

# Perth & Kinross

## Local Agreements : Early Primary Class Sizes [Feb 1997]

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**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE -25 NOVEMBER 1998  
REDUCING CLASS SIZE IN EARLY PRIMARY:  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES  
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper approves the distribution of additional primary teachers provided by SOEID funding. The appointment of these staff makes a contribution towards reducing class sizes at primaries 1 and 3 in 9 schools.

### **I RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee agree the initial distribution of additional teacher posts targeted at reducing class sizes in primary 1 to primary 3.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Scottish Office Education and Industry Department wrote to Perth and Kinross Council in April 1998 regarding the provision of additional money for schools and subsequently confirmed that £125,821 would be allocated to Perth and Kinross Council towards making progress in reducing class sizes in P1-3.

2.2 At the Education Committee on 19 August 1998 approval was granted to a paper outlining the approach to distributing scarce resources in the initial year. The Director of Education was instructed to prepare a future paper advising the Committee on the allocation of these posts in 1998/99.

2.3 The £125,821 available this year will allow the Authority to appoint an additional 9 teachers between October 1998 and March 1999.

2.4 Returns were requested from schools in the early part of the session in order to establish from firm school information the optimum allocation of the teacher posts.

2.5 The survey indicated that there were 33 classes in 16 schools where there were more than 30 pupils in classes primaries 1-3.

2.6 Where it has been possible to create an additional class through which to reduce class size to below 30 this action has been taken. Given the pressure on accommodation in our schools

it is often not possible to create additional classes. Nonetheless it was possible to create an additional class in:

Caledonian Road Primary School

Crieff Primary School

Moncreiffe Primary School

Comrie Primary School

Kinross Primary School

As a result 226 pupils are now in classes of less than 30 pupils as compared with the situation on 17 August 1998.

2.7 In situations where an additional class cannot be formed the appointment of the additional teacher will allow the Head Teacher the additional staff in supporting learning and teaching in various team approaches. In these cases the overall impact will be to increase the pupil/teacher contacts significantly in classes P1-3. This approach has been possible in:

Craigie Primary School

Dunbarney Primary School

Viewlands Primary School

Kinnoull Primary School

As a result 287 pupils are supported by a variety of team teaching arrangements which support the learning of pupils in primaries 1-3 where classes are in excess of 30 in these schools.

3.1 It is proposed that the above arrangements are approved by Committee.

#### **4 CONSULTATION**

Head Teachers in all schools where the role in primary 1-3 classes has been in excess of 30 have been consulted in the process of deciding the allocation of scarce resources. The Director of Finance and the Director of Legal, Administration and Property Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. The funding of these posts will be forthcoming from the SOEID.

## **6 STRATEGIC AIMS**

Implementing the recommendation will help the Council meet the objective of maximising learning, training and employment opportunities for young people.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

This paper indicates the considered approach to the use of available SOEID funds to reduce class sizes in primaries 1-3 in the schools named in this report.

**BOB MCKAY**  
**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

For further information, contact Charles Kiddie on ext 6209

## **3 PROPOSALS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.