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DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO
REDEVELOP ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL ON EXSITING SITE FROM
SEPTEMBER 2025.



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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 our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 1050 place school with a 60 place specialist resource base will replace the current provision, on the same site and has been included as part of the council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. It is proposed that St Richard Gwyn RC Comprehensive School would move into this building by September 2025 to provide the required capacity. The Published Admission Number (PAN) would be 210.

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 2018. 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. Current Challenges

The proposal to increase capacity at St Richard Gwyn RC Comprehensive School would address a number of challenges.

- Ensure the Council is able to accommodate the future demand for faith based education based on current trends.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide a consistent approach from 11-16 years and that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- To ensure all pupils are provided with education that is appropriate to their needs, the new school building will house a specialist resource base. This would provide 60 places for identified pupils. All pupils attending the specialist resource base will have individual learning plans.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.
- 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 new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent standards and be built to an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) A rating.
- Provide a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

5. Community Profile

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is located on the eastern side of the Vale of Glamorgan, in the north east of Barry.

As a result of the proposal, the school would transfer to a new school building. It is anticipated that the new school building would be from September 2025.

Housing Developments

Local development of The Waterfront development is located to the south-west of Barry town centre and is positioned between the town centre and Barry Island. Approximately 1,700 dwellings will be built in total by 2024. The Barry Waterfront Development in total is projected to yield around 170 nursery, 473 primary and 422 secondary school pupils. The projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. 1559 units in total have been built and occupied to date with children placed at schools serving the area.

The Barry Waterfront Development currently serves High Street and Holton Primary Schools and for English medium primary provision, Whitmore High and Pencoedtre High for English Secondary provision. Ysgol Sant Baruc for Welsh medium primary provision and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium provision. All Saints, St Helens primary schools and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School for faith education. No change to this is arrangement is proposed as part of this consultation.

6. Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the project. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the consultation response report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises

Ref.	Measure
CI5	Impact on local businesses
CI6	Impact on local employment
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure
CI8	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement

6. Impacts on the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School catchment is the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan geographical area.
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include 5 aside community football, archery, football training, basketball training and the site is also used as a base for the Caravan club.</p> <p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal was to go ahead. The proposal would result in increased pupil numbers which is likely to result in increased demand for school services, as well as providing the opportunity to expand the number of services offered.</p> <p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	St Richard Gwyn do not use other facilities within the community.
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>St Richard Gwyn also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include 5 aside community football, archery, football training, basketball training and the site is also used as a base for the Caravan club.</p> <p>A key aim of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance the facilities available.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and moving the school to a new building would result in improved facilities for the community to use.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	<p>The school is not near any major businesses or shopping areas. There is a supermarket close by.</p> <p>The school does not have close links or support any local businesses.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI6	Impact on local employment	3	<p>All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.</p> <p>As the school would be increasing to 1050 places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>Access to the site is being revised. Currently there are two entrances onto the site, both serving on site parking for staff and visitors. The new proposal will provide an access and exit route feeding into drop off area for buses and cars, staff parking, visitor parking and deliveries. The proposal will be a betterment to the current provision for vehicles to drop off and pick up time, which causes congestion on Argae Lane due to the limited space available within the current car parking area for buses to safely access the site and manoeuvre.</p> <p>Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>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.¹</p> <p><i>“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.”²</i></p>

¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

7. Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	1
CI2	2
CI3	0
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	3
CI7	3
CI8	0
Average Score	1.5

8. Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 3 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 5 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

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

The proposal would 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 school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School would better meet the needs of the local community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.