



## Camperdown and St Clement's Parent Forum

### New Building Questions and Answers

May 2013



- Q. Although there are two separate Primary Schools would they be working together jointly?  
**A. Both primary schools will remain as separate schools but there is the opportunity for classes or schools to work together as and when appropriate, e.g. when classes from both schools are working on the same topic at the same time.**
- Q. Are there any plans for combined events e.g. assemblies, parents events, combined charitable events?  
**A. Yes, there will be opportunities for combined activities. This will develop once schools have moved, as and when appropriate.**
- Q. How will you ensure the individual school's identity?  
**A. Both schools will remain as they are at the time of the move. They have their own uniforms, staff and unique ethos. Although there will be some collaborative working, the schools will remain as separate establishments, just in a new building. When in class, pupils will be with their own teacher in their own part of the school.**
- Q. Is it likely that opportunities for concerts etc will be compromised given the shared facilities?  
**A. Facilities for concerts etc will be great in the new building. There is a large stage, with a lighting and sound system and a large assembly hall, which can be partitioned into two smaller halls if necessary.**
- Q. Will St Clement's still be a Catholic school? Will children attend Mass?  
**A. Yes, St Clement's is still a Catholic school and the pupils will still attend St Clement's church for Mass.**
- Q. St. Clement's is a religious school - what happens to the religious aspects of the school when merged with a non-religious schools?  
**A. The schools are not merging, they are sharing a building. St Clement's remains a Catholic school. Camperdown will continue to teach R.M.E.**
- Q. Will they be changing the catchment areas for school?  
**A. Not to our knowledge.**
- Q. If the schools are to remain separate entities, why have they been moved to the same building?  
**A. The schools are sharing the building to give each school improved facilities. This is following the example of other shared campus schools in Scotland which have proved to be very successful.**
- Q. What facilities will be available in the new school?  
**A. Classrooms, Activity Areas, 2 Assembly Halls. Stage, large Games Hall, Changing Rooms, Dance/Drama room, Library, Disabled Lift, and loads more.....**
- Q. What rooms will the schools share?  
**A. The schools are sharing the Games Hall, Assembly/Lunch Halls, Stage/Music-Drama-Dance Room, Library Learning Centre, Playground, Pitch.**
- Q. Sharing facilities, how will this be managed, eg dinner hall both schools at the same time? What seating arrangements for lunch between St. Clements and Camperdown?  
**A. We have decided to try having all P1-3s then all P4-7s from both schools at dinners together. This will include children with packed lunches. The double servery and fold down tables should allow us to do this in two sittings.**
- Q. How will gym time and lunchtime be shared in small amount of time as there will be two schools and nursery to sort out timetables?  
**A. All shared facilities will be timetabled to ensure equality of access. The nursery class of Camperdown Primary will be included in this.**
- Q. Will there be combined sport teams i.e. football, netball?  
**A. The schools will have their own teams, as part of their own identity.**
- Q. Are the classes going to be open plan? If so, how does this work?  
**A. The classes are not open plan although there are activity areas between classrooms where more than one class at a time may have pupils working.**

- Q. How will you ensure that my child's educational progress will not be interrupted by the changes?  
**A. Your child's education should not be affected. Teachers will have the classrooms ready for pupils on the first day of the new school year.**
- Q. Would there be a change in curriculum?  
**A. No. The new Curriculum for Excellence continues.**
- Q. Will there be Music Classes?  
**A Music will be taught by class teachers as it is at present, with the added advantage of the music/drama/dance studio being available. Instrumental Instructors will continue to visit as at present, offering specific tuition to specific age groups (see Education Department Leaflet).**
- Q. What will be the max limit of places in the Nursery for children?  
**A. This is to be decided, but may be 70:70 with some full time places.**
- Q. How easy will access to the nursery be with prams? Is there close by parking?  
**A. The Nursery class has a separate entrance, just along from the Main Entrance, off the School Car Park. As with the school, parents will be discouraged from using the Car Park at nursery in/out times to avoid congestion, and will instead be encouraged to use the pedestrian entrances to the Campus.**
- Q. Do Parent Council / fund raising / budgets remain separate and who decides what will be spent since purchases will be shared?  
**A. All school funds and Parent Council budgets remain separate.**
- Q. When will school uniforms i.e. colours be told to parents? When will parents be told when the new uniform will be available?  
**A. St Clement's colours and uniform will not change. Communication with parents of Camperdown about new uniform is ongoing.**
- Q. When is the school actually moving and will the children have any additional days off for the move?  
**A. The schools will be closed to pupils from lunchtime on Wednesday 26th June then on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June and again on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th August to allow for the move. The new school will open to pupils on Thursday, 15th August.**
- Q. Will there be school closing events?  
**A. Yes, all three schools have plans in place for celebrations in June.**
- Q. Is entry going to be phased?  
**A. In a change to previous plans, all pupils will now go into school on the same day, all together. More information will follow regarding this.**
- Q. When will they go into the building, will it be start of term or a few days after? Will both St. Clement's and Camperdown start at the same time?  
**A. Both schools will reopen to pupils on Thursday, 15th August, 2 days after other Dundee schools return.**
- Q. Will there be any form of school bus?  
**A. Not to our knowledge. National guidelines on transport provision apply. The Education Department deals with this.**
- Q. Dropping off in the car at school - is there a car park or parking outside school?  
**A. The car park at the new school is mainly for staff use, however there is some on street parking around the vicinity of the school (Balgarthno Place, Craigmount Road, Balgarthno Road, Charleston Road and other roads within a five minute walk). There is also a small car park outside Camperdown Church. Full detail will be in the new Travel Plan. Parents arriving late or visiting during the day will, of course, be able to use the Car Park.**
- Q. Parking!!!! Travel plans from Lochee?  
**A. Until St Clement's is demolished, there will be little onsite parking for staff or visitors, who**

**will have to park in the surrounding streets. A group of staff/pupils/parents is being set up to produce a Travel Plan to help parents decide where to drop off if bringing their child by car.**

Q. Where will School Crossing Patrollers be located?

A. **This is being looked at just now by Education Department officials with a view to redeploying patrols to the most suitable sites. This will form part of Travel Planning for the new school.**

Q. Will there be plenty of bike rails?

A. **Yes – there are new rails provided and the current St Clement's Bike Shelter will also be moving.**

Q. How are details of the new school and the move being communicated to parents?

A. **Information has been shared with parent through school newsletters, newsletters from the builders and the school blogs/Twitter feed. This will continue after the move.**

Q. How will my child know where to go in terms of managing the new building?

A. **Before they go off in June, the children (and parents/carers) will be clear about where to meet on the first day back. The children will receive a tour of the school on the first day into the new building. As each school has their own part of the building, pupils will only be in that section or in the shared areas. They will usually be in the shared areas with their teacher and their class.**

Q. Will children receive a special badge or flag to present at the opening?

A. **Lots of discussion with parents, children and staff will take place to decide on how to celebrate the opening day. All ideas gratefully received. An Official Opening Ceremony will take place at a later date.**

Q. More general information on move and dates, structure, timescales, who is involved, etc?

A. **Both schools will continue to keep parents informed of the details of the move through newsletters, school blogs, Twitter, etc.**

Q. What provisions are being made for children with special needs? Would my child still get one to one support in class?

A. **The new building is disability compliant. Provision for any child with Additional Support Needs will be made on an individual basis as before; the schools will be staffed according to Education Department standards for support for learning and general support staff. Both schools have 'break out' support rooms and areas.**

Q. How will the classes be split at the new school? I've heard that the classes will be larger with more teachers. Will there be a cut to the number of teachers?

A. **St Clement's and Camperdown classes will be separate. Both schools will be staffed to the new Council staffing formula. Both will have a maximum class size of 25 in P1-3 and 33 P4-7 although it is likely that most classes will be a good bit less than that. Class Structures are currently (May) being worked out for both schools and will be communicated as soon as possible.**

Q. How many combined classes in Camperdown Primary 4 to 7? Are the classes merging? How will the classes work? Two groups of each primary etc? Lochee and Charleston teachers joining?

A. **Classes from Lochee and Charleston will combine within Camperdown and teachers will become Camperdown teachers. Details of class composition and which teachers will have which class are still to be decided, based on staffing allocation from the Education Department.**

Q. Will lunch time be at the same time?

A. **Yes, lunchtime will be the same as at present for both schools.**

Q. Will lunches be made on site?

A. **Yes. The kitchen will be a full production kitchen.**

Q. Will playtimes be different for each school?

A. **Playtimes will initially be the same for both schools. This will be reviewed at the end of the first term in the new building.**

Q. Are playgrounds separate?

A. **No, the primary pupils will share the playground. The Camperdown Nursery class will have a separate area.**

- Q. Will parents be able to go into the playground to pick up children and chat to other parents?  
**A. At present parents are welcome in the St Clement's playground when picking up their children. We only ask that they remain some distance back from the building as it is distracting for pupils if they see their parents out of the window or near the door. There have been issues at Camperdown P.S., however, and so this issue is still to be discussed and decided upon.**
- Q. There is a need for pupils to let parents know how they are feeling.  
**A. Please ask your child how they are feeling - ask them to share with you what they are talking about and participating in. This will be done in school, too. The children are excited and we want them to feel secure about the move.**
- Q. How many access points into the school? What entrances can you use? Access to playground? Different gates?  
**A. There are four pedestrian access points into the playground, for use by both schools – Buttar's Street (2), Balgarthno Road, and Charleston Road. It is hoped that for security three of the four gates will be locked between 9.30am and 3pm, to prevent children from running out and to prevent the playground being used as a thoroughfare. Only the main gate from Buttar's Street will be open between 9.30am and 3pm. This has still to be discussed fully with parents and facilities staff. Entrance to the building for parents/visitors will be via the Main Entrance accessed from Buttar's Street. Pupils will have a number of other entrances around the building.**
- Q. Is there going to be easy access to the school with parents with prams if kids are late?  
**A. The new building has very good access through the Main Entrance. Latecoming is an issue for both schools – we will be working on trying to reduce this problem next term.**
- Q. What will happen to the old equipment in the schools?  
**A. The new building will have completely new furniture, including large PE equipment. Computers, Interactive Boards etc will come from old school, along with small PE equipment and learning/teaching resources. Old equipment will be given to other schools or recycled.**
- Q. Will the Breakfast Club still be running as before?  
**A. Yes. The Clubs of the three schools will combine. Staffing is still to be decided, as has maximum numbers although we should be able to accommodate all who currently attend. The price will remain as set by the Education Department.**
- Q. Will the After School Club still run?  
**A. Yes, the Lochee Out of School Care Club, previously based in St Clement's and serving all three schools, will operate from the new building.**
- Q. Will the same clubs be available after school? Are all the lunchtime clubs going to be the same too?  
**A. A wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs will be provided, some joint and some separate. These have still to be decided upon.**
- Q. Basic moves going to be on Tuesdays still?  
**A. Not sure yet – all three schools have a Basic Moves Club at present, these will probably be combined into one or two.**
- Q. Will there be the same play things at playtime? What play facilities are there going to be in the playground? Will the playground have grass to play on?  
**A. 'A trim trail' and 'Outdoor Classroom' are being built; both schools will contribute to purchase of new playground play equipment. Once the old school is demolished, a grass pith area will be provided which the children will have access to when weather is suitable.**
- Q. Will there be 'garden' areas around the school, to offset the greyness of the building?  
**A. Additional landscaping, gardens areas, etc will be looked at once we are in the building. Contact has been made with Grounds for Learning and with other organisations looking at providing an orchard area.**
- Q. Notice there is a football pitch in the plans. Will this be for use after school?  
**A. The pitch will be for school use primarily, but will be available for out of school lets as will the Community Areas of the building (Gym Hall, Assembly Halls)**

- Q. Will the playground be big enough for all the children?  
A. **We think so. We have plans to have areas for younger children only but there should be plenty of play space for all. If there are issues, we will consider separate playtimes for different age groups.**
- Q. What supervision during lunch hour is required by law?  
A. **Awaiting answer from legal department. Supervision in new building will be adequate, as with other Dundee schools.**
- Q. What indoor lunch time activities will be available?  
A. **'Wet Interval' arrangements will be managed by each school separately, although use of gym/library/ICT etc will be determined together.**
- Q. Are school trips going to be better organised i.e. more than one week's notice?  
A. **Both schools always try to give as much notice as possible for out of school visits, especially when we are asking for financial contributions. Sometimes the opportunity for a trip comes about at short notice, but all trips are carefully planned and risk assessed in advance.**
- Q. Will the parents get a look around school before the kids start new school?  
A. **This is unlikely, mainly because of timescales.**
- Q. What provisions are being made with regards to amount of drug users using Boots chemist?  
A. **This situation will be monitored and discussed with local community police.**