

**Pembrokeshire County Council  
Cyngor Sir Penfro**



**CHILDREN & SCHOOLS**

**Review of Primary Education Provision  
in Haverfordwest**

**CONSULTATION REPORT**

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Director for Children and Schools**

**May 2018**

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# Foreword

Pembrokeshire County Council is responsible for promoting high educational standards and for delivering efficient primary and secondary education. Having the right schools in the right places and ensuring that they are fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner is a challenge facing councils across Wales.

Meeting this challenge involves reviewing the number and type of school the Council has in its area and assessing whether or not best use is being made of its resources and facilities.

The Council reviews its provision on the basis of:

- Quality and future sustainability of educational provision
- Sufficiency and accessibility of school places
- The condition, suitability and standard of school buildings
- Value for money

This Consultation Report sets out the statutory consultation undertaken regarding the case for change to the primary education provision in Haverfordwest. In addition, all responses received during the consultation period are recorded, together with a summary of each of the issues raised by consultees. These are accompanied by a clarification or rejection (as appropriate) of any concerns.

Pembrokeshire County Council will consider this Consultation Report at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Kate Evan-Hughes**  
**Director for Children and Schools**

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# 1. Introduction

Pembrokeshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable school places in its area and to determine whether it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

Preliminary engagement on the future direction for primary education provision in Haverfordwest was undertaken during May and June 2016, the findings of which were reported to the County Council in December 2016. Following consideration of various matters and after consulting with the St David's Diocese, the Council approved the commencement of statutory consultation at its meeting on 14 December 2017.

The decision of Pembrokeshire County Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 was as follows:

- a) ***That the response of the Diocese of St David's be noted***
- b) ***That the Director for Children and Schools be authorised to undertake general consultation on the proposal to discontinue Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School and establish a new 3-11 community school using both current school sites and buildings – implementation to take place in January 2019.***

The subsequent statutory consultation was undertaken during the period 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

This document represents the County Council's responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to publish a Consultation Document. This document:

- Summarises each of the issues raised by consultees;
- Responds to these issues by means of clarification or rejection of the concerns with supporting reasons, and
- Sets out Estyn's view of the overall merits of the proposal.

## 2. Distribution of Consultation Report

This Consultation Report will be distributed to the following:

The Governing Bodies/Temporary Governing Bodies, Parents/Carers/Guardians and Staff of:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Airey CP</li> <li>• Haverfordwest VC</li> <li>• Fenton CP</li> <li>• Prendergast CP</li> <li>• St Marks VA</li> <li>• Mary Immaculate Catholic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Glan Cleddau</li> <li>• Portfield School</li> <li>• Sir Thomas Picton</li> <li>• Tasker Milward VC School</li> <li>• Ysgol Caer Elen</li> <li>• Haverfordwest High VC School</li> </ul>
Director of Education – Diocese of Menevia	Director of Education – The Diocese of St David’s
The Welsh Ministers	Estyn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Davies AM – Constituency</li> <li>• Simon Thomas AM – Regional</li> <li>• Joyce Watson AM – Regional</li> <li>• Eluned Morgan AM – Regional</li> <li>• Neil Hamilton AM - Regional</li> <li>• Stephen Crabb MP</li> <li>• Cllr. TD Evans (Portfield)</li> <li>• Cllr. T Tudor (Castle)</li> <li>• Cllr. L Frayling (Garth)</li> <li>• Cllr. A Tudor (Prendergast)</li> <li>• Cllr. D Bryan (Priory)</li> <li>• Cllr. J Cole (Merlin’s Bridge)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUT</li> <li>• NASUWT</li> <li>• UCAC</li> <li>• ATL</li> <li>• NAHT</li> <li>• ASCLE</li> <li>• UNISON</li> <li>• GMB</li> </ul>
ERW – Regional Education Consortium	County Council transport unit
Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner	Haverfordwest Town Council Merlin’s Bridge Community Council
Independent nursery providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Day Nurseries/Playgroups</li> <li>• Registered Childminders</li> </ul>	Childcare & Young People’s Partnership – Early Years, Childcare and Learning Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hywel Dda Health Board</li> <li>• SNAP Cymru</li> <li>• National Autistic Society</li> </ul>	Pembrokeshire Communities First
Carmarthenshire County Council	Ceredigion County Council

In addition, this report will be distributed to all consultees who have specifically requested to be advised of its availability.

## 3. Consultation Arrangements

### 3.1 General Arrangements

The Consultation Document was published on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018; this date also represented the beginning of the statutory consultation period. The consultation period ended on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. The Consultation Document was distributed / links sent to all statutory consultees listed on Page 3 of that document.

The Consultation Document was made available on the County Council's website at [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay).

### 3.2 Stakeholder Meetings

The following meetings were arranged with stakeholders:

#### Staff & Governors

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Haverfordwest VC School

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Mount Airey Nursery & Infants School

#### Community Meetings

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Pembrokeshire Archives

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Pembrokeshire Archives

#### School “Drop-in” sessions

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Mount Airey Nursery & Infants School

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Haverfordwest VC School

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Mount Airey Nursery & Infants School

### 3.3 Consultation with the Diocese of St David's

In view of the status of Haverfordwest VC School being a Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales school, consultation with the Director of Education of the Diocese of St David's has taken place. This took place prior to the publication of the Consultation Document and the decision of Council to proceed to consultation. A 28 day consultation period was allowed for this purpose.

It is the Diocese's view that *“we fully understand the educational benefits of establishing a new 3-11 school to replace the existing infant CP and Junior VC schools. Whilst we cannot actively support either proposal a) or b) neither will be formally object to the proposals...”*

## 4. Consultation Correspondence

### 4.1 Volume and Profile of Responses Received

A total of 85 responses were received via the online web link, general and “pupil-friendly” response forms, emails and letters. The breakdown is as follows:

Online web link / hard copy forms	82
Letters / emails	1
School Councils	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>

The profile of respondents is given below and reflects all descriptions given. This profile indicates respondents’ role as part of the consultation and may indicate multiple roles, e.g. parent, staff and local resident; as a result the total does not equal the total number of responses received.

	Mount Airey CP	Haverfordwest VC	Other
Pre-school parent	5	3	1
Parents	31	19	8
Staff	6	6	
Governors	6	9	1
Residents	13	10	4
No designation	21	13	3
Health/Council/other orgs.			3

### 4.2 Response from Estyn

The County Council has received a detailed response to the proposal from Estyn. Its overall conclusion of the proposal is as follows:

*“The proposer has suitably outlined the benefits and potential disadvantages of the proposal to close Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School and to open a new 3-11 school on the sites of the two predecessor schools. It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area”.*

The full response to the proposal from Estyn is attached in **APPENDIX A**.



## 5. Consultation Responses

### 5.1 General Consensus

Where respondents chose to utilise the online or hard-copy form provided, they were asked to respond to a small number of questions in order to establish which of the following statements best reflected their views. The findings are as follows:

5.1.1 *Please indicate which of the following reflects your views on the proposal: Discontinue Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School and establish a new 3-11 school using both current school sites.*

	Total	
	Number	%
<b>I do not feel strongly one way or the other</b>	12	14%
<b>I support the proposal</b>	59	72%
<b>I do not support the proposal</b>	11	14%
<b>Left blank</b>	0	
	<b>82</b>	

It is disappointing to note the relatively low response to this consultation, particularly when it is considered that the proposal potentially affects so many people. However, it is clear from the responses received that there is support for the proposal. A list of all comments received during the consultation period is attached as **APPENDIX B**. A qualitative analysis of these comments has been undertaken and this reveals a number of issues, a detailed list of which, along with the Authority's appropriate responses, are given below. The aim of the analysis has been to capture, interpret and present the public's perception in relation to the proposal as faithfully as possible. All comments have been afforded equal weighting, regardless of their source, or the extent of the content.

The correspondence received reveals a number of issues which have been raised by consultees. These reflect both support and areas of concern and are listed below.

### 5.2 Comments in support of the proposal

- The proposal is logical and is the natural progression for the two schools; feeling that pupils in separate infant and junior schools are disadvantaged when compared with others in 3-11 settings;
- The proposal will provide a greater opportunity for a better structure, with single policies across the age range and therefore improved consistency of approach towards all pupils;
- Bringing together the strengths of the two schools will create a school with high quality provision; this needs to happen the sooner the better in order to improve standards;

- A larger school will allow it to be better cope with fluctuations in funding and should be more efficient;
- Essential that the Learning Resource Centre provision is retained at the school;
- There is a need to retain the current Headteacher;
- Recognition that amalgamation will allow future investment and that a single school site would be preferable; however, any new build needs to be close to one of the existing school sites.

### 5.3 Comments against the proposal:

- The schools are fine as they are – no need to change and see no sense in the proposal; spend the money on improving the current schools;
- It would be sensible to include Fenton in the proposal as well – a new school on one site.
- Schools should remain separate until a new build on a single site is assured;
- The decline in behaviour at Mount Airey is due to the Headteacher having oversight over two schools – a school cannot thrive without the presence of a Headteacher at all times;
- Unhappy at the thought of children being “shipped” from one site to the other for school events.

### 5.4 Alternative options provided

- Retain the status quo and use funding to improve the existing schools;
- Close Haverfordwest VC school and extend the age range of Mount Airey CP to 3-11;
- If the Sir Thomas Picton School site is utilised for the purpose of Haverfordwest High VC School, build a new primary school on the Tasker Milward site;
- Extend Mount Airey CP and use as a single site;
- Retain the status quo until a new school is built;
- Retain the status quo but appoint a new Headteacher for Haverfordwest VC School.

Concerns / Comments	Authority Response to Concerns Raised
Essential that the Learning Resource Centre provision is retained at the school.	The new school will have a county-led Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for pupils with complex needs and will be established with up to 18 places. The Council will be the Admissions Authority for the LRC; however, clear admission criteria for the LRC will be agreed with the school in order to determine the appropriateness of the resource provision for particular pupils with ALN.
There is a need to retain the current Headteacher.	The staffing of the proposed new school is the responsibility of the temporary governing body (TGB). If the proposal is approved, a TGB will be appointed and one of its first duties will

Concerns / Comments	Authority Response to Concerns Raised
	be to determine its arrangements for the appointment of a headteacher.
Recognition that amalgamation will allow future investment and that a single school site would be preferable; however, any new build needs to be close to one of the existing school sites.	It is acknowledged that a single site school is preferable and the proposal can be seen as the first necessary step towards future investment. It is also recognised that a new school would need to be sited appropriately in relation to the catchment area it is intended to serve. Appropriate site options will be considered in detail as part of the development of any subsequent business case.
Keep the status quo – see no sense in the proposal.	The Case for Change for the proposal is outlined in Para. 5.1.1 of the Consultation Document.
It would have been sensible to include Fenton CP School in the proposal.	The inclusion of Fenton CP School as part of the proposal has previously been considered by Council Members but has been dismissed.
Schools should remain separate until a new build on a single site is assured. The money to be spent on building a new school should be sent on improving the current schools.	<p>Both schools already enjoy significant collaboration as a result of the executive headship arrangements. The proposal will build on this and will result in a single 3-11 community school entity.</p> <p>Capital investment in relation to the new school entity will be dependent upon the submission and approval of a detailed business case which will need to clearly justify such investment. Improving the condition of the current school sites is likely to be one of the options considered as part of this process.</p>
The decline in behaviour at Mount Airey is due to the Headteacher having oversight over two schools – a school cannot thrive without the presence of a Headteacher at all times.	<p>This matter is adequately covered in the report following Estyn’s inspection of the school in October 2017; this is described as follows: “...a lack of consistent high expectations of behaviour across all classes has resulted in frequent low-level disruption amongst a few Year 1 and 2 pupils that has a negative impact on the learning of others”.</p> <p>The school is receiving support from regional and Local Authority officers to improve behaviour and to ensure that it has appropriate policies and procedures to assist the school in dealing with behaviours that challenge.</p>
Close Haverfordwest VC School and extend the age range of Mount Airey from 3-7 to 3-11.	This alternative was considered as part of the development of the proposal and, together with the reasons for not pursuing, are outlined in Section 8 of the Consultation Document.

## 5.5 Issues raised by Estyn

Whilst Estyn's opinion of the proposal is shown at Para. 4.2, a number of supplementary comments are made.

Concerns / Comments	Authority Response to Concerns Raised
<p>The proposer has demonstrated that projected numbers by 2022 will still leave the new school with over 100 surplus places.</p>	<p>The Council is unable to address surplus places at the new school unless capital investment is available. However, there are significant pressures on places at other community schools in Haverfordwest and the creation of a single 3-11 primary school, albeit on two sites, will assist in being able to offer to parents an alternative school.</p>
<p>The proposer has also noted that the condition of both Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School is poor and that the proposal does not include any additional funding to improve the condition of these buildings. The proposer is hopeful that the proposed new school will attract Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century School funding but this is not guaranteed.</p>	<p>The Council is unable to address the condition of Mount Airey and Haverfordwest VC school sites unless capital investment is available. As stated in the Consultation Document, a new Haverfordwest primary school is included in the Council's Strategic Outline Programme for Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, but funding is dependent upon the submission and subsequent approval of detailed business cases.</p>
<p>The proposal outlines that there are projected deficit budgets for both existing schools at the end of the 2017/18 financial year. The proposer has not considered well enough the very tight timescales for opening the new school and putting in place a new leadership and staffing structure or how interim arrangements may affect the school's budget in the short and medium term.</p>	<p>The Local Authority's Finance Officers are working with both schools to support their financial management to ensure that the schools return to running balanced budgets. Only one school ended the last financial year (2017/18) with a deficit balance but which was significantly reduced compared to predictions. In both settings this has involved a review of staffing and implementing a staff restructuring process. In relation to the leadership and staffing structure of the new school this will be for the temporary governing body to agree and appoint. Local Authority officers will support the school through this process and ensure that an appropriate staffing structure including leadership is implemented to provide financial stability moving forward.</p>
<p>The proposer has provided tables of performance data for the end of foundation phase and key stage 2 for 2017. The tables provide information of the schools' performance against the average for the family of schools, the local authority and Wales. However, there is little analysis of the information provided in the tables.</p>	<p>The performance of Haverfordwest VC School has been well below the performance for similar schools for the last six years. The school was placed in special measures in the spring of 2016. They have been removed from this category of follow-up by Estyn on the strength of improvements in standards, provision and leadership. Performance at Mount Airey has also been below the median for similar schools in the past two years. It is important to acknowledge that the school does have a local authority learning resource centre which will impact on reported outcomes. However, the recent inspection of the school highlighted the need to raise pupil attainment in literacy and numeracy along with improving the quality of teaching and leadership. The targets for performance are based on the need to improve attainment in key indicators to match the median for</p>

<b>Concerns / Comments</b>	<b>Authority Response to Concerns Raised</b>
	similar schools and over time to improve relative performance to be above the median.
The proposer does not comment on the outcomes of the latest Section 50 inspection for Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School.	The school had a Section 50 inspection in March 2016 which judged the school's provision to be unsatisfactory in most areas. The officers from the Diocese of St David's have subsequently monitored the school's provision through visits by a range of officers from the Diocese and have recognized that strong progress has been made in provision in those areas identified as unsatisfactory.

# APPENDIX A

## **Estyn response to Review of Primary Education Provision in Haverfordwest**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

### **Summary / Conclusion**

The proposer has suitably outlined the benefits and potential disadvantages of the proposal to close Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School and to open a new 3 to 11 school on the sites of the two predecessor schools. It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The proposal is to close Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School and to open a new 3 to 11 school using both of the existing school sites.

The proposal will maintain the capacity of the existing schools. The proposal also includes a commitment to continue learning resource provision for up to 18 pupils in the new school.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposal and has outlined the benefits they attribute to providing all through primary provision for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years of age. The proposer has appropriately considered the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo. For example, it has demonstrated that the existing arrangements of having an executive headteacher for the two current schools has improved collaboration and joint working practices of the two existing staff bodies. However, the proposer has demonstrated that projected numbers by 2022 will still leave the new school with over 100 surplus places. The proposer has also noted that the condition of both Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School is poor and that the proposal does not include any additional funding to improve the condition of these buildings. The proposer is

hopeful that the proposed new school will attract Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century School funding but this is not guaranteed.

The proposal outlines that there are projected deficit budgets for both existing schools at the end of the 2017/2018 financial year. The proposer has not considered well enough the very tight timescales for opening the new school and putting in place a new leadership and staffing structure or how interim arrangements may affect the school's budget in the short and medium term.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact on other schools in the area that may be affected by the proposals. It has outlined how the catchment area of St Mark's Church in Wales VA School will be extended to include the current catchment areas of Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School. This means that parents will still have the option of sending their child to a faith school within their catchment area.

The proposer has considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements. It intends to continue to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy. The proposer has completed an initial equality impact assessment that concluded that the proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. The proposer also considers the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language and reasonably concludes that there will be no negative impact on the Welsh language or Welsh medium provision in the area.

#### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer has provided tables of performance data for the end of foundation phase and key stage 2 for 2017. The tables provide information of the schools' performance against the average for the family of schools, the local authority and Wales. However, there is little analysis of the information provided in the tables. The tables show that in all indicators both schools perform below the averages for their family of schools, the local authority and Wales. The provider considers appropriately that there should be no adverse effect on the progress and wellbeing of pupils with additional learning needs. Over the past three years, the local consortium has moved Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School from the green, to the yellow and now to the amber colour coded support category that indicates that the school is in need of improvement. The local consortium placed Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School in the red colour coded support category in 2016 but in the amber colour coded support category for 2017. This indicates that the school is in need of improvement but that the school has moved from the most intensive support category. The proposer also appropriately considered the most recent Estyn inspections. Mount Airey Nursery and Infant School was inspected in October 2017. The school was judged as needing a further review by Estyn, as standards, teaching and learning experiences and leadership were all judged as adequate and in need of improvement. Estyn will review the school's progress against its recommendations in 2018. Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School was last inspected by Estyn in February 2016 and was placed in the statutory category of requiring special measures. Inspectors made five further visits to the school and removed it from the list of schools requiring special measures in

December 2017. The proposer does not comment on the outcomes of the latest Section 50 inspection for Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC Junior School.

The proposer has suitably outlined that the proposal will likely enhance the quality of teaching and learning and facilitate the better sharing of resources and practice.


Review of Primary Education Provision in Haverfordwest

Correspondence received as part of statutory consultation

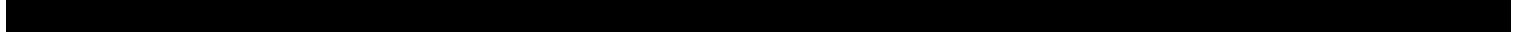
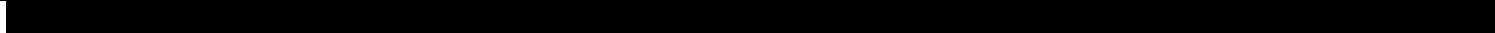
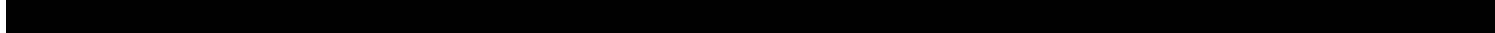
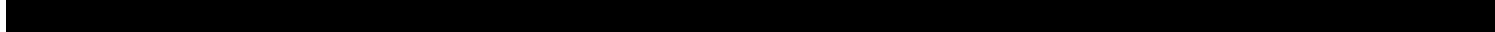
Ref.	Comments
1	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i></p>
2	<p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>            A better solution would be to close Haverfordwest VC and make Mount Airey a through school but if this cannot be a proposal I support the closure of both and establishment of a new through school.</p>
3	<p>I feel that under the current situation pupils are disadvantaged compared to others in the town who have continuity within their education from the age of 3-11. Also as the Headteacher of both schools is currently the same person, the new proposal would give greater structure to the two schools and formalise it's policies etc.</p>
4	<p>Recent mount airey inspection sited the decline in behaviour was down to the fact the Headteacher was overseeing both schools - this option isn't going to solve that.</p>
5	<p>The schools are running just fine as they are and the children are happy. Why make unnecessary changes.</p>
6	<p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>            If Taskers and Sir Thomas Picton move up to the STP site, mount airey should move to the Taskers site and open a 3-11 school there instead of being split between Augustine way and barn street.</p>
7	<p>I think the proposal makes sense.</p>
8	<p>I can see no benefit to this other than you as a Council only paying for one Headteacher to try and manage across both sites.</p> <p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>            Leave the schools as they are existing. Mount Airey is already a feeder school to Haverfordwest VC.</p>
9	<p>Personally I cannot see the merit in discontinuing both the VC school and Mount Airey just to reuse the same 2 sites. Although I am in favour of children attending 1 school (site) from 3 - 11, I only see this as a rebranding exercise and feel that the funds could be better spent elsewhere. For example recruiting teachers on long term contracts rather short, my son has had 4 different teachers in less than 2 years of attending Mount Airey. This is in no way a slur upon the teaching staff at</p>

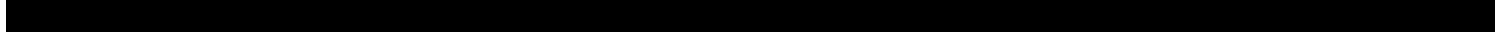


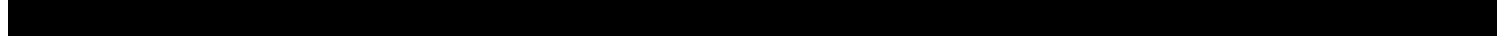
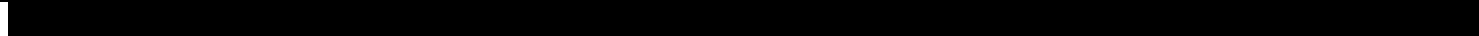

	<p>Mount Airey it's just I feel that at such a young age and just starting school consistency and familiarity is key to a productive, enjoyable education. Also the funds could be spent on improving learning facilities, i.e. books, computers, tablets etc. May I also add that I feel the current teaching staff at Mount Airey provide an excellent service and my son looks forward to school every single day.</p> <p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>  Leave the school set up as it is. Spend the equivalent funds on improving the current schools rather than what appears to be an expensive and unnecessary rebrand. Or if the council is determined to discontinue both schools, build a new school on a single site to accommodate both aforementioned schools.</p>
10	Yes, brilliant proposal provided Mrs O'brien keeps being head and the schools keep both deputy heads.
12	<p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>  I agree with the new 3-11 school proposal. but is the long term aim to relocate/ rebuild both run down schools in the long term?</p>
14	It seems that this is the natural progression for both schools. It will mean more consistency between the 2 schools, children feeling a more natural transition to the junior building if it's the same school. Having the same head teacher at both school buildings, who has a clear vision of the amalgamation and development/progression of the foundation phase through to the end of key stage 2.
15	The proposal provides for a 3 - 11 school with strong leadership and staff. Two sites is not ideal and the plan to build a new school would be advantageous. The Tasker Milward site might be available in the future and is close to Portfield Special School - large Primary site - make transport easier, plenty of room for expansion.
17	I think it'll help consistency having one name and uniform across both sites.
18	Keep Mrs O'brien!
20	It's the next logical step. Existing working arrangements seem to be working well.
21	the sooner the better to help improve educational standards.
22	I am a grandparent who regularly takes my grandchild to school both my own children attended both schools and while it would be sad to lose the school identities I do understand the need for change facilities at V.C school have always been poor.

	I feel it is important to look to the future and hopefully achieve new facilities on one site. I hope this will be achieved sooner rather than later.
24	I think it is a great idea.
29	 (comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)
30	Mount Airey school and Haverfordwest VC school have always been closely associated with each other, so it makes sense for them to be united as one school.  (Suggested alternative) The Consultation states that to enlarge one school and to use it as a new combined school would be seen as showing preference to one school over the other, but surely it would be preferable to keep all the pupils together on one site. Mount Airey could be extended by building up and using the first floor for classrooms for the older children. It is a newer building than Haverfordwest VC school with bigger and more modern, lighter rooms.
31	I am in support of the proposal.
32	As a Governing Body we fully support the proposal.
33	I prefer the set up the way it is now, very rarely do mergers benefit the majority. Something always has to suffer, I fear that will be the pupils and staff.  (Suggested alternative) Improve and invest in existing schools, staff and facilities.
34	I don't think that a school can thrive without the presence of a Head Teacher at all times. I have seen standards slip a great deal in schools that have become academies because the Head has far too much to do and is not present in any one school full time. This is apparent in the Estyn reports. While the Head of Mt. Airey has been at V.C, the V.C school's governance improved whilst it declined as stated in Mt. Airey's Estyn report. Staff and pupils need a Head Teacher present full-time as when leadership is strong, the school is strong. I also would not be comfortable with my child being shipped from one site to another whenever there are school events, for instance.

	<p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>  Hire a Head Teacher for V.C school! There can be a partnership between both schools and the Head can help to train the new Head Teacher.</p>
35	I think the proposals are a good idea and will allow future investment in our schools.
36	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i></p>
37	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i></p>
38	I think that Mount Airey is a fantastic school, my daughter has progressed fantastically. Two schools to one would be a great idea.
39	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i></p>
40	Sounds like a good idea.
42	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i></p>
44	<p>As long as the education of my child is met to a high standard I do not mind which building it is in. However, having attended both schools Mount Airey + Haverfordwest VC myself I am upset at the prospect these buildings may be demolished/unused in the future.</p> <p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i>  To invest in the buildings, which are characters in the community, to bring them up to standard.</p>
45	<p>To join both school as a whole is more efficient, due to staff, knowing all pupils. Use what we have, instead of using more monies to build new. I have other concerns with regards to funding two sites. The running costs.</p> <p><i>(Suggested alternative)</i></p>

	Add cabins to Mount Airey site for our primary. So then just one site to lower overheads etc. Due to space and play ground area's this may not be viable.
46	I think it makes sense for Mount Airey and VC to become one.
47	I assume the amalgamation will go ahead regardless of the public opinion: In that case 1) Mrs O'Brien should remain Head of the new school. 2) There should be no further staff changes; the high staff turnover is a definite negative point of the two schools. 3) If a new uniform is introduced it should be over at least 2 years - and this promise should not be reneged on as appears to be the case at the new secondary school. 4) The school should remain in 2 buildings. I have a child in both schools and it is lovely when they do combined activities but on a day-to-day basis I appreciate that MA is an INFANT school. I personally prefer the younger children being in a separate school, and also the consequent smaller school size. This is the only remaining school in Haverfordwest with a separate infant school. If I wanted my children in a 3-11 school (which would certainly make pick ups/drop offs easier) I would have applied to Fenton or Prendergast. I wanted the separate Infant and Junior option, and I think that this should remain available.
48	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
49	AS LONG AS THE SCHOOL IS RUN BY CONSTANT WELL TRAINED STAFF AND KEPT ORGANISED IT WILL BE A GOOD PLAN.
50	AS LONG AS IT BENEFITS CHILDRENS EDUCATION
51	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
52	The schools are already operating in this way for all purposes. I do not agree with a new 'strict' uniform code. Mainly looking for improved buildings + staffing ratios.
53	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
54	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
55	There is no point merging the 2 schools as both schools will still be on different sites would be better to wait till a new school is built before anything happens parents will still have to get children to 2 different schools.

	<i>(Suggested alternative)</i> Keep the 2 schools separate until a new school is built then merge
56	It would be good if the schools were together on one site
57	No reason due to already being the same school in my opinion.
58	I think bringing 2 great schools together will make it a super school.
59	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
60	Amalgamation of Mount Airey and Haverfordwest VC Schools would enable the strengths present in the existing separate schools to be combined to deliver high quality provision in one school. Amalgamation would also create opportunities for better social development and interaction with a wider range of age groups for children, including older pupils providing pastoral care for younger children. This amalgamated school would simplify communication between school and parents, especially for parents with children in both schools. As school budgets are based mainly on the number of children in a school, if these fluctuate from year to year, it could cause instability and lead to shortage of funding with a possible knock-on effect of job losses etc. This is often worse for smaller schools. Bigger schools are often better able to cope with these fluctuations. Having said that it is for the educational benefits that I support the amalgamation of these two schools.
61	Mount Airy primary school is an assessment unit for those pupils with complex/educational/health needs. We support the proposal with the proviso that the provision for assessment for pupils continues in the same/similar format within the proposed merger.
62	Would love to see both schools joined together in a larger school for the 2 schools to come together. I know already both schools work well as they are and both would do better been joined together to make a larger school. Keeping all the staff at they're jobs would benefit to.  <i>(Suggested alternative)</i> Leave the s Jools as they are.
63	I think this has been a long time coming. I think overall it's good for Haverfordwest and especially the children.
64	Is there going to be a junior Irc to help with progression from mount airey Irc?????

65	Mount Airey is already a feeder school for VC so would make sense to combine the 2 schools.
70	This is the preferred option; combining the schools with Fenton is a terrible proposition. The current headteacher should continue and the schools be brought together in their ethos more closely.
73	Having a child in both schools I feel this would be a great idea.
75	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
76	I support the proposal as my 2 children are going be at 2 different schools and going be hard to do 2 runs.
77	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
78	Would prefer a new school on one site; will plan moving my children at the end of Mount Airey  <i>(Suggested alternative)</i> New build - move to new school
79	Mount Airey is a great school so would be a shame to lose it altogether.  <i>(Suggested alternative)</i> Keep Mount Airey and VC School as is.
80	 <i>(comments redacted for the purposes of this document - respondent does not want their comments to be made publically available)</i>
81	It is high time the children of Haverfordwest were given the education they deserve and that the staff of both schools want to provide. Provision seems to vary widely ftom school to school as new schools are built and old ones left to become delapidated and unsafe. This needs adequate funding and provision and, it is hoped, will be achieved by merging the two schools to enable future application for 21st century schools funding.
82	Haverfordwest Town Council support the amalgamation of Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School subject to the current number of staff being maintained or increased.
MAH1	I write on behalf of the Governing Body of St Mark's VA School.

	<p>The Governing Body are in agreement that they support the proposal to discontinue Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School and establish a new 3-11 school using both current school sites.</p> <p>The Governing Body acknowledge that the Diocese of St David’s has been consulted as this would mean the closure of a VC school and that the Diocese neither supports nor objects to the proposal.</p> <p>The Governing Body noted that the proposal would mean a change in the catchment area for St Mark’s VA School, the catchment area will be extended to encompass the current area for Mount Airey and Haverfordwest VC schools so that parents who wish their children to receive an education of designated religious character (Church in Wales) may apply to St Mark’s School. The Governing Body are in agreement that the catchment area for St Mark’s VA School should be extended to cover the current area for Mount Airey and Haverfordwest VC School. However the Governing Body of St Mark’s VA School feel that this would be an ideal opportunity to broaden in the catchment area for St Mark’s School to effectively serve the whole of Haverfordwest, in line with the existing catchment area for Mary Immaculate RC School. Families in Haverfordwest should have an equal opportunity to apply for an education for the children in a Roman Catholic school or a Church in Wales school.</p> <p>The Governing Body at St Mark’s VA School also noted the discrepancy between the respective Admission Numbers at Mount Airey CP School (58) and Haverfordwest VC School (39) and the proposed admission number of the amalgamated school (46). The Governing Body also noted the high number of spare places at both the existing schools and the proposed amalgamated school.</p> <p>Finally the Governing Body expressed concern regarding access to both sites, which is already restricted and this could be exacerbated if pupil numbers at either site were to increase considerably.</p>
MAH2	<p>Pupils were asked their opinions on the proposal to discontinue Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School and establish a new 3-11 school using both current school sites.</p> <p><b>School Council views on the proposal:</b></p> <p>The Children &amp; Young People’s Rights Officer met with 9 members of the Mount Airey School Council. We discussed the proposal and pupil views were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it’s a good idea</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can share their toys when we move to VC</li> <li>• Our houses might get knocked down</li> <li>• We can see our friends in VC</li> <li>• It's a good idea because we can make new friends</li> <li>• You can play with new friends in VC</li> </ul> <p><b>School Council vote:</b></p> <p>I agree with the proposal – 5 votes  I do not agree with the proposal – 1 vote  I do not feel strongly one way or the other – 3 votes</p>
MAH3	<p>Pupils were asked their opinions on the proposal to discontinue Mount Airey Nursery and Infants School and Haverfordwest Church in Wales VC School and establish a new 3-11 school using both current school sites.</p> <p><b>School Council views on the proposal:</b></p> <p>The Children &amp; Young People's Rights Officer met with 8 members of Haverfordwest VC School Council. We discussed the proposal and pupil views were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When people are moving up to the VC it will mean that they can stay with their friends, instead of friends going to other schools in the area when they leave Mt Airey</li> <li>• One uniform for the new school will be a good idea, as it will save parents money</li> <li>• I like the school the way it is</li> <li>• Would the school name change? If yes, we'd like to be involved in this and design a new logo.</li> <li>• Pupils agreed that one set of governors would be better.</li> <li>• Pupils said that they would like the proposal to go ahead so Mrs O'Brien can be their headteacher.</li> </ul> <p><b>School Council vote:</b></p> <p>I agree with the proposal – 5 votes</p>



I do not agree with the proposal – 3 votes  
I do not feel strongly one way or the other – 0 votes

**School council members had discussed the proposal before this consultation, and also asked their classes for their views on the proposal.**

Of written responses, there were in total 34 in favour of the proposal and 12 against.

Written pupil views were also provided from classes as follows:

- *Mt Airey should be put together with VC because my brothers are there*
- *This is the best school ever*
- *I like it the way it is*
- *We should, because we can see people in Mt Airey*
- *It wouldn't be a good idea because the infants might think they're VC*
- *We should because it is more fun to play with new friends*
- *They shouldn't because I don't know anyone there*
- *I think it would be nice*
- *We should because it will be fun and we can make new friends*
- *We should do it, it will be fun*
- *It's a good idea*
- *We should because the parents will have to go to one school*
- *Yes because I really like Mt Airey*
- *It is a good idea because we can make new friends*
- *I think it should go ahead because just in case somebody is getting bullied, the school can sort it out with them to make new friends, and the younger ones can look up to somebody more mature*
- *I think it is a good idea. It will be easier for the adults*
- *I think it is a good idea because I felt scared moving up to junior and one big school would be better*
- *It is a good idea because they get to stay together for longer because they will still be in the same school*
- *Negative – it's too complicated and most likely is never going to happen*
- *I think the school should stay the same because Mt Airey should know what it's like to move up*

- *I think it's a great idea because it makes Yr 3, 4, 5 and 6 look all grown up and it is easier for uniforms because they will all be the same, and as one school we might do more with Mt Airey*
- *Good idea because it will be good that the Year 2 can stay with their friends when they go up*
- *Yes I think they should be combined because we can help them if they are sad, and we can help them learn more*
- *I think it is good because little ones can just go up instead of changing school*
- *I tink it is a good idea so the little ones can look up to the olders*
- *Good idea because it is more easier for the infants to adjust*
- *Good idea because the parents should walk one way instead of walking 10 min to Mt Airey*
- *I think Mt Airey and VC should be combined because we could do more working together and younger siblings can see their older brothers and sisters*
- *Good idea! I think it's a good idea to combine the schools as the older pupils can take care of the young*
- *I think it should go forward because both schools have the same headteacher and it would be easier*
- *I tink it's a bad idea because I like how the 2 schools are separate. And it is more hard work*
- *I think this is a very bad idea because you feel more grown up when you move to a new school*
- *It's good because there will be more people in this school*
- *We will not have enough PE equipment*
- *The teachers will have an extra pair of hands*