



**Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn)
Statement
19 January 2022**

Comann nam Pàrant welcomes the publication of the proposals by City of Edinburgh Council and there is much to consider. We are, however, concerned that discussions with the Scottish Government on their potential financial support for a GME high school have not been fully explored by the Council and, as such, do not form part of the proposal. Comann nam Pàrant has highlighted repeatedly that the Council must take the time for these discussions to reach a conclusion before proceeding to any statutory consultation. Many GME families will be disappointed that this has not taken place.

We also urged the Council to undertake an informal consultation with families on any new information. GME families are disappointed that the informal consultation promised by the Council in December 2021 has not taken place. As it stands, the Council are seeking to proceed to statutory consultation with a proposal that contains considerable changes, such as the inclusion of a GME secondary facility on the existing Castlebrae High School site in Craigmillar, proposals for changes to primary level provision and a new pupil placement policy which would impact families in Edinburgh and the Lothians. These are significant modifications to previous proposals and require careful consideration.

The Council are holding their Education, Children and Families Committee meeting on Monday 24 January. At this meeting, the Committee will be voting on the crucial issue of whether to proceed to statutory consultation on 31 January. Despite the significance of this, the Council only released their papers at 4.30pm yesterday (18 January 2022).

We believe the current timeframe does not allow sufficient time for committee members to properly digest the most up to date iteration of the proposals for GME secondary provision and confer with ward councillor colleagues on these. Nor does it give reasonable time for parents to review the new information and participate in the process by contacting their ward councillors, education spokespeople or Comann nam Pàrant to express any concerns they may have about the proposals.

As elected representatives and officials involved in this process have themselves repeatedly stated, parental engagement is of paramount importance. Comann nam Pàrant is currently appraising these papers, as are GME families across Edinburgh and the Lothians. We are disappointed that the Council has offered their colleagues and their constituents such little time to consider the proposals.

Comann nam Pàrant will publish a full statement in due course.

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