

Minutes of Meeting with School Council of Coedpenmaen Primary School

Date	Monday 4 th November 2024
Time	14:00
Mode	Face to Face

Attendance		
Name	Initials	Title
Lisa Howell	LH	21 st Century Schools Business and School Organisation Manager
Laura Thomas	LT	21 st Century Schools Project Officer
Mrs B Griffiths	BG	Acting Headteacher of Coedpenmaen Primary School
Mrs C Walters	CW	Deputy Headteacher of Coedpenmaen Primary School
N/A	N/A	School Council of Coedpenmaen Primary School

1. Welcome and Introductions

Officers in attendance introduced themselves to the School Council and thanked them for attending the meeting. The School Council introduced themselves. All members of the School Council in attendance were year two pupils.

2. Consultation Overview

LH provided the School Council with a brief overview of the proposal being made and the consultation process to be followed, as set out in the Consultation Document.

3. School Council Questions

The School Council of Coedpenmaen Primary School were invited to ask questions and make comments. The questions and comments made are summarised in the table that follows along with their response, where necessary.

Number	Question	Response
1.	Would Coedpenmaen Primary School be given more money to buy new equipment if Trallwng Infants School were to close and pupils were to move?	If the proposal does go ahead and pupils from Trallwng Infants School move to Coedpenmaen Primary School, there may be a need for additional equipment/facilities to suit the age group of pupils. A full assessment will be completed before any pupils move to make sure the facilities are suitable for all pupils.
2.	The school hall here is not big enough and is very narrow, would Coedpenmaen Primary School be able to have a new school hall if	All school buildings have a calculation to see how many children can fit in a school. At present, there is space in Coedpenmaen Primary School for

	Trallwng Infants School were to close and pupils were to move?	Trallwng Infants School pupils and the hall and facilities are suitable.
3	How will children and parents/carers know where to go if Trallwng Infants School closed and the pupils moved to Coedpenmaen Primary School?	<p>The results of the consultation will be shared when the process is complete, so parents/carers and pupils will know the outcome.</p> <p>If the proposal to close Trallwng Infants School was to go ahead, the pupils would be able to visit Coedpenmaen Primary School before the transition.</p> <p>The School Council went on to discuss various ideas of how they could make the pupils of Trallwng Infants School less anxious about the transition including a welcome video with a tour of Coedpenmaen Primary School, meet the teachers/staff and meet the School Council. Also, discussed a visit to Trallwng Infants School to reassure them not to fear older children or a move to a different school, they are there to help and support them.</p>
4.	What if some children chose to attend Ysgol Bro Taf, Ysgol Afon Wen or Ysgol Awel Taf instead of Coedpenmaen Primary School?	If there is space in a school, applications to attend the school of the parents/carer's choice can be made.
5.	If Trallwng Infants School closes, will the teachers/staff lose their jobs, or will they be able to move to Coedpenmaen Primary School?	Should the decision be made to close Trallwng Infants School, the Governing Body of Coedpenmaen Primary School will be asked to allow staff from Trallwng Infants School to be guaranteed an interview, prior to any posts being advertised externally.
6.	When will we know if Trallwng Infants School is going to close?	<p>We need to make sure we are following the rules of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code and are giving pupils, staff, parent/carers and the community chance to voice their opinion on the proposal.</p> <p>The consultation will close at 17:00 on Friday 15th November, after this date a report will be sent to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC) Cabinet for them to decide to close or not to close Trallwng Infants School, relocating pupils to Coedpenmaen</p>

		Primary School. This final decision will hopefully be made by April 2025.
7.	What will happen to Trallwng Infants School building if they close, could it be turned into a park or a safe play area?	We do not know what will happen to the building should Trallwng Infants School close. With all RCTCBC buildings that are no longer needed, the community will be asked if there is a suitable use for it before any further decisions are made.
8.	Will the lunch times change at Coedpenmaen Primary School to accommodate the additional pupils from Trallwng Infants School. There is not enough room for the pupils to have lunch at the same time.	If a decision is made to close Trallwng Infants School, an assessment will be made of the existing equipment and facilities. If the lunch times need to be changed we'll work with your head teacher to make sure it all works smoothly.
9.	The School Council made a comment that they feel it would be better if all year groups were in the same school. It would make the transition from year two to three easier, pupils wouldn't need to get used to a new school and new staff. The School Council added they felt very scared when they moved from Trallwng Infants School, they were nervous and afraid that they may not make any new friends.	Noted.
10.	Some pupils may be upset if Trallwng Infants School were to close, but pupils from Coedpenmaen Primary School could reassure them with videos and visits to welcome them should they chose to move to Coedpenmaen Primary School.	Noted.

4. Closing Remarks

The School Council were informed that they will be offered the opportunity over the coming weeks to reflect on the questions and responses provided and submit additional questions where required.

The School Council were encouraged to participate in engaging in the consultation process through completing the online survey or putting comments in writing to schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

All attendees were thanked for participating in the meeting.Meeting closed at 14:40

5. Pupil Engagement - 'Have Your Say' Exercise

As part of the engagement exercise, all pupils were given the opportunity to 'have their say'. Stickers and post-it notes were left with the school with sad, unsure and happy

faces so that any pupils wishing to take part in the consultation process could do so. They were asked to pick a sticker which represented how they felt about the proposal or write down their comments and views, in relation to the proposal.

5. Post Meeting Note

The pupils at Coedpenmaen Primary School fully engaged with the consultation process and on completion of the consultation period all of the pupil comments and all feedback was collected. These will all be shared with Cabinet prior to a decision on the proposal being made.

We would like to sincerely thank all pupils for their hard work in producing all of this valuable information.