



COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**On the proposal to establish a nursery unit at
Fairfield Primary School by extending the age
range of the school from 4 – 11 years to 3 – 11
years**

**Directorate of Learning and Skills
The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

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Contents	Pages
1. Introduction	3
2. National Context	3
3. Local Policy Context	3-4
4. Community Impact	4
Catchment area	4
Existing School Facilities/Activities	5
Traffic Issues/Walking routes	7-8
5. Conclusion	7

1. Introduction

The Council proposes to establish a 60 part time place nursery unit at Fairfield Primary School by extending the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years. The nursery will be located within the existing grounds of Fairfield Primary School.

It is proposed that the nursery will be ready to welcome children at the start of the spring term in January 2018. The school would extend its foundation phase to develop educational provision for those children who are eligible to attend the nursery from the term after their 3rd birthday.

A foundation phase building is already in place at Fairfield Primary School to be utilised for nursery provision. The building was transferred from another Vale primary school. The proposed nursery building will require some adaptation to make it suitable for nursery provision, the cost of which will be met from funding set aside in the Councils' capital programme.

The establishment of a 3 – 11 year old phase primary school offers an efficient and sustainable model of delivery. The school will be able to incorporate provision for 3 and 4 year-old children in a high quality Early Years and Foundation Phase setting. A nursery would enable a seamless transition for nursery age children into the reception class of the school and sustain pupil numbers for the future.

2. 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 Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013. When considering proposals the authority must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

3. 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 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – '**Strong Communities with a bright future**'.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an 'Aspirational Vale' 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.

4. Community Impact

Catchment area

Fairfield Primary School is classified as an English medium community primary school which has an area it serves, referred to as the catchment area. The school is able to accommodate pupils from within its catchment area and the Authority must have regard for this on-going demand. Parents have a right to state a preference for any school. The number of pupils attending schools is greatly affected by parental preference with a high degree of pupil movement noticeable between the catchment areas of schools.

The following table illustrates the effect of parental preference for Fairfield Primary School.

Schools attended by children living in the catchment area at January 2016												
Catchment Area school	Catchment Area Population (primary age)		Albert Primary	Cogan Primary	Evenlode Primary	Fairfield Primary	St Joseph's RC Primary	Sully Primary	Victoria Primary	Ysgol Pen Y Garth	Dinas Powys Schools	Barry Schools
Fairfield	257		22	8	5	105	20	5	33	43	8	8

Table 1 – Catchment area information as at PLASC 2016

Fairfield Primary School catchment area analysis

Fairfield Primary School serves its immediate and surrounding area.

Fairfield Primary school has capacity for 315 pupils. At January 2016 there were 292 children on roll of which 105 (36%) reside within the school's catchment area. A total of 87 children (60%) attend the school who live outside of the school catchment area of which 44 live outside the Vale of Glamorgan area.

There are currently 257 children who live within the catchment boundary who are of primary school age and 46 children of nursery age. There will be no changes to the school catchment boundary as a result of this proposal. The school catchment area will continue to generate sufficient pupils to meet demand for education in the catchment area.

Existing School Facilities/Activities

Fairfield Primary School offers parents and carers an Out of School Club facility which is run on the school site exclusively for Fairfield children. The clubs sessions are as follows;

Breakfast Session 7.30 am - 8.10 am
After School Session 3.30 pm - 5.45 pm

A free Welsh Government run breakfast club also operates for parents and is available from 8.10 to 9.00 am to supplement the Out of School Club facility. There is no charge for this service and children can attend from any age group across the school.

The sessions above enable parents to access wrap around care for their children in a safe and stimulating environment.

The school offers a range of teacher led extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes and after school:

- Performing Arts
- Dragon Multi Skills
- Music Making Club
- Choir
- Fencing
- GUGAFIT
- Coding Club
- Welsh Club

Further activities are provided by number of outside providers supplementing school activities

- Cardiff City Football Club Coaching
- Mad Science – Techniquet
- Frenchtastic
- Spanishtastic
- Music Technology
- Karate

The school has strong links with the community and offers its facilities to local organisations as follows;

- Silver Stars Gymnastics
- Boys Junior Football Club
- Fencing – for adults

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the proposal were to go ahead.

Traffic issues/Walking routes

Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. The school site will continue to be operational under the proposal.

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. The Council does not provide free school transport for nursery-age children other than those children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

“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.”

The available safe walking routes to schools used for the assessment of free school transport will not alter as a result of this proposal.

There is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the schools.

School transport is not provided for children currently attending the primary department and this will not change.

It is not anticipated that there will be any immediate impact to traffic levels in the area surrounding the school. The nursery age children living in catchment will in most cases have less distance to travel than they currently do. Schools normally have a staggered start and finish times for nursery children in comparison to the older year groups, so it is anticipated that there will be little impact on traffic congestion in the area.

5. Conclusion

The establishment of a 3 – 11 year old phase primary school incorporating nursery provision offers an efficient and sustainable model of delivery. The school will be able to incorporate provision for 3 and 4 year-old children in a high quality Early Years and Foundation Phase setting. A nursery would enable a seamless transition for nursery age children into the reception class of the school and sustain pupil numbers for the future.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school and makes its facilities available to the local community. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community will continue when the nursery unit is established.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to establish nursery provision at Fairfield Primary School will result in:

- An overall positive community impact. There will be no discernible impact on existing community or local facilities in the area. The proposal will enhance and support greater facilities for the local community and children.
- The proposal will provide a cost effective solution to extending nursery provision that will enhance English medium education in the Penarth area. Community facilities could be enhanced as a result of the establishment of a nursery at the school.