



# HOLYROOD UPDATE

From Wendy Alexander MSP

Your constituency MSP for Paisley North

## SUMMARY OF RENFREWSHIRE EDUCATION CUTS

- **Closing Nurseries**
- **Fewer Teachers**
- **No New Teachers**
- **Cutting School Budgets**
- **Proposed closure of South Primary School**
- **No New Schools**
- **Major School Refurbishment**

The cuts taking place in the Renfrewshire Education Budget are £4.5 million 08/09 and almost £6.5 million 09/10. A few of the most worrying recent developments include:

### **Closing Nurseries**

#### **NURSERY SCHOOLS: SHAW, SPATESTON, GLENDEE, JOHNSTONE, SPRINGBANK AND EAST**

The SNP/Lib Council in Renfrewshire are proposing to down grade all 6 nursery schools in Renfrewshire - removing the nursery teachers. Four of these nursery schools will become 'nursery classes' attached to local primary schools and two will become pre-5 centres. All will lose a qualified head teacher and their teaching staff who will now be amalgamated into a "peripatetic pool". But that new pool will only have 20 nursery teachers in all – compared with 39 teachers and head teachers currently serving under- 5s in Renfrewshire.

The head teacher post will be 'deleted' (in the Council's terminology) and the classroom teacher will be obliged to choose redeployment, which may not be to nursery teaching, or resignation. These misguided plans are being promoted by the SNP-led Council in the name of 'consistency.' In their election manifesto the SNP claimed they wanted to 'deliver access to a fully qualified nursery teacher for every nursery age child. Yet now we see our local SNP-led Council trying to claim that ensuring this 'access' means scrapping teacher jobs and spreading a handful of teachers thinly over hundreds of children. There is particular concern about the Snowdrop unit at Springbank Nursery which is dedicated to children with special needs.

## Fewer Teachers

Renfrewshire has cut 119 teachers (full time equivalents) since last year. 42 in primary schools (5% cut) and 77 in secondary schools (8% cut – the biggest % cut in Scotland) for school by school breakdown – see table below.

<b>Renfrewshire Council: Education &amp; Leisure Service: Teacher Posts –(Full Time Equivalent) TOP 3 SECONDARY SCHOOL LOSERS</b>			
	2007	2008	+/-
<b>Gleniffer</b>	111.4	94.0	-17.4
<b>Park Mains</b>	111.6	100.0	-11.6
<b>Trinity</b>	86.3	75.6	-10.7

<b>Renfrewshire Council: Education &amp; Leisure Service: Teacher Posts –(Full Time Equivalent) TOP 5 PRIMARY SCHOOL LOSERS</b>			
	2007	2008	+/-
<b>Bridge of Weir</b>	21.5	17.1	-4.4
<b>Heriot</b>	17.0	14.0	-3.0
<b>Kilbarchan</b>	15.0	12.0	-3.0
<b>Mossvale</b>	11.2	8.0	-3.2
<b>Ralston</b>	22.9	19.5	-3.4

<b>Renfrewshire Council: Education &amp; Leisure Service: Teacher Posts –(Full Time Equivalent) FULL RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOL BY SCHOOL SECONDARY AND PRIMARY</b>			
	2007	2008	+/-
<b>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</b>			
<b>Castlehead</b>	73.8	68.3	-5.5
<b>Gleniffer</b>	111.4	94.0	-17.4
<b>Gryffe</b>	74.7	67.5	-7.2
<b>Johnstone</b>	91.8	84.8	-7.0
<b>Linwood</b>	44.2	41.9	-2.3
<b>Paisley Grammar</b>	99.9	91.2	-8.7
<b>Park Mains</b>	111.6	100.0	-11.6
<b>Renfrew</b>	73	65.3	-7.7
<b>St Andrews</b>	94.5	91.2	-3.3
<b>St Benedict's</b>	66.1	70.2	+4.1
<b>Trinity</b>	86.3	75.6	-10.7

<b>TOTAL: RENFREWSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>927.3</b>	<b>850.0</b>	<b>-77.3</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>+/-</b>
<i>Arkleston</i>	20.6	18.6	-2.0
<i>Auchenlodment</i>	15.4	14.4	-1.0
<i>Bargarran</i>	14.6	13.6	-1.0
<i>Barsail</i>	16.2	16.8	0.6
<i>Bishopton</i>	18.7	18.0	-0.7
<i>Brediland</i>	23.1	23.6	0.5
<i>Bridge of Weir</i>	21.5	17.1	-4.4
<i>Bushes</i>	21.7	20.7	-1.0
<i>Cochrane Castle</i>	7.6	7.6	0.0
<i>East Fulton</i>	20.0	17.6	-2.4
<i>Fordbank</i>	12.4	12.4	0.0
<i>Gallowhill</i>	11.9	11.3	-0.6
<i>Glencoats</i>	16.7	15.1	-1.6
<i>Heriot</i>	17.0	14.0	-3.0
<i>Houston</i>	19.5	19.6	0.1
<i>Howwood</i>	8.4	7.8	-0.6
<i>Inchinnan</i>	10.0	10.6	0.6
<i>Kilbarchan</i>	15.0	12.0	-3.0
<i>Kirklandneuk</i>	15.1	14.8	-0.3
<i>Langbank</i>	6.4	6.4	0.0
<i>Langcraigs</i>	15.8	16.0	0.2
<i>Lochfield</i>	16.0	16.0	0.0
<i>Lochwinnoch</i>	13.7	14.7	1.0
<i>Moorpark</i>	9.3	9.8	0.5
<i>Mossvale</i>	11.2	8.0	-3.2
<i>Newmains</i>	19.5	19.3	-0.2
<i>Our Lady of Peace</i>	15.0	13.7	-1.3
<i>Ralston</i>	22.9	19.5	-3.4
<i>Rashielea</i>	21.6	19.6	-2.0
<i>South</i>	8.8	8.3	-0.5
<i>St Anne's</i>	12.8	11.0	-1.8
<i>St Anthony's</i>	20.3	20.0	-0.3
<i>St Catherine's</i>	13.4	12.1	-1.3
<i>St Charles</i>	21.6	20.0	-1.6
<i>St David's</i>	7.0	6.0	-1.0
<i>St Fergus</i>	14.2	12.6	-1.6
<i>St Fillan's</i>	9.0	8.8	-0.2
<i>St James (Paisley)</i>	7.6	7.2	-0.4
<i>St James (Renfrew)</i>	22.6	23.3	0.7
<i>St John Bosco</i>	9.6	9.6	0.0
<i>St John Ogilvie</i>	10.7	10.3	-0.4
<i>St Margaret's</i>	13.4	10.8	-2.6
<i>St Mary's</i>	14.0	16.0	2.0
<i>St Pauls</i>	14.8	15.7	0.9

<b>St Peter's</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
<b>Thorn Primary</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Todholm</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Wallace</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>West Primary</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Williamsburgh</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Woodlands</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>TOTAL RENFREWSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>783.9</b>	<b>742.1</b>	<b>-41.8</b>
<b>TOTAL RENFREWSHIRE BOTH SECONDARY + PRIMARY</b>	<b>1711.2</b>	<b>1592.1</b>	<b>119.1</b>

## No new teachers

Renfrewshire Council failed to give a single one of its probationary teachers from last year – 172 in all, a full time contract at the start of the session to stay on and teach in Renfrewshire. And the Council is no longer promising smaller class sizes in English and Maths in first and second year.

\*\*\*\*\* Update: As of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – 4 probationary teachers from 2007-2008 have now been offered permanent placements – no information has been provided as to which schools in particular these positions are at. \*\*\*\*\*

## Cutting School Budgets

Every local school budget is being cut hitting school supplies, book buying and photocopying. See below for the impact on local schools.

<b>School by School Devolved School Budget Savings (Savings to be made by Head Teachers over &amp; above central Education budget savings)</b>		
	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
<b>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Castlehead</b>	<b>79,853</b>	<b>141,998</b>
<b>Gleniffer</b>	<b>120,334</b>	<b>213,855</b>
<b>Gryffe</b>	<b>84,773</b>	<b>150,831</b>
<b>Johnstone</b>	<b>100,854</b>	<b>179,325</b>
<b>Linwood</b>	<b>43,531</b>	<b>77,526</b>
<b>Paisley Grammar</b>	<b>104,684</b>	<b>186,136</b>
<b>Park Mains</b>	<b>128,854</b>	<b>229,026</b>
<b>Renfrew</b>	<b>74,933</b>	<b>133,366</b>

<b>St Andrews</b>	<b>104,684</b>	<b>186,136</b>
<b>St Benedict's</b>	<b>64,862</b>	<b>115,426</b>
<b>Trinity</b>	<b>97,683</b>	<b>173,660</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,005,045</b>	<b>1,787,285</b>
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>		
<b>Arkleston</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>16,200</b>
<b>Auchenlodment</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>10,800</b>
<b>Bargarran</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>10,900</b>
<b>Barsail</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>14,300</b>
<b>Bishopton</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>16,100</b>
<b>Brediland</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>15,800</b>
<b>Bridge of Weir</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>17,400</b>
<b>Bushes</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>16,200</b>
<b>Cochrane Castle</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>5,700</b>
<b>Woodlands</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>East Fulton</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>13,800</b>
<b>Fordbank</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>Heriot</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>11,500</b>
<b>Gallowhill</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>9,600</b>
<b>Glencoats</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>11,300</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>20,400</b>
<b>Howwood</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Inchinnan</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Kilbarchan</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>11,000</b>
<b>Kirklandneuk</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>11,600</b>
<b>Langbank</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>Langcraigs</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>12,800</b>
<b>Lochfield</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>14,600</b>
<b>Lochwinnoch</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>12,400</b>
<b>Moorpark</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>6,200</b>
<b>Mossvale</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>Newmains</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>16,100</b>
<b>Rashielea</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>19,100</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>5,100</b>
<b>Ralston</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>17,600</b>
<b>Our Lady of Peace</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>11,300</b>
<b>St Anne's</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>St Anthony's</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>St Catherine's</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<b>St Charles</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>17,800</b>
<b>St Fergus</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>6,100</b>
<b>St Fillian's</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>8,300</b>
<b>St James</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>St James</b>	<b>11,600</b>	<b>19,300</b>
<b>St John Bosco</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>St John Ogilvie</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>8,800</b>
<b>St Margaret's</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>12,300</b>

<b>St Paul's</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>St Peter's</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>11,400</b>
<b>Thorn</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>12,300</b>
<b>Todholm</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>9,300</b>
<b>Wallace</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>17,700</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>23,600</b>
<b>Williamsburgh</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>17,900</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>358,000</b>	<b>594,500</b>
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b>		
<b>Clippens</b>	<b>31,177</b>	<b>51,020</b>
<b>Kersland</b>	<b>27,693</b>	<b>44,680</b>
<b>Mary Russell</b>	<b>50,820</b>	<b>83,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,690</b>	<b>179,200</b>

## **Proposed Closure of South Primary School**

Worse still are the proposals to close South Primary in Paisley - despite it recently receiving an excellent HMle inspection report.

Although the primary school is not in my constituency I have been approached by parents whose children attend the school. Almost 100 households contacted me on this matter to raise their objections.

Amongst all the representations made to me by parents two stand out. South Primary has provided a wonderful school experience to children with extra needs who have faced bullying elsewhere. Dozens of pupils at the school have spoke up for its future. They must be heard.

## **No New Schools**

The previous Labour administration in Renfrewshire commissioned 10 brand new schools - all of which have now opened - and the refurbishment of 10 more. However not a single new school building has been commissioned in the last 18 months by the new SNP/Lib Dem council despite the fact a dozen local primaries are still substandard.

### **New Schools Commissioned by Labour Administration 2003-7**

#### **Secondaries**

St Andrews Academy  
Gleniffer High  
St.Benedicts  
Linwood High

#### **Primaries**

Todholm  
Fordbank  
Woodlands  
Glencoats (union of previous Ferguslie & Craigilea Primaries)

West Johnstone Shared campus – comprising Cochrane Castle & St.David's

## Major School Refurbishment

Below are improvements planned as Phase II of previous Labour Administration's school building and renewal policy (2003-7)

### Refurbishments which have been completed:

Bushes Primary School  
Langcraigs Primary School  
Castlehead High School  
Gryffe High School

### Refurbishments which are underway:

St.Charles Primary School  
Paisley Grammar High School  
Johnstone High School  
Renfrew High School

Refurbishments of St.Peter's is due to commence in Spring 2009

The table below details the Council's capital expenditure on the school estate and major projects in each year. Note that expenditure on major projects may span a number of years.

Year	Expenditure	Major Projects
2002/3	£4.9m	Paisley Grammar & Glenfield Nursery extensions, Castlehead upgrade
2003/4	£4.8m	Annexes at Howood & Lochwinnoch primary schools
2004/5	£4.6m	Mary Russell upgrade, Park Mains Synthetic Pitch, Williamsburgh Gym
2005/6	£8.4m	Trinity High School, refurbishments of Langcraigs & Williamsburgh Primaries
2006/7	£12.8m	Gryffe High School refurbishment & new games hall at Johnstone High School
2007/8	£15.3m	Refurbishments of Bushes PS & Castlehead High School, Houston Primary extension
2008/9	c£20m	Refurbishments of Johnstone & Renfrew High Schools, Paisley Grammar, St Charles & St.Peter's Primaries
2009/10	c£16m	
2010/11	c£40m	

## More Composite Classes

For the first time ever the number of composite classes in Renfrewshire has passed 100 this session. In the last year alone the number of composite classes has soared by 34, from 81 to 115 – the sharpest rise in any recent year.

Four years ago there were 70 composite classes and 475 single year classes in Renfrewshire primaries. Today 115 are composite compared to 400 single teacher classes. This sharp rise in composite classes worries many parents. They fear it is being driven by cost cutting and not the educational needs of their children. These figures for every school in Renfrewshire bear our parents fears. Last year only four primaries in Renfrewshire had four or more composite classes – today eight Renfrewshire primaries are in that position.

It is total hypocrisy for the SNP to call for smaller class sizes and then make such severe education cuts that schools have to resort to composite teaching.

## **RENFREWSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Total Single Year classes</b>	<b>Total Composite years classes</b>	<b>Composite Classes % v single classes</b>	<b>Composite Classes % of combined total number of classes</b>
2003/04	484	75	15.5%	13.4%
2004/05	475	70	14.7%	12.8%
2005/06	450	83	18.4%	15.6%
2006/07	451	93	20.6%	17.1%
2007/08	440	81	18.4%	15.6%
2008/09	400	115	28.8%	22.3%

### **Source**

Renfrewshire Council Education and Leisure Services 29/10/2008

EDUCATION & LEISURE SERVICES  
SEEMIS data REVISED



school by school  
count

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2007-08	
	Total Single Year	Total Composite	Total Single Year	Total Composite	Total Single Year	Total Composite	Total Single Year	Total Composite	Total Single Year	Total Composite	Total Single Year	Total Composite
ARKLESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		14		14	0
AUCHENLODMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL	8	3	7	3	8	2	9		6	3	6	3
BARGARRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL	13		10	1	9	2	9	2	9	1	9	1
BARSAIL PRIMARY SCHOOL	10	2	10	2	10	1	12	1	10	2	10	2
BISHOPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	14	1	13	1	14		13	1	13	1	13	1
BREDILAND PRIMARY SCHOOL	14	1	15		15		14		13	2	12	1
BRIDGE OF WEIR PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		14		14	0
BUSHES PRIMARY SCHOOL	14	1	14	1	14	1	15		14		14	0
COCHRANE CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL	5	2	5	3	1	5	4	2	4	2	4	2
CRAIGIELEA PRIMARY SCHOOL	4	2	3	3	6	1	6	1				
EAST FULTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		14		14	0
FERGUSLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL	5	1	3	3	3	3	2	3				
FORDBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	2	7	1	7	1	6	2	8		8	0
GALLOWHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	3	5	2	7	2	4	5	7	1	7	1
GLENHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL									9	2	9	2
HERIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL	12	1	9	3	8	3	7	4	9	2	9	2
HOUSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		15		15	0
HOWWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	4	2	3		5	5	1	1	5	1	5
INCHINNAN PRIMARY SCHOOL	7		7		7		7		7		7	0
KILBARCHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL	12	1	10	2	8	3	7	3	6	4	6	4
KIRKLANDNEUK PRIMARY SCHOOL	5	4	7	2	7	3	7	3	8	2	8	2
LANGBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL	1	3	1	3	1	3		4	7		1	3
LANGCRAIGS PRIMARY SCHOOL	9	3	10	2	9	2	8	3	9	2	9	2
LOCHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		12	1	12	1	14		12	1
LOCHWINNOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL	9	1	7	3	9	2	8	2	7	3	7	3
MOORPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	2	4	2	1	3	3		6	7	6	0	6
MOSSVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	7		6	1	6	1	6	1	7		7	0
NEWMAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		14		14	0
OUR LADY OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHL	12		12		9	2	9	2	8	3	8	3
RALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		15		14		14		14		14	0
RASHIELEA PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		15		15	0
SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	1	1	5	5	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL R'FRE	7	2	6	2	7	2	8	1	7	2	7	2
ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	8	5	8	5	7	6	9	4	8	5	7	1
ST CATHERINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	6	4	7	3	9	3	10		7	1	7	1
ST CHARLES' PRIMARY SCHOOL	15		15		1		14		14		14	0
ST DAVID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	7		7		4	2	1	4	2	3	2	3
ST FERGUS' PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	1	8		5	2	10	1	9	2	4	2
ST FILLAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	1	8		8		8		7		7	0
ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCH.-PAISLEY	1	3		3	1	3	1	3	3	2	3	2
ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL-RENF	14	2	15	1	14	2	14	2	11	5	11	5
ST JOHN BOSCO PRIMARY SCHOOL	5	3	8		7		7		7		7	0
ST JOHN OGILVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL	7		7		7		7		7		7	0
ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	2	7	2	7	2	7	2	7	1	7	1
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL-PAIS	6	3	8	1	9	1	7	3	7	3	7	3
ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL	6	4	9	2	8	3	5	5	5	5	5	2
ST PETER'S PRY.SCHOOL PAISLEY	8		9		8	1	9	1	8	2	8	2
THORN PRIMARY SCHOOL	7	3	8	2	7	3	6	4	6	4	6	4
TODHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL	4		5		6		1	6	7	1	7	1
WALLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL	14		14		14		14		14		14	0
WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL	21		21		21	1	23	1	25	1	21	0
WILLIAMSBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL	20		18	1	18	1	17		16		16	0
WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL	10	2	8	3	6	3	6	3	4	5	4	5
PRIMARY SCHOOLS	484	75	475	70	450	83	451	93	459	86	440	81

