

School Organisation Code

Consultation response form

Your name: Tim Pratt

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Responses should be returned by 30 September 2017 to

School Organisation and Admissions Branch
Education Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: SchoolsManagementDivision3@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Question 1 – Do you agree with the suggested amendments to the Code to reflect feedback and learning after three years of operation?

Agree

Disagree

If not, please tell us why

Question 2 – Do you agree with the proposal to require the consultation document to be published on a school day?

Agree

Disagree

If not, please tell us why

Question 3 – Do you agree that consultees should be advised of the availability of the consultation document; including the web address and that a hard copy can be obtained on request.

Agree

Disagree

If not, please tell us why?

Question 4 – Do you agree that those who do not carry out the consultations themselves **must** consider the extent that the statutory consultation and proposal have been conducted in accordance with the Code?

Agree

Disagree

If not, please tell us why?

Question 5 – Do you agree that there should be a procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools?

Agree Disagree

If not, please tell us why.

Question 6 – Do you agree with the more detailed set of procedures and requirements proposers will need to follow in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal?

Agree Disagree

If not please tell us why.

Question 7 –The requirement to consult does not apply to small schools with fewer than ten pupils, although the proposer is still required to take into account the factors in Chapter 1 of the Code.

Do you agree that the proposer should also be required to follow the more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school proposal where the small school is also designated as a rural school?

Agree Disagree

If not please tell us why.

Question 8 – Do you agree with proposals to designate some schools as rural for the purposes of the presumption against closure and the list of schools at annex 1.

If not, please note which schools should not be included and which other schools should be included along with the reasons?

Agree Disagree

Question 9 – Do you agree with the proposed amendment to the section on surplus places to make clear that although local authorities are required to manage surplus places this does not necessarily mean closing schools, and that they should consider alternatives.

Agree Disagree

If not why not?

Question 10 – We would like to know your views on whether the detailed set of procedures and requirements proposers will need to follow in respect of proposals to close rural schools will add a burden to the local authority?

If you feel that there will be an additional burden on the local authority, what do you think the burden will entail? Please give details of impact including time and cost.

Inevitably for those local authorities impacted by these proposals there will be an additional burden. However, in the interests of the young people involved, we consider that an appropriate cost. We are not in a position to estimate the likely additional time and cost involved.

Question 11 – We would like to know your views on the effects that a presumption against the closure of rural schools would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Supporting comments

We would suggest that this is likely to have a positive effect by ensuring that children living within Welsh speaking communities are able to maintain their education within the language context of their choice, rather than having to move to another school where that choice may not be available.

Question 12 – Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the

English language

- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Supporting comments

Question 13 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

We are concerned that there appears to be a presumption against changing the character of a community school to a school having a religious character. Whilst there may be few occasions where this is deemed appropriate, it is possible that this might represent a way to increase the effectiveness and viability of a school. We do feel that this stipulation might represent a reduction of choice for communities and should not automatically be disallowed for consideration.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: