

Statement from John Wilson, Director of Education regarding the 30/30 Nursery provision at Calderwood Lodge Nursery. 4.5.10

East Renfrewshire Council's Education Department is very proud and privileged to host the only Jewish school in Scotland. We are extremely ambitious for the future of Calderwood Lodge Primary School and Nursery and will continue to work closely with the Parent Council and Calderwood Jewish Education to ensure that our excellent new head teacher, Vanessa Thomson, and all her staff, are fully supported in all of their endeavours to realise the vision of Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for all children and young people in their charge.

The recent suggestion to reduce the capacity of the nursery class is not a cost-cutting exercise as has been portrayed. It will have no effect on the wishes of those families who wish their child to attend Calderwood Lodge Nursery Class and ultimately Calderwood Lodge Primary School. In short, all families who applied for a place in Calderwood Lodge were successful in securing a place. It is the view of the Department that this suggestion does not in any way risk the future prosperity of Calderwood Lodge Primary School but does in fact give greater flexibility and security to the head teacher to work with key stakeholders in deciding how funds can be more effectively targeted. Resources will not be removed from Calderwood Lodge, they may however be redirected within the Calderwood school community to achieve best value and more effectiveness. No member of staff will be made redundant as has been suggested. The nursery provision now ensures a sustainable future for Calderwood pupils. It is the wish of the Department to grow Calderwood Lodge and make it the number one school of choice for the local Jewish community and for those who wish a school education based on the Jewish ethos and culture.

John Wilson  
Director of Education

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