
CONSULTATION REPORT

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

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Pembrey 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 Pembrey Primary School 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 from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to change the age range of Pembrey Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 in order to enable the incorporation of nursery provision on the school site.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposer has clearly defined the benefits of changing the age range of Pembrey school from 4-11 to 3-11 and it is Estyn's view that this 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 appears to tie in with the proposer's legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in the area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver education and learning for pupils.

The proposer clearly describes the expected benefit of the proposal. This is to ensure continuity of progression for those pupils who access the Pembrey Flying Start programme on the school site until they are three years of age, but then have to go off site for nearly a year until they are admitted to the school. The proposer has not set out any disadvantages associated with the proposal.

The proposer has not identified any risks associated with the proposal. However it has not clearly defined how the nursery provision will be

incorporated on the Pembrey school site. It has also not considered the risk that parents may send their children to the other nursery providers in the area rather than to Pembrey primary school.

The proposer has now identified any alternatives to the proposal. It lists other nursery/school providers who may be affected by this proposal. However, the proposer does not make sufficient commentary as to how these providers will be affected. The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements. It states that transport arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. There will be no change on travelling times for pupils living within the catchment area.

The provider has provided pupil capacity projections to January 2020. These show that there will be an increase in surplus places from 20 surplus places in January 2015 to 22 surplus places in January 2020 at the school. The proposer then makes the assertion that the school has the capacity for 30 FTE Nursery pupils and projected nursery pupils at the school. It is unclear as to how this figure has been determined.

The proposer does not appear to have sufficiently considered the impact of the proposal on Welsh medium provision within the local authority. It has listed three Welsh medium primary schools that may be affected by this proposal, but it has not provided enough commentary to demonstrate that it has taken account of the impact of the proposal on these schools. It has also listed nursery providers within a one mile radius of the school, but has not confirmed whether these are English medium or Welsh medium and what impact the proposal may have on these providers.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has not provided details regarding the performance outcomes of pupils at Foundation Phase and key stage 2. The proposer has suitably considered the most recent Estyn inspection report which was good overall. The proposer then reasonably concludes that the most likely impact of the proposal would be to improve the learning environment and experience and provide a more coherent Foundation Phase. This would be by eliminating a stage of transition between nursery and reception thus ensuring continuity of learning for pupils.

The proposer has provided details of the school's categorisation under the national school categorisation system. It has been categorised in the green category for support from which the proposer deduces that it is a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement.

The proposer has undertaken a useful community impact assessment and an equality impact assessment. These appear to show that there will be very little impact on vulnerable groups. The proposer also states that there will be no

change to the current provision offered for pupils with special educational needs at the school.

The proposer has not commented in the proposal document on how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised.

The Local Government response to Estyn

The proposer has not identified any risks associated with the proposal. However it has not clearly defined how the nursery provision will be incorporated on the Pembrey school site. It has also not considered the risk that parents may send their children to the other nursery providers in the area rather than to Pembrey primary school.

Risks and Counter Measures were included in the Supplementary Information which was sent out to all Stakeholders via e-mail on 22/12/15.

The proposer has not commented in the proposal document on how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised.

The authority will work with the pupils to ensure smooth transition and integration into the school.

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 – Pembrey

Date: - 3rd February 2016

Session undertaken by Mari Owen

Interviewed School Council and senior pupils

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

Comments

- Yes, because more people so more friends
- Yes because there would be more teachers

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

Comments

- Yes because children develop more skills at an early age if they start school at 3
- Yes, because pupils would be more confident at earlier age

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

Comments

- We would look forward to being Buddies to work with 3 year olds; there would be more opportunities to be a buddy.

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

Comments

- Some children are too young or too immature to start school at 3 but there would be a choice for parents
- Flying Start cabin on the yard taking some of the yard space is a disadvantage but this is not where the nursery is located