

Newport City Council

Consultation report

Proposal to increase capacity and extend the pupil age range at Langstone Primary School

Formal Consultation period: 9 September to 29 October 2015.

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report sets out a summary of the responses received to the above consultation.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail, or hard copies being made available through the schools.

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Langstone Primary School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Langstone Primary school;
- Pupils at Langstone Primary School;
- Monmouthshire County Council as the neighbouring Local Authority with school catchment areas that border Newport;
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for Gwent;
- The Head teacher and governing body of Llanmartin, Ringland, Milton Infants and Junior, St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic, Charles Williams Church In Wales, and Caerleon Lodge Hill primary schools;
- The Head teacher and governing body of Caerleon Comprehensive school;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;

- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- Local Authority Transport departments;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Community Councils for Langstone, Penhow, and Llanvaches;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent);
- The five independent childcare providers in Langstone and surrounding catchment areas;
- Newport Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

The following consultation events were arranged. These were publicised in the school newsletter, on the Council website and through the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Langstone Primary School	10 September 2015; 3.45-5.45pm	Drop-in
Langstone Primary School	11 September 2015; 09.00-11.00am	Drop-in

Arrangements for the participation of children and young people.

Children’s questionnaire forms were created and shared with the school. An Education Officer from the Council met with the school Council and Eco-Council to discuss the proposal, encourage them to think about what it would mean for the school, and to answer questions.

The school Council then arranged for other school pupils to complete the questionnaire forms. The results of these exercises are summarised below.

The proposal

To extend the age range of the school from 4 – 11 to 3 – 11years and establish a 24 place nursery class and increase the size of the school from 1.5 form entry to 2.0 form entry. That is to say increase the Reception to Year 6 capacity of the school from 315 to 420 pupil places.

Consultation Responses Received

- 24 Consultation responses were received
- 20 respondents submitted comments or questions
- 13 respondents support the proposal (54%)
- 11 respondents do not support the proposal (46%)

2 respondents who do *not* support the proposal stated that they *do* support the addition of a nursery class.

2 respondents who *do* support the proposal stated that they *do not* support the expansion of the school capacity.

The responses to the proposal, broken down into its two component elements are therefore as follows:

Proposal to establish a 24 place nursery class at Langstone Primary School:

- 15 respondents support this proposal (62.5%)
- 9 respondents do not support this proposal (37.5%)

Proposal to expand the capacity of Langstone Primary School to 420 places:

- 11 respondents support this proposal (46%)
- 13 respondents do not support this proposal (54%)

Children’s questionnaire responses (completed by pupils at Langstone Primary School):

Addition of a nursery:

- 79 questionnaires completed
- 71 thought the proposal was a good idea (90%)
- 8 were uncertain (10%)

Expansion to 2 form entry:

- 76 questionnaires completed
- 56 thought the proposal was a good idea (74%)
- 15 were uncertain (20%)
- 5 though the proposal was a bad idea (6%)

Comments and reasons for not supporting the proposal (adult submissions) are summarised below:

Comment	Number of respondents raising the issue	Council Response

<p>Concern regarding the impact of increased traffic in the area and inadequate parking facilities on pupil and parent safety</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>The Council will need to satisfy the highways department that traffic is manageable to secure planning permission. Council officers will work with the school to develop an effective school travel plan to encourage pedestrian access to the school. Staggered start and finish times and local road traffic orders will also be considered.</p>
<p>It will have a negative impact on the high school standards, and I'm not keen on increased class sizes</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Langstone Primary school has been judged by Estyn to have excellent leadership and management and excellent prospects for improvement. The council is confident that the school is capable of maintaining this high standard with a larger capacity. The average class size in the school for years 1-6 is 28 pupils. Classes will not generally exceed 30 pupils.</p>
<p>There is no evidence of sufficient need from within the community - the school has a large 'non catchment' population which will increase</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The 45 Reception class places at Langstone are over prescribed. The local playgroup providing education sessions has a capacity of 24 places and operates mornings only. This indicates a shortage of provision against demand. There are non-catchment children in the school as a result of parental preference for admission to Langstone. There is an anticipated increase in demand for school places due to the 3 new housing developments in Langstone creating 136 new dwellings.</p>
<p>The proposal may have an adverse impact on other schools or service providers and their ability to operate effectively.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>There is no intention to adversely affect the pupil numbers or education delivery at any other school or nursery. It is acknowledged, however, that there is a possibility that the</p>

		availability of school places at Langstone may impact admissions to other schools due to parental preference.
Health & Safety of pupils in the school	1	The health and safety of pupils is the prime concern of the council and the school leadership team. Building works will be scheduled to ensure pupil safety is not compromised, and the council is assured that the school site is sufficient for the proposed number of pupils, in accordance with building bulletin guidelines.
Loss of outdoor play area	2	While it is regrettable that any outdoor space will be compromised, the remaining outdoor play areas are considered to be sufficient for the proposed number of pupils, in accordance with building bulletin guidelines.
There are surplus places in nearby schools which should be used instead of increasing capacity at Langstone.	3	The fact of surplus places in other schools is acknowledged, but parental preference indicates a demand for Langstone Primary School.

Other comments or suggestions:

There is a need for an after school club that runs until 18.00	3	The council encourages after school clubs, but is not involved in their delivery. This is a matter for individual schools to consider.
Can the other local nurseries be involved in provision of 'wrap around care'?	1	The council would encourage other childcare providers to consider 'wrap-around' services to allow pre-school children to benefit from the free education

		sessions offered in the school setting. However the council is unable to direct the services offered by independent providers.
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Estyn’s response to the consultation

The proposer has clearly outlined the benefits of the proposal in addressing the issue of replacing temporary classrooms and in increasing the number of places available at Langstone Primary School. It has not however demonstrated well enough the demand for additional nursery provision in the area, given that there appear to be surplus places in current maintained nurseries in the area. The proposer also refers to new housing developments that it anticipates will increase the demand for school places at Langstone however the proposer has not provided any detail to justify this assertion.

It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Views of Children and Young People:

A meeting of the School Council and Eco Council was held on September 30th and this was attended by a council officer from the education department. The purpose of the consultation was explained and the proposal discussed. Pupils then gave the proposal the ‘thumbs up’ or ‘thumbs down’ sign to indicate whether they thought it was a good idea. The response was mixed with many children indicating they were undecided by giving one ‘thumbs up’ and one ‘thumbs down’ sign.

There was a discussion about the proposed expansion, and how this would mean two classes in each year group, and no more split classes.

Pupils were invited to share their thoughts:

- Pupils who liked the proposal thought that having more children would be good because they could make more friends. They also liked the idea of the demountable classrooms being replaced.
- Not having split classes will make it easier for the teacher to set work, and easier for organising tests. It may be better for pupils too because all the work will be set at the right level, instead of being too hard or too easy.
- A good thing about split classes is that you make friends outside your year group. One pupil stated that they liked split classes because the easier work gave her a rest from working hard all the time.

- One pupil who didn't like the idea, explained that he thought going to a different nursery and then moving across to Primary School was better.

Questions asked by pupils:

Question	Reply
Will the hall be made bigger?	No, there is no plan to make the hall bigger. Lunches will be staggered.
Will the work be done in school time?	We will arrange for the noisiest and most disruptive work to be done in school holidays, but some work will have to be done in school time, yes.
Where will you put the extra car parking you will need?	At the moment the proposal only includes additional parking for the extra teachers, which would probably go where the temporary classrooms are now. We also need to consider how we manage the extra vehicles that will be bringing children to and from school.
What about bike parking?	The council would support the school in provision of bicycle parking and identifying the best place to put this.
Will there be new toilets?	Yes, the new building will have girls and boys toilets.

Children's Questionnaire responses

The children's questionnaires were provided to the school together with a site map showing the proposed works. These were displayed in the school reception area.

School council and the headteacher gave a presentation at school assembly about the proposal. In class afterwards, the questionnaires were given out to pupils to complete. In younger classes the questions were read through together and teachers helped children to remember what had been said in assembly.

Each Foundation phase class discussed the proposal and voted as a class. All Foundation phase classes voted in favour of the proposal.

The questionnaire asked pupils 'Do you think having a nursery class in your school is a good idea?' and 'Do you think making your school bigger for more children is a good idea?'

Pupil responses from KS2 classes were as follows:

Do you think having a nursery class in your school is a good idea?

Responses	No	Don't know	Yes
79	0	8	71

Do you think making your school bigger for more children is a good idea?

Responses	No	Don't know	Yes
76	5	15	56

Comments from the children's questionnaires:

"It will be easier for the parents with children already in the school and those who are 3 as they can come to the same place."

"Children who attend our new nursery will already know our way of school life which will make it easier for them when they come to Reception. They won't be scared."

"It will be good to have more children in our school family."

"I'm excited to make new friends."

"We will all become better role models with younger children here."

"Building work may damage the trees in our environment."

"Having a nursery class and more children using the same sized yard may cause more children to get hurt if they bump into each other."

"Everyone won't fit into the hall."

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk

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