

OBJECTION REPORT 2016

ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A 308 PLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CREATED BY THE AMALGAMATION OF ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT AND ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOLS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF BOTH SCHOOLS.



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Background

Consultation on a proposal to amalgamate St. Helen's Catholic Infants and St. Helen's Catholic Junior schools commenced on 25th January 2016 and concluded on 18th March 2016.

The consultation document explained the proposal to amalgamate St. Helen's Catholic Infants and St. Helen's Catholic Junior schools by closing both schools and creating a new Primary school on the site of the existing schools,

The consultation process followed Welsh Government guidelines and was an opportunity for local people to learn about the proposal and for the Archdiocese and the Governing Bodies to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they could be taken into account before decisions were made.

Consultation Report

A consultation report was published following the consultation exercise. The Governing Bodies and the Archdiocese considered the consultation report and outcome of the consultation in June 2016. They determined to proceed with the proposal and to the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal.

Statutory Notice

A statutory notice on the proposal was published on the 15th September 2016 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period of 28 days expired on 14th October 2016.

The notice was published on the websites of the Archdiocese and the two schools and posted on the main entrance of both schools. Copies of the notice were distributed to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, governors and staff members. All other organisations required under the School Organisation Code 2013 were either provided with a hard copy or e-mailed a link to the published notice on the Archdiocesan website. All email recipients were provided with a copy as an attachment to the email.

Where objections are received an objection report must be published summarising the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections.

Objections to the proposal

The authority received one individual objection by the statutory notice closing date. A summary of the key themes and issues raised by the respondent and the response from the Archdiocese of Cardiff can be found at Appendix A.

This appendix summaries the key issues raised during the statutory notice period.

Issue 1

The respondent considers that the views of parents and community were ignored.

Response to the concern raised

All comments and views expressed at meetings, or submitted in writing during the consultation period, were addressed in the Consultation Report published in June 2016.

Issue 2

The respondent considers that the proposed amalgamation is merely an attempt to save money for the Archdiocese.

Response to the concern raised

While St. Helen's Catholic Infants and St. Helen's Catholic Junior School are Voluntary Aided Schools they are also maintained by their Local Authority which means that the Vale of Glamorgan Council provides all of the revenue funding for the Schools. The school buildings are provided by the Archdiocese which also contributes towards their maintenance. As the proposal to amalgamate the two schools is on the basis that the two existing sites and buildings will continue to be utilised there is no cost saving for the Archdiocese.

Issue 3

The respondent considers that there will be damage to her child's education.

Response to the concern raised

Pupils at St. Helen's Catholic Infant School currently transfer to St. Helen's Catholic Junior School at the end of the Foundation Phase. As the two sites would continue to be used following the amalgamation it is highly likely that the two Primary Phases would operate on separate sites as they do now. Therefore there would be no disruption to the education of a child in either the Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2.

