

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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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GLOSSARY

‘Admissions Number’ - All maintained schools must admit pupils up to at least their published admission number. The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.

‘ALN’ - Additional Learning Needs.

‘CSCJES’ (Central South Consortium Joint Education Service) - The regional School Improvement Service for the five local authorities of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

‘EA’ (Equality Act) - The Act covers all aspects of school life to do with how a school treats pupils and prospective pupils, parents and carers, employees, and members of the community. Everything a school does must be fair, non-discriminatory, and not put individuals or groups of people at a disadvantage. In particular, a school must not discriminate, harass, or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to; admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, how it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility, or service, and excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

‘EIA’ (An Equality Impact Assessment) - EIA is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project, or scheme does not discriminate against any protected groups.

‘FSM’ - Free School Meals.

‘LA’ - Local Authority which means the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

‘Number on roll’ - the number of pupils attending a school.

‘PLASC’ (Pupil Level Annual School Census) - In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to the Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity and data on Welsh language, free school meals eligibility, special education needs and first language.

‘SA’ (School Action) - When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has SEN, they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school’s usual curriculum.

‘SA+’ (School Action +) - When a class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through School Action can be put in place.

‘Section 106’ - the Section 106 contribution is sought from anyone who has an interest in the building of a housing development, towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, educational provision, open space / play equipment, transport, or healthcare for those occupying the new homes.

‘SRB’ - Specialist Resource Base for children with special educational needs.

‘Statemented’ - A child has a Statement of Educational Need (SEN), otherwise known as Additional Learning Needs (ALN), if he or she has learning difficulties which

require special educational provision to be made to him or her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

‘Statutory Notice’ - A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by Cabinet to proceed with the proposal following consideration of all the responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

1. INTRODUCTION

This document explains the Governing Body's proposal to change the age range of St Nicholas CIW Primary School from 4 to 3 to include 24 part time nursery places from September 2023.

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.

The consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018). A range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals.

Before any decisions are made, the Governing Body needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known, to enable the Governing Body to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

Under the School Organisation Code (2018), it is vital that any feedback be received by **15th March 2022** in order to be considered as part of this consultation. Any items received after that date cannot be considered. This consultation gives you the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Governing Body decides how to proceed.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

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.

The school consists of two buildings located within the village of St. Nicholas but on different sites. The old village school built in the 1850s is located adjacent to the village church and the main flat-roofed school building located off of School Lane approximately 60m away from the other school building. The main school building site contains a large playing field with a quiet garden, a climbing trail, planting beds, an outdoor stage and seating, a games pitch, and a woodland which includes a conservation area and pond.

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges, and dioceses. All of the Vale of Glamorgan Council projects that were undertaken as part of Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme were completed on time and within budget. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government Band B funding through the 21st Century School Programme to build the new school.

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 provides the local planning policy framework for the Vale of Glamorgan and was adopted by the Council on 28 June 2017. Included in the LDP are developments to the East of St Nicholas comprising of 117 dwellings and to the East of Bonvilston comprising of 120 dwellings. These are all within the catchment area of St Nicholas CIW Primary School.

It should be noted that St. Nicholas Church in Wales Primary School was subject to a previous statutory consultation to expand the school from 126 places to 210 places to meet future demand for Church in Wales education and change the lowest age range of pupils at the school from 4 to 3, to consist of the addition of a nursery class containing 48 part time places from September 2021. This consultation was held by the Governing Body between 8th March 2019 to 12th August 2019. On the 23rd September 2019, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet approved the proposal to expand St Nicholas CIW Primary from 126 places to 210 places and to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2021. However, following the design of the proposed new school the Local Planning Authority considered the proposed design was insufficient to mitigate the impact the increased school capacity would have on the local highway infrastructure. Consequently, the Council's Planning Committee on 21st January 2021 determined that planning permission would not be granted due to the impact the increased capacity would have on the local highway infrastructure.

Following the outcome of the planning application refusal, the Council has reconsidered the redevelopment of St. Nicholas Church in Wales Primary School. It identified 3 potential options to explore which were:

- Option 1: Relocation - The Council undertook an initial desktop exercise to identify potential alternative sites within the catchment area. However, any alternative site would significantly increase the cost to deliver the scheme.
- Option 2: Reduce Capacity - The existing proposal could be amended to reduce the proposed capacity of the new school building but maintain additional nursery provision for the school. This would address concerns regarding the impact the proposal would have on the local highway infrastructure
- Option 3: Refurbishment - The Council's original Strategic Outline Programme was submitted to Welsh Government in July 2017, the St Nicholas CIW Primary School scheme was a refurbishment and expansion scheme. However, this was amended in 2018 to a new build as additional funding was identified and it became apparent that the condition and suitability of the existing buildings could not be addressed through a refurbishment. It was acknowledged that although a refurbishment and expansion would be a low-cost option it would not represent the optimal solution as there would be a greater risk planning permission would not be granted as the addition of the nursery would likely require enhancements to the existing parking, drop-off, and pick-up arrangements. It was considered this would not be possible under a refurbishment scheme due to the position of the existing building.

The Council agreed to endorse Option 2 as the preferred option on 8th March 2021. The Council endorsed Option 2 as it would result in St Nicholas CIW Primary School being able to accommodate nursery provision and would address the condition and suitability of the existing school buildings. Following this endorsement, the Council has revised the original scheme and initiated the planning process for the preferred option to determine if the revised planning proposal would be considered appropriate in planning terms.

It should be noted that the statutory consultation outlined in this Consultation Document is a separate process to seeking planning consent. The proposed redevelopment of the school to provide nursery provision could not be undertaken without first completing the statutory consultation process. However, to ensure the timely delivery of the replacement school, the Council will continue with the planning application process. Although the planning application process for the preferred scheme will be continuing in tandem with the statutory consultation, this does not represent pre-determination regarding the outcome of the statutory consultation. This is due to the planning application being a separate process that can be amended, if necessary, following the outcome of the statutory consultation. For information purposes the Pre-Application Consultation for the proposed development was issued on 6th December 2021 and closed on the 10th January 2022. However, information on the pre-application consultation can be viewed here - <https://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/PlaRecord.aspx?AppNo=2021/00005/PAC>

3. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to change the age range of pupils at St Nicholas CIW Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years to establish a nursery class containing 24 part time places from September 2023.

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.

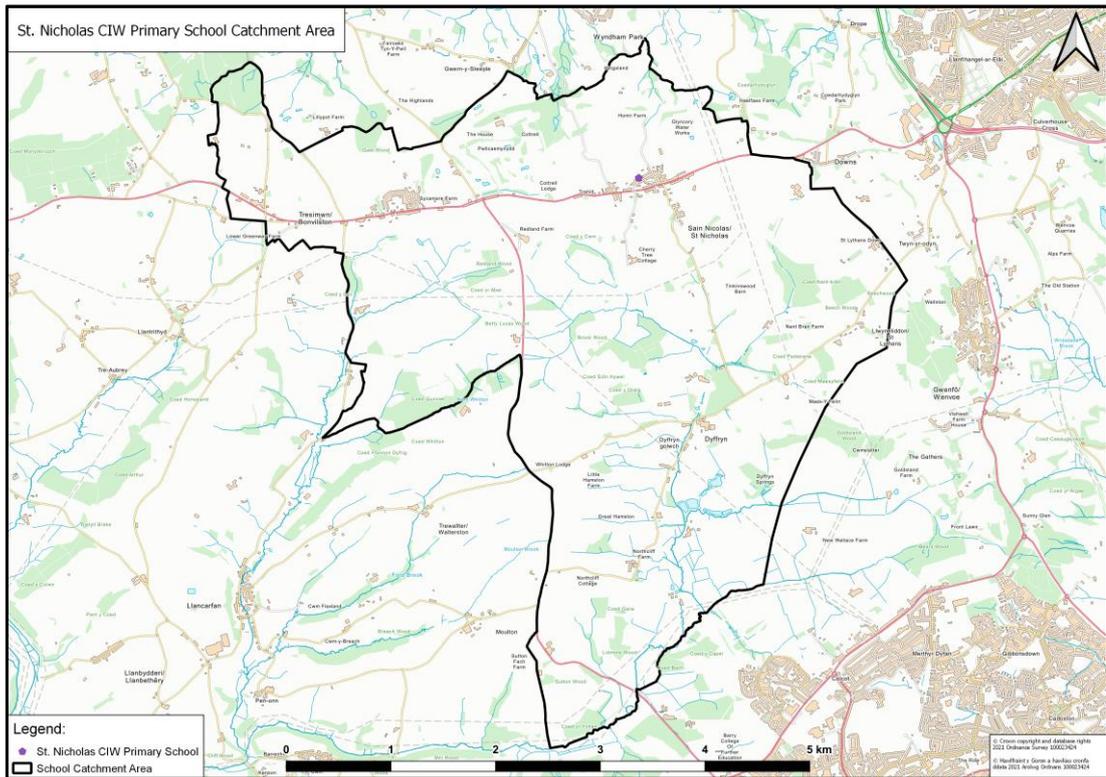
A new 126 place school with additional 24 part time nursery places for St Nicholas CIW Primary has been included as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. It is proposed that St Nicholas CIW Primary School would move into this building by September 2023 to accommodate the increased demand. 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 on the existing site meaning it is within 1.609344 kilometres (1 mile) of the current school location.

3.1. CATCHMENT AREA MAP

It is **not** proposed that changes would be made to St Nicholas CIW Primary School catchment area as a result of this proposal.

All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review and a widespread review took place during spring/summer 2019. No proposed changes were made in relation to the catchment area for the school under this review. However, changes may happen as part of future reviews undertaken by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. These would need to be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.

Map 1: St Nicholas CIW Primary School catchment area



3.2. WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THE CHANGES?

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.

However, the original proposal to expand the school to 210 places was developed in 2018/19. Therefore, a reassessment of the arising demand for school places has been undertaken. St Nicholas CIW Primary School currently has 121 pupils on roll against a capacity of 126. However, 72% of the pupils in the school attend from outside of the Vale of Glamorgan Authority area. This means there is adequate capacity to accommodate the increase in primary school demand but there is

currently no capacity to meet the nursery demand from the housing developments. The formula used to determine pupil yield from housing developments has recently been evaluated across a number of completed housing developments and has accurately reflected actual demand.

The development in St Nicholas is now complete and the majority of properties have been occupied. There are approx. 14 pupils from the new development currently attending schools in the Vale (5 of which attend St Nicholas). This is consistent with what has been seen at other developments where it takes a number of years for pupil yield to grow. The development in Bonvilston has started but no dwellings have been occupied to date. This means pupil yield is still projected to grow by 52 pupils within the St Nicholas catchment area. The table below shows the current school is under capacity by 5 places.

Table 1: Number on roll 2022

General School Information							
School	Type of school	Language category	Admission number	School capacity	Number on roll	Age range	No of Part – time nursery places
St Nicholas CIW Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	English Medium	18	126	121	4 - 11	0

In addition to the above table, Table 2 below shows the existing number of pupils on roll at St Nicholas CIW Primary School broken down by year group to provide further detail on the capacity of the school:

Table 2: Number on Roll by Year Group

	Reception	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total	Capacity
NOR	14	17	19	19	17	18	17	121	126

This highlights that there is limited capacity, with only 4 of the 7 year groups having surplus capacity and only 5 places available across all year groups. However, St Nicholas CIW Primary School does attract a large number of applications from pupils not resident within the catchment area. The outcome of the previous reception admissions is summarised in the table below helps to demonstrate where demand is arising from:

Table 3: Reception Admissions in Catchment

	Total number of places allocated	Number of first preference applications	Number from within catchment

Reception 2018	19	25	1
Reception 2019	18	31	3
Reception 2020	15	12	3
Reception 2021	16	14	2
Reception 2022	14	11	3

On average, over the last 4 years, St Nicholas CIW Primary School has only received 2 catchment applications for reception entry each year. Overall, the school has 19 (16%) pupils on roll from within the catchment area. However, this is not reflective of the overall catchment population. There are currently 69 primary-aged pupils living in the catchment area of St Nicholas CIW Primary School. These pupils currently attend a range of primary schools as outlined in the table below.

Table 4: Pupils within St Nicholas Catchment Attending Other Schools

Primary School Attended	No. of Children
Llancarfan Primary School	1
Llanfair Primary School	1
Llangan Primary School	2
Pendoylan C/W (Aided) Primary School	13
Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary School	19
Rhws Primary School	1
St Joseph's RC Prim (Vale)	1
St Nicholas C/W Primary School	19
Y Bont Faen Primary School	4
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	10
Ysgol Y Deri	1
Total	72

51 pupils currently attend English medium CIW primary schools from the St Nicholas CIW Primary School catchment area. Currently only 19 of these attend St Nicholas CIW Primary School. The current lack of nursery provision could be a factor in this as parents could opt for schools with early years provision.

The St Nicholas CIW Primary School catchment area is likely to grow from 67 primary-aged pupils to 119 if we include projected yield from housing developments. Approx. 14% (17) of these are likely to attend WM based on current trend. This means St Nicholas CIW Primary School will have a potential catchment population of 102 primary pupils following the completion of the housing developments.

The following table highlights the number of places available at local schools. In the event that the governing body are unable to implement a temporary measure to increase capacity, applicants would be offered a place at the nearest available school.

Table 5: Other schools' information (January 2022)

School	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus Places
Gwenfo CIW Primary School	210	208	2
Llancarfan Primary School	126*	75	51
Llanfair Primary School	129	127	2
Llangan Primary School	111	100	11
Llansannor CIW (Aided) Primary School	210	204	6
Pendoylan CIW (Aided) Primary School	210	193	17
Peterston-Super-Ely CIW Primary School	189	160	29
St Brides Major CIW Primary School	203	204	-1
St David's CIW Primary School	140	180	-40
Y Bont Faen Primary School	210	221	-11
Total	1,738	1,626	66

* From February 2022, Llancarfan capacity 210

CONDITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

St Nicholas CIW Primary School is a timber clad building which has been categorised as being of poor condition and suitability. This means the school is exhibiting major defects and teaching methods are adversely affected. It would not be possible to refurbish teaching areas to fully meet 21st century standards.

The school is split over two sites with reception pupils having to walk to the nearby 'Old School' following morning assembly. There is no path along this stretch of road.

Classroom sizes are inconsistent throughout the building. There are currently 72 children being taught across two classrooms.

Building Bulletin 99: Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects advises that a sink, washable floor area and resources for simple 'wet' practical activities are required. This promotes good hygiene, prevents sickness, and allows water play activities. Some classrooms at St Nicholas CIW Primary School do not currently have a water supply.

The outcome of the 2018 condition survey is outlined below.

Table 6: 2018 condition survey

School	Type	Condition	Suitability	Backlog Maintenance
St Nicholas CIW Primary School	Voluntary Controlled	Poor	Poor	£730,276

The backlog maintenance includes the following.

Table 7: Backlog maintenance record

Building element	2019 estimate (£)
Structural repairs to timber frame	462,200
Flat roof renewal	196,435
Repairs to annex building	34,665
Internal redecoration, renewal of floor coverings and minor repairs	28,888
Install ventilation fans and blending valves in toilets.	8,089
Total	730,276

St Nicholas CIW Primary School has been included as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. A new 210 place school building would be built on the existing school site. It is anticipated that the new school building would open by September 2023, to provide sufficient space for the increased demand and address the condition and suitability issues with the existing buildings.

Pupils would be educated in a high-quality modern building which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

NURSERY PROVISION

St Nicholas CIW Primary School does not currently offer nursery provision.

It is proposed that 24 part time nursery places are provided to develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three. This would ensure there is a consistent approach to planning and delivery of the foundation phase (nursery to year two) and reflect the nursery years learning strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan.

In terms of demand for nursery places, as there is no provision at the existing school there is no historic admissions data to demonstrate demand. However, using

the most recent population projections, the likely nursery age population in the St. Nicholas CiW School catchment area can be estimated for future years to give an indication of likely demand for nursery places for the school. Table 8 below demonstrates the predicted nursery pupils in the catchment area based upon the 2018-based principal population projections accounting for the 2019 mid-year population estimates.

Table 8: Projected Nursery Provision

Age	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
3	12	12	12	13	13
4	6	6	6	7	7

4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

4.1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

The following table provides the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) number on roll in January each year and projected number on roll data for primary school places from Reception to Year 6. The projected years show the local projected pupil demand for places and the likely number of pupils attending from outside the catchment area based upon the current percentage split of pupils attending the school which is as follows:

- Pupils attending from within catchment area – 15.83% (19 pupils);
- Pupils attending from another catchment area in the Authority – 12.5% (15 pupils);
- Pupils attending from outside the Authority – 71.67% (86 pupils).

Table 9: Recent and projected number on roll

School	Current Capacity	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Janu 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	2022/23 Projection	2023/24 Projection	2024/25 Projection	2025/26 Projection	2026/27 Projection
St Nicholas CIW Primary School	126	124	125	127	125	125	128	121	123	121	165	165	168	168	168

These figures have been inflated to account for pupils who attend the school that live outside of the Vale of Glamorgan using the latest number on roll data (2021/22). This data shows that 71.67% of the pupils attending the school are from outside of the Authority. However, this is not considered to appropriately reflect the demand for school places within the Authority area for the school. The table below shows the projected number on roll but only showing the predicted pupils who could attend the school from within the Authority including current trend of pupils who attend the school from other catchments within the Authority:

Table 10: Projected Number on Roll within Authority Area

School	Current Capacity	2022/23 Projection	2023/24 Projection	2024/25 Projection	2025/26 Projection	2026/27 Projection
St Nicholas CIW Primary School	126	108	108	110	110	110

This is considered to better reflect the demand for school places within the Authority and demonstrates maintaining the current school capacity would be able to accommodate the anticipated growth within the Authority area.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

The Vale of Glamorgan Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to ensure that standards are robust, that teaching, and learning is of a high quality, and that leadership and governance is strong. The Council works with two organisations in order to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under section 104 of the Government Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) was established in September 2012. The Local Authority works with the Consortium to support and challenge all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise the standards achieved by their pupils.

In September 2017 a new Estyn School Common Inspection Framework was introduced for all schools across Wales. St Nicholas CIW Primary School was last inspected in January 2017. Estyn evaluates a provider’s effectiveness using a four-point judgement scale:

Table 11: Estyn inspection criteria

Judgement	What the judgement means
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Excellent	Very strong, sustained performance and practice
Good	Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important weaknesses outweigh strengths

ESTYN REPORT (MAY 2017)

Summary

The school's current performance: **Good**

The school's prospects for improvement: **Good**

The school's current performance is good because:

- Most pupils make good or very good progress from their individual starting points
- Many pupils make very good progress in developing their skills in information and communication technology (ICT), which enables them to work with increasing independence
- Nearly all pupils are happy, well-behaved and have commendable attitudes towards their learning
- Productive links with schools across Europe help to develop pupil's awareness of global citizenship well
- Nearly all teachers provide interesting learning opportunities that engage pupils' curiosity and encourage them to develop their independent learning skills well
- The extensive outdoor learning environment provides a wide range of stimulating learning areas and opportunities for pupils to play creatively

The school's prospects for improvement are good because:

- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school that she communicates effectively with staff, governors, and parents
- The school addresses national priorities successfully, which is bringing about notable improvements in pupils' ICT and other key skills

- There are successful systems to identify the school's strengths and areas for improvement accurately, which enable leaders to plan improvements efficiently
- The school benefits from numerous partnerships with local schools and those further afield, which assists the professional development of staff effectively
- Leaders monitor the school's finances appropriately and ensure that spending decisions link well to priorities in the school development plan

Recommendations

R1 Raise standards of pupils' writing in Welsh in key stage 2

R2 Improve rates of attendance

R3 Provide pupils throughout the school with greater opportunities to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum

The inspection report for St Nicholas CIW Primary School can be found at:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6733037>

WELSH GOVERNMENT CATEGORISATION OF SCHOOLS

In 2014, Welsh Government introduced a new categorisation system for schools; this was revised in September 2017. Categorisation considers each school's standards alongside the school's capacity to improve in order to determine the level of support required. Organisations such as the CSCJES and the school improvement service then work with schools' leaders to identify provide and/or broker any support required for further improvement.

The categorisation system is described below:

Table 12: Welsh Government Criteria

Category	What the category means
Green	A highly effective school which is well run has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement.
Yellow	An effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve.
Amber	A school in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly.

Red	A school in need of greatest improvement and will receive immediate, intensive support.
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To determine the support category as explained in the table above, schools are placed in one of four groups for ability to bring about improvement (A-D) with A being the highest for improvement capacity. The revised categorisation system introduced in September 2017 does not use a standards grade.

Table 13: Standards and improvement categories - January 2015 – January 2019

St Nicholas CIW Primary School – Standards and Improvement Categories			
Publication Date	Standards Grade	Improvement Capacity	Overall Category
January 2019	N/A	B	Yellow
January 2018	N/A	B	Yellow
January 2017	3	C	Amber
January 2016	3	C	Amber
January 2015	3	B	Yellow

Of the 46 primary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, 28 are categorised as green and 18 as yellow.

For further information about the categorisation scheme, please see Welsh Government's parents' guide to the National School Categorisation System:

<http://gov.wales/national-school-categorisation-system-guidance-parents-and-carers>

4.2. THE INTENDED IMPACT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES

This consultation proposes to change the age range of St Nicholas CIW Primary School from 4 to 3 to include 24 part time nursery places from September 2023. The school would move into a new school building on the same site to accommodate the nursery provision.

Standards: (Good)

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Most pupils enter the school with levels of skills, knowledge and understanding that are below those expected of pupils of a similar age. During their time at school, most make good or very good progress.
- Most pupils in the Foundation Phase are attentive listeners and engage well with their learning. Most develop their speaking skills well and talk about their work clearly.
- Most pupils in key stage 2 make good progress in developing their speaking skills.
- In key stage 2, most pupils continue to develop a wide range of number skills well. They perform calculations with large numbers accurately, describe two and three-dimensional shapes by their properties and plot co-ordinates in all four quadrants.

- In key stage 2, pupils' attainment over the past four years in English, mathematics and science at the expected level has fluctuated widely and has placed the school in the higher 50% in two of the past four years. At the higher-than-expected level, attainment in nearly all subjects has regularly placed the school in the higher 50% and often in the top 25% of similar schools.

The proposal would have a positive impact on standards as providing nursery provision at the school would result in a new building on site. The learning environment and infrastructure, including both indoor and outdoor facilities and learning space are key elements in supporting both teachers and learners. This is reflected in the aims of the national curriculum and Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and the Council's ambitions for 21st Century Schools with full access to 21st Century technologies.

The DCF was produced in order to ensure the development of digital literacy, competency, and skills from an early age. "Digital Competence is the set of skills and knowledge and attitudes that enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems. It is essential for learners if they are to be informed, capable and have the potential to be successful in today's society." Classroom task ideas will need to "change and develop to reflect new technologies and the increasing experience and expertise within the digital learning field".

From September 2018 schools are expected to:

- Have a clear vision for delivering digital competence in the classroom across the curriculum
- Have established staff responsibilities for embedding digital competence across the curriculum
- Review hardware and software requirements, and staff professional learning needs on an on-going basis
- Be mapping digital competence against department/ year of current curriculum
- Have planned for and be delivering staff professional development in respect of digital competence, working with regional consortia.

The DCF guidance June 2018 advises that from January 2020, the new curriculum and assessment arrangements will be available. Digital expectations will be embedded in the new curriculum and settings and schools will be:

- Comparing existing approaches to DCF implementation with the new curriculum
- Embedding digital competence across the school curriculum
- Sharing good practice within and outside the school
- Engaging with the school council and pupil voice
- Evaluating how the current approach to digital competence fits with the new curriculum.

From September 2022, settings and schools will be delivering digital competence on a cross-curricular basis. They will:

- Have embedded digital competence across the school curriculum

- Continue to adapt existing digital competence approaches to the new curriculum
- Continue to review and refine their approach to digital competence.

Providing the appropriate resources and technologies to ensure we support learners to meet the objectives of the framework is therefore an important consideration in developing our plans for new school buildings as part of our strategy for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning: (Excellent)

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Nearly all pupils are happy and feel safe in school. They are confident that adults will help if they have any issues.
- Most pupils have a positive attitude towards healthy living. They know that drinking water, eating healthy foods, and taking regular exercise is important for maintaining their health. Most pupils enjoy the sporting and physical activities available, and many engage well with the extra-curricular opportunities on offer.
- The school council is effective and works efficiently with little support from adults. Members of the council are proud that they have contributed effectively to several improvements in the school, including making a notable contribution to pupils' wellbeing.

As a result of the proposal, the school would be transferred to a new school building on the existing site. This would have a positive impact on the wellbeing of pupils with the introduction of innovative learning environments and break out spaces for pupil pastoral care. The school currently uses a small room with no external windows for pupils with additional learning needs.

Wireless ICT technology allows schools much more flexibility in how they use their buildings with schools being able to provide ICT facilities in less formal areas. In other schools, this has improved attitudes to learning by providing a more varied approach to developing ICT skills and improving reliability.

Teaching and Learning Experiences: (Good)

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- All teachers and teaching assistants have positive working relationships with pupils and ensure high standards of behaviour.
- Most lessons proceed at a brisk pace and teachers have high expectations of pupils, including those who are more able. Most teachers use skilful questioning that develops pupils' understanding well.
- All teachers monitor pupils' progress regularly and appropriately. They provide valuable oral and written feedback that enables pupils to understand how well they are progressing.
- Both buildings are old but in a reasonable condition internally. However, the external fabric of the main building shows signs of neglect.

The new school would result in 21st Century learning environments including improved ICT infrastructure, collaborative breakout areas, outdoor learning, and effective circulation. This would enable a teaching and learning environment to better meet the needs of the new curriculum. Due to the split site and varied classroom size it has not been possible to group foundation phase and KS2 groups to provide continuity. The new build would ensure this is possible with foundation phase having direct access to external play areas.

The proposed new building would allow for further development of a curriculum filled with rich experience that challenge children, raise attainment, and develop interpersonal relationships.

Extending the age range of the school to provide nursery provision would provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

Care, Support and Guidance: (Good)

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development well within a suitable range of activities and educational visits.
- A well-established programme teaches pupils values such as honesty and forgiveness and contributes to pupils' pride in their school successfully.
- There is good a range of extra-curricular lunchtime and after-school activities, which are well attended.
- The school works well with several specialist agencies to provide valuable support for pupils.

This proposal would significantly improve the learning environment and increase facilities to support wellbeing including break out spaces for pastoral care and withdrawal for additional learning needs interventions.

Leadership and Management: (Good)

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The acting headteacher has a clear vision for the school and has high expectations for its future progress. She communicates her vision effectively with staff, governors, and parents.
- There are effective arrangements for managing the performance of staff, including all support staff. Individual objectives link well to whole-school improvement priorities and meet individual development needs effectively.
- Governors understand their roles and responsibilities clearly and generally have an accurate understanding about pupils' performance. Many visit the school regularly to take part in monitoring activities.

The proposed additional nursery provision at the school would better facilitate distributed leadership amongst an increased workforce. This would support continued professional development at the school.

4.3. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Council's School Investment Programme reflects the Council's commitments in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which aims to ensure that demand for Welsh medium education can be met in the long-term, in line with Welsh Government's National Gymraeg 2050 strategy and contributing to its ambitious target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

There are a number of Welsh-medium primary schools serving the Western Vale, including Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg and Ysgol Dewi Sant.

Although St Nicholas CIW Primary School teaches predominantly through the medium of English, the high standards achieved in Welsh language contribute to the Council's commitment to encouraging bilingual speakers.

4.4. HOW WOULD ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) PROVISION BE AFFECTED?

The school does not have an attached specialist resource base (SRB); it provides specialist support for children who have identified needs in an inclusive setting within the school.

The following table provides information about the needs of pupils from January 2018 PLASC.

Table 14: Outline of ALN need for children of compulsory school age PLASC January 2021

2018		St Nicholas CIW Primary School Jan 2018	LA	Wales
Percentage of ALN Pupils	School Action	25.2%	7.4%	11.1%
	School Action Plus	4.5%*	6.0%	7.5%
	Statemented	0.0%	0.6%	2.0%

**This relates to Jan 2019 as insufficient data was available in 2020 and 2021 to provide information on this attribute.*

The school provides a targeted and bespoke curriculum which is responsive to the individual child's abilities and ensures that all children who require additional support are integrated across all areas of the curriculum. The new school building which is being proposed to deliver the additional nursery provision includes improved spaces for ALN learning. This will help improve the deliver of the bespoke curriculum.

4.5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL ON SCHOOLS WITH A DESIGNATED RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

There are 17 primary schools within the Western Vale. St Nicholas CIW Primary School is one of the seven Church in Wales primary schools.

This proposal would maintain the primary school's capacity of 126 places. The proposal would result in the addition of 24 part time nursery places.

St Nicholas CIW Primary School would maintain its religious ethos whilst catering for a nursery aged pupils.

4.6. HOW WOULD OTHER SCHOOLS BE AFFECTED?

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other schools in the local area as no change to the existing catchment area is proposed.

There is currently no nursery provision at St Nicholas CIW Primary School or in the immediate area. Children can access nursery provision at other nursery units of schools or at a registered provider. The overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 24 full time equivalent places to take account of the new housing developments planned. Any local registered providers will be able to respond to the consultation.

4.7. REVIEW OF CATCHMENT AND FEEDER ARRANGEMENTS

All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review and a widespread review was undertaken during spring/summer 2019. No changes to the catchment area were made.

CHANGES TO CATCHMENT AREAS

The existing catchment area for St Nicholas CIW Primary School would remain unchanged as a result of this proposal. The increased capacity is required to meet the needs of the growing population within the catchment area.

FEEDER ARRANGEMENTS AND ADMISSIONS

The Council withdrew the primary school feeder system in the Vale of Glamorgan in September 2020. This means the Council no longer operates a feeder school system where certain primary schools are linked to a Secondary School. Therefore, St Nicholas CIW Primary School does not have feeder arrangements within other secondary schools.

The Council is the admission authority for the school. The school catchment area currently serves the Parishes of St. Nicholas, Bonvilston and Wenvoe. The admissions process allows parents the right to exercise parental preference for a school and as a result pupils may attend the school from outside of the school's catchment area. This is dependent upon the number of applications received and the admissions criteria pupils fit into. Consequently, a large number of pupils from the north western Cardiff area attend the school as a result of parents exercising parental

preference for the school. However, it should be noted the Local Education Authority's responsibility is to provide places for pupils within its area excluding those which travel from other Authority areas.

The school capacity and admission number are the limiting factors on the number of children who are admitted to the school. The local authority would not normally consider admitting beyond the school's admission number and school capacity overall. Where there are more applications than there are places available in the reception class, places would be allocated by applying the Council's oversubscription criteria which prioritises those residents within the catchment area. As a nursery class will contain children within two age categories known as rising threes and rising fours, not all children in a nursery would therefore be eligible to attend a reception class at the same time. Also the attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place at the same school. Admissions to the reception class would be in line with the council's published admission arrangements (<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/admissions/School-Admissions.aspx> refers). If the school were to be oversubscribed, places would be allocated up to the school's admission number by applying the Council's oversubscription criteria in order of priority. Furthermore, based on other schools within the Vale of Glamorgan, it is not always the case for parents of a whole nursery class apply to attend the reception class of the main school. A number of pupils in attendance at a nursery may attend other schools in the vicinity depending on parent preference.

The Local Authority will only admit children into the reception class up to the school's admission number. The only time the authority would need to assess options to address future provision is where catchment area numbers requiring places at the school start to increase beyond the school's admission number. This has not happened; current catchment area numbers are aligned to the capacity of the school to accommodate children.

4.8. LAND AND BUILDINGS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a vision to provide the best possible facilities for children and young people in the Vale to support their learning. A condition survey involves a visual assessment of all exposed parts of the buildings to identify significant defects and items of disrepair.

The Council's latest condition survey of the school was undertaken in 2018.

Table 15: 2018 Council Condition Survey

School	Type of school	Condition of school building	Suitability of school building	Cost identified of repairs
St Nicholas CIW Primary School	Community	Poor	Poor	£730,276

The proposed new school building would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21st Century
- Unobstructed access between all internal areas for children and staff as the new school will be contained within a single building
- Enhanced safeguarding and site security for pupils and staff
- Improved outdoor sports facilities for both pupil and community use
- Full access for the whole community with full disabled access to internal and external areas.

The existing St Nicholas CIW Primary School building is situated on approx. 12,034m² site in the village of St Nicholas. The existing building's gross internal area is 667m². Based on a school capacity of 126 pupils, Building Bulletin 99 (BB99) recommends a gross internal floor area of between 827m² and 856m². Using the minimum measurements this equates to 160m² below the recommended building gross internal floor area.

The new school building would meet BB99 requirements for gross internal area. BB99 recommends a gross site area of between 827m² and 856m² for a 126-place primary school with nursery. The existing site is 12,034m² which would exceed BB99 requirements.

4.9. FINANCE

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Subject to the approval of this proposal, a significant capital investment would be made to establish a new school building for St Nicholas CIW Primary School. The Council would manage the process and the governing body, staff, parents, and pupils of St Nicholas CIW Primary School would be fully engaged in the development of the plans. The Council would also be responsible for managing the construction.

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school on the proposed site would be £5.010 million. The Council will receive £2.705 million in Welsh Government funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme, subject to the approval of a business case.

The additional £2.305 million would be funded by the Council. Section 106 contributions would be utilised where available.

RUNNING COSTS

The estimated revenue cost of operating the redeveloped primary school will remain the same as the 126 capacity will be retained. The schools funding formula is driven by pupils on roll, rather than pupil capacity and the predicted pupil population is considered to be retained at a similar level to the existing school.

However, the proposal does include additional nursery provision. The new nursery provision will be funded from within the schools funding formula. It is estimated that the increased budget allocated to St Nicholas for a full nursery provision of 24 part time pupils would amount to an additional £36,000 of funding per year. However, as

the schools funding formula is driven by pupils on roll, rather than pupil capacity, the additional budget allocated will be lower than £36,000 where nursery pupils on roll are lower than capacity. For the first three years, the estimated nursery cohort sizes are 18 part time nursery pupils and therefore the estimated budget increase would be £27,000 per year (at 2021/22 pupil unit rates).

A schools delegated budget is driven by pupils on roll rather than capacity, therefore, this budget growth would be gradual in line with the growth of pupils on roll.

4.10. HUMAN RESOURCES

It is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impacts for staff as they would simply move to a new building on their existing contracts. This proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as the addition of nursery provision would lead to growth in future staffing levels. The governing body and headteacher would need to consider an increase in the staffing structure for the additional nursery provision from September 2023. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trades unions where necessary.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council fully supports the governors, headteacher and staff at the school with any employment related matters. The school has access to the Council's Human Resources policies and procedures, including recruitment policies. The Human Resources service works closely with governors to ensure regular and clear communication with all employees takes place on all matters relating to a change in location of their workplace.

4.11. TRANSPORT

Traffic and transport implications would be 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.

LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not provide free school transport for nursery-age children other than those children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN). Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools.

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

"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

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

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

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.

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.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THESE PROPOSALS?

Providing nursery provision at the school and relocating to a new school building would;

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a wider pupil demographic.
- 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.

5.2. WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF THESE PROPOSALS?

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the transition to providing nursery provision on-site.
- There is the potential for disruption for pupils and staff as they become accustomed to their new environment.

5.3. TRANSITION PLAN IF THE PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED

The Council's proposals mean that all pupils, staff, and governors would move to the new school site by September 2023. The Governing Body of St. Nicholas CiW Primary School would need to amend their terms of reference and structure to reflect the inclusion of the nursery phase.

5.4. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSALS

The Council has secured 65% of funding for the proposal under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme subject to approval of a business case. The remaining funding for the new school building would be met by the Council using Section 106 funding received from the nearby housing developments.

5.5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation process and will be published alongside the Consultation Report.

5.6. CONSIDERING 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 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 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 additional nursery provision.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to amend the age range of St Nicholas CIW Primary 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 via the following link:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Expanding-St-Nicholas-CIW>

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1. OPENING A BRAND NEW 210 PLACE SCHOOL TO SERVE THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES AS A RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN ST NICHOLAS AND BONVILSTON

This option would deliver the existing proposal by relocating the school to a new site yet to be determined. This would likely be identified through a public call for suitable sites within the catchment area. Our planning consultant has undertaken a desktop exercise, which has identified 13 potential sites adjoining an existing settlement with potential highway access. These sites were not available on the open market and would rely upon negotiations with landowners or pursuing the purchase of the land through the compulsory purchase order process. This would add considerable time to delivering the proposal and additional uncertainty as to whether a proposal on a new site would be acceptable in planning terms.

This option would deliver the aims of the existing proposal which were to address condition and suitability of existing buildings, provide nursery provision and provide additional places to meet demand from housing developments. The Council considers that a 210-place building is the minimum size from an efficiency and sustainability perspective.

However, as outlined above, whilst St Nicholas CIW Primary School has limited capacity to meet additional demand, the school does receive a large number of out of catchment applications. There are currently 72 primary-aged pupils living in the catchment area. The housing developments are expected to yield an additional 52 pupils (14 already accounted for in the above 67). This means there will likely be demand for approx. 119 pupils in the catchment area. Around 14% of these pupils (17) are likely to opt for WM education based on currently numbers. This means that in the long term, St Nicholas would continue to be reliant on out of catchment applicants to avoid surplus capacity. Recently, the number of out of catchment applications has been reducing, likely due to the removal of feeder arrangements for September 2020. This means this option could result in surplus capacity in the long term.

It is also worth noting that the Council previously considered an alternative site on the outskirts of the village. This site was put forward by local residents as part of the previous education consultation. The relocation was not progressed due to the following reasons.

- The Council did not reach final agreement with the landowner to progress with the site purchase;
- The relocation would have significantly increased the cost to deliver the scheme primarily due to the required highway access off the A48, incoming services and site remediation; and
- The governing body were concerned about the proposed site due to the location being on the outskirts of the village near a main road and the separation from the Church.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- This option does not address the current site issues at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- The creation of a new primary school would result in increased strain on schools funding with additional overhead costs associated with an additional school.
- This option would not provide 21st century learning environments at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- There would be insufficient demand to justify a new 210 place school.
- A site for the new school would be required. This would likely result in a capital cost for the purchase of land.

6.2. REFURBISH THE EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING AND PROVIDE DEMOUNTABLE ACCOMMODATION TO PROVIDE NURSERY PROVISION.

When the Council's original Strategic Outline Programme was submitted to Welsh Government in July 2017, the St Nicholas CIW Primary School scheme was a refurbishment and expansion scheme. This was amended in 2018 to a new build as additional funding was identified and it became apparent that the condition and suitability of the existing buildings could not be addressed through a refurbishment.

Nursery provision could be provided through demountable accommodation installed on the existing site. The school would retain its existing primary capacity. As outlined in the preferred proposal, this is likely to be sufficient to meet long-term demand from within the catchment area.

The existing buildings are exhibiting major defects, including sinkholes and radon gas. A refurbishment would not address all issues as the school would need to remain operational throughout the works. If staff and pupils were to be temporarily relocated, this would increase the cost to deliver the scheme and would result in additional planning implications for the temporary measure.

There is a risk that the Council would not be granted planning permission to increase the capacity of the school without making enhancements to the existing parking, drop-off and pick-up arrangements. This would not be possible with a refurbishment scheme due to the position of the existing building. The Council would not be able to address the concerns of the community through this option.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- This option does not address the current site issues at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- This option would not provide 21st century learning environments at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- Expanding the school on the existing site could cause disruption to staff and pupils due to the existing layout.

6.3. CLOSE ST NICHOLAS CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EXPAND THE CATCHMENT AREA OF PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY.

This option would result in the closure of St Nicholas CIW Primary School. The catchment area for Peterston-super-Ely CIW Primary School could be increased to include the existing catchment of St Nicholas. There are currently 121 pupils on roll at St Nicholas who would require relocation as a result of the proposal. In accordance with the School Organisation Code, a plan would need to be put in place as part of the consultation. Peterston-super-Ely CIW Primary School currently has 170 pupils on roll against a capacity of 189. This means there would be insufficient space to transfer all existing pupils from St Nicholas CiW Primary School. However, of the 121 pupils on roll at St Nicholas, only 18 are from within the catchment area. It is likely these could be accommodated within Peterston-super-Ely. However, the Council would also need to identify nearby alternatives for the other pupils, regardless of catchment. The Council could work with Cardiff Council to identify alternatives for out of county pupils, but this would be dependent on availability.

In terms of meeting long term demand, there are currently 53 catchment pupils attending Peterston Primary and St Nicholas has a potential catchment population of 102 pupils (this includes housing development yield but excludes likely WM demand). Therefore, the existing capacity of Peterston-super-Ely is likely to be sufficient to meet long term demand from within the catchment areas. However, this could negatively impact other schools in the Vale. For example, Peterston currently has pupils on roll from Y Bont Faen and Gwenfo. This could put additional demand on those schools.

This option would not provide 21st century learning environments as a new build would no longer be required. This option would result in increased free learner travel.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The proposal would cause disruption to existing pupils
- The proposal would not provide a 21st Century Learning environment
- The proposal does not address the issues identified at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- This would result in increased transportation costs to transport pupils to the nearest available school.

6.4. MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- This option does not address the current site issues at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.

- This option would not provide 21st century learning environments at St Nicholas CIW Primary School.
- There would be no additional school places to accommodate the additional pupils as a result of the housing developments in St Nicholas and Bonvilston.
- This would result in increased transportation costs to transport pupils to the nearest available school.

7. OUTLINE OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Table 16: Outline of the statutory consultation process

Outline of the statutory consultation process	
Steps	Description
Step 1: Develop a proposal	An initial proposal will be developed and considered by the Council's Cabinet. Section 2 of the School Organisation Code outlines when the statutory procedure is required.
Step 2: Cabinet consideration	The Council's Cabinet to consider the proposal and approval to consult.
Step 3: Consultation	A consultation document must be published on the Council website. The consultation document must be published on a school day and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Stakeholders identified in section 3.4 of the School Organisation Code (2018) must be notified by letter/email.
Step 4: Consultation response report	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.
Step 5: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet will consider the consultation response report and determine whether to publish the report and to approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.
Step 6: Statutory notice	The statutory notice must be published on a school day and as outlined in section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code (2018).
Step 7: Objection period	Anyone wishing to make objections to a proposal has the opportunity to do so. 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.
Step 8: Objection report	Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a

	summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
Step 9: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet considers the objection report for final determination on the proposal.
Step 10: Decision letter	Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders.

CONSULTATION PERIOD

The consultation period for this proposal starts on Tuesday 1st February 2022 and ends on Tuesday 15th March 2022. See Section 9.2 below for further details of how to respond and make your views known.

Within 13 weeks of 15th March 2022 a consultation report will be published on the Council's and school's websites. Hard copies of the report will also be available from the school office on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and responses to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.

In April 2022 Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to progress to the next stage.

If the Governing Body decides to continue with the proposals, it must publish a statutory notice.

STATUTORY NOTICE

The statutory notice would be published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website and posted at or near the main entrance to St Nicholas CIW Primary School. Copies of the notice will be distributed to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members. The school may also distribute the notice by email. The notice will set out the details of the proposals and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within the specified period.

DETERMINATION OF THE PROPOSAL

The Council would determine the proposal. Cabinet may decide to approve, reject, or approve the proposals with modifications. In doing so, the Council would take into account any statutory objections that it has received.

DECISION NOTIFICATION

Following determination of proposals all interested parties would be informed of the decision which will be published electronically on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website.

KEY DATES

Feedback from this consultation will be collated and summarised and a report presented to Cabinet. The consultation report will be available for everybody to view on the school's and the Council's websites. Copies can also be obtained on request by using the contact details within this document.

There are further stages that the Council will have to go through before a final decision is made. These stages are set out below:

Table 17: Timetable for consultation

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	1st February 2022
Closing date for views on the proposals	15th March 2022
Consultation report considered by Governing Body and published on the school and Council's website	March 2022
Subject to Governing Body approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	April 2022
End of Statutory Notice Period	May 2022
Determination by Governing Body or Cabinet (if objections received to statutory notice).	July 2022
Decision notification	July 2022
Nursery provision to be introduced from	September 2023

The proposed timetable may be subject to change

8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that construction of the new school would commence by July 2022 and be completed by September 2023.

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

The proposal is that the new school would open by September 2023.

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 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for the build 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 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for managing the build 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 21st Century Schools 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 Council, contractor, and school.

Would the construction of the new school result in disruption for staff, pupils, and local 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 local residents during the construction phase. The school would work closely with the Council's 21st Century Schools 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 21st Century Schools Team on:

21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

9. CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT

9.1. INVOLVING SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CONSULTATION

Our consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018). A range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals. Before any decisions are made, the Council needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known to enable Cabinet to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

The Council is consulting with the following groups:

Table 18: List of groups to consult as part of the consultation process

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at St Nicholas CIW Primary School	Diocesan Directors of Education
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children attending St Nicholas CIW Primary School	St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Partnership	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Estyn	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Welsh Government Ministers	Trades Unions
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Council's Transportation Department	Diocesan Directors of Education

INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THE CONSULTATION

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, governing bodies must make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the school. The governing body firmly believes that the pupils of St Nicholas CIW Primary School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.

A consultation workshop will be held with the school council of St Nicholas CIW Primary School to gather their views about the proposal. The information gathered at

this session will be included in the final consultation report which will be considered by the Governing Body.

INVOLVING PARENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF

The Governing Body intends to hold virtual drop-in sessions for all stakeholders as part of the process.

Parents/carers and guardians of pupils at the school and the community are invited to attend the virtual drop-in session where they can ask any questions about the proposal.

We will always ask that you complete a consultation response form as we can only accept views in writing.

The date and link for the drop-in session will be displayed by the School via the school website.

We have also arranged virtual meetings for staff and the governing body of the school.

This document and further supporting information can also be found on the Vale of Glamorgan website:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Expanding-St-Nicholas-CIW>

Any updates can also be found on social media through the school's Twitter feed @StNicholasPS

Details of the consultation meeting dates are given below:

Table 19: Staff, Governor and Parents meetings

Nature of consultation	Date/Time
Pupil engagement session	Monday 7 th February
Staff meeting	Wednesday 9 th February
Governors' meeting	Thursday 10 th February
Parent Session (Virtual Meeting)	Tuesday 15 th February
Community session (Virtual meeting)	Tuesday 8 th March

9.2. COMMENTING ON THE CONSULTATION

The consultation period will run from **1st February 2022** to **15th March 2022**. You can respond to our proposals at any time during this period. Your views are important to us, and there are a number of ways that you can let us know.

You can:

- Complete the online response form at:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ALmdKL7196>
- Attend a drop-in session and speak to us in person. This is a good way to be able to get answers to any questions you may have about the proposals. We will still ask that you complete a consultation response form, as we can only accept views in writing. You can also contact us on 01446 709828 for further information on the proposal.
- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:

Freepost RTGU-JGBH-YYJZ
St Nicholas CIW Primary Consultation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

All responses given to us in writing will be considered by the Governing Body before it decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice about the proposals.

Responses received from consultees who 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 it is approved at the next stage, by the Governing Body.

If you wish to object to the notice at the next stage of the process, should it proceed, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. These key dates are outlined in the Statutory Process Timetable under Section 7 above.

Please note that all comments submitted in writing should contain the full name and full postal address of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is **15th March 2022**. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered by the Council.

10. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all which apply):

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Local Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 4. Member of Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

On the proposal to:

- **Change the age range of pupils at 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**

Questions

1. Do you support the proposal to change the lowest age range for the school from 4 to 3 to provide nursery provision from September 2023?

Yes

No

If you support or do not support the proposal, then please explain why.

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

Any other comments?

Thank you for your comments

Please tick the box below if you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report

Freepost RTGU-JGBH-YYJZ
St Nicholas CIW Primary Consultation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than 15th March 2022

11. NOTES PAGES

Notes on Consultation Document

12. VALE OF GLAMORGAN EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

Gender and Gender Identity	
What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
At birth were you described as?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Disability	
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental health condition, illness or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or more?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a lot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a little <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Age	
What is your date of birth?	
National Identity	
National Identity – how would you describe your national identity?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> English
<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> British	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Ethnic Group	
Ethnicity – how would you describe your ethnic group?	
White	
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background (please specify):
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify):	
Asian/Asian British	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background (please specify):	
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	
<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean

<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify):
Other ethnic group
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

Welsh Language				
Please describe your Welsh language ability by ticking the relevant box(es) below.				
	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sexual Identity		
Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual / straight	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay or lesbian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	

Religion			
What is your religion?			
<input type="checkbox"/> No religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion (please specify):		<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	

Pregnancy and Maternity	
Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant within the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Have you taken maternity leave within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

Marriage and Civil Partnership	
What is your legal marital or same sex civil partnership status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Single, that is never married and never registered in a same sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Married and living with husband/wife <input type="checkbox"/> Separated but still legally married

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed<input type="checkbox"/> In a registered same-sex civil partnership and living with your partner<input type="checkbox"/> Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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