



19 01 2022

A Phàrantan / luchd-cùraim còire
Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you regarding next steps following yesterday's [publication of the Council papers](#) for the Additional Meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee. Ahead of the meeting on Monday 24 January, Comann nam Pàrant will submit a written deputation in which we will urge the Committee members to vote **against** starting the statutory consultation. We will reiterate this in our verbal deputation.

We are calling on you now to ask you to lend your support by contacting your local councillor.

We've created a template letter to make this quicker for you. [You can find the letter here](#) and a [list of all councillors for each ward here](#).

If you wish to use your own letter, [you can find additional advice on writing here](#).

If the Committee votes to proceed, the statutory consultation will run from **31 January to 18 March 2022**. Comann nam Pàrant, having listened to parents' views, identifies the following critical issues:

- The Scottish Government has expressed support for a Standalone, Centrally Located GME secondary school. However, this has not been allowed to be seriously and fully explored by the premature conclusions of the Council.
- The timescales do not allow for the necessary informal consultation with families on any new information, such as the additional proposed site at Craigmillar, or to answer parents' concerns and queries, e.g. on educational benefit and curriculum.

We believe that pressing ahead now, without sufficient support from GME families, poses an unacceptable risk that the statutory consultation will fail, and the development of a dedicated GME high school will be halted for **five years**.

We appreciate that this is short notice, especially given that the papers were only released yesterday (Tuesday 18 January). Comann nam Pàrant is working hard within what we believe to be unreasonable timescales set by the Council.

We strongly urge you to get involved now. We appreciate all the support you can give.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd
Comann nam Pàrant