

St David's Church in Wales Primary Primary School Consultation Report

**On the proposal to expand
St David's Church in Wales Primary School
from 140 places to 210 places
to meet future demand for
Church in Wales education.**



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Background

This report presents the feedback received during the consultation, undertaken from 28 January 2019 to 15 March 2019, in response to the governing body's proposal to expand St David's CIW Primary School from 140 places to 210 places from September 2021.

This report outlines the consultation process, provides an overview of responses to the consultation, and offers further details of the key issues and favourable comments raised by stakeholders.

Outline of the consultation process

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The consultation processes gave prescribed consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and for the governing body to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before any decisions are made.

Publication of the consultation

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the school and the Vale of Glamorgan Council websites on 28 January 2019. Consultees were also provided with an email link to the school's and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's websites.

The publication of a consultation document is central to the consultation process for school reorganisation and is prescribed by Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation document outlined the proposal being considered, the rationale for the proposal and the details of the consultation exercise. The consultation document also incorporated an individual response form. Consultees were advised of the availability of an online version to complete.

Consultation stakeholder engagement

Engagement for both consultations on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2018.

The governing body consulted with the following groups:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at St David's CIW Primary School	Colwinston Community Council
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children attending St David's CIW Primary School	Llandow Community Council
Diocesan Directors of Education	Cowbridge Town Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development

People's Programme Board	Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Estyn	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Welsh Government Ministers	Trades Unions
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Council's Transportation Department	

Table 1 – List of groups consulted as part of the consultation process

Consultation meetings and drop in sessions

A meeting was held with the staff at St David's CIW Primary School which was attended by the Headteacher and Council officers. The main points of the consultation document were highlighted as well as an explanation of the statutory process.

Drop in sessions were held for parents and members of the community to ask questions about the proposals and provide informal comments.

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Staff meeting	Thursday 7 February 2019, 4pm	St David's CIW Primary School, Colwinston, Cowbridge, CF71 7NL
Governors' meeting	Thursday 7 February 2019, 6pm	St David's CIW Primary School, Colwinston, Cowbridge, CF71 7NL
Parent and Community drop in session	Thursday 7 February 2019, 8.45am - 10.30am 2.30pm – 4pm	St David's CIW Primary School, Colwinston, Cowbridge, CF71 7NL
Pupil Engagement Session	Thursday 14 February 2019	St David's CIW Primary School, Colwinston, Cowbridge, CF71 7NL
Parent and Community drop in session	Tuesday 19 February 2019, 5pm – 7pm	St David's CIW Primary School, Colwinston, Cowbridge, CF71 7NL

Table 2 – Staff, Governor and Parents meetings

Consultation with children and young people

A consultation session was undertaken with the School Council of St David's CIW Primary School to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcomes of these sessions can be found at Annex A.

Consultation Questions

Consultees were asked for their opinion on a key question:

Do you support the proposal to expand St David's Church in Wales Primary School from 140 places to 210 places to meet future demand for Church in Wales education?

Consultees were also offered the opportunity to comment further:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

Any other comments?

Consultation responses

The consultation responses received in writing between 28 January 2019 and 15 March 2019 are outlined below.

Results of the feedback from all stakeholders

The governing body received 15 individual responses by the consultation closing date of the 15 March 2019. Of the total 15 individual responses received, 14 were in favour of the proposal, 0 were opposed, and 1 provided no opinion either way.

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer.

Profile of respondents

The table below provides a breakdown of the responses:

Respondent groups	Number of responses from respondent groups	% of responses from respondent groups
Parent	4	27
Pupil	0	0
Staff	8	53
Local Resident	1	7
Other	2	13

Table 3 – Number and percentage of responses from respondent groups

Responses by theme

A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and a summary of the comments received in favour of the proposal are outlined below.

The frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been updated to include the key questions raised during the engagement sessions (Annex B).

A consultation session was undertaken with the School Council of St David's CIW Primary to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of this session can be found at Annex A.

A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees.

The following summarises the key issues/concerns raised during the formal consultation period. The issues present an overview of responses and are not intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to governors.

Issue 1

Traffic in the village would need to be a serious consideration

One response stated that it was essential that traffic concerns were factored into the design of the new schools building. This was also raised by a number of parents and members of the community at the drop-in sessions.

Governing body's response to the concerns raised

The school has previously accommodated 178 pupils so has experience dealing with larger numbers of pupils arriving and leaving the site. However, the governing body acknowledges the concerns raised by parents and members of the community and would work closely with the Council's 21st Century Schools Team to implement measures to minimise congestion. Previously, a number of measures have been introduced, including:

- Phasing the end of the school day
- Introduction of breakfast club
- Introduction of after school club
- Staff presence at the gate before and after school

The governing body also notes that the existing free transport provided to eligible pupils is significantly under-utilised. The governing body would work with parents to better understand the reasons for not using this service and encourage increased utilisation.

The 21st Century Schools Team would manage the design and build process. A transport assessment would be undertaken and factored into the design. The new school building would be subject to planning permission which would include formal consultation with members of the community.

Issue 2

Access to external space during construction

A number of concerns were raised at the drop-in sessions regarding the limited external space available during the construction of the new school on the existing site.

Governing body's response to the concerns raised

It is proposed that construction of the new school would commence from July 2020 and would take approximately 12 months to complete. It is anticipated that staff and pupils would move into the new school building for September 2021. Following this, the existing school building would be demolished and external space developed. During this time, the school would work closely with the 21st Century Schools team to ensure pupils have access to sufficient outside space and the curriculum is not compromised. The school currently uses the nearby community play facilities for sport which would continue throughout the construction phase. The school would work closely with the construction team to ensure pupils are involved throughout the process and the curriculum is enhanced through regular site visits.

Issue 3

Loss of the small school ethos

During the pupil engagement session a number of pupils raised concerns regarding the loss of the small school ethos as the school grew to 210 pupils. The full pupil engagement report can be found at Annex A.

Governing body's response to the concerns raised

The Headteacher and governing body of St David's CIW Primary School are confident that the ethos of the school would remain unchanged as a result of this proposal. All staff and governors would transfer to the new site from September 2021. The design of the new school would include communal areas and breakout spaces.

The increase in pupil numbers would be gradual with the admission number increasing from 20 to 30 from September 2021. It wouldn't be until September 2027 that the school could have 210 pupils.

Staff and pupils would be fully supported through the transition and would be involved throughout the design and build process.

A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal.

This section provides a selection of comments raised during the formal consultation period by those in favour of the proposal. The following presents an overview of responses and are not exhaustive or intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to governors.

Comment 1

The proposed new facilities would enhance educational standards and extra-curricular activities at the school.

The current site is not fit for purpose, better facilities are needed to support the teaching staff in delivering the excellent standards they achieve currently on a wider scale. The benefits the new site can offer would enable this to happen. Currently there is not enough space in some of the classrooms for pupils to have an adequate work area, there are no specific facilities for extra-curricular activities like music lessons, and suitable spaces for SEN provision is severely limited. ICT

requirements of the curriculum are also difficult to deliver due to insufficient facilities. The lack of corridors can be disruptive to classes when pupils or staff need to move through the school and some classrooms do not have internal access to toilet facilities.

Comment 2

There will be a need for more school places due to new housing developments.

Expansion of the school is necessary to meet increased demand from the new housing developments. Several respondents noted that this expansion is vital to the sustainability of school places within the area. Whilst some of the pupils expressed concerns during the engagement session in losing the small school ethos, they have been reassured that the headteacher and staff would work to ensure the core ethos of the school is maintained and increases in pupil intake will be conducted over several years.

Comment 3

Church in Wales education is valuable and should be expanded.

Responses remark upon the positive values the school promotes through Church in Wales education. There is support for increasing the school provision in order to further the benefit of Church in Wales education.

Comment 4

Increased access to community facilities at the proposed new school site would be beneficial to local residents.

The residents of Colwinston and the wider community area would benefit from increased access to community facilities.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the responses received throughout the consultation period, the governing body has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the local community and travel arrangements.

Quality and standards in education

This proposal would likely have a positive impact on the quality and standards in education. A number of responses from parents and members of staff have noted the limitations with the existing site which would make fully implementing the new curriculum difficult to achieve.

Community impact

The school has engaged with members of the community throughout the consultation, including community drop-in sessions and a meeting with representatives of the local Community Councils.

The proposal would have a positive impact on the local community by:

- Ensuring an efficient supply and demand for school places, meeting the growing population as a result of recent and proposed housing developments; and
- Providing improved school facilities that could be utilised for community use. Encouraging community use is a key objective of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

The governing body acknowledges that there are concerns regarding increased traffic and the impact on local infrastructure. As outlined above, the governing body would work closely with the 21st Century Schools Team to ensure these concerns are factored into the design of the new school building.

Travel arrangements

Free school transport is available to eligible pupils attending St David's CIW Primary School. As noted above, this service is currently under-utilised and the governing body would work with parents of eligible pupils to encourage use of free transport to limit the impact on the local infrastructure.

Recommendations

1. That the governing body considers this report.
2. That the governing body approves the publication of the consultation report.
3. That should the governing body decide to progress the proposal further, the governing body approves the publication of the proposal for the regulated alteration in the form of a statutory notice.

Annex A - Consultation undertaken with young people.

Consultation with St David's Church in Wales Primary School on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Council on the proposal to expand the school from 140 places to 210 places to meet future demand for Church in Wales education.

Background and Aim

- In their Consultation document on the above proposal the Vale of Glamorgan Council note the importance of making suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and where possible those pupils likely to attend the school: 'The Governing Body firmly believes that the pupils of St David's CIW Primary School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal'.
- A consultation workshop was arranged with the school council on 14 February 2019 to gather their views about the proposal.
- The information gathered from the session will be included in the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

Methodology

- An interactive workshop which gave pupils an opportunity to discuss and share ideas together.
- It started with a discussion on the meaning of consultation and why it was important to talk to pupils
- Agreement was reached on what made a good discussion/consultation
- The consultation document was then explained to them, including the background and the timeline for the activity.
- The pupils were divided into 2 groups to share and note their own ideas. The two groups then merged to have further discussion on these ideas, based on the rules of engagement as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- Following the feedback pupils were given information on the advantages and shortcomings noted in the consultation document, they were reminded of the timeline and it was explained to them that their comments would be fed into a report on this session and that it would be presented to the council as part of the evidence gathered on this consultation.

Pupils' responses (12 members of School Council: age range 6-11)

What makes a good discussion?:

- Listen to everybody
- Opportunities for everyone to speak
- Not shouting out
- One person speaks at a time
- Respect everyone's opinions

Benefits of the proposed plan

- More room for a working environment
- Easier for teachers to teach in more space
- More resources for everyone e.g. stationery for classrooms, bulbs for projectors
- More freedom
- It will be safer; be able to park safely
- Pupils will be able to create maps so that people will know where to go
- A safer environment - more space to play, more space to play at break
- More friends, happier children
- The school will be more popular
- More opportunities e.g. cooking lessons
- It will encourage more teachers - there will be more money to help with supplies; more male teachers (?)
- There'll be no dead ends – all rooms will be connecting
- There'll be more teachers for different things; maybe it will be more like comp where you can have specialised teachers e.g. for maths, music.
- Easier for teachers with only one year-group in a class
- More pupils
- More choice of equipment – better PE lessons
- It will help those with disabilities – more whiteboards; there's be extra support for those with learning needs
- Bigger sports shed – too cramped at the moment, will make us fitter and healthier
- Better equipment, better footballs, netballs etc; better musical instruments; bigger sports cupboard
- Better air-con (it gets hot in the classrooms in summer)
- Bigger classes

Possible pitfalls of the proposed plan

- There'll be confusion and pupils will get lost; worried that people won't know where to go but have thought of a solution (see advantages and reference to maps)
- You won't know everyone as the school population will increase; you won't get noticed
- No mixed classes – no different friends
- More people will get hurt on the playground – they recommended getting ideas from the pupils to alleviate this problem
- People won't respect the new equipment – children need to get involved with others to sort this out otherwise it will be a waste of money
- More crowded classrooms
- Playground won't be tidy

- Not everyone wants a new school because they like this school so much, their family have been here

General comments

Overwhelming support for the proposal and only real concerns were in terms of the school possibly losing it's close, friendly environment which has been synonymous with the school's traditional ethos over the years.

Other slight concern was that the experience that they currently have in their mixed classes allows them to appreciate other fellow pupils of different age groups and mix with them.

It was interesting that the pupils felt strongly that they could sort out or alleviate some of the potential problems by being proactive about things themselves.

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Annex B – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section provides comments to frequently asked question in relation to the proposal.

When would staff and pupils transfer to the new school building?

It is proposed that the new school would be open for September 2021.

What is the intended timescale for the development of the new school building?

In order to achieve the above timescales, building work is likely to commence from July 2020. Contractors would be appointed prior to this for design development and planning. A full planning application would be submitted for the new building.

How would the movement of resources be managed into the new school building?

The Council's 21st Century Schools team would manage the movement of resources into the new building. Previous projects have utilised INSET days either side of a weekend or school holiday break to provide staff with sufficient time to establish the environment ready for teaching and learning.

How would potential transport implications be considered as part of this proposal?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for the build process. A contractor would be appointed and a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process. Any implications identified would be factored into the design of the new building. The contractor would submit a full planning application for the new building.

Who would manage the construction of the new school building?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for managing the build process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the 21st Century Schools Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school.

Would the construction of the new school result in disruption for staff, pupils and local residents?

It is proposed that the new school building is built on the existing site which would result in some disruption for staff, pupils and local residents during the construction phase. The school would work closely with the Council's 21st Century Schools Team to limit disruption through restricting delivery times and working collaboratively with the site manager. A similar approach has been adopted throughout the construction of the recent St David's Meadow development, located in close proximity to the school.

Would contingency arrangements be put in place during the construction of the new school to ensure pupils are able to access outdoor space?

As the proposed new build would be built on the existing site, the school would lose outside space during the construction phase. During this time, the school would

work closely with the 21st Century Schools team to ensure pupils have access to sufficient outside space and the curriculum is not compromised. The school currently uses the nearby community play facilities for sport which would continue throughout the construction phase. The school would work closely with the construction team to ensure pupils are involved throughout the process and the curriculum is enhanced through regular site visits.

How would we be involved throughout the design process?

A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school. Any feedback or thoughts can be sent to the 21st Century Schools Team on:

21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk