

Records of Pupil Engagement:

- Cathays High School Pupils (26<sup>th</sup> February 2021)
- Albany Primary School Pupils (19<sup>th</sup> March 2021)
- Allensbank Primary School Pupils (16<sup>th</sup> March 2021)
- Gladstone Primary School Pupils (16<sup>th</sup> March 2021)



**Schools Programme**  
**Record of Virtual Pupil Engagement Meeting**  
**Cathays High School**  
**26 February 2021**



**Present:** Mr Jay (Cathays High School), Cathays High School pupil representatives, Michel Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

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

SOP officers met with a group of Cathays High School pupil representatives regarding the proposed changes to school. In line with national Covid-19 restrictions the pupils were not in school at that time and the session was run virtually via Microsoft Teams and supported by members of the Cathays High School staff.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Michele Duddridge-Friedl (MDF) opened the meeting and welcomed pupils. She advised pupils that the Council was proposing to make changes to the school and that we were seeking their views on this as part of the public consultation. In addition to the session there would also be a pupil survey which was going to be distributed to pupils via the school.

There was a presentation from MDF which covered the following:

- Background
- Cardiff priorities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band B
- What is being proposed for Cathays High School
- Site Map
- Why are more places needed?
- Why expand and replace Cathays High School
- Condition and Suitability
- Quality and Standards
- Benefits of the proposal
- Potential disadvantages and risks
- Timescales
- What happens next?

### **Discussion Points**

The pupils were aware of the proposed changes and the following points were raised:

- A new building would improve education
- A bigger school would provide more places for those needing them
- A new building would provide a better environment for pupils and access for the community to facilities
- Additional ASC places would be good
- Improved physical and mental wellbeing
- Space for creative subjects
- Hub for community providing space during the weekend/holidays

- Any new school build would need to be sustainable and environmentally friendly
- What would happen to the old school?
- The size of school could be daunting for some pupils
- The existing school building has a lot of history which would be lost
- Most of the children already at Cathays High School would not benefit from the new school
- Potential disruption during construction
- Potential for increased traffic
- Pupils would like to be involved in the development of any plans taken forward

MDF thanked the pupils for their input and the session ended.



Schools Programme  
Record of Virtual Pupil Engagement Meeting  
Albany Primary School  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2021



**Present:** Albany Primary School Y6 pupils, Brett Andrewartha, Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Ian Warbuton (SOP)

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

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Brett Andrewartha (BA) opened the meeting by explaining to the pupils that Cardiff Council are planning on making some changes to Cathays High School and that we want to seek their opinions on these changes. Notes of the points raised would be taken and fed back to the Council Cabinet.

BA then presented the pupil presentation which covered the following

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools
- Proposed changes to Cathays High School
- Positives
- Negatives
- Risks
- Questions

### **Discussion Points**

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

*Question 1 - how many floors will there be?*

BA – the school hasn't been designed yet but we know that there is enough room on the site; a high school would normally have 2/3 floors and doesn't need to be any more than that.

*Question 2 – how much will it cost?*

BA – high schools are very expensive. Both Eastern High and Cardiff West Community High School are similar and they cost more than £30m each.

*Question 3 – will be built before September?*

BA – it take a long time to build a school. The first stage is asking people what they think; we think it would take until 2025 to build.

*Question 4 – will it have a sixth form?*

BA – yes, the same as now.

*Question 5 – will there be one main lunch hall?*

BA – there is usually more than one area but food is prepared in one kitchen. The school hasn't been designed yet and we'll discuss this with pupils and the headteacher to see what people want and what would work.

*Question 6 – the corridors are narrow. Will the new school have wider corridors?*

BA - Cathays is an old building like Albany with the only way to have bigger corridors is to have smaller classrooms. A new school can be designed differently to include wide corridors and no dark areas. We want it to be open and welcoming for children.

The pupils identified a number of facilities they would like to see in any new school:

- Basketball and netball court and 3G pitch
- Bike rack
- Space for lockers
- 3D printers
- Wellbeing/games room, bean bags
- Digital art
- Art tables you can stand at
- Tennis court
- Library
- Afterschool access to IT and homework facilities

BA advised that there are things that teachers would want and will be doing now too not just in 2025 but for when pupils go in September.

Both the teacher and pupils had been to Cathays High School at home time and felt that a one way system would help to deal with buses and cars. They were also in favour of car parking for parents, wider roads and railings.

BA advised that the council is in favour of active travel. Active travel is using an active mode e.g. walking, cycling or scooting, something which doesn't create pollution. For some children a bus is needed if they live further, and a few may need cars. The Council will work with the school to see how children can walk safely but also make roads safer for walking. We don't want parents driving, and may some roads. There won't be car parks for parents as active travel is encouraged.

The Council will also look at changes to bus services.

The pupils identified the aspects of the proposal they liked / didn't like. The following points were raised:

### **Likes**

- Everyone likes it
- More classrooms for subjects
- More space
- Gaming room
- More activities
- Upgraded and modern, not old
- Outdoor space
- New building = less risk, less repairs

- More energy efficient

### **Dislikes/worries**

- Getting lost
- It will take a long time to build so we won't benefit
- Disruption – will pupils have to go between the two schools?

BA - we can feedback views on having a plan regarding layout. The Council wants to build the school as quickly as possible but it does take a long time. Hope it's while you're still there and go onto sixth form with lots of facilities. We also want to make the school a community facility you can use later in life too, for adults, sports, all sorts; not that it closes doors after 3.30pm. Sometimes when expanding, a phased approach is used, but with this one there will be a direct cross over, change after the summer holidays

There was a show of hand and all of the pupil were excited.



**Schools Programme**  
**Record of Virtual Pupil Engagement Meeting**  
**Allensbank Primary School**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



**Present:** Year 5 pupils (Allensbank Primary School), Class Teacher, Rosalie Phillips (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**

Rosalie Phillips (RP) opened the meeting by explaining to the pupils that Cardiff Council are planning on making some changes to Cathays High School and that we want to seek their opinions on these changes. The remaining SOP members introduced themselves. Rachel Burgess-Willis (RBW) advised that she would take notes of their points raised on the whiteboard, Shirley Karseras (SK) also advised that she would take a note of points raised to feedback to the Council Cabinet.

RP then presented the pupil presentation which covered the following

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools
- Proposed changes to Cathays High School
- Positives
- Negatives
- Risks
- Questions

### **Questions and Answers**

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

*Question 1. Is the skate park going to stay?*

RP – Things may move around on the site but a skate park would still be there.

*Question 2. How many classrooms will there be in the new school?*

RP – It's hard to say at this stage. Each classroom would be built to accommodate 30 children but there will be lots of other rooms for specific parts of the curriculum like design and technology, food science, drama and science labs.

*Question 3. Will the school be bigger?*

RP – Yes; there will be room for 1450 pupils.

*Question 4. Will the swimming pool stay?*

RP – Yes the leisure centre and swimming pool will still be there.

*Question 5. How is it going to fit into a tiny place?*

RP – Are you worried that the site will be too small? If you look at the map and see where the school currently is and the size of the Maindy Cycle Track site, it will fit. There would also be sport pitches.

*Question 6. Will the uniform change?*

RP – This is decided by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Cathays High School, but there is currently no plan or discussions to change the uniform.

*Question 7. What is going to happen to the old building?*

RP – It is possible that it would get knocked down or used for something else, but we don't know at the moment.

*Question 8. Are there plans to make the classrooms bigger?*

RP – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools are built to certain regulations and rooms have to be of a standard specified size. However other secondary schools that have recently been built in Cardiff, have made use of flexible spaces where wall dividers can be moved to make classrooms bigger and smaller.

*Question 9. Will Cathays High School pupils move before the building gets knocked down?*

RP – No. New schools take time to build and so pupils will stay in the old school until the new school is finished. They would then move into the new buildings.

*Question 10. Will the school be built on that timeframe?*

RP – We have mentioned in the presentation that even though there is a lot of work and planning that goes into building a new school, there are always risks and sometimes plans do change.

*Question 11. How much money will it be to build this school that is proposed?*

RP - It varies depending on lots of things, but typically a new primary school is £6-7m and a secondary school is £35-40m.

*Question 12. Will the school have access to the leisure centre?*

RP – This will be for the school and leisure centre to discuss. I believe there is an arrangement currently so it may continue.

*Question 13. Will local schools get to see what happens on the site and help design it?*

RP – Yes there is lots of discussion with local schools and the community about school design.



RP explained what the process would be after the consultation period ended and reaffirmed that pupil voice was very important in deciding these proposals. She then thanked the pupils for their participation.



**Present:** Miss Watson (Gladstone Primary School), Year 6 pupils (Gladstone Primary School), Rosalie Phillips (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**

Rosalie Phillips (RP) opened the meeting by explaining to the pupils that Cardiff Council are planning on making some changes to Cathays High School and that we want to seek their opinions on these changes. The remaining SOP members introduced themselves. Jo Phillips (JP) advised that she would take notes of their points raised on the whiteboard, Shirley Karseras (SK) also advised that she would take a note of points raised to feedback to the Council Cabinet .

RP then presented the pupil presentation which covered the following

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools
- Proposed changes to Cathays High School
- Positives
- Negatives
- Risks
- Questions

## **Discussion Points**

The pupils didn't have any direct questions but were then asked what they liked / didn't like about the proposal or if they had any worries about the proposal. The following points were raised:

- Several pupils didn't think it was a good idea and asked how long it would take to build. RP stated that if the proposal was approved then the school would open on its new site in 2025.
- Miss Watson asked the children to think about younger brothers and sisters that might benefit.
- The majority did however think it was a good idea as it would increase the number of places at the school and ensure that all the children who wanted to go to Cathays High School could go.
- When asked about the increase in pupil places at the SRB, the majority of pupils thought this was a good idea.
- All of the pupils believed that the community would benefit by having access to the facilities outside of school hours.
- The pupils thought that extra traffic and traffic noise would be a consequence of a bigger school and that this was a concern for them.
- One pupil was concerned that if the classes were made bigger then this would impact on the corridor size; which would be already under pressure given the extra

pupils. RP advised that 21st Century Schools are built to ensure that there is sufficient and appropriate access for all pupils.

- Around half of the pupils said they used the cycle track and that moving it to Cardiff Bay was too far away for them. They would like it to remain in the local area so that they could still use it.
- One pupil suggested that by moving the cycle track to Cardiff Bay, meant that more people in Cardiff could use it.

Miss Watson advised that engagement was harder for the pupils this year as they had not had the opportunity to do the normal transitioning activities with Cathays High School.

RP thanked everyone for their input and agreed to send a copy of the presentation to the school for possible further discussion.