



**To/
Councillor Jen Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

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BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 17 December 2018. It is about Pre-decision Scrutiny on the Small Schools Review and the School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 17 December 2018

We would like to thank you, Helen Morgan Rees, Kelly Small and Brian Roles for attending the meeting to discuss the two reports due for Cabinet decision on the 20 December 2018: Small Schools Review and the School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.

Please see below the Panels conclusions resulting from this discussion:

We agreed that both reports contained full and comprehensive information on both sets of proposals and that these also reflect the amount of work that has gone into this process.

School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan

We believe that

- a full consultation has been completed and the issues raised have been addressed fully.
- the closure of Felindre is part of a wider and longer term Welsh Education Plan which will be of benefit to pupils in Swansea in the longer term.
- all the alternative Welsh Language schools offer a good education.
- the majority of pupils come from outside of the catchment area of Felindre, so the effect of the closure on the community will be minimal, the community have a thriving village hall.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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We therefore reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, that there has been a high level of consultation and all alternatives to closure have been explored.

Small Schools Review, Craig Cefn Parc Primary School

- We felt that a full consultation has taken place and all options have been reviewed and revisited based upon this.
- We shared the concern that the school has been in and out of the Amber category for much of the last five years and that substantial improvements have not been made in order to improve outcomes at the school. We therefore recognise that on current educational performance Clydach Primary School will provide better educational outcomes and opportunities for pupils.
- We also understand the complexities in the catchment of the school with both a Faith Primary School and a Welsh Primary School nearby. We accepted that pupil numbers at Craig Cefn Parc Primary School, based on predictions, are not likely to increase in the short or medium term.
- We appreciated the concerns raised about children using school transport but are satisfied that the same precautions will be in place as in other schools where pupils are unaccompanied.
- We also understand the importance of ensuring that Swansea makes the most efficient and effective use of resources for the interest of all pupils within the local authority area.

We reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, there has been a high level of consultation and that all alternatives have been considered.

The panel will put the points outlined in this letter to Cabinet verbally on the 20 December.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR MO SYKES/LOUISE GIBBARD

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

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