Appendix C – Response from Estyn

Cynnig i ailddynodi Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm yn Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir gan yr Eglwys yng Nghymru

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Arolygwyr Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru.

O dan delerau Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 a'i Chod cysylltiedig, mae'n ofynnol i gynigwyr anfon dogfennau ymgynghori i Estyn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw Estyn yn gorff y mae'n ofynnol iddo weithredu yn unol â'r Cod ac nid yw'r Ddeddf yn gosod unrhyw ofynion statudol ar Estyn o ran materion trefniadaeth ysgolion. Felly, fel corff yr ymgynghorir ag ef, bydd Estyn yn rhoi eu barn ar rinweddau cyffredinol cynigion trefniadaeth ysgolion yn unig.

Mae Estyn wedi ystyried yr agweddau addysgol ar y cynnig ac mae wedi llunio'r ymateb canlynol i'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan y cynigiwr.

Cyflwyniad

Mae cynnig ymgynghori hwn gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint ac mae'n ymwneud ag ail-ddynodi Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm yn Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir gan yr Eglwys yng Nghymru. Y cynnig yw i Gyngor Sir y Fflint gau Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm ar 31 Awst 2020 ac i Esgobaeth Anglicanaidd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru agor Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir gan yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, a adwaenir fel Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Licswm, ar 1 Medi 2020 ar safle presennol Ysgol Licswm. Bydd hyn yn galluogi'r corff llywodraethol i geisio ffedereiddio ag ysgol gyfagos o'r un dynodiad. Dywed y ddeddfwriaeth yn ymwneud ag ad-drefnu ysgolion, pan ddaw ysgol gymunedol yn ysgol wirfoddol a gynorthwyir, rhaid i unrhyw dir (heblaw caeau chwarae) a ddelir gan yr awdurdod lleol gael ei drosglwyddo i'r corff esgobaethol perthnasol. Os bydd y cynnig yn mynd rhagddo, mae'r awdurdod lleol yn argymell y dylai tir ac adeiladau Ysgol Gynradd Licswm gael eu trosglwyddo i'r Esgobaeth ar yr amod y cânt eu trosglwyddo'n ôl i Gyngor Sir y Fflint os daw eu defnydd fel ysgol ffydd i ben ar unrhyw adeg.

Crynodeb/Casgliad

Mae Estyn o'r farn y bydd y trefniant newydd arfaethedig yn cynnal safonau a deilliannau i ddisgyblion yn yr ardal, o leiaf.

Disgrifiad a manteision

Mae'r cynigiwr wedi rhoi disgrifiad clir o drefniadau'r cynnig i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad.

Mae'r cynigiwr wedi amlinellu ei sail resymegol ar gyfer cau Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm ac agor Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Licswm yn dda. Dywed yr awdurdod lleol bod angen buddsoddi oddeutu £65,000 yn yr adeilad ysgol yn Licswm, ei fod wedi'i raddio fel cyflwr addasrwydd 'C' a bod yr ysgol ddau draean yn llawn yn unig, ar hyn o bryd.

Mae'r cynnig yn tybio y bydd yr holl ddisgyblion sy'n mynychu Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm yn trosglwyddo i Ysgol Wirfoddol a Gynorthwyir yr Eglwys yng

Nghymru Licswm. Pe byddai rhieni/gofalwyr yn mynegi yr hoffent gael lle mewn ysgol arall, eir i'r afael â hynny'n unol â Pholisi Derbyniadau Cyngor Sir y Fflint, ac mae gan y rhan fwyaf o'r ysgolion yn yr ardal leol leoedd ar gael.

Ni fydd y cynigion yn cael effaith ariannol ar gyllid yr ysgol newydd, a bydd cyfrifoldeb am waith i adeiladau'r ysgol yn cael ei rannu rhwng corff llywodraethol yr ysgol a'r awdurdod lleol.

Mae'r cynnig yn mynd i'r afael â newidiadau posibl i'r staff ac yn datgan y caiff yr holl gyflogeion eu trosglwyddo o Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Licswm i'r ysgol wirfoddol newydd a gynorthwyir. Ni fydd unrhyw doriad mewn parhad cyflogaeth. Fodd bynnag, byddai'r corff llywodraethol dros dro yn gyfrifol am baratoi ar gyfer agor yr ysgol newydd, a byddai hynny'n cynnwys penodi pennaeth a dirprwy bennaeth. Gallai hynny gynnwys penodi pennaeth presennol yr ysgol gymunedol i fod yn bennaeth yr ysgol wirfoddol a gynorthwyir newydd neu, yn hytrach, penderfynu hysbysebu'n allanol.

Mae'r cynigiwr yn nodi ambell anfantais i'r newidiadau arfaethedig, gan gynnwys efallai na fydd yr elfen ffydd yn ddymunol i rai rhieni/gofalwyr, ac na fydd y berthynas bresennol â'r Esgobaeth yn cael ei datblygu a'i chryfhau.

Mae'r cynigiwr wedi ystyried opsiynau amgen, gan gynnwys ffedereiddio ag ysgol gyfagos â dynodiad tebyg, uno ag ysgol gyfagos i greu Ysgol Fro, a chadw'r sefyllfa bresennol.

Agweddau addysgol ar y cynnig

Mae'r cynigiwr wedi cyfeirio'n addas at ddata perfformiad yr ysgol ac adroddiadau diweddaraf Estyn.

Mae'r cynnig yn amlinellu'r manteision addysgol tybiedig, sy'n ymddangos yn asesiad rhesymol o ganlyniadau'r newidiadau arfaethedig.

Proposal for the re-designation of Lixwm Community Primary School to a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

This consultation proposal is from Flintshire County Council, and the proposal relates to the re-designation of Lixwm Community Primary School to a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School. The proposal is for Flintshire County Council to close Lixwm Community Primary School on 31 August 2020 and the Anglican Diocese of the Church in Wales will open a new Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School to be known as Lixwm Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on 1st September 2020, on the existing site of Lixwm School. This will then allow the Governing Body to pursue a federation with a nearby school of the same designation. The legislation relating to a school reorganisation stipulates that when a community school becomes a voluntary aided school, any land (other than playing fields) held by a local authority must be transferred to the relevant diocesan body. If the proposal is progressed, the local authority is recommending that the land and buildings of Lixwm Primary School are transferred to the Diocese on the condition that they will be transferred back to Flintshire County Council if at any time they stop being used as a faith school.

Summary / Conclusion

It is Estyn's view that the proposed new arrangement will at least maintain the standards and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear description of the proposal arrangements for responding to the consultation.

The proposer has set out its rationale well for closing Lixwm Community Primary School and opening Lixwm Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School. The local authority states that the school building at Lixwm is in need of investment of around £65,000 and is graded as suitability 'C' and the school is currently only two thirds full.

The proposal assumes that all pupils attending Lixwm Community Primary School will transfer to the new Lixwm Community Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School. Where parents/carers who express a preference for another school place will be dealt with in accordance with Flintshire County Council's Admissions Policy, and

most schools in the local area have surplus places available

The proposals will not have a financial impact on the funding of the new school and responsibility for work to the school premises will be shared between the school's governing body and the local authority

The proposal addresses potential staff changes and states that all employees will be transferred from Lixwm Community Primary School to the new voluntary Aided School. There will be no break in continuity of employment. However, the temporary governing body would be responsible for preparing for the opening of the new school and this would include appointing a headteacher and deputy headteacher. This may include the appointment of the current headteacher of the community school to the new Voluntary Aided School or instead decide to advertise externally.

The proposer identifies a few disadvantages to the proposed changes which include that the faith element may not be desirable for some parents/carers and that the existing relationship with the Diocese will not be enhanced and strengthened.

The proposer has considered alternative options, including a federation with a nearby school of a similar designation, an Area School amalgamation with a nearby school and maintaining the status quo.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has made suitable reference to the school's performance data and the most recent Estyn reports.

The proposal sets out the perceived educational benefits which appear to be a reasonable assessment of the consequences of the proposed changes.