

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	1st March 2017
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Naming of the new special school within the Centre of Excellence
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/014
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the name of the new special school housed within the Centre of Excellence. The new school will replace Woodlands Special School, Hazlewood Special School and the Pre-School ASN Provision currently located within Seaton School.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that Committee agree:

- (i) To note the engagement with pupils, parents, staff and wider community to find a name for the new school and the scores registered for each shortlisted name; and
- (ii) Agree that, following the result of the consultation the school be called Orchard Brae.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from the naming process.

4 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Officially naming the school will aid effective transition arrangements as preparations are made for the school opening in August 2017.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Generating potential school names

In late January the children and young people in Woodlands Special School, Hazlewood Special School and the Pre-School ASN Service were supported to suggest potential names for the new Special School. The process involved a high level of individualisation to ensure that the children and young people could actively participate in the process.

The new school will be located in Northfield and is located beside Heathryburn School. The Pupil Council at Heathryburn Primary School and a focus group of young people from Northfield Academy were also given the opportunity to suggest a name for the new school.

The new school will support children and young people from across Aberdeen City and the opportunity to suggest names was highlighted on the Aberdeen City website and through social media targeted at the current school communities and the Northfield Community.

The City wide Parent Forum and city wide Pupil Forum were given the opportunity to make suggestions. This city wide reach ensured that families who who may enjoy links in the future were engaged in the process.

In addition to suggestions from children and young people all staff, parents/carers and partners and were invited to suggest suitable names for the new school. The closing date for suggestions was the 8th February.

5.2 The shortlisted names for the new school

Of the names submitted by pupils, parents, partners and wider community, there were 5 entries that were felt to encompass Aberdeen City Council's aspirations for the school and Centre. These were as follows:

- Orchard Brae
- Northern Lights
- The Howes School
- Ar Daichaigh
- The Bruce School

5.3 Choosing the Name

Pupils, staff, parents, partners, Community Councils and the wider community were invited to vote for their choice of name between February 8th and 20th February. A mix of electronic voting, face to face engagement and paper voting slips were used to encourage wide participation and inclusion of all stakeholders.

Invitations to help choose a name for the school were sent to all staff, parents, Elected Members, the Parent Councils of each school, partners linked to the school, current Community Councils as well as the Community Council serving the new school. Staff in each setting individualised approaches for children and young people to ensure that they could all effectively engage with the process. Pupils at Heathryburn Primary and Northfield Academy were encouraged to participate given their earlier involvement in generating potential names.

An invitation was sent to all Parent Councils and Pupil Councils linked to the new provision to ensure city wide engagement. Details were advertised on social media and on respective school websites.

4 drop in sessions were organised to ensure that stakeholders could register their vote in person as well as online.

- 5.4 A total of 419 votes were cast. The number of votes for each of the 5 names are shown in the table (below).

Proposed Name	No. of Votes
Orchard Brae	152
Northern Lights	100
The Howes School	69
Ar Dachaigh	85
The Bruce School	13

- 5.5 It is therefore proposed that the new school is called Orchard Brae.

6. IMPACT

6.1 Improving Customer Experience / Improving Staff Experience

The Centre of Excellence will provide pupils and staff with the opportunity to undertake learning and teaching in a modern, flexible environment which has been built to support learners with severe and complex needs.

The school building will be fully utilised to maximise opportunities to support children, young people and families affected by disability through close partnership working in keeping with feedback from families.

6.2 Improving our use of Resources

The new school will improve the energy efficiency of the existing two school buildings, reducing the Council's carbon footprint. The school has the potential to support a more efficient delivery of services to this vulnerable group and will also house the Children with Disabilities Team and health colleagues.

6.3 Corporate

The delivery of the Centre of Excellence supports the Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities of:

‘Children are our future’

‘People are resilient, included and supported when needed’

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 7.1 Not naming the school would constitute a high risk and would impact negatively on children and young people due to transition to the new school in August. Agreeing a school name now would allow for effective and timely transition arrangements for all children and young people and minimise any distress associated with this significant change.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Nil

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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