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Your Ref/Eich Cyf: JM/NOL2023/16/11



YSGOL STANWELL SCHOOL

Learning to Excel

To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Stanwell School.
Headteacher and Staff of Ysgol Stanwell School; Prescribed Consultees.

Dear Consultee,

Consultation to change Stanwell School from Foundation School to Community Maintained School from September 2024

The Governing Body consulted with prescribed consultees in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposal to change Stanwell School from Foundation School to Community Maintained School from September 2024. In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees was undertaken between 11 September 2023 to 23 October 2023. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal to change Stanwell School from Foundation School to Community Maintained School from September 2024. 106 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date, 56 supporting the proposal and 50 not in support.

On 23 November 2023, following consideration of the consultation report, the Governing Body determined to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory notice was published on the school and Council website on 9 January 2024 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of Stanwell School. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). As the statutory notice was published on 9 January 2024, statutory objections had to be received by Tuesday, 6 February 2024. It was noted that no statutory objections were received during the statutory notice period.

On 8 February 2024, the Governing Body of Stanwell School approved the proposal to change Stanwell School from Foundation School to Community Maintained School from September 2024.

In determining the proposal, the Governing Body were satisfied that the proposal to change Stanwell School from Foundation School to Community Maintained School from September 2024 will:

- Support the school to further develop provision for pupils, through additional specialist support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- Help facilitate improved financial management and adherence to legislative requirements, regulation and policy.
- Support the school's sustainability and support staff and governors in continuing the school's learning and teaching successes, as reflected in the most recent Estyn report.
- Facilitate the development of greater partnership working across the whole Vale of Glamorgan, as well as with the Local Authority and Welsh Government.
- Allow for improved access to funding streams such as community focussed schools grants, s106 funding etc. via the Council's Capital Programme.
- Enable the Vale of Glamorgan Council to support the school with future capital projects and manage building projects.
- Support the school in addressing recent challenges relating to financial management and procedures.

Quality and Standards of Education

In Estyn's response to the consultation, they concluded that the proposal for Stanwell School to change from a foundation school to a community-maintained school from September 2024 is likely to maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Estyn stated that the proposal is unlikely to have either a positive or negative impact on standards of education or provision. The proposal has no impact on the curriculum or vulnerable pupils, including those with additional learning needs. A change of status would not disrupt learners' education in any way.

There are two ways that the proposal may be of benefit to standards and provision, although these cannot be assured in advance. Firstly, the school expects to work more closely with other local authority schools if the proposal goes ahead and this may benefit staff. Secondly, if the school is on a better financial footing as a result of the proposal, this has potential benefits for facilities and resources, which may in turn impact positively on standards.

Need for places and the impact upon accessibility of schools

There are potential benefits around earlier certainty of school places, improved joint working with other schools and increased use of school facilities by the community. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have committed to provide Stanwell School and its staff with the necessary support on the transfer of admissions process and transition arrangements.

The protected characteristics of any future pupils are not currently known. At present there is no evidence to suggest reasonable adjustment would be required for any pupil as a result of this proposal, however parents will be encouraged to discuss any needs with both the school and the Council, should the proposal be implemented, during the transition phase.

Any pupil applying to Stanwell School after September 2024 would have to apply through the Council's admissions procedures, although the current admissions criteria will apply until 2030 when the feeder school system would be removed fully. No catchment changes are proposed as part of this consultation.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school. This proposal will not provide any changes and therefore there will be no impact on the transport for pupils.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

The change in status, would mean that Stanwell would benefit from additional specialist financial and procurement support, with greater access to specialist expertise from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The school would also benefit from support with cash flow, procurement, and access to Section 106 funds for capital projects.

As a community school, the responsibility for Stanwell's buildings would transfer to the Council and as a result, capital works identified through condition surveys would be prioritised and maintained from the Council's capital funding and asset renewal programme. This would help alleviate some financial and organisational pressures as the responsibility would lay with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

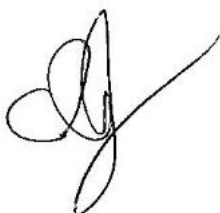
Other general factors

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there would be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of Welsh Language. The proposal would support the school as they will have direct support from the Council to promote Welsh Language effectively overall.

The proposal would support the school to ensure that they promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics. There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified. Successful implementation of the proposal would enable compliance by providing a school that has strong working relationships with both the local authority and other schools within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Community impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 7 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 1 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Rogers
Chair of Governors at Stanwell School