

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION	07 January 2019
DATE DECISION PUBLISHED	08 January 2019
DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution	16 January 2019

NAME AND TITLE OF CABINET MEMBER

Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education

SUBJECT

Permission to publish a statutory notice on the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11.

DECISION

- i. To approve the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11 so that children can be admitted to a nursery class in the September following their third birthday, implementing the change from 1st September 2019
 - ii. To approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code guidance 006/2013.
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REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see attached officer report.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with:

Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers
Local Member

Statutory consultation and responses were received from the following

- NASUWT
 - Estyn
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– Pupils of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBER DECISION NOTICE FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL
CABINET - OFFICER'S REPORT**

Name and title of Cabinet Member/s :	Councillor Gareth Thomas
Name and title of Author of Report :	Owen Owens Senior Education Resources Service Manager
Date the Decision was taken :	07/01/2019
Signature of Cabinet Member/s:	

1. Subject :

Permission to publish a statutory notice on the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11.

2. Recommendation for the Decision :

- (i) To approve the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11 so that children can be admitted to a nursery class in the September following their third birthday, implementing the change from 1st September 2019.
- (ii) To approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code guidance 006/2013.

3. Reason for the need of the Decision:

Following a statutory consultation on the above proposal, the authority needs to decide if it is to proceed with the proposal. If so, a statutory notice on the proposal will be required in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code guidance 006/2013.

4. Rationale and justification for reaching the decision

4.1 Almost all primary schools in Gwynedd accept pupils to a nursery class in the September following their third birthday. Currently the age-range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy is 4-11. The Governing Body of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy submitted a request

to the Gwynedd Council Education Department to change the age-range to 3-11 so that they can also accept pupils in the September following their third birthday. Having considered the request the Education Department agreed to conduct a statutory process on the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11.

4.2 A decision notice was published on 3 August 2018, declaring the decision of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet Member for Education to undertake a statutory consultation process on the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2019 onwards.

A statutory consultation document was produced and consultation was held on the proposal with all relevant consultees between 17 September - 29 October 2018, in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code guidance 006/2013.

4.3 Responses to the consultation were received from the following:

- NASUWT
- Estyn
- 15 from pupils of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy

4.4 In accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 006/2013 guidelines, following the consultation, a report was produced and put on the Council website on 30 November 2018 and a link to the report or a hard copy was shared with relevant consultees.

4.5 NASUWT observations and the Council's response to them can be seen in the following table:

Comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
<p>The union has no objection to this proposal in principle. It will increase the school's capacity to some extent and can result in job security since an additional nursery year will be in existence.</p> <p>It is clear that there will be an impact on the local Cylch Meithrin, so we would ask if the Cylch could be considered on the school site rather than at a separate site? This would enable Nursery Pupils to stay on school grounds after receiving their 2-hour daily accessing the Cylch for more</p>	<p>Cylch Meithrin Y Gromlech is located by the entrance to the school site, therefore it is more or less on the site. Because of this transferring the children from the Cylch to the school, or the school to the Cylch, would be very convenient.</p> <p>The school will also take into consideration when the Cylch meets in order to allow the option for the</p>

<p>hours (e.g lunch club etc.) This will enable the Cylch to continue to receive funding from The Authority through the 30 Hour Plan (if there are eligible parents) and thus ensures the future of the Cylch and its staff. *</p> <p>* This is completely dependent on whether or not it is possible to maintain the Cylch on school grounds; and of course the wishes of the Cylch. But it's an idea.</p>	<p>children to attend the Cylch as well as the school if the parents wish.</p>
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A copy of the full response can be seen in **appendix 1** - personal information on the response has been blacked out to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

4.6 Estyn's response

Observations were received from Estyn as part of the consultation. Their full response can be seen in **appendix 1**.

In their response to the consultation Estyn appear to be happy with the contents of the consultation document and they note that the Council in its consultation gives:

fair consideration to consultation with different bodies, groups, organisations and stakeholders, and consider any impact that any change could have on nursery education providers and local schools.

appropriate attention to the current capacity of the school, and considers the impact of the possible increase in numbers as a result of admitting children following their third birthday. It also gives attention to the numbers and the forecasts of other local schools, and the impact that any change could have on their numbers.

appropriate consideration to the possible impact of changing the admission age at Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy on other schools locally.

appropriate attention to the impact of the proposal on standards and on school provision, on the development of the Welsh language, possible impact on the community and transport aspects.

recognition to the impact that the development could have on Cylch Meithrin Y Gromlech and note that there is an opportunity for the organisation's

representatives to respond to the consultation and that support is available via the business officer of the Gwynedd children and supporting families team.

Estyn do not note any negative comments in relation to the proposal or the information in the consultation document and therefore the Council does not see the need to include a response to any comment in their response.

4.7 Responses to the consultation with the children

The headteacher of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy conducted a consultation session with a representation of the pupils at the school. The headteacher's analysis of this session is available in **appendix 2** of this report.

The headteacher's report states that 15 children completed the questionnaire and 12 agreed with the proposal to change the admission age and three had no specific views. These are some of their comments:

- 'I think it's a good idea as there will be more children here to play with'.
- 'I think it's a good idea as the Reception Class children will be able to make more friends'.
- 'I think it's a good idea because they will start to learn reading and writing earlier'.
- 'I think it's a good idea because perhaps their mother or father will want them to start school earlier'.

4.8 An impact assessments on the Welsh language, Community and Equality were conducted as part of the consultation.

The Equality Impact Assessment was conducted in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. The assessments note the current situation and show that policies and procedures are in place to ensure that the proposal considers and is in accordance with equal rights. Having weighed up the relevant factors, it was concluded that the proposal positively ensures equal opportunities and that measures are in place to ensure there is no unlawful discrimination or harassment. Arrangements are also in hand to monitor and review the situation.

No observations were received on the contents of these assessments.

The Council believes that the proposal will have a positive impact as children will be able to start at the school in the September following their third birthday, in line with most primary schools in the county.

The assessments can be seen on www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation

4.9 Following consideration of the comments received during the consultation, the Council is confident that the proposal will improve education in the Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy catchment area.

The Council acknowledges possible concerns regarding the cylch meithrin and has referred the cylch to help and advice available from the Business Officer and the Gwynedd Children and Families Support Team. The Council will also encourage the school and Cylch to continue to work together for the good of the children.

As the projected increase in numbers are small and that there are robust procedures in place in the Foundation Phase it is not anticipated that the introduction of a nursery class at the school will be detrimental to school standards.

The Governing Body will need to plan the structure of classes and staffing structure for the introduction of a nursery class and receiving additional children and put into place steps to ensure that the school's good standards continue following the change.

The Council is confident that these comments will receive due and proper attention from the Governing Body.

Because of this it is recommended to approve the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2019 onwards and to publish a statutory notice on the proposal.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Publish the statutory notice allowing an objection period of 28 days between 16 January - 13 February 2019. Anyone can object to the proposal during this period.

5.2 Following the objection period a report will be presented to the Cabinet, or the Cabinet Member for Education, to make a final decision on the proposal. It must be noted that there are some instances where the Cabinet's final decision can be referred to the Welsh Government's Minister for Education and Skills, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 with the School Organisation Code (006/2013).

5.3 Subject to Cabinet decisions, here are the next stages of the process with an outline timetable:

Date	Steps
16 January 2019	Publication of statutory notice
13 February 2019	Closing date for receiving objections to the proposal
Within 16 weeks of the closing date of the statutory objection period	Cabinet of Gwynedd Council, or the Cabinet Member for Education, to consider any objections and make a final decision on the proposal
	Announce the decision

September 2019	Implement the proposal or continue with the current situation
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6. **Record of any interest declared by any Cabinet Member consulted and any dispensation by the Standards Committee:**
None

7. **Any consultations carried out before making the Decision:**

Chief Finance Officer

As the author has noted in section 4.1 of the report, nearly all primary schools in Gwynedd accept children to a nursery class in September following their 3rd birthday. Implementing this decision will not have a 'net' financial implication to the Council, as the increase in the budget allocated to the primary schools (equivalent to the cost of those children attending the school) is financed through proportional cuts in the budget which finances 'non-maintained nursery schools'.

Monitoring Officer

The report summarizes the considerations and results of the consultations in an appropriate way. No further comments regarding propriety.

Local Member

I support the proposal because teachers, parents and governors support the proposal. It will be beneficial to the children, parents and teachers and the Cylch Meithrin and Dyffryn Ardudwy should be the same as other schools in Gwynedd.

Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i newid ystod oedran Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy o 4-11 i 3-11
yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013



Eich Manylion		Dyddiad: 19/10/18		
Enw				
Cyfeiriad	NASUWT Cymru, Cwrt Bowen, Stad Fusnes Llanelwy, Llanelwy			
Cyfeiriad E-bost	nasuwt.gwynedd@gmail.com			
Rwy'n ymateb fel... (Cylchwch yr ymateb perthnasol)	Rhiant	Llywodraethwr	Staff	Disgybl
	Arall (nodwch):		Ysgrifennydd NASUWT Gwynedd	

Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud a'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad. Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol.
- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol.
- Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb.

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

Anfonwch eich ymateb at:

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,
Caernarfon
LL55 1SH
neu Moderneiddloaddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Dyddiad cau: 13:00 ar ddydd Llun, 29 Hydref 2018

Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymateblon ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.

Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.

Sylwadau:

Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i newid ystod oedran Ysgol Dyffryn Arduddy o 4-11 i 3-11
yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013



Sylwadau:

Mae NASUWT Gwynedd yn croesawu y cyfle i ymgynghori ar y bwriad hwn. NASUWT Cymru yw undeb athrawon mwyaf Cymru.

Nid oes gan yr undeb wrthwynebiad i'r bwriad hwn mewn egwyddor. Bydd yn cynyddu capasiti yr ysgol rhywfaint ac fe all olygu diogelwch swyddi gan fydd blwyddyn meithrin ychwanegol mewn bodolaeth. Mae'n amlwg bydd effaith ar y Cylch Meithrin lleol, felly buasem yn gofyn os oes modd ystyried cael y Cylch ar safle yr ysgol yn hytrach nag ar safle arwahan? Buasai hyn yn galluogi y Disgyblion Meithrin i aros ar dir yr ysgol ar ôl derbyn eu 2 awr dyddiol gan fynd at y Cylch i gael rhagor o oriau (e.e. clwb cinio ac ati.) Bydd hyn yn galluogi y Cylch i barhau i gael cyllid o'r Awdurdod drwy'r Cynllyn 30 Awr (os oes rhieni cymwys) ac felly yn sicrhau dyfodol y Cylch a'i staff.*

* Mae hyn yn llwyr ddibynnol ar os ydyw'n bosib cynnal y Cylch ar dir yr ysgol neu beidio; ac ar ddymuniadau y Cylch wrth reswm. Ond mae'n syniad.



Arolygiaeth El Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Ymateb Estyn i'r ymgynghoriad gan Gyngor Gwynedd i newid ystod oedran Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy o 4-11, i 3-11 oed, yn unol a gofynion adran 48 deddf safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013.

O dan delerau Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (cymru) 2013 a'i chod cysylltiedig, mae'n ofynnol i gynigwyr anfon dogfennau ymgynghori at Estyn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw Estyn yn gorff y mae'n ofynnol iddo weithredu yn unol a'r cod ac nid yw'r ddeddf yn gosod unrhyw ofynion statudol ar Estyn o ran materion trefniadaeth ysgolion. Felly, fel corff yr ymgynghorir ag ef, bydd Estyn yn rhoi ei fam ar rinweddau cyffredinol cynigion trefniadaeth ysgolion yn unig.

Mae Estyn wedi ystyried yr agweddau addysgol ar y cynnig ac mae wedi llunio'r ymateb canlynol i'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan y cynigiwr, a gwybodaeth ychwanegol arall fel data gan Lywodraeth Cymru a barnau'r Consortia Rhanbarthol sy'n darparu gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion i'r ysgolion sy'n ddaearyddol gysylltiedig a'r cynnig.

Cyflwyniad.

Y Cynnig: (gan Gyngor Gwynedd gyda chefnogaeth corff Llywodraethol Ysgol Gynradd Dyffryn Ardudwy)

Newid ystod oedran Ysgol Gynradd Dyffryn Ardudwy o 4-11 i 3-11 o Fedi 2019 ymlaen. Golyga hyn y bydd yr ysgol yn gallu derbyn plant i ddosbarth Meithrin y mis Medi yn dilyn eu pen-blwydd yn 3 oed.'

Mae'r cynnig gan Gyngor Gwynedd. Mae bron bob ysgol gynradd yng Ngwynedd yn cynnig 10 awr o addysg Feithrin ar gyfer disgyblion fydd yn cychwyn yn yr ysgol y Mis Medi ar ôl eu trydydd pen-blwydd. Ar hyn o bryd, y mis Medi ar ôl iddynt gael eu pen-blwydd yn bedair y gall disgyblion gychwyn yn Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy. Mae Awdurdod Lleol Gwynedd a Bwrdd Llywodraethol yr ysgol yn awyddus i newid yr oedran derbyn fel y bydd Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy hefyd yn gallu derbyn plant yn y mis Medi ar ôl eu trydydd pen-blwydd. Noda'r ymgynghoriad mai'r bwriad yw sefydlu'r newid o Fedi 2019. Nid oes pryder y byddai'r cynnig, o'i dderbyn, yn cael effaith niweidiol ar safonau addysgol yn yr ardal.

Crynodeb/casgliad.

Mae 86 o ysgolion cynradd yng Ngwynedd. Mae polisi a chanllawiau derbyn plant i ysgolion cynradd Gwynedd yn nodi fod y Cyngor 'yn cynnig lle meithrin rhan amser (10 awr yr wythnos) i blant mewn ysgol yn y mis Medi yn dilyn eu trydydd pen-blwydd, am flwyddyn ysgol lawn. Fel arfer mae gan ysgolion unai sesiwn bore neu sesiwn prynhawn. Mewn ysgolion sydd â sesiwn

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 gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y nall 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.

bore a phrynhawn nid oes hawl cyfreithiol gan rieni i ddewis pa sesiwn gall eu plentyn fynychu. Yn yr ychydig ardaloedd ble nad yw'r awdurdod yn darparu ar gyfer addysg plant yn y mis Medi yn dilyn eu penblwydd yn dair oed mewn dosbarth Meithrin mewn ysgol, cynigir darpariaeth trwy gyllido lleoedd a ddarperir gan y grwpiau gwirfoddol megis Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin a Grwpiau chwarae cyn ysgol.' Mae bron bob ysgol yng Ngwynedd yn gweithredu'n unol a'r polisi hwn.

Disgrifiad a manteision

Mae'r cynnig yn amlinellu bwriad yr Awdurdod Lleol i ehangu oedran yr ysgol, fydd yn golygu y bydd Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy yn gwireddu polisi derbyniadau ysgolion cynradd Gwynedd. Bydd y ddarpariaeth yn cael ei gynneg mewn pum sesiwn o ddwy awr, naill ai yn y bore neu'r prynhawn.

Mae Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy wedi ei lleoli ym mhentref Dyffryn Ardudwy, sydd yn nalgylch Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech. Mae'r ysgol yn gwasanaethu pentrefi Dyffryn Ardudwy a Thal y bont.

Mae'n ymddangos fod y cynnig yn rhoi ystyriaeth deg i ymgynghori gyda gwahanol fudiadau, grwpiau, sefydliadau a rhan ddeiliaid, ac yn ystyried unrhyw effaith y gallai unrhyw newid ei gael ar ddarparwyr addysg feithrin ac ysgolion lleol.

Mae'r cynnig yn rhoi sylw priodol i gynhwysedd cyfredol yr ysgol, ac ystyriaeth i effaith cynnydd posibl mewn niferoedd o ganlyniad i dderbyn plant ar ôl eu pen-blwydd yn dair. Mae hefyd yn rhoi sylw i niferoedd a rhagolygon ysgolion eraill yn lleol, a'r effaith y gallai unrhyw newid ei gael ar eu niferoedd hwy.

Mae rhagolygon pum mlynedd yn awgrymu y gallai ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy fynd dros eu niferoedd derbyn o ganlyniad i'r newid arfaethedig. Mae'r cynnig yn ystyried hyn ac yn nodi fod ystafelloedd amgen ar gael yn yr ysgol fyddai'n cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer gofod dysgu a gweithgaredd pe derbynnid y cais.

Nodir fod cyflwr yr adeiladau'n dda yn Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy (categori cyflwr A).

Mae'r cynnig yn rhoi ystyriaeth briodol i effaith posibl newid oedran derbyn Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy ar ysgolion eraill yn lleol, sef Ysgol Llanbedr, Ysgol y Traeth ac Ysgol Tan y Castell. Nid yw'n ymddangos y bydd newid oedran derbyn Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy yn cael effaith ar niferoedd yr ysgolion eraill cyfagos, nag ar ansawdd yr addysg na safonau cyflawniad yn yr ysgolion hyn. Mae'r cais yn rhoi sylw i ragamcanion niferoedd yr ysgolion ac i ganfyddiadau adroddiadau mwyaf diweddar Estyn yn yr ysgolion. Rhoddir sylw i safonau cyflawniad disgyblion, y ddarpariaeth ac arweinyddiaeth.

Mae'r cais yn cydnabod yr effaith y gallai'r datblygiad ei gael ar Gylch Meithrin y Gromlech sydd yn darparu addysg Feithrin i ddisgyblion tair oed yn nalgylch yr ysgol ar hyn o bryd, rhwng 9.00 a 11.00 bob bore. Noda'r cais y byddai newid oedran derbyn yr ysgol o 4 i 3 oed yn cael effaith negyddol ar niferoedd a chyllideb y cylch meithrin i'r dyfodol. Mae'r cylch yn darparu gwasanaeth rhwng 9.00 ac 1.00 yn ddyddiol, yn gyfredol.

Mae'r her yma wedi ei amlygu yn y cynnig. Mae cyfle i gynrychiolwyr y sefydliad ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad ac mae'r cynnig hefyd yn nodi fod cefnogaeth ar gael trwy swyddog busnes tîm plant a chefnogi teuluoedd Gwynedd.

Mae'r cynnig yn rhoi sylw priodol i effaith y cynnig ar safonau ac ar y ddarpariaeth yn yr ysgol, ar ddatblygiad y Gymraeg, effaith posibl ar y gymuned ac agweddau ciudiant. Mae hefyd yn rhoi ystyriaeth i'r risgiau posibl sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cynnig, ac yn amlinellu camau lliniaru cytbwys.

Mae'r cynnig yn darparu cyfle effeithiol i randdeiliaid, sefydliadau ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd i ymateb trwy ffurflen gryno, o fewn terfynau amser teg.



Arolyglaeth El Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Estyn's response to the consultation by Gwynedd Council to change the age range of Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11, in line with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

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 (by Gwynedd Council with the support of the governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Dyffryn Ardudwy)

'To change the age range of Ysgol Gynradd Dyffryn Ardudwy from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2019 onwards. This means that the school will be able to admit children into a Nursery class in the September following their third birthday.'

This is a proposal by Gwynedd Council. Nearly all primary schools in Gwynedd offer 10 hours of nursery education for children who will start school in the September following their third birthday. Currently, pupils are able to start at Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy in the September following their fourth birthday. Gwynedd local authority and the school's governing body are keen to change the admission age so that Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy will also be able to admit children in the September following their third birthday. The consultation identifies that the aim is to implement the change from September 2019. There are no concerns that the proposal, if accepted, will have a detrimental effect on educational standards in the area.

Summary/conclusion

There are 86 primary schools in Gwynedd. Gwynedd's primary school admission policy and guidelines identify that the Council 'offers children a part-time (10 hours a week) nursery place in a

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW

Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

ymholladau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth 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.

school, in the September following their third birthday for a full academic year. Schools will normally have either a morning or an afternoon nursery session. In schools which have both a morning and afternoon session, there is no legal right for parents to choose which session their child attends. In the few areas where the Authority does not provide for the education of children in the September following their third birthday in a school, nursery provision is offered by funding places provided by the voluntary groups i.e. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and pre-school playgroups. Nearly all schools in Gwynedd operate in line with this policy.

Description and benefits

The proposal outlines the Local Authority's intention to extend the school's age range, which will mean that Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy will realise Gwynedd's primary school admission policy. Provision will be offered in five sessions of two hours, either in the morning or afternoon.

Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy is situated in the village of Dyffryn Ardudwy, which is in the catchment area of Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech. The school serves the villages of Dyffryn Ardudwy and Tai-y-bont.

The proposal appears to give good consideration to consulting with different bodies, groups, organisations and stakeholders, and considers the effect that any change may have on local nursery education providers and schools.

The proposal gives appropriate attention to the school's current capacity, and considers the effect of a possible increase in numbers as a result of admitting children following their third birthday. It also gives attention to the numbers and prospects of other local schools and the effect any change could have on their numbers.

Five-year forecasts suggest that Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy may become oversubscribed as a result of the proposed change. The proposal considers this and identifies that there are alternative rooms available in the school that would be used as learning and activity space, should the proposal be accepted.

The condition of the accommodation at Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy is identified as good (condition category A).

The proposal gives appropriate consideration to the possible effect of changing the age range at Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy on other local schools, namely Ysgol Llanbedr, Ysgol y Traeth and Ysgol Tan y Castell. It does not appear that changing the admission age at Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy will have an effect on pupil numbers at the other nearby schools, or the quality of education or standards of achievement at these schools. The proposal gives attention to the schools' projected numbers and the findings of their most recent Estyn reports. Attention is given to pupils' standards of achievement, provision and leadership.

The proposal recognises the effect that the development could have on Cylch Meithrin y Gromlech, which currently provides nursery education for three-year-old pupils in the school's catchment area, from 9.00am to 11.00am every morning. The proposal identifies that changing the school's admission age from 4 to 3 will have a negative effect on the setting's numbers and budget in the future. The setting currently provides a service from 9.00am to 1.00pm every day.

This challenge has been identified in the proposal. There is an opportunity for representatives of the organisation to respond to the consultations, and the proposal also identifies that support is available through the Gwynedd Children and Family Support Team Business Officer.



The proposal gives due attention to the effect of the proposal on standards and provision at the school, on the development of the Welsh language, the possible effect on the community and aspects of transport. It also considers the potential risks that are associated with the proposal and outlines balanced mitigation measures.

The proposal provides an effective opportunity for stakeholders, organisations and members of the public to respond through a concise form, within a fair timescale.

Cynnig i newid ystod oedran Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy i 3-11

Ymgynghori Gyda'r Disgyblion

- Y Pennaeth wedi cyflwyno'r ddogfen â baratowyd gan yr Awdurdod Addysg ar Fedi 19eg, 2018.
- 15 holiadur wedi ei gwblhau gan ddisgyblion Bl. 4,5,6.
- 12/15 (80%) yn cytuno â'r bwriad i newid yr oed 😊
mynediad.
- 3/15 (20%) heb farn arbennig. 😐

Gwahoddwyd y plant hefyd i gynnig sylwadau ar y bwriad. Dyma rai o'u pwyntiau:

- 'Dwi'n meddwl ei fod yn syniad da gan y bydd mwy o blant yma i gael chwarae efo nhw'.
- 'Dwi'n meddwl ei fod yn syniad da oherwydd bydd gan blant y Dosbarth Derbyn yn gallu gwneud mwy o ffrindiau'.
- 'Dwi'n meddwl ei fod yn syniad da oherwydd byddant yn cael dechrau dysgu darllen a sgwenn'n gynt'.
- Dwi'n meddwl ei fod yn syniad da oherwydd efallai bod eu Mam a Dad eisiau nhw gychwyn yn yr ysgol yn gynt.

