

APPENDIX 4

Session held at Abertillery Learning Community with Pupil representation from the Senedd

Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 10am – 11am

17 pupils and 4 school support staff present

Questions asked by Primary aged pupils	Councils Comments
Why are changes being made?	There are too many unused primary school places across Abertillery Learning Community (primary phase), which impacts the overall budget of the Learning Community.
Why is Roseheyworth Road specifically being considered for closure?	This campus currently has the lowest number of pupils and those pupils can be accommodated within the other two primary campuses. It is also the oldest of the primary school sites.
Will Year 6 pupils be affected?	No. Year 6 pupils will transfer to the Alma Street Secondary Campus in September 2026 as planned.
How will transport be managed and is it safe?	Pupils living more than 1.5 miles from the campus they attend will be eligible for home-to-school transport. Discussions are also taking place about discretionary transport arrangements.
If Roseheyworth Road closes, what will happen to the site?	If the campus closes as part of this proposal, the site will remain within the Council's Education portfolio. An options exercise would be undertaken to assess where the need for the building may be greatest within education provision.
Why spend money on Roseheyworth Road now if it might close?	The Council has a statutory duty to maintain school buildings. Any required works will not be funded from the Abertillery Learning Community budget.
Could pupils from other schools be moved to Roseheyworth Road to save it?	No, The Abertillery Learning Community (ALC) is one school with one budget, so moving pupils between its campuses doesn't save money, it still costs the same to run the buildings. Taking children from other schools isn't possible either because those schools need their own pupils and families usually go to nearby schools due to parental choice. If there aren't enough children, keeping extra buildings open uses money that could be better spent on learning.
How will you ensure class numbers do not become too big?	Welsh Government set policy on the number of pupils in a class should be no larger than 30 pupils.
How will children who struggle with change be supported?	Good question. If the proposal goes ahead, Abertillery Learning Community will put clear transition arrangements in place for September 2027 and will work closely, wherever possible, with parents and children to support a smooth move between campuses and minimise any disruption.
How will the car park and traffic management problems be handled?	If the plan goes ahead, the school and council will look at parking and traffic before September 2027.

	The aim is to make sure pupils and families can get in and out safely and calmly, addressing potential concerns that could arise.
Will teachers and resources move to Tillery Street and Six Bells campuses?	Where possible this will be the case, nothing has been reviewed yet as the decision is not final. Organisation Development in the Council will support staff and the school through the process. However, we can be sure that any resources will move within the Abertillery Learning Communities campuses.
Will pupils be moved automatically or given a choice?	This would be managed by Abertillery Learning Community. As with transition into the secondary campus, the school would work with parents and pupils to support arrangements and address concerns.
Will Six Bells and Tillery Street campus require construction to fit more pupils?	Both campuses are currently under capacity and have sufficient space to accommodate pupils from Roseheyworth Road. Some minor alterations to internal spaces may be required, but no major building extensions are needed.
What happens to Roseheyworth Road resources and saved money?	Resources will remain within Abertillery Learning Community campuses, with surplus items offered to other local schools where appropriate. Any financial savings would remain within the ALC budget and be reinvested for the benefit of pupils. Funding is based on pupil numbers and is not returned to the Council.
What are the plans to support the local community?	The school building will remain in the Education portfolio, for future use. There are no plans to sell for housing developments. Community links are important, further investigations would need to be undertaken should the Campus close.
What happens to younger learners (Under 5s) regarding transport?	Good question, this will be a priority for consideration if the proposal is approved, arrangements and further talks between the school and Council will take place to support transport for families and children.
Economically this makes sense, but what about Wellbeing and ALN?	Wellbeing and Additional Learning Needs for any pupil within the Abertillery Learning Community will still be met, wherever the pupils are within the Learning Community.
Could catchment areas be altered to bring in more families?	Good question, Roseheyworth Road is part of the Abertillery Learning Community, so the internal catchment area is set by the school, as pupil numbers are falling it is not possible to change a neighbouring catchment area.
How will staff facing redundancy be supported?	As mentioned above the Council's Organisational Development department will support the school and staff facing potential redundancy, should the proposal be agreed. This will happen in the transition period between September 2026 and September 2027 when the proposal would be implemented.

Alma Street Campus Questions Year 7 + Year 8	Council responses:
Are they going to extend Six Bells and Tillery Steet campus to accommodate the extra numbers? Are there any other future plans to develop these sites?	Both campuses are under capacity and can accommodate additional learners without the need for extensions. Some minor internal alterations may be required.
Is there going to be another school built on this site like happened with Queen St and Bryngwyn?	Those sites were transferred out of the Education portfolio and sold in 2019 and 2022. Roseheyworth Road would remain in the Education portfolio and there are no plans to build another school there.
Would there be support in terms of transport and for those who live in 'the avenues' it limits the number of pupils walking to school.	The Council would consider additional transport support for families living more than 1.5 miles from their allocated campus. The proposal is currently at consultation stage and transport scoping is based on addresses rather than individual pupils.
What are the plans to support the local community and the local area if Roseheyworth Road is closed?	The building will remain in the Education portfolio, for future use. There are no plans to sell for housing developments. Community links are important, further investigations would need to be undertaken to see what the needs other than education provision are required.
Staffing? Are they going to provide them with a job in one of the other campuses?	If the proposal is agreed, the Council's Organisational Development department would support the school and any staff affected during the transition period between September 2026 and September 2027.
Is there a traffic management plan?	All schools have a traffic management plan; there is a commitment from the Council to review its safe routes to schools and traffic around the campuses.

Alma Street Campus Questions Year 9	Council responses:
What are the plans to support the local community and the local area if Roseheyworth Road campus is closed?	The site would remain within the Education portfolio and there are no plans to sell it for housing. Community links are important and future needs beyond education would be explored.
If there are more children attending these schools what will they do to reduce traffic congestion.	Traffic arrangements would be reviewed. While both campuses are already busy, they have the capacity to manage additional pupils and travel needs.
Staffing? Are they going to provide them with a job in one of the other campuses?	Traffic arrangements would be reviewed. While both campuses are already busy, they have the capacity to manage additional pupils and travel needs.

Alma Street Campus Questions Year 10	Council responses:
Economically can understand that it makes sense to close the Roseheyworth Road campus.	This reflects the financial context outlined by the Council.

Concerns around friendship groups and the divide in the ability.	The school understands concerns about friendships and different abilities. Staff will help pupils keep friendships where possible and make sure everyone gets the support they need, so all pupils can learn and feel included.
If there was a concern with class sizes in Roseheyworth Road campus why didn't they begin to try to increase pupils attending this campus.	Pupil numbers have been monitored for several years and are predicted to continue falling due to reduced birth rates, from around 725 pupils in 2026/27 to around 620 by 2031/32.
What will happen to the staff at Roseheyworth Road campus?	The Council's Organisational Development department would support any staff affected during the transition period if the proposal is approved.
Does this affect the flying start provision at Roseheyworth Road campus?	The private childcare provider Mini-Me, based on the Roseheyworth Road Campus, would be supported by education staff and the Flying Start childcare team if the proposal proceeds.
Will the teaching assistant jobs be safe?	Some teaching assistants may move with pupils to other campuses. The Organisational Development department would support any staff affected should the proposal be agreed.

Alma Street Campus Questions Year 11	Council responses:
What number of children are going to Tillery Street and Six Bells campuses per year group? How are they going to be merged with some years groups having more than others in?	A detailed exercise would be undertaken by Abertillery Learning Community if the proposal is approved. Class sizes will not exceed 30 pupils in line with Welsh Government policy.
Why is there such little students in Roseheyworth road campus in the beginning?	Admissions are managed internally by Abertillery Learning Community, and falling numbers are linked to declining birth rates across Blaenau Gwent as well as local trends.
Y11 feel that there is downside to either decision, the numbers are low in Roseheyworth Road however can the other campuses handle the increase in classes?	Six Bells and Tillery Street campuses are both under capacity and able to accommodate additional pupils. Surplus places exist across all primary sites, not just Roseheyworth Road.
Y11 commented on the need for an enhanced transition to help those settle from a Teaching and Learning perspective.	The Learning Community would apply the same principles used for Year 6 to Year 7 transition. Clear arrangements would be in place, with close work between teachers, parents and pupils to ensure continuity and quality of teaching and learning.
Is the proposal primarily intended to achieve cost savings from the closure of the Roseheyworth Road Campus? If savings are made, how would any resulting financial efficiencies be used, and would they be reinvested to benefit Abertillery Learning Community and its other campuses?	This proposal is not just about saving money. It is about ensuring pupils learn in the best environment and that resources are used effectively. Any savings would remain within Abertillery Learning Community and be reinvested to support pupils, staff, teaching and school buildings. The money would not be removed from the school.