

Pupil consultation meetings

1. Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch (4<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
2. Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna (5<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
3. Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau (6<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
4. Ysgol Glan Morfa (6<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
5. Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (7<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
6. Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr (10<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
7. Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (12<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
8. Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern (13<sup>th</sup> February 2020)
9. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad (14<sup>th</sup> February 2020)

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Rachel Burgess-Willis (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Alwen Bowen (Deputy Head, Pwll Coch)

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>P: It's about where you go to school (only one child responded)</p> <p>School catchments were explained to the pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>The background to the proposed changes was explained and pupils were shown a map of the current WM school catchments. Ysgol Hamadryad was also marked on this map with a cross.</p> <p>Pupils were asked where they would put a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad?</p> <p>P: Does it have to have a catchment?</p> <p>CR: Most schools have a catchment. This helps children and parents know where their child is likely to be able to go to school.</p> <p>P: Could the catchment be here? (pointing at blank area of the map)</p> <p>CR: That's not part of Cardiff. There are other schools there but they would be in the Vale – by Penarth.</p> <p>P: It could be here? (Drawing a circle around Ysgol Hamadryad on the map)</p>	

Pupils agreed that this was a good place for the catchment to be; two pupils made the point that this was taking space from existing school catchments (Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan)

Maps were presented to the pupils showing details the proposed changes to primary school catchment areas - Option A, then Option B.

The two options were explained.

P: Why are some of the catchments smaller?

CR: Some school catchments have more people living within them (e.g. Ysgol Treganna) because there are a lot of houses very close together. This is called high population density. A lot of people can live in a very small area, but you can also have very large areas where not many people live. Lots of people live in this small area, but other schools cover areas where there are fewer houses. Maybe there are more businesses or parks.

P: What about high schools?

CR: The high school catchments may change a little too, to match the proposed changes in Option A and B. Do any of you have older brothers or sisters in high school?

Four to five pupils put their hands up. Their older siblings attended both Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr. (About half and half)

AB: It depends on which school older siblings attend. What high schools our Y6's go to changes year by year.

Pupils talked about the two options but had no more questions when prompted.

The pupils were then asked which option they like better - Option A or Option B?

Three said Option A and two said Option B. Many weren't certain.

P: We should say Option A because we will have more pupils.

AB: Shall we ask again?

CR: Who prefers Option A?

Pupils were unanimous in preferring Option A.

Pupils were thanked for their input and advised that they could get in touch with SOP through their teachers if they thought of anything else they'd like to say.

Session End.

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP),

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>P: It's the area around a school. If you live there then you can go to that school.</p> <p>P: It's streets that belong to a school.</p> <p>School catchments were explained to the pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew of Ysgol Hamadryad. A small number of pupils raised their hands.</p> <p>P: When I was small I remember my mum getting a flyer/poster for it.</p> <p>The background to the proposed changes was explained - to allow Ysgol Hamadryad to have a school catchment like the other WM primaries.</p> <p>Pupils were asked: Do you think Ysgol Hamadryad should have a catchment? Should all schools have one?</p> <p>P: What if it has a bad effect on other schools?</p> <p>CR: We try our best to mitigate these if there are any. What we've got is a problem and two different solutions the Council has suggested to solve the problem. What do you think would happen if we had no catchments at all?</p> <p>P: Children and parents wouldn't know which school they could go to?</p>	

CR: Yes – oversubscription criteria explained – priority for catchment children over non-catchment in most, but not all circumstances. Explained that pupils can and do still attend schools out of catchment quite often. Parents can apply for any school. If there are places in that school then the child can attend the school. Oversubscription criteria only apply when a school is full.

(2 pupils present did not live in the catchment for Ysgol Treganna)

Option A and Option B maps were shown to pupils. These were close-up maps of the suggested changes specific to Ysgol Treganna’s catchment boundary. Pupils broke up into small groups to look at these.

Some observations/questions from pupils:

- What about our younger brothers/sisters?
- Why do you have to change Ysgol Treganna’s catchment?
- Things can stay as they are right now.
- Will we have to go to a different high school?
- It’s not fair to children who are affected.
- I think it’s bad because you’ll have brothers and sisters at different schools.
- Will we have to move school?
- Parents won’t be able to take children to different schools – they’ll have longer journeys
- I’m worried because my younger sibling might have to go to a different school.
- There is uncertainty for people who have moved to an area due to school catchments and now these are changing
- They felt that children with siblings at secondary school should be an extra preference criteria.
- Asked about what was happening to the catchments not included on our maps (Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Coed y Gof)
- Asked about children living on the border of the catchments
- Changes could make everyone unhappy, some schools have more and some have less.

The pupils were advised that very view was important and that their views and feelings (both good and bad) on the proposed changes would be made known to the Cabinet ahead of any decision being taken.

The general feeling among the pupils present at the session were concerns about younger siblings not being able to attend the same high school/primary as themselves due to being out of the catchment under either or both Option A and B.

Pupils were thanked for their input and reassured that if they had any other questions, or thought of something else they'd like to say, they could speak to their teacher/headteacher who would pass on any additional information to SOP.

Session End.

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP),

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>P: It's an area around a school and if you live in that area you have a priority over children who live in a different area.</p> <p>School catchments were explained to the pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew of Ysgol Hamadryad. The pupils were not aware of Ysgol Hamadryad and were provided with details of the school.</p> <p>Pupils were shown a map of the current WM school catchments. Ysgol Hamadryad was marked on this map with a cross.</p> <p>The background to the proposed changes was explained - to allow Ysgol Hamadryad to have a school catchment like the other WM primaries.</p> <p>Pupils were asked where they might put a catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad, and shown the two maps for Option A and Option B.</p> <p>Pupils were also shown a more detailed map of the suggested new catchment boundary between Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Nant Caerau.</p> <p>Pupils were asked for their feedback/opinions</p>	

The points raised included:

- Worried about their catchment shrinking
- Would more children go to Ysgol Treganna?
- Would there be enough children going to Ysgol Nant Caerau?
- What would happen if Ysgol Nant Caerau grew bigger?
- Do people have to go to their catchment school?
- Could Ysgol Treganna be expanded instead?
- Is having a catchment area necessary?

The questions were answered by SOP staff: Ysgol Nant Careau is oversubscribed currently and it was unlikely that the school would not continue to attract pupils.

It was explained that if Ysgol Nant Caerau grew bigger there would be a public consultation about this and any changes that might be made to the school catchment area.

Pupils in Cardiff attend lots of schools and many children do not attend their catchment school because their parents have selected a different school and there was a place there.

Ysgol Treganna is already a 3FE school and caters for the children in its catchment area. Ysgol Hamadryad would still need a catchment area because the children in that area may have to travel further to get to school otherwise.

Without catchment areas children would be able to attend any school, however there would still need to be some sort of measure such as distance used. There would be a lot of traffic, and it would be good for children to go to schools near them so they can use healthier means of travel.

Pupils were thanked for their input and assured their concerns and questions would be noted. They were told that if they had anything they wanted to say they could tell their teacher or headteacher who could then pass it on to SOP.

Session End.

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils.  Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>P: It's about where you live – the streets around the school.</p> <p>School catchments were explained to the pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>The background to proposed changes was explained and all pupils were shown a map of the current WM school catchments. Ysgol Hamadryad was marked on this map with a cross.</p> <p>The purpose of the proposal relevant to Ysgol Glan Morfa was explained to the pupils; the importance of getting a balance of pupil numbers at each WM high school, making sure pupils could access the nearest school, to grow and support WM education generally.</p> <p>Maps were shown to the pupils showing Glan Morfa's school catchment sitting within the school catchment for Ysgol Bro Edern.</p> <p>Pupils had the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to Ysgol Bro Edern (although most stated that they lived closer to Ysgol Bro Edern anyway)</li> <li>• Having older brothers or sisters already at Ysgol Glantaf – would they have to attend a different school from their siblings?</li> <li>• Cost of travel, given that Ysgol Glan Morfa pupils had been offered free transport to Ysgol Glantaf if they lived over 3 miles from the school.</li> <li>• Method of travel; walking, bus, bike, car</li> <li>• Parents travelling the opposite way to Ysgol Bro Edern for work, but towards Ysgol Glantaf.</li> <li>• Having younger siblings attend a different school.</li> </ul>	

<p>Any questions were answered by SOP staff and pupils told their concerns would all be noted. Pupils were told they could speak to their teachers or headteacher if they thought of anything else they'd like to say and were signposted to the council website.</p>	
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<p>Session End.</p>	
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**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP),

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

Heading	Action
<b>Meeting with Pupils at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan</b>	
<b>Consultation Options: Option A and Option B</b>	
<p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>It was a small group of 6 pupils (Two from Y5 and Four from Y6) – most knew what a school catchment was.</p> <p>School catchments were explained more fully to the pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>Pupils were shown a map of the current WM school catchments for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Treganna, Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Nant Caerau.</p> <p>Ysgol Hamadryad was marked on this map with a red cross.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew of Ysgol Hamadryad.</p> <p>Pupils were not sure.</p> <p>Ysgol Hamadryad was explained as a new WM school and the purpose of the proposal was explained – to allow Ysgol Hamadryad to have a school catchment like the other WM primaries.</p> <p>Pupils asked where they might put the catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad. Pupils realised that Ysgol Hamadryad was sitting within their own current school catchment.</p> <p>The following points were raised through discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few pupils from the bay area attend Ysgol Mynydd Bychan</li> <li>• The school had confirmed currently only 1 student in the school lives in that area</li> </ul>	

- Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is small and oversubscribed so only people who live very close to the school can get a place at the school
- Of the group of pupils attending, all lived close enough to school to walk most of the time.
- They recognised that you can't leave a school with no catchment area
- The catchment changes could be good for some pupils
- They would not want these changes half way through an academic year
- They asked if the English medium catchments would be affected
- When asked, they stated that their parents were aware of the proposals but not that interested as their school was not directly affected.

Pupils were shown the map of the proposed catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad.

The pupils were of the opinion they and their school would not be much affected by the proposed changes. The impact on pupils at Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Treganna was discussed.

Pupils raised the following concerns regarding pupils who could be affected by the changes:

- Siblings being split up, unable to attend the same school.
- Siblings at different schools could negatively impact the environment as there would be additional journeys made.
- Would pupils' travel be affected
- Would some pupils have to attend a different high school?

Some different ideas were put forward in mitigation:

- Reduce the Hamadyad catchment area so as to limit the impact on too many pupils
- Move the new borders so existing pupils are still inside the catchment
- Give protection/preference to younger siblings at primary and secondary level

Pupils were assured their concerns and questions would be noted. They were told that if they had anything else they wanted to say they could tell their teacher or headteacher who could then pass it on to us. They were encouraged to discuss this with parents/at home because everyone's views were important.

Session End.

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Rachel Burgess-Willis (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>Several pupils knew what school catchments are.</p> <p>School catchments were explained more fully to the pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>Pupils were given maps showing the four Welsh-medium primary catchments for Ysgol Treganna, Ysgol Nant Caerau, Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan together with location of Ysgol Hamadryad marked with red x. They were then shown the maps with the suggested catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad, Options A and B.</p> <p>Pupils raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad looked very large</li> <li>• Both Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan would lose large chunks of their catchments.</li> </ul> <p>It was explained that pupils were already attending Ysgol Hamadryad. Also discussed were the sizes of schools. For example, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan being 1FE and oversubscribed, with pupils living in the Bay area of the catchment being frequently unable to gain a place at the school because other in-catchment children lived much closer. Also discussed was population density in certain areas of the city.</p>	

Pupils were given maps showing the current Welsh-medium high school catchments and the proposed catchments under option A and B.

Pupils raised the following concerns:

- Siblings having to attend different high schools. Pupils thought it would be unfair if some pupils couldn't go to the same school as their older siblings. A number of the pupils present had younger siblings and felt it was important that they could be present to help their younger siblings, show them around the school etc.
- Pupils being unable to attend the same school as particular friends. When questioned, most of the pupils said they had remained friends with friends from primary school. Although this was not as important as being able to attend the same school as siblings, being able to maintain friendships was still important to them. All the pupils said they had also made many new friends since starting at high school.
- The distance from the bottom of the new Ysgol Hamadryad catchment (the Bay) from Ysgol Glantaf was questioned, but it was recognised that the secondary catchment had not changed.
- The pupils were worried some pupils might have a longer journey to school – this was in reference to primary school pupils who lived in the current Ysgol Nant Caerau catchment who would now be in catchment for Ysgol Treganna.
- Some pupils were concerned about those living on catchment boundaries and suggested that these children should get the option to go to the same high school and friends and siblings. Pupils were keen to emphasise the devastating effect that being forced to go to a separate high school could have.

Pupils were also shown expanded maps of the catchment boundaries proposed in the areas that would see changes.

After further discussion the pupils agreed that giving an added protection to younger siblings who had older brothers or sisters attending a school they were no longer in catchment for would be desirable.

Pupils were told they could comment further on the Council website.

End of session.



**Schools Programme  
Meeting with Pupils Ysgol Glantaf  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
09:30am – 10:00am**



**Present:** Shirley Karseras (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP)

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

No	Heading	Action
	<p>SOP officers met with a group of 10 Year 7 Ysgol Glantaf pupils. The pupils had attended a range of Welsh-medium primary schools. These included Ysgol Treganna, Ysgol Pwll Coch, Ysgol Y Wern, Ysgol Melin Gruffydd and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.</p> <p>RP introduced officers, explained that the Council was proposing to make changes to some Welsh-medium primary school catchment area which could then impact on the Welsh-medium secondary catchment areas and that their views on these changes were important.</p> <p>The pupils demonstrated that they understood what and why catchments were needed.</p> <p>Maps of the current catchment areas and the proposed changes Option A and Option B were shown to the pupils.</p> <p>Points raised through discussion of the changes included the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of friends. This would affect some children in Ysgol Treganna or Ysgol Pwll Coch who could end up going to different secondary schools under the changes. Most children felt that the loss of friendship groups would be a negative thing. They felt that whilst they could still arrange to meet these friends, that in reality, secondary school life is too busy for this to actually happen. One stated that simply moving class in primary school was enough of a barrier for friendships to continue. Comments were also made that this could be an opportunity to meet new friends at secondary school or to move away from pupils at primary school that you might not have liked. They felt that this could be a particularly difficult for pupils who may struggle to make friends.</li><li>• They strongly felt that alignment of catchment areas at primary and secondary level would be a good thing as this would ensure that friendship groups would be unaffected.</li><li>• There was a suggestion that catchment areas of the secondary schools could overlap in the areas affected by the proposed changes so that pupils could attend either Ysgol Plasmawr or Ysgol Glantaf.</li><li>• They also suggested that it would be easier if all the children from a primary school went directly up to the same secondary school. (Feeder rather than catchment system.)</li><li>• They felt that it made sense for the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment to go into the Ysgol Bro Edern catchment due to the distance that these</li></ul>	

No	Heading	Action
	<p>pupils would have to travel to their current catchment school. It would be almost impossible to walk and transport to school could harm the environment. There was largely a consensus that 3 miles or less was a reasonable distance to arrange one's own travel arrangements and that any greater than 3 miles should be supported by a free bus pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was unanimously felt that younger siblings, at both primary and secondary level, should be given a choice of attending the same school as there older siblings if they wished.</li> <li>• One pupil asked what the likelihood was of their points being listened to. The consultation process was explained to the pupils and the date of the Cabinet outcome was shared.</li> </ul> <p>Pupils were thanked for their input and assured their concerns and questions would be noted.</p> <p>Session end</p>	

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP)

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

Heading	Action
<p>The pupils attending the session had been pupils at Ysgol Glan Morfa, Ysgol Berllan Deg and Ysgol Pen Y Pil. A brief introduction to the consultation was given.</p> <p>Pupils were shown the maps of the proposed new catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad under Option A and Option B. They were asked to comment on the new catchment. Points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of the Ysgol Hamadryad catchment in comparison to the other primary school catchments</li> <li>• The catchments for certain schools (Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan) had grown smaller.</li> <li>• The catchments for Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Nant Caerau had moved.</li> </ul> <p>There was a discussion about population density and how this could affect the size of a school catchment.</p> <p>Pupils were shown the maps of the current catchments for the Welsh medium secondary schools together with the proposed move of the Ysgol Glan Morfa school catchment from within Ysgol Glantaf's school catchment to Ysgol Bro Edern's.</p> <p>Pupils made the following points and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was a positive thing to be closer to your catchment high school. This could mean more pupils would walk or bike to school instead of going by car. When asked, around half the pupils lived within walking distance of Ysgol Bro Edern or walked or biked to school at least part of the week, depending on the weather. One pupil said he cycled to school every day from Splott whatever the weather and that he enjoyed this as it made him fit.</li> <li>• They had friends who had gone to Ysgol Glantaf from Ysgol Glan Morfa. They were concerned about younger brothers or sisters of those friends and whether they would be able to attend Ysgol Glantaf too, or have to attend a different high school from their siblings.</li> </ul>	

- Some friends who had attended Ysgol Glan Morfa may have had free transport to Ysgol Glantaf. They were concerned there might be increased travel costs for some families. Several of the pupils at the session travelled to school by bus.

Overall, the pupils considered that Ysgol Hamadryad should have its own catchment and that moving the catchment of Ysgol Glan Morfa to sit within the catchment of Ysgol Bro Edern was a good thing. They put forward the idea that free transport could still be offered, and agreed that they thought that siblings should be offered some increased protection where older brothers and sisters had attended Ysgol Glantaf.

Session End.

**Present:** Cerys Richardson (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP)

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

Heading	Action
<p>CR opened the session and welcomed pupils. The pupils were from Year 3 (as currently Ysgol Hamadryad has no pupils in Y4-Y6) and were the youngest pupils taking part.</p> <p>The background to the consultation was explained.</p> <p>Pupils were asked if they knew what a school catchment was:</p> <p>No pupils were sure and school catchments were explained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of school catchments</li> <li>• What they mean for schools</li> <li>• What they mean for pupils</li> </ul> <p>The were shown a map of the current WM school catchments for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Pwll Coch, Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Nant Caerau. Ysgol Hamadryad was also marked on this map with a cross.</p> <p>Pupils agreed that their school should have its own catchment if all other schools had one. They thought it was a good thing for the school and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchments were good because you would know where you could go to school</li> <li>• It was fair for every school to have its own catchment</li> <li>• Children should be able to go to their local school</li> <li>• Children should be able to walk or bike to school. The majority of the pupils said they came to school by bike or walking and that they enjoyed this very much.</li> <li>• Not all the children lived in the school proposed school catchment for Hamadryad and they were worried that they would have to leave their school. They were reassured that this wouldn't happen and that no one would have to leave their school.</li> <li>• They were concerned for Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as these schools had lost part of their catchments.</li> </ul>	

Pupils were shown the maps outlining the school catchments proposed for the three Welsh-medium high schools. As all the pupils were Year 3, this felt distant for them, but the changes were discussed.

The pupils were thanked and told they could ask their parents and teachers about it. They were also told their parents could find the proposals on the Council website.

Session End.