

APPENDIX 3

Records of Pupil Engagement:

- Allensbank Primary School Pupils (15th March 2021)
- Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Pupils (17th March 2021)



Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Pupil Engagement Meeting
Allensbank Primary School
15th March 2021



Present: Laura Williams (Allensbank Primary School), Year 6 pupils (Allensbank Primary School), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Rachel Burgess-Willis (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP), Jo Phillips (SOP)

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

Welcome and Introductions

Brett Andrewartha (AB) opened the meeting by explaining to the pupils that Cardiff Council are planning on making some changes to schools within their area and wanted to seek their opinions on these changes. Rachel Burgess-Willis (RBW) introduced herself and stated that she would take notes of points raised.

AB then presented the pupil presentation which covered the following

The presentation covered:

- What is being proposed?
- English-medium places and pupil numbers
- Welsh-medium places and pupil numbers
- Proposed changes from 2022
- Positives
- Negatives
- Risks
- Questions

Questions and Answers

The questions asked by pupils are set out in *italics* below with the officer response given directly below.

Question 1

Is it going to be just the Year 6 pupils that move from YMB?

BA – This is a great question which lots of adults have already asked. We have not decided yet; it could be nursery, Reception or one of the older year groups. Both schools will decide what would be best.

Question 2

I have a concern about the change of language. As from September 2022, children would have to learn Welsh and would not be able to go to Allensbank Primary School.

BA – The proposal is to grow Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from Reception by 15 places. There would still be 30 places in every year in Allensbank Primary School which is more than currently attend the school and so children would still be able to go to

Allensbank Primary School and be taught in English just as it is now. There are also other English language schools within the area.

Question 3

What would happen if there was an increase in the number of parents that want to send their children to Allensbank Primary School?

BA – we have looked at lots of numbers which tell us that we have 20% more places than we need. So even if there was an increase in people wanting to go to Allensbank Primary School, then there should be enough places.

Question 4

Who will decide which group of children will come over to Allensbank Primary School from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan?

BA – the Council would like Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to decide this for themselves as they will know what works best. The Headteacher and Governing Body who run Ysgol Mynydd Bychan will decide and have discussions with Allensbank Primary School to see how it could best work and the reasons why.

Question 5

If pupils from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan were to use our classrooms, where will the Allensbank Primary School pupils go?

BA – Allensbank Primary School is quite a large school with two buildings and enough rooms to have 14 different classrooms so there should be more than enough space to move classes around, just in the way you move at the end of each year. There will still be enough other space in your school to allow you to do all the other things you like to do.

Question 6

If they took our classes, where would we do our art?

BA – Allensbank Primary School would have less classrooms if this went ahead. You would have to use the spaces differently. It may be fair to share this space with children from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.

Whiteboard Session

AB then asked the pupils the following questions, with responses recorded below. RBW also recorded these on the whiteboard.

Question 1: Is there anything about what we are suggesting that you like?

A- It's a good idea. There are two different schools with two different languages. Our pupils would be able to meet Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils and interact and make friends with them. We would have the opportunity to learn things from them, like the Welsh language.

A- I like what you are doing as it will help children that don't have much space.

A- I think it's a good idea as it will give the people who want to go to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan a greater chance to go there.

Question 2: Is there anything about what we are suggesting that you don't like?

A – I think this is a bad idea as it would be hard for pupils from Allensbank Primary School as we would have to learn more Welsh which would be hard.

BA – the way in which Allensbank Primary School runs wouldn't change. It is only the children from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan who would be learning through the medium of Welsh.

A – it's not a good idea because children might not understand each other.

A – if Covid is still here in 2022, there might not be enough space or enough toilets to stay in bubbles.

A – it's not a good idea. How would the children from Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan communicate with each other?

BA – The children from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan learn through the medium of Welsh but generally they can speak English too.

A – I don't like this idea as we don't know the children from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and we would have to share our space. We already have problems with having access to PE in our school hall with other classes.

BA – this would hopefully be worked out between both schools so that things could be timetabled properly and facilities could be shared fairly.

A – we would have less space and less time on the playground.

A – it might not be good if we don't get along with each other.

Question 3. Is there anything that worries you?

A – its risky. Due to Covid we haven't had as much room or staff to do our science experiments. This would be worse as we would have to sanitise the room after Ysgol Mynydd Bychan children.

BA – hopefully Covid would be gone by then and schools wouldn't have to operate in this way any longer, but yes, Allensbank Primary School would have less rooms.

A – what if the Headteacher and the parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan don't want this?

BA – that's a very good point as the parents sent their children to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and expected them to stay in that school building from Reception to Year 6 so we are also asking them for their opinions. If they decided that they didn't like this idea then we wouldn't be able to increase Welsh-medium places in this area.

A – it would be hard for the parents to have two children at two different schools.

BA – there are things that we can do to help families like having different starting and finishing times. I have two children that go to one school but with infants and juniors on separate sites and this is how they manage it.

A – the building work at Allensbank Primary School would be distracting for children.

BA – Cardiff Council are well practiced in refurbishing and opening new schools. They minimise any disruption by trying to get work done in the school holidays when the schools are empty.

BA thanked the pupils and explained that we would come back and let their school know the outcome of the proposal when the Cabinet had decided.



Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Pupil Engagement Meeting
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
17th March 2021



Present: Year 4/5/6 pupils (Ysgol Mynydd Bychan), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Cerys Richardson (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (HI), Rosalie Phillips (SOP)

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

Welcome and Introductions

Brett Andrewartha (AB) opened the meeting by explaining to the pupils that Cardiff Council are proposing changes to their school and want to seek their opinions on these and answer any questions.

CR then presented the pupil presentation which covered the following:

- What is being proposed?
- English-medium places and pupil numbers
- Welsh-medium places and pupil numbers
- Proposed changes from 2022
- Positives
- Negatives
- Risks
- Questions

Questions and Answers

Members of the School Council asked questions on behalf of all pupils.

The questions asked by pupils are set out in *italics* below with the officer response given directly below.

Question 1

Would this be a permanent situation? Those children would not be part of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.

BA – the Council wants to make sure there are enough places for children to go to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. A way of doing this in the short term is to have some of the children at Allensbank Primary School; in the long term all the children would be together on one site.

Question 2

Is there any way of adding another level to the school building so all of the children could be on the same site?

BA – unfortunately that would be too difficult. It would be very disruptive and there would be issues with safety.

Question 3

If Years 5 & 6 were at Allensbank Primary School, does that mean they would never mix with pupils on the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site?

BA – how children mix would need to be decided by the schools but would be difficult.

Question 4

Would the children at Allensbank Primary School still be able to speak Welsh?

BA – yes. The proposal is to share buildings and facilities and would expect the way children are taught now to continue.

Question 5

What happens if siblings are on different sites? This would be difficult for parents.

BA provided the example of a school where the FP and KS 2 are on different sites and how this worked. Understood that this was something those children and parents were used to and that this would be something new for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.

Question 6

Is there any land available to build a new school for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan?

BA – have looked at other sites to see if they would be big enough, if they were owned by the Council and timing however no sites are available. Have looked at rearranging schools and decided to speak to everyone about how to grow Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.

Question 7

When would classes be moved to Allensbank Primary School?

BA – we are looking at doing this from September 2022.

Question 8

Is there room for a football pitch at Allensbank Primary School?

BA – the site is not big enough for a football pitch but the school does have a larger playground than Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.

Question 9

Do you think if Y1 and Y2 went to Allensbank, they would speak English instead of Welsh?

BA – that could be a risk but would look to organise in a way that would allow for language development.

CR – when I was young I went to Ysgol y Wern who shared with an English-medium primary school. The schools chose to have separate start/finish and lunch/play times.

BA – this has happened on other school sites e.g. Ysgol Melin Gruffydd shared a site with an English-medium school for a long period. New Welsh-medium schools often start off on an English-medium school site and grow.

Question 10

Is there enough space to play for all the pupils at Allensbank?

BA – Allensbank Primary School had more pupils before and there is more than enough outside space.

Question 11

What happens if teachers have different teaching methods/styles across sites?

BA – there would be no change to how children are taught. There may be opportunities to work with Allensbank pupils if the schools wanted to. Ysgol Pen y Groes shares with Bryn Celyn Primary School with both schools teaching in their own way.

Question 12

Concerned if R/Y1/Y2 went to Allensbank; that they could be bullied for speaking Welsh.

BA – we have met with Allensbank Primary School pupils and they are a lovely group, they are children who live in your local area and share the same hopes and dreams.

Question 13

Would it be possible to use the church next door to the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to expand the school?

BA – we looked at sites in the local area and none were available.

Question 14

Would technology and resources provision be the same?

BA – yes. What is available at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan would be available at Allensbank.

Question 15

What facilities do they have at Allensbank Primary School?

BA – I've only visited a couple of times; they have a long playground, shelter areas, outside play areas but don't remember trees or artificial grass; could look at as part of the proposal.

Question 16

Ysgol Mynydd Bychan have an end of year Y6 show and school concerts. Would we still be able to do that?

BA – Yes, nothing to stop this from happening.

Question 17

What would happen to the school uniform?

BA – there would be no change to the school uniform.

Question 18

What about parking around Allensbank?

BA – we would work with parents and pupils to help understanding around how to get to school without using a car e.g. active travel. Parents could also park further away and walk.

Question 19

What about school trips?

BA – there would be no change to school trips.

Question 20

Would there be different rules at Allensbank?

BA - no

BA thanked the pupils for their excellent questions and asked if there was anything they liked about the proposed changes?

The pupils identified the following:

- good idea to expand the places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan because children had missed out on the opportunity to come to the school
- liked the idea of meeting other children but would prefer to be on one site
- would encourage more people to speak Welsh in line with Cymraeg 2050
- would increase the number of Welsh speakers as this is the language of Wales
- good to bond with different pupils but sad for those who would be separated
- Ysgol Mynydd Bychan could help Allensbank pupils to speak more Welsh

The children were then asked if there was anything that they didn't like about the proposed changes?

The pupils identified the following:

- it wouldn't be the same as being at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan; no trees or the same facilities
- children have been at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan since nursery and would be strange to be on another site
- confusing to be working on two sites; could go to the wrong site
- could be worrying; concerned about language; children on the Allensbank site could be speaking English and effect those on the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site
- influence on Allensbank site
- could be upsetting for pupils who have friends in other year groups who they wouldn't be able to see
- there could be more traffic with parents having to go to more than one site
- Ysgol Mynydd Bychan should have a new school
- opportunities for Y5 and Y6 to help out could be affected
- could cause difficulties for siblings on different sites
- concerns around language acquisition
- concerns around drop off/pick up

BA thanked the pupils. It was really helpful to hear their thoughts and hoped that this was not something that worried them.