

**EXTRACT FROM THE CHAIR'S LETTER ON SOP PROPOSALS – 16  
DECEMBER 2020**

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES TO SERVE  
CATHAYS AND PARTS OF GABALFA, HEATH, LLANDAFF NORTH AND  
PLASNEWYDD**

Demand, Future Plan for the Area and Viability of the Proposals

Members of the Committee noted responses relating to the fluctuating demands across this area of the city and the need to look at a long-term solution for the schools in this area as soon as possible, including how the configuration will best fit demand. We noted that there was temporary provision where expansion could be located in the short term.

We are mindful that the proposal covers the period only until 2023/24 and therefore request that you clarify when the longer-term plans for Welsh and English primary sectors in this area of the city will be available, to enable us to monitor this issue.

Mixed Aged Year Groups

Members asked questions around the impact of this and sought assurances that this was not driven by funding. Members were concerned about the impact of mixed aged year groups on teaching and learning, highlighting the potential disadvantage to the older groups within these classes. We would seek assurances that where possible, mixed aged year groups will be avoided.

Leadership and Governance

Members asked questions around leadership and governance in relation to this proposal. Whilst we acknowledged that a precedent had been set in other areas, this particular proposal would include one school working from a split site and therefore different to previous arrangements elsewhere.

Therefore we would request information on what support and arrangements are anticipated for leadership and governance, given the position of a primary school operating on two sites, and the added dimension of language to be addressed.