

## Formal Council Questions and Responses

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1 **Question to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills: Health and Safety Issues at Monnow Primary School**

**Councillor Janet Cleverly asked:**

This morning 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, the Governors of Monnow Primary School carried out an Health & Safety and wellbeing Audit inspection on the Infant end of the School, I must say I was completely shocked by the state of the Building, There was Rotting wood frames, stills not just on one window but all over the building, Drain pipes are held together by tape and rotting as well, also holes in the wood where its rotted away, there's no glass in the windows, it is Perspex, making it really cold for the children. Also there is a problem with Rats in the Area from the Brook and before long they will be in this buiding.

Can you please tell me what your administration intends to do about these wellbeing and Health and Safety issues and what additional funding you are going to allocate, or is additional funding only announced prior to Local Elections.

**Councillor Gail Giles responded:**

Unfortunately this is not an isolated situation as there are various maintenance pressures affecting many schools across the estate.

All pressures are recorded on the Capital Maintenance Programme which in turn is reported to and monitored by the Capital Strategy & Asset Management Group (CSAMG). Within the Capital Maintenance Programme, all identified issues are scored against a priority matrix which considers Health & Safety, Business Continuity and Condition

The issue with the decayed windows in the infant building at Monnow Primary School is already known to the Council and included within the Capital Maintenance Programme but does not appear high enough in the priority matrix to be funded. Based on this assessment, and the limited funding available to support the Capital Maintenance Programme, the windows are unlikely to receive investment for some time, though the position is regularly reviewed. Perspex is often used to replace single broken panes of glass subject to ongoing vandalism. This could of course be replaced with glass, although any costs would have to be met from the school budget as such smaller scale expenditure is the responsibility of the school.

The school is required, as part of their site management duties, to monitor the building regularly and report any deterioration or defects to the Newport Norse helpdesk. The last reported issue relating to this school was logged in November 2017. A wholesale building survey of the school estate is currently underway and should be concluded by the end of December 2018. This will ensure that any additional pressures are identified and reflected within the Capital Maintenance Programme.

The overall budget for Capital Maintenance is dependent upon the Revenue Support Grant received by the Council or additional targeted grants provided by Welsh Government.