

Formal responses to consultation:

- Estyn
- Pentyrch Community Council
- Pentyrch Primary School Governing Body
- Pentyrch Nursery

A. Estyn

Estyn's response to the proposal by Cardiff Council to increase the number of places at Pentyrch Primary School and to establish nursery provision for children aged 3 – 4 years at the school.

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/ Conclusion

Cardiff Council has provided proposals which clearly explain the reasoning behind the need to:

- increase the number of primary school places at Pentyrch Primary School from 140 places to 210 places
- extend the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11 by establishing nursery provision at the school to allow for 48 part-time places.

Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposals. It has considered the likely effect of local developments on school places carefully, and has considered the capacity, admission number, surplus capacity and projected demand for schools affected by the proposal. Cardiff Council predicts the need to expand capacity at Pentyrch Primary School, despite the creation of new schools to address the increase in housing stock in the area. At present, the school does not provide education for nursery aged pupils and the proposal seeks to address this and identifies many benefits of establishing nursery provision at the school. Currently families living in Pentyrch seeking nursery places attend private nursery settings or travel out of the vicinity.

The proposer has set out the potential benefits of expanding the school and of establishing a nursery clearly. For example, Cardiff Council believes that expanding the school would contribute towards a better match between the supply of and demand for English-medium school places within the local area. The

proposer sees the establishment of a nursery as a means of enhancing the opportunity to appropriately address individual developmental and cultural needs as well as establishing strong and effective parental links from the earliest opportunity.

Cardiff Council has identified a couple of possible disadvantages to the proposal that includes the impact on local private nursery providers as parents may opt to send their children to the early years provision at the school instead. There is also a real probability that the proposal will result in the increase of traffic in and around the school site.

The Council has identified a couple of possible risks associated with the proposal, such as the possibility that families from the new housing developments may take up places elsewhere. Also, they have identified that the recent birth rates, and projected intakes to schools city-wide in the period 2021 to 2024, are at lower levels than in recent years which could reduce the take up of places at Pentyrch Primary School. They aim to keep projections under review and take account of the population changes when timing the proposals for school provision in the area.

The proposer has not considered the risks or disadvantages associated with the construction process, should the proposals go ahead. For example, appointing appropriate contractors, delays in project delivery and securing sufficient funding. Neither have they outlined the potential impact on the disruption to learners during the construction phase.

The Council considered other alternatives to the preferred proposal fairly. As the proposal is a response to planned housing developments in the surrounding area, it looked at the possibility of establishing new school provision elsewhere and expanding other existing primary schools. It concluded that all schools within reasonable distance to the development were less suitable for expansion and they therefore discounted these alternatives. The Council believes that the expansion of Pentyrch Primary School is necessary, as the planned building of new primary schools on the housing developments may not guarantee admission for all pupils on the developments as they may be further from those schools than other applicants. They also foresee greater costs in transporting pupils to other schools.

The proposer has considered the impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements. There is no safe walking route between the new housing development and Pentyrch Primary School, and no plans to provide one in the near future. This means that pupils living in the new development would need to be transported to the school. Cardiff Council would offer these pupils free home to school transport to the nearest appropriate school that has places available at the time of applying. It is likely that suitable drop-off and pick-up provision would be needed at Pentyrch Primary School to accommodate the required buses and taxis. It is also likely that parking restrictions would be required to discourage short distance car travel by those within walking distance and to maximise levels of active travel to school.

Cardiff Council refers to its ambition and actions towards increasing the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh. It also outlines its commitment

towards fulfilling its targets within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and to meet the targets set out in the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy. This proposal will not contribute directly to fulfilling the targets outlined in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The Council has considered the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards in education suitably. They note that since the school has been in a formal collaboration with Llanishen Fach Primary School, with a leadership team working across both schools, that Penttyrch Primary School have made positive progress. With continued support, it is reasonable to expect that the quality of education within the school would not be negatively affected.

The proposal considers the information from the most recent Estyn report and the view of the regional consortium well, for Penttyrch Primary School.

It is reasonable to assume that the provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs would continue as present. The addition of a nursery class could aid with the early identification of vulnerable pupils and support a coordinated approach to planning for their needs across the foundation phase.

The consultation lacks consideration about how the disruption to learners would be minimised if the proposals to go ahead.

(By email) – 24/01/2022

B. Pentyrch Clerk clerk@pentyrch.cc

School Responses / Ymatebion Ysgolion SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Hill-John, Gavin (Cllr) Gavin.Hill-John@cardiff.gov.uk

CC - Phased email retention (3 years)

PCC supports improved facilities in its communities and understands the need for Pentyrch Primary School to remain sustainable.

PCC does have concerns arising from the proposed expansion of PPS:

1. The proposed 50% increase in pupil numbers will greatly increase the traffic and parking on Bronllwyn whether the extra pupils arrive by school bus or private car.
2. Bronllwyn traffic flow is already significantly affected at school drop-off and pick-up time. It is a bus route.
3. Safety for all users is a major concern for PCC and asks that robust plans be drawn up to minimise risk for more pupils, parents and school staff
4. The existing nursery based in Pentyrch Village Hall has been an important part of the community for some 40 years. PCC is pleased to see that support for this nursery is part of the consultation plan. We note that the new nursery may not be in the final plan.
5. PCC considers the sustainability of Pentyrch as a community an important element of this consultation. The school is clearly a key part of the community and the existing nursery plays its own key role.
6. Pentyrch Village Hall is another vital part of the local community and the existing nursery contributes a significant proportion of its income.
7. It is essential that any new nursery's effect on the wider community's sustainability be properly considered.

Helena Fox

**Clerc i Cyngor Cymuned Pentyrch
Clerk to Pentyrch Community Council**

(By email) – 25/01/2022

C. G John-Hill (Penttyrch Primary School) <John-HillG5@Hwbcymru.net>
School Responses / Ymatebion Ysgolion SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk
CC - Phased email retention (3 years)

Hi,

Please find below a response from the PPS governing body

After careful review of the consultation document, the public meeting, and subsequent briefings the governing body is delighted to support the proposals.

The expansion of the school will provide security for the future and ensure that we are able to continue delivering an excellent standard of education in the local community. The nursery provision means that children will get the best possible start to their life in education and the school community will continue to grow.

The current pupils are excited about the plans and can't wait to make more friends.

At this stage we would like to raise a few items for consideration based on feedback from the local community, teachers and the children.

1. The impact of the increased number of pupils on local traffic and parking will need to be carefully managed.
2. The impact on the existing nursery will need to be considered and managed.
3. The KS2 classrooms need to be fit for purpose.
4. There needs to be enough classrooms for single year groups.
5. The hall needs to be big enough to accommodate the new pupil numbers.
6. The staff facilities also need to be adequate.
7. The impact on current pupils caused by the building works will need to be minimised.

We look forward to working with the development team to deliver this project.

Gavin Hill-John
Chair

(By email) – 24/01/2022

**D. Tor L <v.lewis@hotmail.co.uk>
Duddridge-Friedl, Michele <Michele.Duddridge-Friedl@cardiff.gov.uk>; School
Responses / Ymatebion Ysgolion <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>
CC - Phased email retention (3 years)**

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for your time today.

Please find attached my responses to the survey.

Kind regards

**Victoria Lawrence
Pentyrch Nursery**

[Proposed expansion of Pentyrch primary school response](#)

1. Do you support the proposal to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School from 140 to 210 places?

NO

Please explain why

As a nursery we always advocate for any measures that we believe will benefit the children of Pentyrch but feel this proposal would be detrimental to the village as a whole and as such we will be objecting to the plans.

After reading the proposal thoroughly we have reached the following conclusions.

- The provision is not being added for residents of the village but with the hope of attracting pupils from the new developments on Llantrisant road.

- There are 4 new primary schools being built through the various phases of the Plasdwr scheme to meet the education needs of the new development and its residents, the first of which opens on the same date as this proposed expansion.

- This will undoubtedly lead to a large increase in traffic at pickup and drop off times as there will be an additional 118 places at the school targeted at parents from outside the village. There will be a significant impact to air quality and pollution around the school during pickup and drop off times which seems to have not been considered.

- Parking will become a major issue as this will lead to around 100 extra vehicles needing to park at pickup and drop off times and with the added nursery provision this will be 3/4 times per day.

- This will have a knock-on effect on road safety and will create additional risks for the local children walking to school. There isn't sufficient parking to accommodate this proposal and people will undoubtedly park irresponsibly as a consequence.
- The proposed relocation of the surgery will also have an impact as it will result in the residents of the village attempting to access the proposed surgery in Rhydlafer competing with parents from out of the village attempting to get their children to Pentyrch primary school creating traffic misery for all through the lanes.
- There is no safe walking or cycling routes from these new developments to Pentyrch so all access will have to be by vehicle.
- The new dual medium 420 place Groeswen primary school and a 48-place nursery in the Plasdwr development are opening on the same date as this proposed expansion. Parents will be faced with a choice of battling the lanes to attend Pentyrch or alternatively sending their children to a new state of the art primary school and nursery with much better access.

2. Do you support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Pentyrch Primary School of 48 part-time places?

NO

Please explain why

If this proposal is successful, it will dramatically change how nursery provision is provided to the children of Pentyrch and not necessarily for the better. These are the changes parents would see if this proposal is approved.

- The existing nursery which has been in the village for over 40 years will cease to exist as it would not be financially viable to continue operation once a nursery for over 3-year-olds was available within the school as there is currently a mix of 2,3 and 4-year-olds who attend. Pentyrch Nursery has consistently provided high quality early years education as demonstrated by its numerous positive inspection reports from both ESTYN and CIW.
- All children over 3 years old who want a nursery place would have to attend 5 days per week as there is no flexibility for a school-based nursery to offer less days. This removes a parent's ability to select less days if they feel it isn't right for their child and their development or to suit other childcare commitments.
- There would be no provision for 2-year-olds to attend nursery within the village as the school provision will only take children from 3 meaning an average of 8 children aged 2 will miss out on the benefits of attending nursery and socialising with other children every year.
- An entirely new nursery will need to be built at the school as there is no current provision. This will require it to be fully equipped with equipment, resources and staff as well as the cost of the building itself. Nowhere in the document is there a cost benefit analysis comparing the cost to the council to fund the current nursery provision which

is relatively low compared against the huge cost of creating and staffing a brand-new nursery along with its ongoing costs.

- Replacing the existing high quality private nursery provision with an unproven nursery that only accepts over 3's within the school that lacks flexibility is a backward step and will lead to another loss of amenities to the village.

3. Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

Separate the two elements of the proposal to be considered independently to allow for flexibility of alternative options.

4. Are there any alternative options you would like to suggest?

With regard to nursery provision only.

The existing private nursery could be relocated to the newly built nursery on the school site to continue to provide sessional childcare in the morning session. This would allow the school to provide the education element of the childcare offer in the afternoons.

- This would provide potentially all-day nursery for 3-year-olds and would maintain provision for 2-year-olds in the village. This would also have the benefit of introducing children to the school setting at the earliest possible opportunity. It would maintain the quality of provision from the current private provider with the newly established school nursery.
- This would provide a stronger link between the private nursery and the school and will also foster greater links with the wider community.
- A combination of private and school provision on one site would mean greater flexibility for parents in regards to their childcare needs.
- Relocating and accommodating the private nursery would mean no redundancies for the private provider.
- The public perception of the school cooperating with the current nursery to improve facilities available to the children of Pentyrch can only help the school's public image within the village.

This is a departure from the original proposal but would best meet the needs of Pentyrch. However, for this to be possible any new nursery building would have to meet the following criteria.

- Security of lease to the private provider.
- 2.8m² per child for capacity as per CIW guidelines
- 1 toilet and wash basin per 10 children capacity aged 2 and above
- Separate staff toilet facilities
- Access requirements are met
- Nappy changing facilities
- Separate consumable storage.

- Kitchen area with hatch access to main area.
- Space for a separate fridge
- The school holding sufficient insurance for 2-year-olds on the main premises separate to the private providers own insurance.
- Possibility of overflow room if capacity is met.
- Secure office / administration area.
- Dedicated wall space for nursery artwork.

Obviously, this suggestion would require detailed discussion and agreement from all parties to include some of the following issues.

- Legal agreements between the school / council and private provider.
- Decisions on any shared costs
- Handover process from the private nursery to the school for children attending all day.
- Alignment of strategy between private nursery and school to provide complimentary learning outcomes and themes.