

Minutes of Meeting with School Council of Tonyrefail Community School

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| Date | Wednesday 6 th November 2024 |
| Time | 14:15 |
| Mode | Face to Face |

| Attendance | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Name | Initials | Title |
| Lisa Howell | LH | 21 st Century Schools. |
| Grace Zecca -Hanagan | GZH | 21 st Century Schools. |
| Gareth Pope | GP | Headteacher of Tonyrefail Community School. |
| N/A | N/A | School Council of Tonyrefail Community 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.

2. Consultation Overview

LH provided the School Council with a very 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 Tonyrefail Community 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. In addition, the School Council of Tonyrefail Community School were provided with stickers with sad, unsure and happy faces and asked to pick a sticker which represented how they felt about the proposal.

| Number | Question/Comment | Response |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Why are you closing Tref y Rhyg Primary School? | <p>There are a number of reasons. The pupil numbers at Tref y Rhyg Primary School are dropping and projections, show that they are continuing to drop over the next few years so there are a lot of empty spaces at the school. As a result, there have mixed year group classes, which can be quite challenging to teach.</p> <p>Tref y Rhyg Primary School is an old school building and it has some accessibility issues that cannot be improved. However, Tonyrefail Community School is a brand new 21st century school that is fully accessible.</p> |

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| 2. | If Tref y Rhyg Primary School closes what will happen to the building? | We don't know yet, and it is difficult to make that decision without knowing if the proposal is going to proceed. Other schools that have closed previously have been used for community centres and some new houses. The local community will be asked if they have a use for the building if they don't it could be sold. |
| 3. | How big is Tref y Rhyg Primary School? | Tref y Rhyg Primary School has a capacity for 157 pupils of statutory school age (reception to year six). |
| 4. | Tref y Rhyg Primary School a listed building? | No, it is not a listed building. But that's a really good question. |
| 5. | Traveling to Tonyrefail Community School would be difficult. | <p>Members of the School Council commented that they come to school in a variety of ways including walking and via a bus. Those living near Tref y Rhyg Primary School commented that they either walk or catch a service bus.</p> <p>The School Council were told about home to school transport, and that if you live within a distance of a school, you will be able to access home to school transport. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School to walk to Tonyrefail Community School. It was confirmed that no pupils in the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School will be entitled to free home to school transport.</p> |
| 6. | Will it be difficult for pupils from Tref y Rhyg Primary School to come here? | Lots of children from that community access their secondary education at Tonyrefail Community School and some already access their primary education here, but they would have a longer walk to school. |
| 7. | Would these children already be coming here for year seven? | Yes. |
| 8. | I don't like the idea of a super school. | What don't you like about your school? We call them through schools. There are lots of benefits to through schools but we really appreciate you taking the time to come to talk to us today and share your views. |

4. Closing Remarks

The School Council were thanked for their involvement in this consultation process and 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 if 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 14:45.

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.