

Rhona Sinclair

From: "Carmel Riley" <carmel.riley@edinburgh.gov.uk>
To: "Rhona Sinclair" <rhona.sinclair@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 March 2006 08:38
Subject: Fw: Deputation request to full Council

----- Original Message -----

From: Katharine Spence
To: carmel.riley@edinburgh.gov.uk
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2006 4:58 PM
Subject: Deputation request to full Council

Carmel Riley
Committee Services
City of Edinburgh Council

Monday 20 March 2006.

Dear Carmel Riley,

As discussed, a group representing parents from Balgreen Primary School would like to make a deposition at the full Council meeting on Thursday 23 March at City Chambers, on the subject of capping Primary 1 intakes. There will be one speaker, Katharine Spence.

We wish to state the following points:

- That Balgreen Primary School, has district numbers expected to exceed 40, for intake in August 2006, and as such should not have been included for consideration of capping.
- We acknowledge the agreement to review the position of Balgreen if district numbers exceed 41. However, no such agreement exists for siblings. We have 22 placing requests into Balgreen of which 7 are siblings and highly unlikely to be accommodated.
- The aim of the Children & Families Department is to keep families together where possible. The effect of capping at Balgreen will separate or disrupt families instead.
- We have concerns that a reduction in budget, caused by reducing pupil numbers, will affect the facilities that Balgreen is able to offer. Of particular concern are our counselling service, Place2b, and the after-school club.
- The City of Edinburgh Council pursues a policy of equal opportunities. This policy of choice for some, at zero costs, seems flawed.
- The consultation process feels very short, and hurried. Nurseries are preparing 4 year-olds for the transition to school now, and families will be given little time to prepare children for the fact that they will not be going to the same school as their older siblings.

We look forward to discussing these points on Thursday 23/03/06. Thank you for your time.

Katharine Spence

Chair, Balgreen School Board