

Appendix 10 Children and Young peoples response to the Abertillery Learning Community – reduction of primary phase places Consultation analysis via Survey

Number of respondents 40

- 40 Pupil responses 30 do not supports the proposal, 6 partially support the proposal 4 support the proposal.

Number of respondents via survey 40 out of which:

- 30 do not support the proposal
- 4 partially supported the proposal
- 6 support the proposal

Out of the 40 respondents via the survey:

Comments from respondents that do not support the proposal:

- I think its stupid and outright cruel to shut down the school, there are people who can't go anywhere else and the council has lied to us saying that the other schools have enough room for more students when they don't, they have also planned this for 10 years and kepted us in the dark for years and they act like *** and the only reason Roseheyworth school has the lowest pupil counts is because the council sent them to other schools like ***** . SAVE OUR SCHOOL!!!
- I have made most of my friends here and i would be split up with them also i have been to this school for most of my life and would be very upset for it to close
- I think that this is going to destroy what some of us grew up in and are growing up in, the children will have to find new routines and stress with all of the new changes and friends. Parents will also have to change their schedules for their children's sake, possibly wake up earlier and aloof other key factors. Too many to fill into this little comment.
- I don't want my friends to lose their school. I love my school. I am sure they love their school too.
- I think the council should invest in my future.
- When i started school in nursery, i struggled because I hadnt been before and missed my mam and dad. Its been so much better now i know my teachers and friends and i dont feel scared anymore, i know im safe at school and I feel excited to go to school to see my teachers and friends each day. My mam and dad sat me down to tell me about your proposal because i heard other children talking in school and I cant stop thinking about the school closing down. I think about it the most at bedtime and ive got upset when my mam cant answer me why you want to do it. Its taken a long time for me to go to sleep some nights. I keep asking mam if my teachers will be coming to my new school and which of my friends will come with me. Mam said she cant answer this because she doesnt know and it upsets me. When i think of a new school, it is scary. Its not my teacher and all my friends, it isnt my classroom, my playground and my school gates. Its something very different to what im used to and i already dont like it because i like all those things i have already at roseheyworth. We walk to school some days and i love looking for rabbits on the field by school and i like looking at the flowers I helped my teachers to plant. Our school is lovely, i think it should stay open because me and my class are happy there. I want to stay with all of my friends and mam said you want to put some in one school and some in another. That isnt fair. We are all friends, I think its mean of you to split us all up.
- We do not need a lot of schools in Abertillery we have like the community schools like six bells
- Don't close the school. It makes me feel so sad as we have such a lovely school with the best teachers and ive made the best friends. If only some of my friends are in the new

school you talk of putting me, im so upset that the others will be in a different school as we have all been together since mini me's. I have recently done some planting at our school and i have loved looking after the flowers. Im heartbroken that we will need to leave these behind. I want to know will my teachers be coming to the new school because im sure there is lovely ones there, but I love my teachers and want to stay as things are. Also I attended the meeting at Abertillery rugby club and you said you were keeping school for educational purposes, so you will still need to spend money on it and I just wish you could leave it all as it is because it works fine and you could save money elsewhere.

- I wishes to stay in her own school as she likes all her surroundings and wouldn't like it if she had to move, as she would miss the play areas and her classrooms. She has progressed significantly at roseheyworth and It would affect her massively if she had to move schools
- I think my class will be to full and my teacher won't be able to help me like she does now
- I think closing Roseheyworth Primary School would be a really bad idea for pupils and for Abertillery. I understand the council wants to save money but it will cause bigger problems for students. If the school closes, pupils will have to move to other schools where classes will be bigger, so teachers won't be able to help everyone as much. Some children might also have to travel further which could make them late or tired. It would also mean teachers, dinner ladies and other staff could lose their jobs, which isn't fair because they work hard and are important to the school. Roseheyworth is an important place where pupils feel safe, make friends and enjoy learning. Closing it could upset a lot of children and affect their education. I think the council should try to keep the school open instead of closing it.
- I do not want the school to shut down because I was part of the last year 6 class
- I would love my school to stay open! It's in walking distance from my house so I'm able to walk to and from school on sunny days... also I don't want to be moved from my friends and teachers
- I'm a past pupil of Roseheyworth and i'm now attending ALC secondary campus in my 4th year and I'm about to sit my GCSEs. My experience in Roseheyworth was wonderful, all the teachers were nurturing and loving and they've all taught me so much. The learning environment felt safe. The other two primary schools are far too overcrowded to split pupils into. On top of that, the parking situation is awful for both. The shutting of Roseheyworth could also affect local services such as Mini me's. They provide vital childcare towards the community with approximately 40 children attending. They provide wraparound for working families that claim childcare offer. If this service is removed from the area, it could potentially result in these parents having to reduce work hours to look after their children as the other childcare providers in the community will not have the space to accommodate all of these children.
- I do not support the proposal. I'm very happy at Roseheyworth Campus and wouldn't want my school to close. The teachers support me massively and I thrive in school every day. I wouldn't want to go to another school as I wouldn't get the same support, and I wouldn't be able to thrive the same as what I do now
- i don't want the school to close because i don't want to go to a different school as my friends
- I don't support it because some kids that are around that area that need to go to that school might struggle to find a new one
- I have just gained confidence to be able to walk to and from school on my own since moving to the area, to have this taken away would be really upsetting
- My name is ?? and I am 9 years old. I am writing this letter because I want to talk about something important to me. I really like my school, and I enjoy learning new things every day. My favourite subjects are Maths and English. I always try my best in class. I also like spending time with my friends and joining in with school activities. I think our school is a

good place because the teachers help us and make learning fun. I wanted to write this letter to share how I feel and to say Don't close our school.

- Because if it's costing loads you may as well knock it down
- I don't want my school to close because i love my class the way it is. I don't want to be taken away from my friends or my teacher. My teacher Miss Smith makes me feel happy & safe, i don't want a new teacher. I feel anxious when there are lots & lots of people around me. I love playing in our big yard & i love when we have PTFA fetes & the animals visit our Forest School. Mini Me's helped me to learn & to grow. I had hip dysplasia when i was small & i was in a full body cast for 18 months. I was very nervous when I started pre-school & Nursery at Roseheyworth but the staff at Mini Me's & my teachers at school made me feel safe. I love Mrs Line & Miss Lewis at Roseheyworth & they help to keep me safe when i feel anxious. I don't want to be taken away from them. I love learning, I am a MAT pupil and i am afraid that i might lose that if i go to another school. Please don't close my school. I love my school very much, it is my happy, safe place.
- I don't think this plan is fair because the schools in Abertillery and Six Bells are already way too full, and it really crowded and adding even more children will only make everything worse. When there are too many pupils, it's harder for teachers to keep an eye on things, and that makes bullying more likely because there aren't enough adults to help when something goes wrong. It also means children like me, who have autism, won't get the care and support we need, because the staff will be too busy trying to manage huge classes and noisy corridors. It already feels overwhelming some days, and if the school gets even more crowded, I don't think it will be a place where I can learn properly or feel safe.
- School is where i go to play with all my friends. Other schools scare me. My school is a place i love. My teachers, my friends. It is a place i feel safe. I am very sad and i want to kick the council man because he is ruining our school. The council man needs to be kind and leave my school alone! I am very very angry with him.
- Dear Members of the Council, As a Year 11 student from your secondary campus, I feel it's important to reach out and share my strong feelings about the decision to close Roseheyworth Primary School. I'm not just speaking for myself; I'm voicing the concerns of the pupils, families, and staff who will be directly impacted by this choice. What makes this situation even more troubling is that the school is located in a deprived area. Many families in our community are already struggling with economic challenges, limited resources, and social issues. In these tough circumstances, schools are more than just places for learning — they are safe havens, sources of stability, and vital support systems. Closing such an important institution in a vulnerable community isn't just a matter of restructuring; it risks widening the gap of inequality. Research shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds thrive in strong, stable early education settings. Primary schools in these areas often provide crucial support like free school meals, pastoral care, intervention programs, and emotional wellbeing services. For many students, school is the most secure part of their lives. Shutting down Roseheyworth Primary School would take away that stability at a crucial time in their development. Disrupting young children's education can lead to long-lasting effects on their academic success, mental health, and future opportunities. Younger students are especially sensitive to changes in their environment and support systems, and in a deprived area, these effects are even more pronounced. Many parents may struggle with the added burden of longer commutes to alternative schools due to a lack of flexibility, transportation, or financial means. Longer travel times mean earlier mornings, higher transport costs, and less time for family and rest — pressures that hit low-income households the hardest. Let's take a moment to think about the implications of closing a school. It could lead to larger class sizes in nearby schools, which means that kids might

not get the individual attention they need. For those who are already struggling or need extra help, this could really widen the gap in their learning. At a time when we're all concerned about educational inequality, this decision seems to be taking us in the wrong direction. We also need to think about the impact on the community as a whole. In underprivileged areas, schools are more than just places for learning; they serve as community hubs for events, parental involvement, and local support. Shutting down a primary school can weaken the bonds that hold a community together and sends a discouraging message that the area isn't worth investing in. Instead of closing schools in these communities, we should be focusing on how to make them stronger. As a student from the secondary campus, I've witnessed how crucial a solid primary education is for future success. When kids come to secondary school feeling confident and supported, they're much more likely to excel. Undermining that foundation in a struggling area could have long-lasting effects, not just for the kids, but for the entire community. I get that financial issues are often brought up as a reason for closures. But we shouldn't balance budgets on the backs of children who are already facing challenges. If anything, these areas need more support, not less. I urge the council to really think about whether all possible alternatives have been considered before making such a drastic and permanent decision. This choice feels out of touch with what families in this community are experiencing. I kindly ask that you pause the closure process, engage with local residents in a meaningful way, and truly consider the disproportionate impact this will have on an already vulnerable area. Education isn't just a line item on a budget — it's a lifeline, especially in disadvantaged communities. Year 11 Student Abertillery Secondary Campus

- Please don't close my school I love my teachers. I love my friends. I feel happy at school. I don't want to go far away. I don't want a big school where there are lots of new people and teachers. I want to stay where I know everything. My school makes me smile and i want to go to my school every day. My teachers make the day fun. Please let me stay at this school
- I dont want the school to shut because i have been in this school since minimes and I learnt most of my knowledge in this school
- I don't want my school to close because if i have to go to another school it will mean that i have to move in my final year of primary. I don't want my learning to be affected & I dont want to have a new teacher. I love my teacher Mrs Bruton & i love Mr Waythe who I will have in year 5/6. Im afraid that I will feel anxious going to a new school in my final year of primary. I don't want to be separated from any of my friends who i have been with since I started school at Mini Me's. All of my teachers at Roseheyworth have helped me to reach a reading level of comp age even though i am only 9. My teachers make me feel happy & safe. I have been at Roseheyworth with most of them since I was 3 years of age. I love the big yard at school & i love the field next to school especially when we can go & play rugby with Mr Waythe. I like after school clubs that are on the field too. I love our PTFA events. PTFA paid for my summer school trip last year which I loved. I also love when we have the animals at school like the Alpacas & the Donkeys. Please don't close my school. I love Roseheyworth. I love the building, i love the teachers & i love my friends. Don't close my school! :-)
- I thinks it shouldn't close as well miss our friends
- I don't support the proposal because it a grateful school and I would love for it to stay alive and let other people go to roseheyworth and I had great memories

Comments from respondents who partially support the proposal

- Do !!NOT!! shut down roseheyworth. Even though i never actually went to that campus, i went to bryngwyn and then later six bells, theres no reason why those pupils and teachers should be forced to find another place to go to be educated / teach. its

absolutely ridiculous as some people may live close to roseheyworth and have the advantage of not travelling far for many reasons, and they might not have a car, or any transport to get to a new school which is further away. Do what's right and keep the damn school up. As a pupil in the Abertillery Learning Community I think that roseheyworth school is made to be there. It's been there for so long, it's a staple of roseheyworth, it's such a cool building and what would they even use the land for if it did close?? more houses?? more shops?? no need for more houses or shops because if there's more houses then all you're going to do is increase the population here which is going to make the schools come to capacity and soon enough another school would be built and it would go all over again. Thanks.

- I hate roseheyworth but I don't like the fact that the School is shutting down
- It doesn't particularly affect me so I think they should do what's in the best interest of the kids at Roseheyworth school
- Kinda supported
- I partially support this proposal
- While it may cause disappointment, anger and confusion to many, I believe the school should be renovated instead of entirely removed. Dont get me wrong, I went to this primary school, i only left last year (im year 7), It has great tendencies, however it is outdated. Many other campuses have more technology capable of providing students with support and the school feels rather old-fashioned compared to the other campuses. However, there are many parents who live close to the campus who send their children there (such as my parents) who feel upset because they have to travel the extra distance, and i get why. Theres also the possibility of siblings having to go to different schools. If that was the case for my siblings, my mother would have to drive to 3 completely different schools in the morning, she has work. If that is the case then my mother will constantly be late for work, she needs the money so we can keep the house. So please keep siblings in the same schools!!

Comments from respondents who support the proposal

- I think its good that they close the school but the school is ill so thats free time off really
- Pls keep it safe
- Some people in comprehensive who went to that school may be upset because of memories they had there. As well as this I think that the school is very accessible toward people living in roseheyworth instead of driving/walking to other ALC and making it harder.