

Skeld Timeline

This page will be updated throughout the review process to provide information on key milestones and decisions relating to Skeld Primary School.

February 2023 – Mothballing principles approved

The Education and Families Committee approved principles for considering the mothballing and reopening of schools where pupil numbers fall below agreed thresholds.

September-November 2023 – School identified for further assessment

School roll and projected roll information indicated that Skeld Primary School had fallen below the Council's threshold for consideration of mothballing and a formal assessment process commenced.

January-March 2024 – Assessment and engagement process undertaken

As part of the Mothballing Toolkit process, engagement took place with pupils, parents and carers, staff and the Parent Council. Educational, community and transport considerations were assessed.

April 2024 – Education and Families Committee approve mothballing

The Education and Families Committee approved the mothballing of Skeld Primary School and its Early Learning and Childcare provision from August 2024.

August 2024 – Skeld Primary School mothballed

The school ceased operating and pupils transferred to alternative education provision. Staff members were redeployed.

September 2024 – Revised procedures approved

The Council approved revised Mothballing and Reopening Procedures following a lessons learned review of the Skeld and Cullivoe processes.

February-March 2025 – Annual review undertaken

Parents and carers within the catchment area were invited to register an interest in enrolling children should the school reopen. No enrolment forms were returned.

February-March 2026 – Further annual review undertaken

A second review was undertaken with families living within the catchment area. Again, no enrolment forms were returned.

June 2026 – Education and Families Committee agree next steps

A report was presented to Committee seeking approval to consider the preliminary requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and to undertake an Options Appraisal relating to the future of Skeld Primary School.

August 2026 – Full Council consider next steps

The report was presented to Full Council seeking approval to consider the preliminary requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and to undertake an Options Appraisal relating to the future of Skeld Primary School. The Council approved progression of the Options Appraisal process. No decision was taken regarding the permanent future of the school and no statutory consultation was initiated.

Autumn 2026 – Options Appraisal development *(In Progress)*

Work is ongoing to assess the available options for the future of Skeld Primary School and to evaluate potential educational, community and transport implications.

Future Milestones

- Completion of Options Appraisal
- Publication of findings
- Education and Families Committee consideration of appraisal findings
- Decision on future course of action
- Statutory consultation (if required)
- Final Committee decision