

Records of on-line drop-in sessions

On-line drop-in sessions were advertised for the following dates:

- 09 May 2023
- 17 May 2023
- 05 June 2023
- 08 June 2023

There was also the option for consultees to meet on-line with Council officers outside of these dates



Schools Programme Record of Online Drop in Sessions



Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meetings.

The points raised at the sessions are set out below.

Allensbank Primary School

The following points were raised:

- *Parent of a child with autism. Worried about change for all the children but particularly their child as change is difficult for them.*
- *Grew up going to a school in another county that was old and in poor repair. At the time, the Welsh medium school was new and given all the money. History seems to be repeating itself.*
- *Not involved in previous plans that were consulted on. Feels that it's unfair – a lot of the parents at the school don't speak English. A lot of the parents at the Welsh school would be better placed to input their views.*
- *Unsure of what is being proposed and concerned that Allensbank would become a Welsh-medium school*
- *The walk to the Gladstone site may be too far for their young children*
- *Query about taking children out of school and losing their places in the school. The school had said they will be taken off roll if away for over four weeks.*

Under all three options proposed there would be significant changes. Officers gave assurances that the changes would be managed sensitively. A decision is not expected until January 2024, and any move wouldn't be planned to take place until September 2025 so there would be time to make a detailed plan.

Officers are arranging to come to the school to speak to parents after half term in order to encourage their input, and for their views to be sought and fully recorded.

In terms of what happens next, the views being expressed are being collated. There will be a public meeting at the Community Centre, further drop-in sessions, meetings with governor and staff. All views collected will be put to the Council's Cabinet.

Officers explained the three options.

Consulting on proposed changes but this does not mean that these will be progressed. All views expressed will be put to the Council's Cabinet and any changes wouldn't take place until September 2025. Parents are strongly encouraged to submit their views.

Advised that there is no guarantee that there will be places available when they return. Re-apply at least four weeks before they will need to be back in school and make sure to specify a date the places will be needed.

Ysgol Glan Ceubal

Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of the proposed increase in provision at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

As a one form entry school and reduction in the number of pupils would have a significant impact on the school budget which could affect the financial position of the school until any smaller year group left the school.

Could consideration be given to increasing the Ysgol Glan Ceubal catchment as it looks bigger on paper than it is as the current catchment includes large areas of parkland with no homes.

Any changes to existing catchment arrangements would be subject to a separate consultation. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan includes targets to increase the uptake of Welsh-medium; in the wider area there wasn't a sufficient level of Welsh-medium surplus places to allow for the growth of Welsh-medium and changes to catchment areas would not support expansion.

The expectation was that schools would look to generate additional demand for Welsh-medium from within their own catchments.