



'Every child, every chance, every day'
'Pob plentyn, pob cyfle, pob dydd'

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July 25th 2016

Submission by Brynford Governing Body to the review process

Recognising the local authority is faced with having to reduce expenditure across all areas Brynford Governors are unanimous in their support for **option 3** - the merging of Brynford and Lixwm Schools based on one site in Brynford for the following reasons:

1. It will still be a small school with all the advantages that gives to pupils where every child can be known to the members of staff.
2. Bringing two small schools together will give certainty to the future as it is likely to remain open for many years.
3. Peer groups will be larger enabling a wider circle of friends to help with children's personal social development.
4. Teaching staff will have a larger pool of colleagues to share ideas and extend their professional expertise leading to higher quality education.
5. There will either be a new building or modifications to the existing building giving improved space and the possibility of using part of the building for community use which currently is very difficult.
6. It will remain in a rural location providing a quality setting for everyone.
7. Whilst some of our current parents are taking a short term view and therefore prefer option 1 - the status quo - the governors are taking a longer view and the points above clearly show the longer term benefits for both Lixwm and Brynford.
8. The Governors of Brynford and Lixwm are developing a relationship with one another looking to the future. However at Brynford we do recognise the challenge faced by Lixwm as it is unlikely they will retain a school.
9. Governors at both Brynford and Lixwm have held informal meetings. We see these meetings as being very useful and are planning for them to continue until a decision is reached. .
10. In the hope that option 3 is selected plans are being put in place for the two schools to work closely together from September. This will enable the children and staff at both schools to get to know each other providing a sound base for a future seamless integration.

Option 2 finds no favour with the Governors regardless of its location and we would urge that this option is not pursued for the following reasons:

1. It will create a large school which moves away from the ethos of rural education currently valued by all those attending Brynford and the reason why many parents chose Brynford in addition to the quality of education provided.

2. The Brynford governors do not wish to see a large school which will inevitably move away from the rural ethos which is highly valued (smallish school with good local connections located within a rural setting).
3. Children are unlikely to be known by all staff resulting in the loss of that special value provided by a relatively small rural school.
4. Travel times for a number of the children will increase thus extending the length of the school day (the total time children are away from home).
5. There is likely to be an ongoing uptake of free travel with subsequent extra long term costs because, wherever the school is located, many pupils will live more than 2 miles away.
6. Travel in the winter months will become more challenging for at least two of the existing schools.
7. If the new building is located away from Brynford the community will no longer have the local hub provided by the current school. The local community, who currently participate in many school events, will find it difficult to travel. This will have a negative impact on the community.
8. Two communities instead of one would lose their school which may result in considerable lobbying by parents in an attempt to slow the whole process potentially resulting in more years of uncertainty.

Clive Bracewell
Chair Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr



**Statement of Preference of the Governing Body of Lixwm Primary School
October 2016**

After consulting with the Governing body, and with the best interests of our parents, community and school children, we can confirm that our preferred position at this time would be to federate with a neighbouring school. We feel that this is the best option for our school as a whole and we have taken into great consideration the wishes of our community. We feel very strongly that by moving forward in this way, that we will be able to secure future facilities for the many young families currently thriving within the immediate and local community. This will be immensely reassuring for the many parents with children currently attending Lixwm Primary that have young siblings due to begin school within the not so distant future and have moved to Lixwm for this very reason. By doing this we are able to preserve our school building which is currently being used to support the community by holding various activities out of school hours.

To lose the building indefinitely would be a substantial loss to the village and surrounding areas and we hope that federation will be very much considered, as this certainly will secure a much valued school for existing and future families wishing to attend Lixwm Primary in future years.

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JH
Jennie Williams.

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Mr Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Flintshire County Council
Shire Hall,
Mold,
Flintshire

Friday, 22 July 2016

Re: Area Review and School Modernisation Proposals

Dear Mr Budd,

Further to the various meetings with yourself at which we have discussed the options proposed by Flintshire County Council for cost savings with regard to the three schools on Halkyn Mountain. I would like to formally inform you of the views of the governing body of Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

We have discussed the options comprehensively and applied logic and common sense to our conclusions. We have attempted to be open minded rather than just opting for solutions which simply benefit our own school.

If you do not adopt the preferred status quo we consider the best option to be the combination of Lixwm and Brynford schools as an area school on the Brynford site. Although there is space for an area school at Rhos Helyg we consider that there would be resistance from parents at the other two schools in sending their children as far as Rhos Helyg. This could result in children being sent to either Holywell or Nannerch, thus partly defeating the object of any expenditure at Rhos Helyg.

We also understand that parents, staff, governors and local councillors at the other schools support that option. Disruption would be limited to two schools and their staff could more readily be combined probably without need for redundancies.

As governors we accept that some change must take place to streamline facilities and cut costs. High among our concerns however is the stress inflicted upon our staff when their future is so uncertain. We are proud of the quality of both our teaching and ancillary staff and very reluctant to lose them if they search for a more secure long term position.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that Ysgol Rhos Helyg is large enough and financially viable enough to remain as it is. If we are obliged to accept some form of

change we do not believe that it should involve the closure of Ysgol Rhos Helyg. We would therefore recommend the adoption of your option 3.

Yours sincerely,



G.T. Robinson
Chair of Governors