

Notes of public consultation meeting:

- Radyr Comprehensive



Schools Programme
Record of Public Meeting
Plasdŵr school proposals



Held at Radyr Comprehensive School, Monday 30 September 2019

Present: Michele Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Beverly Bailey (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), nine members of the public

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

Heading	Action
<p>Michele Duddridge Friedl (MDF) opened the meeting, introduced officers and welcomed those present. Consulting on a proposal and here to listen.</p> <p>Contemporaneous notes of the meeting were being taken and would form part of the consultation feedback.</p> <p>There was a presentation from MDF setting out details of the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background• What is being proposed• Why dual stream• New model of schools in Cardiff• Curriculum for EM and WM streams• Existing schools/catchment areas• Recent/projected demand for places at Reception in EM community primaries• Recent/projected demand for places at Reception at WM community primaries• Admission and catchment area arrangements• How would other schools be affected• Secondary school provision• Benefits/Potential Disadvantages/Risks• Alternative options (discounted)• Considerations• What happens next <p>The proposal is for one school, one building and one governing body. The Headteacher would need to be a fluent Welsh speaker; staff in the Welsh-medium stream would need to be fluent trained Welsh teachers/staff; staff in the English-medium stream would also need to be fluent Welsh speakers and trained in Welsh immersion.</p> <p>An additional community room would also be included in the school.</p>	



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<p>This room could be used for wrap round childcare, community activities, language and play sessions etc.</p> <p>Responses to date have been largely positive however some concerns have been expressed. The Council wanted to hear all views.</p> <p>P – currently within Radyr Primary School catchment area. Is this likely to change?</p> <p>BA – catchment areas are kept under review and additional work will need to be undertaken around this. The indications are that Radyr Primary at 2FE and Bryn Deri Primary at 1FE will be sufficient to meet demand. It will be necessary to establish a catchment for the school (EM & WM) which would be subject to a separate consultation.</p> <p>P – would this be determined by proximity?</p> <p>BA – proximity would be a consideration along with the size of existing catchments, population, proximity of other schools.</p> <p>MDF – would not have designed catchments as they are. Will look at a number of things including which schools parents are choosing, demand in excess of supply, changing patterns, school capacities, natural boundaries, roads.</p>	
<p>Cllr McKerlich – concerns around children not being able to get into Radyr Primary School and Bryn Deri Primary School. Half of Radyr/Morganstown served by Ysgol Coed y Gof, the other half falls within the Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth catchment with a number of children not able to be admitted to Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth. The intention in the first year is to have 30 pupils in EM and 30 pupil in WM with a mixed Y1 & Y2, however for families moving in there is not likely to be any greater demand for places in Reception, Y1 and Y2 than in Y3 – Y6.</p> <p>MDF – find that most families move within the city with parents less likely to move older children. Looking to grow the school in a sustainable way and not compromise other schools.</p> <p>Cllr McKerlich – this is likely to cause lots of concerns and difficulties for children. What community facilities will be available for the local community outside of school hours?</p> <p>MDF – looking at a community room which would be accessed separately.</p> <p>Cllr McKerlich – what about an astro-turf and other facilities?</p> <p>MDF – looking to facilitate greater community use of the school facilities by the local community. As part of the initial planning consent there was a community facility separate to the school, however site limitations (gas mains) have restricted this.</p>	



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P – information has been presented regarding the models of dual language streams however no one has spoken to Creigiau Primary School, there is no analysis of staff recruitment and no analysis of examples.

MDF – aware of successful model at Creigiau Primary; have involved consortium representatives and Welsh Education Forum in discussions and have also looked at other schools across Wales. The model being proposed is a variation on the Creigiau model; concerns around whether immersion can be delivered on a dual stream site and evidence at Creigiau confirms that it can be successful. Concerns around staff recruitment and retention have been expressed to the Welsh Government (WG) as part of the Council's response to WG Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) consultation. WG are looking at options around ensuring there are sufficient numbers of Welsh language teachers. Looking to support growth in WM in schools that serve their communities.

P – fully endorse the benefits of WM education. The space next to Creigiau Primary set aside for community use is still a green field. The school has had no investment with children being taught in portacabins.

MDF – the proposed school is quite a way from Creigiau Primary with other proposed developments south of Creigiau. Have been looking at S106 funding and how best to invest this.

P – proposal is for 30 primary age places and 48 nursery places in each stream. Is there any flexibility e.g. 75% WM and 25% EM. What will be the involvement between both streams? There is a risk that non Welsh speaking parents will be put off and opt for the EM stream instead. What will the model be?

MDF – will be looking at demand in each medium. Council policy to offer a place in language of choice beyond which parents are expressing a preference, not required to provide a place at catchment school or at 1st preference. If there was a sustained pattern of demand this would have to be looked at and may require a statutory change. Within the context of national policy ensuring that all parents are aware of WM options, the benefit of WM and the options to transfer. Lots of research in other countries where they are looking to increase language and having a middle option helps to draw more people in and provide a different means of increasing the number of Welsh speakers.

P - important to consider WM education. Majority of children from EM homes and proposed model may reduce number of children in WM. EM stream must not undermine WM stream. What does significant use of Welsh mean? Nursery provision provides a great opportunity for immersion; normalising the language may increase overall take up.



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There are two EM schools in Radyr with a complete lack of WM provision.

RhAG representative – supportive of school. Research into Immersion shows that it is successful because everything is through the medium of Welsh. How will this happen? Will there be different play times etc?

MDF – need to consider what this means in dual stream schools. Creigiau Primary achieves good outcomes for both streams; need to consider different ways in which immersion can be achieved; lots of good work in partnering WM & EM schools; opportunities for both schools to benefit without compromising WM language acquisition. Want to bring a greater percentage of people to WM and the current model won't do this; want to establish a model of linguistic excellence but mindful of risks. WM is not impacted on in dual stream school and opportunities to benefit both streams.

P – talking about new model however dual stream model is not new and moving away from it because it hasn't succeeded in making pupils fluent in Welsh in Carmarthenshire. There is a need to be cautious; has been regarded as a failure in other countries and need to learn from failures elsewhere.

BA – research undertaken on types of schools/outcomes at other schools; very successful schools working under this model which perform well in Welsh Government categorisations. Two very successful dual stream schools in Cardiff and looking to build on the success of these and schools elsewhere.

MDF – complex reasons behind issues elsewhere; not talking about guaranteeing full fluency at the end of Y6 in EM stream. If pupils wanted to transfer to WM in Y7 there would be a need for top up immersion.

P – great idea to provide opportunity to transfer to WM secondary; should be able to transfer to WM stream in primary, why wait until secondary?

MDF – Cardiff has a successful Immersion Unit and option to transfer if that is what parents want. Attending a nursery place does not guarantee a place in a school; option of WM only nursery could be considered.

BA – Welsh Immersion unit can also be used for intervention purposes, to support learning where needed.

MDF – not just about attracting new learners but also supporting those already in the Welsh Language sector.

P – parent of a child attending Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth which only has a WM nursery class; lots of parents choose nursery and stay on in Welsh stream. Consideration needs to be given to the nursery provision being fully WM.



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P – if there are 48 places at nursery and 30 places at Reception, who gets in?

MDF – nursery places are provided within a radius of two miles of a child's home address whilst primary school places are allocated against a specific set of criteria (CLAE, SEN, catchment, siblings, proximity (based on safer walking routes, if no walking route available will revert to driving route). Parents also have the option of making a different choice at nursery level.

P – what will the road layout be?

MDF – the Council has a duty of care and need to consider safe access to the school as part of planning; there will not be any onsite parking for parents dropping off children. Ysgol Hamadryad has been very active in developing active travel options and will look to build on this.

P – will priority be given to children from the new development?

MDF – if places are available, anyone can apply and be admitted, otherwise children admitted in line with Admissions oversubscription criteria.

P – is this model unique to Cardiff?

MDF – a range of models across Wales but yes unique to Cardiff.

P – the Plasdŵr development will have up to four primary schools, is this a short term experiment? How many of the schools will be WM?

MDF – will be reviewing model and demand for places as schools are brought forward; this option provides another model to consider. At the time that any further proposals are brought forward there will also be a community to consult with, which is not the case at the moment.

P – still able to open EM schools?

MDF – yes and would look at each individual case.

MDF thanked those present and the meeting closed.