



Dumfries and Galloway Council Education and Learning Directorate

Proposal document to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD)

This Proposal has been issued by Dumfries and Galloway Education and Learning Directorate in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Statutory Consultation Period: Monday 5th September to Friday 4th November 2022

Schools across Dumfries and Galloway were closed on Monday 19th September 2022 as an additional bank holiday to mark the last day of the period of National Mourning in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation timeline has been amended to ensure that the consultation period extends to thirty school days as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, all consultees have been notified and the papers have been reissued.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to relocate Loreburn Primary School into the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

The proposed changes, if approved, will take place at the conclusion of the Dumfries Learning Town Phase 2 project.

HMle (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) is referred throughout the document in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act (1980). HMle was amalgamated into Education Scotland which was created on the 1 July 2011 as the lead public body for assessment and education improvement in Scotland.

Publication Information

The proposal paper will be available, free of charge, at:

- Council Headquarters, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2DD
- Loreburn Primary School, George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA
- Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD
- Ewart Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JB

And published on Dumfries and Galloway Council website:

www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations

Copies of this paper are also available on request from:

Statutory Consultation – Loreburn Primary School
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

E-mail: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

To request this information in a more accessible format or alternative language, please contact the postal or email address listed above.

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (a) Parents/carers of pupils attending Loreburn Primary School;
- (b) Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;
- (c) Parent/carers of any children expected to attend Loreburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication;
- (d) The pupils of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy;
- (e) The Parent Council of Loreburn Primary School;
- (f) The Parent Council of Dumfries Academy;
- (g) Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- (h) Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- (i) Trade union representatives;
- (j) Loreburn Community Council;
- (k) HMle;

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1.0 Relevant Proposals and Consultees

Dumfries and Galloway Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process, to relocate Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva Building at Dumfries Academy.

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (a) Parents/carers of pupils attending Loreburn Primary School;
- (b) Parents/carers of pupils at Dumfries Academy;
- (c) Parent/carers of any children expected to attend Loreburn Primary School within two years of the date of publication;
- (d) The pupils of Loreburn Primary School and Dumfries Academy;
- (e) The Parent Council of Loreburn Primary School;
- (f) The Parent Council of Dumfries Academy;
- (g) Staff of Loreburn Primary School (teaching and other);
- (h) Staff of Dumfries Academy (teaching and other);
- (i) Trade union representatives;
- (j) Loreburn Community Council;
- (k) HMIE;

2.0 Correction of the Paper

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal paper, either by Dumfries and Galloway Council or any other person, Dumfries and Galloway Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. Dumfries and Galloway Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMIE will be advised.

3.0 Consultation Period

The consultation for this Proposal will run from Monday 5th September 2022 and will end on Friday 4th November 2022. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

Schools across Dumfries and Galloway were closed on Monday 19th September 2022 as an additional bank holiday to mark the last day of the period of National Mourning in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation timeline has been amended to ensure that the consultation period extends to thirty school days as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

3.1 Responses to the Proposals

Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposals by making written or electronic representations on the Proposals to:

Statutory Consultation – Loreburn Primary School
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Militia House
109/111 English Street
DG1 2HR

E-mail: statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

When responding you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc. However, it is not compulsory to do so.

Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Dumfries and Galloway Council”. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, Friday 4th November 2022 at 5:00pm.

4.0 Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held at Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1DD on Thursday 22nd September 2022. There will be a short introduction to the meeting at 6.00pm, however, members of the public are able to drop in at any time to ask questions, make representations or discuss anything with the Officers present. The meeting will close at 8.00pm.

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meetings will be convened by the Council and will be chaired by a senior officer of the Council’s Education and Learning Directorate.

The meetings will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. Views of all stakeholders will be recorded so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken at the meeting of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website.

The note will be forwarded to HMIE, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

4.1 Advertisement in Local Media

A notice announcing the public meeting will be placed in the Dumfries & Galloway Standard and on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website.

4.2 Meetings with Pupils and Staff

School staff will arrange to discuss proposals with pupils (who are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) in the affected schools. A record of questions, responses and views will be taken, and this will be published in the Consultation Report.

5.0 Involvement of HMle

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to HMle by Dumfries and Galloway Council. HMle will also be sent, by Monday 7th November 2022, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period, as well as the summary note of the public meeting that will be held. So far as is practicable a copy of any other relevant documentation will also be sent to HMle, by Monday 21st November 2022. HMle will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal, to be completed no later than 3 weeks after they receive the consultation papers – Friday 9th December 2022. In preparing their report, HMle may visit the schools and make such enquiries of persons there as they consider appropriate. HMle may also make reasonable enquiries to such other persons they consider it appropriate.

6.0 Consultation Report

Dumfries and Galloway Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMle report, written representations it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats who submitted a written representation during consultation will be contacted. It will be available on Dumfries and Galloway Council's website as well as Loreburn Primary School, Dumfries Academy, Ewart Library and Dumfries and Galloway Headquarters, free of charge. The report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the HMle report, together with the Council's considered response to the issues raised. The report will include details of any alleged inaccurate and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the Education and Learning Committee.

7.0 Time for Further Consideration

At this present time Dumfries and Galloway Council intends to publish its report on Thursday 5th January 2023. In publishing the report, the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Education and Learning Committee prior to its meeting within a 3-week window; Monday 9th January to Friday 27th January 2023. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website.

The final consultation report will be submitted to the Education and Learning Committee in early 2023. However, this timescale may change depending on the nature of issues raised

during consultation, and the need to give full consideration to those issues. In the latter event, the report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

8.0 Explanation of Approach

The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (S.1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (S.3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000).

9.0 The Proposal

9.1 Rationale

Elected Members agreed on 12th November 2019 to commence an option appraisal to assist in identifying the optimal solution to the condition, accessibility and suitability of Loreburn Primary School. An initial scoping of options was generated in consultation with the parent council and staff and the outcome is set out below:

- A. Do nothing
- B. Rebuild on Site – with temporary accommodation/decant village
- C. Refurbish on Site -with temporary accommodation/decant village
- D. Close Loreburn Primary School and redistribute pupils within Dumfries
- E. Relocate Loreburn Primary School
 - (i) Refurbish alternative existing building and repurpose
 - (ii) Combine Loreburn Primary School and another Primary School within Dumfries

Analysis by officers indicated that options A, B, C and D were not viable, and it was recommended that these should not be considered further. Options A - D were not supported by the Parent Council either, however they continued their support for option E(i) as part of the Dumfries Learning Town 2 proposals which would see Loreburn Primary relocated within the footprint of the existing Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus.

This proposal seeks to relocate Loreburn Primary School from its existing building (George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EA) to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus (Academy Street, Dumfries DG1 1DD).

9.2 Current School Details

The existing Loreburn Primary School is located on George Street in Dumfries. The school extends to 1,788m² and sits on an area of 0.90 acres.

Dumfries and Galloway Council assesses all its schools for suitability and condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. Schools are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory) "C" (poor) and "D" (bad).

Loreburn Primary School building has been previously rated as “C” for suitability and “C” for condition. Some of the findings from the two surveys highlighted issues around functionality, accessibility, access to green space and the proximity to disused buildings.

Appendix 1 shows that Loreburn Primary School is adjacent to the former George Street School of Art which is owned by a third party. It has fallen into a state of disrepair and whilst it is acknowledged the issues will be addressed the timing and the process for this is out with the Council’s control.

The distance between Loreburn Primary School and the Minerva building is 0.27 miles as detailed in Appendix 2. The catchment area does not extend beyond a two mile radius as shown in Appendix 3 so there is no eligibility for school transport currently or after the relocation.

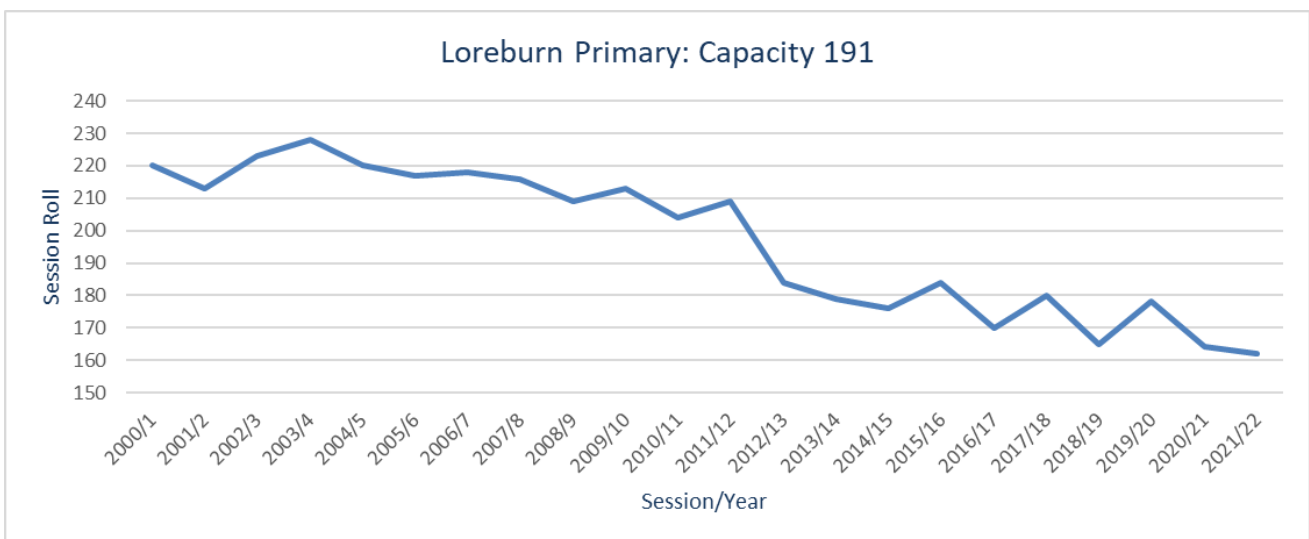
9.3 School Profile

Capacity: 191 pupils

Class Numbers:

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
18	23	20	21	31	22	24	159

Historic School Roll 2000 - 2022



10.0 Educational Benefits of the Proposal

- It is the view of Dumfries and Galloway Council that a relocation of Loreburn Primary from the current site to the Minerva building (Dumfries Academy campus) would improve the education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Loreburn Primary School.
- Working across a range of settings and within different facilities is one of the core elements of a curriculum designed to meet the needs of Twenty First Century learners. This involves pupils working with a range of staff within learning environments with specialist equipment and resources. Relocating to the Minerva building within Dumfries Academy Campus would provide these opportunities and experiences for the pupils of Loreburn Primary School.
- The relocation will broaden the range of opportunities for our children and young people through the access to shared specialist spaces within Dumfries Academy. Areas such as Drama, Science, Physical Education, Craft and Design and Home Economics will be made available to further enhance the opportunities provided to Loreburn Primary pupils.
- The proposed refurbishment of the Minerva building and Dumfries Academy will provide learning environments which will better meet the personal, social and emotional needs of learners. This provision will provide a quiet space for individual and group activities which can be accessed when such needs can't be met within the classroom environment. The range and depth of young people's learning, to support continuity and progression, will also be enhanced due to the very nature of the co-location with Dumfries Academy.
- Working with others is a key element of the curriculum which develops a number of inter-personal, communication, social skills and leadership skills. The current accommodation does not provide suitable spaces for pupils to work beyond their classroom and with pupils from other classes. Relocation to the Minerva building would offer this provision and enhance the development of such skills. With enhanced outdoor play and social spaces being developed as part of the overall refurbishment of the Minerva Building the pupils social and health needs will be enhanced.
- Teachers' professional judgement and shared understanding of pupil progress within and through Curriculum for Excellence levels is a key element of the assessment and moderation process. This process will be further enhanced through closer collaborative working between colleagues in Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy. This may be through formal transition work or informally in shared conversations.
- Loreburn Primary School will have the opportunity through the design development of the Minerva building to ensure that the spaces meet the needs of all learners as far as is reasonably practicable.

- Not all pupils that attend Loreburn Primary have the same fully inclusive opportunities to learn. Accessibility issues throughout the building due to varying levels and steps can be a barrier to learning for some pupils. Relocating to the Minerva building will address many of these issues.
- Although the relocation of Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva building has a direct positive impact on pupils and staff there are wider opportunities in terms of Partnership working with Dumfries Academy due to the very nature of collocating the primary and secondary school on the same site. With a single entrance, new meeting rooms for external agencies, parents and other partners will become shared resources, resources that Loreburn primary school currently does not have.

10.1 Impact on Staff

- Staff will be involved in the development of designs for the facility and the relocation of the school with the design team. Whilst this may involve staff time, it is recognised that their involvement will ensure the needs of the school are captured and incorporated within the design brief for the project.
- The working environment of all staff will be greatly enhanced after moving to the Minerva building due to the level of investment to modernise facilities such as classrooms, learning and social spaces, staff rooms and welfare facilities. By it's very nature this will also improve morale of staff and pupils.
- The current accommodation within Loreburn Primary does not provide suitable spaces for staff to access during Non-Class Contact Time to undertake individual professional learning, paperwork, meet with Parents/Carers/Colleagues and prepare reports. Relocation to the Minerva building would look to address this provision through the design and refurbishment process.

10.2 Impact on the Community

- There will be a level of impact on the Dumfries Academy site during the construction phase of this project. This will be discussed in detail with the school and wider community to ensure disruption is minimised as much as possible.
- Relocating Loreburn Primary may impact on Playworks Nursery, shown in Appendix 1. Playworks occupy a separate building and their dedicated external space is adjacent to the primary school's external space. Whilst Playworks is not an authority run provider there is historical data to show that a significant number of pupils go on to enrol at Loreburn Primary. There will be some impact on parents who need to drop off/pick up at both sites however, the close proximity of the Minerva and flexibility of nursery start and finish times should minimise any impact.
- Existing community use of the Minerva Building will be enhanced following improvements to accessibility and condition.

- The condition of the School of Art building generally has a negative reaction from the public. Moving Loreburn Primary to the Minerva building on the Dumfries Academy site will allow the Primary School building to be declared surplus and repurposed with potential for improvements for the community.

11.0 Financial impact

- The proposal for relocation of Loreburn Primary School looks to deliver on the Elected Member decision to relocate within the Minerva Building at Dumfries Academy. All capital costs associated with this are ringfenced and will be used to improve the educational environment and experiences of the pupils of Loreburn Primary.
- There will be opportunities to realise some efficiencies through the co-location and shared campus model. However, the allocated funding for the operation of the schools will not be impacted and will remain unchanged following relocation.

12.0 Recommendation

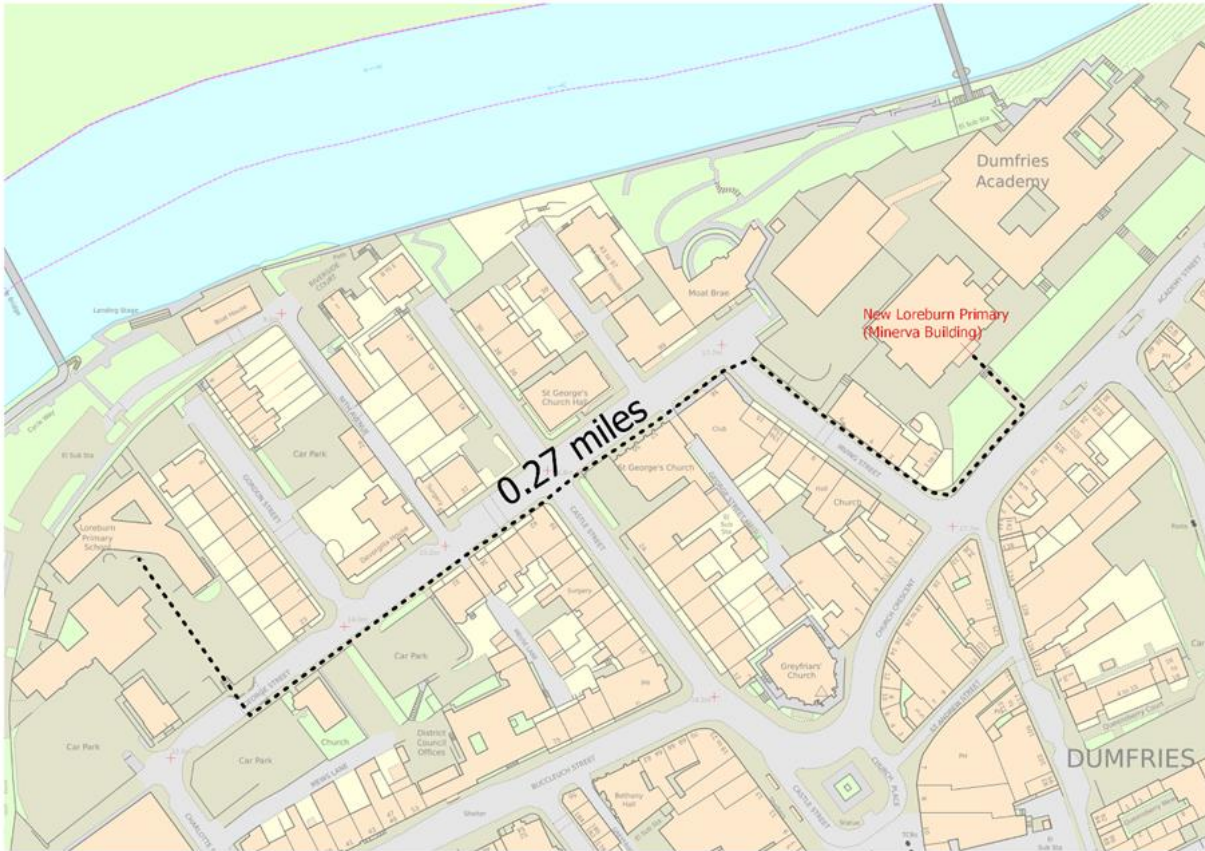
Given the information contained within this report, Dumfries and Galloway Council has determined that the relocation of Loreburn Primary School to the Minerva Building on the Dumfries Academy campus is the preferred option.

Appendix 1



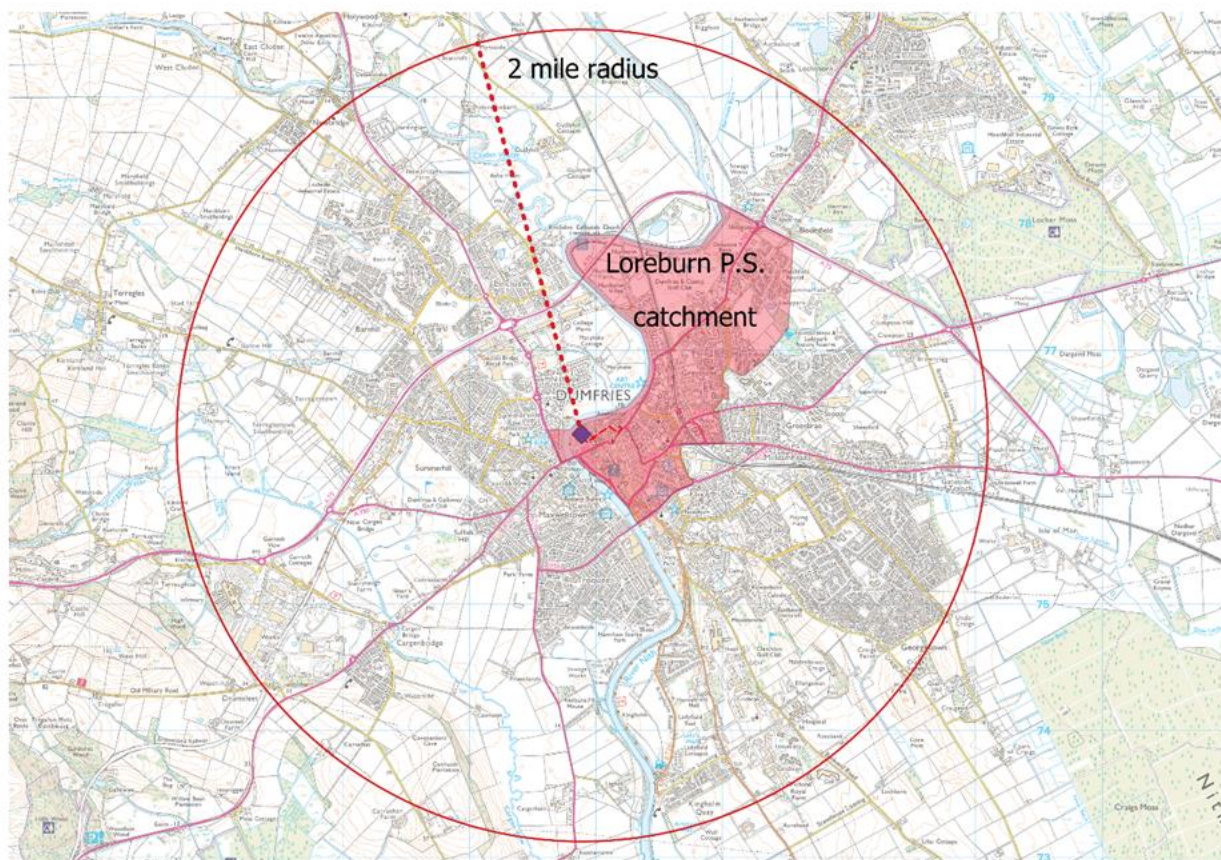
Loreburn Primary School in relation to 1. School of Art 2. Housing 3. Playworks Nursery

Appendix 2



Distance between main entrance of Loreburn Primary and Dumfries Academy

Appendix 3



Loreburn Primary catchment with 2 mile transport provision marked