

APPENDIX 2

Notes of Pentyrch Primary School Staff and Governing Body Meetings



Staff Meeting – 12 January 2022

Present: Michele Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Anita Batten (HR), Louise Flynn (HR), Sarah Coombes (Pentyrch Primary School Executive Head), School Staff, Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP)

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

The Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live Event

Welcome and Introductions

Brett Andrewartha (BA) opened the meeting, welcomed staff and explained the process of consultation including timeframes.

He then presented a PowerPoint slide show which set out the following:

- What is being proposed
- Background
- Why we are proposing to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School
- EM pupil projections at Pentyrch Primary School and surrounding area
- Forecasts and sufficiency of places
- Nursery provision
- Condition and suitability
- Proposed changes to school buildings
- Quality and standards
- Benefits of the proposal
- Potential disadvantages and risks
- Alternative options
- Financial matters
- Other considerations
- Human resources matters
- What happens next

Anita Batten (AB) advised that HR would support the school with workforce planning requirements

Questions and Answers

BA invited questions from staff

The questions submitted by staff are set out in *italics* below/over with the officer response given directly below.



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Q – Sarah Coombes (SC) wanted to know if purdah could affect the proposal.

A – BA stated that the consultation has been planned so that it can be submitted to Cabinet in March 2022, before the start of purdah.

Michele Duddridge-Friedl (MDF) explained the importance of submitting responses, no matter the opinion towards the proposal. She stated that the consultation process is where people's views can shape the outcome and encouraged all staff to respond in some form.

There were no further questions, MDF thanked the staff and the meeting closed.



Governing Body Meeting – 13 January 2022

Present: Michele Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Louise Flynn (HR), Sarah Coombes (Pentyrch Primary School Executive Head), Governing Body, Shirley Karseras (SOP)

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

The Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live Event

Welcome and Introductions

Michele Duddridge-Friedl (MDF) opened the meeting and welcomed the Governing Body. Brett Andrewartha (BA) then explained the process of the consultation including timeframes and presented a PowerPoint slide show which set out the following:

- What is being proposed
- Background
- Why we are proposing to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School
- EM pupil projections at Pentyrch Primary School and surrounding area
- Forecasts and sufficiency of places
- Nursery provision
- Condition and suitability
- Proposed changes to school buildings
- Quality and standards
- Benefits of the proposal
- Potential disadvantages and risks
- Alternative options
- Financial matters
- Other considerations
- Human resources matters
- What happens next

Louise Flynn (LF) advised that HR would support the school with workforce planning requirements

Questions and Answers

MDF invited questions from the Governing Body

The questions and comments submitted by the Governing Body are set out in *italics* below/over with the officer response given directly below.



Q – I wear several hats as a parent, past pupil and now governor. There have been conversations within the community about how this proposal will affect the local nursery.

Cardiff Council are now able to offer 30 hours of childcare which is unfortunate timing as the proposed school nursery could only offer 2½ hours. It is unlikely that the current nursery provider will be able to provide wraparound care as the village hall, from where it is run, has a commitment to other institutions. This could impact parents' decisions whether to use Pentyrch School nursery.

I know that in the past there was additional work that needed to be carried out with children coming into Reception to Pentyrch Primary School due to a difference in educational standards from the local nursery compared to those that might have been coming from a more private nursery setting. The continuity of children coming from a school nursery would be a benefit of this proposal. Pentyrch Primary is in the minority across Cardiff in not having its own nursery, and whilst it is emotional as the local nursery has been in existence for over 40 years, it will be positive to have a nursery in the school.

Traffic and parking will be an issue. Even people who live locally use the car as they may be heading off to work after drop-off. Staff parking on site would be helpful to alleviate the congestion around the school.

A - MDF – aware that there is support for the well-loved nursery in the village. The local nursery offers 3 hours in the morning, Cardiff Council would be offering 2½ hours. Often this allows for wraparound provision by a private provider such as lunch clubs or a walking bus facility. It has worked in the past with maintained nursery operating in the morning and then non-maintained in the afternoon, utilising the same space and staff. There are various permutations that can be looked at. This will depend on what the views are of the community in this area.

We are at a formative stage and need to hear the good, the bad and the ugly. It is important to also suggest what would work best for the families and community of Pentyrch and Goitre Fach.

We can change small parts of proposals or re-consult on substantial changes. It may be possible to reduce the number of maintained nursery places to lessen any conflict with the private provider in the village. This would still allow for continuity in education particularly with the rising 4's. Often a nursery can open with a reduced number of places to see take-up in the area. It can identify a latent demand that haven't been able to take up local provision.

Wraparound care would allow for a greater use of the 30 hour offer and facilitate a longer period of childcare for working parents.

It is often the case that children's readiness for school at Reception differs depending on what nursery provision they have attended. There are other schools that don't have nursery provision on site, but it is Cardiff Council's policy to prioritise the funding of maintained nurseries. Maintained nursery also has the benefit of having a qualified teacher lead and can influence the level of the provision.



Traffic and parking is a perennial issue. We have to work with traffic and transport colleagues to mitigations can be put in place to ease any existing pressures. In the case of Pentyrch which is one road in and one road out, consolidating the primary at 1 form of entry should have minimal impact as some year groups may have the numbers already there and the classrooms are just not the appropriate size. Also with the nursery, it is likely that the families will be consistent with older siblings already at the school.

It is critical though that we look at safe routes and try to encourage as many people as possible walk to school. There is a revisit with Governing Bodies and schools on their active travel plans with this kind of investment to ensure that the maximum is being done to support families so they can access school without using their cars.

Staff parking would depend on the scale of land that there is on site. There are also planning restrictions on this.

Public transport would be difficult in this location but there are other options such as lift shares and cycle to work schemes that could be utilised.

Q – I am a community governor with 2 children at the school, in years 1 and 3 and am really excited that hopefully my children will benefit from these proposals. I am aware that there is a public meeting, but I reached out to the parents of my children's year classes to see if I could bring any issues to this meeting.

The main points identified were the safe walking routes to school and an issue with the parking in front of the school. Pedestrian crossings would be a welcome addition. There is also a lot of community discussion taking place in regards to the impact on the local nursery. If they could be brought in on the changes then that would be fantastic. I agree that my children weren't at the level as other children who had been at a maintained nursery when starting Pentyrch Primary School in Reception which adds pressure on the teaching staff. As a parent and Pentyrch resident I think a maintained nursery will enhance Pentyrch as a community.

A - MDF – The main purpose of non-maintained nurseries is to provide childcare. In many cases they also provide excellent early years education opportunities as well. However, many parents do seek maintained nursery provision as they feel it provides the education opportunities which are more in line of what they want for their children and like that there is a shared ethos of what the school offers right from the beginning. Cardiff Council fund the vast majority of nursery places from maintained nurseries.

Q – With regards to the funding, I know it is for both the expansion and the introduction of a nursery, but what does this include? Is it just for the physical build or does it include the resources that are needed when delivering nursery education?



A - MDF – The money will fund any new resources that are needed that you didn't have before. So yes, the buildings and resources for the nursery would be funded as this does not exist at present. Other requirements would be from the per pupil funding which operates in the primary phase. Unfortunately, it is not a full refurbishment.

The school might find that there is funding for children in the nursery who may not appear initially which would possibly allow for some extra money to fund the incidental type purchases you would wish to make.

Q – Very impressed with the presentation and quality of answers given. I feel that the challenges within the community will be emotive rather than logical but there are logical solutions to these issues. Hopefully this will ease the concerns of the community.

A - MDF – Proposals aren't referendums and changed by the number of people who suggest something, but rather the level and nature of the suggestions. As an education proposal it is about not negatively impacting on the educational opportunities that exist currently. Our proposals must show that things would stay at least the same if not better.

We have to take into account each person's views and the merits of them. Working together as a Governing Body with the local provider could be very positive for the whole community of Pentyrch.

Q – Sarah Coombes (SC) – At what point will we discuss what would happen if these proposals don't get approved? What are the alternatives? When will we highlight the issues of the sustainability of financing a village school?

A - MDF – From the responses we have received so far, I think there are people who are cognitive of the issues if the school is not consolidated at 1 form of entry and able to attract the pupils from its local area. As a rural area on the edge of an urban area, when building work occurs, it can attract pupils elsewhere.

SC – That's why Pentyrch is collaborating with Llanishen Fach: to ensure the financial viability of the school.

MDF – The data from the consultation document shows that local schools are attracting some of Pentyrch's pupils. This could be because that relationship started at nursery or based on historic perceptions.

SC – There is evidence from Llanishen Fach that when children come into nursery at the school they stay.



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There were no further questions, MDF thanked the Governing Body and the meeting closed.