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Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 25/03/2020

Ask for/Gofynner am School
Modernisation Team

Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704134 /
704014

Dear Stakeholder / Consultee

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

On Tuesday 17 March 2020, Flintshire County Council's Cabinet determined the above proposal.

Upon consideration of the information Cabinet approved the proposal and, as the decision was not 'called-in' for further examination, the Council will now implement the decision.

The decision can be viewed on the Council's website via the following link (Agenda Item 6):

<http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=4458&Ver=4&LLL=0>

The process will involve the administrative closure of Lixwm Community Primary School on Monday 31 August 2020 and the opening of Lixwm Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on 01 September 2020.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will at least maintain the current:

- quality and standards in education at Lixwm CP School;
- number of school places available in the area;
- distribution of pupil funding to the benefit of all pupils in the area;
- access and parental preference for English medium provision in the area

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It was noted that during the Objection Period there were no objections received and therefore an Objection Report was not produced.

With regard to the factors detailed in the School Organisation Code 2018, the decision has considered that:

1. Quality and Standards in Education

- It is Estyn's view that the proposed new arrangement will at least maintain the standards and outcomes for pupils in the area;
- A range of contextualised data has been provided regarding Lixwm Community Primary School and other potentially affected schools
- Data has also been provided relating to assessed cohorts at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2, Estyn reports and commentary regarding current provision at all the schools subject to the proposal.
- During the transition stage following the determination, the Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for all pupils by working closely with receiving schools.
- For pupils with additional learning needs, transition will be managed by specialist additional learning needs education officers. Additional support will be provided if required to assist pupils with the transition.

2. Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

- The proposal will contribute towards ensuring the area will retain a balance of provision for English and Welsh medium education.
- The proposal will at least maintain the number of school places available in the area;
- The alternative school-based provision will have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality;
- Any change to journey times and transportation costs would be negligible if at all;
- Home to school transport will be provided for pupils in accordance with the Home to School Transport Policy of a family's home local authority.

3. Resourcing of education and other financial implications

- Whether a school is a Community School or a Voluntary Aided has no bearing on its delegated budget;
- The new Voluntary Aided School would inherit precisely the financial position of Lixwm Community Primary School.

4. Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

- There would be little or no impact to the respective communities as the re-designation will ensure that Lixwm would retain a primary school in the village.

5. Specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to increase provision in voluntary schools or establish a new voluntary school
 - Responsibility for work to Voluntary Aided school premises is shared between the school's governing body and the Council. The Governing Body would be able to access funding through the Welsh Governments "Capital Repairs and Maintenance Programme" which is administered through the Diocese.

6. Specific factors in the consideration of proposals for the change of school category
 - All categories of school are of equal status;
 - Pupils could benefit from the strong Christian ethos and educational vision of the new Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School. This can help to raise standards and achievement and allow them to fulfil their potential.

Following the determination, the Council is committed to working with families, staff and Governors of Lixwm Community Primary School, as well as the Diocese of St Asaph to support learners through the period of transition.

This Decision Letter can be found on the Flintshire County Council website via the following link:

<https://flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Modernisation-Area-Schools-Review/Lixwm-CP-Sep19/Lixwm-Change-of-Category-Determination-Letter.pdf>

All other relevant documents can be found at:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Lixwm-Community-Primary-School.aspx>

In addition, all documents are available as hard copies in both Welsh and English and upon request can be made available in large print, Braille and alternative languages. Should hard copies of any documents be required, please contact the School Modernisation Team by post, by telephone (see details below) or via the following email: 21stCenturySchools@flintshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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Contact Details

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