



## **COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

On the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by:

1. creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class at the land north of the railway line in Rhoose;
2. migrating staff and pupils from Llancarfan Primary School into the new school building.
3. extending the age range of the school from 4 – 11 years to 3 – 11 years

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**Directorate of Learning and Skills  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

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## 1. Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of the local community and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council proposes to build a new 210 place school building for Llanearfan Primary School, with the addition of the provision of 48 part time nursery places which would be located in Rhooae. It is proposed that all pupils, staff and governors from Llanearfan Primary School would transfer into the new school building.

The Council would facilitate the migration of Llanearfan Primary School into the new school building through Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme. This would change the age range of the school from a 4-11 year old school to a school educating 3-11 year olds.

The Council must ensure that schools serve their local communities and are reflective of demand. There is a need to meet future demand from the new housing developments in Rhooae and ensure both schools serve their communities. A new 210 place school, which is the minimum size for a school to be efficient and also the minimum size school the Council would build from a sustainability perspective, would accommodate the projected increase in pupils numbers from both new developments in Rhooae, in addition to the projected pupil numbers that would migrate over from the existing site of Llanearfan Primary School. Reviewing the wider needs of the Western Vale offers an opportunity to establish a new 21st century school building while addressing community need and surplus capacity challenges.

The proposal would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal will maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The Council proposes that the new school building and migration of Llanearfan Primary School will operate open from September 2021.

## 2. National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in

areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

### 3. Local Policy Context.

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – **'Strong Communities with a bright future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an 'Aspirational Vale' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

### 4. Community Impact

#### Catchment area

Llancarfan Primary School is classified as an English medium community primary school which has an area it serves, referred to as the catchment area. The school is able to accommodate pupils from within its catchment area and the Council must have regard for this on-going demand. Parents have a right to state a preference for any school. The number of pupils attending schools is greatly affected by parental preference with a high degree of pupil movement noticeable between the catchment areas of schools.

The following table illustrates the effect of parental preference for Llancarfan Primary School.

		Number of children attending from respective catchment area schools						
School	Number on Roll	Llancarfan catchment	Rhws catchment	Barry catchment schools	Llantwit catchment schools	Cowbridge catchment schools	Penarth/Dinas catchment Schools	other
Llancarfan Primary School	106	31	36	14	22	2	0	1

#### Llancarfan Primary School catchment area analysis

Llancarfan Primary School serves it's immediate area and the areas of Llancadle, Llanbethery and Llantrithyd.

The school has a catchment area population of 55 children set against a capacity of 126 places. Only 31 of the 55 primary aged children living in the catchment area attend the school. Migrating the school to larger accommodation with a new catchment area with sustainable numbers would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater school population.

. The majority of pupils attending the school reside outside the catchment area. There are 106 children currently on roll, of which 31 (29%) live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 children (71%) live outside the school catchment area. 36 (34%) out of the 75 pupils residing out of catchment live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

As part of the proposal the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School would need to be redrawn. The proposal would distribute the current catchment area between the migrated Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary schools. A realignment of the existing catchment area of Rhws Primary School would also be necessary to provide an even distribution of pupils in Rhoose to serve both schools.

The revisions to catchment areas are expected to increase pupil numbers for other schools, improving future sustainability and contributing to the Council's commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools.

The revised catchment areas will generate sufficient pupils to meet demand for education in the catchment areas.

### **Existing School Facilities/Activities**

Llancarfan Primary School offers parents and carers out of school facilities which are run on the school site exclusively for Llancarfan children. The clubs sessions are as follows;

Breakfast club Session 8.00am - 8.45am  
After School Session 3.30pm - 5.30pm

The breakfast club session is a free Welsh Government run breakfast club for parents and is available from 8.00 to 8.45 am. There is no charge for this service and children can attend from any age group across the school.

The after school club session from 3.30pm to 5.30pm is run by the school at a charge of £6.50 per session for parents.

The above clubs enable parents to access wrap around care for their children in a safe and stimulating environment.

The school offers a range of teacher led extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes and after school. After school curricular clubs run from 3.30pm to 4.20pm.

Extra curricular clubs include;

- Rugby
- Football
- Netball
- French
- Comic
- Media
- Sum Dog/Chess Club
- Recorder Club

The school has strong links with the community. Parents and local community members participate in peer and individual reading support at the school. The local community does not make use of school facilities for any local activities.

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the proposal were to go ahead.

## Traffic issues/Walking routes

The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not provide free school transport for nursery-age children other than those children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN). Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school.<sup>1</sup>

*"This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route."*<sup>2</sup>

Any pupil attending Llanccarfan Primary School on the date of migration to the new site who lives more than 2 miles from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new Llanccarfan Primary School site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport. The admission transition arrangements proposed as part of this consultation would be reflected in the

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<sup>1</sup>Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

<sup>2</sup>The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

provision of transport. This would support children with siblings who are affected by the change in catchment areas to ensure that if requested by parents both siblings can receive transport to the new Llancafán Primary School site providing they will be attending the school at the same time and live more than two miles from the new school site.

[http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/education\\_and\\_skills/schools/school\\_transport/school\\_transport.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/education_and_skills/schools/school_transport/school_transport.aspx)

There is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the schools.

It is not anticipated that there will be any immediate impact to traffic levels in the area as a result of the new 210 place building for Llancafán Primary School. Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that will be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. A one-hectare site is being provided for the provision of the primary school.

## 5. Conclusion

The proposal will enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It will provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

The proposal will maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The proposal will provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years that will promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

The school will be able to incorporate provision for 3 and 4 year-old children in a high quality Early Years and Foundation Phase setting. A nursery would enable a seamless transition for nursery age children into the reception class of the school and sustain pupil numbers for the future.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. Parents and community members provide peer and individual reading support for children. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community will continue on the proposal.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale will result in:

- An overall positive community impact. There will be no discernible impact on existing community or local facilities in the area. The proposal will enhance and support greater facilities for the local

community and children. The proposal will maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

- The proposal will provide a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery to improve the delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.