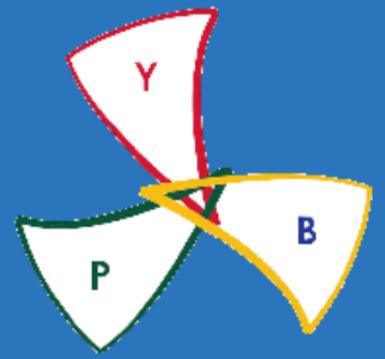


Formal Consultation Report- Relating to the proposal to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn



Children and Young People's
Version

What has happened?

Denbighshire County Council have sought the views of children and young people on the plans to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity. We would like to be able to offer more places at the school so other pupils can attend. To do this we want to bring all the pupils at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn together in one new building in Denbigh.

We wanted to give everyone the opportunity to have their voices heard in decisions that directly affect them. As part of the process we spoke with the school council at the primary site and the school council on the secondary site on the 10th June 2022. This document provides summary of the comments from the consultation sessions and feedback to any questions and issues raised.

The sessions were led by the Local Authority's Engagement and Participation Lead officer and were supported by the staff from the school. In the primary sessions a number of pupils were non-verbal and staff had brought PEC Cards (Picture Exchange Communication System) so they could participate in the session. Pupils on the secondary school council had taken the questions in the consultation document and discussed it with their class members so had a number of responses for each question- all are detailed below.

How do you feel about the proposal?

Within the sessions we asked pupils how they felt about all Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn pupils being in the same building and having a new build, below are the responses from the sessions.

Primary School Council:

- Thumbs up
- Excited
- Bit Nervous
- Excited to be together with other pupils
- Good
- Happy
- Ok
- Bit happy, bit nervous
- Cheeky

Secondary School Council:

- Excited-4
- I don't mind-2
- Good-4
- Feel cool about it
- Happy-3
- Happy to have a new yard as its too small right now
- Very good as we need more space
- Not sure if there will be enough outdoor space for all pupils to use in the new building.
- Ok-3
- Could be terrible as will be chaotic
- Ok in the same building but I feel a bit uncomfortable on the yard with everyone
- Fine- 1
- Good as easier for taxis.
- It will be more eco friendly
- I can see why we need a new building so we won't be paying bills on each site
- Not sure about us being around smaller, screaming children-will be nosier
- It will be a nice change.
- Get to know other pupils.
- Not bothered
- Very happy as I will be able to see my friends in primary.

What is important to you about School now?

Within the sessions we asked pupils what was important to them about school.

Primary school council responses:

Chrome books

Friends

Sensory room

Science Room

Drums

Forest school

Climbing wall

Medical room

Cookery

Outdoor space

Cycle path

Bigger classrooms

Garden

Mud kitchen– outdoor classrooms

Story time

Swings and slides outside

Secondary School council responses:

Lessons

Chromebooks

Access to ICT

Important to know where
you are going

Forest school

The ICT room

We need one dinner hall

Equipment on the yard– swings missing,
green spinners are broken

What don't you like about your school now?

Primary School Council responses:

- ⇒ Work
- ⇒ Loud noises
- ⇒ No shade on the yard
- ⇒ There is only one medical room
- ⇒ No small/ break out rooms

Secondary School Council responses:

- * Toilets- lots are broken
- * Canteen
- * Need more toilets
- * Need a new yard- too small at the moment

What are your worries about the plans?

When there are plans to make big changes, it is normal to have concerns about what could happen. Within the sessions we asked pupils if they had any worries about the plan. The responses below will be taken into consideration if the plan is approved.

Primary school council:

- ◇ Mixing with the bigger children
- ◇ Bullies
- ◇ People pushing- need wide corridors

Secondary school council:

- ◇ Taxis- it will be chaos
- ◇ Lunch time arrangements
- ◇ Not knowing the way around the building
- ◇ It might be difficult for staff to keep pupils from different sites apart- need strong doors with codes so can't be pushed open between different areas.
- ◇ Concerned that we will lose forest school

What would like to see in the new school?

Within the sessions we asked pupils what they would like to see in the new school if the plans for the new school were agreed, below are the suggestions from the sessions.

Better/ Bigger playground

Stage room

Swings

Gaming room

Computer room

Gym

Canteen of our own

Trampolines

Acting room

Mediation area

A lift

Sports Hall

Drinking fountains

More technology

Basketball hoop

Football posts

A field

Better art room, science labs, DT & toilets

Grass on yard

Mini-house

Climbing wall

Better ICT/ WI-FI

All weather football pitch

Separate area for pupils who do not attend lessons

Soft play area

More GCSE options

Lockers for pupils

Relaxing area for staff

More appropriate sports facilities

Questions?

We asked pupils if they had any questions about the plan. Below are the pupils questions and responses.

Will there be enough space on the playground?

Yes, the playground areas are split up into sections depending on what age you are in the school. Some classrooms will have direct access into an outdoor area. There will also be a small woodland and forest school area and equipment such as swings and trampolines will be available for all pupils to use.

Is there going to be separate breakout/group rooms?

Yes many of the classrooms have group rooms within them so they are easy for pupils and staff to get to.

Will there be maps of the new school to help students and staff find their way around?

If maps would be useful this can be arranged for your first day in the new building.

Pupils and staff will be invited to visit the site as the building progresses so they can get used to the layout and visit areas of the new build that they are interested in.

How will the taxis be able to line up?

Taxis and minibuses will enter the site from Ystrad Road and line up within a secure zone next to the school. Pupils will only exit the taxi once everyone is stationary. This process will be managed by school staff and vehicles will only leave the zone once all pupils are safely inside.

If a taxi is late they would queue up in the staff parking area before being allowed through to the main drop off zone. There are also 2 areas either end of the school where taxis can drive onto the school yard itself and drop off those pupils who maybe experiencing difficulties exiting the car that day.

During the school day this secure taxi drop off zone can be used by the school for cycling lessons and highway awareness.

Will all the school finish at the same time?

This will be decided and agreed by the headteacher and governors.

It is likely that there will be a small time gap between the primary and secondary pupils leaving the building.

How will playtime/lunchtime be allocated? Same times or different?
How will dinner time be arranged?

The primary pupils will have their own dining area in the primary hall and will probably be served food just before the secondary pupils. The secondary pupils have their own separate dining area away from the younger pupils. Times will be decided by the headteacher.

Playtimes will also be agreed by the headteacher- it is important to say that pupils will have their own specific areas to play in and older pupils will not be on the same area of yard as the younger ones.

What happens next?

The consultation report will provide members of the Cabinet with the information required to make a decision as to whether to continue with the plan, or not.

If Cabinet agree with the proposal a statutory notice outlining the proposal will be published. This will provide people with time to express if they are not happy with the proposal. A final decision will be made in the winter.

If the plan is agreed it is expected that the construction of the new school would start in spring 2023 and the new school would be complete by the end of 2024.