



ARCHDIOCESE
of CARDIFF
ARCHESGOBAETH
CAERDYDD

Consultation Response Report

Consultation on the proposal to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025



*This document can be made available in other formats and languages as needed.
Please contact telephone 01446 700111 to arrange this.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1 Proposal: To establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places..... 1

2.1 Publication of the consultation..... 1

2.2 Consultation stakeholder engagement 2

2.3 Objections to the proposal 2

2.4 Consultation meetings 3

2.5 Consultation Questions..... 3

3.1 Summary of responses 4

3.2 Responses to Proposal to Establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025..... 5

4.1 Quality and standards in education..... 7

4.2 Community impact 8

4.3 Travel arrangements..... 8

4.4 Process following Close of Consultation Period..... 9



1. BACKGROUND

This report presents the feedback received during the consultation that was undertaken from 5 September 2023 to 17 October 2023, in response to the proposal to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places. The statutory consultation was held to seek comments from relevant parties on a regulated alteration as defined in the School Organisation Code 2018, “the Code” to increase the school capacity.

1.1 PROPOSAL: TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FROM 813 PLACES TO 1,050 PLACES

Following discussions with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, a decision was made to undertake a consultation to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025. Additionally, the proposal also includes a 60-place specialist resource base. The new build would be constructed on the on the existing school site at the south-west corner of the school grounds.

This report outlines the consultation process, provides an overview of responses to the consultation, and offers further details of the key issues and favourable comments raised by stakeholders.

2. OUTLINE OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process followed Welsh Government guidelines in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and in line with the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation process gave consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and the Governing Body and Archdiocese of Cardiff an opportunity to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be considered before any decisions are made.

2.1 PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULTATION

Formal consultation was conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the school and Vale of Glamorgan Council website on the 5 September 2023. Hard copies of the consultation document were available upon request.

The publication of a consultation document is central to the consultation process for school reorganisation and is prescribed by Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation document outlined the proposal being considered, the rationale for the proposal and the details of the consultation process.

The consultation document also incorporated an individual response form. Consultees were advised of the availability of an online version to complete.

2.2 CONSULTATION STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Engagement on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2018.

The following groups were consulted:

Table 1: List of groups consulted as part of the consultation process

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Diocesan Directors of Education
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Barry Town Council
Families First/Flying Start Management Board	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Estyn	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Welsh Government Ministers	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Trade Unions
Council's Transportation Department	Directors of Education All Neighbouring Authorities

Consultees were invited to complete a formal consultation response form which could be completed in hard copy or online at:

[Expanding St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](http://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Only responses to the consultation given in writing (either via post or the online survey) have been included in this report.

2.3 OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL

Any responses received from consultees that are opposed to these proposals, although considered as part of the consultation report, will not be treated as statutory objections. A statutory objection would form part of the statutory notice period if approved at the next stage by the School Governing Body.

It should be noted that if Governing Body and Archdiocese of Cardiff consider it appropriate to move to the next stage of the statutory consultation, there is a further opportunity for any respondents to object to the proposals as part of the Statutory Notice stage. Objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published. The statutory notice would be published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website and posted at or near the main entrance to the school. Copies of the notice would be distributed to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members.

2.4 CONSULTATION MEETINGS

A series of consultation events were held at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school. These sessions included staff meetings, parents and community drop in events and pupil engagement sessions. The rationale behind the proposal was highlighted at each event and an explanation of the statutory process and the timescales involved was provided with the opportunity for open dialogue between all in attendance.

These sessions were open to all stakeholders in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of the pupil engagement session can be found at Annex D.

2.5 CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Consultees were asked for their opinion on a key question to each proposal:

1) Do you support the proposal to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025?

Consultees were able to respond to the proposal with Yes, No or No opinion either way.

Consultees were also offered the opportunity to comment further:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

Any other comments?

3. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The consultation responses received in writing between 5 September to 17 October 2023 are outlined below.

3.1 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

43 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date. The breakdown of responses to each proposal are detailed in the tables and charts below.

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases, we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer.

Respondents were asked to indicate their role in relation to the proposal, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Respondents were also asked to indicate the school they are connected to (if any) in relation to the proposal, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Table 2: Responses in detail

Annex	Description
Annex A	A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the Governing Body's response to those issues can be found at Annex A.
Annex B	A summary of the comments received in favour of the proposal can be found at Annex B.
Annex C	The frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been updated to include the key questions raised during the engagement sessions (Annex C).
Annex D	Consultation sessions were undertaken at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school. These sessions included parent and community drop in events, a staff meeting, governor meeting and pupil engagement sessions. These sessions involved all stakeholders in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of the pupil engagement session can be found at Annex D.
Annex E	Estyn formally responded to the consultation. Their response can be found at Annex E.
Annex F	The consultation document was presented to the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee 20th July 2023. The minutes of this meeting can be found at Annex F, where Cabinet recommendations are provided.

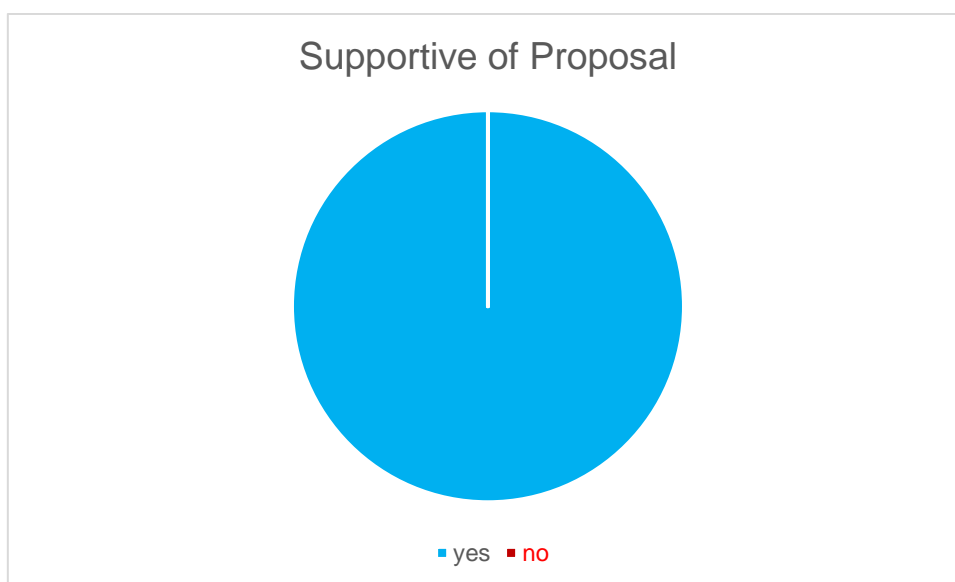
3.2 RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FROM 813 PLACES TO 1,050 PLACES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

As Table 3 and Chart 1 below show, all responses (100%) were in favour of the Proposal.

Table 3: Breakdown of consultation responses (Proposal)

Total (individual) responses:	Total in support		Total not in support	
No.	No.	%	No.	%
43	43	100%	0	0%

Chart 1: Split of responses supporting or not supporting the proposal.



As Table 3 and Chart 1 above, 43 respondents were received in total. Table 4 and Chart 2 below show, the largest group of respondents were members of staff with 26 responses, all in favour of the proposal.

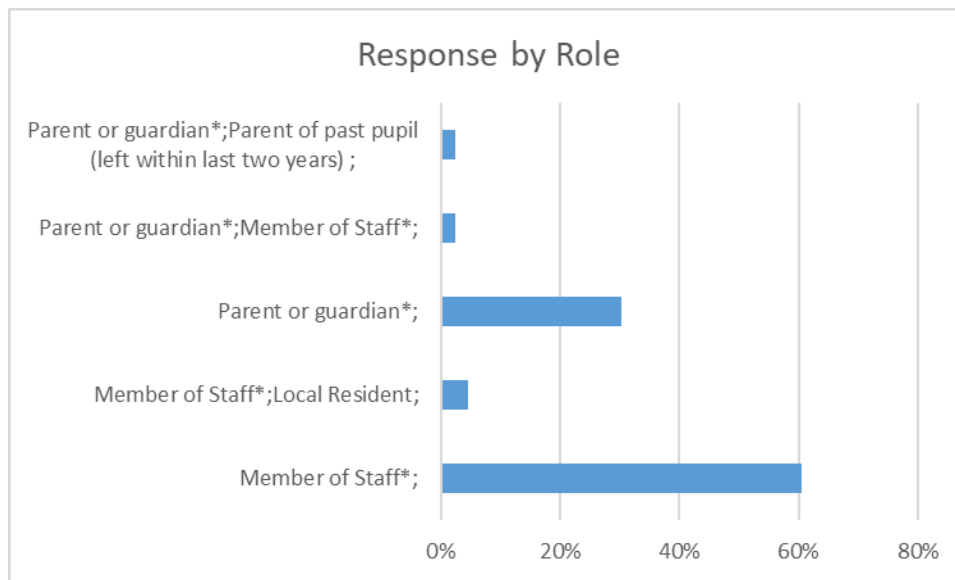
The next largest respondent group were parent or guardians with a total of 13 responses received from this group.

It should be noted respondents were able to tick more than one option (e.g., they could be a parent and a member of staff).

Table 4: Breakdown of consultation responses by role

Role	Support	Not Support	No preference
Member of Staff*	60%	0.00%	
Member of Staff*; Local Resident	5%	0.00%	
Parent or guardian*	30%	0.00%	
Parent or guardian*; Member of Staff*	2%	0.00%	
Parent or guardian*; Parent of past pupil (left within last two years)	2%	0.00%	
Total	100%		

Chart 2: Split of consultation responses by role



4. CONCLUSION

Following consideration of the responses received throughout the consultation period, we have considered the impact on quality and standards in education, the local community and travel arrangements.

4.1 QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School had an inspection in May 2017. Estyn reported that the school's current performance was adequate and the school's prospect for improvement was good. The report summarises:

To improve, the school needs to:

R1 Improve standards in key stage 4

R2 Improve the quality of teaching

R3 Reduce persistent absence

R4 Strengthen arrangements for improvement planning

In Estyn's response to the consultation, they concluded that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Estyn advised that the proposal identifies fairly that a move to a school that is purposely built should result in improved teaching and learning experiences through the provision of modern education facilities. This includes break out spaces and an SRB unit for pupils with additional learning needs as well as improved digital infrastructure throughout the new school building reflecting the digital curriculum standards. Furthermore, the design of the building is likely to support effective pedagogy through improved facilities, standardised classroom sizes and through providing a building and outdoor spaces. It further notes that a better learning environment will also have a positive impact on support and guidance by having a larger and improved outdoor area to enhance pupils' wellbeing.

Estyn also highlighted that the proposal considers, to some extent, the impact of the proposal on additional learning needs provision but does not provide sufficient information about its plans for the specialist resource base.

Estyn outlined that the consultation document notes that the new school building will be in the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. Estyn recommended providing more information on the proposal as it does not provide details about the potential disruption of the proposal to learners.

4.2 COMMUNITY IMPACT

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to determine any impacts this proposal would have on the local community. The proposal was assessed across a number of measures.

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while accommodating 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 should the proposal be progressed.

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. The full Community Impact Assessment can be viewed on the Consultation webpage.

4.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that will be required to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools because of this proposal.

The Vale of Glamorgan 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. Due to the new school being built on its original site, this proposal will not provide any changes and therefore there will be no impact on the transport for pupils.

The Council will be working with the school to review the schools active travel plan and will encourage as many pupils as possible to walk, cycle or scoot to school. The Council's [Active Travel Network Map](#) shows routes to school.

The location of the new school building would not result in any changes to the catchment area.

4.4 PROCESS FOLLOWING CLOSE OF CONSULTATION PERIOD

The Consultation Report in the sub-section Key Dates under The Statutory Consultation Process Section (Table 9), listed the indicative dates for the statutory process. An updated table of key dates is detailed below:

Table 4: Updated Key dates of the process

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	5 September 2023
Closing date for views on the proposals	17 October 2023
Consultation report considered by the Governing Body and Archdiocese of Cardiff published on the school and Council's website	16 November 2023
Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	1 December 2023
End of Statutory Notice Period	29th December 2023
Determination by Cabinet (if objections are received) with objection report.	January 2024
Decision notification	January 2024
Increased capacity to be introduced from	September 2025

1. ANNEX A - A SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED BY STATUTORY CONSULTEES AND THE GOVERNING BODY'S RESPONSE

It is noted above that all respondents were in favour of the proposal. The themes identified and the responses presented included considerations put forward by respondents where they may have had additional suggestions or sought additional information as part of their response.

1.1. ISSUES RAISED IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSAL:

THEME 1

Disruption

Respondents highlighted that allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction could have the potential to cause disruption. The consultation document notes that the school can run effectively during the construction period. Nevertheless, the proposal does not provide details about the potential disruption of the proposal to learners.

Response

As part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, over the last four years the Council has delivered several new school buildings whilst the existing school buildings remained operational. For construction works undertaken on an existing site, consideration and planning is provided to assist with teaching throughout the development programme, specific dates and events were fed into the construction programme to reduce the impact and disruption for pupils and staff, especially around examinations times, sporting events for example, as much as possible.

During the transition into the new building, there is also the potential to cause disruption. During the construction programme, pupils and staff would be invited to attend engagement sessions to discuss the new school building. These engagement sessions would also include the road map to handover and opening of the new facility. Opportunities to attend the development site, when it is safe to do so, will introduce pupils, staff, and governors to the new accommodation they will be accessing on completion of the school development.

The plan to decant the existing school buildings will commence approximately three months prior to the moving date. Staff will be provided with guidance and assistance in order to start organising their current resources. Pupils will be shown their spaces

virtually, until safe to do so on site, to allow all parties to familiarise themselves, thereby reducing the impact of relocating and change.

THEME 2

Specialist Resource Base (SRB)

Respondents highlighted that the current school does not have an SRB and there is insufficient information about its plans in the consultation regarding the proposal for a 60-place specialist resource base in the new building. The proposers have identified risks associated with the new building proposal and have detailed appropriate measures to mitigate identified risks. However, the risks associated with the proposal for a specialist resource base are not included. The proposal also does not include information regarding the travel arrangements for learners to the specialist resource base.

Response

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School does not currently have an SRB; it provides specialist support for children who have identified needs in an inclusive setting within the school. Whitmore High School and Pencoedtre High School have successfully introduced SRB units within their school settings, and this is a model that both the Council and the Governing Body would like to introduce at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in order to provide additional dedicated space for enhanced provision to meet growing need across the sector.

It is proposed that the new school building will include an SRB within the main building itself. It will be located on the first floor, adjacent to the hall with its own external access/staircase if there is an identified need for the pupils to avoid busy areas. Appropriate measures to mitigate identified risks are outlined in the consultation document for the new building. The Council have undertaken a lesson learnt exercise to evaluate what works well in the other secondary schools and what could be improved. The outcome of this evaluation will feed into this project's development.

As this project is at preliminary stages, the Governing Body would continue to work closely with the Council to identify the specialism required for this SRB. This will consider what needs are going to be addressed in the building and whether they will be pupils already in the school and only need specific lessons, periods of the day away from mainstream teaching or alternatively pupils not on role at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School attending for set periods from their mainstream setting.

St Richard Gwyn Catholic high School currently serves a large catchment area and no changes to this are being proposed as part of this consultation. Travel

arrangements will also be available to learners at the specialist resource base in line with the Councils transport policy in place at that time.

All catchment and feeder arrangements in place are subject to regular review. Any future proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation managed by the school's Governing Body.

THEME 3

Capital Funding

Respondents highlighted that the proposal outlines the financial costs of the proposal which is estimated to be £62 million. This includes £52.7 million (85%) in Welsh Government match funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and the remainder will be funded through the Council.

However, no further detail is provided regarding the overall funding.

Response to the concerns raised

The Governing Body and Archdiocese are aware that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have an excellent record of accomplishment in delivering Education Infrastructure projects as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) Programme. The Council also have a good working relationship with Welsh Government and discussions around the delivery of this project has already taken place. This project has been approved to be included within the Council's Strategic Outline Programme.

The next process requires submission of robust Business Cases which will be based on the five key areas that underpin the Better Business Case Process (Five Case Business Model - Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Finance and Management). This process is used for all projects that have been approved as part of the programme. This specific proposal links with many key objectives as part of the Welsh Government SCfL Programme, more information on the key objectives can be found at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-communities-for-learning-business-case-guidance-2022.pdf>

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has submitted multiple Business Cases throughout the 21st Century Schools and Sustainable Communities for Learning programmes and have been successful in securing funding for proposed schemes.

THEME 4

Revenue funding for Specialist Resource Base (SRB)

Respondents identified that the estimated annual cost of operating a new 1,050 place school would be £5.060M based on a full capacity of 210 pupils per year group using funding indicators from the 2023/24 mainstream funding formula. The revenue budget delegated to St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School for 2023/24 was £4.125M for 836 pupils. The increased cost of £935k (which excludes the impact of inflation) would occur incrementally over a period of five years as the school's larger capacity would be filled each year from year 7. The increased cost for the first year is estimated at £208k and a suitable financial plan is noted in the proposal. However, the proposal has not provided details of the annual revenue costs of the resource base for pupils with additional learning needs as it will depend on the number of pupils enrolled and the complexities of their needs.

Response

As part of the proposal a dedicated space for specialist provision is included to give the school more flexibility and consistency across the sector. This is based on learning from other Sustainable Communities for Learning secondary school projects and also reflects a growing trend in increased need. The school will need to work with colleagues in the Council to establish how best to use this space given the needs of the school and to develop a suitable model, including an assessment of revenue implications should this proposal be agreed.

THEME 5

A new build suitable for all pupils

One respondent identified that the current building design impacts on the pupils with disabilities who always need an adult with them to open doors, which impacts their independence. Respondents also highlighted the lack of space in the current school which impacts on pupils who require emotional support. Staff are often searching for a room in school to talk to them. There is also no dedicated first aid area, which means unwell pupils do not have the privacy they need. A recommendation for unisex toilets was also received as well as ramps, automatic doors etc..

Response

The Governing Body and Archdiocese are aware that the Council have developed previous secondary school projects as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) Programme. The school will work closely with the Council to ensure that the new building is suitable for all pupils.

Whilst this part of the consultation focuses on the education merits of the proposal, if approved, the design of the new school building will reflect on the best use of all available space, given the needs of all pupils including ensuring that facilities are fully accessible and inclusive.

THEME 6

Suitable Active travel routes

One responder also recommended active travel routes need to be considered with the new build as the current access into the school isn't ideal, part of the plans to the school should be written into this.

Response

Whilst this part of the consultation focuses on the education merits of the proposal, if approved, the school will work closely with the Council to form an amended school travel plan and will encourage as many pupils as possible to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Routes within Barry have been identified for walking/cycling improvement on our [Active Travel Network Map](#) and higher priority is given on routes to school.

The school will work with the Council to ensure that active travel plans are considered carefully as part of the project development to ensure that there are more suitable routes for pupils.

ANNEX B – A SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED IN FAVOUR OF THE NEW SCHOOL

THEME 7

Current school not fit for purpose

Respondents emphasised that the school is in poor condition with learning and teaching environment not being fit for purpose. There were concerns raised regarding the current school. For example, there are leaks from windows, insufficient natural lighting, narrow corridors, flooding issues, a hall which is not big enough to hold a whole school assembly, car parking issues and unsuitable rooms to deliver the curriculum.

Response

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is the only secondary school in the Vale of Glamorgan that has not received investment as part of the Sustainable Community for Learning programme. Both the Governing Body and the Council are fully aware of the current situation at the school and agree that the investment is required to ensure that pupils and staff are learning and teaching in a fit for purpose environment reflecting current learning & teaching practice and to provide additional provision for community use.

THEME 8

High cost of repairs and maintenance and lack of space

Respondents highlighted that as a school community it is challenging to maintain the buildings, specifically parts of the present building which were first erected from prefabricated panels in the 1960s. The respondents contended that more space is needed with a modern building to meet the needs of a 21st century education.

Response

The Governing Body are aware of the issues at the current school with backlog maintenance of £3,485,000. The proposal addresses issues with the existing building, such as condition, suitability, and flooding issues.

The proposal will ensure that the new building will meet modern building standards to reduce recurrent costs and be net zero carbon in operation. The new building will also meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellence standards.

THEME 9

Capacity issue and overcrowding in current school

Respondents stated that the school building is old and not suitable for the number of pupils currently on roll. The corridors are overcrowded and there is the potential for accidents. Other respondents highlighted that there are also not enough facilities for pupils to engage in activities that they deserve all year round.

Response

The new school would provide additional spaces with capacity for 1,050 pupils achieved via a phased year group approach, plus 60 SRB places. Both the Governing Body and the Council must ensure that the school serves their local community, is reflective of demand and supports emerging demand. There is a need to meet future demand from the new housing developments at Barry Waterfront, Sully, Penarth, and the wider catchment area for the school. A new 1,050 place school building would accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers from the new developments.

THEME 10

A modern school with more space and better facilities

Respondents felt that the proposal would benefit the pupils as their current learning environment is not fit for purpose and has limited spaces. A 21st century learning environment will encourage pupils to thrive whilst learning. Other respondents noted the new build will provide a wealth of opportunity for the current exceptional level of

teaching to continue, within a state-of-the-art new provision. Offering our current and future pupils the same, or better, accommodation for their educational journey.

Response

The current site is small with no opportunities to grow. The proposal to construct a new 1,050 place school offers a more efficient and sustainable model of education in a building designed specifically for a 21st century learning environment. The proposal addresses issues other respondents have raised around the existing building, such as the narrow corridors, maintenance issues, insufficient natural lighting. Pupils would be educated in a high-quality modern building which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The proposal will ensure that the new building will meet modern building standards to reduce recurrent costs and be net zero carbon in operation. The new building will also meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellence standards.

THEME 11

The new building will address flooding concerns on the site

A respondent referenced the positive impact on the issue of the flooding of the school site in poor weather.

Response

To alleviate and address current and potential future flooding concerns, Council specialists have worked with Natural Resources Wales to ensure that any future developments to the site improve on existing site concerns. To address this, there has been a two-stage approach to the drainage design proposed. Stage 1 addresses the wider flooding issue including off-site flooding on Argae Lane. The proposed design allows for surface water from Argae Lane to enter the school site via a nominated drainage ditch, the ditch would travel around the boundary of the site and drain back into the Coldbrook system. The inclusion of this drainage ditch will reduce the volume of water going into the system. Stage 2 of this process addresses the on-site drainage proposal where several Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) features, permeable finishes and a green roof will assist with the control and management of surface water on the site.

ANNEX C - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This section provides updated frequently asked questions in relation to the proposal.

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that construction of the new school would commence early 2024 and be completed by September 2025.

When would staff and pupils transfer to the new school building?

The proposal is that the new school would be operational by September 2025.

Would there be a new headteacher?

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.

How would potential transport implications be considered as part of this proposal?

The Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning team would be responsible for the building process. A contractor would be appointed, and a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process. Any implications identified would be factored into the design of the new building. The contractor would submit a full planning application for the new building.

Who would manage the construction of the new school building?

The Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Team would be responsible for managing the building process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the school, Council, and contractor.

Would the construction of the new school result in disruption for staff, pupils, and residents?

It is proposed that the new school building is built on the existing site, which would result in some disruption for staff, pupils, and residents during the construction phase. The school would work closely with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team to limit disruption through restricting delivery times and working collaboratively with the site manager.

How would we be involved throughout the design process?

A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor, and school. Any feedback or thoughts can be sent to the Sustainable Communities for Learning team on: Sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.go.uk;

Any further Frequently Asked Questions posed during the consultation will be added to the consultation webpage.

ANNEX D - CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY WITH CHILDREN AT ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Consultation with pupils from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and its feeder Primary schools on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Council on the proposal to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and increase its capacity from September 2025.

Background and Aim

- In their Consultation document on the above proposal the Governing Body and Archdiocese note the importance of making suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and where possible those pupils likely to attend the school. 'The Governing Body and the Archdiocese of Cardiff firmly believes that the pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.'
- Consultation workshops were arranged with the representatives of the school and its feeder primary schools on the 25th September 2023 to gather their views about the proposal.
- The information gathered from the session will feed into the discussions on the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration following the consultation period.

Methodology

- An interactive workshop which gave pupils an opportunity to discuss and share ideas together.
- It started with a discussion on the meaning of consultation and why it was important to talk to pupils

- Agreement was reached on what made a good discussion/consultation
- The consultation purpose was then explained to them, including the background and the timeline for the activity.
- The pupils were divided into sub-groups to share and note their own ideas. The groups then merged to have further discussion on these ideas, based on the rules of engagement as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- Following receiving pupils' feedback, pupils were given information on the advantages and shortcomings noted in the consultation document; it was explained to them that their comments would be fed into a report on this session and that it would be presented to the Council as part of the evidence gathered on this consultation.

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School - Pupil responses

What makes a good discussion/consultation:

- Every voice is important
- Different views
- Debate – to agree and disagree

Advantages of the proposed plan

- More people
- A fresh start – more modern - appealing
- Bigger school (more GCSE options; the chance to do computer science as a GCSE, psychology, criminology)
- More classrooms; designated study rooms
- Better facilities for people who need facilities e.g., isolation, PE, music, better IT (Information Technology) rooms etc; more science labs; better science equipment; chapel?
- Better classes
- Better equipment = better education; enhanced learning and attitudes to learning
- Each teacher to have their own classroom; separate spaces for subjects
- A bigger library may attract pupils so more will use it; a bigger library – it can make people read more
- Easier to find your way around
- Better and larger sports facilities; potentially better sports facilities in a new school, more physical education, and higher grades for GCSE because of more opportunity; wider variety of sports
- More support
- More opportunities
- More spaces and student facilities will improve mindset, sense of wellbeing, and ensure needs are heard
- Better for health and wellbeing
- Less floods - better drainage
- Air conditioning in all rooms

- Better outside facilities for bus
- Fresh made good – not stale
- Better mental health system – students more involved, more support

Possible disadvantages of the proposed plan

- Cost more – more teachers, more staff
- Transition might not go too smoothly
- Confusing for new pupils; more area to memorise
- Too many people; more people to account for – overwhelming; getting lost, stressful; relationships with teachers are less personal; some people may feel neglected; more queues
- More accidents/casualties
- More staff needed
- Toilets might be unisex; ensure they are separated and toilet paper in cubicles
- Some spaces lost for GCSE space (during the construction phase e.g., PE space; no field for GCSE students during exams etc
- Inconvenience/distraction/noise during the new build (especially during GCSE)

Questions:

- Will it have any air conditioning?
- Will there be an opportunity for a 6th form?

Suggestions/Ideas to keep in mind with the development:

- Would like a sixth form to compete with other skills
- Better outside shelters so as not to get wet
- Deal with minimal food options; more food options
- How will you ensure the year 7/8 will have a good transition
- Need separate toilets and toilet paper
- Different sound for bell
- Blinds
- BSL (British Sign Language) – introduce interpreter and make it a compulsory subject. Makes school more inclusive and easier for all.

St Joseph's and St Helen's Primary schools:

What makes a good discussion:

- That we learn from it
- We need to speak aloud
- We need to listen to others
- Need to be open
- Need to keep on topic/subject matter
- Need to give reasons for our arguments
- Need to give our opinions

- Need to share ideas
- Need to be get to a conclusion

Benefits of the proposed plan

- It will be a bigger school
- More students/people could come to the school
- More friends
- Happy people
- There might be no floods
- Better learning rooms
- Bigger classrooms
- More organised
- More space
- More food
- More toilets
- The school will have better facilities
- A nicer exterior
- More opportunities
- More sporting opportunities
- It would be more interesting to learn in the new school – get big brains

Possible pitfalls of the proposed plan

- Year 7 & 8 are not going to be used to the new school
- It will be too big
- People get angry because of too many rooms
- There will be loud noises which could interrupt lessons
- Too many crowds
- What if it is delayed while building?
- Students may disagree with layout
- Higher chance of being lost
- Old school being demolished
- There will be a more spaces to clean
- As it will be bigger there could be less money to go around to fund teachers' salaries, more need for furniture, use electricity & water (leading to a question below)

Questions

Q: How are you going to fund all the increased costs noted above or do you already have that money? Will the school go bankrupt?

Q: What will traffic be like?

Q: Will it be flood proof?

Suggestions/Ideas to keep in mind with the development:

- Wellbeing area
- Sensory rooms; quiet rooms with therapy dog; therapy room for the children to calm down, with stuff like lava lamps and fidgets to help them calm down
- Bigger hall

- Art gallery
- Outdoor learning
- Outdoor tree swing
- Libraries; a bigger library
- Windows that could open fully
- Need to ensure more allergy friendly food
- Trim trail/obstacle course
- In an ideal world – one hall for food and a different hall for assemblies; separate areas for food; seating areas for lunch; allergy menu; vegetarian menu
- Pancake Tuesday/Waffle Wednesday!
- Pool (& ice hockey court) for use for after school clubs!

Observations

- St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School warmly welcomed me into the schools and all the pupils who participated did so well in the group and team discussions.
- Teaching staff were present but allowed all pupils to share their opinions in an open and honest manner.

2. ANNEX E – RESPONSE FROM ESTYN

This report has been prepared by His Majesty’s Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places. The proposal will also include a 60-place specialist resource base.

Summary/ Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Governing Body, local authority and the Archdiocese of Cardiff have set out a clear rationale for part of its proposal. It clearly outlines the many advantages of building a new school building. It addresses issues with the existing building, such as condition, suitability, and flooding issues. The Council’s latest condition survey of the school, which was undertaken in 2022, indicated that there are considerable issues with the existing building. However, the consultation does not include detailed information about the proposal for a 60-place specialist resource base in the new building.

The Governing Body, local authority and Archdiocese of Cardiff provides a clear description of the new building proposal and outlines a sensible timescale for statutory procedures and the implementation of the proposal.

The proposer identifies clearly and suitably the expected benefits and disadvantages of the new building proposal. However, as the school does not currently have an SRB there is insufficient information in the consultation regarding the proposal for a 60-place specialist resource base in the new building.

The local authority has suitably identified risks associated with the new building proposal and has detailed appropriate measures to mitigate identified risks. However,

the risks associated with the proposal for a specialist resource base are not included. The consultation includes an equality impact assessment and a community impact assessment as part of this proposal.

The consultation document sets out three suitable alternatives to its new building proposal and provides valid reasons as to why they have discounted them.

It appears that there will be no impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements as the new school building is to be located on the existing school site in the south-west corner of the school grounds. However, the proposal does not include information regarding the travel arrangements for learners to the specialist resource base.

The proposal projects an increase in projected pupil demand at the school, with the need for around 868 pupil spaces by 2027-28. At the same time, the new build will increase the capacity of the school from 813 to 1,050 places including the 60 places at the specialist resource base.

The proposer references potential future housing developments which are part of the Local Development plan. The local authority has considered appropriately the potential impact of housing developments on projected numbers.

The proposal outlines the financial costs of the proposal which they estimate to be £62 million. The Council is expected to receive £52.7 million (85%) in Welsh Government match funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme for this project. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have received funding for Band A and Band B of the programme. However, no further detail is provided regarding the overall funding.

The proposal identifies that the estimated annual cost of operating a new 1,050 place school would be £5.060M based on a full capacity of 210 pupils per year group using funding indicators from the 2023/24 mainstream funding formula. The revenue budget delegated to St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School for 2023/24 was £4.125M for 836 pupils. The increased cost of £935k (which excludes the impact of inflation) would occur incrementally over a period of five years as the school's larger capacity would be filled each year from year 7. The increased cost for the first year is estimated at £208k and a suitable financial plan is noted in the proposal. However, the proposal is not able to provide details of the annual revenue costs of the resource base for pupils with additional learning needs as it will depend on the number of pupils enrolled and the complexities of their needs.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer suitably considers the educational aspects of the proposal. It identifies in useful detail the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection and the school's recommendations for improvement along with the inspection of denominational education recommendations. However, the proposal does not consider how the move

to the new site will impact on the school's work in addressing these recommendations.

The local authority considers appropriately the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards in education, including pupil standards, wellbeing, and attitudes to learning, teaching, and learning experiences, care support, guidance, leadership, and management. For example, the proposal identifies fairly that a move to a school that is purposely built should result in improved teaching and learning experiences through the provision of modern education facilities. This includes break out spaces and an SRB unit for additional learning areas, improved digital infrastructure throughout the new school building reflecting the digital curriculum standards. Furthermore, the design of the building is likely to support effective pedagogy through improved facilities, standardised classroom sizes and through providing a building and outdoor spaces. It further notes that a better learning environment will also have a positive impact on support and guidance by having a larger and improved outdoor area to enhance pupils' wellbeing.

The proposal considers, to some extent, the impact of the proposal on additional learning needs provision but does not provide sufficient information about its plans for the specialist resource base.

The local authority notes that the new school building will be in the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. They note that the current school can run effectively during the construction period nevertheless, the proposal does not provide details about the potential disruption of the proposal to learners.

3. ANNEX F – MINUTES OF CABINET & THE LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL

CABINET

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 20th July 2023.

C71 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO DELIVER A NEW BUILDING FOR ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE)

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Cabinet of the consultation on a proposal to deliver a new building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on its existing site from September 2025.

Councillor Birch made the point that there would be climate change and nature implications here, but that new build elements of the Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme would meet the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent rating for significantly reducing the running costs and the carbon emissions arising from the building which was an ambition of the Council.

The Leader said that there was much excitement in the school that the proposal would be moving forward for consultation and looked forward to receiving the results of the consultation in October.

This was a matter for Executive decision. Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Governing Body's decision to undertake a period of consultation from 5th September 2023 to 17th October 2023 on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to their school to increase the capacity of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025 be endorsed.

(2) T H A T implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To note the Governing Body's decision to seek feedback through a formal consultation with prescribed stakeholders, prior to any publication of its proposal, as required by the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

(2) To note that implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.

(3) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the proposal.

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Remote Meeting, 14th September, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO DELIVER A NEW BUILDING FOR ST. RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Cabinet Reference and appended Consultation on proposal to deliver a new building for St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of both the Cabinet reference and the report on the Consultation on the proposal to deliver a new building for St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, and to discussions at the meeting.