

Director of Education and Inclusion Services,  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team,  
Ty Trevithick,  
Abercynon,  
Rhondda Cynon Taff,  
CF45 4UQ

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Rhondda Cynon Taff, Consultation on a proposal to construct a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School and the proposed change of language medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School, From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Further to your consultation commencing regarding the above. I am a parent of 2 children currently attending Penderyn Community Primary School that would be affected by your proposal.

As a parent of 2 of the 54 children being taught through the medium of English, and 2 of the 22 that live within the "Penderyn catchment" taught via the English medium I would like to comment as follows:

1. Your statistics show that 23% of the children are taught through the medium of English, and 41% of these are from the Penderyn catchment. Your consultation report however does not quantify the percentage of children being taught through the medium of Welsh that live outside the Penderyn Catchment area.

As there are 2 buses that provide transportation to children outside of the Penderyn catchment area I am aware that the vast majority of children being taught through the medium of Welsh live outside the Penderyn catchment. Penderyn school is named "Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Penderyn" / "Penderyn Community Primary School" for a reason, the school is part of the community and fundamentally provides education to children who live in the Penderyn local community. Children that attend the school from outside is an added extra, fundamentally the school is in the community for the community.

2. My children attend the school in their direct community, your proposal will mean having to move the children to another school outside their community. As a former pupil of the school I am saddened by the fact that 22 children and countless numbers of children in the future will be deprived from going to their

local community school. Whilst your proposal will mean a huge number of children being taught through the medium of Welsh will get taught in a proposed "lack of community school". Your actions will mean that Penderyn school will have less children from the "Penderyn catchment" and will become a school disconnected from the community within which it sits.

In addition, my children will lose part of their identity and affiliation with the local community if your proposals are accepted and executed.

3. As a parent of 2 of the children being taught via the medium of English I would question why they are being positively discriminated against and why they can not be taught via the medium of English in their local school. English is the primary language of 88% of Rhondda Cynon Taff residents (as noted in the R.C.T Welsh Language promotion strategy) and despite this fact my children are being discriminated against to the point where they can no longer attend the school in their village / community. This is wrong and such discrimination should not be allowed in 2018 when the whole world is becoming more accepting of differing cultures, religions, genders and languages. Integration is key to long term success in all walks of life.
4. The recent Estyn report issued in 2018 assesses the current performance of Penderyn Community Primary School as follows:

<u>Inspection area</u>	<u>Judgement</u>
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

In summary Penderyn Community Primary School is rated good in 4 out of the 5 categories assessed, with an adequate/needs improvement rating in the 5<sup>th</sup> category.

Hirwaun Primary School's inspection in 2018 was as follows:

<u>Inspection area</u>	<u>Judgement</u>
Standards	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Adequate and needs improvement
Teaching and learning experiences	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate and needs improvement

In summary Hirwaun Primary School is rated good in 1 out of the 5 categories assessed, with an adequate/needing improvement rating in 3 categories and unsatisfactory / needing urgent improvement in the final category.

Therefore why do Rhondda Cynon Taff believe that it is acceptable to move my children from a school performing well (Penderyn) to a dysfunctional school (Hirwaun) because of the educational language we have decided our children should be taught through. The only logical conclusion that I am drawn to is that Rhondda Cynon Taff do not consider the quality of education of children via the English medium as being important. Your proposal is further discrimination against children being taught through the medium of English and will detrimentally effect their education and future prospects in life.

5. Unfortunately not all children can cope with being taught via the medium of Welsh, and, despite best efforts, some children have to move from the Welsh to English classes. Currently there are 6 out of the 54 children in the English medium side of the school who fall into this category. By separating the schools in the future would mean these children would either continue to struggle (as they do not want to leave the school) or would need to leave their school to find an education route that may suite better. This would create a situation that is unsatisfactory and would create significant upset, stigmatization and upheaval for children. Children who fall into this "transferring of education language medium category" need support and understanding rather than discrimination and becoming outcasts or failures at a young age in their local community.

As a former pupil that still lives in the local Pendeyn community, with 2 children attending the school I am deeply upset by the current proposal and strongly object to the motion of creating a welsh medium only school in Penderyn.

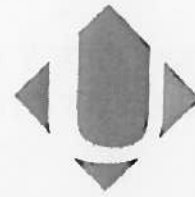
In summary I believe that your proposals will create a disconnect between the school and the local community within which it sits, and are nothing short of discrimination against pupils being taught through the English language. Your proposal will mean that my children and countless in the future will receive a sub-standard education outside of their village because they are taught through the medium of English. Your proposal will also in future ostracize children from their school and community if they get into educational difficulty.

In a country where diversity and inclusion is being encouraged (including Rhondda Cynon Taff as an employer) I can not understand why in the education arena diversity and inclusion is not encouraged. There is a big world out there and our children should be encouraged so see the world through many lenses. Your proposal will drive introverted opinions and objectives which will not help the growth of our children in the future.

Finally as a full paying taxpayer and council tax payer I believe that my children should fundamentally attend their local school and be provided with the best education possible. I received a good education and am now a director of a major infrastructure company in England, I expect the state to provide my children with the same opportunity I was given. I feel that your proposal will unfortunately fall way short of this request.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender. The box is positioned below the closing 'Yours sincerely' and extends horizontally across the page.



**UCAC**  
Undeb  
Cenedlaethol  
Athrawon  
Cymru

**Yr ymgynghoriad ar y cynnig i godi  
adeilad ysgol newydd ar gyfer Ysgol  
Gynradd Hirwaun a'r cynllun  
arfaethedig i newid statws cyfrwng iaith  
Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Penderyn**

Rhagfyr 2018

**UCAC** | yr undeb sy'n diogelu athrawon a darlithwyr Cymru



## **Yr ymgynghoriad ar y cynnig i godi adeilad ysgol newydd ar gyfer Ysgol Gynradd Hirwaun a'r cynllun arfaethedig i newid statws cyfrwng iaith Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Penderyn**

Mae Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC) yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ymateb i'r ddogfen ymgynghori gan Gyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Mae UCAC yn falch gweld dyhead Cyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf i geisio creu mwy o lefydd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir ac yn cadw at yr hyn a amlinellwyd yn eu Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg drwy *"ystyried troi ysgolion cynradd dwy iaith yn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg"*.

Rydym yn cytuno gyda'r hyn a nodwyd yn y ddogfen ymgynghorol y bydd cyfle i ddisgyblion ardal Penderyn gael trochi addysg lawn yn y Gymraeg mewn ysgol cyfan gwbl Gymraeg. O ganlyniad bydd rhagor o ddisgyblion yn cael eu haddysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a bydd hyn yn cynyddu'r cyfloed i ddisgyblion a staff yr ysgol. Bydd cynyddu'r nifer o ddisgyblion cynradd sy'n cael eu haddysgu yn y Gymraeg yn yr ardal hon o ganlyniad yn cynyddu nifer y disgyblion a fydd yn mynd ymlaen a'u haddysgu yn y Gymraeg i Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. Bydd hyn yn cyd-fynd gyda nôd Llywodraeth Cymru o gael miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Cydnabyddir bod ad-drefnu ysgolion fel hyn yn fater cymhleth a bod amrywiaeth barn a theimladau cyfion o du disgyblion, rhieni, staff ysgol a'r gymuned ehangach.

Os bydd y cynllun arfaethedig yn cael ei gymeradwyo gan Gyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf mae UCAC yn gofyn am sicrwydd llawn na fydd unrhyw ddiswyddiadau gorfodol ac y bydd ymgynghoriad llawn gyda staff ac undebau llafur y ddwy ysgol am unrhyw newidiadau staffio. Mae'n rhaid i'r Awdurdod gydweithio'n agos gyda'r ddau gorff llywodraethol er mwyn sicrhau y cyfyd cyn lleied o ansicrwydd ag sy'n ymarferol bosib.

**UCAC**

**Rhagfyr 2018**

# Public Meeting Penderyn School Re-organisation.

14<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

## Consultation Response.

Notes from meeting at Penderyn Community Centre

14/12/18

Meeting to discuss with residents, changes in Penderyn Community Primary School

Cll Graham Thomas chaired meeting

In attendance – Cllr Helen Boggis on behalf of Vikki Howells AM

21 residents in attendance.

Graham outlined proposed changes of School and explained to attendees that this meeting in no way replaces consultation and residents should still make representation via the consultation. Relevant information re contact/email/consultation document left with venue for addition to notice board.

Residents queried why so many children attend English Medium education at Penderyn Primary School from outside the catchment and primarily from the Hirwaun catchment area. It was considered that this was because of poor education provision at Hirwaun Primary as indicated by the last Estyn report placing Hirwaun Primary in red category while Penderyn achieved yellow category resulting in parental choice for Penderyn Primary School.

It was further noted that a total of 102 English Medium pupils from the Hirwaun catchment attended schools outside the Hirwaun catchment and this did not include faith schools. It was considered that this was a direct reflection of the standard of Education at Hirwaun Primary School.

A question was raised "who/why was the decision made to chose Hirwaun and not Rhigos for the site as there would have better match "like for like" at that site.

Reference was made to the education code and the statement that when children are moved there "should be like for like" provision at the alternative

school. Rhondda Cynon Taf are in breach of this code within the current proposals.

When pupil numbers were considered in the original bid for funding were children from Penderyn part of the calculation. If so, this should not have been done as the parents at the meeting stated categorically that "they would not send their children to Hirwaun Primary because of the educational standards at the school and would exercise parental choice to send their children elsewhere".

There was opposition to the Authority stopping the enrolment of English Medium pupils from September 2019.

Comment was made that Penderyn Primary Community School could no longer be called a community school when those living in the community can no longer send their children there for English Medium education.

A complaint was made that a request to meet with Headmaster had been refused.

The meeting was of the opinion that if a 30 name petition was presented for a meeting with the Headmaster and School Governors then this would have to be granted. A 70 name petition was presented to Cllr Graham Thomas together with a letter of response to the consultation. Both were handed to Rhondda Cynon Taf on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Complaint was made that teachers had been told by the school that they were not allowed to attend this public meeting as it was only for the community. The meeting was informed that no such communication would have come from the organisers of this meeting.

A request was made for Vikki Howells A.M. to contact Welsh Government Minister Kirsty Williams A.M. regarding the proposals. This would be communicated via Vikki Howell's office in attendance.

A comment was made that many Welsh Medium pupils attend Penderyn Primary School because of the availability of a free bus and many continue their education through English Medium when transferred to Secondary Education at 11 years of age.



Further comment from a parent that "their daughter benefited from an education that mixed with children from Welsh Medium education and vice versa". This cross benefit would be lost at Penderyn Primary School

Another comment indicated "that the smaller classes were actually a benefit at Penderyn Primary School"

Reference was made that when the new school was built that there was a clause or covenant that the school would have to retain both English and Welsh Medium education at the school. The meeting was informed that Cllr Graham Thomas has already pursued this question when raised previously and had been informed by Rhondda Cynon Taf that there was no such clause. This needed re-affirmation as part of the consultation.

A question was raised as to why the catchment for Welsh Medium had been extended to Penywaun when Welsh Medium provision at Cwmdare was much closer to that community.

As stated above parents will not send their children to Hirwaun Primary School for English Medium education and would send their children to other schools using parental choice.

The only other option left to Penderyn residents would be to send their children to Welsh Medium at Penderyn school if education within their community was the prime consideration. Would Penderyn Primary School have the capacity to implement this option given the increase in catchment to include Trenant/Penywaun.

Further comment was made that imposing a red category school when current education is a yellow category is in contravention of regulations/code.

A suggestion was made to change the catchment boundary of English Medium at Penderyn School to provide sufficient English Medium numbers for both Hirwaun and Penderyn Schools. If the boundary can be changed for Welsh Medium education then the boundary can be changed for English Medium education. If part of Hirwaun was included then that would be nearer to Penderyn Primary School than Penywaun is for Welsh Medium education. Within this proposal it was further noted that 102 pupils from within the current English Medium catchment of Hirwaun Primary school do not attend that school

Community view from the meeting is that Penderyn Primary School should continue education through the medium of English.

Public service buses only run at one per hour, parents without their own transport would not be able to collect their children in an emergency.

Penderyn School would lose diversity and inclusion.

Some children move between both mediums currently for additional support, Penderyn will lose this capacity on site.

Pupils with additional needs will suffer within larger class sizes at Hirwaun Primary School.

A question was raised as to whether Rhigos Primary School had the capacity to take the children from Penderyn Primary as parents would not be sending their children to the new Hirwaun Primary School.

One parent asked. " I Have 2 children, one in reception and one due to start in sept 19. How do I collect both at same time? Not prepared to move one child a year early as the other will miss friends etc".

A comment was made that " A health visitor informed residents of this change over 3 yrs ago."

A further observation was made that Hirwaun Primary was already a red school and now more pressure would be placed on teachers at the school by transferring more pupils to the school.

No consultation has taken place to date with children while children are included within the statutory stakeholders listed in the consultation document. Does this contravene regulations?

①

It was only the beginning of September that anyone knew about the change of Penderyn School being turned into a Welsh School. Even the parents were not informed until children came home with letters in their school bags. I think this has been done underhanded as this must have been put in place at least 2 yrs ago.

As a member of the Community I think every household in the village of Penderyn should have had a letter through their door informing them of what was happening, as this is a Community School and we are the Community of Penderyn. Not everyone has a computer to see what is going on. I don't have one so a friend of mine printed this form out for me. It is not acceptable. This is a community school and as always been bilingual.

Why should children of the village be sent outside the community to be taught when we have our own perfect school. Also they are still taking English speaking children in until Sept 2019, which is not fair having to move them to a different school by 2022.

At the moment Welsh speaking children can come up from Hirwaun free but the English have to pay this is discrimination.

Most children who are sent up from Hirwaun are only here because (a) Penderyn is a very good school. (b) if they put them in the Welsh unit they have free transport.

Most children in the Welsh unit their parents

cannot speak or understand Welsh also many have had to take them out of the Welsh and put them in the English because they are struggling and falling behind

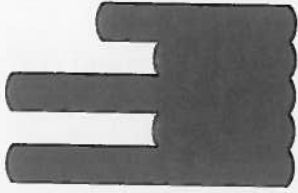
I have spoke to a couple of parents who have gone to put their child in the English only to be told to put them in the Welsh and if they don't cope you can put them into the English. This is only done to keep the number in the Welsh unit up. The headmaster is all for the Welsh. at concerts he speaks mostly in Welsh then afterwards a few words in English. He thinks because there are so many children in the Welsh unit all their parents who attend can understand Welsh. The answer is they cannot and ~~are~~ they do not understand a word he is saying.

If they want a Welsh school build one in Hwlwsin to join the one that's proposed to be built in 2022.

If the shoe was on the other foot I wonder if the Welsh side would be so acceptable.

Why would you want to send your child from Penderyn school that is doing exceptionally well to somewhere that is not. The children that are already being taught English in Penderyn should be able to see their time out here until it is time to go to the senior school it is not acceptable that they have to be moved away with 1 or 2 yrs left.

This is the only school in all of R.C.T that will not be taught through the medium of English. Penderyn school has always been bilingual and should stay that way.



Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team  
Ty Trevithick  
Abercynon  
Rhondda Cynon Taff  
CF45 4UQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the proposal to construct a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School and the proposed change of language medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School, from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

I have 2 children at Penderyn Community Primary School and another child who would be due to start in 2021. These plans will adversely affect them, and the other 20 children in the Penderyn catchment area who are taught through the medium of English. For this reason, I would like to make the following points:

1. Penderyn Community School is a community school, therefore, should provide education primarily to the Penderyn Community, who, according to your statistics (22 children from the Penderyn catchment area attend the English side which is the majority of the children in Penderyn) would like to be taught through the medium of English.

If these plans go ahead, the community of Penderyn will be damaged by this proposal and our children will not be mixing with those few who are taught in the medium of Welsh. The proposal says it "supports the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 ..." but it does not support the needs of the local people actually living within the community of Penderyn. We should not be forced to send our children to a school outside the community just to meet government targets. We are talking about the lives of our children, they are not just a number. The effect on the children being forced out if this goes ahead has clearly not been taken into account.

You say "It is considered that the overall impact on the local communities of these proposals, with improved and extended school facilities will be a positive, beneficial one." This statement would not be true for my family and the others who have chosen for their children to be taught in English. It will be divisive. The children will no longer all be mixing, the parents/carers will no longer be meeting at the school gates. The village will be divided into Welsh and English instead of being one community. Instead, we will be losing our community school and children from outside of the catchment area will instead be coming into our village for school while our children are sent to a school which is struggling. This brings me on to my next point.

2. Hirwaun Primary School has recently been rated as 'red' when it was inspected by Estyn. Out of the 5 areas that were inspected only 1 was judged as good, and the teaching and learning experiences were judged as 'unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement'. I do not want to move my children from a school which was judged as 'good' in 4 out of the 5 areas, and rated as 'yellow' to a school which is clearly struggling. A new building is not going to improve the teaching at Hirwaun because the staff and pupils make the school, not the building. It is discrimination to force the children who live in Penderyn and who want their children to be taught through the medium of English to go to a school which is not performing well. Our children should be able to attend their local school and be taught in English since it is the first language of the majority of residents.

In the constitution you have the seven core aims and it says "We consider that this proposal benefits the children in these communities in accordance with the seven core aims..." however, I disagree.

The children from Penderyn will have to go to a school which is not within walking distance, therefore, will not "enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation." They will not get the benefits of walking to and from their local school with parents and other children from school, and they are being victimised by being forced to leave their community to go to school.

Dual language supports integration and understanding where they can "...have their race and cultural identity recognised." Segregating pupils promotes ignorance of the culture of others.

Another of the core aims is to "Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional well-being." which is not being met with this proposal as our children will not have their community meeting their physical or emotional needs because they will be rejected by their own school purely because they learn in English.

The transfer to another school will not be 'simple' as was stated. It will be very stressful for those children and parents involved and parental preference is to keep Penderyn Community Primary School a dual language community school.

The apparent benefits that Hirwaun Primary School would offer are not adequate. A new school building which will take more pupils will not "improve educational outcomes and provision" because children learn best in a smaller place where they feel confident and secure. There is a reason why people pay for their children to pay for private education where the classes are smaller.

It is portrayed as a negative that the children in Penderyn are being taught in mixed year groups, however, it is beneficial to the children as they learn from their peers and can help others learn too. My eldest has benefited from this setup as he was able to learn from the older children and therefore achieve more than he may have done if he was just being taught the curriculum for his age.



3. Penderyn Community Primary School apparently has an “English medium stream which is becoming unviable with difficulties in recruiting and retaining high quality staff ...” however I can not see how this is true. It seems to me that catchment areas have been changed to get the decline and also, if free transport was not just offered to those children learning through the medium of welsh then the decline of those being taught in english would most likely not be happening. This, again, is discrimination; offering free transport if you will send your children to be taught in welsh but not if you send your children to the same school to be taught in english.

In regard to the staff, the teachers who my children have had, are of high quality and have been there for years, proving to me that you are happy to put untrue statements into this proposal to get the result you desire.

If the demand for more places is there, then why not make Hirwaun Primary School a dual language school when it has the new building and leave Penderyn as it is. The demand for english places could increase too, the projections have been cleverly put together to make them say what you want. The catchment for welsh is larger than for english, therefore, why not increase the catchment for those wanting their children to be taught in English.

This proposal would have a long term, negative, impact on families in Penderyn, not just short term, and it is only in terms of the welsh provision that it could be said that there are educational advantages.

If it is so easy to extend catchment areas, why not extend the catchment area for the English stream of Penderyn Community School? This would solve the (alleged) problem of declining numbers.

“numbers have fallen to just 54 in the english stream ... only 22 pupils actually live within the Penderyn catchment area”

22 is a lot for a village, that is the majority of children in Penderyn being taught in English. The catchment area was reduced so why not extend it again. Also, you do not mention how many of those being taught in welsh are from Penderyn and how many are from outside? Playing with numbers again.

4. Free transport is not a suitable option for such young children. It will be traumatic for both parents and children and it is not fair on them. As a parent of very young children, I want face to face contact with the staff who teach them.

The possibility of having to send them to school on a bus is completely unreasonable. I should not need to use free transport for my children when there is a 'community' school in my community within walking distance. How can you expect a 3 year old to go to school on a bus every morning. What if parents don't have a car and for some reason e.g. illness or appointment, a child needs collecting early? How are we expected to get to Hirwaun? We bought our house just before our 5 year old started school , and one of our criteria was for there to be a school in walking distance because I don't always have a car and I need to be able to take my children to and from school. My children should not have to go

through this when there is a brilliant school in the village we live, where I can speak to the teachers if I need to, and can easily do the school run.

On top of this, not everyone will use the 'free transport', resulting in more traffic on the roads with children being driven out of the village to school and children from outside the village being driven in for school. As a resident, I do not want more traffic on that road, it is busy enough as it is.

In summary, I am all for building a new school for Hirwaun, but keep Penderyn dual language. If welsh is needed then make Hirwaun Primary a dual language school. I know my children have benefited from the amount of welsh they are picking up from it being dual language. A dual language school promotes understanding and tolerance.

Segregation promotes intolerance and ignorance. Our children should be experiencing inclusion and this does not encourage it. Until Hirwaun has reached the same standard as Penderyn, I don't think we should even have to consider moving our children as that would mean sending them to a school where they will have less chance of doing well. Penderyn Community Primary School should remain first and foremost, a school for the community where parents can choose for their children to be taught in either English or Welsh.

This proposal will completely disconnect the school from the community. I strongly object to Penderyn Primary School being made a welsh medium only school.

Yours sincerely,

**From:** [REDACTED] Clerk Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council.  
**Sent:** 17 December 2018 14:09  
**To:** Schoolplanning  
**Subject:** Hirwaun Primary/Penderyn Primary Schools consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Sir/Madam

The consultation for the construction of a new school building for Hirwaun Primary, and the proposed change in language medium status of Penderyn Primary was on the agenda to be discussed at our Community Council meeting last week.

Unfortunately, once our Cllrs who sit as school governors declared a prejudicial interest (four out the eight attending) our meeting was no longer quorate and the consultation could not be discussed. Our legal advisers confirmed that if a Cllr has a prejudicial interest (i.e. is a School Governor not appointed by the Community Council) then they would not be able to take part in any discussions.

Cllrs would like it placed on record the reason as to why we could not respond to the consultation.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Executive Officer to Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council

Hirwaun Village Hall, High Street, Hirwaun, CF44 9SL  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

***For information on our Privacy Policy please refer to [hirwaunandpenderyncc.org.uk](http://hirwaunandpenderyncc.org.uk)***

[REDACTED]

Director of Education and Inclusion Services,  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team,  
Ty Trevithick,  
Abercynon,  
Rhondda Cynon Taff,  
CF45 4UQ

Dear Sir / Madam,

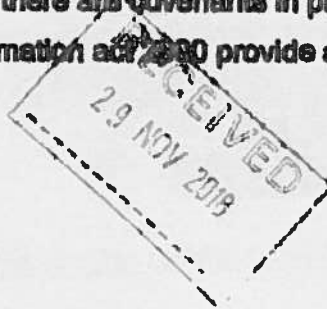
Re: Rhondda Cynon Taff. Consultation on a proposal to construct a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School and the proposed change of language medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

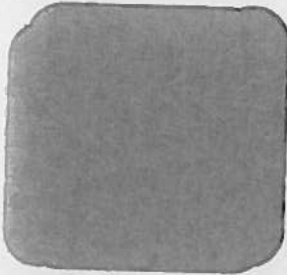
Further to your consultation I am led to believe that Penderyn School is subject to a restrictive covenant that is specific around the education of children through English and Welsh languages.

Please could you provide confirm if there are covenants in place for Penderyn School and if so under the freedom of information act 2000 provide a copy of such documentation.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]





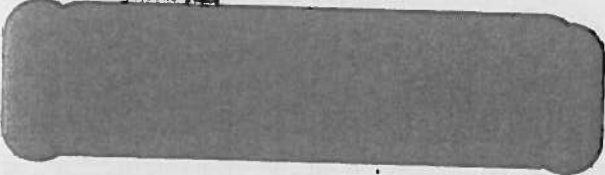
**Amrwyf Cysaili,**

Dw i am ddatgan fy nghefnogaeth lwyr o greu Ysgol Cyfrwng Gymraeg newydd ym Mhenderyn yn y dyfodol agos. Charwydd y twf yn y Gymraeg yng Nghwm Cynon mae eisiam datblygu strategaeth giir i ddiwallu anghenion y boblogaeth.

Credaf hefyd bod eisiam darpariaeth yn ardal Aberpennar - bydd hynny'n lleddfu ar brinder lleoedd yn Ysgol Gymraeg Abercynon ac Ysgol Gymraeg Aberdâr.

Er mwyn cynyddi y posibilrwydd o wneud dim llwyr o sêmau Gymraeg yng Nghymru mae'n rhaid darparu a chynllunio nawr. Dylai'r Gymraeg fod yn drysor y gallwn ni gyd ei rhoi.

**Yn ddiidwyll,**



Dnewch chi gwelwch eu bod  
chi wedi dechrau fy llythyr  
os gwelwch yn dda.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 December 2018 13:09  
**To:** Schoolplanning  
**Subject:** penderyn primary school

**Follow Up Flag:** [REDACTED]  
**Flag Status:** [REDACTED]

I am a parent of a child who attends penderyn school, also live in penderyn and I am very unhappy about the consultation of penderyn school becoming all welsh.

I moved to the area due to such a good report on the school Estyn reports are far better than hirwaun school.

I am very annoyed by the fact we in a small but nice community of penderyn will have to travel to take our children to a school in the next village.

we as a small village are becoming more and more with the younger generation moving to the area , so as for we can only attend our village COMMUNITY school to speak welsh is appalling.

good luck to hirwaun needing a new school as the school is old and run down but please take into consideration that we as parents want our children to speak English not welsh in our local school..

this is discrimination against us and our children and the fact that some children have been taken from welsh to English in the past because they were struggling has to be taken into consideration..

if the intake for English was throughout the year not only September maybe the English department would improve because they can take welsh children on over the year but not English ( another discrimination act..)

so I as a parent would like u to rethink what u are doing to our children in our community that will have nothing in the future no shop, two pubs close by but nothing for our growing community and children .. and now not even an English school..

I know a lot of people younge and older who went to welsh school but no longer use it into there adult life... have u even took this into consideration....

look forward to a reply

[REDACTED]



Adran Addysg,  
Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Amwyf Syr,

Hoffwn i gynnig fy nghefnogaeth i gynllun Rhondda Cynon Taf o newid ysgol  
gymradd Penderyn i fudi yn ysgol gymradd Gymraeg.

Er mwyn sicrhau 1,000,000 o siaradwyr Gymraeg yn y dyfodol mas'n anghorheidiol  
darparu'r gwasanaeth fydd yn galluogi'r llywodraeth gordd â'r her yma.

Fel adnaws Gymraeg wedi yn dyddio'r iaith mewn ysgol Saesneg ei chyfrwng, dw i'n  
gallu tystio i ba mor anodd yw hi i lwyddo creu awyrgylch Gymraeg sy'n arwain at  
siaradwyr Gymraeg.

Roedd fy mab wedi mynychu ysgol Gymraeg tan yn 16 oed ond wrth symud i  
Benderyn treuliodd ei flwyddyn olaf yn yr adran Gymraeg yn ysgol gymradd  
Penderyn. Roedd y gwahaniaeth mewn darpariaeth yn amlwg ac roeddwn i'n falch  
bod ei amser yn y fath sefyllfa wedi cwtogi i un flwyddyn yn unig.

Er bod yr athrawon yn gwneud eu gorau glas, dydy ysgolion dwy ffrwd ddim mor  
llwyddiannus.

Mae cynnydd yn y galwad am addysg Gymraeg yn amlwg ac mae Menter yn  
Mhenderyn a dosbarthiadau Gymraeg i oedolion yn cafnogi hyn.

Yn gywir,

\* A wnaech chi gadarnhau eich bod chi wedi  
darbyn y llythyr yma.  
Diolch

**From:** Schoolplanning  
**Subject:** FW: Addysg Gymraeg ym Mhontypridd

**From:** XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 23:20  
**Subject:** Addysg Gymraeg ym Mhontypridd

**Annwyl Gaynor Davies**

**Ysgolion yr Unfed Ganrif ar Hugain**

Yn dilyn darllen y ddogfen uchod, hoffai [REDACTED] noli rhai cwestiynau am eich bwriadau ar gyfer addysg Gymraeg, sef osau ysgolion Pont Siôn Norton a Heol-y-Celyn ac adelladu ysgol newydd sbon ar safle presennol Heol-y-Celyn. Croesewir y buddsoddiad hir ddisgwyliedig hwn mewn addysg Gymraeg ond mae gennym bryderon am yr argymhellion presennol:

Bydd rhaid i blant deithio yn bellach er mwyn cyrchu addysg Gymraeg, yn enwedig plant yng nghymunedau Cilfynydd, Coed y Cwm, Ynysybwl a Glyncoch.

Mae galw mawr am addysg Gymraeg yn ardal Glyncoch ac Ynysybwl ond eto bydd yr ysgol newydd wedi ei lleoli saith milltir o'r cymunedau hynny. Tra'n croesawu'r cynnydd mewn capasiti, mae'r un mor bwysig cael mynediad hygyrch a dirwysr at ddarpariaeth newydd.

Mae polisi Llywodraeth Cymru wedi rhoi pwyslais ar gynyddu mynediad at ddarpariaeth blynyddoedd cynnar a chynradd cyfrwng Gymraeg yng nghymuned y plentyn.

Mae clybiau brechwast a chlybiau ôl-ysgol yn elfennau hanfodol o fewn ysgolion modern ac mae rhieni presennol Ysgol Pont Siôn Norton yn poeni am orfod teithio mor bell ar gyfer y cyfleusterau hyn ar ddechrau a diwedd pob dydd. Gallai hyn arwain at fwy o rieni gogledd Pontypridd yn dewis addysg Saesneg.

Hoffem gael ymateb i'r pwyntiau isod:

Gan fod y cynlluniau ar gyfer safle Heol y Celyn yn dal i fod yn rhai ffurfiannol, a yw'n bosib pwysu arnoch i ddwys ystyried y lleoliad mwyaf addas ar gyfer agor ysgol Gymraeg yn yr ardal. A oes unrhyw bosibilrwydd adelladu mewn man mwy canolog i'r holl blant y bydd yr ysgol newydd yn ei gwasanaethu? Neu, a ellid gwario ychydig yn llai ar yr ysgol newydd ac ystyried agor dosbarth meithrin Gymraeg mewn ysgol arall fel bod ysgol Gymraeg arall yn tyfu'n organig mewn ardal arall ym Mhontypridd? Mae Cyngor Caerdydd wedi gwneud hyn yn llwyddiannus ar sawl achlysur. Mae nifer o syniadau yr hoffem gael y cyfle i'w gwyntyllu gyda chi.

Noda Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg y Cyngor fod bwriad i greu 6,054 o siaradwyr Gymraeg ychwanegol o fewn y sir erbyn 2021. Dywedir hefyd fod Llywodraeth Cymru'n nodi pa mor hanfodol yw'r system addysg. Mae hwn yn darged clodwiw iawn ond nid ydym yn gweld sut y mae amddifadu cymunedau pwysig ym Mhontypridd o ysgol Gymraeg yn mynd i helpu gwireddu'r targed hwn.

Mae [REDACTED] yn croesawu'ch cyhoeddiad i droi Ysgol Penderyn yn ysgol Gymraeg ac yn teimlo bod y cynlluniau ar gyfer Ysgol Dolau hefyd yn addawol. Fodd bynnag, byddem yn croesawu petaech yn fodlon derbyn dirprwyaeth ar ran [REDACTED] drafod sefyllfa'r ad-drefnu yn ardal Pontypridd.

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed oddi wrthyich.

Yn gywir

XXXXXXXX

21st December 2018

**Proposal to Construct a New School Building for Hirwaun Primary School and the Proposed Change of Language Medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School, from 1st September 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the above mentioned proposal. My son and his family live in Penderyn, and they have two children in the English stream at Penderyn Community School, with a third due to start there in 2021. This proposal would exclude them from their own community school.

I strongly object to this proposal on several grounds.

1) The proposal begins by pointing out that numbers in the English stream at Penderyn Community School have fallen and are expected to continue declining. I would suggest that this is due to the fact that the catchment area for the English stream is not only much smaller than the Welsh catchment area, but it has been reduced in recent years - presumably in order to provide this misleading statement. It seems it is easy to increase a catchment area, since it is proposed for the Welsh stream, so why not increase the catchment area for the English stream? I notice that only the catchment area for the Welsh stream is shown on a map - where is the catchment area for the English stream? it should certainly be shown for comparison.

The proposal notes that there are only 22 pupils in the English stream from Penderyn village. It does not say how many in the Welsh stream are from Penderyn village, a number which would be necessary in order to make a fair comparison. Perhaps because the majority of pupils in the Welsh stream are bussed in from other areas? The result of the proposal would be that most of the pupils at the school will be brought in from other areas, while the children actually living in the village are bussed out of the village. This is clearly a ridiculous situation and is also discrimination against the English speakers. The

school is called Penderyn Community School, so it should serve Penderyn community. Penderyn community contains both Welsh speakers and English speakers, therefore the school should serve both Welsh speakers and English speakers.

When the document describes admissions criteria, it uses the phrase **"preference will be given to children living nearest the school."** The children living in Penderyn village are those living nearest the school, and they should be given preference, not suddenly told they must get on a bus and go elsewhere. Parental preference is mentioned too - but parental preference is for there to be an English stream at Penderyn school. Are parents really expected to put a 3 yr old on a bus every morning - traumatic in itself - when there is an excellent school in walking distance? The fact of the transport being free completely misses the point. For example, what kind of relationship can parents develop with teachers if they never see them? Yet with such young children these relationships are essential. What happens if a child becomes ill at school? What about after school clubs? How do they go and play with the new friends they've made? There is no free transport to deal with these things.

The proposal states that the school **"has difficulties in recruiting and retaining high quality staff"**. I should like to be provided with details of this claim as it does not seem to be based on evidence. None of the people I have spoken to feel that the English stream is taught by low quality staff who keep changing. The opposite is true, staff are excellent, popular with both children and parents, and have been there for years. It is an extremely damaging and negative statement which should certainly be backed up with facts.

2) The document quotes from the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. I would draw your attention to core aim 3. **"enjoy the best possible health and be free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation."** There are two aspects here. Firstly, at present my grandchildren walk to school, it is very good for their health, and I would point out that more exercise and physical activity for children is recommended by the government. This proposal would replace the brisk walk, twice daily, with sitting on a bus - clearly detrimental to their health. Secondly, **"abuse, victimisation and exploitation"** are far more likely in a bigger, less personal school such as that proposed in Hirwaun. It is not an

issue in a small, friendly school like Penderyn. Therefore both aspects of core aim 3 are contravened by this proposal.

Core aim 5 states that children should have their *"....cultural identity recognised"*. In a dual language school like Penderyn, the two cultures, Welsh and English, are recognised. The children mix, get to know each other and learn to understand each other's culture. This proposal would take that away from both the English stream that moves to Hirwaun and the Welsh stream left behind. They would no longer mix, and this segregation would promote ignorance and misunderstanding, an "us and them" mentality. Hence this aim too is contravened by the proposal.

Core aim 6 states that children should have *".... a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing."* But the community of Penderyn will be damaged and divided by this proposal, with separate Welsh and English communities instead of one village community. Thus this aim is also contravened by this proposal.

Therefore the proposal is shown to be against the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as it fails several of the core aims.

3. The proposal claims that the changes will improve educational outcomes including *"the social and emotional development of children."* I strongly disagree with this claim insofar as the children in the English stream are concerned. Children learn best when they feel confident and secure, and this is best achieved in smaller classes in smaller schools. The teachers at Penderyn know all the children in the school and are able to interact with parents who are taking their children to and from school. The document describes the move to Hirwaun as *"a simple transfer"*. There is nothing simple about it. Moving from a small friendly school to a big impersonal school with larger classes will be extremely traumatic and detrimental to their wellbeing.

A constant theme of the document is *"21st century education"* and the benefits that the children will allegedly receive by transferring to Hirwaun. But a *"state of the art"* building is no guarantee of a better school, the atmosphere and learning opportunities have much more to do with the staff and the children than the state of the building. Therefore the children will be transferring into a much worse environment, as Hirwaun school is known to be



struggling. There is a degree of hypocrisy in these statements of benefits for the children who have to move - do not those being educated through the medium of Welsh also require a 21st Century education? Of course they do, and they will receive it at Penderyn Community School! The school was only built twelve years ago (ie. in the 21st century), and if it were not able to provide a 21st century education, it would not be retained as a Welsh medium school either.

4) It is claimed that the demand for school places (Welsh and English) is set to increase due to development in Hirwaun village. Surely the logical answer to that is to make Hirwaun school dual language. Let the children of the different cultures mix and learn to understand each other! The proposal claims that *"the impact on the local communities ... will be positive and beneficial."* I strongly disagree. The effect on the community of Penderyn will be divisive and destructive. The children will no longer be mixing at school, the parents will not be meeting and chatting at the school gate, the teachers will know very little of the children's backgrounds and home situations. The change in language medium status at Penderyn School may support the Government's Welsh Language strategy - but it doesn't support the needs of the local community, which will be damaged and divided by this issue. This proposal is from the department of Education and Inclusion Services, but apparently there is no inclusion for English speakers in Penderyn, they are being excluded from their own school.

In conclusion, I find that this proposal is full of sweeping generalisations which have no basis in fact, and figures which have been manipulated to show what the proposal wants them to show, rather than compared and considered honestly. We are talking about real people and real communities here, and surely this should be more important to the local council than hypothetical numbers of government targets. Hirwaun school seems to need help, by all means build them a new school, and make it dual language. There is no reason to change Penderyn school as it is performing well. A simple change to the English catchment area would be fair, and demolish the (alleged) problem of the decline in numbers.



**In summary, I am completely opposed to this proposal. It would divide the village of Penderyn and severely disadvantage parents who wish their children to be taught through the medium of English.**

**Yours faithfully,**

**[Redacted signature]**

## **Proposals to re-organise school provision in the Hirwaun and Penderyn areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf**

### **Introduction**

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.

### **Summary/ Conclusion**

The proposer is Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, and the proposal relates to the construction of a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School (Hirwaun PS) and a change of language medium status - to Welsh medium only - at Penderyn Community Primary School (Penderyn CPS) from September 2021.

Overall, the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact on the standard of education provision in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The proposer has given a clear description of the proposal and arrangements for responding to the consultation.

---

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW  
Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446  
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales  
www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu goheblaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd goheblaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth. | Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

The proposer has made suitable reference to: the schools' performance data and trends; information about the condition of the estate; current and projected pupil numbers and attendance; recent Estyn reports. Both of the schools affected by the proposal have been inspected within the past year, and the proposal acknowledges the judgements of Adequate and needs improvement, and Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement that were awarded at Hirwaun PS. It notes the relatively poor condition of the school buildings at Hirwaun PS.

The proposer has set out its rationale for changing Penderyn CPS to a Welsh medium-only school, both in terms of a trend of increasing numbers of pupils attending its Welsh medium stream, and in respect of the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

In relation to the change of catchment, the proposal sets out the priorities for allocating pupils a place according to the authority's school admissions policy. Pupils studying in the English medium stream at Penderyn CPS would transfer automatically to provision at Hirwaun PS without any additional application process.

The proposal addresses transport for pupils within the proposed changed school catchments appropriately. Pupils living in Trenant and Penywaun (within the expanded catchment area for Penderyn CPS) who wish to receive Welsh medium education would be eligible for free transport to school at Penderyn CPS. Pupils living in Penderyn (within the expanded catchment area for Hirwaun PS) who wish to receive English medium education would receive free transport to Hirwaun PS.

The proposal addresses potential staff changes as a consequence of closing the English medium stream at Penderyn CPS. Staff below SLT level would have the opportunity to apply for new posts at Hirwaun PS before they are externally advertised, and these posts would initially be 'ring fenced' to former Penderyn CPS teachers.

The proposer has carried out a community impact assessment, an equality impact assessment and a Welsh-medium impact assessment. These impact assessments conclude that the proposed changes would have positive, beneficial impacts on local communities, and would have no significant negative implications for any groups of pupils at the existing schools.

The proposer identifies a few disadvantages to the proposed changes. These include the perceptions by parents that a smaller school may be more appropriate to their child's needs and increased travelling distance for some pupils in some communities. The proposer has mitigated the increased travel for these pupils by providing free transport for those pupils affected.

The proposal includes consideration of demographic changes in the area in the near future, including housing developments and future development at the site of the

former Tower Colliery at Hirwaun. These are likely to lead to an increase in demand in both English- and Welsh-medium provision.

The proposer has considered alternative options, including maintaining the current language status of the two schools, and replacing the old buildings at Hirwaun PS 'like for like'. However, it has concluded that these would not address the increasing demand for Welsh medium provision, the local demographic changes or the potential benefits to quality that having larger single-language provision at the two schools could bring.

The proposal includes consideration of the risk of disruption to pupils at Hirwaun PS during building works. The proposer notes that these risks will 'be mitigated by the detailed and thorough project management arrangements that will be put in place', although does not give any detail of these arrangements.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal sets out the perceived benefits. They include, for the construction of an English-medium school at Hirwaun: an extended, enhanced environment in a modern, purpose built school, all pupils being taught in same-age-group classes, improvements brought about by increases in scale to pupils' and teachers' opportunities. For Penderyn CPS, the benefits identified include: total immersion in the Welsh language for all pupils at the school, the creation of a 'critical mass' of Welsh medium learners, more opportunities for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh and improved recruitment and retention of staff.

The potential benefits identified by the proposer appear to be a reasonable assessment of the consequences of the proposed changes.

Director of Education and Inclusion Services.

21st Century schools Team

Ty Trevillick

Abercynon

P.O.T

CFUS 400.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding <sup>the following</sup> ~~information~~ ~~concerning~~

"Rhonda Evans Taff, consultation on a proposal to construct a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School and the proposed change of language medium status of Penderyn Community School from 1st Sept 2021."

I am a parent of a child who is currently attending Penderyn Community School and I have also got a child who will be attending the school as of 2019 both of these children will be ~~be~~ affected by this proposal.

I am a resident of Hirwaun and choose to travel the school run outside of my village so that my children are taught in a school that ~~could~~ <sup>my child can</sup> provide ~~the~~ education in the language ~~language~~ <sup>language</sup> I choose (English). There was a considerable <sup>amount of</sup> ~~benefit~~ <sup>benefit</sup> in the run up to my first child attending school as to where we as parents thought our child should be taught. The reasons for choosing Penderyn Community School as our first option was solely down to the <sup>ESFV report</sup> ~~statistics~~ <sup>information</sup> you have included <sup>one</sup> <sup>in</sup> your proposal. Consultation booklet which I received at the meeting on 27th Nov 2018.

I would like to add that this is not something I consider to serve you



## Penderop Community School Inspection 2018

Inspection area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Behaviour + attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching + learning experience	Adequate and needs improving
are support + guidance	Good
Leadership + management	Good

## Hindon Primary School Inspection 2018

	Adequate + need improvement
	"
	Unsatisfactory + needs urgent improvement
	Good
	Adequate

There is black and white sharia no appeal as a parent of a child <sup>to the school Hindon</sup> currently attending Penderop Community School I for one would be very concerned if my child attended a school which received a report as holding the above information cannot

\* I believe that RCT think that it would be acceptable to pull 54 pupils which <sup>will</sup> include my own children from a school that is performing at a standard of Penderop into a school that <sup>is not accepting in one category</sup> is not <sup>as</sup> acceptable. <sup>as</sup> I believe as a parent <sup>of</sup> <sup>my</sup> children should be taught in the English language. I as an English taught pupil myself have achieved gone on to achieve all goals an education. It is perhaps that has led me on to achieving my own businesses in many fields. So therefore why would I want



anything less for my children in a school I believe <sup>strongly</sup> my children can achieve. I understand that it is well worn. However having a new school and my problems does not let these at all, but as a parent I am highly disturbed by the proposal of the removal of children that are achieving excellently in a perfectly modernized school to be up and routed for selfish greed goodness.

The children in question (Pondara English department) will be thrown into a class of 38 plus pupils where they are currently in classes of 18 plus pupils and as a result of this they will most definitely be looked over and this is not acceptable in my eyes as a parent.

Notwithstanding to the meeting I attended along with other parents it was explained that the <sup>arrangement</sup> would be <sup>for</sup> only benefits that would result in this proposal going ahead. <sup>yes</sup> that however as a community will have a brand new school place. Consider that to provide for one community <sup>you are</sup> <sup>adding</sup> another community apart. Pondara has a limited amount of facilities at present and you as a Council <sup>that</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>removing</sup> <sup>yet</sup> another thing (English Language School) is acceptable.

To conclude this letter I am most definitely wanting this proposal to go ahead as I as a parent, my children and their classmates and also Pondara as a Community will all benefit from this.

18.11.27 [REDACTED] Hirwaun school proposal

**From:** XXXXX  
**Sent:** 27 November 2018 16:50  
**To:** Schoolplanning  
**Subject:** Hirwaun school proposal

Hi I attended your consultation today and spoke with a lady from education and feel that there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

My son is currently in year 2 at penderyn. If the proposal gets through he will be due to move from penderyn school at the start of year 6.

Can you please tell me why the welfare of the children currently in penderyn primary hasn't been considered?

Why can't there be the option of them staying there until all the children move onto comp but not have no intake from now on?

Have you done any research into how moving schools actually effects a child's well being and education?

I look forward to your reply.

XXXXXXXXXX

**From:** Schoolplanning  
**Subject:** FW: Penderyn Primary school

-----Original Message-----

**From:** XXXXXXXXX  
**Sent:** 02 December 2018 07:42  
**To:** Director, Education & Lifelong Learning <[Director.Education@rctcbr.gov.uk](mailto:Director.Education@rctcbr.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Penderyn Primary school

**To:** director of education

Re proposal to move English children from Penderyn Primary to Hirwaun primary

I would like to express my concerns to you regarding moving children from Penderyn Primary school to Hirwaun primary school. My son is currently in year 2 at penderyn, he is a very happy 7 year old, who absolutely loves going to school. He has friends in both welsh and English departments. Since hearing the news of this being proposed it has caused my son and us a lot of distress and also a lot of other families. My son says on a daily basis, I don't want to move schools, I like my friends and teachers and school. He thrives on routine and familiar surroundings. Can you look at these children bearing in mind they are little human beings that need stability their not just a number or a statistic, please think if this was your child or grandchild before you rip their little world apart. I believe you should never have taken them at penderyn if you thought you'd be shipping them out.

I think someone within rct needs to look into how this will effect these children long term before they make the decision to move them.

Regards  
XXXXXXXXXX

x 18 of this letter  
received.

Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team  
Ty Treathick  
Abercromby  
CF40 4UQ

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Plan for Hirwaun Primary School

At a meeting at the school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018,

I was appalled when I was informed of the proposed plan for accessing the Primary School at Hirwaun whilst the development was taking place. A process that I was informed would be in place for a matter of twenty months.

The proposal was to close the main entrance to the school and all school traffic would be directed through Glannant Street and Longfield Court with a view to ALL pupils accessing the school through this side gate.

I object very strongly to this proposal, the reasons are:-

1. Glannant Street is very narrow congested road with residents on the Left hand side of the road already having to park on the pavement to allow vehicles to travel through the street. This proposal could result in emergency vehicles being unable to access properties within the vicinity at certain hours during school periods.
2. This road is accessed at present by a percentage of parents delivering and collecting their children from the school. The road is continuously blocked twice a day by these vehicles as there are no parking areas and parents have been known on a regular basis to block the driveways at Longfield Court and refuse to move to allow residents to exit their driveways.
3. There is only one access road to Glannant Street off the main Brecon Road. This road also suffers from parking on both sides of the road resulting in traffic entering Glannant Street in the middle of the road with a poor view of traffic trying to exit the street. This has already resulted in collisions and many near misses.
4. I am also very concerned for the parents and pupils that walk to the school as I believe that increasing the traffic flow on these already congested side streets would put their safety into question.
5. The aforementioned entry off Brecon Road is just meters from the brow of a hill with its inherent limited visibility.
6. This proposal coincides with the expected access and exit difficulties linked to the proposed dualling of the A465 with access to Aberdare on the A4059 being disrupted by the removal of the present roundabout and the installation of a bridge. The junction off Brecon Road to access Glannant Street is just some 150 or so meters from this major junction. I

I therefore request that further investigations be made with a view to look at different options to accessing the school during the build, the residents are already undergoing difficulties with school traffic and this proposal would only exacerbate the present situation.

Yours faithfully



WRITTEN FEEDBACK FOR THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND HIRWAUN PRIAMRY SCHOOL AND CLOSE ENGLISH MEDIUM STREAM I PENDERYN

No	Agree with proposal	Comments	Additional Views
1	No	My child attends Penderyn Primary. I feel that it will unsettle and upset him to move schools half way through Primary.	
2	Yes	Yes we agree fully with the proposal of creating a purely Welsh Medium school at Penderyn. Figures show that the number of pupils in the Welsh medium stream of Penderyn have increased over the last four years while the numbers in the English stream have decreased. There is no valid reason to keep the English stream open in Penderyn which is stopping the expansion of Welsh Medium education. Making this a purely Welsh medium school will fully immerse the pupils in the Welsh language and would contribute to the Cymraeg 2050 goal.	We would urge RCT Council to do this with all of their dual language schools, as RCT has a huge contribution to make towards the Cymraeg 2050 target.
3	No	<p>do not agree with the proposal to change the dual language status of Penderyn. We do not agree with transferring English medium pupils to Hirwaun. This is because</p> <p>a) it does not support developing Welsh as a core language for all. It creates an enclave of Welsh rather than sharing Welsh language expertise with English stream peers.</p> <p>b) it suggests moving pupils from a school categorised as Yellow to a school categorised as red - how can this be educationally justified?</p> <p>c) it is likely to result in job losses for the English medium staff currently employed at Penderyn . This is not acceptable.</p> <p>d) the proposal implies that pupils will be better accommodated. Pupils at Penderyn are currently in fantastic accommodation - there would be no benefit to them at all.</p> <p>Dual language schools are incredibly important in giving value to both English and Welsh languages in both communities, it increases the opportunity for Welsh to be normalised for all rather than being a separate</p>	The statement in the consultation document that there is difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff at Penderyn in the English medium stream is both insulting and untrue. The English medium staff at Penderyn have been in post for 10 plus years. They are highly qualified and experienced and the implication that they are in some way deficient is unacceptable. There may be an issue at Hirwaun in terms of recruitment and retention but it is not their staff who are under threat in this manner. The view that more parents are choosing Welsh medium education needs to be considered in the wider aspect. Parents in Hirwaun may well be considering Welsh medium as they can get their children in to Penderyn via the Welsh stream and have free transport rather than having to attend Hirwaun or to attend the English stream and provide their own transport as they would be out of catchment area.

		<p>clique. It gives the opportunity for second language welsh learners to improve their Welsh by having excellent Welsh medium skills within the same organisation</p> <p>We have no objection to the building of a new school for Hirwaun as it is very much needed, it is the tacking on of the closure of the English stream at Penderyn that we object to.</p>	
4	No	<p>I think and feel that the upheaval of moving the children from Penderyn to Hirwaun will affect them and unsettle them which can/will lead to health issues. A lot of the children have to travel further.</p>	<p>The loss of jobs for the English side staff which some have been there many years will raise unemployment. The new ALS has proven big community schools don't work.</p>
5	No	<p>Children like routine and familiar surroundings. To totally unsettle them with a change of school and teachers is unacceptable and I feel that their thoughts need to be taken into account and they should be given a choice.</p>	
6	No	<p>I have two children at Penderyn English and I feel that moving them will affect their education as they don't deal well with change of environment and teachers.</p>	<p>I feel that children from the village of Penderyn should have the option to send their child to Penderyn even if they're not Welsh speakers and want their child to learn through English language.</p>
7	No	<p>Community school - all should be able to attend. Poor quality teaching at Hirwaun. Lack of diversity and discrimination against medium of English.</p>	<p>Children taught through medium of Welsh are not all local. No options for children who struggle with Welsh. Community identity will suffer. School in Penderyn will no longer be a local school for all children.</p>
8	No	<p>We do not want Penderyn to close the English department as our children are settled and are happy here. If we wanted to send our children elsewhere we would have.</p>	<p>My child has additional needs and I am not sending him to Hirwaun school.</p>
9	No	<p>Penderyn community school is a small school in which children are looked at and not overlooked by the staff!</p>	<p>I have a child already in Penderyn who is doing really well and a child due to attend in April who I believe should have a chance to attend the same school as sibling!</p>
10	No	<p>As a resident of Penderyn I think my child should attend his local school and shouldn't have to travel some 4 miles to increase the number at Hirwaun.</p>	<p>The pupil to teacher ratio at Penderyn is low but is an advantage to some pupils including my son with additional learning needs. Moving him from his local school is of no benefit to the residents of Penderyn including myself. I fail to understand that there are many pupils attending Penderyn school that are not from the catchment area and I assume that they travel several miles to attend our village school. To make use of the pupil to teacher ratio also having asked</p>



			a number of parents regarding the closure of the English section. If the languages were reversed i.e closing of the welsh section the parents would move their children to the English section. I think that this proves that the language is not important and a sound education is at the top of parents agenda. The English section provides all of this to our community. I think that children should attend their local school, not travelling several miles to receive an education. Penderyn school for Penderyn residents.
11	Yes	New school is well overdue although I will be sorry to see my old school go!	
12	Yes	The new school looks and sounds fab. My concern was disruption to pupils while work was going on and class sizes were going to be 50 children. Glad to hear that there will be no disruption and class size will be max 30.	
13	Yes	The school is well overdue a makeover.	
14	Yes	Think it will be good for the children to have a new building.	
15	Yes	The school needs a refurb and for everything to be under one roof. It desperately needs updating and have newer resources for the pupils.	
16	Yes	Hirwaun school is in a bad state and is beyond its intended lifespan. The children of Hirwaun deserve to be educated in a purpose built 21st Century Building.	
17	Yes	Hirwaun primary has needed to be rebuilt for many years. Our pupils are being taught in a draughty asbestos building. We have waited many years for a new school.	Hirwaun village is growing at a fast rate. New houses are being built, this means that there will be more children of school age to accommodate.
18	No	I am all for an improved school building for Hirwaun, but not for the English medium of Penderyn to be closed - letter attached.	Letter attached – letter was acknowledged and response to be included in consultation report.
19	Yes	Welcome investment into the Hirwaun/Penderyn area and am in full support of WM education in the area.	I urge RCT to continue to expand WM education provision to provide the younger generation with increased skills and to help achieve Cymraeg 2050.
20	No	I do not agree with the proposal to change the dual language status of Penderyn Community Primary School. I do not agree with transferring English medium pupils to Hirwaun. This is because: a) It suggests moving pupils from a	The statement in the consultation document that there is difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff at Penderyn in the English medium stream is both untrue and insulting. Staff within the English medium have been in their current positions for in excess of ten years and are highly

		<p>school categorised as Yellow to a school categorised as Red – How can this be educationally justified?</p> <p>b) Penderyn Community Primary School is as the name states a community primary school built to serve the community of Penderyn how can this be if it becomes a Welsh medium school as not all parents wish for their child to be educated solely through the medium of Welsh?</p> <p>c) It does not support developing Welsh as a core language for all. It creates an enclave of Welsh rather than sharing Welsh language expertise with English stream peers as found to be good practise with Estyn inspectors.</p> <p>d) It is likely to result in job losses for the English medium staff currently employed at Penderyn. This is not acceptable.</p> <p>e) The proposal implies that pupils will be better accommodated. Pupils at Penderyn are currently in fantastic accommodation – there would be no benefit for them at all.</p>	<p>qualified and experienced members of staff and the implication that they are in some way deficient is unacceptable and hurtful.</p> <p>Dual language schools are incredibly important in giving value to both English and Welsh languages in both communities, it increases the opportunity for second language Welsh learners to improve their Welsh by having excellent Welsh medium skills within the same organisation.</p>
21.	No	<p>The proposal is extremely divisive for the village of Penderyn. It is discriminating and damaging in the way it segregates children according to language.</p>	<p>I have attached a 5 page letter [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Penderyn is a small village community containing both Welsh and English speakers. The proposal wishes to remove the English speakers and send them to a failing school at some distance from their homes.</p>
22	No	<p>Understandably Hirwaun School is in much need of investment but I don't feel it is right for residents of the community ie the village of Penderyn to not be able to send their children to the 'community' school for English education.</p>	<p>Appalled that it is assumed parents of English department children will move to Hirwaun when based on the latest Estyn report it's a RED category school and Penderyn is yellow. Who in their right minds accepts this transfer although it's continually stated it is 'parental preference' where you decide to send your child. Surely there should be an automatic transfer to a 'like for like' school, thus a yellow school.</p> <p>A new building and infrastructure is lovely but this doesn't mean the standard of education will thus improve.</p> <p>I believe there has been an encouragement into the downturn in numbers for English medium at Penderyn school. The incentive of 'free transport' for Welsh taught children, but not for English! Furthermore the Head teacher, and this is from personal experience, does try to push the Welsh</p>

			<p>medium side of the school. We however, were certain that it was the English medium that we wanted but it is quite likely that other parents would have been swayed.</p> <p>At the moment my child is in a mixed year group which in total is only 18 from nursery to year 2. We have found that a small class size and mixed ages has only been beneficial to our child. At the meeting at Hirwaun school on the 27.11.18, however, I was reassured that even in a class of 30 pupils for example, but of similar ages my child will receive the same level of teaching as now. I am not a teacher but common sense says the pupil teacher ratio does affect teaching. I don't believe for one moment that my child will have teaching that matches what is received at current, when there are so many pupils in class.</p> <p>My point to end on is this: There is no way that I will be sending my child to Hirwaun school. Furthermore, I believe that having to uproot a child for the last two years of juniors could massively impact their development and their schooling should be allowed to finish at Penderyn 'Community' School. My child said that she wants to stay in Penderyn with her friends and teacher. Doesn't her point count?</p>
23	No	<p>I agree that Hirwaun need a new primary school, but I do not agree that Penderyn school should change to a Welsh only school.</p>	<p>1. "In recent years the number of pupils in the Welsh language stream has increased...while numbers have fallen to 54 in the English". The reason for this is that those pupils attending Welsh have free transport, English don't. A considerable number of pupils attending Welsh from outside Penderyn only do so as they get free transport. If the English had free transport also the numbers would be drastically different. Another reason for this is the change in catchment area back in 2009 which resulted in many pupils not being allocated places in the English unit as they were now 'out of catchment'. This was done very secretly and in an under hand way and will never be acknowledged by yourselves.</p> <p>2. "Provide total immersion in the Welsh language for all pupils at the school". I disagree that this would be an advantage and in fact think it would be a disadvantage. To be in a dual language school is of benefit to all pupils currently in the school. The English unit pupils have an increased knowledge of the Welsh language while the</p>

			<p>Welsh unit pupils still have conversations and socialise with their friends in the English unit, as it would be once they leave school and enter the world of work.</p> <p>3. "The principal change will be an improvement in the quality of educational provision..." I do not agree. Both my children have attended the English unit of Penderyn school and have had an exceptionally high level of educational provision which would not be improved by moving schools.</p> <p>4. Estyn information on schools. Penderyn school is a 'yellow' school with 4 goods and 1 adequate. Hirwaun school is a 'red' school with 1 good, 3 adequate and 1 unsatisfactory. Surely this information speaks for itself. No parent of an English unit pupil is going to choose Hirwaun school!</p> <p>5. "A continually decreasing English medium stream... difficulty recruiting and retaining high quality staff" This is totally FALSE. Please check your facts! The English medium staff are of exceptional high quality and have been at the school for at least the last ten years.</p> <p>Conclusion: As you mention continually throughout the report this is only happening to help the Welsh Government achieve their targets by 2050, even if it is discriminating against those pupils who do not go to Welsh medium education. Closing a 'community school' will have a detrimental effect on the village of Penderyn. Surely a Welsh only school was not considered when the new Penderyn school was built. Would the funding have been received for a Welsh only 'community school'?</p>
24	Yes	No comment	No comment

## **Appendix 4**

### **Hirwaun Consultation Public Event – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Written feedback by members of the public during consultation event:

- I don't want to move schools
- Will there be a new access gate?
- Will the woodland area near the main entrance still be here? (please!)
- Plans are fantastic and as a school we can't wait.
- Will there be small private spaces/rooms for intervention? Such as ELSA/THRIVE?

