

11th October 2024

Re: Consultees in relation to School Organisation – proposal to establish a new Welsh Medium Primary School for 3 to 11 Year olds as part of the Llanilid Housing Development and the proposed change of language medium for Dolau Primary School, from dual language to English Medium

Dear Cabinet Members,

I have been instructed by this Council's Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the **Statutory School Organisation – proposal to establish a new Welsh Medium Primary School for 3 to 11 Year olds as part of the Llanilid Housing Development and the proposed change of language medium for Dolau Primary School, from dual language to English Medium**, and for the comments to be included in the public consultation before its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting in November 2024

The Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to act as consultees and gave their feedback and comments in respect of the proposal at its meeting on the 11th September 2024. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the reports presented by the Director of Education and Inclusion Services.

The full discussions of the committee in respect of this item of business can be viewed [here](#).

In summary, the following points were discussed in relation to the Statutory School Organisation – proposal to establish a new Welsh Medium Primary School for 3 to 11 Year olds as part of the Llanilid Housing Development and the proposed change of language medium for Dolau Primary School, from dual language to English Medium.

- A Member felt that a principal piece of information in the report relating to the funding and investment opportunities if the school was to be built as a Welsh medium school, as outlined in option 3 was not made apparent in the report. To assist in better understanding of the proposal it was commented that such information should be made more prominent in the report. Members sought a stronger statement to confirm if a Welsh Medium School would present a stronger funding case for Welsh Government support.
- Members sought reassurance that appropriate consultees were included in the consultation including Ysgol Llanhari, RhAG (Rhieni ar gyfer Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh Education) and the Community Council.
- Members appreciated the new opportunities the new school would bring, and the intended outcome to promote and increase education in the Welsh language,

however, the Committee sought reassurance of the data behind the proposals, noting that there was already about 200 spaces for Welsh Medium students. Committee considered the comments of other committee members in respect of the capacity and surplus capacity which already exists within neighbouring Welsh Medium primary schools.

- A Member was concerned that the education provision for the residents of the new estate was being determined by grants and the targets, rather than need, and felt that residents were being forced into choosing Welsh Medium education. Members noted original indications for this new school intended it to be an English Medium school. The Member sought clarification on the capacity of the English Medium school.
- A Member was concerned around the financial implication of the potential increase in home to school transport, which had been highlighted, and the sustainability of this.
- A Member noted that the new school would be built in accordance with the building bulletin, so would be fully accessible and compliant with the equality act 2010. The Member sought assurance that Dolau Primary would also be fully compliant and would be an as accessible school for any child wishing English Medium Education.
- A Member asked for the language and intent of the proposal to be strengthened in terms of providing a Meithrin e.g., 'We will work with Mudiad Meithrin to establish a Meithrin'....rather than 'look to provide a Meithrin'.
- A Member felt that the HR elements were a little vague and not consistent throughout the document in terms of Welsh Medium staff in Dolau and would like the Council to offer reassurance to staff from the outset.
- A Member noted that several Members had mentioned surplus places, but felt the point was what could be done to address those surplus places and felt that a concerted campaign needed to be underway, earlier on, before the building commences. The Member felt it was important for people to understand the benefits of a Welsh Medium education and have the choice. It was important not to be in a position 10 years down the line, where there were more surplus places than now, so important to try and achieve the WESP targets.
- A number of members of committee welcomed the proposal and noted the potential for the proposals to grow Welsh speakers in this area.

Yours sincerely



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