Further engagement has taken place with ward councillors in relation to the process for naming the new school should. Agreement could not be reached on the best option for the timing of a survey or who should be surveyed.

4.2 One option is to conduct the same survey process as was carried out for the opening of Frogston Primary school. A temporary identifier would be provided for the registration process and then pupils and families who attend the new school in August 2022 could be surveyed in relation to the permanent name for the new school. While the lessons learned from the naming of Frogston Primary School was one of the reasons for trying to get agreement on a name before the new school on Canaan Lane opened, it is possible to delay the decision until there are pupils and families attending the school.

4.3 The other main option would be to proceed with the process for a survey with school communities which was outlined in the report to Committee in August. This was to conduct a survey before the new school opens with families who have children currently eligible for a catchment place at the new school and the families who have children attending the three existing schools where parts of their catchment areas are going to make up the catchment area of the new school. The survey would be developed and managed so that each family can submit one vote for their favourite name for the new school from the list of names already suggested.

4.4 Committee is now asked to consider which of these options for determining the new name of the school should be progressed. As things stand, the current suggested names for the new school are as follows:

4.4.1 Canaan Lane Primary School (based on the location of the new school)

4.4.2 North Morningside Primary School (requested to be included by the)

4.4.3 Saroj Lal Primary School (suggested by the family of Saroj Lal)

It is suggested that these are the names taken forward into whatever survey option with pupils and families is agreed by Committee to be progressed.

4.5 Various local interests had suggested names for the new primary school. The local primary schools and the Community Council have also been approached and asked if they would like to suggest possible names for the new school. As a result of this engagement, several suggestions were made to name the primary school after a person.

4.6 As requested by Committee each of the groups and/or individuals responsible for the suggested suitable names were approached to allow them the opportunity to create

a briefing/leaflet on the context surrounding their name option. They were also asked if they had permission of the person's family to take forward the suggestion and promotion of the option. As a result of this request for further information only one suggestion for naming the school after a person (included in paragraph 4.4) remains.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A report on the outcome of the survey with the school community will be submitted to the first appropriate meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee following completion.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no additional or new financial implications.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The stakeholder and community engagement undertaken to date and still to be undertaken is outlined in the main report.

8. Background reading/external references

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Information sent to parents

Appendix 1 – Information Sent to Parents

New school Canaan Lane

As you may know, a new school will open at Canaan Lane in our neighbourhood in August 2022. This new school is the new catchment school for some families in our school community. Full details at [New south Edinburgh primary school on Canaan Lane – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

A new name is to be chosen for this school and all of the relevant school communities have been asked to give their views on this new name. Please see the message below from the City of Edinburgh Council manager responsible for this.

There has been a lot of discussion with the Education Committee Convenor and Vice Convenor and interest from other local elected members in the process.

To date, as a result of these discussions, 3 potential names for the school have emerged. These are:

1. Canaan Lane Primary School – the reason for this choice is self-explanatory due to the name of the road where the school is being constructed.
2. Falcon Hall Primary School – this name has been chosen as the land the new school is being built on was once part of the Falcon Hall estate which has led to lots of the local streets and the play park using the “Falcon” name.
3. Saroj Lal Primary School – please see the information below provided by Vineet Lal (Saroj’s son) which covers the reasons for the option being included.

You should note that we have ruled out **North Morningside Primary School** as a potential name due to the administrative difficulties created by having schools with similar names.

If any parent or child in our school community would like to vote on the name they prefer, or suggest another name, please do so at this link. I will then pass this information to the senior manager responsible.

Once city council receive any further suggestions, it will finalise the options to be put into a preference survey with the Convenor and Vice Convenor. The intention is that survey will run for the first couple of weeks at the start of the new session in August and we will provide further details then on how everyone can vote for their preference.

Further information on Saroj Lal, provided by her son

SAROJ LAL: A LOCAL MORNINGSIDE STORY AN EDINBURGH ICON A SCOTTISH ROLE MODEL

Saroj Lal was a leading figure in Edinburgh and Scotland during the 1970s, 80s and 90s, fighting against racism, injustice and discrimination. She defended the rights of black, Asian and elderly people, and fought for equality for women and refugees. She helped communities to learn English, and minority group children to learn their mother tongue, traditional music and dance. She worked with many people to help her do this – the government, the immigration department, the local council, the police, schools, libraries, hospitals, prisons, social workers, charities, churches, temples and mosques. She even took a lonely patient all the way back to India to reunite him with his parents. It was in her nature. Saroj battled hard for things to change and improve, and she made life better for so many children and their families. Right here, in our city.

Email sent to ward Councillors 11 June 2021

Councillors

Please see below for information.

Hopefully this is self-explanatory and provides you with an update on progress with the process for naming the new school.

Hope you have a good weekend.

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: 11 June 2021 16:48

To: Local primary school headteachers

Subject: Naming the new school in Canaan Lane

Importance: High

Colleagues

Following on from xxxxxx's email below I am writing to give you an update and ask for your help with the process to name the new school in Canaan Lane.

There has been a lot of discussion with the Convenor and Vice Convenor and interest from other local elected members in the process.

To date, as a result of these discussions, 3 potential names for the school have emerged. These are:

- 1) Canaan Lane Primary School – the reason for this choice is self-explanatory due to the name of the road where the school is being constructed.
- 2) Falcon Hall Primary School – this name has been chosen as the land the new school is being built on was once part of the Falcon Hall estate which has led to lots of the local streets and the play park using the "Falcon" name.
- 3) Saroj Lal Primary School – please see the attached information provided by Vineet Lal (Saroj's son) which covers the reasons for the option being included.

I would now like to ask you, between now and the end of term, to engage with your school community and get back to me if you would like to make any further suggestions of a name for the new school. I will leave it up to you how you wish to engage with the children but I am sure you will find a way to keep it simple and fun. However, if you could get back to me before the holidays with one additional name option (i.e. the favourite emerging from

any engagement you carry out) or alternatively let me know you are happy to progress with the options already identified, that would be really appreciated.

You should note that we have ruled out **North Morningside Primary School** as a potential name due to the administrative difficulties created by having schools with similar names.

Once we receive any further suggestions from you we will finalise the options to be put into a preference survey with the Convenor and Vice Convenor. The intention is that survey will run for the first couple of weeks at the start of the new session in August and we will provide further details then on how everyone can vote for their preference.

Hopefully this is all self-explanatory but if you have any queries just let me know.

Thanks for your help