

Y Berwyn Catchment Area Children and Young People's Consultation 2015

A statutory consultation period was held in Y Berwyn Catchment Area between 13 March and 28 April 2015 on the proposal to establish a 3 - 19 years old Learning Campus on the existing site of Ysgol y Berwyn. It is also proposed to create a federation between the schools of O.M. Edwards, Ffridd y Llyn and Bro Tryweryn and to establish a joint-committee between the Federation and the Learning Campus. This would be the subject of a separate consultation in due course. It is also a requirement for the Council to consult with the children and young people of the area during the consultation period.

Relevant documents were prepared for Key Stage 2 children in the Primary and members of the School Council in the Secondary and it was arranged that a facilitator attended every school to discuss the proposal with the children in order to ensure that they understood what was being proposed and to give an opportunity for the children to express their opinion on the proposal.

Every session took half an hour to an hour to complete. It included an explanation of the proposal and completing the questionnaire.

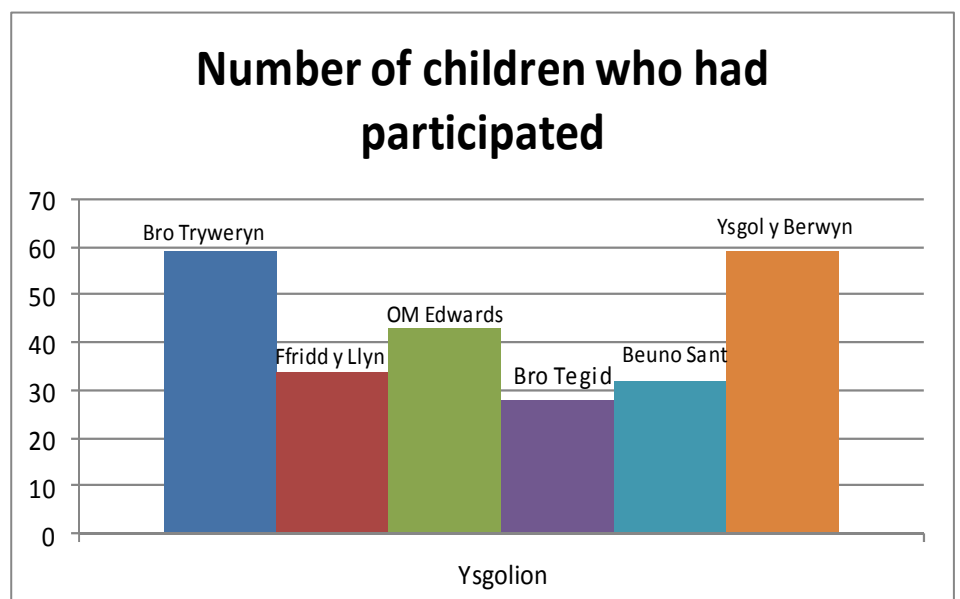
Six schools were involved and 223 children and young people participated.

See below the timetable of the consultation sessions, a list of the relevant schools and the number of responders:

Tuesday 14 April 2015	9.30am Ysgol Beuno Sant	11.00am Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	12.45pm Ysgol y Berwyn	2.15pm Ysgol Bro Tegid
Wednesday 15 April 2015	9.30am Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	11.00am Ysgol OM Edwards		




Schools

1. Ysgol Bro Tryweryn - 27
2. Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn - 34
3. Ysgol OM Edwards - 43
4. Ysgol Bro Tegid - 28
5. Ysgol Beuno Sant - 32
6. Ysgol Y Berwyn (Secondary) - 59



See below the responses received from the pupils

NOTE – The comments of the children and young people are quoted directly from their responses.

Question 1 – How do you feel about this?			
School	 Happy	 Unhappy	 Not sure
Ysgol Beuno Sant	26	6	0
Ysgol Bro Tegid	8	11	9
Ysgol OM Edwards	25	14	4
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	18	11	5
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	15	12	0
Ysgol y Berwyn (Secondary)	18	36	5
Total	84	84	23

Question 1 – Comments	
Ysgol Beuno Sant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the moment (14 April), there is rivalry between Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid but when the new campus comes together the rivalry will stop. • A new school uniform and new friends • I don't want to go to Ysgol y Berwyn • Music Lessons
Ysgol Bro Tegid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be quite a shock for a small child in the reception class and younger when they will be starting with all the children there and the school will be enormous. • Too many children in the classes • I feel rather disappointed that this is happening
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not a cause for concern to me at all • It's great having a new school • Perhaps the older children will be talking with the youngest children and telling them bad things
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's quite a long time from 3 – 19 and children want to move to a new school to make new friends • I think it's a good idea • Too big to find your way around
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many children • Schools closing? • It's going to take quite a while to build • I feel happy with this because I will be there already

Question 2 – What causes you concern?

Ysgol Beuno Sant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A lot of older people making us feel frightened• Nothing, because this is a good idea• Bullying• Getting lost• Every teacher won't get work at the school
Ysgol Bro Tegid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, I might not see my friends again in school. There won't be any sports competitions because not many teams will be able to compete.• Losing teachers and too many children in the classes• Ysgol Bro Tegid will be closing and it has been there for approximately 100 years• I don't like the idea of being in school until I'm 19 years old• Bullying and missing friends• This build could affect our education and would be hard to focus. There will be too much at the school. More groups, more arguments, could lead to fights.
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This does not cause me any concern• It's a good idea because the school is old• Nothing worries me
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only that the school will be very big and then putting the older children with the small children• Getting lost• I think many children will argue• Less Welsh• In case the language becomes worse• What if parents worry that their children are in a school with older children?
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I'm not very happy because schools will have to closed and then it will also affect the children's friends• There will be too many children in the school• I think this will affect the small schools

Question 3 – What are the most important things for you in a school?

Ysgol Beuno Sant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bullying, everyone having fun• Work and speaking Welsh• That we have lessons to our level. Having friends who work together. Nobody being bullied because their personalities are different to everyone else
Ysgol Ysgol Bro Tegid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A teacher who is a bit strict but sometimes jokes and helps us to have a good education• Friends and a good education• Sports so that everyone can play and learn together and keep fit Mathematics also to get a job when you're older for example I want to be a farmer.
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The most important thing for me in a school is having sports lessons and getting an education and friends• We need a new canteen in the school• Suitable classrooms• Fair rules
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A good education and pleasant teachers• Friends• Listening and not fighting
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friends and learning, work and listening• That everyone gets the same amount of attention• That we have friends and that we speak Welsh and English• We are lucky that we can learn different subjects.

Question 4 – What are you looking forward to with this change?

Ysgol Beuno Sant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New lessons, physical exercise teams• Better and more difficult physical exercise• No arguing going on with the schools• Maybe things will be more modern
Ysgol Ysgol Bro Tegid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See how things will be going on and how much money we have spent and how that would be different with a larger school.• More sports
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doing more physical exercise and having a nice place to eat• A new name for the school• A more modern school
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school getting to try new things• I will not be going to the learning campus
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeing friends• That the schools work closer together and that we get to make new friends•

Question 5 – What ideas do you have for the New Learning Campus?

Ysgol Beuno Sant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning new things• Mixing the colours of the school uniforms, choosing our lunch, getting to leave our hair down• French lessons• Lessons that suit everyone. That the school lets us speak Welsh and English?
Ysgol Bro Tegid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having different ways of going home, and every class to leave at different times maybe?• Having a convenient play ground, after-school clubs, different subjects, choosing a different dinner time• Every two weeks, having two days to farm. Children aged 15 – 19 could learn how to work properly. There are a lot of farmers around Bala.• A laptop each for everyone in the class. Choosing more than one meal at dinnertime.
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new technology• Make it more modern• Sports• Sports and singing
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and sports• The new cinema• I hope to get to learn more (which teachers will be there?)• Learning more and more Welsh• Ensuring that there are at least two school yards for playing, different sittings for school dinner and ensuring that the primary and secondary don't meet too often to prevent bullying and ridiculing younger children
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I want to learn art, sewing, weaving and knitting• Having science lessons in the laboratory in Ysgol Y Berwyn• Getting to see the teachers before going there• That everyone has the same lessons during the day but at different times

An additional question for Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol O.M. Edwards:	
How would you like to see the Federation of Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, Ffridd y Llyn and O.M. Edwards collaborating?	
Ysgol OM Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to go on more trips together and having a football competition • Going to visit places and see society and getting people to come in to speak • Having a new piano • A play room for when it is raining during play time, and a quiet room to do homework • And art and science room
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating well • Sports • Doing work to solve problems
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know the children and teachers • More lessons with the children here • I think that we already go to Ysgol Bro Tegid a lot • Getting to know children and teachers • Learning languages before going to year 7

Ysgol y Berwyn Secondary School

The facilitator had a brief chat with the members of the School Council to explain the proposal and then the individuals completed the questionnaire by themselves. 16 members of the School Council completed the questionnaire along with 43 additional pupils in their registration classes.

Question 1 – How do you feel about what is being proposed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equipment to learn. • I think it is a very good idea, better education • The school needs to improve • I think it is a bad idea because there will be three year old children in the same school, it makes no sense at all • Unsure, I don't think a new school will improve the standards of pupils' education • Because the new school is meant to have been completed by now, but nothing has changed
Question 2 – What do you like or what are you looking forward to with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see the sports department improving • The school will look better

<p>this proposal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a more modern school, with new resources. The school would reflect the standard of education of the children in Ysgol Y Berwyn. It would also look good. • I look forward to seeing all the new resources. • Children will be more confident to come to the secondary school. • Improve ICT resources. • Lessons with more equipment.
<p>Question 3 – is there anything worrying you about the proposal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm worried that there will not be enough room • Putting small and older children together • I think it will be difficult for three year old children to come to such a large school • There would be less room during break time and dinner time
<p>Question 4 – Considering the things that are important to you in a school – what kinds of things would you like to see in the New Learning Campus?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More computers and sports equipment • More teachers and more new resources • More resources • New rooms • Better resources • In the new learning campus I would like to see a bigger school and have more teachers to have lessons
<p>Question 5 – Developing a Learning Campus is an innovative proposal for the Berwyn catchment area. What ideas do you have for the New Learning Campus?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Sports places • More rooms • More important subjects such as Maths and Welsh • A more traditional atmosphere e.g. keep the old look with red bricks • Need to retain the history and traditional atmosphere of the school • New lockers, new paint on the walls, fill in holes in the walls

It became evident during the consultation process that children are willing to adapt to a new situation although they are worried about bullying, losing friends and teachers, but overall the feedback was positive in the majority of the schools.

The main points of the consultation

Primary	Secondary
More opportunities to learn new subjects	Not enough room for everyone
Children worried about bullying	Better resources
Want to retain the historical element of the schools and the area	Sports is important
Children do not want to lose friends	Retain the historical element of the school
Having a choice of dinner	Language