



Hafren C.P. School and Ladywell Green Infants School

Frequently Asked Questions

The Council is currently considering building a new primary school in Newtown to replace Hafren Junior School and Ladywell Green Infants School. This would be a two stage process:

Stage 1 – to merge Hafren Junior School and Ladywell Green Infants School to create a new primary school which would initially operate from the current buildings;

Stage 2 – to build a new primary school on the site, to replace the current poor accommodation.

The scheme is part of a wider development in Newtown, which includes ambitious plans to invest in schools and health and social care facilities in the town.

Responses are provided below to some questions you may have regarding these plans.

1. **Queries relating to the plan to merge Hafren Junior School and Ladywell Green Infants School to establish one new school in the current buildings**

Q What are the Council's plans for Hafren and Ladywell Green Schools?

A The Council would like to carry out consultation on a possible proposal to merge the two schools, to create a new primary school in the current buildings.

Q Has a decision already been made to merge the two schools?

A No. There is a lengthy legal process which local authorities are required to follow in order to make changes to school provision such as merging schools. There are a number of decision points during this process when the Council's Cabinet would need to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal to merge the two schools. No decisions have yet been made.

Q How can I let the Council know my views on this idea?

A The first stage of the process would be a consultation stage, which would provide an opportunity for all interested parties, including parents, staff, governors and pupils, to let the Council know their views on the idea of merging the two schools, and to raise any queries they have.

Q Will there be an opportunity for pupils to give their views on this?

A Yes, there will be opportunities for pupils to give their views during the consultation stage.

Q What are the timescales for the merger?

A If the Cabinet approve carrying out consultation on merging the two schools, the Council intends to carry out consultation in the autumn term 2019. If the proposal is supported by the Council's Cabinet, a new primary school could be in place, in the current buildings, by September 2021.

Q What would be the impact on my child?

A Pupils would continue to go to school in the same place as they do currently. There could be some changes in terms of staffing arrangements, however it is anticipated that the impact on pupils would be minimal. There would be benefits to children from attending one school throughout their time in primary school, avoiding the disruption to pupils when moving to a different school in Key Stage 2.

Should the Council decide to move forward with merging the two current schools, there would be a transition period of approximately one year. During this period, opportunities would be provided for the two schools to come together for joint activities, in order to ease transition to the new school and to minimise the impact of establishing a new school on pupils.

Q What would be the impact on staff?

A Should the Council proceed with merging the two schools, a temporary governing body made up of current governors at the two schools would be set up to oversee the process of establishing the new school. The temporary governing body would be responsible for agreeing a staffing structure for the new school, and staff would be appointed by the temporary governing body in accordance with the Council's Management of Change process.

It is acknowledged that this process causes a period of uncertainty for staff in particular, and opportunities will be provided throughout the process for staff to give their views on the plans and to raise any concerns.

Q What would the name of the new school be?

A Should the Council proceed with merging the two schools, a temporary governing body made up of current governors at the two schools would be set up to oversee the process of establishing the new school. The name of the new school would be determined by the temporary governing body, however in most cases, temporary governing bodies provide an opportunity for pupils and/or other stakeholders to contribute to this process.

Q Would the school uniform change?

A Possibly. School uniform would be a consideration for the temporary governing body, made up of current governors at the two schools, which would be set up to oversee the process of establishing the new school. In

most cases, temporary governing bodies provide an opportunity for pupils and/or other stakeholders to contribute to this process.

Q What would be the financial implications?

A The new school would be funded as one school in accordance with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools.

Q What would happen to early years provision?

A Any decision to merge the two schools would not directly impact the current arrangements for early years provision, which would continue as per the existing contract.

2. Queries relating to the plans for a new building in the future

Q When would there be a new building?

A The plans for a new building are at a very early stage, and it is likely to be several years until a replacement building is provided. Funding for a new school building is available until 2025/26, therefore it is expected that a new building would be developed by 2025/26 at the latest.

Q Where would the new building be located?

A At this stage it is not known where exactly on the site the school building would be located. The intention is that the new school building would be part of a multi-agency wellbeing campus, which would include other health and care services provided by a number of organisations, therefore these will also need to be considered in order to ensure that the multi-agency wellbeing campus works effectively for the benefit of all. There will be opportunities for the school to be involved in developing the plans for the site as this work goes forward.

Q How much outdoor space would the school have?

A Any new school building is built in accordance with government guidelines, therefore the space available would meet these requirements as a minimum. There will be opportunities for the school community to be involved as part of the design process as this work goes forward, and every effort will be made to maximise the outdoor space available in order to continue to provide the best possible opportunities to pupils.

Q How much parking would there be?

A Parking at the two schools is currently very limited. Any new school building is required to meet minimum standards for car parking, which would be taken into consideration when designing the school.

Q How do the plans for a new school building fit in with plans to develop health and care provision in the area?

- A This scheme is part of a wider development for north Powys, which includes ambitious plans to improve Health and Social Care services and facilities for North Powys. This development – known as the North Powys Wellbeing Programme – is being led through the Powys Regional Partnership Board, and has a vision to establish a Multi-agency Wellbeing Campus bringing together a range of services to potentially include education, health and social care services and supported accommodation, to create an intergenerational wellbeing campus.

The preferred site for this development, which would include the new build primary school, is a large site in the centre of Newtown, which includes the site where Ladywell Green and Hafren Schools are currently located, as well as the former Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd building, and other land adjacent to the site which is currently used by a number of services, including services operated by Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board.

- Q What safeguarding arrangements would be in place to ensure pupil safety as part of a multi-agency campus which members of the public would be accessing on a regular basis?**

- A Safeguarding arrangements would be a key consideration when designing the school accommodation and when considering the most suitable location for siting of the school.

3. Other queries

- Q What are the plans for the other schools in Newtown?**

- A Alongside the developments relating to Hafren and Ladywell Green Schools, the Council is also moving forward with plans for a replacement building for Ysgol Cedewain.

The Council also has plans to develop Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown, however these plans are at a very early stage. At the current time, there are no plans for any other schools in Newtown – all other schools will continue to operate as they currently do.