



DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS

Community Impact Assessment

On the proposal to:

- **Change the age range of St Nicholas CIW Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years and to establish a nursery class containing 24 part time places from September 2023**



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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 changing the age range of a school by a year or more. A new 126 place school with additional nursery provision for 24 part time places for St Nicholas CIW Primary School has been included as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. It is proposed that staff and pupils would move into this building by September 2023 to provide the required capacity.

Although the transferring of the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, this is not subject to the statutory process as the transfer would be within 1.609344 kilometres (1 mile).

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 and change the age range of St Nicholas CIW Primary School would address a number of challenges.

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.
- 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.
- 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.
- Establish a nursery unit which offers 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.
- Develop the ethos and culture of the school in children from an earlier age, leading to effective interpersonal relationships and higher self-esteem.
- Provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- All curriculum planning and resourcing would build successfully on previous pupil knowledge and experience and engage interest.
- Support pupils to develop their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively across a continuum of learning.
- Improve the already good arrangements for the care, support and guidance of pupils from an earlier age.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.

5. COMMUNITY PROFILE

St Nicholas CIW Primary School is an English-medium voluntary controlled school serving 4 to 11 year olds in St Nicholas and Bonvilston. In terms of admissions, there are 18 pupils per year group with a total capacity of 126 pupils. The school does not currently provide nursery provision.

St Nicholas is a village in the Western Vale, in the Wenvoe Ward. According to 2011 census data, the Wenvoe Ward has a population of 2,659 with a mean age of 46. 69% of the population is economically active and deprivation is low. 69% of the population are identified as Christian.

According to the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) Wenvoe 1 is ranked 1664 out of 1909 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wales, placing it amongst the 50% least deprived. However, Wenvoe 1 is amongst the 20-30% most deprived LSOAs for access to services. This could be improved by this proposal with increased community access and facilities.

5.1. HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

A number of large scale housing developments are planned for the Vale of Glamorgan area. Planning permission has been granted for 117 dwellings to the east of St Nicholas and 120 dwellings to the east of Bonvilston. These housing developments are situated within the catchment area for St Nicholas CIW Primary School.

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. The formula is contained within the Council's Supplementary Guidance for planning purposes.

The development in total is projected to yield around 24 nursery and 66 primary school pupils.

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 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

6.1. IMPACTS ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	2	<p>Recent housing developments have resulted in increased pupil numbers in the Western Vale. Within the catchment area of St Nicholas CIW Primary School there are two major developments totalling 237 dwellings. Projections indicate that St Nicholas CIW Primary School would not be able to meet this increased demand. Increasing the capacity of St Nicholas CIW Primary School by September 2023 would result in the school being able to accommodate the projected future demand from within the catchment area.</p> <p>Traditionally, St Nicholas CIW Primary School has attracted a large number of pupils from out of the catchment area. Projections indicate that demand will increase from within the catchment area due to the recent and future housing developments.</p> <p>The addition of nursery provision would ensure the school is able to better meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review. A widespread review took place during the academic</p>

			<p>year 2018/19. No changes were made to the catchment area for St Nicholas CIW primary school but in September 2020 feeder arrangements for Primary Schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were removed.</p>
CI2	<p>Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities</p>	2	<p>St Nicholas CIW Primary School currently offers a breakfast club.</p> <p>The breakfast club is available from 7.50am to 8.40am.</p> <p>St Nicholas CIW Primary School also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include Art, sports, newspaper, music and eco clubs.</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 21st Century Schools Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the 21st Century Schools Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p>

CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	2	<p>St Nicholas CIW Primary School is currently taught over two sites with reception being taught in the nearby 'Old School' building. The school is currently in talks with the diocese to use this building for community use as it would not be required by the school when the new school building opens.</p> <p>St Nicholas CIW Primary School does not use any other local facilities.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>St Nicholas CIW Primary School does not currently offer any lettings or facilities for community use. This is due to the limitations with the existing school site.</p> <p>A key aim of the 21st Century Schools 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>Adding nursery provision 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	The school does not have close links or support any local businesses.
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 adding 24 part nursery places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	-1	<p>Access to St Nicholas CIW Primary School is via a narrow entry road. There is limited parking around the school which causes congestion during drop-off and pick-up times. Adding additional nursery places at the school would likely result in more cars which could result in increased congestion. The Council will work closely with the school to determine drop off and pick up arrangements. Additional extra-curricular activities, such as after school clubs, could assist with reducing congestion at pick-up times. Proposed plans also include a larger parking area and a new drop off and pick up area within the school site to remove congestion from the approach roads to the school within the Village of St Nicholas.</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. This would ensure transport implications are factored into the design of the new school.</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.¹</p> <p><i>“This is defined as 2 miles or further to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and 3 miles or further for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route.”²</i></p> <p>The school does not currently have any pupils who are entitled to free school transport. However, the school does provide a fee-paying minibus service for parents.</p> <p>This proposal would not impact on existing learner travel arrangements as the school would remain on the existing site and there would be no change to the catchment area.</p>
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¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

			<p>There may be traffic implications as a result of the schools increased capacity. Traffic and transport implications would 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>
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7. SCORING SUMMARY

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	2
CI2	2
CI3	2
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	3
CI7	-1
CI8	0
Average Score	1.375

8. CONCLUSIONS

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 5 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a negative impact on the local community across 1 of the 8 measures. 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, as well as a wider age range. 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 proposal would provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

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.

Transport implications would need to be carefully considered during the design of the new school to limit the impact of the increase pupils traveling to the school.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places and change the age range of St Nicholas would better meet the needs of the local community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.