

Newport City Council

Consultation report

Proposal to establish nursery provision at Marshfield 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 Marshfield Primary School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Marshfield Primary school;
- Pupils at Marshfield Primary School;
- Cardiff City Council as the neighbouring Local Authority with school catchment areas that border Newport;
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for Gwent;
- Independent registered childcare providers in the area;
- 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 Marshfield, Coedkernew, Michaelstone y Fedw, and Wentlooge;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent);
- 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
Marshfield Primary School	11 September 2015; 3.30-5.30pm	Drop-in
Marshfield Primary School	14 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. 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 establish a 16 place nursery class, thereby increasing the pupil age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11 years.

Consultation Responses Received:

- 20 Consultation responses were received
- 15 respondents submitted comments or questions
- 18 respondents support the proposal (90%)
- 2 respondents do not support the proposal (10%)

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

- 65 questionnaires were completed
- 34 thought the proposal was a good idea (52%)
- 20 were undecided (31%)
- 11 thought the proposal was a bad idea (17%)

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

Comment	Number of respondents raising the issue	Council Response
Concern regarding the impact of increased traffic in the area and inadequate parking facilities on pupil and parent safety	3	The Council 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.
Loss of outdoor play area	2	While it is regrettable that any outdoor space will be compromised, the sensory garden area, which will be replaced by a new classroom is rarely used. The remaining outdoor play areas are considered to be sufficient for the proposed number of pupils, in accordance with building bulletin guidelines.

Other comments or suggestions:

Can the other local nurseries be involved in provision of 'wrap around care'?	2	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.
How can you justify this spending when budgets are tight and the site is already stretched, with a nursery already present?	1	The proposal would be funded as part of a capital investment strategy. The current nursery provision on site at Marshfield is unable to meet the demand for funded places. The site is considered adequate for the

		addition of a nursery class.
A nursery is needed in the area, there is a waiting list for the existing playgroup on the school site, and some children still do not get a place there.	3	
Having experienced my own children (and those of others) who have attended a Nursery under the leadership and guidance of a School vs a Nursery that is independent of the management and expertise provided by School, there genuinely is a huge difference... fully equipped and accountable management offered by a Primary School sets them apart.	1	
My son will be 3 in Jun 16 As I live and work part time in the Marshfield area I need local affordable childcare which will help me increase my working hours I feel that this type of provision will be beneficial to my son	1	

Estyn's response to the consultation

The proposer clearly outlines the expected benefits of the proposal and the relative disadvantages. The benefits include additional funded nursery places in the area and improved transition into school. However not all of the disadvantages have been addressed in the subsequent risk management. For example, it has not identified how it will address the issue that the new classroom will take up part of the existing outdoor space. The proposer has undertaken a fairness and equalities impact assessment which appropriately considers each of the protected characteristics including disability. The proposer has not made it clear enough as to how well it has considered the impact of the proposals on Pupils with special educational needs.

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:

The proposal to establish a nursery at the school was explained by the headteacher to pupils at school assembly. A question and answer session was included to enable the pupils to ask questions or raise concerns.

It was explained that the topic would be featured as the school's 'big question' with a brainstorm sheet available for pupils to write their comments on in the main entrance hall for two weeks. It was also explained that there were questionnaire forms which would be completed by the school council and KS2 pupils, if they wished to do so.

The children's questionnaires were provided to the school together with a site map showing the proposed works.

In younger classes the questions were read through together and teachers helped children to remember what had been said in assembly.

The questionnaire asked pupils 'Do you think having a nursery class in your school is a good idea?'

Responses	No	Don't know	Yes
65	11	20	34

Comments from the children's questionnaires:

There is already a nursery, we don't need two.

It will take up space and we will lose the sensory garden.

It will cost a lot of money.

There is already a lot of traffic and it will cause more.

It's a good idea as the nursery is full.

It's a good idea as it will help people learn before reception class

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