



THE GOVERNING BODY OF STANWELL SCHOOL Community Impact Assessment

**On the proposal to change Stanwell School
status from foundation to a community-
maintained school.**



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1. Introduction

The Governing Body of Stanwell School is committed to ensuring that all pupils 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 Governing Body of Stanwell School is also committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that may be involved or affected by any proposal. The Governing Body 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 considered under section 1.13 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to specific factors in the consideration of proposals for the change of school category. It is proposed that Stanwell School will change from a foundation school to a community maintained School as referenced within the consultation document.

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 Governing Body 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.

The Governing Body of Stanwell School believe that with support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, they can continue to provide a stimulating learning environment and a wide range of opportunities for pupils to allow them to reach their full potential, while meeting their wider duties of care under the relevant Welsh Government legislation.

A change to Community maintained status would support Stanwell in working more closely with a number of stakeholders in order to improve educational outcomes, and to facilitate greater resilience in maintaining and operating the school. The Vale of Glamorgan Council works closely with the governing bodies of its schools to ensure that standards are robust, that teaching and learning is of a high quality, and that leadership and governance is strong. Stanwell School and the Council will work together to monitor school

performance and to support school improvement. Community maintained status would strengthen this relationship.

4. Current Challenges

The proposal to change Stanwell School status from foundation to a community maintained school would address a number of challenges:

- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- Enable the Vale of Glamorgan Council to support the school with future capital projects and manage building projects effectively.
- Enable the school to further improve holistic management of school, through additional specialist support from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and to address challenges relating to school finances.
- Provide equal opportunities for the community for school places throughout the Vale of Glamorgan Council via the application of the Vale of Glamorgan admission procedures.
- Provide reassurance that pupils are being taught in a suitable environment to meets Welsh Governments standards and facilitate regular monitoring and capital investment planning via condition and suitability surveys.

5. Community Profile

Stanwell School is a co-educational foundation school with sixth form provision for children aged between eleven and eighteen. The school is in the town of Penarth, 5 miles south-west of Cardiff. There are 299 places available per year group from years 7 to 11 with a separate 6th form, this will increase to 324 places from September 2024. There are 1955 pupils currently on roll with a total capacity for 1947 pupils.

Stanwell School is a Foundation School. A Foundation School is a Local Authority funded school within which the governing body has different responsibilities in the management of the school than they do in community schools. Foundation schools were set up under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to replace grant-maintained schools, which were funded directly by central government. Grant-maintained schools that had been voluntary controlled or community-maintained schools were given the option to become foundation schools.

As a result of the proposal, the school would change from its foundation status to a community maintained school which would take effect from September 2024.

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
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	<p>As a Foundation School, Stanwell school is responsible for their own admission policies and procedures. There are 1955 pupils currently on roll with a total capacity for 1947 pupils.</p> <p>Stanwell operate a feeder school arrangement for entry to the school in event of applications exceeding the number of places available with the designated feeder primary schools. This means that pupils residing outside of the Vale of Glamorgan who have accessed a place in a feeder primary school have priority for school places over pupils living in the local community who have not accessed a place in one of Stanwell's feeder schools. Under the council's policy, residence within a school catchment area would ensure that local children are prioritised for entry to their local school. In most cases under current feeder school arrangements, the majority of children in feeder schools are also resident within Stanwell's school catchment area so this would not have a significant change on admissions to the school.</p> <p>The feeder schools are currently Albert Primary School, Evenlode Primary School, Sully Primary School and Victoria Primary School. The change to community status would mean that pupil admissions to Stanwell would be subject to the Vale of Glamorgan's admissions policy and admissions would be managed by the Council. There is ample capacity to accommodate local need so the management of admissions</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
			<p>moving from Stanwell to the council doesn't bring any detriment. The Vale of Glamorgan has committed to ensuring that all Vale of Glamorgan pupils can access a school place at a school as close to their home address as possible. This change would facilitate this.</p> <p>The council's school admissions policy is subject to annual review and consultation and as such, does not form part of this consultation.</p> <p>Should this proposal materialise, with effect from September 2024, the local authority's admission arrangements would apply to the school as a result of a change to community status where residence within catchment area is a high priority for entry.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>Stanwell School also offers a wide range of curricular activities including after school art clubs, music clubs, creative writing, charity committees, eco clubs and a range of other clubs.</p> <p>Although changing category has the potential to cause disruption to the running of the school and or add complexity to school reorganisation. Therefore, there should be a presumption against changes where benefits cannot be identified and wherever possible, arrangements should be put in place to mitigate against disruption wherever possible.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
			<p>If the school changes to a community status, it is intended that all existing services for children will continue to run as normal.</p> <p>Stanwell rent rooms for meetings at the request of the community and have a range of facilities that could be used to the community including synthetic pitches, dance studio, auditorium and sports hall.</p> <p>All revenue generated by the use of community facilities would remain with the school. The school could also benefit from coordinated use of facilities (for example facilities at Whitmore are managed by the Leisure team and they generate tens of thousands pounds a year to cover the future costs of replacement pitches and liaise with local clubs and sports facilities etc).</p> <p>The proposal would result in additional extra-curricular activities and services to the community.</p>
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	2	<p>Stanwell rent rooms for meetings at the request of the community and have a range of facilities that could be used to the community including synthetic pitches, dance studio, auditorium and sports hall.</p> <p>If the school changes to a community status, it is intended that all existing services for children will continue to run. The</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
			proposal would result in additional extra-curricular activities and services to the local community. As mentioned above, the school could also benefit from coordinated use of facilities and events.
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>Stanwell rent rooms for meetings at the request of the community and have a range of facilities that could be used to the community including synthetic pitches, dance studio, auditorium and sports hall.</p> <p>All community maintained school across the Vale of Glamorgan Council are encouraged to provide community use, specifically those schools who have formed part of the Sustainable Community for Learning Programme. This is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community to enhance the facilities available.</p> <p>Changing the status to a community maintained school would provide better opportunities for parents and the local communities to get involved, creating a closer community connection through the school.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	The school does not have close links or support any local businesses. Therefore, the proposal will not cause any impact to any local businesses.

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI6	Impact on local employment	2	<p>The school's budget is currently managed by the governing body without oversight from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Should this proposal come to fruition. Stanwell School would benefit from additional support on budget management by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</p> <p>The school is not near any major businesses or shopping areas. The school does not have close links or support any local businesses. Therefore, would not have any impact on local employment.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>As the school is currently a foundation school, it is the governing body's responsibility to undertake condition and suitability surveys to establish its condition. However, if the school changes to become a community school, the Vale of Glamorgan would carry out a full condition and suitability survey.</p> <p>The condition and suitability surveys inform asset renewal and capital expenditure decisions for all Council assets and is one of the key drivers for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p> <p>The proposal to change the school to a community focused school would have a positive impact on local infrastructure as the Vale of Glamorgan would be able to identify the current school condition to enable changes if required.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
			<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council have a duty of care to ensure that all children and young people are being taught in suitable education settings and the local infrastructure is not an issue. Infrastructure also extends to educational digital standards for example, which local authorities manage on behalf of schools as a funding requirement</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>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. "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."</p> <p>Any pupil attending Stanwell on the date of transfer to the new status who lives more than 3 miles from the school site would therefore continue to be entitled to free school transport subject to any changes to the policy in place for all schools.</p> <p>The outcome of this proposal will not have any impact on transport arrangements.</p>

7. Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	1
CI2	2
CI3	2
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	2
CI7	3
CI8	0
Average Score	1.63

8. Conclusions

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

If the school changes to a community status, it is intended that all existing services for children will continue to run. The proposal would result in additional extra-curricular activities and services to the local community.

A community maintained school would provide better opportunities for parents and the local communities to get involved, creating a closer community connection through the school.

Stanwell have recently signed up to the Vale of Glamorgan payroll and financial support services. This change is a result of Stanwell adopting the service level agreement offered, rather than a result of any proposed change in categorisation.

The proposal would 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 to change the school to a community focused school would have a positive impact on local infrastructure as the Vale of Glamorgan would be able to identify the current school condition to enable changes if required.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council have a duty of care to ensure that all children and young people are being taught in suitable education settings and the local infrastructure is not an issue.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to change the status of Stanwell school from foundation to a community maintained school would provide more benefits than disadvantages to the community.