



DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS

# Community Impact Assessment

**Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021.**



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## Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

This proposal is to transform special education in the Vale by establishing a Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Whitmore High School (WHS) from September 2021.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018) and the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

## National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

## Local Policy Context

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-25 to achieving a vision of – **'Working together for a brighter future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first-class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose

buildings that meet the needs of modern-day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

## Current Challenges

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Provide targeted support for pupils with ASD within a mainstream secondary school environment to ensure pupils reach their full potential.
- 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.
- Makes provision within the Vale for larger numbers of our pupils with ASD.
- Provide opportunities for professional development throughout WHS.
- Reduced reliance on costly out of county provision.

## Community Profile

There are currently 8 schools in the area surrounding WHS in Barry:

School name	Type	Language	Age range	Capacity*	Nursery places (part-time)	Distance from WHS (miles)
All Saints CIW Primary	Denominational	English	3 - 11	210	39	1.5
Colcot Primary	Community	English	3 - 11	315	54	0.8
Gladstone Primary	Community	English	3 - 11	420	90	1.7
Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	Community	Welsh	3 - 11	420	82	1.8
Oak Field Primary	Community	English	3 - 11	210	52	1.8

Pencoedtre High School	Community	English	11 - 19	1100	NA	1.3
Ysgol St Curig	Community	Welsh	3 - 11	420	114	1.2
Ysgol Bro Morgannwg	Community	Welsh	3 - 19	1360	56	0.7**

\*statutory school age – i.e. does not include nursery.

\*\*site adjacent to WHS but not directly accessible via road.

WHS is located within the ward Dyfan 1 and is surrounded by the wards of Illtyd and Merthyr Dyfan in Barry. Merthyr Dyfan or Dyfan is a northeastern suburb of Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan, in south Wales, formerly an independent medieval village. The Illtyd ward covers a residential part of Barry to the west of the town.

The Merthyr Dyfan ward has a population of 5,543 and the Illtyd ward has a population of 8,404 (Office of National Statistics, 2019).

The data below for the Merthyr Dyfan and Illtyd wards surrounding WHS is from the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#).

Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Area	LSOA Code	Overall Wales Rank (of 1909)		Employment Rank (of 1909)		Access to Services Rank (of 1909)	
		Rank	% (Least / Most Deprived)	Rank	% (LD / MD)	Rank	% (LD / MD)
Dyfan 1	W01001091	1740	50% LD	1643	50% LD	1780	50% LD
Dyfan 2	W01001092	878	30-50% MD	684	30-50% MD	1009	50% LD
Dyfan 3	W01001093	476	20-30% MD	364	10-20% MD	712	30-50% MD
Illtyd 2	W01001099	699	30-50% MD	672	30-50% MD	1087	50% LD
Illtyd 6	W01001103	1863	50% LD	1749	50% LD	1894	50% LD

As the table above shows, the wards surrounding WHS are mixed in terms of levels of deprivation. Three of the neighbouring wards are overall within the most deprived but two are within the least deprived overall. Dyfan 3 is within the 10-20% most deprived in terms of employment. Nearly all the wards are within the 50% least deprived in terms of access to services.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

A new build is currently being constructed for WHS on its existing site for September 2021. An area of the building has been allocated for a SRB. It is proposed that this would focus on pupils with ASD.

Placing this base within a mainstream secondary school would provide additional support for these pupils whilst ensuring they can access mainstream secondary education. This would reduce demand for places at Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), whilst also ensuring there is provision for pupils who would not normally meet the criteria for placements at YYD.

## Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the statutory process. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
CI5	Impact on local businesses
CI6	Impact on local employment
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure
CI8	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement

## Impacts upon the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	2	<p>Placing the specialist resource base within a mainstream secondary school, WHS, would provide additional support for pupils with ASD whilst ensuring they can access mainstream secondary education. This would reduce demand for places at YYD, whilst also ensuring there is provision for pupils who would not normally meet the criteria for placements at YYD.</p> <p>This proposal would result in a more efficient supply and demand for ALN school places within the Vale and reduce the need for children to attend provision outside of the Vale.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	0	It is proposed that any community services currently provided by WHS would continue and that there would be no loss of provision.
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	There would be no loss of access for WHS to community facilities as a result of this proposal.
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	1	<p>A key element of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is the provision of community facilities. The proposal would include the creation of new state of art facilities which could be hired out by the community; such as sports pitches and meeting rooms.</p> <p>There is a potential for community access to facilities to be increased, such as meeting rooms. This will be up to the school to manage with safeguarding requirements.</p>

CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	There would be no impacts upon local businesses as a result of this proposal concerning WHS.
CI6	Impact on local employment	1	This proposal may lead to an increase in specialist employment and professional development opportunities at WHS.
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	0	A full transport assessment was undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. Any negative impacts have been identified and solutions embedded into planning for the new WHS building and site.
CI8	Transport arrangements	1	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'.</p> <p><i>"This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route."</i></p> <p>There may be a reduction in providing transport for pupils accessing out-of-county provision as this would now be met within the Vale.</p>

## Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	2
CI2	0
CI3	0
CI4	1
CI5	0
CI6	1
CI7	0
CI8	1
Average Score	0.625

## Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 4 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 4 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a neutral / positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable WHS to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would better meet the needs of the community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.