

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



All Stakeholders/Consultees

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 16th May 2016

Ask for/Gofynner am School Modernisation Team

Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704134

Dear Stakeholder/Consultee,

Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English medium community school) as of the 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference

On Tuesday 19th April 2016, Flintshire County Council's Cabinet determined the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as of 31st August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference. Cabinet considered the proposal, the statutory objections received, together with the local authority response in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013. Upon consideration the Cabinet decided to approve the proposal.

The decision made by Cabinet was however subsequently called in on Thursday 28th April 2016, there the decision was discussed, considered and robustly debated by the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Having considered the decision, the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to refer the matter to Full Council. Full Council met on Tuesday, 10th May 2016 and having discussed and robustly debated the proposal, is satisfied with the explanation which it had received. Full Council then decided to implement the decision.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- Maintain the current standard of education in the area and provide at least an equivalent standard of provision for the existing pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain
- Reduce surplus places;
- Lead to a fairer and more equitable distribution of pupil funding to the benefit of all pupils in the area; and
- Maintain access and parental preference for English medium provision in the area.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence received in Welsh without delay.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Ymatebwn yn ddi-oed i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.



It was noted that there were 42 objections from parents, staff, the Governing Body of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain, community members and pupils. A summary of the objections are detailed within the objection report which is available on the Flintshire County Council website via the following link (should hardcopies be required in either Welsh or English please email 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk with the postal address);

www.flintshire.gov.uk/ObjectionReportYsgolMaesEdwin
www.siryfflint.gov.uk/AdroddiadGwrthwynebuYsgolMaesEdwin

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined within the School Organisation Code are as follows:

1) Quality and Standards in Education

1. The view of Estyn is that the proposal would at least maintain the current standard of education in the area should the proposal be implemented.
2. A range of contextualised data has been provided regarding Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain and other possible alternative schools (Cornist C.P. School, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop).
3. Data has also been provided relating to assessed cohorts at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2, Estyn reports and commentary regarding current provision at all the schools subject to the proposal.
4. During the transition stage following the determination, the Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for all pupils by working closely with receiving schools.
5. For pupils with additional learning needs, transition will be managed by specialist additional learning needs education officers. Additional support will be provided if required to assist pupils with the transition.

2) The need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

1. The proposal will contribute towards ensuring the area will retain a balance of provision for English and Welsh medium education.
2. The proposal will reduce surplus places within the area.
3. The alternative school-based provision will have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality.
4. The Council has demonstrated that for most pupils the journey time would decrease, for some pupils the journey time would increase, however given the proximity of the alternative schools are within the guidance as per the Welsh Governments Learner Travel Measure.
5. Home to school transport will be provided for pupils in accordance with the Home to School Transport Policy of a family's home local authority.

3) Resourcing of education

1. The proposal will lead to a fairer and more equitable distribution of pupil funding to the benefit of all pupils in the area.
2. Savings derived from the proposal will be retained and reinvested within the Council's School Modernisation Plan to deliver its priorities including investment in school buildings.
3. Pupil funding follows the pupils to the school in which they would be continuing their education.
4. Additional transport costs generated as a result of this proposal will be funded out of the net savings generated.

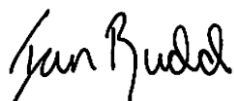
4. Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

Objectors have stated:

1. Concerns about children's welfare, pupils have already transferred from other schools, bullying, unable to obtain a place in schools of their preference, loss of friendship, do not want a large school, concern about support, large class sizes.
2. Concern that parental preference was being taken away
3. Concerns about the consultation process, data, new housing development, process unsettling to school community.
4. Impact on the community/future use of site should the school close.
5. Concerns that money already invested in the school.
6. Concern the Council did not allow enough time for the Governors to consider Federation
7. Transport.

Following the determination, the Council is committed to working with families, staff and Governors of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain to support learners through the period of transition ahead.

Yours sincerely



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

