

APPENDIX 2 – Governing Bodies Responses Regarding Federation

Brynford C.P. School

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Treffynnon
Sir y Fflint
CH8 8AD
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Brynford CP School
Brynford
Holywell
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'Every child, every chance, every day'
'Pob plentyn, pob cyfle, pob dydd'

Mrs Rachel Critchell B.A.HONS P.G.C.E
bfmail@hwmail.net

Monday September 11th, 2017

Dear Damian

As you know from my previous emails Governors have conducted two informal meetings with parents/carers following the request by Lixwm to consider federating with them. In neither of the two meetings did we detect an overwhelming appetite for federation with Lixwm.

Having now conducted the two meetings and carefully reviewed our previous decision we continue to remain committed to the concept of an area school on one site (Brynford and Lixwm). This decision is not taken lightly as we recognise this has considerable impact for the community of Lixwm as they will no longer have a school.

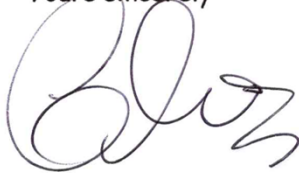
To restate some of our reasoning:

1. Federation is likely to cause additional bureaucratic issues, will probably result in a shared headteacher and is, in our view, a step on the road to an eventual amalgamation on one site. Better to miss out the steps, "bite the bullet" now and move on.
2. Brynford School building has many drawbacks and we see a new school (either a new building or an extension to the existing building) as a means to
 - a. address the inadequacies of the current structure and
 - b. potentially incorporate an accessible community facility which is currently impractical given the current layout of the building.
3. Individual Year groups will have more children resulting in the potential for a class to be composed of only one year group.
4. More staff on the **one site** will allow for improved support for them and the opportunity to easily share ideas and strategies to everyone's benefit.
5. Bringing the two schools together now gives certainty and will continue to provide a rural school of a reasonable size that will hopefully have many years of existence.

6. We are committed to the concept of small rural schools. We do not believe that forming one new school will create something that moves us away from the concept of rural schooling.
7. Federation will not achieve the cost savings in the way that merging will.
8. We believe that the additional funding may be politically inspired because of the Welsh Government's lack of a majority and may well prove to be only in place for the short term. If the funding is eventually withdrawn the authority will still be faced with the same problem as now - insufficient funding. This means we are likely to have a re-run of the last couple of years. Better to take a positive forward looking position now which will give security, certainty and stability going forward.

Our understanding is that, subject to cabinet approval of one school on one site, a formal consultation process will start in this Autumn Term.

Yours sincerely



Clive Bracewell
Chair Governors/Caderydd y Llywodraethwyr



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Dear Mrs Homard,

Thank you for writing to us with the summary of the meeting held on the 13/06/17.

We went ahead and arranged a meeting with the governing body of Brynford school which was held on the 13/07/17. At that meeting both sets of governors were able to express their wishes and concerns. Our preferred options remains to federate with Brynford or another willing partner, Brynford appeared to prefer amalgamation but wanted time to discuss the issues were raised before offering a formal decision the week before term ends. We received feedback from Brynford on 19/07/17 stating that at a recent meeting with their parents they were unable reach a decision due to the absence of some parents "In the spirit of fairness and openness we are seeking further input from those unable to attend and will be holding a further meeting in September"

The feedback from many of our parents is that they do not wish to send their children to Brynford if amalgamation is sought and that we will continue to seek alternative schools to federate with.

We would appreciate your support and backing regarding federation and feel passionately that our school is thriving and should remain in the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if need be .

Regards,

Ann Rowlands.