



RhAG Abertawe

Response to City and County of Swansea Council's proposal

To close Felindre Welsh medium primary school

Contact:

Heini Gruffudd (Chair)

RhAG Abertawe

Hafan, 2 Lôn Rhianfa, Abertawe SA1 6DJ

heini@gruffudd.org

2nd February, 2019

PARENTS FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Parents for Welsh Medium Education is an organisation established in 1952 to encourage the development of Welsh medium education.

It is funded by the Welsh Government.

The organisation represents the parents of pupils in Welsh medium schools, and is in regular contact with Welsh medium schools.

General

1. RhAG has consistently argued that there is a need to increase the number and percentage of Swansea pupils in Welsh medium education.
2. The objectives of RhAG have been accepted by the Welsh Government, which aims to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
3. We share the Welsh Government's vision that local councils need to create demand for Welsh medium education, rather than merely responding to demand.
4. The comments below reflect our comments to the initial consultation.

Ysgol Gymraeg Felindre

1. We are aware that the number of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Felindre has become too small to maintain viable education.
2. We are also aware that the number of pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Felindre is very small. This reflects the demographic change in the area, and the mobility of parents in terms of work.
3. There are plans to build a large number of houses near the M4, between Llangyfelach and Felindre. For this reason, and given the County's wider educational service, we would wish to see the County retaining the school at Felindre for the purposes Welsh medium education. This could include:
 - i. Pre-school provision
 - ii. A Pupil Referral Unit
 - iii. A Latecomers' Unit

ii. above might be very appropriate, offering pupils a rural and creative atmosphere, which is likely to differ from their home or urban circumstances.
4. The above schemes might be linked to another Welsh medium school which will serve the area.