***Consultation – Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision***

***in Whinhill Primary School***

***Monday 21 February 2022 ~ Webex***

***Note of meeting***

Separate register taken

R Binks welcomed everyone.

Introductions.

R Binks shared presentation providing overview of the consultation process:

* The Schools Consultation Act tells us that if a Council wishes to vary a catchment area for its schools they have to undertake statutory consultation.
* The consultation period opened on 01 February 2022 and will close on 18 March 2022
* As well as opportunities to respond online there are two public meetings.
* Education Scotland then receive the relevant results of the consultation and have 3 weeks to prepare their own report.
* The final report will then be collated and taken to the first Education Committee after the May 2022 election.
* If taken forward the proposed changes will take effect from August 2022.

R Binks shared why we are making changes and what they are:

* There is currently no identified catchment area for Gaelic Primary education in Inverclyde.
* This means that all pupils currently attend primary Gaelic medium education by means of a placing request
* The change is that the catchment area for Whinhill Primary Gaelic provision will be the whole of Inverclyde Council.
* Pupils who wish to attend Gaelic medium education in Inverclyde will no longer need to submit a placing request and will be entitled to transport in line with the Inverclyde transport policy for schools

Opportunity for questions as noted below. R Binks also indicated that if anyone had questions that they wished to ask privately that they indicate in the chat and she will arrange that they are answered.

R Binks thanked everyone for coming along. Another meeting will be held tomorrow in Whinhill Primary School at 6:30pm. Report will be shared with education Scotland on 18 March 2022.

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| Name |  |
| Capacity | Parent |
| Question | If a child attended GME at Whinhill then decided to return to EME, would they be able to return to their previous catchment school? |
| Answer  RB  MR  LC  LR  EMCL | We would try to accommodate but sometimes there isn’t space so they may have to wait. We would want to be fair and to meet the young person’s needs.  This would be a non-denominational school as we ask parents to make this choice when young person starts school. |

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| Name |  |
| Capacity | Parent |
| Question | What mode of transport would be used? If there were many coming from one area would it be a bus or many taxis?  Would it be door to door? |
| Answer  RB  MR  LC  LR  EMCL | RB- it would be what was most cost effective and similar to approach used for other routes and schools, not necessarily door to door.  LC- It would depend on how many. SPT will decide if it will be taxi, mini bus or a larger bus. Route is then determined which will probably be pick-ups along a mainstream route. |

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| Name |  |
| Capacity | Parent |
| Question | How would this work with staggered start and end times? |
| Answer  RB  MR  LC  LR  EMCL | Our bus presently comes for early times of 8:45 and 2:45.  We assume that by August we will be back to normal start and end times and will have moved away from staggered times. |