



DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Consultation on the proposal to Create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant with effect from September 2024.



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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. We are 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 to create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant with effect from September 2024.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes the transfer of any school to a new site.

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 (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural or deprived areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

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 2020-25 to achieving a vision of – **'Working together for a brighter future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' 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 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.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Provide targeted support for pupils attending Welsh medium primary schools with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties within a mainstream primary school environment.
- Provide an improved learning environment which is adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide opportunities for professional development throughout our Primary Schools.
- Ensure that pupils with pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties can have their needs met within the local authority and can be supported to remain in their mainstream school.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

There are currently 7 Welsh medium schools which serve the Vale of Glamorgan:

School name	Type	Language	Age range	Capacity*	Distance from Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant (miles)
Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant	Community	WM	3-11	210	11 miles
Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	Community	WM	3-11	270	0
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	Community	WM	3-11	210	12 miles
Ysgol Gymraeg Pen Y Garth	Community	WM	3-11	420	5.4 miles
Ysgol Sant Baruc	Community	WM	3-11	420	2.3 miles
Ysgol Sant Curig	Community	WM	3-11	420	1.8 miles
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	Community	WM	3-18	210 (KS1 and 2)	2.1 miles

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant is located within the ward Gibbonsdown 2.

The ward has a population of 5,488 based upon the 2021 census.

The data below for the Gibbonsdown 2 ward is from the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#).

Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Area	LSOA Code	Overall Wales Rank (of 1909)		Employment Rank (of 1909)		Access to Services Rank (of 1909)	
		Rank	% (Least / Most Deprived)	Rank	% (LD / MD)	Rank	% (LD / MD)
Gibbonsdown 2	Ranked of 1909 (Education)	105	10% most deprived	127	10% most deprived	1070	50% least deprived

As the table above shows, the ward accommodating Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant are mixed in terms of levels of deprivation. The LSOA area the school is located in is one of the most deprived areas across 2 of the 3 measures, however it ranks within the 50% least deprived in terms of access to services due to its suburban location.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

The proposal would create specialist Welsh medium educational provision for pupils aged 4-11 years. The purpose of this specialist resource would be to support individual learners as well as improve the capacity of the home school to create a fully inclusive environment where all learners are given the opportunity to succeed and have access to an education that meets their needs.

The SRB would provide periods of integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties. This will include pupils whose high level of anxiety is impacting significantly on their ability to access mainstream education.

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 statutory process. 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 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
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

IMPACTS UPON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	<p>The creation of the SRB would utilise currently unused space at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant. This would not therefore have an adverse impact on admissions to Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant as current projections indicate the existing mainstream provision at the school is more than sufficient to meet demand from within its catchment area.</p> <p>Placing the specialist resource base within a mainstream primary school, provides additional support for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties whilst ensuring they can access mainstream primary education. This will include pupils whose high level of anxiety is impacting significantly on their ability to access mainstream education.</p> <p>The creation of a Welsh medium ALN provision will have a positive impact on all Welsh medium primary schools within the Vale of Glamorgan. However, ALN provision is not provided based on proximity to an SRB, with pupils attending from across the Authority.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including	1	It is proposed that any community services currently provided by Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant would continue and that there would be no loss of provision.

	extra-curricular activities		
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	There would be no loss of access for Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant to community facilities as a result of this proposal.
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	0	The proposal will not change the current community facilities provided by the school.
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	There would be no impacts upon local businesses as a result of this proposal.
CI6	Impact on local employment	1	The creation of the SRB has created employment opportunities for three posts.
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	0	<p>The proposal would not result in an increase in capacity at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant which would cause increased pressure on local infrastructure. Instead the proposal will adapt to existing vacant classrooms within the school building.</p> <p>Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant supports travel to the school by active modes of travel such as walking and cycling where possible. This would extend to ALN pupils and staff where appropriate. This would help to alleviate pressures on local infrastructure.</p>

C18	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. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'.</p> <p>Mainstream primary aged pupils are provided with free school transport if they live 2 miles or further from their nearest suitable school.</p> <p>However, ALN pupils who have specific travel requirements which cannot be met with reasonable adjustment on mainstream transport will be eligible for free transport if they are assessed as having severe and/ or complex difficulties and are attending a special school or specialist resource base as directed by the Complex Needs Team or a class in a mainstream school which is 2 miles or further (primary aged pupils) from the parental home address as measured by the shortest available walking route.</p>
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SCORING SUMMARY

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

CONCLUSIONS

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

The proposal would provide targeted support for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties within a suitable mainstream primary school environment in order to ensure that pupils reach their full potential. Additionally pupils and staff would have access to improved learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would have a positive impact upon the local community.