



RhAG Abertawe

Response to City and County of Swansea Council's proposal

To increase the size of Tirdeunaw Welsh medium primary school from January 2021

Contact:

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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 Tirdeunaw Catchment Area

1. We have been concerned that Ysgol Tirdeunaw is being relocated. Ysgol Tirdeunaw has established itself in the area, and has become an exceptionally successful school, delivering Welsh medium education in a relatively deprived area. Our first option would be to see the school being rebuilt on its own site.
2. By moving the building to Heol Gwyrosydd, we welcome the opportunity to have new buildings with the best facilities.
3. We also welcome the establishment of a Welsh medium school nearer to the Manselton /Cwmbwrla / Blaenymaes areas, which have been deprived of a convenient Welsh medium education since Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbwrla was moved to Brynymôr in 1976.
4. It is possible that the percentages of pupils from the Penlan area will increase, with the new areas that will fall within the Tirdeunaw catchment area.
5. Similarly, it is possible that there will be some loss from the Mynydd-bach and Treboeth areas.
6. Although there is mention here of changing catchment areas, with Ysgol Gymraeg Pontybrenin transferring Blaenymaes, Cadle, Clwyd Gendros and Portmead to Ysgol Tirdeunaw, there is no suggestion here of how the severe overcrowding at Ysgol Pont-y-brenin is to be addressed in earnest. There is an urgent need for an additional Welsh medium primary school between Gorseinon – Garden Village and Penllergaer. It would be good to have a complete explanation of the County's intentions for these areas.
7. We welcome the likelihood of the County receiving additional funding from the Government to ensure that the Tirdeunaw building is of the biggest planned size.
8. We look forward to seeing Ysgol Tirdeunaw receive a new purpose built and adequate building on the site of Bryn Tawe, at Heol Gwyrosydd.