

Phillips, Rosalie

From: Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr)
Sent: 11 February 2016 12:40
To: School Responses
Subject: Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area Consultation: • Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf • Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr • Ysgol Pencae

consultation response:

These proposals seem entirely reasonable and I would support them with the proviso that families who already have one child in a Welsh Medium high school have the option to send siblings to the same school. Not only is it important not just for parents convenience but also for school and community cohesion. We know that the best performing schools often have strong PTA's but also good links with parents and the community. The more invested a family is in a school the more likely they are to participate in the life of the school, and their children's education. This becomes more problematic, in a family with 3 children (1 I primary and 2 in separate schools) where theoretically there could be three schools the parents have to engage with.

These proposals are more likely to be welcomed by pre to if this concession is made.

Best
Kirsty Davies-Warner

Councillor for Llandaff and Danescourt
E: kirsty.davies-warner@cardiff.gov.uk T: 07900692898

Subject: FW: Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

From: McEvoy, Neil (Cllr)
Sent: 01 February 2016 21:30
To: Duddridge-Hossain, Michele; Ford, Lisa (Cllr); Mitchell, Paul (Cllr); Aubrey, Gareth (Cllr); Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr); Cook, Richard (Cllr); Elsmore, Susan (Cllr); Patel, Ramesh (Cllr); Wild, Caro (Cllr); Gordon, Iona (Cllr); Williams, Darren (Cllr)
Cc: Merry, Sarah (Cllr); Batchelar, Nick; Nightingale, Janine; Andrewartha, Brett
Subject: RE: Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

1 caveat : that the sibling link is protected.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Duddridge-Hossain, Michele
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 03:05 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Ford, Lisa (Cllr); McEvoy, Neil (Cllr); Mitchell, Paul (Cllr); Aubrey, Gareth (Cllr); Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr); Cook, Richard (Cllr); Elsmore, Susan (Cllr); Patel, Ramesh (Cllr); Wild, Caro (Cllr); Gordon, Iona (Cllr); Williams, Darren (Cllr)
Cc: Merry, Sarah (Cllr); Batchelar, Nick; Nightingale, Janine; Andrewartha, Brett
Subject: Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

Dear Councillor,

We are contacting you as a local member of a ward in which we are undertaking consultation regarding proposed changes to catchment areas which if agreed would take effect from September 2017.

The consultation is due to start **Tuesday 2nd February** and run for 4 weeks ending on the **Tuesday 1st March**. The consultation will be sent via email to the statutory stakeholders; displayed online on the Council's website and hard copies of the maps will be sent to the families of the areas affected through schools and via post to those in catchment in the 0-3 age group.

The schools within your ward that would be directly affected and the rationale for the proposed changes are as follows:

- Ysgol Plasmawr
- Ysgol Glan Taf
- Ysgol Pencae

The proposal is to realign the Ysgol Plasmawr/Ysgol Glan Taf catchment area boundary, by transferring the Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glan Taf.

Wards affected: Fairwater
Llandaff

Ysgol Plasmawr is experiencing increased levels of in catchment demand which is now exceeding supply and this is set to grow over the coming years which will disadvantages those families living furthest from the school. In contrast Ysgol Glan Taf has insufficient catchment demand which is presenting issues with regard to offering a broad and balanced curriculum with the school now facing budgetary challenges.

The rationale for proposing these catchment area changes is therefore primarily to support an improved balance in the supply and demand of Welsh-medium high school places across the area and to provide greater transparency and parity at application for all families across this locality.

We would like to brief you more fully and to listen to your views of the proposed changes and therefore would like to offer the opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss these at , **Wednesday 3rd February at 11am-12pm, Committee Room 4**. Alternatively if this time is not convenient, an officer can contact you to brief you via telephone, if this option is better for you could you please indicate times that it would be appropriate for officers to contact.

Should you wish to attend could you please notify me via return email.

Regards,

Michele

MICHELE DUDDRIDGE HOSSAIN | School Organisation Planning Manager / Rheolwr Cynllunio Trefniadaeth Ysgolion | ☎ 029 2087 3943

♻️ Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email? / ♻️ Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd - oes angen argraffu'r e-bost hwn mewn gwirionedd?

From: Davies, Alun (Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf)
Sent: 23 February 2016 12:03
To: School Responses
Subject: WM Primary and Secondary Catchment Area Consultation

Hoffwn gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgych Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlaf fod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ol lleoedd gwag ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau'r Cyngor sydd eisoes mewn bod. Nid yw cynlluniau blaenorol wedi cyflawni'r nod yma ond hyderaf y byddai'r cynnig hwn yn annerch y broblem ac yn galluogi'r ysgolion a enwir i ddatblygu a chwrdd a'r galw cynyddol am Addysg Gymraeg.

I would wish to express my support for the proposal that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. I feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources. The previous School Organisation Plan failed, at the point of implementation, to achieve this aim. This current proposal, however, does address this issue and will, I believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff. Admissions will have full supporting evidence showing that our admission number has been well below capacity, and continues to be so, since the removal of feeder primaries from our catchment area in 2012 to establish Ysgol Gyfun Bro Edern. It was always integral to the council's SOP that this shortfall in student numbers created in Glantaf be relieved by the growth in the Plasmawr catchment numbers and reallocation of catchments. While I understand that a sister school will be reluctant to lose a 'high achieving' primary feeder, I fear that its retention would inevitably lead to students lost to the WM sector as a whole, avoidable capital expenditure and avoidable creation of surplus places at Glantaf. While I do not feel that either school can plead significant social deprivation I would point out that the FSM % at Glantaf is higher than that at Plasmawr and that the transfer of pupils from Pencae, far from creating, social imbalance between the schools, would actually help address this issue. I have consistently, stressed that W.M education is comprehensive and needs to cater for all learners. I can envisage a time when catchment areas for all three schools will need further consideration in order to cater for demand and view the required setting aside of purely personal interest as incumbent upon ourselves as Headteachers, in co-operation with the Council, in order to adequately plan for future placements and the development of WM education across the city. The current proposal, does, I believe, require the same vision for the long term sustainability of provision.

Yours faithfully

Alun G. Davies

Alun G. Davies

Pennaeth / Headteacher

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

Linell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 02920838804

Sent: 29 February 2016 13:50

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer Dalgylch Ysgolion Cynradd ac Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg / Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer Dalgylch Ysgolion Cynradd ac Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg / Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

28 Chwefror / February 2016

Michele Duddridge Hossain
Schools Organisation Planning Manager
Room 219, County Hall
Cardiff CF10 4UW

Dear Michele

As the Chair of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf Governing Body I wish to express the full support of the Body to the current proposals to transfer Ysgol Pencae's catchment area from that of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.

Fel Corff Llywodraethol Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, hoffem gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgylch Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlwn bod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ôl lleoedd gwag (gweler isod), ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau cyfredol y Cyngor; adnoddau sydd, fel y gwyddoch, eisoes mewn bod.

As a Governing Body we feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces (see below), while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources.

In my letter to the Director of Education on 17 July 2015 I outlined in some detail the concerns of the Glantaf Governing Body regarding pupil allocation and catchment areas. In summary, when established, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern took as its catchment the area to the east of the river formerly feeding Glantaf. This was, necessarily, at the expense of Glantaf's former catchment and was effectively achieved by removing two existing schools with 2FE each from the Glantaf catchment. To this re-arrangement Glantaf had, and has no objection. The effect of this reduction by 4FE from 2012 onwards did however leave Glantaf dependent on admissions from children in the primary catchment areas of Melin Gruffydd, Y Wern, Mynydd Bychan and Glan Morfa. This meant that in 2013 Glantaf anticipated receiving 5FE (i.e. approx 150 pupils) while having capacity for 8FE (approx. 240 pupils). Likely growth in the immediate future also meant that this figure would not exceed 6FE. Although Glantaf was to receive pupils from the new school at Glan

Ceubal, this was not opened until 2009 with the first children moving to secondary level in 2017 and even then in numbers below 10. In response to this situation, the Authority proposed that Glantaf's catchment should be extended to include the whole of the catchment of Pwll Coch that at that time fed Plasmawr. This was an eminently sensible suggestion but as you will be aware, and I will not go into details here (please see my earlier letter to the Director), incorrect letters being sent from the Council and failure to apply the admissions' policy strictly unfortunately resulted in much confusion and pupil allocation shortage.

In July 2015, the consequences of all of this became apparent. Again, the figures are well known to the Council's 'Admissions' Officers so I will not reiterate them; what they underline, and the reasoning for the current consultation, is that it was clearly necessary to revisit the assigned catchment areas of Glantaf and Plasmawr.

In my letter of 17 July 2015 I outlined two steps which we, as a Governing Body, thought appropriate to alleviate and correct the imbalance. Firstly, a strong indication to Pwll Coch parents that the majority of children leaving that school should, as specified in the revised catchment arrangements, transfer to Glantaf where there room is for them. Secondly, a transfer of the Pencae catchment from Plasmawr to Glantaf. By such means, the Glantaf catchment will be increased and restored to 8FE (1FE from Pwll Coch and 1FE from Pencae) and the numbers seeking entry to Plasmawr will be reduced to that approaching capacity at the school (i.e. reduced from 230 to approximately 170 by removing 2FE to enable Plasmawr to accept the extra 20 children to be expected from the growing numbers at Nant Caerau).

The current proposal addresses specifically this second suggestion and will, we believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours sincerely

Hefin

Dr Hefin Jones

CA16 10m 57

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

Mr N. Batchelor
Director of Education
County Hall
Cardiff



February 23rd, 2016

Dear Nick

I am writing to you to oppose in the strongest possible terms the proposal to move the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae away from the catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr and into the catchment area of Ysgol Glantaf.

As demand for Welsh medium education continues to grow and the Local Development Plans for Cardiff become a reality it is vital that the catchment areas for the three Welsh medium secondary schools are viewed in the medium to long term rather than seeking an easy short term and short-sighted fix to address the current small imbalance in pupil numbers which could be extremely detrimental to one school or another and which could have long lasting educational legacy issues for the whole of Cardiff.

Clear principles were agreed during the planning phase leading to the opening of Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 which included ensuring that the catchment areas of both Plasmawr and Glantaf were as similar as possible in terms of socio-economic indicators i.e. it was deemed to be essential that both schools had an equitable social mix to ensure that they had an equal opportunity to flourish and succeed.

Currently both Plasmawr and Glantaf have relatively diverse socio-economic catchment areas as illustrated in table A below. Moving Ysgol Pencae into the Glantaf catchment would change the socio-economic balance of both schools and would be to the detriment of the Plasmawr school community.

Table A: %FSM per catchment Welsh medium primary school as an indicator of socio-economic backgrounds (2015).

| Plasmawr catchment School | %FSM |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Nant Caerau | 28.80% |
| Pencae | 2.70% |
| Coed Y Gof | 24.20% |
| Gwaelod y Garth | 5.40% |
| Creigiau | 3.20% |
| Treganna | 3.70% |

| Glantaf catchment School | %FSM |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Melin Gruffydd | 3.70% |
| Y Wern | 4.90% |
| Pwll Coch | 7.10% |
| Mynydd Bychan | 9.80% |
| Glan Morfa | 28.30% |

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



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The consultation proposal is an easy, short term, practical solution based solely on the geographical proximity of the Pencae catchment area to the Glantaf catchment area. In purely theoretical terms it is a logical solution, however the proposal has shortcomings in terms of educational principles and would have a lasting effect on Welsh medium education across the city. Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would strengthen what is already an extremely successful and high performing secondary school and would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr. Plasmawr's attainment standards are likely to suffer and our sixth form retention rates would reduce as we would annually lose in the region of 30 pupils who normally attain well at KS4 and who historically have continued into the sixth form at Plasmawr. This knee-jerk proposal is setting Plasmawr up to fail.

I am extremely proud of Plasmawr's strong academic record (highest performing school in Cardiff at A level for the past three years) and our excellent wellbeing and inclusive ethos which has been built over the past 18 years. The strength of our school community is the fact that we are such a comprehensive secondary school serving the whole of the west of Cardiff including some of the most deprived and some of the most affluent wards in Cardiff. Moving Pencae one of our founder catchment primary schools from our catchment will polarise differences between Plasmawr and Glantaf, turning Glantaf into a far more attractive school for prospective parents.

This proposal if approved would in my opinion create a centrally located elite Welsh medium school serving some of the most affluent wards in Cardiff and would result in Plasmawr serving primarily the western fringe of Cardiff which includes some of the most socially deprived and challenging areas of Cardiff. This decision would challenge the founding principles of establishing Plasmawr as an equal to Glantaf in terms of nature of catchment areas. This decision if accepted would realistically result in aspirational parents actively seeking to move to live into the Glantaf catchment area exaggerating the difficult situation facing Plasmawr, creating in effect a Welsh medium equivalent of Cardiff High school in central Cardiff. Polarising Welsh medium schools should be avoided at all costs and actively seeking other far more positive short term solutions should be the priority.

Moving Ysgol Pencae into the Glantaf catchment will create its own capacity problems for Glantaf. The number of forms of entry feeding Glantaf indicate that within a brief period of time it will significantly exceed its own admission number of 8 forms of entry (Table B). I fail to comprehend how moving Pencae into Glantaf's catchment will solve any medium to long term capacity issues for Welsh medium education in the city and in fact it can only be seen as a short term measure which will create its own set of problems which will have to be addressed.

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
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Table B: September 2017 catchment areas if Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment including potential forms of entry.

| | F/E | FSM |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|
| Plasmawr (6 f/e) | | |
| Nant Caerau | 1 | 28.80% |
| Coed Y Gof | 1.5 | 24.20% |
| Gwaelod y Garth | 0.7 | 5.40% |
| Creigiau | 0.8 | 3.20% |
| Treganna | 2 | 3.70% |
| | 6.0 | |

| | F/E | FSM |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Glantaf (8 f/e) | | |
| Melin Gruffydd | 2 | 3.70% |
| Y Wern | 2/3 | 4.90% |
| Pwll Coch | 2 | 7.10% |
| Mynydd Bychan | 1 | 9.80% |
| Glan Morfa | 1 | 28.30% |
| Pencae | 1 | 2.70% |
| Glan Ceubal | 1 | 32.60% |
| | 10/11 | |

My own proposal would be to maintain the current catchment area provision and temporarily change the Plasmawr admission number to 210 (7 forms of entry) and ensure that Glantaf are supported until their pupil numbers grow through the primary sector within their existing catchment. The issues arising from this proposal are summarised in the table below:

| +ve | -ve |
|---|---|
| <p>No further short term disruption to catchment areas until a decision is taken on medium to long term catchment issues for the three WM high schools.</p> <p>Allows ample time to plan accurately for future growth in secondary Welsh medium education taking into account new housing development plans etc.</p> <p>No need for knee jerk reaction decisions which could have long term effect on Welsh medium education.</p> <p>Allows for creative capacity building solutions in terms of sharing facilities with local leisure centre and / or Waterhall Youth Centre.</p> <p>Maintains parental satisfaction throughout.</p> | <p>Capacity building solution required to cater for temporary growth in numbers which may have some cost implications e.g. develop Fairwater leisure centre / Waterhall Youth centre.</p> |

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



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In conclusion, I would urge you to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions, but rather to pause and take a measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours faithfully

John

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



CA16/WM/62

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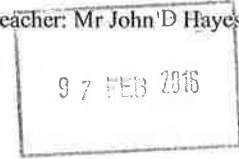
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Mr N. Batchelor

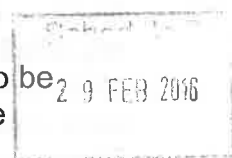
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Cardiff Local Authority

February 25th, 2016

Dear Mr Batchelor

We wish to express our strong objection to the proposal for Ysgol Pencae to be transferred from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.



The consultation notes the following:

'Projections indicate that the demand for Welsh-medium places from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr will exceed the number of places available at the school from September 2017. However, demand from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf is predicted to be less than the number of places at the school.'

As data to support this statement is not provided as part of the consultation it is difficult to ascertain to what extent, and at what point, demand for places at Ysgol Glantaf may also begin to exceed capacity. On the basis of the number of forms of entry being admitted to Ysgol Glantaf, it may well exceed its standard admission number in 2017, and if not will probably do so in 2018.

Evidence suggests that the vast majority of pupils from Ysgol Pwll Coch will transfer to Ysgol Glantaf in September 2016, firmly establishing Pwll Coch as one of Glantaf's feeder primary schools. In the absence of supporting data, we feel it is reasonable to ask whether projected growth of pupil numbers at Glantaf (particularly in relation to two of its feeder schools – Glan Ceubal and Pwll Coch) has been taken fully into account.

In view of the growing demand for Welsh-medium provision across Cardiff, we wish to have an assurance that the authority is planning places in the secondary sector in a strategic way which looks beyond the short-term scenario forecast for 2017. We recognise that such planning presents a number of challenges – not least because of the significant demographic changes and projected population growth in parts of the city over the coming years. However, we have serious concerns about the risks associated with seeking a short-term – if seemingly tidy and straightforward – solution to one aspect of the challenge. We urge you to delay any decisions until a more strategic mid- to long-term assessment has been taken of projected demand

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



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and capacity. We would expect this assessment to take into account not only capacity in Ysgol Plasmawr and Glantaf but also in Ysgol Bro Edern. The consultation does not make any reference to the way in which projected capacity/demand across the city is likely to impact on wider considerations relating to the authority's vision for strategic delivery of Welsh-medium provision.

As Plasmawr has continued to grow over recent years we have been heartened by the school's ability to adhere to its fundamental goal of seeking excellence in all its endeavours. Its ability to deliver this aim is based on the principle of nurturing high expectations in an inclusive environment. This is achieved through providing a stimulating and caring environment for pupils from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds to learn alongside each other. We are concerned that moving Ysgol Pencae to the Glantaf catchment area would have an adverse effect on the socio-economic fabric of Plasmawr and would also have far-reaching implications for the wider demographic of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Cardiff. Ysgol Pencae is a high-performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. The proposal under discussion would run the risk of reinforcing the status of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, an already successful and high-performing school, as a centre of excellence for aspirational parents, to the detriment of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Bro Edern. The potential implications of such a development are, in our view, significant, spanning a range of considerations such as raising school standards, capacity to deliver effective and equitable post-16 provision, and promoting a sense of civic awareness and responsibility in our pupils.

Whilst it could be argued that some degree of socio-economic segmentation is almost inevitable in the secondary school sector across a city such as Cardiff, it is our view that the Welsh-medium sector presents the authority with an opportunity to plan comprehensive school provision in a way that will reduce the risk of socio-economic polarisation. Viewing the current challenge as an opportunity to refine this strategic approach would, we suggest, be entirely in keeping with the vision set out in Professor Donaldson's *Successful Futures*, where 'ambitious, capable learners' are also to be viewed as 'members of a diverse society'.

We therefore urge you to pause and to consider the mid- and long-term implications of the proposal to modify Ysgol Pencae's current catchment area. We are fully aware of the need to consider alternatives in the short term in order to ease the pressure on places in 2017, and we would be very happy to participate in discussions with you and other partners to consider interim solutions that would not require a modification to catchment areas.

The risks associated with pursuing the current proposal, we conclude, are significant. Furthermore, implementing the proposal would be a missed opportunity to plan strategically for a thriving Welsh-medium sector in the capital.

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



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Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mair Jones".

Mair Parry-Jones

Chair of Governors

(on behalf of the Full Governing Body)



Cyngor Sir Caerdydd
Cardiff County Council



From: Thomas, Richard (Ysgol Pencae)
Sent: 29 February 2016 10:42
To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: Ysgol Pencae's Response

Good morning,

Regarding changing Ysgol Pencae's catchment

Here are my comments as the Head Teacher of Ysgol Pencae:

1. It was disappointing being informed that a change in catchments is underway – two days before the consultation went to parents/the public! Myself and the Governing Body should have been informed of this months in advance in order to seriously discuss it over a period of time. This has caused bad feelings in the school's community and it looks bad on me as a Head Teacher and on the school's Governing Body.
2. What is the County's LONG TERM plan regarding Ysgol Pencae's catchments as well as the capital city's other Welsh schools? I DO NOT want the catchments to change within the next two or three years. I would like the County's Officers to come and discuss this with members of Ysgol Pencae's Governing Body promptly.
3. I'm concerned that Ysgol Glantaf is going to be a Welsh elite school with Ysgol Plasmawr losing a cohort of pupils who are well supported by their parents. The social mixture is so important for the good and education of every pupil and I do not want Ysgol Plasmawr to develop to be a 'difficult' school which services less disadvantaged catchments and as a result become a disadvantaged school.
4. This consultation is very distressing to parents, especially parents of the current Years 3-5 because it means that the classes will be split i.e. friends in the class will be separated because parents decide to send their children to the secondary school which is more appropriate and more convenient for them. This transition period is a deeply emotional period for children and so this can have a harmful effect on the pupils.

Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf are two very good schools and are an asset to Cardiff County's education system. I, as the Head Teacher of Ysgol Pencae, support the two schools and want to ensure that Ysgol Pencae pupils develop on the strong foundation which they have received in this school.

With thanks,

R Richard Thomas
Head

CA16/wm/369

Sent: 01 March 2016 09:26

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Consultation: Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

Consultation: Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

Dear Sir/Madam,

In order to draft a response to this consultation, members of the Governing Body of Ysgol Pencae have met with the parent representatives from each class, members of staff and have also taken into account the responses made directly by parents to the School.

The Governing Body is pleased to recognise that this proposed change in catchment area will not affect unduly the academic or extracurricular opportunities available to our pupils. Ysgol Pencae is very fortunate to be located in close proximity to two high-quality Welsh-medium secondary schools, both of which offer secondary education of the highest standard.

The Governing Body does however have some concerns regarding this proposed change that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. We would therefore appreciate if the Council could respond to the questions we have noted below:

1. What are the Council's medium to long term plans to deal with growth in Welsh medium education?

It does not appear that the Council has a strategic approach to dealing with the growth in Welsh medium education in Cardiff. This decision to change catchment areas appears to be a reactive measure to deal with one school apparently being oversubscribed whilst the other has some capacity. A decision made purely on short term capacity will always be problematic. We would therefore like to know:

2. On what basis is this proposed change being made?

Since Ysgol Pencae opened in 1991, its pupils and their parents have always known that they will be attending Ysgol Plasmawr. Ysgol Pencae has therefore developed strong and longstanding relationships with the other feeder schools for Ysgol Plasmawr and also with the school itself. These relationships take time to develop and are crucial to ensuring a smooth transition for pupils from primary to secondary education. It is therefore extremely disappointing that this proposed change may come into effect with a little over one academic year to prepare for such a significant change.

With the expected increase in the number of homes in the areas surrounding Ysgol Pencae and those feeding Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf, there is real concern that this proposed change will only be for a short period of time. We are concerned that if the Council does not have an appropriate strategy to manage this growth, there will be further issues with oversubscription in both secondary and primary schools and yet another short term solution will be found that could further disrupt pupils at Ysgol Pencae. We would therefore like to know:

3. If this change does occur, for how long will this new catchment be guaranteed?

The wellbeing of our pupils is the key concern for all at Ysgol Pencae and even though, as we have already noted, both secondary schools will be able to offer high quality experiences for our pupils, introducing this change from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf at such short notice will have a considerable effect on the oldest children at Ysgol Pencae. Many of them and their parents will either have to decide to leave their friends to be with older siblings at Ysgol Plasmawr or continue with their friends and attend a different school from their siblings with all the practical issues and challenges that this will bring to parents.

We would therefore appreciate if you could respond to the following:

4. Will children with siblings already at Ysgol Plasmawr be guaranteed places at Plasmawr if this change occurs? and
5. Will pupils in Years 4 and 5 be guaranteed places at Ysgol Glantaf even if they are outside the current catchment area?

There are some pupils that fall into this last category and there are concerns that if they are not allowed to progress with their classmates then this would have a negative effect on their development.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the safety of children travelling from the Highfields area to Ysgol Glantaf. The steps leading from the area down to Ysgol Glantaf are poorly lit and there is no appropriate crossing to reach Ysgol Glantaf.

Can you also therefore confirm:

6. If this change does come about, that it will ensure a safe route and appropriate road crossings for pupils to reach Ysgol Glantaf?

The Governing Body would be grateful if you could address the questions asked in this letter as soon as possible. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Council in person to discuss these proposed changes and the effect that they will have on Ysgol Pencae.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Rhys Tiplady

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Pencae

Sent: 29 February 2016 14:49

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Ysgol Pencae catchment area proposal

Hoffwn gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgych Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlaf fod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ol lleoedd gwag ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau'r Cyngor sydd eisoes mewn bod. Nid yw cynlluniau blaenorol wedi cyflawni'r nod yma ond hyderaf y byddai'r cynnig hwn yn annerch y broblem ac yn galluogi'r ysgolion a enwir i ddatblygu a chwrdd a'r galw cynyddol am Addysg Gymraeg.

I would wish to express my support for the proposal that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. I feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources. The previous School Organisation Plan failed, at the point of implementation, to achieve this aim. This current proposal, however, does address this issue and will, I believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff. The removal of schools from Glantaf catchment area to provide pupils for the newly formed Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder on the eastern side of the city has had a dramatic impact on Glantaf intake, without proper realignment of schools on the western side of the city to redress the balance. It was always integral to the council's SOP that this shortfall in student numbers created in Glantaf be relieved by the growth in the Plasmawr catchment numbers and reallocation of catchments. I can envisage a time when catchment areas for all three schools will need further consideration in order to cater for demand and view the required setting aside of purely personal interest as incumbent upon ourselves as Headteachers, in co-operation with the Council, in order to adequately plan for future placements and the development of WM education across the city. The current proposal, does, I believe, require the same vision for the long term sustainability of provision.

Elinor Patchell

Chair/Cadeirydd Ysgol Gyfun Bro Eder.

Phillips, Rosalie

CA16/wm/36

From: Hayes, Mike (Schools)
Sent: 29 February 2016 09:23
To: School Responses
Subject: Response - Plasmawr Glantaf Pencae
Attachments: Plasmawr - Glantaf - Pencae Catchment Consultation.doc

Mike Hayes
Pennaeth / Headteacher
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof
Beechley Drive
Pentrebaen
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF5 3SG
029 20564585

I strongly oppose the proposal to transfer the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae from Plasmawr to Glantaf.

I do not believe the numbers have been properly calculated in the short to medium term.

If Pwll Coch pupils all transfer to Glantaf (as should be the case), then they will have their allocated 8 forms of entry: Melin Gruffydd, Y Wern, Pwll Coch all 2 form entry and Mynydd Bychan & Glan Morfa providing 1 form entry each. Glan Ceubal will be providing more pupils as the numbers there increase, and Y Wern will soon have a third stream coming through.


The transfer of Pencae can only be seen as a short-term solution which will have long term, serious consequences for Plasmawr. There will be a real change in the social mix in Plasmawr and the knock-on effect will be severe for the school.

I note with interest the proposal to change the catchment areas of Fitzalan and Cantonian. Ironically, taking out Pencae from Plasmawr will be creating a very similar situation that the Council is trying to address in Cantonian.

I urge you to re-think the transfer of Pencae from one catchment to the other as the only option for solving the current, temporary admissions dilemma.

Sincerely,

Mike Hayes


29 February 2016

Mr N Batchelar
Education Director
Cardiff Council

Dear Mr Batchelar

The Future of Welsh Secondary Education in Cardiff

The purpose of this letter is to add Ysgol Gyfun Gwaelod-y-Garth's voice to those who oppose the proposal to transfer Ysgol Pencae from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment.

Our interest derives from our desire to ensure a bright future for Plasmawr, because that is the school which receives so many of our pupils, after they have left us.

The reasons for opposing are mentioned below, in a letter which I have also signed, and in a paper by John Hayes, Head teacher of Plasmawr.

I believe that the figures which suggest how big the pressure will be on Ysgol Glantaf, by 2017, clearly show that your current plan does not offer a long term solution to the problems we face.

Instead, it will disrupt Plasmawr's development – and discriminate against that school, its pupils and its parents, by greatly impairing on the school's ability to attract pupils from every ability and background – and thereby ensuring that the school still possesses an atmosphere that will enable it to develop educational and social potential of a wide and varied range of pupils (whilst also serving as an organization which reflects the varied communities which exist in West Cardiff).

At the same time, you will be transferring the problem in terms of a lack of capacity to Ysgol Glantaf which will be crowded by 2017.

Therefore with your plan you will have succeeded to create problems for both schools, impairing on their development and their ability to offer consummate education, whilst also creating confusion and uncertainty for staff, pupils and parents of Plasmawr and Glantaf.

Therefore Ysgol Gwaleod y Garth strongly supports Mr Hayes' proposal, namely the need to consider all of this in a long term context, and in the context of opening the fourth Welsh secondary school.

By following his ideas, a long term solution can be developed, whilst avoiding hurting Plasmawr and Glantaf.

I understand that he has consummate ideas in terms of creating extra space (temporarily) which will be needed in Plasmawr – and the education authority should consider them in detail, accepting that it will be a very valuable thing if there were a way to make them a reality, in order to protect the two schools.

I would like to remind you, also, that there's a statutory responsibility to impose on the education authority, in the near future, to consider the effect of your decisions and policies on people's ability to use Welsh (according to the Welsh Language Measure). Changing Plasmawr's catchment, in the way you have proposed, can significantly reduce the percentage of children from Welsh families who go there. Research shows that using Welsh at home makes you a lot more likely to use it socially. If you were to make this plan a reality, then, you would change the school's 'language landscape' and the pattern of the pupils language background. It will become harder, then, for the children who want to do this, to use Welsh in the yard and socially within the school – and with co-pupils outside of the school walls. You will be, therefore, in real danger of creating a situation which reduces the ability of people to use Welsh, contrary to the language standards.

Because of this, I'm copying this letter to the Welsh Commissioner. I know that she will respond to the situation.

With thanks – and with best wishes.

Huw Jones

Huw Onllwyn Jones
Chairman
Governing Board Ysgol Gwaelod-y-Garth

Mr N. Batchelor

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Cardiff Council

Schools catchment area consultation – Ysgol Pencae.

Dear Mr Batchelor

I strongly oppose the proposal to transfer the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for the following reasons:

- I believe that the proposal is a short-term solution which will have far-reaching implications for Ysgol Plasmawr in terms of the nature of its catchment area and to Ysgol Glantaf in terms of exceeding its own admission number in the medium term.
- I do not believe that the information provided in the consultation document (2 February 2016) provides sufficient evidence to be able to make an informed decision on this important issue.
- Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr in terms of its academic and participation profile, sixth form retention rate and would have a lasting negative effect on Welsh medium education across the city.
- The proposal challenges the founding principle of establishing Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 as an equal to Ysgol Glantaf in terms of the socio-economic nature of both catchment areas. I firmly believe that both schools should continue to be given an equal opportunity to flourish and prosper over the medium to long term. This proposal undermines the principle that both schools should have an equitable social mix of pupils.

I strongly believe that a longer term solution for the catchment areas of both Welsh medium secondary schools is required taking into account the additional projected growth in demand for Welsh medium education as large new residential developments are built in Cardiff.

Local short term solutions should be sought to ensure the viability of both Plasmawr and Glantaf and maintaining their mixed socio-economic foundations rather than addressing catchment area changes which are likely to have to change again as the new population growth in the west of Cardiff begin to have an impact on school admission figures.

I would urge the School Organisation Team to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions particularly for the Ysgol Plasmawr community but rather to take a far more measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours sincerely

Signature:

Name:

Mr N. Batchelar

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

Cyngor Caerdydd

Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer dalgylch Ysgol Pencae.

Annwyl Mr Batchelor

Rwyf yn anghytuno'n gryf â'r cynnig i drosglwyddo Ysgol Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf am y rhesymau canlynol:

- Credaf fod y cynnig yn ddatrysiad tymor byr yn unig fyddai'n arwain at oblygiadau hir dymor i Ysgol Plasmawr yn nhermau natur ei dalgylch ac i Ysgol Glantaf yn nhermau creu problemau gorlenwi yn y tymor canolig.
- Nid yw'r wybodaeth a roddwyd yn y ddogfen ymgynghori (2 Chwefror 2016) yn ddigonol i fedru dod i benderfyniad mor bwysig ar natur dalgylch ysgolion.
- Mae Ysgol Pencae yn ysgol sydd yn perfformio'n dda iawn yn academiaidd. Pe bai Ysgol Pencae yn symud i ddalgylch Ysgol Glantaf fe fyddai Ysgol Plasmawr yn dioddef yn nhermau ei phroffil academiaidd a chyfranogiad, y nifer o fyfyrwyr fyddai'n aros i'r Chweched Dosbarth ac fe fyddai'n cael effaith hir dymor ar addysg Gymraeg ar draws y ddinas.
- Mae'r cynnig yn herio un o egwyddorion sylfaenol sefydlu Ysgol Plasmawr yn 1998 sef i sicrhau fod Plasmawr a Glantaf yn hafal yn nhermau natur dalgylchoedd y ddwy ysgol. Credaf ei fod yn bwysig bod y ddwy ysgol yn cael cyfle teg i barhau i lwyddo sy'n golygu cadw Ysgol Pencae o fewn dalgylch Plasmawr. Mae'r cynnig hwn yn tansilio'r egwyddor bod angen i'r ddwy ysgol gael dalgylchoedd sydd â chymysgedd cymdeithasol-economaidd debyg.

Credaf bod angen datrysiad hir dymor i'r twf cynyddol yn y niferoedd o ddisgyblion sydd am dderbyn addysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y Brifddinas, nid ymateb yn fyrbwyll fel bod angen ail-edrych ar dalgylchoedd yr ysgolion eto mewn rhai blynyddoedd.

Dylid ymchwilio i ddatrysiadau tymor byr i broblemau lleol y ddwy ysgol er mwyn sicrhau fod Ysgol Pencae yn aros o fewn dalgylch Plasmawr fyddai'n cadw natur y dalgylchoedd yn hafal.

Rwyf yn erfyn ar y Tîm Cynllunio Ysgolion i ystyried yr effaith negyddol fyddai colli Ysgol Pencae yn ei gael ar gymuned Ysgol Plasmawr ac i osgoi datrysiadau byr dymor fyddai'n cael effaith pell-gyrhaeddol ar addysg Gymraeg ar draws y Brifddinas.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Llofnod: Huw Jones

Enw: Huw Onllwyn Jones

The future of secondary Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

As pupil numbers continue to grow and the Local Development Plans for Cardiff become a reality it is vital that the catchment areas for the three existing Welsh Medium high schools are viewed in the medium to long term rather than seeking to find an easy short term and short-sighted fix to address a current imbalance in pupil numbers which could be extremely detrimental to one school or another and have long lasting educational legacy issues for the whole of Cardiff.

Careful consideration should be given to the future catchment areas of all three Welsh Medium secondary schools in Cardiff in order to ensure that all three schools are given equal opportunities to flourish and prosper over the medium to long term. Clear principles were agreed during the planning phase leading to the opening of Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 and Ysgol Bro Edern in 2012 which included ensuring that the catchment areas of all three school were as similar as possible in terms of socio-economic indicators i.e. it was deemed to be essential that all schools had an equitable social mix.

Currently all three schools have a relatively diverse socio-economic catchment area as illustrated in table A below, although Bro Edern serving the eastern side of Cardiff may challenge the accuracy of this statement.

Table A: %FSM per catchment Welsh medium primary school as an indicator of socio-economic backgrounds (2015).

| School | %FSM |
|-----------------|--------|
| Plasmawr | |
| Nant Caerau | 28.80% |
| Pencae | 2.70% |
| Coed Y Gof | 24.20% |
| Gwaelod y Garth | 5.40% |
| Creigiau | 3.20% |
| Treganna | 3.70% |

| School | %FSM |
|----------------|--------|
| Glantaf | |
| Melin Gruffydd | 3.70% |
| Y Wern | 4.90% |
| Pwll Coch | 7.10% |
| Mynydd Bychan | 9.80% |
| Glan Morfa | 28.30% |

| School | %FSM |
|------------------|--------|
| Bro Edern | |
| Berllan Deg | 7.60% |
| Bro Eirwg | 19.0% |
| Pen y Pil | 28.80% |
| Pen y Groes | 15.30% |

The argument for change:

Evidence suggests that the vast majority of pupils from Ysgol Pwll Coch will transfer to Ysgol Glantaf in September 2016 firmly establishing Pwll Coch as one of Glantaf's feeder primary schools. The numbers of Year 6 pupils currently living in the Plasmawr catchment area indicate that Plasmawr will be close to its admission number of 180 in September 2016. Current catchment area data for primary school pupils indicate that the numbers of pupils in the Plasmawr catchment area will exceed its standard admission number of 180 (6 f/e) in September 2017 (see table B below) which is the main argument for change.

Table B: Projected numbers of pupils in the Plasmawr catchment area 2016 – 2020.

| Year | Treganna | Gwaelod | Creigiau | Nant Caerau | Pencae | Coed-Y-Gof | Total |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|------------|-------|
| 2016/2017 | 55 | 23 | 25 | 7 | 29 | 45 | 184 |
| 2017/2018 | 60 | 22 | 27 | 31 | 31 | 47 | 218 |
| 2018/2019 | 60 | 31 | 21 | 27 | 30 | 46 | 215 |
| 2019/2020 | 90 | 27 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 54 | 259 |

The number of pupils transferring annually to Plasmawr from Pencae, Creigiau and Gwaelod y Garth are always less than the numbers indicated due to a range of different factors.

Ysgol Glantaf are likely to remain in the short term below their standard admission number of 240 (8 f/e) but this will change over the coming years as the increasing numbers of pupils in the primary phase work their way annually through the primary system. The data in table C strongly suggests that Glantaf will exceed its standard admission number in 2017.

The easy, short term, practical solution being consulted upon is to transfer Ysgol Pencae from Plasmawr's catchment into Glantaf's catchment on the basis of geographical proximity. In purely theoretical terms it is the most logical solution, however this suggestion is flawed in terms of educational principles and would have a lasting effect on Welsh medium education across the city. Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would strengthen what is already an extremely successful and high performing secondary school and would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr.

This decision if approved would result in Glantaf serving a large swathe of central Cardiff with a high proportion of affluent wards and would result in Plasmawr and Bro Edern serving primarily the western and eastern fringes of Cardiff which also include some of the most socially deprived and challenging areas of Cardiff. This decision would challenge the founding principles of establishing Plasmawr and Bro Edern as equals to Glantaf in terms of nature of catchment areas. This decision would in my opinion undermine Cardiff's vision for Welsh medium education and challenge one of its main principles as stated in Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:

"To support the wider vision for a Bi-lingual Cardiff through educational provision where:

Welsh medium education is inclusive, overcoming barriers and the ability of any young person to achieve a good education through the medium of Welsh".

Table C: September 2017 catchment areas if Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment including potential forms of entry.

| | 6 FoE | FSM |
|-----------------|----------|--------|
| Plasmawr | | |
| Nant Caerau | 1 | 28.80% |
| Coed Y Gof | 1.5 | 24.20% |
| Gwaelod y Garth | 0.8 | 5.40% |
| Creigiau | 1 | 3.20% |
| Treganna | 2 | 3.70% |
| | 6.3 | |

| | 8 FoE | FSM |
|----------------|----------|--------|
| Glantaf | | |
| Melin Gruffydd | 2 | 3.70% |
| Y Wern | 2 | 4.90% |
| Pwll Coch | 2 | 7.10% |
| Mynydd Bychan | 1 | 9.80% |
| Glan Morfa | 1 | 28.30% |
| Pencae | 1 | 2.70% |
| Glan Ceubal | 1 | 32.60% |
| | 9/10 | |

| | 6 FoE | FSM |
|------------------|----------|--------|
| Bro Edern | | |
| Berllan Deg | 2 | 7.60% |
| Bro Eirwg | 2 | 19% |
| Pen y Pil | 1 | 28.80% |
| Pen y Groes | 1 | 15.30% |
| | 6 | |

It is worth noting that several primary schools may not yet have full class sizes and therefore the actual pupil numbers could be significantly less than suggested by the form of entry data in the table.

This current proposal to change the Plasmawr and Glantaf catchment areas can only be viewed as a short term solution which in itself will create further additional capacity issues for Ysgol Glantaf by 2017 as it is highly likely to exceed its admission number. I would argue that a longer term solution is required at this point taking into account the additional projected growth in demand for Welsh medium education as large new residential developments are built in Cardiff.

Local short term solutions should be sought to ensure the viability of both Plasmawr and Glantaf and maintaining their mixed socio-economic foundations rather than addressing catchment area changes which are likely to have to

change again as the new population growth in the West of Cardiff begin to have an impact on school admission figures and a fourth Welsh medium high school becomes a necessity.

Longer term solutions in light of Local Development Plans, Paper Mill development (Ely Bridge) and BBC residential project (Llandaf):

Possible long term catchment area solutions based on potential forms of entry for primary schools:

| Glantaf | 8 FE | Plasmawr | 6 FE | Bro Edern | 6 FE | 4th WM school | 7 FE |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Melin Gruffydd | 2 | Creigiau | 1 | Berllan Deg | 2 | Pwll Coch | 2 |
| Y Wern | 3 | Gwaelod y Garth | 1 | Bro Eirwg | 2 | Treganna | 3 |
| Mynydd Bychan | 1 | Coed y Gof | 2 | Pen y Pil | 1 | New Grangetown | 2 |
| Glan Morfa | 1/2 | Pencae | 1 | Pen y Groes | 1 | | |
| Glan Ceubal | 1 | Nant Caerau | 1 | | | | |
| | 8/9 | | 6 | | 6 | | 7 |

It appears that the opening of a 4th Welsh medium secondary school is inevitable considering the current capacity for growth in the Welsh medium primary schools. The numbers of forms of entry in the table above does not take into account the opening of any new Welsh medium primary schools as part of the LDP which will only lead to further capacity issues in the existing 3 WM secondary schools. The planning for such a project must begin as soon as possible to ensure that all considerations are taken into account. With the building of a new 2 form Welsh medium, primary school in Grangetown it is abundantly clear that a secondary solution is required to serve the south west of Cardiff.

In conclusion:

I would urge the School Development Team to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions, but rather to take a far more measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff. We have one opportunity to get this right for the current and future pupils and parents of Cardiff and we must thoroughly explore every avenue before firm decisions are made.

J.D. Hayes

Headteacher

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

February 2016

