

Scottish Socialist

Party

unite across the city **SAVE OUR SCHOOLS**



The latest batch of 25 primary and nursery school closures announced by Glasgow city council is a shameless, outrageous, undisguised exercise in cuts. It has nothing to do with improving the care and education of our children.

13 primaries and 12 nurseries are to be shut, and not even replaced by new buildings this time round (unlike 2 years ago) - to make savings of £3.7m a year.

No pretence that it's for educational advance this time then!

2,000 kids are affected, and 100 teaching staff will in some cases face redundancies - though the council hopes through volunteers and early retirement. But a job loss is still a job loss! Even one less teacher or Child Development Officer is still a cut to our children's education and development!

The council of course say it's not financially driven - but because of the dilapidated buildings and low pupil numbers.

The **Scottish Socialist Party** initiated several rounds of **Save Our Schools campaigns** - way back in the 1990s, but also 2 years ago - uniting parents and communities across the city.

And our basic arguments over the years apply with added force this time round:

- lower pupil numbers should be an opportunity for smaller classes and better individual attention from teachers/CDOs - not an excuse for cuts in staff, bigger classes in bigger (more alienating) super-sized schools.
- the dumping of these 2,000 kids into other existing schools/nurseries will inevitably involve bigger classes - and less attention by over-stretched staff.
- it means greater travel to school distances, in many

cases more danger from busy roads, with added exposure of our kids to pollution

- it means added car pollution because walking there is not a viable option in many cases - or the cost of taxis
- in some areas it will also raise the problem of 'territorial' boundaries, added conflict between slightly older kids from different areas.



Instead of these brutal budget cuts, the SSP demands that the council should:

- make sure there's the staff to implement MAXIMUM class sizes of 20 in every school
- for schools to be kept local and accessible
- with investment in the buildings that often ARE dilapidated - because they have been deliberately run down by the council's failure to invest in them!

The Scottish Socialist Party demands the council funds schools to cater for smaller, well-equipped, well-staffed classes, in locally accessible schools.

And instead of carrying out cuts to our kids and communities, the Labour council should have the spine to stand up beside parents, staff and the trade unions to fight for the funding off the SNP government to match those needs.

Stand firm and united - force the council to retreat from this butchery. Save Our Schools!

JOIN GLASGOW SAVE OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

Parents are already organising to stop the closures. SSP members have been involved as parents and members of their local communities.

We congratulate the people who have shown more courage than the entire band of Labour councillors put together. And we appeal to those involved to watch out for divide and conquer tactics from the council.

That is why we would propose that as well as locally based save Our Schools campaigns, we need a united, city-wide campaign that can coordinate the opposition to these attacks on our kids and communities.

Get in touch with the city-wide Save Our Schools campaign - formed in the last round of closures - by emailing saveourschoolsglasgow@yahoo.co.uk or by contacting the SSP (we will pass on your details to the Save Our Schools organisers).

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