

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS  
**Community Impact Assessment**

**Consultation on the proposal to reconfigure nursery provision in Penarth from September 2022 by:**

- **Amalgamating Bute Cottage Nursery School and Evenlode Primary School; and**
- **Amalgamating Cogan Nursery School and Cogan Primary School.**



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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.

The proposals to reconfigure nursery provision in Penarth from September 2022:

**Proposal 1: To amalgamate Bute Cottage Nursery School and Evenlode Primary School by;**

- Changing the lowest age range of pupils at Evenlode Primary School from 4 to 3, to include 96 part time nursery places;
- Increasing the capacity of Evenlode Primary School to accommodate the 96 part time nursery places; and
- Discontinuing Bute Cottage Nursery School and transferring all staff and pupils of the nursery phase under the governance of Evenlode Primary School from September 2022.

**Proposal 2: To amalgamate Cogan Nursery School and Cogan Primary School by;**

- Changing the lowest age range of pupils at Cogan Primary School from 4 to 3, to include 96 part time nursery places;
- Increasing the capacity of Cogan Primary School to accommodate the 96 part time nursery places; and
- Discontinuing Cogan Nursery School and transferring all staff and pupils of the nursery phase under the governance of Cogan School from September 2022.

Nursery provision would continue to be provided from the existing buildings with both proposals.

These proposals are considered under section 2.1 and 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.1 refers to the closing of a maintained school. Section 2.3 refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes changing the age range of a school by a year or more.

## 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:

- A single governance and accountability regime with a single headteacher and governing body with responsibility for all phases of education at each primary school.
- Opportunities for greater professional development opportunities by being part of a primary school teaching across all phases of primary education.
- A single set of policies across all year groups, incorporating areas of best practice from the individual schools.
- A single vision, strategy and ethos across all phases.

- Generates revenue savings associated with increased running costs for standalone nursery schools which would release additional funding into the overall schools' funding formula.
- Opportunities to make efficiency savings through economies of scale and joined up procurement.
- Streamlined communication between parents and staff with a single point of contact throughout all phases of primary education.

## Community Profile

The four educational settings affected by the proposals are within the area of Penarth. Penarth is a wealthy seaside town and retains extensive Victorian and Edwardian architecture in many traditional parts of the town.

There are currently 11 primary schools and nurseries in the Penarth and nearby area:

School	Type	Language	Primary Capacity	Nursery Capacity (Part-Time Places)
<b>Albert Primary</b>	Community	English	385	72
<b>Bute Cottage Nursery</b>	Community	English	N/A	96
<b>Cogan Nursery</b>	Community	English	N/A	100
<b>Cogan Primary</b>	Community	English	210	N/A
<b>Evenlode Primary</b>	Community	English	420	N/A
<b>Fairfield Primary</b>	Community	English	315	60
<b>Llandough Primary</b>	Community	English	210	30
<b>Ysgol Pen Y Garth</b>	Community	Welsh	420	114
<b>St Joseph's RC Primary</b>	Voluntary Aided	English	210	48
<b>Sully Primary</b>	Community	English	350	64
<b>Victoria Primary</b>	Community	English	420	64

Bute Cottage Nursery School is located within the St Augustine's 3 ward in Penarth. The overall St Augustine's ward has a population of 7,351 (Office of National Statistics, 2019).

Evenlode Primary School is located within the Plymouth 2 ward in Penarth. The overall Plymouth ward has a population of 5,786 (Office of National Statistics, 2019).

Cogan Nursery School and Cogan Primary School are located within the Cornerswell 2 ward in Penarth. The overall Cornerswell ward has a population of 5,366 (Office of National Statistics, 2019).

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)
St Augustine's 3	W01001125	1643	50% LD	1501	50% LD	1909	50% LD
Plymouth 2	W01001115	1715	50% LD	1506	50% LD	1076	50% LD
Cornerswell 3	W01001076	1189	50% LD	1296	50% LD	1065	50% LD

(Data from [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#))

As the table above shows, the wards have low levels of deprivation. Overall, they are within 50% least deprived wards within Wales.

## 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
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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 Proposals
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	0	<p>Cogan Nursery School provides nursery provision for the catchment area of Cogan Primary School.</p> <p>Bute Cottage Nursery School provides nursery provision for Evenlode Primary School.</p> <p>This would not change if the proposals are implemented.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	0	<p>It is proposed that any community services currently provided by the educational settings would continue.</p> <p>Example services provided for the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bute Cottage Nursery School works with local private nurseries to provide 'wrap-around-care'</li> <li>• Cogan Nursery School has provided adult education classes, such as first aid and jewellery making</li> </ul>
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	<p>As the nurseries would remain on their current sites, this would not change if the proposals are implemented.</p> <p>Example community facilities used by the schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bute Cottage Nursery School utilises a community garden adjacent to the site</li> <li>• Cogan Primary School utilises a large field adjacent to the site and Penarth Leisure Centre</li> </ul>



CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	0	<p>As the nurseries would remain on their current sites, this would not change if the proposals are implemented.</p> <p>Example community facilities provided on the sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evenlode Primary School hires out its school hall for childcare, exercise, cooking and art classes</li> </ul>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	As the nurseries would remain on their current sites, this would not change if the proposals are implemented.
CI6	Impact on local employment	0	As the nurseries would remain around their current capacity, this would not change if the proposals are implemented. However, there may be opportunities for improved professional development across all phases of primary education.
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	0	<p>As the nurseries would remain on their current sites and around their current capacity, this would not change if the proposals are implemented.</p> <p>The Council has allocated £1.362m as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to support reconfiguration of nursery provision in Penarth. Should the proposals be approved, the Council would prioritise relocating nursery provision at Evenlode Primary School onto a single site. The Council would undertake a full feasibility assessment and any plans would be subject to a separate consultation exercise as part of the planning process.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>As the nurseries would remain on their current sites and around their current capacity, this would not change if the proposals are implemented.</p> <p>The Council has allocated £1.362m as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to support reconfiguration of nursery provision in Penarth. Should the proposals be</p>

		<p>approved, the Council would prioritise relocating nursery provision at Evenlode Primary School onto a single site. The Council would undertake a full feasibility assessment and any plans would be subject to a separate consultation exercise as part of the planning process.</p> <p>A full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. This would assess the impact on the local infrastructure and include a swept path analysis to ensure compliance with current legislation on accessibility for all emergency services. This would also include assessment of safe walking routes. The transport assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.</p>
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## Scoring Summary

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

## Conclusions

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.