

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 10 December 2019

Petition for Consideration: Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	Sighthill/ Gorgie
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the terms of the petition 'Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School' as set out in Appendix 1.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Samuel Ho, Acting Area Support Team Clerk

E-mail: samuel.ho@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4210

Report

Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to consider the terms of the petition.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council at its meeting on 22 June 2017 agreed to discontinue the Petitions Committee and that petitions would be sent to the responsible Executive Committees for consideration.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A valid petition entitled 'Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School' has been received. The petition received 208 signatures.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Committee will determine next steps at this meeting.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 There are no stakeholder/ community impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council 22 June 2017

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Petition – Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School

Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School

Date made available for signatures	Date closed for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected
21 October 2019	3 December 2019	<p>Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School</p> <p>Dalry Primary School's "English as an Additional Language" (EAL) provision has been cut from 3 days 1 hour per week to 1 day per week. This cut was made without consultation from parents and with almost no notice.</p> <p>The parent council have asked for an equality assessment and were informed that an interim impact assessment has been carried out but it is not ready to be shared with parents.</p> <p>68% of Dalry Primary students depend on EAL to support their studies. The school also has a highly transient population: turnover in 2017-18 was 44% and 33% in 2018-19. Reductions would significantly impact the workload of teachers to the detriment of all children. Without the intervention from EAL it takes pupils joining the school with little or no English much longer to be able to take part in learning, which results in those children not being able to access education as is their human right. Cutting the EAL provision is indirect discrimination under the Equality Act because this cut will disproportionately disadvantage this population.</p>	Sighthill/ Gorgie

		<p>We demand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EAL service provision be restored to 3 days 1 hour until a proper consultation with parents and teachers has been undertaken.• An enquiry be launched into why the ASL department paid no attention to their statutory responsibilities to Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duties.• ASL team give assurance that any future service provision be done after proper consultation with proper notice.	
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