

# Comments left by pupils in space and learning survey

## Overcrowding

- The school is severely overcrowded, especially in corridors during class changeovers. Corridors are too narrow, causing pushing, delays, and lateness to class.
- Overcrowding makes it hard to breathe, unsafe to move, and stressful.
- Walking between campuses (especially to Darroch) wastes break and lunch time.
- Too many pupils are being admitted each year, particularly S1s.
- Out-of-catchment admissions contribute to the problem.
- Overcrowding affects learning, concentration, and teacher availability.

## Lunch, Break, and Seating

- There are not enough indoor areas to eat or sit during break and lunch.
- Many pupils are forced to sit on dirty corridor floors.
- Pupils are shouted at for sitting on the floor but given no alternatives.
- The canteen, forum, and library are too small or restricted.
- Senior pupils lack dedicated spaces to study or sit during free periods.
- Classrooms, tech rooms, or unused spaces should be opened for eating/studying.
- More booths, tables, and indoor seating are needed.
- Outdoor seating needs shelter for cold and wet weather.

## Study Spaces

- There are not enough quiet study spaces for pupils, especially S5 and S6.
- Many labelled “study spaces” are inaccessible or pupils are told to move.
- Fake/open classrooms and corridor teaching areas are noisy and distracting.
- Library access is limited and should be open more often for study.
- Senior pupils need a common room or guaranteed study area.

## Toilets

- Toilets are extremely dirty, vandalised, blocked, or unusable.
- Many toilets have broken or missing doors and locks.
- There are technically enough toilets, but most are in poor condition.
- Toilets are overcrowded and unhygienic due to vaping and antisocial behaviour.
- More enclosed, gender-separate toilets are needed.
- Toilets on certain floors or buildings are missing or unusable.
- Better maintenance, monitoring, and consequences for vandalism are required.
- Pupils should be allowed to use toilets when needed during class.

## Buildings and Facilities

- More permanent buildings are needed; temporary ones are a short-term fix.
- Any new buildings should be close together on one campus if possible.
- Science, CDT, computing, home economics, and kitchen facilities are insufficient.
- Practical subjects are being disrupted due to lack of specialist rooms.
- Some year groups miss out on practical lessons because of space limits.
- Adding classrooms for non-practical subjects could free specialist rooms.

## Staffing and Learning Impact

- Overcrowding puts strain on teachers and reduces individual support.
- Some pupils experience frequent substitute teachers.
- Larger classes reduce learning quality and increase disruption.
- Overcrowding affects access to resources like equipment and materials.

## Organisation and Systems

- Class changeovers need better organisation to reduce congestion.
- Possible solutions include staggered period changes or one-way corridor systems.
- Pupils blocking corridors while waiting for class worsens crowding.
- Clearer guidance and supervision during transitions is needed.

## General Sentiment

- The school no longer feels like a community.
- Pupils feel frustrated, unsafe, unheard, and overwhelmed.
- Many believe reducing the number of pupils would help more than adding space.
- There is concern that issues are acknowledged but not acted upon.