

from: Councillor Phyl Davies <cllr.phyl.davies@powys.gov.uk>

cc: Lynette Lovell <lynette.lovell@powys.gov.uk>,
Clive Pinney <clive.pinney@powys.gov.uk>,
Jane Thomas <jane.thomas@powys.gov.uk>,
Geraint Rees <geraint.rees3@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Pete Roberts <cllr.pete.roberts@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Rosemarie Harris <cllr.rosemarie.harris@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Aled Davies <cllr.aled.davies@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Rachel Powell <cllr.rachel.powell@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Myfanwy Catherine Alexander <cllr.myfanwy.alexander@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Iain McIntosh <cllr.iain.mcintosh@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Graham Charles Breeze <cllr.graham.breeze@powys.gov.uk>,
Councillor Heulwen Hulme <cllr.heulwen.hulme@powys.gov.uk>

date: Feb 18, 2021, 3:54 PM

subject: Clyro School parents concerned over procedure

Dear [Parent],

Thank you for your email raising your concerns about the internal consultation process at Clyro Church in Wales Primary School.

I understand your concern as a parent that the governing body's right to financial delegation has been suspended. It must be an unsettling time for all parents of children attending the school.

This is not a decision that the County Council took lightly. The County Council sees effective stewardship of the resources available to schools as underpinning the delivery of the curriculum.

In normal circumstances, the school's governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school's expenditure does not exceed the resources at their disposal, whether that's the funding provided by the authority or from other sources. It is also the governing body's responsibility to ensure that its budget and financial management complies with the Scheme for Financing Schools. As you are aware,

financial delegation was suspended as the governing body had not submitted a balanced budget to the authority (as required by the scheme for financing schools) since before 1 April 2020 and the Governing Body refused to submit a recovery plan that would bring the budget back into balance. The management board was put in place when financial delegation was suspended but its remit extends only to managing the school's finances and the scale of the staffing resources.

How those staffing resources are deployed and the configuration of classes remains a matter for the school, as long as they meet requirements for the quality of teaching and learning, staff - pupil ratios and so on and the costs are within the overall budget available to them.

You ask specifically about the internal consultation process that is now underway. This consultation process relates solely to staffing issues and is not a public consultation. The relevant policies and procedures are being followed in relation to this exercise but relate to confidential internal staffing processes and it would not be appropriate to involve parents.

I am sure you will understand that confidentiality must be maintained around any discussions and processes relating to staffing. The need to maintain confidentiality around these discussions would be exactly the same for the school and governing body in normal circumstances, as it would be for any employer.

While respecting this need to maintain confidentiality, officers will continue to work with the headteacher and the governing body to help them keep parents and the wider community informed over the next few months.

Best wishes,

Councillor Phyl Davies

**Cabinet Member Education and Property / Aelod Cabinet Addysg ac Eiddo
Powys County Council / Cyngor Sir Powys**