

Formal Responses

Willows High School Governing Body

We welcome the considerable investment proposed and the emphasis on a whole school vision to go with it. Willows has been on a real journey over the last ten years with significant improvements to results and learner outcomes. It is difficult to think of another school in Wales that adds more value.

We are pleased to see the Council working with the leadership team to develop a vision and the Council's willingness to engage with the Governing Body. The vision should have at its heart the need to continuously improve educational outcomes in a secure and interesting learning environment, and the school should be designed to serve this vision.

We are aware that a new building could be transformative. The current school is at the end of its structural life and it is an increasingly time consuming task to manage the building.

The proposed new location of the building brings with it an opportunity to link up with the creative sector in that area, including film and TV production. It is important to us that the school links up with these partners opening a window on a world of future career prospects that the pupils may not have previously considered.

We are extremely proud of the increasingly diverse intake of the school and would like the new vision to celebrate that. A Willows teacher, Mr Gill, was recently given a teaching award for work with non-English speaking children who have come to the school. This work showed Willows at its very best.

We share the Council's vision for this to be a community school. Outside of school hours we would like to see the community accessing this new facility and will work with the council to make this happen.

The new sports facilities will be a great addition to the school and will be well used by the community and no doubt increase the opportunities for participation by pupils.

Active Travel is really important to us and we would welcome the opportunity to be involved in designing an Active Travel Plan that enables as many learners as possible to access the school via active travel.

We strongly believe that a new school will be the first choice for learners in all its surrounding communities Pengam Green, Tremorfa, Adamsdown, Splott and Butetown and in order to serve the inevitable increased numbers there will have to be eight form of entry. We note that the Council start their assumptions by not including Butetown (the neighbouring ward) and believe this could lead to a significant underestimation of numbers. Some of these residents live a few hundred metres from the proposed site and for nearly all of them this will be their nearest school.

There is a risk local children will miss out on places as has happened elsewhere in the city. We need to future proof this site during the build and that starts with recognising that surrounding communities will want to go to their local new school.

Finally, can we state how positive we are about this process and excited to see a new school serving this area.

Willows High School Headteacher

Awaiting response – chasing

Cardiff Bay Business Centre

As you will be aware, we have a mixture of small industrial units and offices at the Business Centre and the crux for us and for our tenants will ultimately be around more practical issues, such as:

- The physical location of the proposed new school.
- Noise levels and disturbances associated with the construction phase of the proposed new school.
- The design and layout of the proposed new school and its impact on the Business Centre.
- Access implications to the Centre with schools on either side of us - there is already an impact on ease of access during certain times of the day from the existing Ysgol Glan Morfa, which is smaller than the proposed new school.
- Transport and congestion implications in the immediate surrounding area with increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic coming to the school.
- Additional increased congestion issues because of the closure of part of Lewis road on the rest of Lewis Rd itself, East Tyndall St, Freshmoor Rd and Portmanmoor Rd.
- Increased pedestrian traffic with pupils having to cross these roads to access the proposed new school.
- Noise levels from the proposed new school on a day to day basis and its impact on the working conditions of tenants at the Centre.

We appreciate that it is early days with the proposal, but it will clearly have a direct impact on the Business Centre and its tenants and we look forward to getting involved in more detailed consultation with you on this matter in due course.

Fluidity Freerun Academy

At the moment there is a huge push for getting Parkour/Freerunning in for physical education across the UK - this has always been a large passion of ours and especially with local schools in Cardiff where we have delivered over the years.

On top of this, Parkour UK have Tutors that can teach Parkour as a CPD course for PE teachers to be able to safely implement and deliver Parkour/Freerunning within their PE classes. We are also looking at providing equipment via Fluidity as well, and I have also taken the course to be able to tutor these courses.

It goes without saying that Physical education and play are incredibly crucial parts of a child's development for life skills, and the push to change attitudes and the ways in which sport is delivered in school in modern times is a big one!

Parkour is one of the most popular activities kids are watching online, and wanting to partake in (<https://parkour.uk/sport-englands-active-lives-adult-survey-nov-17-18-parkour-freerunning-participation-figures/>) , and we are aware of the number of kids in our local area to that frequent our venue and practise outside.

As the only parkour center in Wales with qualified coaches, we would love to be able to get involved somehow, and can offer talks/assemblies, workshops, as well as the teacher training or internal or external sessions (we currently have a few schools who come to us for their PE sessions or have us come to them on a regular basis!)

Would definitely be keen to talk more if this was something of interest!

Here are some links

<https://parkour.uk/what-we-do/>

www.fluidityfreerunacademy.co.uk

Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust

The design of a school is extremely important because it can have one of the greatest impacts on shaping our lives from an early age. For Willows High School, it is situated in the catchment of Splott, Adamsdown and Tremorfa in the Eastern part of Cardiff, which is one of the most deprived communities in the region. That said this school is on a really important journey which has seen it become one of the most improved schools in Wales. The investment in a new school building will not only provide the most effective learning environment for our children and young people, but it will be designed to effectively support the new Curriculum in Wales. It will give the community the boost it needs to thrive in the years to come by giving students the skills they need to effectively participate in the world of work. This extremely important investment will ensure the journey of Willows can continue. Schools are an integral part of our communities and neither one can work effectively without continued support.

What do you like about the plans for the new school?

Although the layout and plans are not detailed, the facilities that have been identified will cover the areas of learning experience as identified in the Careers and Work Related Experience consultation which is the most important part of the design. The design must allow the new Curriculum for Wales to be delivered in the most effective way for learners and teaching staff. Having reviewed the CGI for the new Fitzalan High School which gives an impression of what Willows could look like, it is good to see the importance of collaborative and flexible learning spaces that embraces new technology for today and in the future. In terms of health and wellbeing bright colours, natural light, and more open spaces have been shown to contribute to the most effective learning environments. The location of the school is approximately 1 mile from the existing location, which is important so that school journeys are not adversely effected. In addition, it is good to see that facilities will be available to allow cycling to school and that the school is committed to active travel. The option to have increased numbers in the year groups is good, as it can grow with the community, but this happening should not adversely affect the standards of the teaching provided.

Do you have any suggestions to make it better?

It would be good to see the layout include spaces where teaching can take place outside that students are not confined to classrooms unless the teaching/subject dictates this. Also from an inclusive and equality point of view it would be good to see that facilities such as toilets and changing rooms are planned to ensure that all students no matter of background are comfortable in their environment.

How can the new school benefit the community?

The school needs to have a multi-purpose approach, that it can be used as a community hub for events outside of school hours. Being in a deprived area it is likely that parents are past pupils of the school and may have experiences which holds them back from taking part in school activities which benefit their children. A new building in a new location has the potential to build back some of those relationships and increase the support of a more cohesive community around the school.

How can the community benefit the new school?

An important part of the new Curriculum for Wales is the integration of Careers and Work Related Experience. In order for this to happen effectively the local community

must be able and willing to engage with the school. Whether this be through careers talks, careers fairs or role models discussing their career pathways. These opportunities need community support so that children and young people can be inspired, be ambitious and are able to see the opportunities that are available to them.

What do other schools have that you would like to see at Willows?

I think that the facilities on offer at the new school will be a huge improvement to what they currently have. This new building will provide all of the opportunities needed to ensure a well-rounded education and preparation for work life. I cannot think of anything else that needs to be included.

What is good about the current Willows that we can continue in the new school?

Although the building may no longer be fit for purpose, the school has been on a journey of improvement that I would like to see continue, the availability of this new building will be an extremely important investment in their future.