

**Consultation Report on the Proposed Amalgamation of
Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan**

Conwy

January 2015

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1. Introduction

Conwy County Borough Council has recently completed a period of Consultation in relation to the proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor and Ysgol Iau Pendorlan as of the 31st August 2015. The consultation period began on the 8th October 2014 and came to a close on the 18th November 2014.

The Consultation has been carried out in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which requires the School Organisation Code 2013 to be issued to and give guidance to relevant bodies (Welsh Ministers, Local Authorities, Governing Bodies).

This document will set out the steps taken during the formal Consultation Period, will refer to findings obtained during the Consultation and will aim to answer and tackle queries that have been put to the Authority.

2. Consultation

2.1 Publication of the Consultation

The Consultation began with the publication of the notice in the North Wales Pioneer on Wednesday the 8th October 2014. Copies of the Consultation Document were sent out to 450 recipients via hardcopy and by email. The Consultation Document was also published on the Conwy County Borough Council webpages bilingually as have all subsequent documentation regarding the Proposal. The table below sets out the list of recipients, as guided by the School Organisation Code, who received a copy of the Consultation Document.

Name/Organisation	No of Recipients
Parents, teachers & staff of Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan	400
Governors of Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan	16
Headteacher & Governors of Ysgol Llandrillo yn Rhos / Ysgol Babanod Mochdre & Ysgol Cystennin / Ysgol Babanod T.Gwynn Jones / Ysgol Iau Hen Golwyn	10
Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph & Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham	2
Denbighshire County Council Education Services	1
Gwynedd County Council Education Services	1
Welsh Minister for Education & Skills	1
Welsh Government Schools Management and Effectiveness Division	1
Assembly Member & Member of Parliament representing area subject to proposals	2
Local Conwy Councillor for Glyn Wards	2
Colwyn Bay Community Councils	1
Estyn	1
Teaching & Staff Trade Unions	8
GWE	1
Taith	1
Police & Crime Commissioner for North Wales	1
Conwy CYPP	1
Conwy Community First	1
Flying Start Conwy	1

2.2 Consultation Meeting

As part of the Consultation process a meeting was held by Education Officers with stakeholders of both Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan. All of the above recipients of the Consultation Document were invited to attend a meeting on the 23rd October at Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor. Attendance at the meeting was low with up to 15 people in attendance at the meeting including parents, staff, Governors.

The main points of the Consultation Document were highlighted and it was explained that the Authority's policy to amalgamate infants and junior schools have led to the proposed amalgamation.

The Statutory Proposal process was also explained to attendees to ensure clarity that in comparison to previous consultation with the Colwyn Bay Area the Statutory Notice would legally close both schools and open the new formed school.

2.3 Consultation with Children

During consultation with children from both Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan information on the 2 schools 'joining' together was shared with pupils.

A presentation was shown to the pupils explaining the proposed amalgamation and what it would mean for them (example slide shown below). All pupils were very aware of the proposed changes and were enthusiastic with their questions and ideas.

Some of the questions raised by pupils included – What would join the 2 schools? When will it start? Will they be allowed time off school? How would dinner time be sorted out? Would the school council decide on a new school name/uniform?

All the pupils were in agreement that they would like a bigger playground area with shelters for the winter. Older pupils in the group raised queries about there being enough facilities for the younger pupils if there were to be an amalgamated school.

What this means

Both Ysgol Glan y Mor and Ysgol Pendorlan will stay in the same place


1 Headteacher & Teachers



1 Governing Body


There will be some building work



The school will have a new name



New Name

Governing Body 

Pennaeth Head Teacher 

3. Consultation Feedback

During the course of the Consultation Period Conwy Education Services received 11 responses to the Consultation Document. The table below demonstrates the format of response used by stakeholders.

Format of Response	Number of Responses Received
Consultation Response Form	9
Letter / Email	2
Total Received	11

Of those responses that were received 10 were from school parents/Governors and the community and 1 received from ESTYN.

All of the responses received were in support of the proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor and Ysgol Iau Pendorlan.

3.1 Parent/Governor & Community Feedback

The feedback that we have received from parents and Governors were in agreement with the Proposal. The colour scheme for the new build that would join the 2 schools together was questioned and during the meeting parents and Governors were reassured that colours could be discussed during the building process.

3.2 ESTYN Feedback

The feedback provided by ESTYN is prepared by answering set questions to ensure that the Local Authority have taken into account all educational requirements within their proposals. In answer to the question '**Are the Proposals likely to Maintain or Improve the Standard of Education Provision in the Area?**' ESTYN have commented as such:-

"The proposal is part of Conwy County Borough Council's primary school modernisation programme. Conwy County Borough Council has been reviewing current pupil numbers, equality of funding for pupils and the fitness for purpose of current school buildings across the authority.

It is Estyn's opinion that, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area."

ESTYN also made the following comment on the proposals:-

"The local authority has provided a clear rationale for the amalgamation of the two schools as part of Conwy's primary school modernisation strategy. This is to amalgamate infants and junior schools, which in turn will secure equality of funding for pupils and reduce the number of unfilled places across the 2 schools."

"The proposer has set out clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo. The advantages include the continuity of education and curriculum for pupils, automatically transferring from Foundation Phase to key

stage 2.”

4. Cabinet

Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet Members met on the 9th December 2014 to discuss the Consultation for the Proposed Amalgamation of Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan.

Having been provided with the information gathered through the Consultation, the decision was taken by Cabinet was to continue to the Statutory Notice for determining the amalgamation of Ysgol Babanod Glan y Mor & Ysgol Iau Pendorlan. This consists of a 28 day formal Objection Period whereby any objections to the proposal must be made in writing. Following this the Local Authority will return to Cabinet to determine the final decision.