

Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Ysgol Y Ddwylan

Consultation Report



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A statutory consultation was conducted regarding the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol y Ddwylan from 4-11 to 3-11. Overall, the balance of sentiment was mixed, with both positive/supportive and negative/opposed views expressed. Main themes raised in support included the constructive and inclusive nature of the development, benefits for Welsh language continuity, and the importance of maintaining pupil numbers and smooth transitions into school life. Themes of concern focused on the impact on existing early years provision, the appropriateness of the starting age, and potential adverse effects on the local community.

2. BACKGROUND

This report presents the feedback gathered during the consultation period, held from the 4th of September 2025 to the 16th of October 2025. The consultation was undertaken in response to proposals to amend the age range at Ysgol Y Ddwylan Primary School from 4–11 to 3–11, incorporating provision for part-time nursery education.

The report sets out the consultation process, summarises the responses received, and provides an analysis of the key issues and comments raised by stakeholders.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and in line with the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation processes gave prescribed consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and provide feedback.

The consultation document was published on the 4th of September 2025. The consultation document was distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the consultation document were available upon request. 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 and where to send written letters or email responses.

Consultation with Pupils of Ysgol Y Ddwylan took place in a dedicated session undertaken with members of the School Council.

4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The consultation responses received in between the 4th of September and the 16th of October 2025 are outlined below:

Online Survey	E-mail	Letter	Total
6	1	1	8

In addition to the above Estyn provided a response to the consultation and feedback from the pupils was gathered.

4.1 ONLINE SURVEY

A total of six online survey responses were received. No responses were received after the closure of the consultation. Responses are detailed below.

Q1. Are you responding as a:

Parent, carer or guardian	3	Community Council	0
Governor	2	Other:	1
Member of the community	0	Staff	0
Prospective parent, carer or guardian	0		

Q2. Do you support the proposal?

Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree
5	0	1

Overall, the feedback from the online survey indicates a predominantly positive response to the proposal, with the majority of respondents expressing support.

Q3. Do you have any comments regarding this proposal that you would like us to consider?

Q3 Analysis of key themes of responses	
Supportive	Unsupportive
Support for the proposal and its timing.	Concern about negative impact on existing early years provision (Cylch Meithrin)
Perceived benefits for children's transition into school.	Belief that starting school at age three is too early.
Positive impact on Welsh language continuity and inclusivity.	

Local Authority response

The Local Authority welcomes the support for the proposal and recognises the importance of constructive and inclusive development. In line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), the Local Authority is committed to increasing Welsh-medium provision, supporting linguistic continuity, and ensuring smooth transitions for pupils. The proposal aligns with statutory duties to promote the Welsh language and provide high-quality educational opportunities for all learners.

The Local Authority acknowledges concerns regarding the impact on early years provision and the proposed starting age. The proposal to change the school's age range from 4–11 to 3–11 is intended to complement existing early years provision in the community, including the Cylch Meithrin in the school, rather than replace or negatively impact it. Cylch Meithrin settings primarily focus on wrap-around care and Welsh language immersion, whereas the school-based nursery provision will deliver the educational element of the Foundation Phase curriculum. Families will continue to have the option to use the Cylch Meithrin for childcare and wrap-around services alongside the school nursery, ensuring both settings can work collaboratively to support children and parents.

Regarding the concern about age, attending nursery at age 3 is not compulsory; it is an option for parents who feel their child is ready. This approach aligns with Welsh

Government policy to provide early years education opportunities and supports children’s development in preparation for full-time schooling.

Q4. Are there any other options that you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Y Ddwylan?

	Yes	No
Are there any other options that you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Y Ddwylan?	0	6
<p>If yes, please outline the alternative option(s) No statements outlining alternative options were received.</p>		

Q5. a. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would this proposal have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Q5.a Analysis of key themes of responses	
Early language acquisition benefits. Learning languages is easier at a younger age.	Positive impact on Welsh language continuity. Introducing Welsh into English-speaking homes as early as possible.
Constructive and inclusive development. The proposal is seen as appropriate, constructive, and supportive of Ysgol Y Ddwylan’s role.	

Local Authority response

The Local Authority is committed to promoting Welsh-medium education and increasing opportunities for children and families to use Welsh, as set out in the WESP. Early immersion is a key strategy for ensuring bilingualism and supporting the Welsh Government’s target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Q5. b. How do you think the proposal could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive or more positive effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Q5.b Analysis of key themes of responses

Confidence in the quality of Ysgol Y Ddwylan and strong support for the proposal as a positive, constructive, and inclusive development.
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Local Authority response

The Local Authority welcomes the confidence expressed in Ysgol Y Ddwylan and the support for the proposal as a constructive and inclusive development. This aligns with our statutory duty under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the principles set out in the School Organisation Code to ensure that organisational changes promote high-quality education and community benefit.

In line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022–2032, the proposal supports our long-term vision to strengthen Welsh-medium education and linguistic continuity from early years through to secondary education. The emphasis on inclusivity and constructive development reflects our commitment to creating sustainable learning communities that provide equitable access to Welsh language opportunities, as mandated by national policy and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The Local Authority will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of this proposal upholds these strategic aims, supports immersion principles in the early years, and contributes to the Welsh Government’s target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Q5. c. How do you think the proposal could be formulated or revised so that it would not have adverse effects or have less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Q5.c Analysis of key themes of responses

Confidence in the quality of Ysgol Y Ddwylan and strong support for the proposal as a positive, constructive, and inclusive development.
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Local Authority response

The Local Authority welcomes the confidence expressed in Ysgol Y Ddwylan and the support for the proposal as a constructive and inclusive development. This aligns with our statutory duty under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the principles set out in the School Organisation Code to ensure that organisational changes promote high-quality education and community benefit.

In line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022–2032, the proposal supports our long-term vision to strengthen Welsh-medium education and linguistic continuity from early years through to secondary education. The emphasis on inclusivity and constructive development reflects our commitment to creating sustainable learning communities that provide equitable access to Welsh language opportunities, as mandated by national policy and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The Local Authority will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of this proposal upholds these strategic aims, supports immersion principles in the early years, and contributes to the Welsh Government’s target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

4.2 RESPONSES RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

One email from a member of the public was received during the consultation period. No responses were received via email after the closure of the consultation.

All of the themes of feedback given by respondents who returned comments via email are noted in the following table:

Analysis of key themes of responses received via email
Support for age range change – clear endorsement of moving from 4–11 to 3–11.
Positive experience of current provision – school described as nurturing
Benefit for own children – earlier start seen as advantageous for development.
Childcare accessibility and family impact – proposal would ease pressure on working parents and improve affordability.

Local Authority response

The Local Authority notes strong parental support for extending the age range and will ensure the proposal aligns with statutory requirements under the School Organisation Code, including consideration of demand and community impact.

The WESP emphasises early immersion and continuity in Welsh-medium education. The proposal supports these aims by enabling earlier access to structured learning.

The Local Authority recognises the importance of childcare accessibility and will work with partners such as the Cylch Meithrin to integrate early years education and wraparound care, supporting working families and promoting bilingualism.

4.3 RESPONSES RECEIVED BY LETTER

One letter was received during the consultation period. No responses were received via letter after the closure of the consultation.

Analysis of key themes of responses received via letter	
Themes in agreement	Themes against / of concern
Addressing Gaps in Early Years Provision	Staffing and Language Competence
Expanding Early Welsh Immersion	Full Welsh Immersion – amend language category
Smooth Transition for Young Children	Parental Engagement
School Sustainability	Safeguarding the Non-Maintained Welsh Sector

Community and Language Promotion	Transition Risks
	Monitoring and Targets
	Community Initiatives

Local Authority response

The Local Authority welcomes strong support for the proposals to extend early years Welsh-medium provision and strengthen linguistic continuity. These themes align with statutory guidance and the WESP, which prioritise early immersion, community engagement, and school sustainability. The positive feedback will be considered as part of the statutory decision-making process.

The Local Authority acknowledges the constructive recommendations regarding staffing, full Welsh immersion, parental engagement, and safeguarding the non-maintained sector. One impact of the removal of the Rising 4s Policy is that children will remain in nursery provision and childcare settings for a term longer than previously. In the short term, this might create an additional demand for provision of non-statutory education for a greater number of three-year-old children, and possibly an increased demand for wrap-around care. Ideally, this demand would be met by the non-maintained sector where providers will be able to expand provision to cater for additional numbers of children for either or both of the minimum of 10 hours education and for wrap around care.

Newcastle Emlyn has been identified as a community where this does not happen and where gaps in provision of the education element exist, therefore the Council proposes the change in age range at Ysgol Y Ddwylan. This would enable the school to deliver the minimum of 10 hours non-statutory Early Years education element and provide greater equity of provision across Carmarthenshire.

The letter included a suggestion to change the language category of the school. This proposal relates solely to changing the age range of the school from 4–11 to 3–11 and does not propose to include any changes to the school’s language category. There are currently no plans to implement this alternative as part of this proposal, and this would need to be considered as part of the wider strategic discussion around the development of the WESP.

The proposal aligns with Outcome 1 of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which aims to ensure that more nursery-aged and three-year-old children receive their education through the medium of Welsh. The WESP also seeks to increase Welsh-medium provision in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector through all key stages to the secondary sector, so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English. In addition, the Council has a ten-year plan to support current dual-stream and transitional schools to become Welsh-medium schools. Any future proposals to change the language category of the school will be addressed through separate processes and not part of the current proposal.

The Local Authority will:

- Ensure nursery provision is fully Welsh-medium, with clear communication to parents.
- The school will ensure that staff are able to deliver the curriculum with confidence.

All feedback and risks identified will be conscientiously considered, and mitigation measures will be incorporated into implementation plans if required to ensure the proposals deliver maximum benefit for learners, families, and the Welsh language.

4.4 PUPIL CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

Consultation with Pupils of Ysgol Y Ddwylan took place on the 15th of October 2025 in a dedicated session undertaken with members of the School Council. A full breakdown of the responses received is in Annex B.

Analysis of key themes of responses	
Q1. Do you know that we might be changing the age of the children who can come here?	
Pupils were not previously aware of the proposed change.	Pupils expressed happiness at being included in the decision-making process.

Q2. How would you feel about having children who are younger than you in school?	
Positive outlook: Younger children will benefit from early learning, especially in Welsh language development and bilingualism.	Older pupils see opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
Concerns about safety and suitability of the environment for younger children	Need for more teachers and resources.
Q3. What do you like most about your school?	
Positive relationships with teachers.	Enjoyment of playtime, outdoor equipment, and physical education.
Appreciation for a calm learning environment.	
Q4. What might be good about more young children coming to our school?	
Younger children would settle in better and learn faster.	Early start in reading and writing is beneficial.
Older pupils gain responsibility, strengthening the school community.	Benefits for parents, as children learn more from an earlier age
Q5. Is there anything you're worried about if the school changes?	
Concerns about space and the need to reorganise the yard.	Safety risks for younger children (injuries, accidents).
Potential stress for teachers and need for more staff.	Worries about younger children's readiness for school activities.
Q6. What would you like to tell the grown-ups who are making the decision?	
Mixed views: Some pupils support starting at age three, others prefer age four.	Support for starting at three includes benefits for learning, language development, and parental support.
Concerns about starting too early include readiness, pressure on children and teachers, cost, and potential reduction in opportunities for older pupils.	Suggestions for gradual introduction (shorter sessions, small groups).
Importance of adapting the environment for younger children.	

Local Authority Response to feedback from pupils:

The Local Authority welcomes pupil engagement and values their inclusion in the consultation process. The Local Authority is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders, including pupils, are informed and have opportunities to contribute to decisions affecting their school.

Any changes to school organisation will include appropriate adaptations to the physical environment and staffing where appropriate, prioritising safety and wellbeing for all age groups, in accordance with statutory guidance.

It is noted that the pupils placed the value on positive relationships, play, and a supportive learning environment. These aspects will be maintained and enhanced as part of any organisational changes.

The proposal supports early years education and recognises the benefits of early Welsh language immersion and community building. The proposal aligns with WESP objectives to increase Welsh-medium provision and support families. The Local Authority will work with the school to ensure that transitions are smooth and that all pupils and parents benefit from the changes.

Concerns about space, safety, and staffing are noted. The Local Authority and Governing body will ensure that facilities, resources, and staffing levels are sufficient to support all pupils safely and effectively. Currently there are no proposals to change staffing levels or make adaptations to the building to accommodate the proposed changes.

4.5 ESTYN'S RESPONSE:

Estyn considers that the proposal is “likely to deliver Welsh Medium provision for 3-11 year olds at a standard at least equal to its existing 4-11 offer”. The key themes of Estyn’s response are summarised in the tables that follow. The full response from Estyn is included in Annex A.

Theme 1: Educational Standards and Provision

Local Authority Response:

The Local Authority welcomes Estyn’s view that the proposal will maintain or enhance Welsh-medium educational standards for 3–11-year-olds. In line with the WESP 2022–2032, the Local Authority is committed to ensuring high-quality provision, early identification of learning needs, and inclusive support for all learners, including those with ALN and from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Local Authority will continue to monitor standards and wellbeing outcomes throughout implementation.

Theme 2: Rationale and Benefits

Local Authority Response:

The Local Authority notes Estyn’s recognition of the clear rationale and the anticipated benefits for school viability and resource efficiency. The proposal supports the strategic aim of sustainable learning communities and aligns with the School Organisation Code’s requirement to demonstrate educational and organisational benefit.

Theme 3: Welsh Language and Community Impact

Local Authority Response:

The Local Authority acknowledges Estyn’s endorsement of the proposal’s alignment with the WESP and its potential to strengthen Welsh language continuity. The Local Authority will continue to promote Welsh-medium education and ensure that the expansion of provision supports the Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050 vision. The Local Authority will also ensure that community and language impact assessments inform decision-making and ongoing engagement.

Theme 4: Risks and Mitigation

Local Authority Response:

Currently, nursery-aged pupils within the Ysgol Y Ddwylan catchment must access early years education outside the area. Projections indicate a demand for approximately 12 nursery places within the catchment by 2026. During the consultation, no responses were received from early years providers who were contacted via email as part of the consultation. The proposal introduces part-time nursery provision, which would complement existing services by enabling other providers to offer wraparound and full-day childcare. There is a local day nursery and several childminders within the catchment who could benefit from this arrangement. Overall, it is considered that introducing early years provision at Ysgol Y Ddwylan will meet local demand without having a detrimental impact on private or third-sector providers. Expressions of interest (EOI) were invited from all non-maintained providers of wrap-around care to undertake the quality assurance process required to offer the education element. However, no EOI was received from the Newcastle Emlyn area, which led to the development of the proposal to change the age range at Ysgol Y Ddwylan.

Theme 5: Facilities and Capacity

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority confirms that existing facilities are sufficient to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers, with no requirement for additional capital funding. The learning environment will remain fit for purpose and support the needs of all children.

Theme 6: Implementation and Transition

Local Authority Response:

The Local Authority acknowledges Estyn's observation regarding the transition plan. Transition requirements are anticipated to be minimal and will be managed by the school and governing body

5. CONCLUSION

The Local Authority has reassessed the original proposal and confirms that its earlier assessment remains unchanged.

Implementing the proposal to amend the school's age range from 4–11 to 3–11 is considered the most suitable approach for the following reasons:

- It provides parents with more options for early years provision within the local area.
- It offers a gradual and supported transition for 3-year-olds entering school, starting with half-day sessions and progressing to full school days.
- It may attract more pupils to attend the school, reducing surplus places and making the school more sustainable in the long term.
- Introducing early years provision could create a continuous educational journey for children as they progress through to Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, strengthening continuity and community integration.
- Increases the number of nursery places available in Newcastle Emlyn, helping to reduce inequalities of opportunity and outcome in education. Offers early opportunities for immersion in the Welsh language, positively impacting pupils' linguistic skills.

6. RECOMMENDATION

Following consideration of the consultation responses and the assessment of the proposal, it is recommended that permission is sought to implement the proposal to change the age range of the school from 4–11 to 3–11 without amendment. This recommendation reflects the identified benefits of the proposal, including enhanced parental choice, improved continuity of education, increased sustainability of the school, and positive impacts on equality of opportunity and Welsh language development.

7. NEXT STEPS

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Cabinet who will decide whether or not to approve the proposals or to approve with modifications.

The Consultation Report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website at least two weeks prior to the publication of a Statutory Notice should Cabinet decide to proceed.

APPENDIX A - ESTYN RESPONSE

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to change the age range of Ysgol Y Ddwylan from 4-11 to 3-11.

Summary/ Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to deliver Welsh medium provision for 3–11-year-olds at a standard at least equal to its existing 4–11 offer.

Description and benefits

The Council presents a clear rationale for this proposal, setting out the advantages of changing the age range at Ysgol Y Ddwylan from 4–11 to 3–11. While it outlines the statutory procedure and a projected timetable, the only confirmed implementation date is September 2026, with no suggested plan for the transition. Given that the proposal outlines that there are currently sufficient facilities at the school, it would be reasonable to assume that transition requirements would be minimal.

The proposal appears to identify benefits and disadvantages in a balanced way and includes measures to manage potential risks. The advantages appear to outweigh the disadvantages. A notable risk is the potential impact on private nursery providers and childminders, and the council commits to consulting openly with them to assess any potential impact. The proposal notes that there are currently no early years education providers within the school's catchment area.

The consultation document compares the proposal against maintaining the status quo with what seems to be clear reasoning. The authority notes that as early years education is non-statutory, free transport is not available for 3-year-old pupils. In reaching its decision, the council takes account of the impact of travel costs on low-income families and highlights how the proposal may have a positive impact on the travel arrangements of those who currently travel outside of their catchment area to access early education. In addition, it proposes to help close the gap in early years provision for 3-year-olds in the Ysgol Y Ddwylan catchment. The changes are also expected to reduce the number of surplus places at the school. Over the past 5 years the number of pupils that attend Ysgol Y Ddwylan has been following a decreasing trend leaving 18.6% surplus places at the school.

The proposal considers the impact on Welsh-medium provision and demonstrates alignment with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). A Welsh medium nursery would make the Welsh language more accessible in the local community strengthening the transition between Welsh medium nursery provision and primary education. However, the council rightly recognise that the proposals, if implemented could potentially impact other childcare providers viability, and potential loss of early Welsh Language immersion opportunities for the youngest pre-school children. This does not align with the Cymraeg 2050 vision.

If approved, the proposal would not require capital funding. Existing classrooms have the capacity to accommodate the additional pupils, and the school would receive delegated formula funding for the new provision.

The local authority has provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

The local authority has provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer appears to give careful attention to educational outcomes. The proposal draws on the most recent Estyn inspection report, noting both current strengths and recommendations for improvement. It assumes reasonably that Ysgol Y Ddwylan would deliver Welsh medium provision for 3–11-year-olds at a standard at least equal to its existing 4–11 offer. Therefore, no negative impact on pupil standards or progress is anticipated.

The latest Estyn reports that nearly all pupils' make appropriate progress in all aspects of their learning as they move through the school and the school has an effective, inclusive and familial environment, that impacts positively on learners' wellbeing. This effective and inclusive culture suggests that expanding provision is unlikely to have adverse effects on pupil wellbeing. This appears to be a reasonable statement.

The proposal notes that the school provides meaningful opportunities for younger pupils to learn through hands-on experiences in the learning environment in both the indoor and outdoor classroom. An increase in pupil numbers is expected to improve resource efficiency and contribute to long-term school sustainability. This appears to be reasonable.

The needs of vulnerable groups, including learners with additional learning needs (ALN) and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, appear to be carefully considered. Earlier access to education is expected to support timely identification of individual learning needs and the provision of appropriate interventions, improving learner outcomes. The proposal expresses confidence in the school's ability to develop a supportive curriculum ensuring they meet the needs of all learners. This appears to be reasonable.

Specific factors where proposals concern adding nursery classes

The council appears to have considered accommodation, facilities, and long-term viability suitably. The proposed learning environment has capacity for 43 Nursery pupils. The proposal would increase the admission number to 44 and a total capacity of 357. With the school currently operating below capacity and projected to have 224 pupils on roll, including nursery in January 2027, the school has sufficient classroom space to accommodate the additional pupils. The council expects that the additional nursery provision will boost pupil numbers and positively impact its viability. This appears to be a reasonable statement. The proposal states that the school has sufficient outdoor space to specifically provide for nursery pupils in addition to those of compulsory school age.

The proposal outlines a gap in Welsh medium early years education provision within the Ysgol Y Ddwylan catchment area. If the proposal is approved, it is the aspiration of the school to continue to provide wraparound care provision on site via the Cylch Meithrin alongside early years education provision ensuring an integrated approach to education and care.

The proposal recognises the potential impact on Welsh early years education providers in proximity to Ysgol Llanybydder, the closest being 3.1 miles from the school. The proposal states that key stakeholders can respond to the proposal with any concerns they may have and that the Council's Cabinet will consider all views and potential impacts before making a decision.

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

Pupil Consultation Summary Ysgol y Ddwylan

Date: 15/10/2025

Context of pupils who participated: 8 pupils from years 5 and 6 who are members of the school council.

Officer facilitating the consultation: Mr Eirwyn Griffiths (ESA)

It was conducted as a group consultation where all pupils participated to all questions. The responses below are a summary of all opinions gathered from the pupils.

1. Do you know that we might be changing the age of the children who can come here?

 Tell us what you think about that:

Pupils were not aware of this change but were happy to be included in the process of deciding.

2. How would you feel about having children who are younger than you in school?

 Why do you feel that way?

I think it could be a positive change because younger children will have the chance to start learning earlier. This will help them pick up words more quickly, develop their Welsh language skills, and become bilingual, which is a great advantage for life. However, we need to make sure the school is safe and suitable for them. That means creating more space for play, adding grass or soft areas in the yard, and using rubber flooring to prevent injuries. We might also need to reorganise the playground and classrooms to make sure everyone has enough room.

I would feel happy because it gives younger children the chance to learn and settle into school earlier. It would also make me feel more grown-up and give me extra responsibility, which is a good way to prepare for life. Older pupils could help younger ones, which would give us a sense of purpose and help us develop leadership skills. It's also a chance to make school a better place for everyone.

3. What do you like most about your school?

I really like the teachers because they teach us interesting things and help us solve problems calmly. I enjoy playtime with my friends, climbing frames and outdoor play equipment, and physical education lessons. I also like that we have time to think and learn in a calm environment.

4. What might be good about more young children coming to our school?

 Any other good things you can think of?

It would help younger children settle into school better and learn faster. They could start reading and writing earlier, which is great for their education. It would also give older pupils a sense of responsibility to help the younger ones. This could make the school community stronger and more supportive. It's also a good way to help parents at home because their children will be learning more from an earlier age.

5. Is there anything you're worried about if the school changes?

 Tell us more or draw your worries:

I'm worried that there might not be enough space for everyone, and the yard will need to be reorganised. Younger children might fall and hurt themselves because their bodies aren't ready for some activities. There's also a risk of broken bones or accidents if the play areas aren't safe. They might fidget and find it hard to join in with everything, which could cause stress for teachers. We will need more teachers to make sure everyone gets the help they need.

6. What would you like to tell the grown-ups who are making the decision?

 This is your space to share your ideas! (summary thoughts of each child who took part in the consultations)

I'm not worried about children starting school at three, but I do not think they should start before the age of four. Starting at three might work for some children, but very young children need time to develop more before joining school. Starting too early could put pressure on them and the teachers.

I think children should start at three because it benefits them with reading and learning.

Beginning school earlier can help children learn to read and write sooner, which gives them a strong start for education.

Yes I think children should start at three, but its important to make sure they have the right kind of space to be safe in school. If younger children start

school, the environment must be changed for them like soft flooring, grass areas, and safe play spaces to stop injuries.

Yes they should start at 3 but have them in small groups of children for shorter sessions, like three hours each. Younger children may find full school days too much. Shorter sessions in small groups would help them settle in gradually and feel comfortable.

I do not think children should start at three, they should start at 4. It will cost more for the school and could mean fewer opportunities for us the older children, so keep the starting age at four. Adding younger children will mean we need more teachers, resources, and space. This could reduce the attention and opportunities for older pupils.

Dwi moyn iddyn nhw i ddechrau yn dri oed i roi mwy o gyfle i ni ofalu am blant ifancach. Bydd hyn yn helpu sgiliau ni wrth gyrryd mwy o gyfrifoldeb.

Starting at three can help children learn more and support parents at home. It gives parents extra support and ensures children are learning from an earlier age, which help everybody.

Yes, children should start at three. It will help them develop language skills, settle into school routines, and become bilingual sooner.