

Date/Dyddiad 20 October 2022  
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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending St Nicholas CIW Primary School;  
Headteacher and Staff of St Nicholas CIW Primary; and Prescribed Consultees.

Dear Consultee,

**Proposal to change the age range of 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.**

The governing body consulted with prescribed consultees on the proposal to increase the capacity of St Nicholas CIW Primary to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2023. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation was undertaken between 1 February 2022 and 15 March 2022. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal and provide an opportunity for feedback to be submitted. Of the 4 individual responses received, 3 were in favour of the proposal and 1 was opposed.

On 16 May 2022, following consideration of the consultation report, the governing body determined to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory notice was published on the school and Council's website on 13 June 2022 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of St Nicholas CIW Primary School. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). As the statutory notice was published on 13 June 2022, statutory objections had to be received by 12 July 2022. It was noted that there was 1 individual objection. The main concerns of the objector are summarised in the objection report together with the response from the governing body. The objection report is available to view on the council website at:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/Consultations/Expanding-St-Nicholas-CIW-Primary.aspx>

In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 the governing body referred the proposal to the Council for final determination. On 8 September 2022, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet approved the to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at St Nicholas CIW Primary School from September 2023.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population at nursery level
- Maintain access and parental preference for faith provision in the area.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- 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.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 are as follows:

### **Quality and Standards of Education**

The Council's clear ambition is that educational outcomes in the Vale of Glamorgan are the best in Wales and match those of the most successful authorities in England with similar socio-economic profiles. The proposal will help deliver that ambition.

The new school building will provide greater opportunities for curriculum development and pupil well-being. Pupils will have greater access to digital facilities and outdoor learning areas. Enhanced provision for students with special educational needs will be available at the school.

During the transition stage following the determination, the Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for the public around the site by working closely with the contractors.

The proposal will provide much needed investment in St Nicholas CIW Primary School, and will help deliver the transformational change necessary for all students to achieve their full potential.

### **Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools**

The proposal will ensure that there is a sustainable balance between the supply and demand for nursery school places for the long term and ensure the Council is able to accommodate the future demand for faith based education based on current trends.

Under the proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of students to and from schools. Free school transport eligibility will remain unchanged as a result of this proposal. The available safe walking routes to schools used for the assessment of free school transport will not alter as a result of this proposal.

The proposed new building will have improved access for disabled pupils and other users.

### **Resourcing of education and other financial implications**

Funding is provided through the school funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers.

This proposal will mean that significant capital investment will be made in establishing the new school and developing state of the art facilities. The estimated cost of the scheme is £7.134M. The scheme will be part-funded by the Welsh Government under Band B of its Sustainable Communities

for Learning Programme. The remainder of the capital funding will be contributed by the Council, utilising Section 106 Contributions received from developers and other sources of funding.

**Other general factors**

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there would be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of religion, age, disability and gender reassignment/ identity. The proposal would support the school to ensure that it has the improved facilities to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics. There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified.

**Yours faithfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PA Ham', is positioned below the 'Yours faithfully,' text.

**Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills**