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Cardiff
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Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

20 March 2009

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to inform you that on Tuesday 17th March 2009 the Schools Sub Committee met to discuss a number of proposals on the reorganisation of Cardiff's schools. We wanted to make sure you were aware of the proposal to invest £16.5 million in schools in Whitchurch, how your children may be affected and what comes next.

Cardiff Council is tackling the issues faced by schools across the city. Surplus places are putting financial strain on education budgets, demand for Welsh-medium education continues to increase and the repair bill of our schools currently stands at £50 million. We all want our children to have the best possible start in life. However, the money to create a 21st Century schools system, giving our children the best education possible, can only come from the reorganisation of Cardiff's schools.

You may already be aware of the Schools Sub Committee. With representatives from different political parties and other stakeholders, it was set up to help inform and advise the Council's Executive on how best to organise schools. Since 2006 it has met regularly to consider a range of school organisational proposals across Cardiff.

At the recent meeting, the Schools Sub Committee discussed proposals for the Whitchurch area to better match supply and demand for both English-medium and Welsh-medium school places.

The Proposals:

- To establish Whitchurch High School as nine forms of entry school on its existing two sites.
- To close Eglwys Newydd and Eglwys Wen Primary schools and replace these with a new 2 form entry English-medium primary school with nursery on the Heol Don site which adjoins the Whitchurch High (upper) School site.
- Ysgol Melin Gruffydd to become a 2 form entry Welsh-medium primary schools with nursery within permanent buildings on the current shared site.

What this means for the Whitchurch community:

- A total of £16.5 million investment in local schools for local children.
- The existing Whitchurch High School catchment area would not change.
- Pupils currently at Whitchurch High School would see out their education at the school.
- The catchment area proposed for the new English- medium primary school would comprise of the two existing primary school catchments combined.
- Pupils currently at the two existing English- medium primary schools would transfer to the new primary school.
- Local schools will have a sufficient capacity to take pupils from their local catchment areas.
- There will be substantial investment in Whitchurch High School removing sub-standard accommodation, and improving the permanent buildings.



- There would be a brand new 21st Century English- medium primary school with nursery.
- We would remove temporary accommodation at Ysgol Melin Gruffydd to create a 2 form entry Welsh-medium primary school with nursery.

It is intended that this proposal will go to the Council's Executive for consideration at the Executive Business Meeting on the 30th April 2009. If a decision is made to go ahead, these proposals will be subject to a full public consultation later in the year.

I will keep you up to date throughout the process and if you have any questions please contact us at schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk or call **029 2087 2720**, alternatively for more information relating to schools reorganisation visit our website www.cardiff.gov.uk/schoolsproposal

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Jones