

Date/Dyddiad 09 January 2023  
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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School; Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School; Prescribed Consultees.

Dear Consultee,

### **Relocate the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.**

The Local Authority consulted with prescribed consultees on the proposal to relocate the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal and provide an opportunity for feedback to be submitted. 4 individual responses were received, all responses were in favour of the proposal.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, following consideration of the consultation report, the Local Authority 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 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of both Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough 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 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, statutory objections had to be received by 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. No objections were received during the objection period; however, 2 late objections were received after the end of the objection period. The late objections were summarised in the Objection Period Summary Report together with the response from the Local Authority included to the late objections. The Objection Period Summary Report is available to view on the Council website at: [Consultation on SRB re-location to Ysgol Y Ddraig \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/consultation-on-srb-re-location-to-ysgol-y-ddraig)

In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 the Local Authority considered the proposal to provide a final determination. On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet approved the to relocate the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.

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

- Continues to provide targeted support for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs within a mainstream primary school environment.
- Provides improved learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provides continuity of provision within the Vale of Glamorgan for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.
- Provides opportunities for professional development throughout Ysgol Y Ddraig.
- Ensures that pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs can have their needs met within the local authority and can be supported to remain in their mainstream school.

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 proposal would have an overall positive impact on the existing and future pupils at Ysgol Y Ddraig and the SRB following the relocation of the unit. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on quality and standards in education by providing:

- Improved ICT infrastructure, collaborative breakout areas, and effective circulation due to the delivery of the school under Band A of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme which requires new schools to be built to modern standards.
- Opportunities for professional development for teaching staff throughout Ysgol Y Ddraig in relation to Speech, Language and Communication Needs.
- A central location within the Authority to provide a specialist resource base for Speech, Language and Communication Needs in a more accessible location to a wider area of the Authority.

### **Travel Arrangements**

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. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'. There would be less pupils currently attending the school who would be within walking distance of the proposal, however, as the SRB is utilised by the whole Vale it is considered likely the travel times for pupils will change. This is reflected in historic data for the SRB with more pupils traveling from the western Vale in previous years. It is noted that the location of Ysgol Y Ddraig is more centrally located within the Authority than the SRB at Llandough and is easily accessible from the B4265 which links with the wider strategic network in the Authority.

ALN pupils in the SRB with specific travel requirements which cannot be met with reasonable adjustment on mainstream transport will have their eligibility determined by the ALN Team. ALN pupils will be eligible for free transport if they are assessed as having severe and/ or complex difficulties and are attending a special school or specialist resource base as directed by the Complex Needs Team or a class in a mainstream school which is 2 miles or further (primary aged pupils) from the parental home address as measured by the shortest available walking route. In addition where specialist travel arrangements are not required pupils who live 2 miles or further away from the school will be eligible for standard free school transport

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

The funding for the SRB is not a budget that is delegated within the schools funding formula. Instead, it is a centrally retained budget which funds two teachers and four learning support officers. For 22/23 the budget to fund the staff for the SRB is £223,525. With regards to safeguarding the

funding, there are no plans to cut this provision, the budget for 23/24 will be based on the same formula albeit with growth allocated to reflect inflation. The school will also receive £11,488 via the mainstream funding formula which covers additional costs in relation to the pupils within the SRB such as resources.

Transport costs for the temporary move of the SRB at Ysgol Y Ddraig are currently approximately £44,000 per annum including the transportation of staff. The transport costs to Llandough prior to the temporary move were £48,000 per annum. Transport costs can fluctuate considerably depending on the home address of the pupils attending the SRB. Therefore, no saving or increase to transport costs can be accurately forecast in the longer term. Pupils can attend from all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan resulting in cost fluctuations based on arising need.

### **Staff Arrangements**

The SRB unit would be managed centrally by the Directorate of Learning & Skills in consultation with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Y Ddraig. The SRB area has been designed to accommodate up to 20 learners. Staff from the existing SRB at Llandough Primary School would be permanently relocated to Ysgol Y Ddraig to support learners within the SRB. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary

### **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.

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken and published alongside the consultation document. The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 8 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community.

**Yours faithfully,**



**Paula Ham,**

**Director of Learning and Skills**

**Vale of Glamorgan**

**09/01/2023**