

Dear Parent/Carer

From **Monday 18 March, to Sunday 26 May**, Glasgow City Council (GCC) is consulting all parents, carers and stakeholders on future entry requirements for Notre Dame High School. One of the options proposed could end the current girls-only status.

The consultation link is: www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolconsultations where you are asked to choose one of three options. You will need to add comments or recommendations alongside the option you select:

- 1) Status quo - keep the school as it is with the same catchment area**
- 2) Status quo and extended catchment – increase the number of associated schools – allowing more girls direct access to the school**
- 3) Change the school to a co-education offer - allowing boys, potentially as early as 2020.**

Notre Dame High School Parent Council's preferred option is number 2, with the added comment that St Ninian's Primary should stay within the revised catchment.

That position is based on the fact that over 95% of our parents and carers have already expressed their clear wish for our school to remain all-girls. In a questionnaire distributed last year, you also told us that you would agree with extending the catchment area to allow more girls to access its inclusive and inspiring educational benefits.

GCC has assured us that the consultation result will not be based on the number of votes but rather on comments and evidence which shows how the school positively delivers for children.

We urge you to also make your voice and your families voices heard at this important time. Please add your own comments. Keep the CHOICE of sending your daughter to Scotland's last remaining public secondary school for girls. Your comments could be the deciding factor on the school's future.

As well as submitting comments online, you can also make your views known in person at three public meetings:

Tuesday 16 April at 7pm - Notre Dame High School

Thursday 25 April at 7pm - St Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday 7 May at 7pm - St Roch's Secondary

Notre Dame High School has an established social and cultural mix and an academic achievement record that we are all very proud of. It encourages, supports and develops young women to reach their full potential and has done so very successfully for over 120 years. It is almost full and 78% of the roll call is made up of placing requests at the moment. Proof that it is indeed a positive CHOICE for many families.

Please help us keep Notre Dame High School for Girls as it is - an additional CHOICE for all those families who need it most.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Michelle Watt

Michelle Watt
Chair, Notre Dame High School Parent Council

KEY FACTS

- Notre Dame High School roll call is almost 90% capacity and is increasing each year.
 - Over 95% of Notre Dame High School parents and carers wish the school to remain all girls, with an option to extend the catchment area.
 - 78% of the schools' register is made up of placing requests at the moment – families are actively choosing to send their girls to the school.
 - No definitive Educational benefit has been proposed by GCC to support changing the school's current entry criteria.
 - Notre Dame High School is one of the best performing schools in the city. It has also played a huge role in helping raise attainment levels in Glasgow and in combatting the effects of poverty across the city.
 - 61% of Notre Dame High School pupils went on to higher education in 2018 and that number is improving year on year. It is a model that works.
 - 'Local schools for local children' is already provided. GCC are giving sufficient secondary choices for co-education in the area surrounding Notre Dame Primary.
 - Boys and girls from Notre Dame Primary can automatically transition together to their local secondary school, St Thomas Aquinas, the top performing Catholic secondary school in Glasgow.
 - St Thomas Aquinas is 2.1 miles away from the Primary school. Many girls choose to travel much greater distances by public transport to access Notre Dame High School.
 - Physically changing Notre Dame High School's buildings to accommodate boys will cost the tax payer an estimated £750,000 according to GCC.
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