

Briefing Note Template

Elected Member Briefing – Update on Temporary Classroom and Refurbishment Works at Dunrossness Primary School

Elected Member Briefing Note Ref. No. 2026-01

About this Briefing Note

Briefing by: *Samantha Flaws, Director of Children's Services*

Date: 08/01/2026

Subject: Update on Temporary Classroom and Refurbishment Works at Dunrossness Primary School

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Purpose

This briefing note is to provide an update on the planned demolition of the temporary classroom and the wider refurbishment works at Dunrossness Primary School.

Background

Further updates were issued in September and December 2025 regarding this planned demolition and refurbishment at Dunrossness Primary School. A further update has been provided by the Executive Manager, Learning Estate regarding the most recent plans, please see attached update.

Key points

We appreciate that any building works on a live school site raise understandable questions, and this update is intended to provide clear reassurance about safety, explain how disruption will be minimised, and outline the positive opportunities these works will bring for children and staff.

Overview

The attached update outlines detail on:

- Works to remove the former temporary classrooms are due to begin on Monday 12 January 2026;
- Mandatory safety measures that will be in place in order to keep the school safe;

- How noise will be managed to minimise disruption for the pupils;
- How increased traffic movement around the school will be managed;
- How internal refurbishment plans will improve learning spaces;
- Plans for the development of the outdoor space; and
- Opportunities for the school moving forward.

Previous updates can be found online: [Learning Estate – Shetland Islands Council](#)

Last modified on: 12 January 2026

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Dunrossness Primary School – Update on Temporary Classroom and Refurbishment Works

Further to the update shared in December, we can now confirm that works to remove the former temporary classrooms are due to begin on Monday 12 January. We appreciate that any building works on a live school site raise understandable questions, and this update is intended to provide clear reassurance about safety, explain how disruption will be minimised, and outline the positive opportunities these works will bring for children and staff.

Are the mandatory safety measures adequate and in place to keep the school community safe?

The contractor has now submitted a full suite of Health & Safety documentation including the Method Statement and task-specific Risk Assessments. These are being formally reviewed by both the Council's Assets, Commissioning & Procurement team and the Corporate Health & Safety team. Where required, these teams will work directly with the contractor to ensure all arrangements fully meet Council standards and statutory requirements before work commences and throughout the project.

These plans include robust control measures covering:

- Secure fencing and clearly defined exclusion zones
- Safe separation of pedestrians, vehicles and plant
- Traffic management and supervised vehicle movements
- Dust, noise and debris control
- Timing and sequencing of works
- Use of appropriate equipment and PPE

Once finalised, relevant details will be shared with the school community so that everyone is clear on how the site will operate.

How will noise be managed to minimise disruption for pupils?

Since the temporary classrooms were taken out of use in July 2024, staff have already reorganised internal spaces to ensure all pupils are accommodated safely within the main school building.

- Staff will continue to plan timetables and room use carefully so that appropriate spaces are available for all, including for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- We have agreed with the contractor that any particularly noisy activities will take place outside school hours wherever possible.
- The demolition itself involves dismantling lightweight structures, rather than heavy demolition, which reduces noise and disruption.

How will increased traffic movement be managed?

The demolition area will be fully enclosed with Heras-type fencing and debris netting, creating a secure exclusion zone. Additional vehicle movements will be controlled by trained banksmen, and deliveries will continue to be planned outside school drop-off and pick-up times. The contractor has currently indicated that they will be using a section of the car park for their welfare facilities. This will be confirmed by the contractor once on site. Normal janitorial and catering deliveries are not expected to be affected.

Where are the plans at with the internal refurbishment to improve learning spaces?

The internal refurbishment will improve the quality and flexibility of the spaces within the school. This will provide the Head Teacher and staff with options to use the spaces in a way that meets the needs of all learners now and those in years to come. Staff will continue to plan carefully for children who require individual space, larger spaces to accommodate specialist equipment or quiet spaces, ensuring their needs are met.

The updated plans which include the addition of three toilets for the internal refurbishment have been shared with the Head Teacher for consultation with school staff. Once feedback has been received from school staff, further consultation will take place with key stakeholders.

What about the plans for the development of the outdoor space?

The outdoor space that will be created will be designed with full input from the children, staff and the wider school community. It has the potential to create a unique space that the children want to use and will benefit from, both socially and educationally with the added advantage that it will be sheltered from the prevailing wind. Work on the design of the outdoor space will begin after the Easter holidays.

What are the opportunities moving forward?

While these works represent a change for the school, they also offer important opportunities for the school community. These include:

- A chance for children to see real-world construction and refurbishment in action, supporting Developing the Young Workforce learning.
- Opportunities for pupils, staff and the school community to help shape the design and layout of both internal and external spaces.
- A smaller, more efficient school footprint, making the building efficient to supervise, maintain and heat.
- Reduced energy use and lower carbon footprint.

This work aligns with key principles of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy, including:

- Making best use of resources
- Creating sustainable and inclusive environments
- Supporting outdoor learning
- Improving outcomes for all learners

Staying in touch

This is the third of a series of updates and we will continue to communicate with all stakeholders throughout the project. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please contact Neil Beattie by phone at **01595 744 129** or email neil.beattie@shetland.gov.uk

January 2026