
CONSULTATION REPORT

**Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 in
Bynea Primary School**

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Bynea Primary School Observation Received List

No observations were received

Appendix B

**Summary of observations received following publication of the Consultation Document
and Local Authority related responses**

Appendix C

ESTYN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Estyn response to the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol y Bynea from 4 – 11 to 3 - 11

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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to change the age range of Ysgol y Bynea from 4 – 11 to 3 - 11.

Summary / Conclusion

The proposer has clearly outlined the benefits of the proposal in addressing the issue of facilitating effective transition into the school from Bynea Flying Start provision.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. It is to ensure that pupils have a seamless transition from the Flying Start provision currently based at the school into nursery provision. Currently Flying Start provides for children ages 2-3 years and the current age range of the school is 4-11 years. Therefore, there is a gap in provision within the school for children between the ages of 3 and 4.

The proposer has appropriately considered the relative advantages of the proposal. However, the proposer has not identified any disadvantages or how it currently provides for these children at present and as such has not sufficiently considered effect on any other provision. For example, the proposer has not considered any possible risk to the Cylch Meithrin based at

Llwynhendy Integrated Children's Centre that is within 1-mile radius of Ysgol y Bynea. The proposer has considered the risk that other schools in the area may be affected by the proposals concerning the number of children attending nearby schools. The data shows that other schools in the surrounding area are currently above their capacity and that Ysgol y Bynea has sufficient surplus places. The proposer has suitably demonstrated that the proposal will slightly reduce the surplus places currently at the school.

The proposer has not shown that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements, which is likely to be limited. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy.

The proposer has completed a suitable fairness and equalities impact assessment that clearly considers the impact of the proposals on pupils demonstrating the protected characteristics. The assessment appropriately considers the positive impact of this proposal to provide for the age of pupils between 3 and 4. This assessment also considers the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language and reasonably concludes that there is no impact on Welsh medium provision in the area.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has not provided any data on the school's current performance apart from that the school is currently in standards group 3 considering national categorisation. The local consortium has placed the school in the yellow colour coded support category that indicates that the school knows what it is doing well and what it needs to improve. The proposer has also appropriately considered the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes for Ysgol y Bynea. The proposer has not suitably considered the impact on outcomes or leadership at the school.

The proposer believes that the proposal will have a positive impact on the learning experiences for pupils. The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals to ensure delivery of the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase. The proposer believes that the proposal would improve the learning environment and experience and would provide a more coherent Foundation Phase for learners by eliminating the stage of a transition between nursery and reception. It has also suitably considered the likelihood of more effective transition between Foundation Phase and key stage 2.

The proposer has suitably considered the condition of the building for the proposal but has not identified how the new provision will be accommodated within the school.

The proposer suitably considered that the proposal would not impact on the current provision offered for pupils with special educational needs.

The Local Authority's response to Estyn

The proposer has not provided any data on the school's current performance apart from that the school is currently in standards group 3 considering national categorisation. The local consortium has placed the school in the yellow colour coded support category that indicates that the school knows what it is doing well and what it needs to improve. The proposer has also appropriately considered the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes for Ysgol y Bynea. The proposer has not suitably considered the impact on outcomes or leadership at the school.

The content of the proposal will both reinforce and enhance current partnership in an effective and practical manner. All partners will benefit from additional tiers of collaboration which will be in place to support individual learner needs from the age of three onwards. The beneficial impact and progress of such collaboration will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis during link partnership meetings.

Appendix D

Consultation with the Pupils

Consultation undertaken on the 3rd February 2016

By

Mrs Mari Owen

Associate Challenge Adviser

Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council

Listening to 'Learner Voice'

School – Bynea

Date: - 3rd February 2016

Session undertaken by Mari Owen

Interviewed School Council

1. Would you like to be part of a bigger school / that has more pupils?

Comments

- Pupils thought it was a good idea to welcome new pupils of 3 years old to the school and make it a bigger school.

2. Do you think it's a good idea for the school to become 3-11?

Comments

- Making Bynea a 3 – 11 school would mean more learning time for pupils and so it would be a good idea.
- 'Flying start' is for 2-3 year olds on the school site already and so a nursery class for 3 year olds would make sense.

3. What would be the advantages of a 3 - 11 school? What would you look forward to most?

Comments

- Pupils would look forward to 'learning loads'!
- Allowing 3 year olds to come to Bynea School would allow parents to go shopping or go to work.
- Parents wouldn't have to worry about finding a place in a nursery for their children, they could come to Bynea School
- Being a 3 – 11 school would make sure that little children would not go to other schools instead of Bynea.

4. Are there any disadvantages? Is there anything that you would be worried about?

Comments

- There are no disadvantages
- Pupils are not worried about being in a 3 – 11 school