



PONTNEWYNYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Your re/Eich cyf:
Our ref/Ein cyf: MH/
Date/Dyddiad: 4th November 2013

Please contact/Cysyllter â Mark Horton
Direct line/Llinell union: 01495 766910
Direct fax/Llinell ffacs: 01495 766904

To: Statutory Consultees and Other Interested Parties

Dear Consultee,

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PONTNEWYNYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL, PONTYPOOL.

Torfaen's Cabinet has now agreed:

- a) To consult on the discontinuation of **Pontnewynydd Primary School** with the dispersal of pupils to neighbouring schools (predominantly **Penygarn Primary School**) with effect from 1st September 2015;
- b) To adjust/reallocate catchment areas as follows:
 - Current Pontnewynydd Primary School to Penygarn Primary School
- c) To receive a report in the latter part of the Autumn Term 2013 on the outcome of the above consultation exercise and consider the next steps.

The purpose of this letter therefore is to advise that a consultation document has been produced in relation to this proposal and is attached.

If further copies are required, please contact the above telephone number.

The regulations require that consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Taking this into account, the consultation period will start with the issue of this letter (4th November) and will close on Monday 16th December 2013.

Any comments/observations on the proposal can be made:

- By writing to the Interim Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB.
- By email: primaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk
- By attending the consultation event (details below) and completing a response proforma (attached to the Consultation document).

Torfaen Play Service will make arrangements for children and young people to participate in the consultation, which will include the views of the school councils.

Statutory Consultees and Other Interested Parties

4th November 2013

Meetings in relation to this proposal are to be held at Pontnewynydd Primary School as follows:

DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	INTENDED AUDIENCE
Tuesday	26 th November 2013	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Pontnewynydd Primary School	Teaching, non teaching and support staff of Pontnewynydd Primary School
Tuesday	26 th November 2013	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Pontnewynydd Primary School	The Governing Body of Pontnewynydd Primary School
Tuesday	3 rd December 2013	9.30am – 11.30am	Pontnewynydd Primary School	Parents/carers of children attending Pontnewynydd Primary; All other interested parties.

Officers will be on hand at these meetings to answer questions and importantly ensure all comments/views made are recorded to allow Elected Members to make an informed decision at the appropriate time.

Further information on the authority's 21st Century Schools proposals can be found on the Council website at: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

A Welsh version of this document can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council's website: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

If you are unclear about anything or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01495 766910.

Yours sincerely



Mark Horton
PRINCIPAL OFFICER, FORWARD PLANNING

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Pontnewynydd Primary School

Consultation document

1. Introduction

Torfaen County Borough Council's 21st Century Schools proposals were well received by Welsh Government in 2011. For some parts of Torfaen it will result in new schools. Unfortunately however, for some local communities it will mean the closure or amalgamation of their schools. This is not something new in Torfaen – since its inception, the council has been carrying out school reorganisation work to upgrade the estate involving a mixture of closures, amalgamations, refurbishments and new builds. This has resulted in the closure/amalgamation of some 28 schools with a net reduction of 18 schools overall.

The 21st Century Schools programme has been well documented, with the council taking the decision to include every school as part of it in October 2010. The council sought the views of all interested parties on its programme during a series of road shows that were held across the county borough in March 2011.

The outcome of this public engagement was reported to cabinet in July 2011. Subsequent to this meeting, Welsh Government asked councils to revise their original Band A proposals (originally submitted in October 2010) against the following prioritisation criteria:

- The level of match funding required by the council increased from 30% to 50%
- The poorest condition of the estate (prioritisation to reside with the council although the independent school survey data will be applied)
- Surplus capacity – the key indicator being surplus places (both as a percentage and as an estimated actual reduction in a number of places)
- Running efficiencies (e.g. reduction in running costs, backlog maintenance)
- The length of 21st Century School Band's B, C and D are yet to be determined.

The revised Strategic Outline Programme was approved by Council in November 2011 with the Welsh Government confirming match funding in December.

Torfaen's Primary School estate has some schools that:

- Are trying to operate in buildings or grounds which are not fit for purpose and have an unaffordable maintenance backlog;
- Are too small to run economically in today's financial climate;
- Have significant surplus capacity in their local cluster of schools; and
- Are not located where the demand for school places is concentrated.

The Council has to reduce surplus capacity in its schools and has been set targets by the Welsh Government to reach those targets by 2015.

The 21st Century Schools Programme in Torfaen and across Wales is intended to tackle these issues in a strategic rather than piecemeal way.

The proposal in relation to Pontnewynydd Primary School is one identified in Band A (2014 to 2019) of the agreed Programme. The expectation is that the majority of pupils currently attending Pontnewynydd Primary will transfer to Penygarn Primary School.

2. Consultation arrangements

Before any decision is made on the proposal the council is required to hold a statutory consultation with all interested parties, and the following information is provided to set out the process by which consultation will be conducted.

Consultees: a list of all those being consulted is attached as an appendix (1) to this document;

Meetings in relation to this proposal are to be held at Pontnewynydd Primary School as follows:

Day	Date	Time	Venue	Intended Audience
Tuesday	26 th November 2013	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Pontnewynydd Primary School	Teaching, non teaching and support staff of Pontnewynydd Primary School
Tuesday	26 th November 2013	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Pontnewynydd Primary School	The Governing Body of Pontnewynydd Primary School
Tuesday	3 rd December 2013	9.30am – 11.30am	Pontnewynydd Primary School	Parents/carers of children attending Pontnewynydd Primary School; All other interested parties.

Officers will be on hand at these events to answer questions and importantly ensure all comments/views made are recorded to allow Elected Members to make an informed decision at the appropriate time.

The consultation begins on 4th November 2013 with the issue of this consultation document and concludes on Monday 16th December 2013. Any comments on the proposal can be made:

- By writing to the Interim Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB.
- By email: primaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk.
- By attending the consultation event and completing a response proforma (attached as an appendix to this document).

Torfaen Play Service will make arrangements for children and young people to participate in the consultation, which will include the views of the school councils.

A timeframe for the process following the conclusion of this consultation period is provided later in this document.

3. The proposal to close Pontnewynydd Primary School

Pontnewynydd Primary School has served its community well for many years. However, the school is now over 100 years old having been built around 1901, and has been identified in an independent survey commissioned by the Welsh Government as a category C/D condition school (A being good). In addition, approximately £746,000 is needed in terms of backlog maintenance, just to bring the school back to its “as built” condition, before any investment/improvements are made in the school to support a curriculum that is fit for the 21st Century.

The proposed closure of this school if agreed will release revenue savings that will help support further investment as part of the Council’s 21st Century Schools Programme. The net recurring saving is estimated to be £162,000 per annum.

There are not anticipated to be any immediate capital funding costs, as part of this proposal. However, subject to funding, remodelling of the Penygarn Primary School (£4m) remains a Band A (2014 – 2019) project in the Authority’s 21st Century Schools Programme.

The school has seen numbers on roll decline for a number of years, resulting in significant surplus places as can be demonstrated below:

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CAP	275	275	275	275	275	255	255	255
NOR	178	157	149	137	143	141	128	126
SURPLUS	97	118	126	138	132	114	127	129
SURPLUS (%)	35%	43%	46%	50%	48%	45%	50%	51%

An analysis of parental preference undertaken in May/June 2013 indicated that a significant number of children (107) residing in the current catchment area of Pontnewynydd Primary School attended Penygarn Primary School. At the same time of this exercise, only 84 pupils attended Pontnewynydd from within its own catchment.

The current capacity of Penygarn Primary School is 475 (Admission Number: 67) plus 54(FTE) or 108 Part Time Equivalent nursery places. Excluding the nursery, there are currently (September 2013) 348 on roll meaning there are 127 surplus places, sufficient to cater for current numbers at Pontnewynydd.

The total “in catchment” numbers for both Penygarn and Pontnewynydd (as of May 2013) are:

- 242 for Pontnewynydd - 84 attending Pontnewynydd Primary and 158 attending other schools (including 107 at Penygarn)
- 298 for Penygarn - 217 attending Penygarn Primary and 81 attending other schools.

Therefore the total “in catchment” pupils for the two schools is 540. Of the 540, 26 in the Pontnewynydd catchment attend VA or Welsh provision, while for Penygarn the number is 40. This would suggest that currently the number of children in catchment for both Penygarn and Pontnewynydd attending an English medium primary setting is 474.

Based on current numbers in schools and current parental preference trends projected numbers on roll are as follows:

School	Sept 13	Sept 14	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18
Penygarn	348	371	366	359	352	346
Pontnewynydd	126	130	129	124	118	115
TOTALS	474	501	495	483	470	461

Whilst the projections for the next 3 years suggest slightly higher numbers than the current capacity for Penygarn there is sufficient space within the current footprint of the school to accommodate the numbers if required, particularly given that the numbers are expected to reduce again from September 2017.

Pontnewynydd Primary School is in the Abersychan Secondary cluster of schools while Penygarn is in the West Monmouth cluster. However, currently 89% of the Penygarn Primary School transfer to Abersychan.

A number of alternative options were considered one of which involved the retention of Pontnewynydd Primary school, and these were shared with interested parties at a series of road shows held in March 2011. The reason that these options were not taken forward is that they do not address condition, small schools or surplus places.

Should this proposal be implemented, there will be a positive impact on neighbouring schools.

It is recognised that the proposal will impact locally in an area designated for Communities First programmes, but strategically and in the long term it is anticipated that the educational impact will be positive.

In terms of the staff, wherever possible the Council will seek to secure alternative suitable positions within Torfaen schools. This has previously been achieved for other school reorganisation proposals by negotiating a local agreement with the relevant professional associations, and it is expected that this would continue for this proposal as well as others arising from the 21st Century schools Programme.

If this proposal is implemented it is expected that pupils will disperse to neighbouring schools, predominantly Penygarn Primary School with effect from 1st September 2015. Catchment areas would be adjusted/reallocated with the current Pontnewynydd Primary incorporated into Penygarn Primary.

Admission arrangements at the proposed alternative school would remain unchanged and, as published in the Parents Information booklet.

Should pupils choose to transfer to Penygarn Primary School they will be accommodated in the existing buildings. Government Infant Class size legislation will mean that no Key Stage 1 class (ie reception, year 1, year 2) will exceed 30 pupils. At Key Stage 2 (Junior years 3 – 6) although there is currently no statutory requirement on class sizes the Authority will wherever possible ensure classes are of no more than 30 pupils. Class sizes continue to be monitored by Welsh Government.

The proposal will not impact significantly on pupils' journeys to schools. Penygarn Primary School is located 1.17 miles from Pontnewynydd Primary School. In accordance with the Council's current policy, free school transport is provided if pupils live more than 1 ½ miles from the catchment school (statutory distance is 2 miles). Consideration will also be given to transport under these distances if there is no safe walking route and is deemed to be dangerous. **NOTE:** The council is about to consult on changes to its Home to School Transport Policy.

If Pontnewynydd Primary School closes the Council will review its use and if it is deemed to be surplus to educational requirements then the site will be sold.

4. Background information

The following section sets out the details for all primary schools affected or likely to be affected by the proposal, including schools which might in future be expected to receive additional pupils.

Surplus Places

Primary schools within a two mile radius of Pontnewynydd Primary School are as follows:

Name of School	Location	Category	Language
Penygarn Primary	Penygarn Road, Penygarn.	Community	English Medium
George Street Primary	Wainfelin Road, Pontypool.	Community	English Medium
Pontymoile Primary**	St Matthews Road, Cwmfields.	Community	English Medium
Padre Pio RC Primary	Conway Road, Pontypool.	Voluntary Aided	English Medium
Cwmffrwdroer Primary	Waunddu, Pontnewynydd	Community	English Medium
Garnteg Primary	Hillcrest, Garndiffaith	Community	English Medium
Victoria Primary	Lower Harper's Road, Abersychan.	Community	English Medium

** Pontymoile Primary School is scheduled to close at the end of the 2013/14 academic year.

The following table provides details of numbers on roll for the previous four annual school census years, currently on roll (September 2013) and a five year forecast for those schools listed above. These are the schools likely to be affected by the proposal currently (i.e. based on the existing configuration of schools). Information on how the proposal might impact on these numbers if it is implemented are provided later in this document.

School(capacity)	Act Sept 2009	Act Sept 2010	Act Sept 2011	Act Sept 2012	Act Sept 2013	Proj Sept 2014	Proj Sept 2015	Proj Sept 2016	Proj Sept 2017	Proj Sept 2018
Penygarn Primary(475)	290	304	307	331	348	371	366	359	352	346
George Street Primary(273)	250	241	249	238	264	311	315	337	358	369
Pontymoile Primary(231)	119	121	106	117	38	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Padre Pio RC Primary(210)	205	217	211	209	218	216	217	213	210	209
Cwmffrwdroer Primary(210)	140	144	152	155	182	210	236	263	269	286
Garnteg Primary(249)	157	155	197	206	225	228	232	248	245	250
Victoria Primary(233)	216	229	222	215	212	209	211	209	187	179

Notes:

- 1) Numbers exclude nursery aged children and those attending a Special Needs Resource Base.

- 2) Capacity has been calculated using Welsh Government guidance, specifically the Welsh Government Circular No 21/2011"Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales".
- 3) Projected/forecasted numbers are based on current parental preference trends, and therefore take into account both in and out catchment children. Also built into the projections are potential pupils generated as a result of new housing developments within the respective schools catchment areas.

The following table (from Stats Wales) is provided for illustrative purposes and sets out birth rate information and projections for Torfaen from 2008/09 to 2018/19:

Year	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Number	1056	1056	1053	1049	1046	1044	1044	1044	1041	1034	1024

Pontnewynydd Primary School is a 4 to 11 school and therefore has no nursery provision of its own. Nursery provision for those residing in the catchment area of Pontnewynydd is provided at George Street Primary School (61 places or 122 part time equivalent (PTE)). There are a further 54(108 PTE) nursery places at Penygarn Primary School.

There is currently only 1 nursery aged child from the Pontnewynydd area attending the nursery unit at George Street Primary School while at Penygarn there are 21.

A Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) resource base is located at Pontnewynydd Primary School. However the base has not had any pupils attending for a number of years now. This is because pupils with MLD are being taught within the mainstream environment in their catchment area schools. As a consequence of this, the Education Authority no longer require the MLD Resource Base at Pontnewynydd Primary School.

Building Condition

All Torfaen schools have been surveyed by E C Harris (external consultants on behalf of Welsh Government). The survey comprised 3 sets of data, namely condition of buildings, overall suitability of the buildings for teaching and learning and sustainability.

Pontnewynydd Primary School was surveyed on 19th January 2010.

The following paragraphs provide a comparison between the quality of accommodation at Pontnewynydd Primary School and Penygarn Primary School (as the likely recipient of the majority of pupils) and an outline of any steps necessary in order to ensure that any shortcomings in the latter are addressed:

1. Condition of buildings – the survey concluded that the Pontnewynydd buildings rated C2 where C refers to poor condition and major investment is required in year 2. Penygarn Primary School buildings were rated B3 where B is satisfactory and 3 refers to desirable in years 3-5.

2. Overall suitability of the 2 schools for teaching and learning were rated as B for Pontnewynydd which carries with it the commentary “reasonable but behaviour/moral adversely and management affected” and C for Penygarn which has a commentary “teaching methods inhibited although this would be attended to with intended investment for upgrade”.
3. Sustainability for both schools were graded as C – Poor although the concern for Penygarn was around the heating system and control which forms part of the upgrade.

Pontnewynydd Primary School accommodation is based on 3 floors. Horizontal and vertical circulation is poor, room sizes are small and do not meet the requirements of Building Bulletin (BB) 99. The hall is limited. There is limited outside classroom provision, outside recreation and play space. There is no sports field on site.

Penygarn Primary School offers more scope for inside teaching and outside teaching. Penygarn has a nursery, good foundation phase areas and KS1 and KS2 are clearly defined and spacious.

5. The Quality and Diversity of Education

A comparison between the quality and diversity of education provided at the school from which pupils would be transferred (Pontnewynydd) and the proposed alternative(s) (Penygarn) and an outline of the steps necessary in order to ensure that any shortcomings in the latter are addressed is provided as follows.

Pontnewynydd Primary School has been categorised by the Education Achievement Service (EAS) overall as “orange” meaning there are significant issues for the school to address. Pupil numbers have continued to drop and there continues to be an Acting Head teacher in post. This has continued for over a year. There has also been an increased turnover of staff, which is a cause for concern. Although the March 2011 inspection was positive, standards have dropped overall this year, particularly at the Foundation Phase. It missed its target by 15%. The school has generally not met its targets this year at KS2 and for the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) it missed the target by 5%, although the percentage of pupils gaining the CSI rose by 11%.

Attendance this year does not compare favourably to the local Authority and Wales averages although the previous 3 years were better.

By comparison, Penygarn Primary School has been categorised by the EAS as “green”, meaning it displays a strong and improving performance. An effective management structure is in place to lead the school well and staff meetings have a clear and appropriate focus on school improvement.

Planning has taken appropriate account of all previous inspection reports. The school has generally met its targets for improvement. At the Foundation Phase, Penygarn missed its target by 4.5%. For the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) for KS2

Penygarn attained 84.8%, 2% above its target. Penygarn exceeded its 2012 figure for the CSI by 12.4%.

In addition Penygarn has a very effective pupil tracking system, well established protocols for classroom observation and very positive relationships within the community and the family of schools.

6. Community Impact/Equality Impact Assessments

A Community Impact and Equality Impact Assessment is attached as an appendix (2) to this document.

Should this proposal be implemented, it is likely to benefit children in accordance with the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically:

- 1) have a flying start in life;
- 2) have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;
- 3) enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;
- 4) have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;
- 5) are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;
- 6) have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and
- 7) are not disadvantaged by poverty.

7. What happens next?

The following details what happens next and sets out the statutory process:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Comment:</u>
4 th November 2013 – 16 th December 2013	Consultation on proposal (6 weeks)
21 st January 2014	Cabinet receive report on the outcome of the consultation and consider. If Cabinet decide not to proceed to closure, no further action. If Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposed closure and recommend publication of statutory notices to close school with specific delegated authority to Executive Member for Children & Young People to proceed where no objections received.

The following dates are indicative at this stage and will be confirmed in the report to Cabinet in January 2014.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Comment:</u>
February 2014	Statutory Notice published (1 month objection period; published on a school day and not less than 15 days before end of term so at least ½ of the notice period is in term time).
March 2014	If no objections local determination of proposal via report to Executive Member for Children & Young People. If objections are received, under the new school organisation process/regulations the determination of proposal will be the function of the Local Authority's Executive.
Notice Period	A full term's notice of the decision to close would have to be given i.e. no later than the end of the Spring Term in 2015.
September 2015	Proposal implemented.

8. Response Pro-forma

A response pro-forma for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report, is attached to this consultation document (Appendix 3) for use at the consultation event.

9. Other information

Further information on this and other proposals can be found on the Council website at: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

A Welsh version of this document can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council's website: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

Appendix 1

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THE CONSULTATION REPORT

- The Governing body of each school maintained by Torfaen LEA;
- The Headteacher of each school maintained by Torfaen LEA;
- The Diocesan Director of Education of the Roman Catholic Church;
- The Diocesan Director of Education of the Church in Wales;
- The Board of Mission of the Church in Wales;
- Awdurdod Cynwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales);
- The Welsh Joint Education Committee;
- The Welsh Language Board;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- Welsh Government (Welsh Ministers);
- ESTYN;
- Pan - Gwent Chief Education Officers (Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate);
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;
- Children & Young People's Partnership
- Coleg Gwent;
- The Careers Service;
- Torfaen Association of school Governors;
- The Parent Teacher Association of Wales;
- The Welsh Primary Schools Association;
- The Welsh Secondary Schools Association;
- Libraries; (Blaenavon, Cwmbran and Pontypool);
- Other Directorates of Torfaen County Borough Council;
- Schools Library Service;
- Blaenavon Community Council;
- Cwmbran Community Council;
- Pontypool Community Council;
- Ponthir Community Council;
- Henllys Community Council;
- Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council;
- DCELLS (Welsh Government)
- National Council for Education and Training in Wales;
- All relevant Professional Associations;
- Local AM – Lynne Neagle;
- Local MP - Paul Murphy; and
- AMs and MPs for other authorities in Pan-Gwent area.
- All Elected Members of Torfaen County Borough Council;
- Parents/Carers of all pupils affected by proposals

- RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education);
- Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings/Providers in Torfaen;
- Torfaen Voluntary Alliance;
- Communities First Partnership Board.
- CYDAG (Cwmdeithas Ysgolion Dros Addysg Gymraeg)
- Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- Education Achievement Service (EAS)
- The relevant Regional Transport Consortium
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area

PONTNEWYNYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL – COMMUNITY AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Community Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of our decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help us to consider the impact of Council decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The Community Impact Assessment process will ensure that our decision making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Torfaen ensuring that they are fully considered in Council business. By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community that we serve.

1) The proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

84 (35%) pupils attend Pontnewynydd Primary School from within its catchment area. 158 attend other schools including 107 at Penygarn Primary School. Figures are based on a Torfaen wide whole school population analysis undertaken in May/June 2013).

2) The proportion of pupils from outside the catchment area that attend the school.

48 pupils attend Pontnewynydd from outside its catchment area, principally from Cwmffrwdoer Primary (15) and Penygarn Primary (13).

3) Current facilities and/or services offered by Pontnewynydd Primary School

The following facilities are offered at Pontnewynydd Primary School:

- Flying Start
- Film studio
- Fitness Gym
- A variety of after school clubs(10 including sports, cookery, gardening/forest schools Art and ICT)

4) Where would these facilities/services be provided in the event of closure.

Most if not all of these are available or could be made so at Penygarn Primary School.

5) What other facilities are available in the immediate local or wider community or could be enhanced in the event of closure.

It is anticipated that the facilities being provided will be largely if not wholly replicated at Penygarn, which is a community primary school. It is not

planned to enhance any facilities in the wider community as part of this proposal.

6) Facilities and services provided at Penygarn Primary School.

The following services are provided at the Penygarn Primary School site:

- Sure Start(Integrated Children's Centre on site)
- Flying Start (Integrated Children's Centre on site)
- Nursery (Unit attached to school)
- Community facilities
- Crownbridge Special School have specialist ALN accommodation on site.
- Learning Plaza(a flexible working space, technology rich environment, opportunity for large and small group work given the use of individual laptops and other technology(IWB; plasma TV))
- South East Wales Apple Training Regional Centre
- A variety of After School clubs (17 including sports, music and Dance, Jewellery and a film club).

7) Distance and travelling time involved in attending Penygarn Primary or other English Medium Primary Schools in the area

Pontnewynydd Primary School is located 1.17 miles from Penygarn Primary school and in all there are currently 6 English medium primary schools located within a 2 mile radius of the school. In accordance with the Council's current policy, free school transport is provided if pupils live more than 1 ½ miles from the catchment school (statutory distance is 2 miles). Consideration will also be given to transport under these distances if there is no safe walking route and the route is deemed to be dangerous. Note: The council is about to consult on changes to its Home to School Transport Policy.

8) How would parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer be supported.

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to ensure there is little if any disruption should the proposal to close a school be approved.

The Council will establish a transition group to oversee the process involving officers, the Head teachers and the chairs of governors of the schools concerned. This group would meet on a regular basis up to and beyond any implementation date. Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of the transfer process and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the period of transition. The schools will also work together with other services and where necessary agencies, in identifying families who may need additional support, at the point of, and after their children's transfer.

Parental and community engagement is a key priority and examples of work to be taken forward could include:

- Joint school and after-school events(particularly for any less advantaged pupils);
- Gradual introduction of events to support parents help assist their children's learning;
- Enhanced tracking for those pupils new to the school;
- Initiatives to encourage improved levels of attendance.

The list is not exhaustive and will differ from school to school.

9) The wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions.

The proposal is not expected to have any significant implications for public transport provision in the area. Where primary aged children are entitled to free home to school transport this is provided by a contracted vehicle.

10) Wider community safety issues.

No safety issues are anticipated.

An Equality Impact Assessment is also undertaken in conjunction with and as part of the Community Impact Assessment and examines the potential equality implications of Council proposals.

The following are known as the “protected characteristics” in the Equality Act 2010 and are the groups that need to be considered: age; disability; gender; Marriage and Civil partnership; Pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation.

Given the nature of this proposal, many of the above groups will not be impacted and this can be demonstrated by responding to the following questions.

- 1) Is the proposal likely to damage, or improve, relations between any particular groups or between the Council and those groups?
- 2) Are there any other community concerns or risks to communities that potentially arise, or are addressed, from the proposal?
- 3) Is the proposal likely to diminish, or improve, positive attitudes towards different groups or restrict broader participation in public life?
- 4) Will the understanding of issues of race, disability, gender, social inclusion/community, Welsh language, ethnicity, age, religion or sexual orientation be promoted or damaged?
- 5) Is the proposal is likely to have a negative or positive impact upon groups with ‘protected characteristics’?

6) Is consultation required with any of the groups listed? (Note: if there is an impact, consultation is a requirement)

The assumption is that in many aspects the answers will be that there is no impact. However there may be particular issues that arise in relation to the needs of the local community (ie. children).

Any issues will however be drawn out as part of the consultation process. For example if there are children at the school with 'access' needs, this has been addressed in the consultation document when considering the nature of the school buildings that children would transfer to.

The consultation will also consider if there are any groupings of children by ethnic group that particular needs are well met at Pontnewynydd and whose needs will need to be considered by the alternative school (eg Gypsy & Travellers).

The proximity of the proposed receiving school and other schools in the area mean there should not be a disproportionate socio economic impact from additional travel costs for parents to take their children to the alternative school.

The marker for this might be are there disproportionately more Free School Meals (FSM) recipients at Pontnewynydd. However, in January 2013 51 pupils out of 132 (or 39%) at Pontnewynydd were in receipt of FSM, while the corresponding number for Penygarn was 156 out of 333 (47%).

Appendix 3



PROPOSAL:- to discontinue Pontnewynydd Primary School with effect from 1st September 2015

DATE OF CONSULTATION EVENTS: Tuesday 26th November 2013 and Tuesday 3rd December 2013.

YOUR VIEWS

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ABOVE PROPOSAL. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS HANDOUT AND SUBMIT IN THE BOX MARKED 'WE WANT YOUR VIEWS' AT THE CONSULTATION EVENT.

Should you require a copy of the consultation report please provide your contact details below

Email:

Name/Address: