

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

11 July 2018

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
CARDIFF
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Neuadd y Sir
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Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 10 July 2018, to provide an opening statement and answering questions on the **School Organisation Proposals: The Provision of English-medium Primary Education in the Llanrumney area – draft Cabinet Report**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, for the report and answers to Members questions. Members appreciated the opportunity to scrutinise this proposal at such an early stage.

Following the Members consideration of the report and answers to questions **the Committee agreed to commend the report to Cabinet**. Members also noted that a number of further reports would be drafted, and requested that these reports should be presented to this Committee, prior to their consideration by Cabinet.

The Committee also agreed to bring to your attention a number of comments and concerns, which they felt you should take into consideration prior to consulting on the proposals to discontinue Glan-Yr-Afon Primary School, including changes to Community Primary School catchments, in the local area.

Members noted that the draft Cabinet report, highlighted that St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School is within close proximity of Glan-yr-Afon Primary School, and could easily be expand to a 2 form entry school to take a number of additional pupils. A Member however, expressed some concern that, in respect of children transferring to St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School, parents would have to formally agree to being taught in a Catholic School. This could limit the number of children transferring to that school, and would increase the number of pupils to the other local primary schools. The Committee recommended that this issue must be referenced in the consultation.

The Committee was also mindful of the potential loss of a community building and requested that the Members be informed of the potential value of the site.

The Committee proposed that should, following the consultation, it was agreed to close the school, a phase closure of the school should be undertaken to correspond with the various transition period of pupils.

The Committee was surprised to be informed that Glan-yr-Afon school, currently has a deficit of £130,000 and that previously the school was in surplus. The Members requested details of the surpluses and deficits over the past few year and an explanation of why there was such a sudden change in the finances of the school.

Finally the Committee also wished to thanks you for answering the questions that had been raised by members of the public, prior to the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan De'ATH', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is highlighted with a yellow rectangular background.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN De'ATH
Temporary Elected Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny
Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger