

Learner Travel Review

Consultation Report

Date of issue: 19 February 2020

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1. Overview

A public consultation reviewing learner travel was undertaken over a 12 week period from 14 October to 5 January 2020. The consultation received 1396 interactions from a combination of survey completions, workshops held with primary and comprehensive school pupils, social media engagements, emails and letters. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were made available via request to the Consultation and Engagement Team. Surveys were available in several formats, including large print, standard and a youth version was made available for the primary school engagement workshops. All were available in English and Welsh. The content of the page remains available online.

In total, there were 11 questions (within all survey formats) that required a reply from respondents. These were made up of questions about five overall proposals in relation to learner transport. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

A programme of engagement events were held in comprehensive schools across the county borough and at Bridgend College, engaging with learners, staff, parents and carers.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

Details of the consultation were shared with:

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils

- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governors
- Public Service Board members
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF) members

3.1 Promotional tools

This section details the methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

3.1.1 Social media

Facebook and Twitter have been widely used to promote the consultation. Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,110 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 54 times (27 English and 27 Welsh) and the information was seen by 39,954 people.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,426 followers. During the period, the authority posted 6 times (three English and three Welsh) on Facebook and the posts were seen by 25,747 people, these posts generated 149 link clicks, 72 shares, 14 reactions and 35 comments. The comments received have been themed and can be seen in section 9.

3.1.2 Press and media

Details of the consultation were sent as part of press releases emailed to local and national press during the consultation (23 October and 6 December 2019) and supported with social media messages throughout the live period.

3.2 Engagement methods

This section details the mechanisms available for stakeholders to engage with the council and share their views.

3.2.1 The Learner Travel Review Survey

A standard survey and large print version of the survey were all made available in Welsh and English, and a youth version of the survey was made available for the primary workshops. All were available in paper format and online. The consultation feedback is contained in section seven.

3.2.2 Parents and carer meetings

Parent and carer sessions took place in all comprehensive schools across the county borough. Parents and carers were given an overview of the consultation and the proposals, and were invited to give views and comments which were recorded by the Consultation and Engagement Team and are themed in section ten.

3.2.3 School engagement sessions

In order to gather the views of young people the consultation team attended comprehensive schools across the county borough. Pupils completed the survey either via paper surveys or via clicker pads.

The consultation team engaged with **305 young people** in a variety of pupil workshops.

Engagement sessions took place in:

- Bryntirion Comprehensive School
- Porthcawl Comprehensive School
- Maesteg School
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Brynteg School
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- The Bridge Alternative Provision
- Welsh-medium primary school pupils took part in an engagement session in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Primary school pupils from English-medium schools took part in engagement sessions in the council chamber

The feedback from young people is detailed in section eight.

4. Response rate

In total, there were **1396** interactions during the consultation. The response rate has been segregated into several areas: consultation survey responses, engagement event attendees, social media interactions emails and letters.

Interactions	Number
Survey completions	943
Parents meetings	97
Pupil workshops	305
Emails	13
Letters	3
Social media comments	35
Total interactions	1396

5. How effective was the consultation?

The consultation was conducted over a 12 week period. The data collection methods, which include the online survey and paper survey, were developed using plain English to maximise understanding.

6. Headline figures

- 6.1 57% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.
- 6.2 76% of learners did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.
- 6.3 43% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.
- 6.4 37% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.
- 6.5 43% of survey respondents were unsure about the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy, 37% disagreed with this proposal.
- 6.6 44% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy.
- 6.7 71% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.
- 6.8 85% of learners did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.
- 6.9 58% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.
- 6.10 63% of learners did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.

7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

The consultation contained 11 questions related to the proposals. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions.

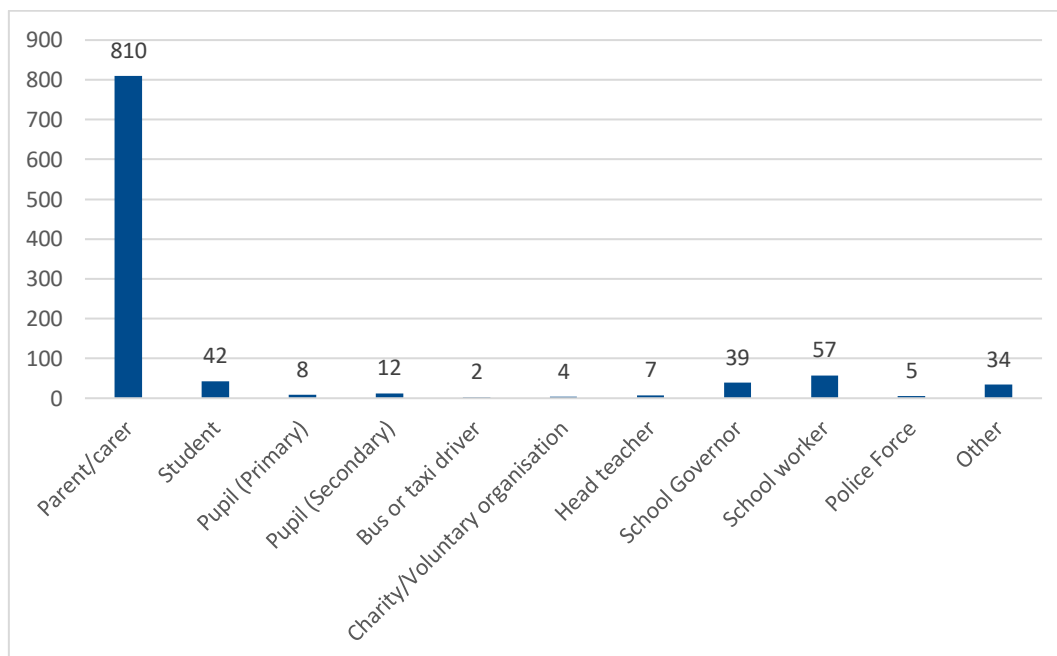
Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals, with reasons for their choice.

In the final question, respondents could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.

This section details the responses received to the main survey, the responses received from learners are detailed in section eight of this report.

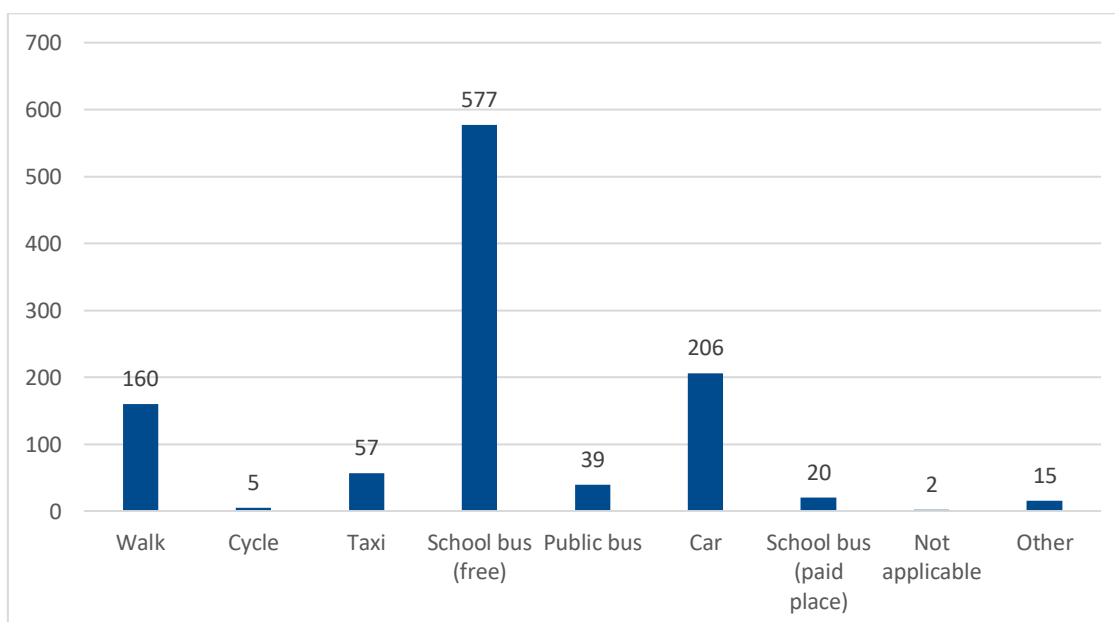
7.1 About you

7.1.1 Please tick the option that best described you as a respondent



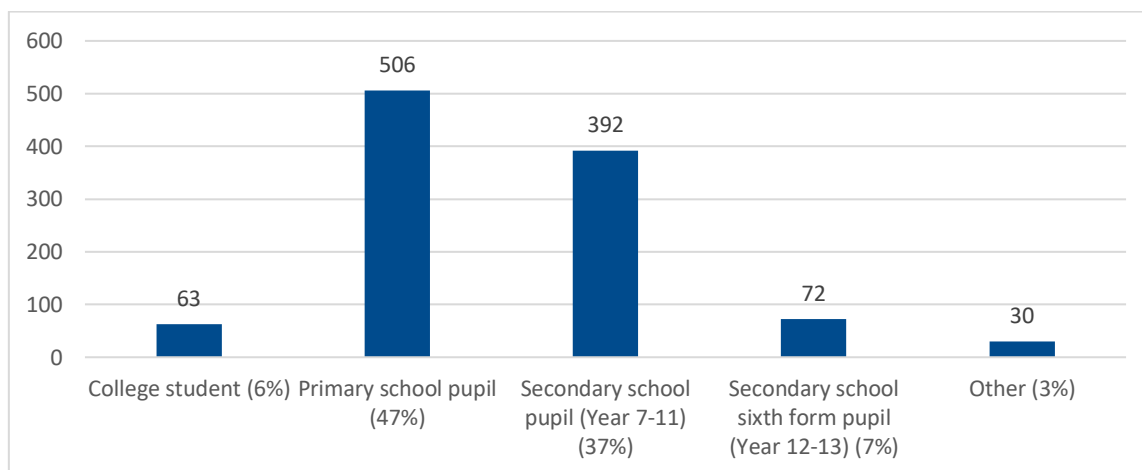
Respondents were able to choose multiple options to represent themselves. The most common respondents were parent/carer (810), followed by student (42) and then school worker (57).

7.1.2 How do you or your children travel to school?



Respondents were able to choose multiple options to this question. The most popular method of transport to school was free bus (577), followed by car (206), and then walk (160).

7.1.3 Please tick the option(s) that best describes you or your child(ren) as pupils/students?



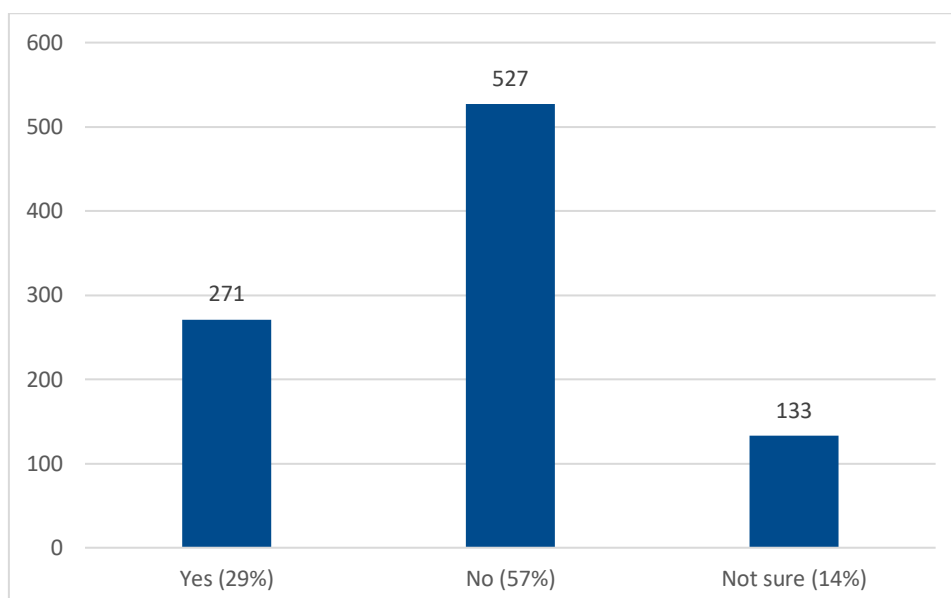
47% of respondents stated that their children were in primary school, followed by 37% in secondary schools (Years 7-11) and then 7% in secondary school sixth forms.

7.2 Survey questions

7.2.1 Proposal one.

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.

931 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents did not agree with this proposal (57%). 29% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 14% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 55 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	19
Proposal does not affect me	10
Young people should walk/cycle	5
Parents responsibility not the councils	4
Pupils with additional needs should be supported	4
Must ensure walking routes are safe	3
Welsh education should be supported	3
Faith education should be supported	2
Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will be in line with other authorities	2
Limit traffic outside schools	1
Offer paid places on the school bus	1
Public transport options need to be improved	1

The most common responses were 'agree with proposal' (19) followed by 'proposal does not affect me' (10) and then 'young people should walk or cycle' (5).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather	124

Children will be unsafe walking to school	111
Negative impact on Welsh language schools	45
Public transport is expensive/additional costs for pupils	32
Will have negative environmental impact	29
Supports families to go to work	22
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	21
Roads are unsafe	16
Keep the free school transport	15
Will negatively impact attendance and/or attainment	13
Make internal savings	7
Faith schools need transport	6
Could cause health issues (walking in cold weather/wet clothes)	6
Would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs	5
Should not be preferential treatment for faith schools	4

The most common responses were ‘it will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather’ (124), followed by ‘children will be unsafe walking to school’ (111) and this will have a ‘negative impact on Welsh language schools’ (45).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

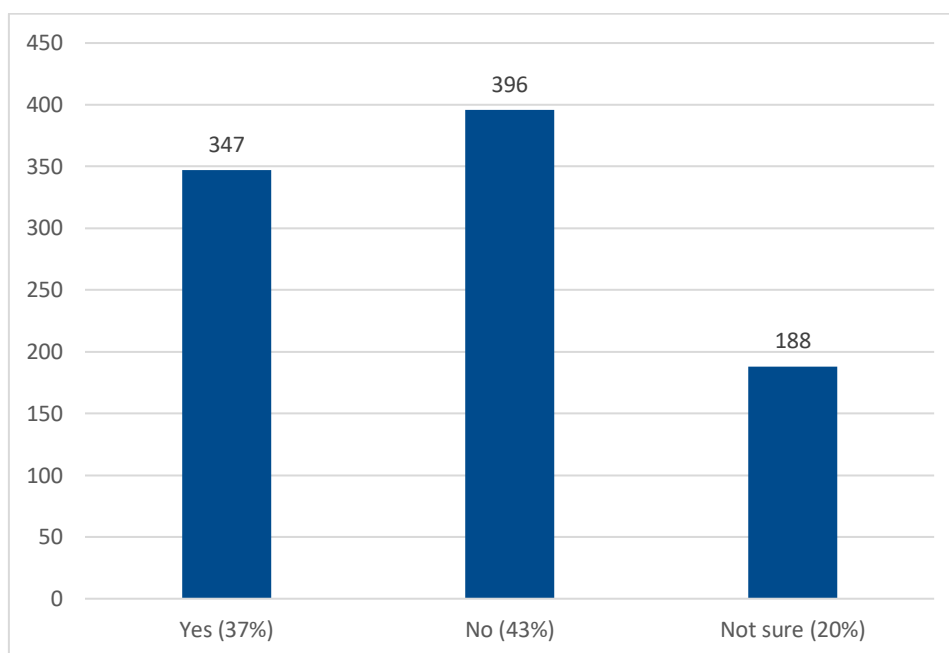
Theme	No.
Must ensure there are safe routes	19
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	8
Need more information/unsure of impact	8
Environmental impact/ Traffic	7
Additional expense/cost for pupils	5
Too far/long walk/bad weather	5
Welsh schools should have transport	5
May be difficult for a parents that work	3
School transport is convenient	1
Cut council wages instead	1
Faith schools should have transport	1
Negative impact on health (walking in bad weather/wet clothes)	1
Primary children should have transport	1
Reconfigure catchment areas	1

The most common responses were as must ensure there are safe routes (19), followed by pupils with additional learning needs should be supported (8) and need more information/unsure of impact (8).

7.2.2 Proposal two.

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

931 people responded to this question.



43% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 37% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 20% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 110 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	33
Drivers should have a DBS check	23
Children with additional needs should be supported	16
Escorts are not needed	17
Drivers will need training	8
As long as the children behave themselves	5
Provide CCTV in vehicles	2
It shouldn't include infant aged children	2
As long as those who need support are supported	2
Unsure of impact	1
We should be able to trust our children, especially secondary school	1

The most common responses were 'agree with proposal' (33), followed by 'drivers should have a DBS check' (23) and then 'children with additional needs should be supported' (16).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)	43
Compromises child safety	39
Driver should focus on driving	35
Children with additional needs should be supported	31
Children need support/supervision	28
Will encourage bad behaviour/bullying	20
Children may distract driver	18
Primary are too young to travel without an escort	16
Driver is not responsible for children	14
Escorts should be on all buses	7
Assess on case by case basis	3
Cut council spending/pay	3
May incur additional cost for parents	2
Issues will arise if the driver falls ill/ has accident	2
Should not impact Welsh schools	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were ‘there could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)’ (43), ‘compromises child safety’ (39) and ‘driver should focus on driving’ (35).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

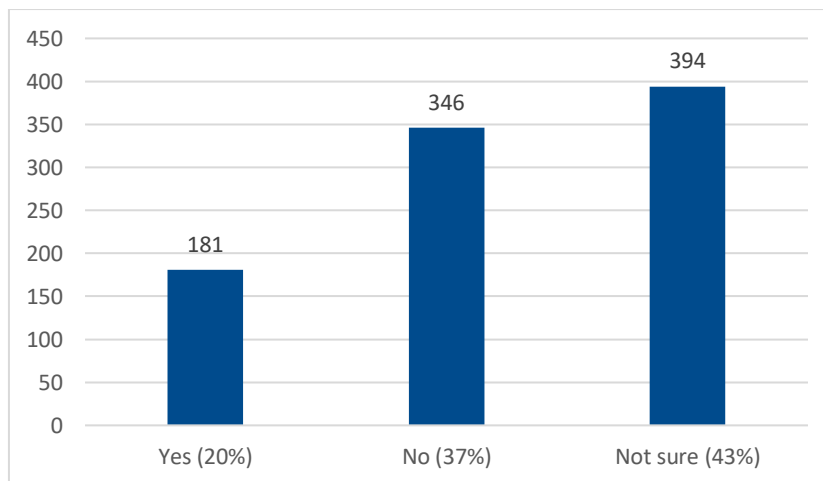
Theme	No.
Children with additional needs should be supported	17
Primary children are too young to not have an escort	15
Needs of children should be considered	13
Unsure of impact	11
Provided the children are safe	9
As long as the driver has a DBS	8
If the driver is capable for supporting the children	6
Children could distract driver	2
Escorts are needed	1

The most common responses were ‘children with additional needs should be supported’ (17), followed by ‘primary children are too young to not have an escort’ (15) and the ‘needs of children should be considered’ (13).

7.2.3 Proposal three.

Removal from the local authority’s Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

921 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents were unsure about this proposal (43%). 20% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 37% disagreed with this proposal.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 27 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	6
Transport availability should be equal for all	5
Agree with proposal	4
Children with additional needs should be supported	3
Parents should provide/organise transport	3
They are old enough to organise own transport	2
Welsh schools should be protected	2
Ask for contributions	1
Decisions should be made available for public scrutiny	1

The most common responses were 'should be assessed on a case by case basis' (6), followed by 'transport availability should be equal for all' (5) and 'agree with proposal' (4).

There were 138 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	34
The service is needed	20
Should keep all school transport	13
Children with additional learning needs should be supported	12
May compromise child safety	11
Need more information/unsure of impact	11
Expensive for families/pupils in deprived areas	10

Children have a right to education	7
Welsh education should be supported	5
Service supports families to go to work	5
Disagree with proposal	4
Make internal cuts at the council	3
How would the pupils get to school?	2
Negative environmental impact	1

The most common responses were 'should be assessed on a case by case basis' (34), followed by 'the service is needed' (20) and then 'should keep all school transport' (13).

There were 121 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

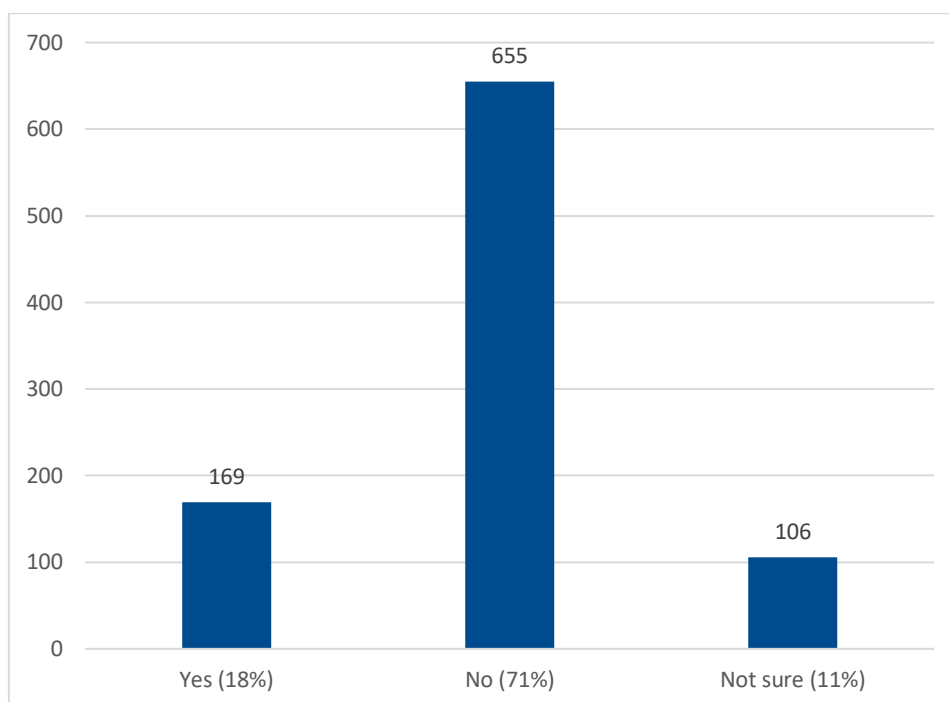
Theme	No.
Need more information about discretionary transport	78
Assessed on a case by case basis	21
Unsure of impact	11
This service should be available to all	3
Was unaware service was available	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Welsh schools should be supported	2
May incur additional costs for parents	1

The most common responses were 'need more information about discretionary transport' (78), followed by 'assessed on a case by case basis' (21) and then 'unsure of impact' (11).

7.2.4 Proposal four.

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.

930 people responded to this question.



71% of respondents did not agree with this proposal, 18% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 59 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey	18
Personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport	16
Effective way to save money	8
Vulnerable students should be supported	8
Students get Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) so can pay for transport	6
Students can walk	2
Agree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey' (18), followed by 'personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport' (16) and then 'effective way to save money' (8) and 'vulnerable students should be supported' (8).

There were 412 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will discourage young people from attending sixth form	80
It will be costly to pay for transport	77
It will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas	55

We should encourage young people to attend sixth form	53
Welsh education should be protected	34
Continue with free transport (as continuing with education)	31
Limits opportunities for progression for young people	25
All pupils should have transport	14
Children with additional needs should be supported	12
Walking will be unsafe	7
How else will they get there?	6
Faith education should be protected	3
Free transport for school students but not college students	3
Too far to walk	3
Environmental impact from increased traffic	2
Council should make internal savings/ save elsewhere	2
Age discrimination	1
Young people attending bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college	1
Students could contribute to cost of transport	1
Free transport for college students but not for school students	1
Welsh and faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common responses were 'it will discourage young people from attending sixth form' (80), followed by 'it will be too costly to pay for transport' (77) and then 'it will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas' (55).

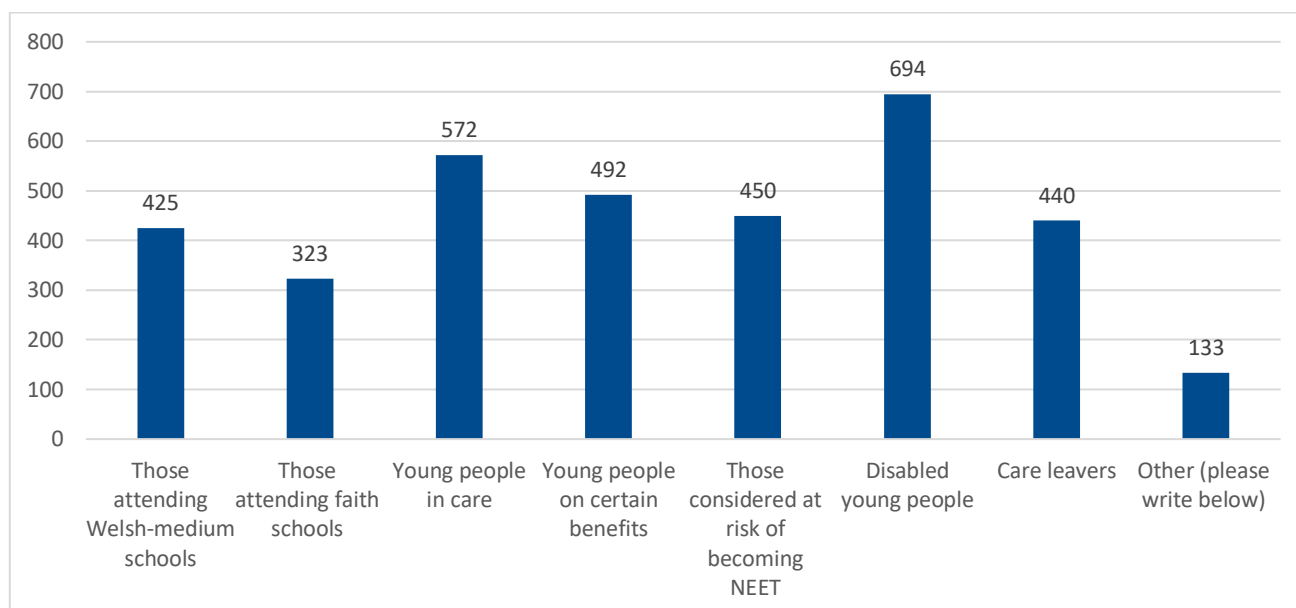
There were 54 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Could discourage pupils attending sixth form	18
Vulnerable pupils should be supported	12
Could offer reduced pass/season ticket	7
Not all post-16 students will need/want the bus	6
Free transport for college students but not school students	4
Welsh education should be protected	3
If they are working they can pay for transport	3
EMA should be used specifically for transport	1

The most common responses were 'could discourage pupils from attending sixth form' (18), followed by 'vulnerable pupils should be supported' (12) and then 'could offer reduced pass/season ticket' (7).

7.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Respondents were able to select learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were 'disabled young people', followed by 'young people in care' and then 'young people on certain benefits'.

Where other was selected respondents were asked to identify other groups of learners. The following responses were received:

Theme	No.
All pupils	72
Should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas	9
Should be based on distance from school/college	7
Learners with additional needs	5
College students	3
Pupils who can't drive	2
None	1
Young carers/ young adult carers	1
Where they have younger siblings they would be travelling with	1
Pupils attending collaboration courses	1

The most popular responses were 'all pupils' (72), followed by 'should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas' (9) and then 'should be based on distance from school/college' (7).

Respondents were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 284 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

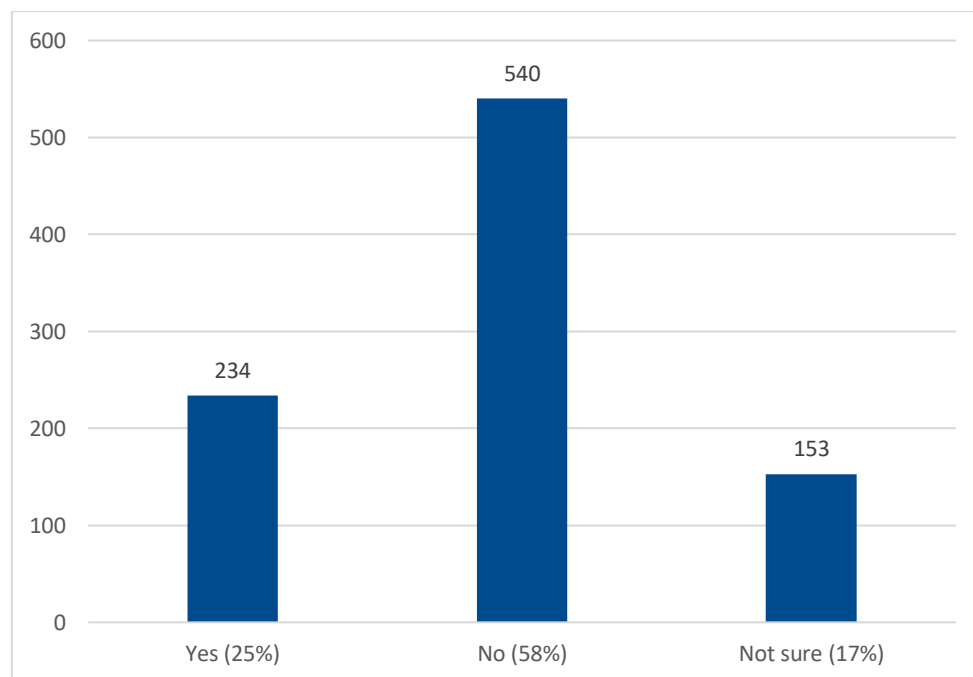
Theme	No.
All pupils should receive transport	114
We should ensure vulnerable young people are protected	55
We should encourage these young people to attend sixth form	26
Cost of transport is too high	23
Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	19
Welsh education should be protected	17
It is harder for these young people to attend sixth form	12
Cuts will negatively impact young people from disadvantaged areas	7
Council should make internal savings	5
Will limit opportunities for these young people	4
Faith schools should be protected	2

The most popular responses were 'all pupils should receive transport' (114), followed by 'we should ensure vulnerable young people are protected' (55) and then 'we should encourage these young people to attend sixth form' (26).

7.2.5 Proposal five.

To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

927 people responded to this question.



58% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 25% agreed with the proposal and 17% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 90 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Nursery education is not compulsory	31
It is the parent's responsibility	27
They are too young to go on the bus	11
Shouldn't be alone on bus	8
Nurseries are usually local	3
Good way to save money	2
It is unsafe for them to be on a bus	2
Unsure of impact	2
They can walk	1
Nursery children who are disabled or have a learning disability should have transport	1
I am surprised this is even available	1
But should support welsh provision	1

The most common responses were 'nursery education is not compulsory' (31), followed by 'it is the parents responsibility' (27), and then 'they are too young to go on the bus' (11).

There were 246 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education	48
Will be difficult for working parents	38
Nursery education is important	21
Too far to walk	20
If nursery place is provided then transport should be provided	17
Continue to provide transport for all pupils	15
Additional costs to families	13
Disagree with proposal	13
Should support parents/ choices will be limited	13
Families may have siblings in primary	9
It is unsafe to walk	8
Limits opportunities of children	6
Right to education - and transport	6
Environmental impact	4
Will negatively impact deprived areas	4
Contradicts free nursery/ childcare grant	3
Faith schools should be protected	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Council should make internal savings	2
Build more schools	1

The most common responses were 'this will negatively impact on Welsh-medium education' (48), followed by 'will be difficult for working parents' (38) and then 'nursery education is important' (21).

There were 51 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Depends on circumstances	12
Unsure of impact	12
Unaware nursery children had transport provided	10
They may need adult support/help	4
Personal choice of parents to send their child to nursery	4
Welsh and Faith schools should be supported	4
Nursery not compulsory so transport is useful but not necessity	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2

The most common responses were depends on circumstances (12) and unsure of impact (12), followed by unaware that nursery children had transport provided (10).

7.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, respondents were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 406 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Make savings elsewhere/ internal savings	74
Proposals will impact on child safety	49
Keep all school transport	40
Welsh education should be protected	34
Should invest in education, it is important	33
Disadvantaged families and communities will be impacted the most	27
Support families and those who need it	22
Those with additional needs should be supported	18
Ask for contribution from parents	16
Disagree with proposals	14
Right to education and so should have a right to transport	13
Will have negative environmental impact	12
It is too far for children to walk	11
Will incur additional costs for families/students	9
Will affect attendance /students will drop out	8
Working parents rely on this service	8
Keep escorts on taxis and minibuses	5
Parents responsibility to provide/organise transport for their children	5
Keep transport for post-16 students	4
Review process as opposed to policy	2

Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	1
Walking is good for children	1

The majority of the comments related to 'make savings elsewhere/internal savings' (74), followed by 'proposals will impact on child safety' (49) and then 'keep all school transport' (40).

8. Question and analysis – school engagement sessions

Pupils were able to complete the survey via clicker pads or paper questionnaire. The consultation contained 11 questions. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions.

A total of 305 learners took part in the consultation engagement sessions. 263 Learners took part in their comprehensive schools. A further 35 primary pupils took part in engagement session held in the Council Chamber, and 7 pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools took part in an engagement session held in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Learners were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals with reasons for their choice.

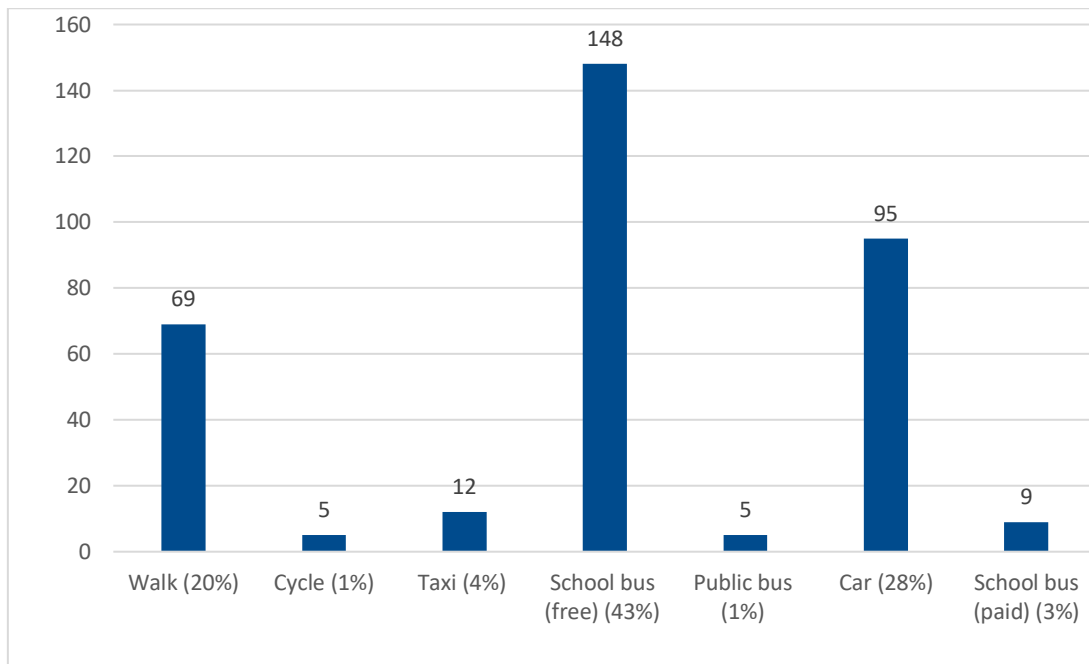
In the final question, learners could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.

This section details the responses received from learners in the school engagement sessions.

8.1. About you

8.1.1 How do you travel to school?

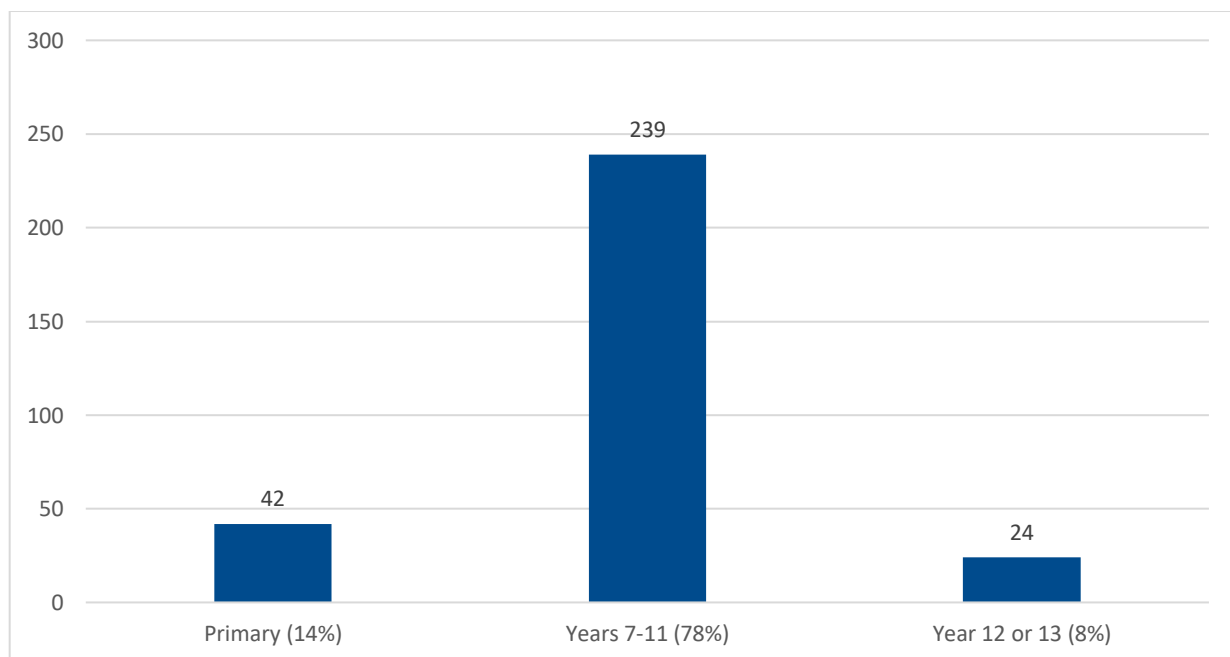
Learners were able to choose more than one option.



43% of learners identified that they used a free bus to get to school, followed by 28% car and then 20% walked to school.

8.1.1 Please tell us your year group

305 learners provided a response to this question.



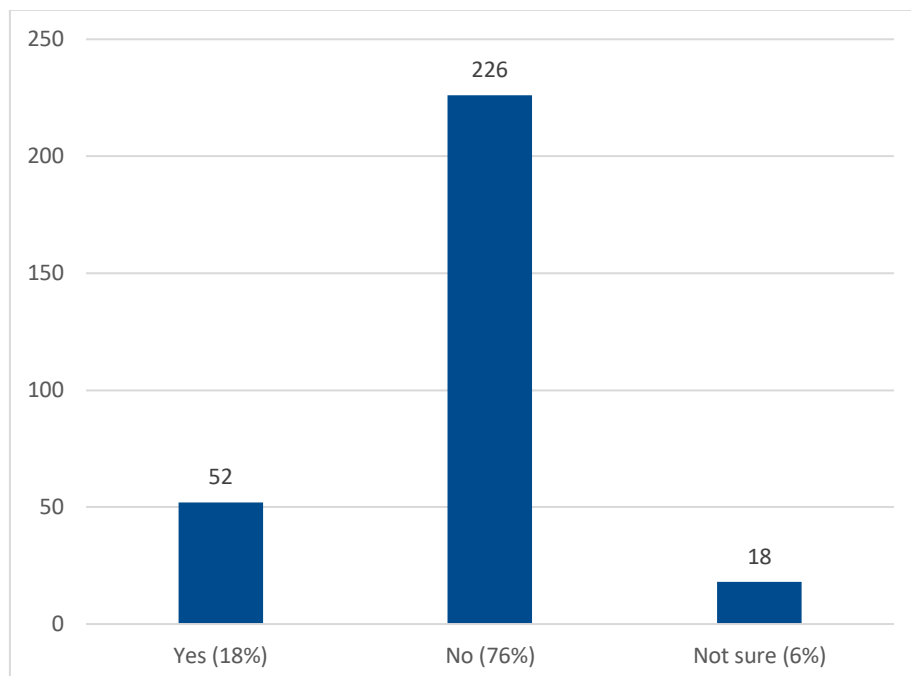
78% of participants were from Years 7-11 in comprehensive schools, 14% were from primary school and 8% were in Years 12 or 13 in comprehensive school.

8.2 Survey questions

8.2.1 Proposal one.

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.

296 people responded to this question.



The majority of learners did not agree with this proposal (75%). 18% of learners did agree with this proposal and 6% were unsure

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

249 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It is too far/it is a long way to walk	43
Keep all transport	34
There is no real safe route to school	29
Will negatively impact attendance/achievements	26
Pupils will more likely be late	23
dark/cold/wet	20
Pupils will be tired from walking	14
It would be expensive to catch a public bus	13
There are dangerous people around	8
Welsh education should be supported	7
Negative environmental impact from more cars on the road	5
I think it is fair to change the 2 to 3 mile distance	5

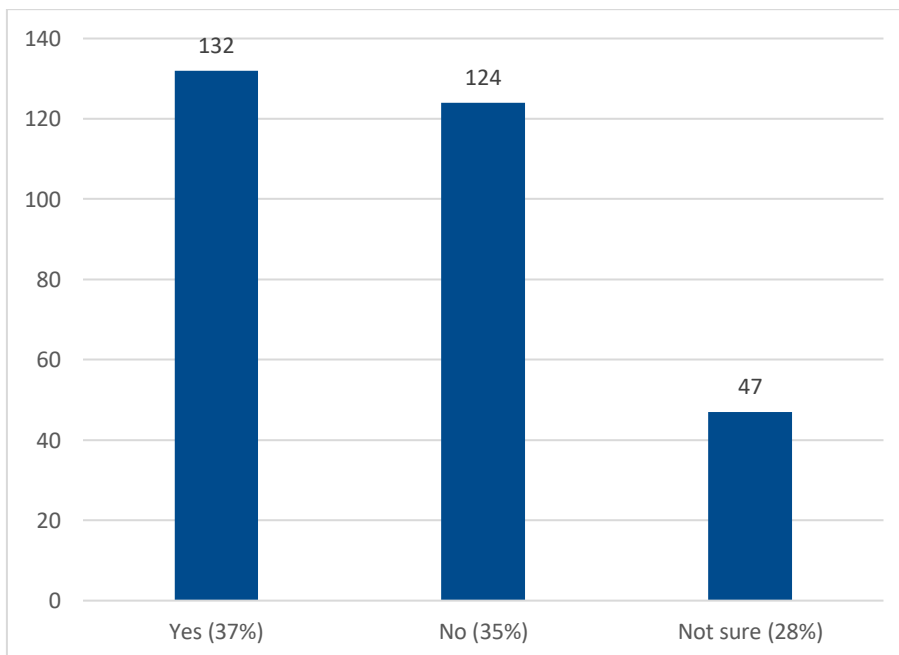
Parents can't take me/ pick me up	5
Faith schools should not be exempt	3
Increase chance of bullying incidents walking to school	3
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	3
It is good for pupils to walk	2
Primary pupils should have a bus	2
Pupils walking will disturb residents	1
Hard to carry all your school books and bags all that way	1
Amount of litter will increase if more people walk	1
Better bike facilities at school (if more pupils ride their bikes)	1

The most common responses were it is too far/it is a long way to walk (43), followed by keep all transport (34) and then there is no real safe route to school (29).

8.2.2 Proposal two.

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

303 learners responded to this question.



37% of learners agreed with this proposal, 35% did not agree and 20% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

121 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Escorts are not needed	22

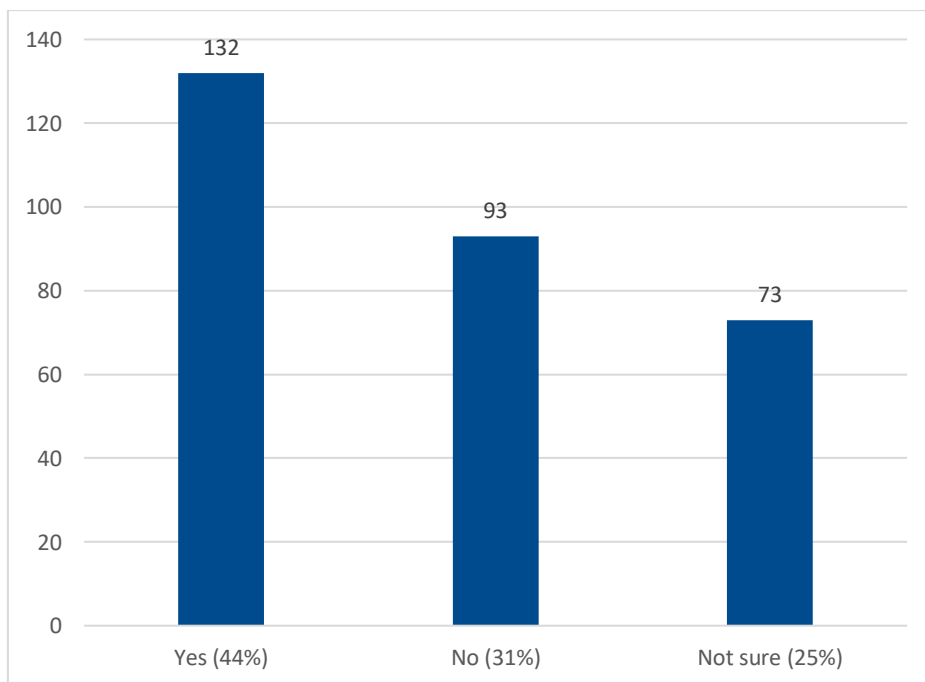
No need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe	22
Escorts provide personal/medical support	19
Pupils with additional needs need support	13
Driver should drive/ not be distracted	9
Escorts keep pupils safe	8
Primary pupils should have an escort	7
Driver will be unable to stop bad behaviour	6
Disagree with proposal	4
With no escort there will be more room for pupils	3
Young people are mature enough so do not need an escort	3
It depend on the young people	2
Better for the environment (people do not bring their cars)	1
Parents should be informed of changes	1
Pupils could use the main bus	1

The most common responses were ‘escorts are not needed’ (22) and ‘no need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe’ (22) and then ‘escorts provide personal/medical support’ (19).

8.2.3 Proposal three.

Removal from the local authority’s Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

298 learners responded to this question.



The majority of learners agreed with this proposal (44%). 31% of learners did not agree with this proposal and 25% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

78 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

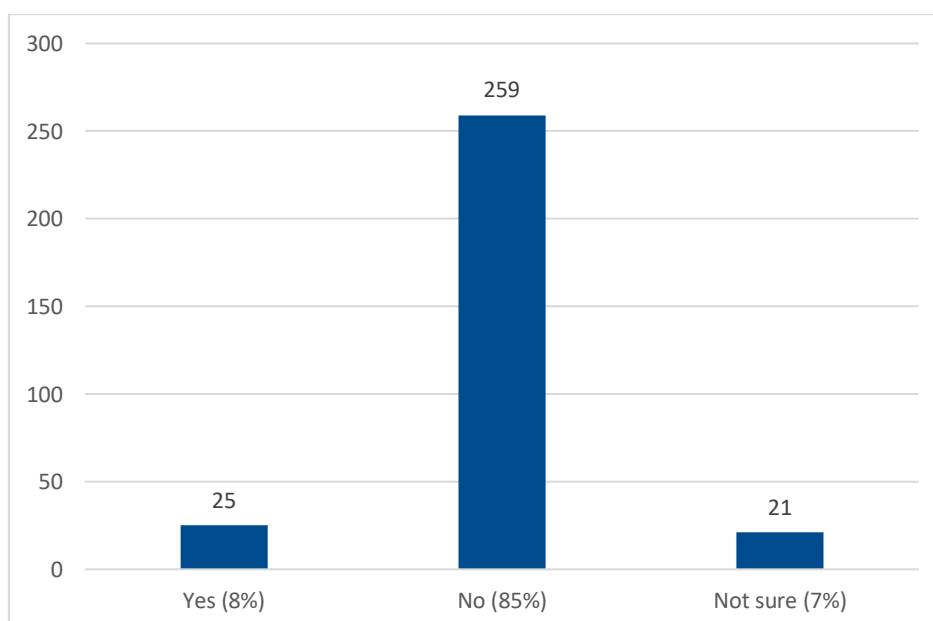
Theme	No.
It will encourage more people to apply	26
Pupils with special circumstances should have this transport	21
The service is needed	12
People may take advantage of service	7
Everyone should have access to transport	4
It might discourage people from applying	4
We pay for service through council tax	2
It is the parent's responsibility to take their child to school	1
Was unaware service existed	1

The most common responses were 'it will encourage more people to apply' (26), followed by 'pupils with special circumstances should have this transport' (21), and then 'the service is needed' (12).

8.2.4 Proposal four.

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.

305 learners responded to this question.



85% of learners did not agree with this proposal, 8% of learners did agree with this proposal and 7% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

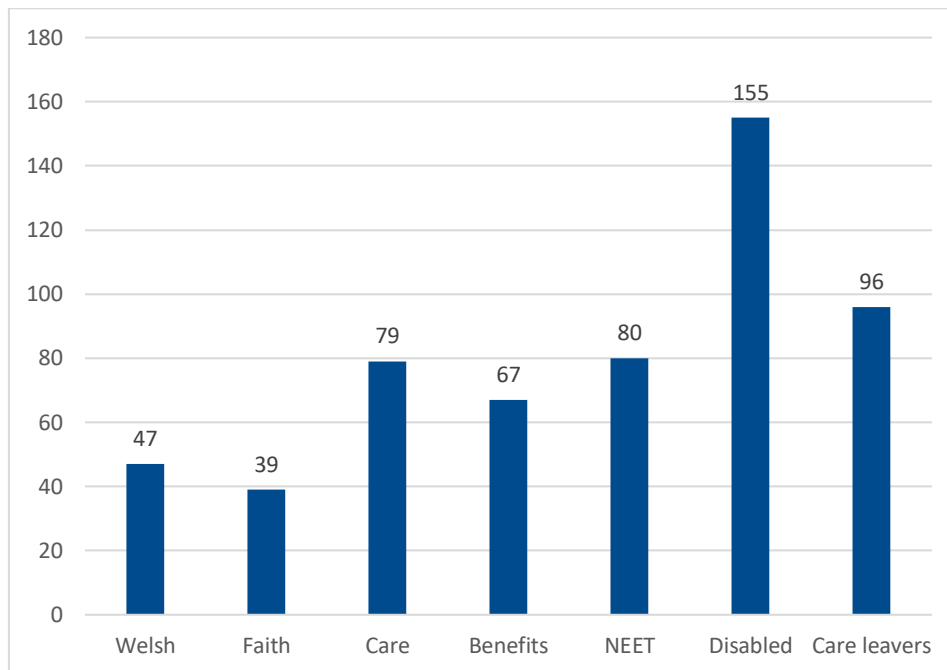
136 comments from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Pupils will be unable to pay for travel	56
Limits opportunities for pupils	27
Welsh-medium education should be supported	16
People would not go to sixth form	13
Transport should be free for all students of all ages	9
The school bus may be their only option	6
Walking to school is not safe	4
Encourages pupils to walk	2
Disabled pupils should have transport	1
Public transport is unreliable	1

The most common responses were ‘pupils will be unable to pay for travel’ (56), followed by ‘limited opportunities for pupils’ (27) and then ‘Welsh-medium education should be supported’ (16).

8.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Learners were able to select groups of learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were ‘disabled young people’ (155) followed by ‘care leavers’ (96) and then those ‘not in employment education or training (NEET)’ (80).

Learners were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 73 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

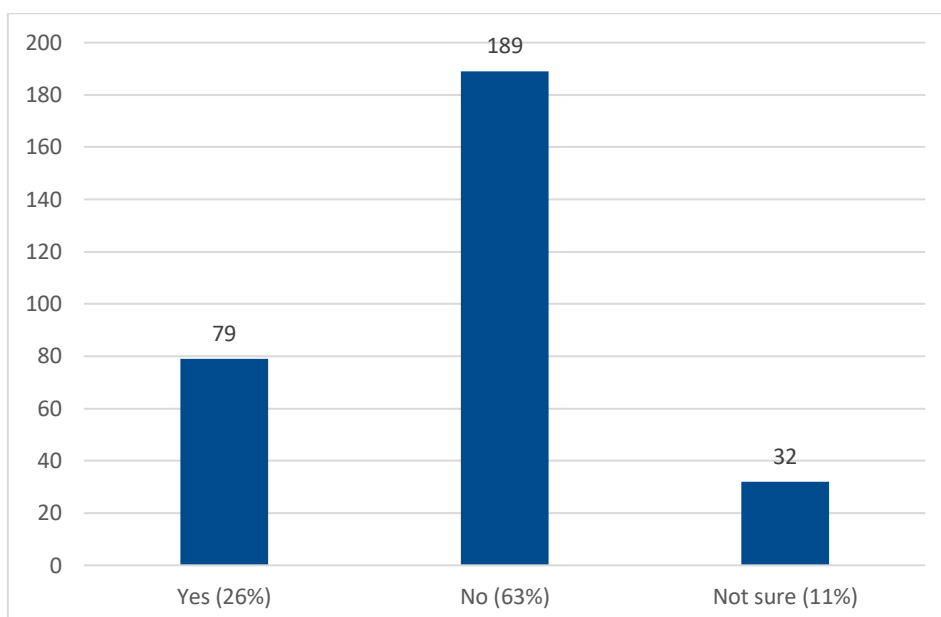
Theme	No.
Everyone should be entitled to transport to attend school	37
These groups of learners need more support	19
People who need support should be supported	14
They may have additional financial issues	2
Should encourage students	1

The most popular responses were ‘everyone should be entitled to attend school’ (37), followed by ‘these groups of learners need more support’ (19) and then ‘people who need support should be supported’ (14).

8.2.5 Proposal five.

To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

300 learners responded to this question.



63% of learners did not agree with this proposal. 26% agreed with the proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

117 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Welsh-medium education should be protected	32
It might be difficult for parents to take them	28
Too young to walk far/unable to walk alone	20
It is safer for them to go on the bus	11
It should be the parents responsibility	6
Entitled to school place then they should be entitled to transport	4
Unsure of impact	4
Keep nursery transport	3
Parents might not be able to afford to get their child to school	2
Nursery education is not compulsory so do not need bus	2
Nursery is important for social growth so should support with transport	2
Nursery schools are usually local so do not need bus	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'Welsh-medium education should be protected' (32), followed by 'it might be difficult for parents to take them' (28) and then 'too young to walk far/unable to walk alone' (20).

8.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, learners were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 62 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Keep all transport	12
Will negatively affect attendance/lateness	8
Biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities	7
Welsh education should be supported	7
Keep transport for all sixth forms	5
It will not be safe walking to school	5
Disagree with proposals	3
Environmental impact - more cars on the road	3
Should support children with additional needs	3
Disagrees with UNCRC (Article 2, 28 and 31	3
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2
Extra walking means a long day	2
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2

The majority of the comments were 'keep all transport' (12), followed by 'will negatively affect attendance and lateness' (8) and then 'biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities' (7) and 'Welsh-medium education should be supported' (7).

9. Social media responses

During the consultation period there were 35 interactions on our social media channels.

The comments have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Close the council	6
The council doesn't care / Consultation just a formality	6
Comments about sports pitches and fees increasing	4
Increase in council tax less service	3
Too far for children to walk	3
Cut councillors/ cut councillors wages	3
Sack council staff	2
Stop giving money to Cardiff City Deal	2
No transport will stop children going to college	2
MP money from EU	1
Car emissions will rise	1
There have been £35 million in cuts where has the money gone	1
Need change in management	1

The majority of the comments were not related specifically to the consultation. Most common comments were related to 'close the council' (6), the 'council doesn't care/consultation is just a formality' (6), and then 'comments about sports pitches and fees increasing' (4).

Three comments were made about it being 'too far for children to walk', and two comments were made about 'no transport will stop children going to college'. One comment was made that car emissions will rise.

10. Parents and carers meetings

The Consultation and Engagement Team attended engagement sessions with parents in all comprehensive schools and Bridgend College. Parents from comprehensive schools and primary schools across the county borough were informed of about the engagement sessions. We engaged with 97 parents and carers during these sessions. Comments made during these sessions have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There is no safe route	18
How are distances measured and routes identified as 'safe'?	10
May stop pupils going to post-16/This needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation	10
Will the proposals affect Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?	9
Takes too long/too far/wet	9
Make cuts elsewhere	8
There will be an increase in lateness/attendance	7
This will negatively affect Welsh-medium education	7
Are you working to ensure that public transport will be available for all pupils?	6
Additional costs for pupils/families	6
Decisions about sending children to Welsh-medium nursery will be affected/ wider impact upon Welsh-medium education	5
Can we buy a school bus pass/make contributions	5
Will be an increase in parents driving/traffic at school/environmental impact	5
School specific route question	4
Will negatively impact college students/vocational courses	4
Parents are unaware of discretionary payment availability	4
Clarity of proposals	3
Having no escorts is a safeguarding issue	3
Pupils in deprived areas will suffer more	3
Whose responsibility is child safety walking to/from school	3
Why aren't the buses complying with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation	2
Can decisions be appealed/challenged	1
Are all local authorities doing this?	1
There are no escorts on school buses	1
There have been issues when older siblings have tried to pick up their brothers and sisters from the primary schools as they are not over 18.	1
Welsh/Faith should not be protected	1
Can we get together as parents and sort out our own buses and school transport.	1
Will you increase funding for Welsh-medium schools to provide their own transport	1

Has the Welsh Language Commissioner been contacted about consultation	1
New WESP include statutory targets for 3 and 4 year olds – how will cutting nursery transport affect this	1
Welsh/Faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common comments were ‘there is no safe route’ (18), followed by ‘how are distances measured and routes identified as safe’ (10) and ‘may stop pupils going to post-16/ this needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation’ (10).

11. Letters and emails

13 emails were received during the consultation. The details of the emails have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Personal walking route requested	8
Survey request/submission	3
Letter attached	2

Three letters and one report from a school governing body were received during the consultation. These have been attached in Appendix one.

12. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	640	68%
No	303	32%

13. Conclusion

13.1 Summary

A sample of 943 survey completions is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of ± 3.181 at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within $\pm 4.752\%$ of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 46.819% and 53.181%.

13.2 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to consider the impact of these proposals, and presented to Cabinet alongside the consultation report.

14. Appendix one.

14.1 Covering letter from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.



Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger

Pennaeth : Mrs Rhiannon Dixon BA Hons. PGCE, NPQH

Re: Learner Transport Consultation

January 3rd, 2020.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached a report on behalf of our school governing body regarding the Bridgend County Borough Council Learner Travel review. The report highlights the impact of the proposed changes to school transport on Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and on Welsh medium education within our Local Authority.

Whilst we understand that the Local Authority, in the same way as schools must explore all means of making savings we are seriously concerned about the possible disproportionate effect on Welsh medium education.

In order to have our own measure for this we held a short survey at school during a recent parents meeting. We have included the results in the report.

We as a school have recently seen a reduction in pupil numbers starting at school from the Kenfig Hill area, and we feel that this is due in part to the LAs decision to revert to the statutory minimum distance as outlined in proposal 1.

Proposal 5 is a significant concern for us. Though some parents choose to transport their children to school at nursery age, a significant proportion of our nursery pupils use the school bus. Should this option be withdrawn the effect on our school and on Welsh medium education could be devastating. If we are unable to attract pupils in to our nursery they are highly unlikely to transfer in to the Welsh medium sector at reception age when they have already settled in at their nearest school, a school where parents will also have begun making associations.

Dr Rhyd Lewis, a school parent and an academic at the school of mathematics in Cardiff University who lives in the Porthcawl area has undertaken some research regarding the consultation on learner travel. He has written to the LA in regard of this. Over the past few years he has been part of a project that seeks to design efficient bus routes for schools. This has involved using automated tools to determine qualifying students, and then design bus routes that deliver children to school on time, but that optimise things like:

- minimising the number of vehicles used
- minimising journey times and walking distances from homes to suitable bus stops.

Some examples of his work can be found here.

<http://www.rhydlewislewis.eu/bus/Bridgend-6Buses-Walk-5.749081-route-33.933333.html>



Greenfield Terrace, Cornell, Panybont ar Ogwr, CF33 4LW
Ffôn / Tel 01656 754865

Gwefan/ Website www.yferchorsger.co.uk
abost / email admin.yfos@bridgend.gov.uk

14.2 Consultation response from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.

TRANSPORT CONSULTATION 2019

**A survey of the impact of 2019 BCBC
Learner Travel Review on Welsh-medium Education using
data from the parents of pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger**

Produced by the Governing body of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger

January 2020

Main Findings

1. There is a very strong desire among the parents and pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger (YFOS) to access Welsh-medium.
2. Parents' response to the changes indicate that 70% of parents who currently have children in Welsh-medium education would not have chosen to do so if free transport at all ages had not been available to them.
3. The provision of effective free transport is crucial throughout the child's education to ensure the equality of access to Welsh-medium education as the secondary school is such a long distance from the homes of the majority of pupils.
4. Parents have a general anxiety any further changes to the funding of transport will have a detrimental effect on their ability to continue to choose Welsh-medium education.
5. The Governors have a genuine concern that removal of free transport to Nursery aged pupils will result in significant falling numbers at a time where we have shown in a recent report to Finance that it is imperative to grow the pupil numbers in order to escape the schools current financial deficit.
6. Welsh-medium schools are unique geographically in the local authority as most pupils attending the secondary school at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) live more than 3 miles from school and nearly all students depend on a bus to attend.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Removing free Nursery transport is likely to significantly reduce pupil numbers in YFOS (and other Welsh-medium primary schools). It is unlikely that pupils will move from an English Nursery setting to Welsh-medium once they have settled and established friend groups.
2. Charging for Nursery transport will have a disproportionate impact on those who choose Welsh-medium education within the County Borough.

3. The transport charge will affect those on low incomes more than most, and will mean that those from disadvantaged backgrounds will not be able to access Welsh-medium education.
4. The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives Local Authorities responsibility to provide transport to school with the aim of promoting Welsh-medium education. This proposal will have the opposite affect and has the potential to be detrimental towards Welsh-medium education.
5. The Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) demands that the local authority increases pupil numbers in Welsh-medium education to support the Welsh Governments vision of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Proposal five would have an adverse effect on this by placing additional obstacles in the way of parents choosing Welsh-medium education.
6. In an area such as Bridgend County (unlike surrounding authorities) Welsh-medium education is a considered choice due to locations and the limited number of primary schools available e.g. The Vale of Glamorgan which is similar in population, size and demographic has eight Welsh-medium primary schools in comparison to our four.
7. Previous consultations have seen a detrimental effect on pupil numbers at YFOS with parents from the Kenfig Hill area anxious about committing to Welsh-medium education if assurances could not be given to the continuity of their child's education due to free transport being withdrawn.

1. Background

In October 2019 Bridgend County Borough Council launched a public consultation on pupil transport.

Proposal One

Withdrawal of Transport for all learners benefitting from available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils

Proposal Two

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers

Proposal Three

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

Proposal Four

To stop providing free Transport for learners aged 16 and over, who go to school or college other than those who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend, or who wish to pursue up a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend

Proposal Five

To stop providing free Transport for nursery aged pupils (ages 3 & 4)

The Welsh-medium sector acknowledges the exclusion of students attending YGG Llangynwyd post-16 education in this consultation, and we are grateful.

However it appears that the impact and consequences of withdrawing free transport at nursery age for the same sector has not been sufficiently researched. This will have a detrimental impact upon:

- The number of pupils entering Welsh-medium education at nursery
- Low income families
- The local authority's commitment to Welsh Government as laid out in the WESP

The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives local authorities the option, to pay the full or part cost for students whose free transport is not statutory. Part of the LA's responsibility is to provide transport which does not place a long term stress on students, and which places obstacles for them to access the education provided.

Clause 10 of the Measure notes:

Promotion of access to education and training through the medium of Welsh

Each local authority and the Welsh Ministers must promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language when exercising functions under this Measure.

There is no evidence that the Authority has made reference to this clause in drafting proposal five, and they have not accounted for the impact this proposal would have in promoting education and training through the medium of Welsh.

2. Geography

Bridgend County Borough is comparatively compact in comparison to other local authorities in Wales. The distance East –West is approx. 12 miles and from North to South approx. 18 miles.

The majority of the population is concentrated in the south of the County Borough in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and Cornelly areas and yet YFOS is the smallest of the four Welsh-medium primary schools in the County.

3. Survey brief

It was decided to conduct a survey, which would seek to gauge the following from parents:

1. Year group of pupil
2. Home location
3. Distance from school
4. Current mode of transport to school
5. Likelihood to remain in Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn
6. Had your child received free transport in Nursery (ages 3 & 4)
7. Would you have chosen Welsh-medium education had free transport not been available
8. Will your child remain at YGG Llangynwyd for post-16 education if free transport was withdrawn
9. Comments

Point 8 was included by parental request. Despite this not being an issue in the current proposals, parents remain extremely anxious about their children's access to a full learning pathway through the medium of Welsh. It is clear from the comments at the end of this report (section 9) that any withdrawal of post-16 transport would have a catastrophic effect on every Welsh school within the authority.

When responses were received, the questionnaires were processed using Excel software, which enabled responses to be compared according to the whole data collected.

This report notes the main findings of the survey, and includes further comments by parents.

4. Responses

Questionnaires were distributed to parents of children in YFOS and/or YGGL

71 responses were received. With 160 pupils currently on roll at YFOS this response was deemed a fair percentage to be assessed and to be taken as a fair reflection. There is a fair differential between home locations throughout the authority.

It was unfortunate that the consultation period included the Christmas period and some parents may simply have not responded due to other commitments. It is of course possible, that those who responded are more likely to be interested in this matter rather than those who chose not to respond, (and this is common in surveys of this nature). However, the clear pattern of responses demonstrates that there is real interest in this matter and that there are significant issues to be considered.

5. Home location and current travel to school

Respondents live in the following areas:

Bridgend	3%
Cornelly	34%
Kenfig Hill	7%
Margam Village	14%
Porthcawl	24%
Pyle	18%

6. Distance from school

30 pupils (42%) live closer than 2 miles from school. These pupils will not be eligible for free transport. Five of these pupils will lose their free transport if proposal one is adopted. Two have indicated that they are unlikely to remain in YFOS should this happen as they are within walking distance of Mynydd Cynffig primary school.

This pattern of distances from school is very different from other schools within the County Borough, where the vast majority of pupils live within 2 miles of their nearest local English medium primary school.

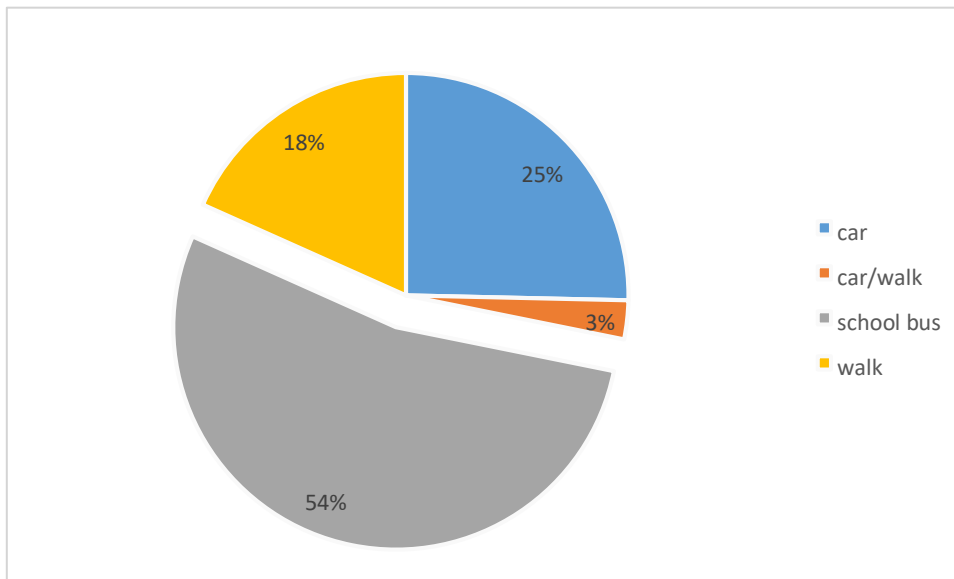
In order to ensure that access to Welsh-medium education is comparable to access to English medium education, provision of transport needs to be easily available.

7. Mode of transport to school

The provision of a free school bus service is essential in supporting parents in choosing Welsh-medium education whilst maintaining employment. Many parents' comments reflect their reliance on family members to assist in the school run.

Due to the distance of the school from the majority of pupils' homes, free school transport is crucial in securing the future of the school. 13% of pupils regularly walk to school, 25% travel by car, 3% a combination of the two. Significantly 54% travel by school bus.

Graph 1 Mode of transport to school

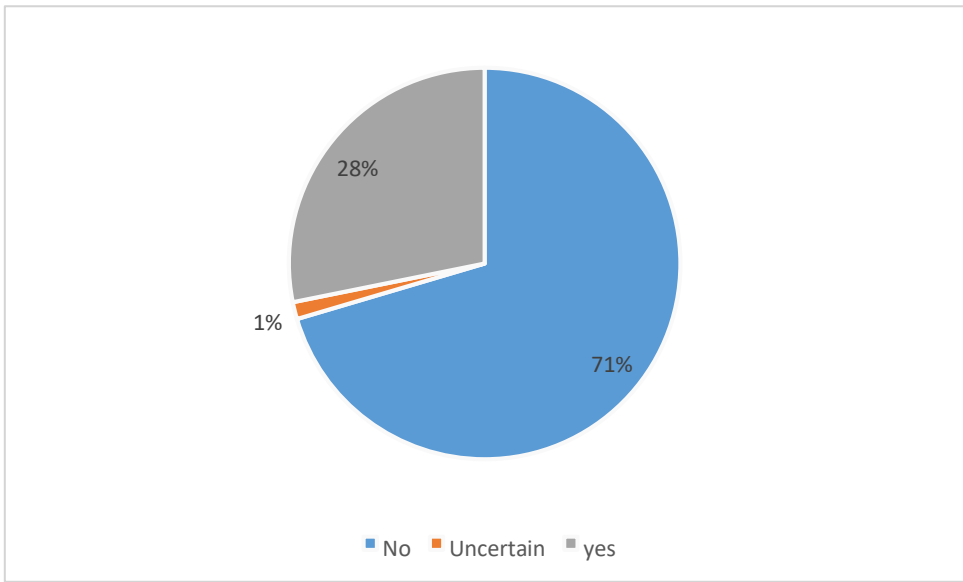


8. Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn

Responses were very positive regarding the desire to access Welsh-medium education. This reflects previous surveys such as the “Measuring Demand” survey which highlighted high demand within the Porthcawl, Pyle and Kenfig Hill areas.

However, the likelihood of choosing Welsh-medium education if free transport were not available is very low due to the financial burden this will incur.

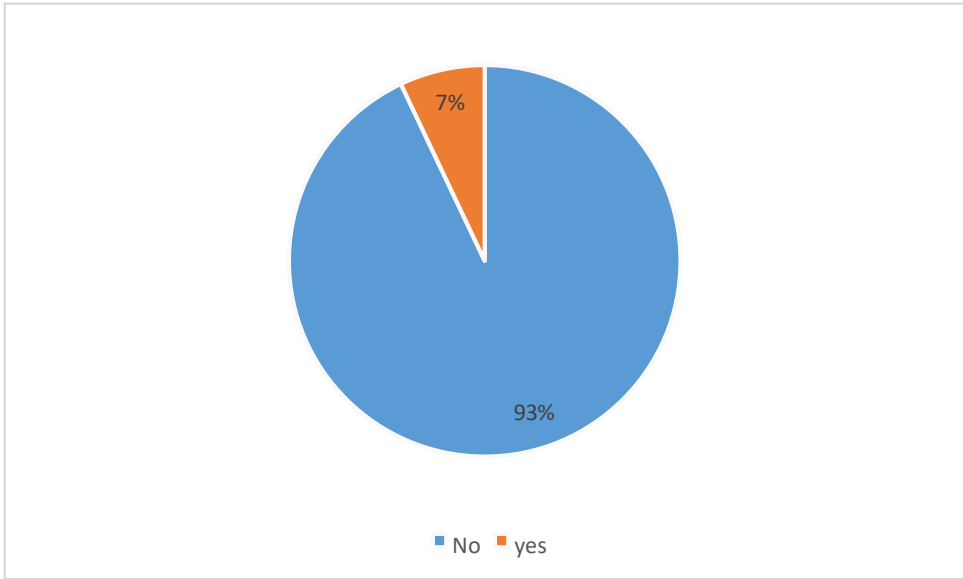
Graph 2 Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education



Thus if parents do not choose to send their child to a Welsh-medium primary school in the first instance the secondary school at YGG Llangynwyd would no longer be viable.

Parents were therefore asked if their child would continue in Welsh-medium education should post-16 transport be withdrawn.

Graph 3 Post-16 Welsh-medium education



9 Parent Comments

The following are a sample of comments are from parents whose children already attend Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger and/or Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

- The withdrawal of nursery transport will have a detrimental effect on people choosing Sger because of where the school is. The same is true for Llangynwyd. I don't understand how government targets can be met (increasing Welsh Language) if choice is taken away from parents. If a child starts nursery in Welsh-medium they are likely to continue but if they start in English medium there is limited chance of them transferring to Welsh-medium. Again with post-16 where the school is makes it difficult/impossible when working to attend without a designated bus.
- Children will no longer be able to attend Welsh comp
- Transportation means a lot to us as we as a family have different time restraints and struggle to meet them now, Cutting post-16 transportation would mean that we would not be able to keep out children in Welsh-medium
- I wasn't me children to have a Welsh education being we are Welsh but if free transport is withdrawn I would be unable to get my children to school. They would then be robbed of learning their national language as Welsh schools are very few and far away.
- If transport is withdrawn, I will be seriously considering moving my child into English medium education. In prep for secondary transition. This will be a really difficult decision as she is thriving. It is a shame transport will decrease her Welsh education and the number of Welsh speakers in Wales, especially with the current drive for more Welsh speakers.
- We do not qualify for free transport currently. It's becoming more difficult to rely on grandparents dropping off & collecting. Will need to reassess Welsh education before juniors as to whether we can continue [*this child qualified for free transport under the old rules*]
- Please do not discriminate against Welsh-medium education, it should be an easy choice to make not limited by cost or distance. Diolch yn fawr.
- Luckily I live close enough atm. Will not be able to afford transport to comp
- School transport is a massive part of my kids getting to school as I work and grandparents don't drive [*4 children all received free transport to Nursery*]
- I think the local authority should continue to make reasonable adjustments to ensure Welsh-medium children can access schools free, this would include free transport to sites
- If I lived further away I would not have put them in Welsh-medium education. If transport wasn't free I would not be able to afford for all my children to attend Welsh-medium education [*3 children all received free transport to Nursery*]

- When choosing Welsh education we are protection the future of our culture and language. If this becomes lost to people then our language will die!
- Children will continue in Welsh education regardless as we have access to cars
- Sadly my children would leave Welsh education
- It would be very difficult for Welsh schools to attract pupils if transport is removed
- Welsh-medium education is important in Wales. I feel if free transport was removed many parents would not send their children, slowly resulting in less and less children attending Welsh education

Sources

Research includes:

Questionnaires to parents at YFOS and/or YGG Llangynwyd.

Published:

Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008, Welsh Government.
Bridgend Welsh Education Strategic Plan

14.3 Letter received from Mudiad Meithrin



Y Ganolfan Integredig
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1PD

YMATEB MUDIAD MEITHRIN I DDOGFFEN YMGYNGHORI TREFNIADAU TEITHIO DYSGWYR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN Y BONT ar OGWR

Ann Angell, LI.B, Assoc.CIPD
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru
Regional Manager South East Wales
Mudiad Meithrin

☎ 01970 639639  



Mae Mudiad Meithrin yn fudiad gwirfoddol ac mae'n cael ei gydnabod fel prif ddarparwr gofal ac addysg blynyddoedd cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector wirfoddol. Ein nod yw rhoi cyfle i bob plentyn ifanc yng Nghymru fanteisio ar wasanaethau a phrofiadau blynyddoedd cynnar trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae tua 200 o staff cyflogedig gan y Mudiad yn genedlaethol a thros 1,500 o staff yn gweithio yn y cylchoedd meithrin.

Diolchwn am y cyfle i ymateb i ddogfen ymgynghori Trefniadau Teithio Dysgwyr Pen y Bont ar Ogwr a gyhoeddwyd ar y 14/10/2019.

Byddwn yn manteisio ar y cyfle i roi sylwadau ar newidiadau posib a sut y byddant yn effeithio'n annymunol ar dwf addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y Bwrdeistref yn unig.

Deallwn yn iawn fod y Fwrdeistref yn wynebu toriadau i'w gyllideb. Oherwydd ein gwaith gyda siroedd eraill yn nhalaith y De Ddwyrain, gwn hefyd bod Pen y Bont yn defnyddio disgresiwn ar hyn o bryd wrth gynnig cludiant am ddim tu hwnt i'w gofynion statudol mewn amryw amgylchiadau gan gynnwys plant 3-4 oed a dysgwyr ôl 16.

Nodwn sylwadau a chodwn bryderon yn benodol parthed y cynigion isod a hoffwn i'r cabinet ystyried ein sylwadau wrth wneud penderfyniad am drefniadau cludiant wrth edrych i'r dyfodol:

1. Cynnig 1- Rydym yn croesawu'r pwynt bwled sy'n nodi y bydd disgyblion sy'n mynd i'r Ysgol Gymraeg agosaf os yw'r ysgol ddwy filltir neu ragor o'r cartref (cynradd) neu 3 milltir neu ragor o'u cartref (uwchradd) yn derbyn cludiant am ddim p'un a'i hystyriar mai honno yw'r ysgol addas agosaf ai peidio. Yn hanesyddol disgwylir i blant sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg deithio llawer ym mhellach ar y cyfryw na phlant sy'n derbyn addysg Saesneg (a hynny, rhan amlaf, o fewn eu cymuned). Mae hyn yn wir am Ben y Bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cynnig yma yn amddiffyn hawl plant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg.
2. Cynnig 3 - Newid polisi'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer cludiant rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol drwy ddileu'r enghreifftiau penodol sy'n dangos o dan ba amgylchiadau y byddai'r awdurdod lleol yn darparu cludiant yn ôl disgresiwn. Gwelwn y cynnig yma fel cyfle i ddefnyddio disgresiwn er mwyn sicrhau twf a chyfle am dwf yn y sector Gymraeg.
3. Cynnig 4 - Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddysgwyr 16 oed neu hyn sy'n mynd i'r ysgol neu goleg, ar wahân i ddisgyblion sy'n mynd i Ysgol neu chweched dosbarth Cymraeg ym Mhen y bont ar Ogwr

Mae'r cynnig yma yn hollol allweddol i dwf addysg Gymraeg o fewn yr awdurdod. Rydym yn ymwybodol am dystiolaeth anecdotaidd gan rieni sy'n nodi eu bod yn gwneud penderfyniadau ar iaith addysg eu plant ar sail y daith addysgol o'r cychwyn cyntaf a thu hwnt i oed 16. Trwy sicrhau cludiant am ddim i blant ôl 16 rydych yn sicrhau cynnig cyfartal i blant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg beth bynnag bo'r pellter o Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd a beth bynnag bo'u sefyllfa economaidd. Mae'r Gymraeg yn parhau yn opsiwn realistig a chyflawnadwy i rieni.

4. Cynnig 5 -Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddisgyblion meithrin (3 a 4 oed)

Credwn gall y cynnig yma gael effaith drychinebus a bell gyraeddiadol ar dwf Addysg Gymraeg o fewn y sir:

Deallwn yn iawn am bryderon lechyd a diogelwch ac wrth gwrs, mae rhaid i lesiant plant fod wrth wraidd pob ystyriaeth cludiant. Deallwn fod y plant 3-4 oed yn teithio am fysiau mawr ar hyn o bryd. Wrth ystyried y newidiadau delfrydol y gellir eu gwneud, gofynnwn i'r cabinet ystyried:

- Taw dim ond 4 ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg sy'n bodoli o fewn y sir ac fel canlyniad, disgwylir i blant deithio tu hwnt i'w cymunedau am addysg Gymraeg. Baswn yn dyfalu taw swm gymharol fach rydym yn ei drafod ar gyfer cludiant i ysgolion cynradd Gymraeg?
- Oherwydd natur ddemograffig a daearyddol rhai ardaloedd o fewn yr awdurdod, ni fydd yn bosib i rieni trosglwyddo eu plant am addysg feithrin heb gludiant a hynny'n gludiant am ddim.
- Ni ddylid cosbi rhieni a phlant sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg oherwydd problemau lechyd a Diogelwch. Dylid ystyried opsiynau amgen i sicrhau cydraddoldeb mewn cyfleoedd
- Ni ddylid ystyried newidiadau i gludiant ar wahân i ofynion rheoliadol a statudol ar yr awdurdod, yn benodol parthed datblygu a chreu twf mewn addysg Gymraeg . Nid nawr (pan mae'r twf yn ddisymud) dylid rhoi cynigion mewn lle sy'n mynd i ddinistrio cynlluniau'r CSGA .
- rhoi ystyriaeth gref ar sut i symbylu twf a diddordeb mewn gofal ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy ddefnyddio'r newidiadau a'r cynigion ar gludiant mewn modd arloesol a chyffrous i ddenu rhieni (mewn cyd weithrediad gyda chynllun marchnata gref) i ystyried gofal ac addysg Gymraeg fel opsiwn deniadol.

Ann Angell
Ionawr 2020

www.meithrin.cymru

arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar Welsh early years specialists

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive: Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies. Elusen Gofrestredig/Registered Charity 1022320. Cwmni Cyfyngedig dan Warant/Company Limited by Guarantee 2164058. Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru/Registered in Wales



14.3.1 Letter received from Mudiad Meithrin (translated)



Y Ganolfan Integredig
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1PD

MUDIAD MEITHRIN'S RESPONSE TO THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Ann Angell, LI.B, Assoc.CIPD
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru
Regional Manager South East Wales
Mudiad Meithrin

☎ 01970 639639  



Mudiad Meithrin is a voluntary organisation and is recognised as the main provider of Welsh-medium early years care and education in the voluntary sector. Our aim is to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to access early years' services and experiences through the medium of Welsh.

The Movement nationally has approximately 200 paid staff and over 1,500 staff work in the playgroups.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Bridgend Learner Travel Arrangements consultation document which was published on 14/10/2019.

We will take the opportunity to comment on possible changes and how they will have an undesirable effect on the growth of Welsh-medium education and childcare only within the Borough.

We understand very well that the Borough is facing cuts to its budget. Because of our work with other counties in the South East region, I also know that Bridgend is currently exercising its discretion in offering free transport beyond its statutory requirements in various circumstances including for children aged 3-4 years and post-16 learners.

We note comments and raise concerns specifically in relation to the proposals below and would like the cabinet to take our views into account when making a decision concerning transport arrangements as we look to the future:

5. Proposal 1 - We welcome the bullet point that states that pupils who attend the nearest Welsh school, if the school is two miles or further from home (primary) or 3 miles or more from their home (secondary) will receive free transport, whether or not it is considered to be the nearest suitable school. Historically, children who receive Welsh-medium education are expected to travel much further on the whole than children receiving English-medium education (and that, most often, within their community). This is true of Bridgend. This proposal protects the right of children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education.
6. Proposal 3 – Change the local authority's policy for home to school transport by removing the specific examples which show the circumstances in which the local authority would provide discretionary transport. We see this proposal as an opportunity to exercise discretion in order to ensure growth and the opportunity for growth in the Welsh-medium sector.
7. Proposal 4 - Discontinue the provision of transport to learners aged 16 or over who attend school or college, apart from pupils attending a Welsh-medium school or sixth form in Bridgend....

This proposal is absolutely crucial to the growth of Welsh-medium education within the authority. We are aware of anecdotal evidence from parents that they are making decisions about their children's language of education based on the educational journey from the start and beyond age 16. By ensuring free transport for post-16 children you ensure an equal offer to children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education whatever the distance from Llangynwyd comprehensive school and whatever their economic situation. The Welsh language remains a realistic and achievable option for parents.

8. Proposal 5 – Cease to provide transport for nursery pupils (ages 3 and 4).

We believe that this proposal can have a catastrophic and far-reaching effect on the growth of Welsh Education within the county:

We understand very well the concerns over health and safety and, of course, the well-being of children must be at the heart of all transport considerations. We understand that the 3-4 year old children are currently travelling on large buses. In considering the ideal changes that can be made, we ask the cabinet to consider:

- Only 4 Welsh-medium primary schools exist within the county and, as a result, children are expected to travel beyond their communities for Welsh-medium education. I would guess that the amount we are discussing is relatively small for transport to Welsh-medium primary schools?
- Due to the demographic and geographical nature of some areas within the authority, it will not be possible for parents to convey their children for nursery education without transport and that transport being free of charge.
- Parents and children who choose Welsh-medium education should not be penalised because of Health and Safety problems. Consideration should be given to alternative options to ensure equality of opportunity.
- Changes in transport should not be considered separately from regulatory and statutory requirements on the Authority, in particular regarding the development and growth of Welsh-medium education. Now (when growth is stagnant) is not the time that proposals should be put in place that will destroy the plans of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- Give strong consideration to the way growth and interest in Welsh-medium care and education may be stimulated by using the changes and proposals on transport (in conjunction with a strong marketing plan) in an innovative and exciting manner to attract parents to consider Welsh-medium care and education as an attractive option.

Ann Angell
January 2020

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14.4 Letter received from Croesty Primary school council



Cyngor Ysgol **Croesty** School Council
Ysgol Gynradd Croesty / Croesty Primary School, Coychurch Road, Pencoed CF35 5LY

28/01/2020

Mr Robin Davies
Group Manager
Business Strategy
Bridgend County Borough Council
Bridgend

Learner Travel in Bridgend

Dear Mr Davies

Please find below our thoughts and ideas about the proposals for Learner Travel. We have written something about each of the proposals which we think might be useful to you.

Proposal 1

Five of us felt that this was a fair proposal. Getting children to walk, cycle or scoot is good for us and our environment. Two of us were worried. We can all walk to our school but when we thought about walking or cycling from Coychurch to Pencoed Comprehensive School we know that is quite far if you are going on your own. Would it be safe?

Proposal 2

We did not support this proposal. Children with special needs must always have an escort. Cerys comes to school in a special mini bus for her wheel chair. This year they don't have an escort which is ok because all the children on the bus are nice and well behaved. Last year there was a child on the bus who was badly behaved; who could get distressed and frightened the other children. That pupil had an escort to watch and keep everyone safe.

Proposal 3

We did not understand this proposal very well. We talked about what it would be like to be a looked after child who had lost their Mum and Dad and had to go and live with someone else. They might want to stay in their school where they have friends and teachers who know them. The council should pay to help keep a child like this in their school so they feel safe and feel loved.

Proposal 4

We thought that 16 year olds were able to get to college or school on their own but not everyone will have enough money to pay for the transport they need.

Proposal 5

We think nursery children are too young and small to go on a bus to school on their own. They should always have an adult with them.

Thank you for considering our ideas. We hope we have been helpful.

Yours sincerely

C.C.M. J.C. R.R. Hancak G.K. Cerys M. Kaye

Cyngor Ysgol / School Council