



Enquiries to: **Forward Planning Team**  
Email: [educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk)

Date: 19 February 2026

For the attention of:

- Parents and carers of all primary and nursery age pupils living in the catchment areas of Bothkennar and Beancross Primary Schools
- Beancross Primary School Parent Council
- Grangemouth High School Parent Council
- Recognised trade unions (UNISON, GMB, UNITE, EIS, SSTA, AHDS, SLS)
- All other households in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area
- Community Planning Partnership Members/Organisations
- Local Elected Members of Falkirk Council
- MSPs for the area
- The constituency MP

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Statutory Consultation Notice – Proposal to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School and permanently rezone the catchment area to Beancross Primary School**

Further to the preliminary engagement carried out with the local community, Falkirk Council Education Services is now commencing a formal statutory consultation on a proposal to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School.

This notice provides a summary of the proposal: it is a requirement for you to be notified of the consultation as a consultee, in accordance with Schedule 2 Section 1 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. A full copy of the Proposal Document is available at: [www.falkirk.gov.uk/bothkennar-primary-consultation](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/bothkennar-primary-consultation)

Falkirk Council is conducting a public consultation from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. During this period, you will be able to make representation to Falkirk Council in respect of the proposal.

It is important that everyone we are consulting tells us what they think about the proposal. Please read this notice and summary and then consider the contents of the proposal document. You can then tell us what you think of the proposal by making written representation and/or by attending the public meeting. This notice and summary tell you how to do that.

We will consult by:

- Providing a Notice of the consultation and a summary of the proposal to the relevant consultees (this is that Notice and summary).

- Publication of the Proposal document
- Placing an advert in the local press advertising the consultation
- Placing information on our website – <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/consultations-and-surveys>
- Putting information on our consultation hub <https://participateplus.falkirk.gov.uk>
- Holding a public meeting to explain the proposal
- Asking all consultees to tell us what they think of the proposal and its impact on them.

A full copy of the proposal document is available:

- On our website at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/bothkennar-primary-consultation](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/bothkennar-primary-consultation)
- By written request to [educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk) or Falkirk Council, Children's Service, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Grangemouth, FK2 9EE
- In printed form free of charge at Beancross Primary School, Falkirk Council Hubs and Libraries.

## **The Proposal**

Falkirk Council is proposing that:

- That provision of a school at Bothkennar Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That primary age pupils in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Beancross Primary School from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated catchment area of Beancross Primary School be permanently extended to include the whole delineated catchment area of Bothkennar Primary School from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **Reasons for this Proposal**

This is being proposed for the following reasons:

- i. Bothkennar Primary Schools has been formally mothballed for approaching 7 years with no pupils in attendance since August 2019.
- ii. The catchment demand for places in Bothkennar Primary School continues to be assessed to be low and is not predicted to rise.
- iii. The Council is experiencing declining pupil numbers, making re-opening impractical.
- iv. Whilst the school is mothballed, the building is deteriorating with limited budgets for repairs, maintenance and capital investment. The current annual cost of mothballing Bothkennar Primary School is £40,580.
- v. The Local Development Plan does not identify any relevant sites within the catchment area for housing development that would impact on catchment demand for places.

Falkirk Council, as an Education Authority is required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (Section 1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (Section 3 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000). This is reflected in the Falkirk Council Plan 2022-2027 priority: "Promoting opportunities and educational attainment and reducing inequalities"

## **Alternatives to the Proposal**

A range of possible alternative options to permanent closure are set out in the proposal paper. These are:

- Re-open Bothkennar Primary School.
- Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with increased occupancy through rezoning and extending the catchment area.
- Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with available capacity used for early years provision or for other purposes.
- Continue with the mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School.
- Other possible alternatives

After assessment of these options, the Council does not consider that those alternatives included in the proposal document are reasonable alternatives to the closure of Bothkennar Primary School. You can make written representations on the proposal and on the alternatives that are included within the proposal paper. If you consider there are other alternatives to the proposal you can include those in your representations on the proposal.

A **public meeting** has been arranged:

Bothkennar Primary School, Main Street, Skinflats, Falkirk, FK2 8NU on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 18:30

This meeting is open to all interested parties. At the meeting, council officers will give a presentation of the proposal, answer questions on it and record the oral representations of anyone who attends.

## **Representations to the Proposal**

This consultation notice and the Proposal Document advise how you can make representation to this consultation process. You are invited to have your say on this proposal. The Council is seeking your views on:

- The likely effect on the local community if the school were to be closed permanently;
- The likely effect of different travelling arrangements for children and families in the Bothkennar catchment;

- The likely effect on children's education if the school were to be closed permanently
- The alternatives to the proposal considered; and
- Suggestions of other alternatives.

You can attend the public meeting and/or you can make written representations.

- On-line: <https://participateplus.falkirk.gov.uk>
- By email to: [educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk).
- By Letter to: Bothkennar Primary School Consultation, Falkirk Council Children's Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE

Respondents should state the capacity in which they are expressing their views and agree to their statement/comments being published as part of the Statutory Consultation process and published in the final Consultation Report (all other personal information will be redacted).

Falkirk Council is seeking your views on the proposal during the consultation period, it does not assume that the proposal will go ahead. All points raised during the consultation period will be included in the final Consultation Report before being presented to Elected Members where a decision will be taken as to the outcome of this process.

### **What to do now**

- Please read the full proposal document
- You are invited to attend the public meeting which will be held at Bothkennar Primary School, Main Street, Skinflats, Falkirk, FK2 8NU on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 18:30
- All responses must be made online, or in writing by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **After the consultation period**

When the proposal document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Education Authority. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations received by the Authority from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Local Authority at the public meeting which will be held and, as available (and so far, as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation.

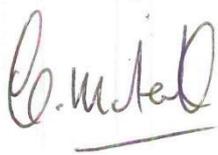
Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Authority has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 3-week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter

the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

Falkirk Council – the Education Authority will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available from the Council website and from Children’s Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE free of charge. Anyone who made written representations to the Authority during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.

The consultation report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of at least 3 weeks. This report together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by the Executive (Education) of Falkirk Council in September 2026, who will come to a decision about whether to implement the proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McNeill', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Kenny McNeill**  
**Strategic Service Manager (Education)**