

13th March 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Joint Campus.

On 22nd January, the Parent Council received a message to put to the committee that the Education department were considering the option of a joint campus between Bowmore Primary and Islay High, following the recent retirement of long standing head teacher Mrs McDougall and resignation of Joanna Holmes in June 2014. The education department had not offered any details in relation to this, but merely wished to seek an initial view from the parent council.

On the 5th of February, Katherine Wilkie and Ann Patterson joined the Parent council meeting to gain initial views/thoughts on the idea of joint campus, and feedback following the recent inspection.

Ann and Katherine were unable to offer any specific details on the joint campus idea, in relation to how the staff team would be formulated. They stressed this is not a cost cutting exercise, and the formula of staff would be based on the current budget for teaching staff from both schools. Ann and Katherine made it clear that there would not be a purpose built building and that existing schools would be used. Ann and Katherine advised currently throughout Argyll and Bute there are already a number of successful 3 -18 year old campuses, however had no evidence to suggest this promotes attainment when compared to separate campuses.

Bowmore primary parent council have recently had a meeting with Islay High parent council, and other parent councils across Islay to gain wider views.

Currently we are waiting on a proposal from the Education department as to what structure we could expect the head/ deputies would take and hopefully have more detail on the benefits for our children. Once we are offered this information, we will feed this back to parents so a more informed decision can be made.

One of the roles we have as parent council is to promote the views of parents and act as a link between parents and school.

We will ask for an open meeting between the education department and parents before the Easter holidays, w/c 23rd March so that parents can be given more information by Argyll and Bute Council.

Regards

Bowmore Parent Council
Islay High School Parent Council