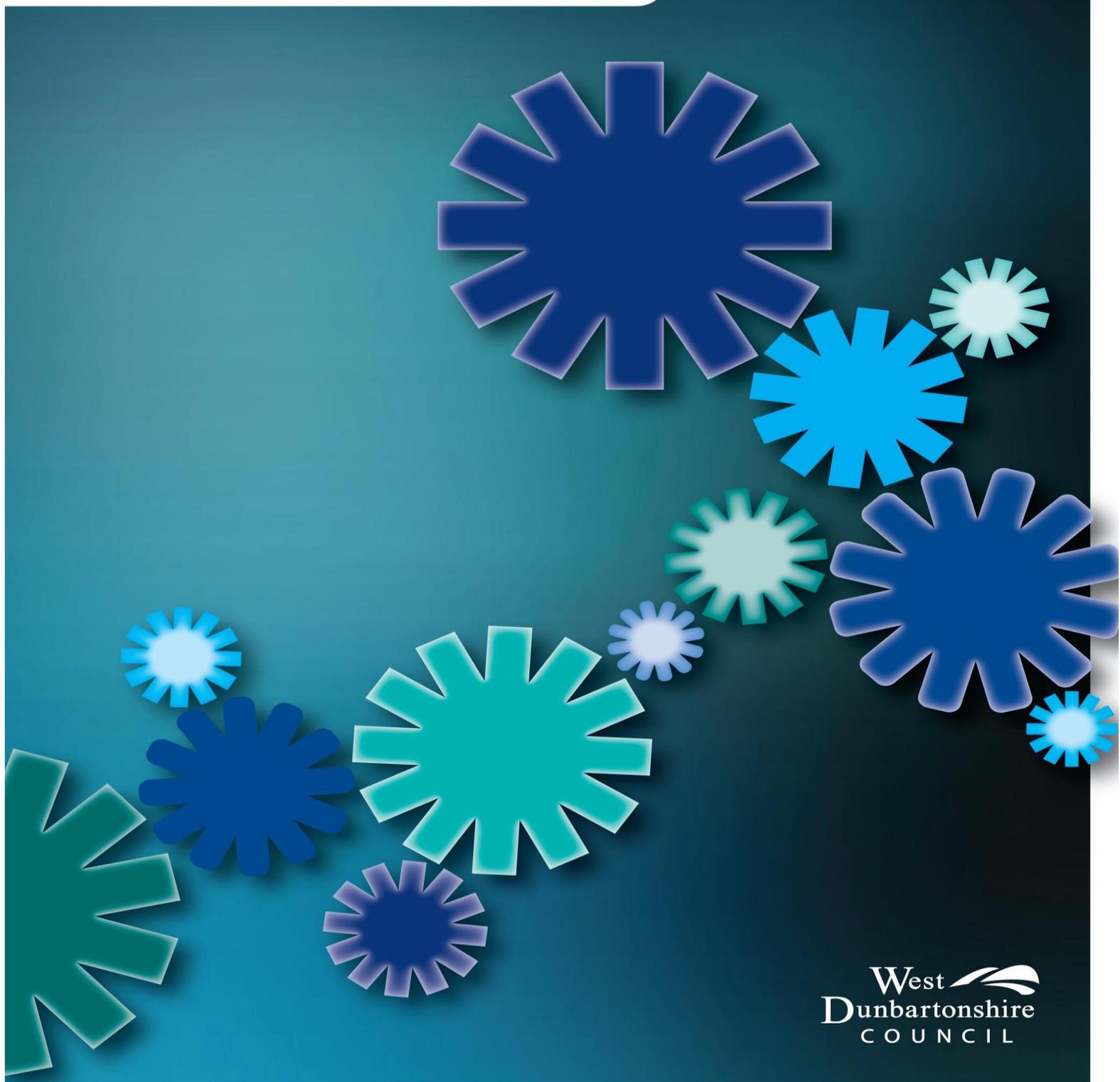


## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

# A guide to: Accessing Specialist Provision in West Dunbartonshire

Amended December 2015





# **A Guide: to Accessing Specialist Provision in West Dunbartonshire**

## **Introduction**

“Section 15 of the Standards in Scotland’s Schools Act 2000 introduced a presumption of mainstreaming that pupils with barriers to learning will be educated in a mainstream school except under certain exceptional circumstances.” How Good is Our School Part 2 – Inclusion and Equality.

This Act, therefore, requires that all children are educated in mainstream education unless there are certain circumstances that mean it is not of benefit to the pupil or to other pupils for them to remain in their mainstream school. These circumstances are assumed to be exceptional.

The majority of pupils in West Dunbartonshire Council are supported in their mainstream schools. In addition, at present, there are five specialist educational establishments or bases managed by West Dunbartonshire for children and young people who have additional support needs that are not able to be supported in mainstream education.

## **What is West Dunbartonshire's specialist provision?**

In the Primary sector:

- Kilpatrick school
- Cunard school
- The Language and Communication Unit at Renton Primary

In the Secondary sector:

- Kilpatrick school
- The Communication Base at Vale of Leven Academy
- Choices Programme

When my children needs additional support in a specialist provision.....

## **How are my views taken into account?**

Your child's needs are kept under constant review and your views consulted regularly with a senior member of your child's school or Early Learning and Childcare Centre and with the Educational Psychologist. A review meeting may identify barriers to progress in the current mainstream being considered at transition points. These barriers may be difficult to overcome in the mainstream setting despite additional support. It may then be agreed with you to consider an alternative placement. You do not need to do anything else at this point.

## **How is other information considered?**

The Head Teacher and Educational Psychologist will submit and speak to reports at a Panel appointed by the Service Manager. You will receive a copy of these reports. This Joint Review Panel (JRP) comprises representatives of mainstream Primary and Secondary schools, the specialist establishments and the Quality Improvement Service and the Central Support Service.

The Panel will:

- consider whether the child's support plan has been implemented, monitored and reviewed in order to maintain the pupil in mainstream education within West Dunbartonshire;
- explore and suggest other possibilities if required;
- access additional support if required;
- consider, if alternative specialist provision within West Dunbartonshire Council is in the child's best interests, which environment, curriculum and peer group would best overcome barriers to the child's progress.

Careful discussion and consideration of all possibilities will take place before a recommendation is made to the Service Manager; parents' views are always taken into account.

### **Who makes the decision?**

The Service Manager will consider the recommendations and the parents'/carers' views before making a decision.

### **What happens next?**

The Service Manager will send you a letter with the decision. The Educational Psychologist will also contact you to discuss next steps. If a transition to a new school is agreed a planning meeting will be arranged with the new school and with you to talk about uniform, transport, start date etc. (If specialist provision is not agreed there will be a planning meeting in your child's school to discuss what additional support is required).

## **What if I don't agree?**

If you have concerns about the decision please speak to your Educational Psychologist in the first instance or to the Principal Psychologist. If they cannot resolve matters you will have the opportunity to speak to the Service Manager. Under the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2009, you have the right to make a Placing Request to a school for pupils with additional support needs. However, transport is not provided for successful parental placing requests.

## **How will I know that this is the right decision?**

After your child has been at the new school for between 6 and 10 weeks there will be a review that you will be invited to attend to discuss your child's progress.

## **Further information can be obtained from**

Enquire

[www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)

Scottish Government

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education)

Education Scotland

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/additional-supportneeds/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/additional-supportneeds/index.asp)

West Dunbartonshire Council

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/education-and-learning/additional-support-needs>

Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS)

[www.asntscotland.gov.uk](http://www.asntscotland.gov.uk)

Govan Law Centre

[www.edlaw.org.uk](http://www.edlaw.org.uk)

## **Leaflets in this series**

A guide to...

- Accessing Specialist Provision in West Dunbartonshire Council
- Additional Support Needs Legislation
- Additional Support Needs in West Dunbartonshire Council
- The Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP)
- Dyslexia
- Getting Help and Resolving Disagreements:
  - Mediation;
  - Dispute Resolution;
  - Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS)
- Going to Meetings to Discuss Your Child
- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- Staged Intervention
- The Central Support Service
- The Pre-school Assessment Team (PreScAT)

**For more information contact:  
Additional Support Needs enquiries:**

Chris Smith, Education Manager – Children’s Services (01389 737374)  
Anne Marie McDonald, Central Support Co-ordinator (0141 562 2492)  
Pat Montgomery, Quality Improvement Officer (01389 737443)

**Other formats**

This document can be provided in large print, Braille, audio cassette, and can be translated into different languages.

Please contact:

Corporate Communications, Council Offices, Garshake Road,  
Dumbarton, G82 3PU

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。  
अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔