

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A
WELSH MEDIUM SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE
AT YSGOL GWAUN Y NANT WITH EFFECT FROM
SEPTEMBER 2024.**



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EXPLANATION OF TERMS

'AN' (Admission Number) - All maintained schools must admit pupils up to at least their published admission number. The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.

'ALN' (Additional Learning Needs) - A pupil has additional learning needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.

'Capacity' – The capacity of a school is the total number of statutory aged pupil places available; it excludes nursery places.

'Catchment Area' - The geographic area from which students are eligible to attend a local school. Catchment children will always take priority over applications from outside the catchment area however there is no guarantee that any child will be admitted to their chosen school.

'Community' - A type of state-funded school in which the local education authority employs the school's staff, is responsible for the school's admissions and owns the school's estate.

'Denominational' - Schools with a designated religious character e.g. Church in Wales.

'EA' (Equality Act) - The Act covers all aspects of school life to do with how a school treats pupils and prospective pupils, parents and carers, employees, and members of the community. Everything a school does must be fair, non-discriminatory, and not put individuals or groups of people at a disadvantage. In particular, a school must not discriminate, harass, or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to; admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, how it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility, or service, and excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

'EIA' (An Equality Impact Assessment) - EIA is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project, or scheme does not discriminate against any protected groups.

'EM' (English Medium) – A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of English.

'LA' (Local Authority) - The Local Authority referred to in this document means the Vale of Glamorgan Council unless otherwise stated.

'NOR' (Number on Roll) - The number of pupils attending a school. Nursery places are excluded.

'PLASC' (Pupil Level Annual School Census) - In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to the Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils

enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity and data on Welsh language, free school meals eligibility, special education needs and first language.

'SA' (School Action) - When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has ALN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.

'SA+' (School Action +) - When a class or subject teacher and the ALN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through SA can be put in place.

'Section 106' - The Section 106 contribution is sought from anyone who has an interest in the building of a housing development, towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, educational provision, open space / play equipment, transport, or healthcare for those occupying the new homes.

'SRB' (Specialist Resource Base) - A facility within the school for children with special educational needs.

'Statemented' - A child has a Statement of Educational Need (SEN), otherwise known as ALN, if they have learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides.

'WM' (Welsh Medium) - A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of Welsh.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

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's Cabinet authorised the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a consultation **from 10 April to 22 May 2024** on a proposal to establish a Welsh Medium specialist resource base at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant with effect from September 2024. A pilot provision is currently operating at the school in order to inform decision making.

1.2. THE PROPOSAL

This document outlines the Council's proposal to create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant from September 2024.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes the transfer of any school to a new site.

1.3. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

The Vale of Glamorgan 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 consultation gives you the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council's Cabinet decides how to proceed.

Further information regarding planned stakeholder engagement sessions and how you can respond to the consultation is detailed in [Section 7 "Involving stakeholders and responding to the consultation"](#). This section also contains a link to the online survey and a free post address if you would like to submit a response via post. The response form can be found under [Section 8](#).

Under the School Organisation Code (2018), it is vital that any feedback be received by 22 May 2024 in order to be considered as part of this consultation. Any items received after that date cannot be considered.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1. SUMMARY

The proposal is to create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school.

2.2. WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN?

The proposal would create specialist Welsh medium educational provision for pupils aged 4-11 years. The purpose of this specialist resource would be to support individual learners as well as improve the capacity of the home school to create a fully inclusive environment where all learners are given the opportunity to succeed and have access to an education that meets their needs.

The Specialist Resource Base (SRB) would provide periods of integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties. This will include pupils whose high level of anxiety is impacting significantly on their ability to access mainstream education. The specialist teacher, higher level teaching assistant (HLTA) and learning support assistant would work together with the engagement service, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, and parents to provide learning experiences that cater for the education, communication, emotional, social and sensory needs of each pupil.

Pupils would be able to attend the SRB part time (2 days) whilst maintaining a supported place at their local mainstream school. Pupils in reception to year 2 will attend the base on Mondays and Tuesdays and pupils in year 3-6 on Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the staff will undertake planning and assessment and also outreach work with mainstream schools to build capacity. These placements would enable pupils to continue to learn alongside and interact socially with their mainstream peers in their home school. The provisions would work together to remove barriers to on-going inclusion within the mainstream school and build its capacity to meet the pupil's future educational need.

These placements would provide specialist teaching and interventions alongside advice, mentoring and training for staff from the pupil's home school. To facilitate this, a member of staff from the pupil's home school would attend the SRB with the pupil 1 day per week.

Placements would be agreed for a set period of two terms in the first instance. Regular reviews and assessment of all pupils take place to determine the most appropriate education provision to meet their needs. On agreement to place, the pupil would be dual registered at the base alongside their home school. The Vale of Glamorgan local authority will prepare and maintain Individual Development Plans for all pupils attending the SRB.

After two terms, assessment information will be considered at a local authority panel meeting to determine future placement requirements. It is anticipated that most learners would be able to return to full inclusion in their home school. In a few cases there may be a need to extend the SRB placement further. In such circumstances, termly reviews would be undertaken to monitor progress and findings considered at panel to determine future provision and placement.

2.3. WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THE CHANGES?

There is an identified trend in a growth in ALN across all of our schools. In 2023 there was 107 pupils in Welsh medium primary schools identified as having SEN/ALN which has risen from 88 in 2022. In all mainstream primary schools the number of pupils with SEN/ALN has risen from 1,227 in 2021 to 1,251 in 2023. Data also indicates a rise in neuro diverse pupils with conditions such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, there is also evidence of a clear increase in children and young people being identified as having issues relating to their behavioural, emotional and social development.

A review of Welsh Medium provision, carried out in consultation with head teachers from Welsh medium schools in the Vale, identified that this was the key area of need that more specialist provision was required. A very successful Resource Base has previously been established at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and it was evident that a base for pupils attending primary Welsh medium education in the Vale was also required to establish a continuum of provision from 4-18.

The Council is committed to meeting the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018 (ALNET Act 2018) in transforming expectations and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN). This provides a new statutory framework for supporting children with additional learning needs (ALN) and is accompanied by a mandatory Code which makes sure that the new system has a set of clear, legally enforceable parameters within which local authorities, schools, further education colleges and health services responsible for the delivery of services to children and young people with ALN must act. The aim of the new approach, as stated in the Code is as follows: To support the creation of a fully inclusive education system where all learners are given the opportunity to succeed and have access to an education that meets their needs and enables them to participate in, benefit from, and enjoy learning.

The Vale of Glamorgan's [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) (WESP) sets out our ambitions in this regard with relation to Welsh medium education. There is a well-established outreach service in the Vale of Glamorgan providing support to schools for pupils with ALN. Following an analysis of the workforce it was identified that there was a need for additional Welsh speaking specialists to support schools in the areas of autism and social, emotional, and mental health. The establishment of an SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant to provide integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties would be a significant step in addressing our WESP targets.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL

3.1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

The following section discusses potential implications of the proposal, including educational outcomes, finance, human resources, and transport.

The Council has collated information about the schools to help inform these potential implications. This includes the most recent Estyn inspections where available, and internal assessments of the buildings condition and suitability of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant.

3.2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

The SRB would provide periods of integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties. The base would also provide a safe environment for pupils to access during lunch and break times. Support would be targeted to meet the individual needs of pupils within the SRB. The specialist work of the resource provision would influence practice throughout the Welsh medium sector, which would benefit all staff and pupils.

Skilful and creative planning will ensure a clear structure to lessons and a wide range of activities and approaches within the SRB. This would provide a positive impact on pupils' learning and progress.

Strategies to identify and share effective practice are successful in improving learning and teaching across the school, for example, in developing authentic experiences for pupils. The last Estyn Inspection report in 2016 identified that the school's performance was good because:

- Most pupils make good progress, including pupils with additional learning needs
- Most pupils speak naturally and clearly in both languages and express their ideas clearly
- Most pupils use their literacy and numeracy skills effectively across the curriculum
- Many pupils have very good numeracy skills, including their ability to use number strategies very effectively to solve problems
- Nearly all pupils are exceptionally well-behaved during lessons and in informal situations
- Teachers plan interesting experiences and activities that engage nearly all pupils' interest effectively
- Provision for the Welsh language and the Welsh dimension is very rich and, as a result, nearly all pupils have pride in their language, their country and their culture

- All teachers have high expectations for each pupil
- The school is a happy and inclusive community with an exceptional ethos of care
- in which there is a clear relationship of respect and care between pupils and adults

The Council gives a high priority to developing the workforce and are highly effective in creating a culture and ethos of a 'learning organisation'. Performance management with our SRBs is closely aligned to pupil outcomes and school priorities. Robust and comprehensive arrangements are in place for supporting the professional development of staff at all levels. All teachers are engaged in meaningful and planned professional development and undertake beneficial action research.

WELLBEING AND ATTITUDES TO LEARNING

The SRB would provide periods of integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties in a safe, specialist environment. Access to an outdoor area is important; there would be children with ALN who need a space to explore and to regulate themselves in order to be in a ready state to learn. Providing an outdoor space is a crucial part of the universal provision within the SRB and pupils would have access to the newly developed outdoor area provided by grant funding from Welsh Government. Adults playing alongside the children in this environment provides a wealth of opportunities to regulate and develop play and language skills. There would be a range of outdoor activities available.

At the last inspection in 2016, Estyn identified that nearly all pupils are exceptionally well-behaved at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant during lessons and in informal situations. They are welcoming, polite and treat each other, staff and visitors with genuine respect. This is a strength throughout the school. Nearly all pupils feel safe at school and know whom to approach in they feel anxious.

TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant would provide a specialist learning environment, including improved ICT infrastructure, collaborative breakout areas, and effective circulation. This would enable a teaching and learning environment to better meet the needs of learners. This facility was developed as part of a Welsh Government Capital Funding Grant to Support Learners with Additional Learning Needs. The proposed new SRB would allow for further development of a curriculum filled with rich experiences that challenges children, raises attainment, and supports pupils' wellbeing.

The ALN of the children attending the SRB means that they all need access to experiential learning and real-life situations. Being able to provide opportunities to develop communication skills through play is crucial.

CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

The school is a caring community in which a high priority is given to pupils' wellbeing. Staff create a warm and welcoming environment. This contributes effectively to meeting nearly all pupils' needs. Across the school, learning experiences offer stimulating opportunities to promote pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development beneficially. The school promotes high values that help pupils to treat others with respect.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The SRB unit would be managed centrally by the Directorate of Learning & Skills. The Directorate of Learning & Skills would work collaboratively with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant to ensure the SRB is able to operate within the school framework.

The headteacher has a clear vision and high expectations for the school. This vision focuses strongly on developing successful and ambitious pupils in a caring and inclusive environment. He has shared this vision successfully with pupils, staff, parents and governors. Staff support the headteacher skilfully and there is an ethos of teamwork to ensure that each pupil achieves well. This is a strong feature of the school. Regular staff meetings focus clearly on priorities for improvement. This ensures that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in achieving these priorities.

3.3. WELSH LANGUAGE PROVISION

The Council's School Investment Programme reflects the Council's commitments in the [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) (WESP), which aims to ensure that demand for Welsh medium education can be met in the long-term. In line with Welsh Government's National Cymraeg 2050 strategy and contributing to its ambitious target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Further development of Welsh medium primary specialist resources is a strong focus for the directorate of Learning & Skills and a key driver for this proposal.

3.4. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) PROVISION

There would be a positive impact regarding ALN as the proposal would result in improved provision to provide periods of integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties. This will include pupils whose high level of anxiety is impacting significantly on their ability to access mainstream education.

- A key role of the SRB would be to support the implementation of school-wide policies and procedures to strengthen support available to Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant.

- The school has robust and effective processes to track pupils' progress. Senior leaders analyse information well to hold teachers to account through termly progress meetings. There is a very strong focus in place on raising the achievement of all pupils, including vulnerable learners. The school works closely with external agencies to support vulnerable learners. The school has prepared staff well for the changes under the new ALN Act.

3.5 WELSH MEDIUM RESOURCE BASE ENTRANCE CRITERIA

To access the Specialist Resource Base there must be a clear description of the pupil's difficulties.

This means the pupil must:

1 A Have had their primary need diagnosed by an NHS health professional as an autism spectrum condition or;

1 B Have significant social communication, interaction, anxiety, or regulation difficulties identified as their primary need or;

2 Have been identified as having an additional learning need requiring additional learning provision.

Additional Learning Provision is provided for learners who present with significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age or have a disability for the purpose of the Equality Act 2010, which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained settings. They are likely to demonstrate multiple or significant ongoing needs that cannot be met within Universal Learning Provision and continue to have significant need despite early intervention.

Evidence will need to demonstrate the following:

- The child/young person has been an active participant in making decisions about their additional learning provision (ALP) in school, and their views and wishes have been appropriately sought and listened to.
- The child/young person has been involved in preparing and reviewing their Individual Education/Behaviour/Play/Development Plan and clear efforts have been made to ensure that the child/young person understands the purpose of all interventions and support.
- Parents/carers have been active participants in the planning of the child's Individual Development Plan and additional learning provision.
- Parents have been given appropriate information about the purpose of interventions and support.

- Consultation with regards to appropriate ALP has been sought from relevant professionals and advisory services.
- The school has prepared and maintained an Individual Development Plan, including appropriate objectives and associated ALP, which have been regularly and robustly reviewed in respect of the progress made in response to support.

There is evidence of:

- High quality differentiated teaching;
- Targeted interventions appropriate to support the child's individual objectives;
- Review of targets and impact of interventions;
- Evaluation.

3 Would benefit from a period of integrated intensive support in an adapted environment for one or more of the following reasons, to:

- A. Develop social communication skills.
- B. Develop social interaction and flexible thinking skills.
- C. Learn to use structured teaching supports.
- D. Learn to use self-regulation strategies

4 Have had the placement agreed by the Local Authority Placement Panel.

Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base

Exit Criteria.

Placements will be agreed for a set period of two terms in the first instance. Regular reviews and assessment of all pupils take place to determine the most appropriate education provision to meet their needs.

After the initial placement, assessment information will be considered at a local authority panel meeting to determine future placement requirements. Some pupils will be able to return to full inclusion in their home school after this.

1.1. IMPACTS UPON OTHER SCHOOLS

The creation of a new Welsh Medium ALN SRB provision will have a positive impact on other Welsh medium schools as it will provide an additional resource as well as opportunities for professional development of their staff. Outcome 6 of our [WESP](#) requires the Council to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. This proposal, if successful would be a significant step in meeting our WESP targets.

1.2. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

All admission to the SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant would be via the Local Authority Panel.

1.3. LAND AND BUILDINGS

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant is a 2-form entry school that has a total capacity for 420 pupils. Currently there are 195 pupils attending the school with 14 classrooms available overall. Due to the surplus capacity at the school, not all the classrooms are currently utilised. The SRB would occupy a vacant classroom in the school. As this room is not currently used by pupils it is not considered that this will detract from their learning environment.

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant was constructed initially in the 1960's with additional buildings added later. A condition survey undertaken in 2022 found the buildings to be in satisfactory (category B) condition. Remodelling and redecoration of the learning environment identified for the SRB was undertaken in 2023.

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant benefits from suitably sized classrooms, a main hall for sport and dining, offices for headteacher and administration, a staffroom, and break out areas for

pupil interventions. The school is fenced to safeguard pupils with intercom access for visitors.

The SRB would have access to outdoor space. Staff would utilise the existing staff room within Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant to help foster a strong connection between the SRB and the wider school, improving integration.

The proposed location would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21st Century
- Outdoor facilities for ALN pupils
- Specialist provision to provide a curriculum that best meets the needs of learners

1.4. FINANCE

CAPITAL FUNDING

No capital funding is required to ensure that the identified accommodation is suitable as capital works have been completed following an identification of the space for future use for ALN provisions as part of the Welsh Government Capital Grant for Additional Learning Needs. The implementation of the proposal does not require further amendments to the Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant school building.

REVENUE FUNDING

The funding for the SRB for 24/25 is £162,004 and is held centrally within the Learning & Skills Directorate. This funds one full time teacher plus one Higher Level Teaching Assistant and one full time learning support assistant. The school will also receive £11,000 via the mainstream funding formula which covers additional costs in relation to the pupils within the SRB such as resources.

Transport costs to the SRB are currently estimated at approximately £20,000 to £27,000 per annum. Transport costs can fluctuate considerably depending on the home address of the pupils attending the SRB therefore transport costs cannot be accurately forecast in the longer term. Pupils can attend the SRB from all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.5. HUMAN RESOURCES

A pilot provision has commenced at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant in order to inform decision making in relation to the development of Welsh Medium ALN specialist support. The creation of a new SRB would require continuation of these staffing arrangements.

The SRB unit would be managed centrally by the Directorate of Learning & Skills. The Directorate of Learning & Skills would work collaboratively with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant to ensure the SRB is able to operate within the school framework.

The SRB area at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant would accommodate up to 16 learners. It is proposed that the base is established from September 2024. Staff currently employed at the pilot provision would continue to support learners within the SRB.

Any proposed future changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary.

1.6. TRANSPORT AND LEARNER 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'.

Mainstream primary aged pupils are provided with free school transport if they live 2 miles or further from their nearest suitable school.

ALN pupils 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.

Consideration will be given for free school transport for ALN pupils living within the 2-mile limit on an individual basis, complying with Section 9 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, ensuring fairness and compliance with relevant equality legislation to ensure no unlawful discrimination between learners. This decision will be made in consultation with all relevant parties. If a pupil cannot walk to school (either with the support of an appropriate adult or independently depending on their age/ability) because of the nature of their additional learning needs or disability, the council will provide free home to school transport even if the distance is less than the statutory limit. The decision on this will be made by the Passenger Transport Team in conjunction with schools and the Complex Needs Team. If possible and in conjunction with the agreement of the learner, parent/carer, the school and School Improvement and Inclusion Service, escort provision may be provided, instead of transport, to enable the pupil to get to school independently. This promotes sustainable modes of travel and encourages independent living as well as health and well-being.

2. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

2.1. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE STATUS QUO

The Council:

- Provides targeted support for pupils attending Welsh medium primary schools with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties within a mainstream primary school environment.
- Provides an improved learning environment which is adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provides opportunities for professional development throughout our Primary Schools.
- Ensures that pupils with pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties can have their needs met within the local authority and can be supported to remain in their mainstream school.

2.2. POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF THIS PROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE STATUS QUO

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the implementation of the proposal. As the base is already operating as a pilot project, this would be minimal.
- Some pupils will have further to travel to the new SRB than to their home school.

2.3. POTENTIAL RISKS OF THIS PROPOSAL AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE IDENTIFIED RISKS

Potential risks and mitigation measures

Risk	Mitigation
Inadequate specialist provision for Welsh medium pupils with ALN.	The SRB would provide additional capacity for 16 pupils. The new SRB would be able to provide a specialised learning environment to deliver integrated provision for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or

	regulation difficulties. The facilities available at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant are appropriate for 21 st century learning.
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2.4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation process.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that looks at a policy or scheme to make sure it does not discriminate against anyone based on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The assessment will be reviewed after the consultation and at key points if the proposal proceeds.

2.5. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to determine any impacts this proposal would have on the local community.

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 5 of the 8 measures assessed and a positive impact on 3 of the 8 measures. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would provide targeted support for pupils with a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition and those experiencing significant social communication, interaction, or regulation difficulties within a suitable mainstream primary school environment in order to ensure that pupils reach their full potential. Additionally, pupils and staff would have access to improved learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would have a positive impact upon the local community.

2.6. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

[The Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities, and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the Act puts in place seven Wellbeing goals and five ways-of-working which must inform the decision-making processes of public bodies.

The proposal has been appraised in terms of how it contributes to delivering upon the aspirations of the Act, the Wellbeing goals, and the ways-of-working. This does not form part of the statutory consultation process but was considered beneficial to meeting the spirit of the Act.

2.7. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

OPTION 1: DO NOT CREATE A SRB AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO PUPILS WITHIN THEIR HOME SCHOOL.

Why was this option discounted?

The Local Authority has committed to developing a new model for the delivery of Welsh medium specialist resource base provision based on identified need as part of its WESP targets. Failure to deliver on this commitment would not be in the best interests of the pupils the SRB would be designed to support and would not provide opportunities for professional development across the Welsh medium Primary sector.

OPTION 2: ESTABLISH AN SRB AT ANOTHER SCHOOL WITHIN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN.

Why was this option discounted?

Other potential schools were reviewed. However, these schools either did not have the available space to accommodate the SRB or would have required extensive capital cost to provide the SRB on site. Consequently, it was considered Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant represented the most cost effective option which provided improved facilities and an enhanced learning environment.

3. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Table 1: Outline of the statutory consultation process

Steps	Description
Step 1: Develop a proposal	An initial proposal will be developed and considered by the Council's Cabinet. Section 2 of the School Organisation Code outlines when the statutory procedure is required.
Step 2: Cabinet consideration	The Council's Cabinet to consider the proposal and approval to consult.
Step 3: Consultation	<p>A consultation document must be published on the Council website. The consultation document must be published on a school day and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Stakeholders identified in section 3.4 of the School Organisation Code (2018) must be notified by letter/email.</p> <p>The consultation period for this proposal starts from 10 April to 22 May 2024. See page 24 for further details of how to respond and make your views known.</p> <p>Within 13 weeks of 22 May 2024 a consultation report will be published on the Council's and website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and responses to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.</p> <p>In June 2024, Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to progress to the next stage. If the Council decides to continue with the proposal, it must publish a statutory notice.</p>
Step 4: Consultation response report	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Step 5: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet will consider the consultation response report and determine whether to publish the report and to approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.
Step 6: Statutory notice	<p>The statutory notice must be published on a school day and as outlined in section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>The statutory notice would be published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website and posted at or near the main entrance to Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Copies of the notice would be distributed to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members. The school may also distribute the notice by email. The notice would set out the details of the proposals and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within the specified period.</p>
Step 7: Objection period	Anyone wishing to make objections to a proposal has the opportunity to do so. 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.
Step 8: Objection report	Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer’s response to those objections (“the Objection Report”).
Step 9: Cabinet consideration	<p>Cabinet considers the objection report for final determination on the proposal.</p> <p>The Council would determine the proposal. Cabinet may decide to approve, reject, or approve the proposals with modifications. In doing so, the Council would consider any statutory objections that it has received.</p>
Step 10: Decision letter	<p>Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders.</p> <p>Following determination of proposals all interested parties would be informed of the decision which will be published electronically on the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s website.</p>

3.1. KEY DATES

Feedback from this education consultation will be collated and summarised and a report presented to Cabinet. The consultation report will be available for everybody to view on the Council’s website. Copies can also be obtained on request by using the contact details within this document.

There are further stages that the Council will have to go through before a final decision is made. These stages are set out below:

Table 2: Key dates of the process

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	10 April 2024
Closing date for views on the proposals	22 May 2024
Consultation report considered by Cabinet and published on the school and Council's website	June/ July 2024
Subject to Cabinet approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	July 2024
End of Statutory Notice Period	July 2024
Determination by Cabinet with objection report.	July 2024
Decision notification	July 2024
Proposal implemented	September 2024

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What is the intended timescale of the proposal?

The permanent creation of an SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant school building is due to be completed for September 2024.

How would pupils be allocated a place at the SRB?

The Council would allocate pupils to the SRB in consultation with the leadership of the SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant. This would be based on an assessment of the individual needs of the pupils.

Who would manage and support learners attending the SRB?

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant would receive additional funding for the SRB to ensure the appropriate support is available. The Specialist teacher and support staff, along with ALNCo from the mainstream dual registered school, would support the learners attending the SRB. The purpose of the SRB is to provide additional support to pupils to ensure they can access mainstream education.

How will pupils travel to the relocated SRB?

Mainstream primary aged pupils are provided with free school transport if they live 3 miles or further from their nearest suitable school.

However, ALN pupils who have specific travel requirements which cannot be met with reasonable adjustment on mainstream transport 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.

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant supports travel to the school by active modes of travel such as walking and cycling where possible. This would extend to ALN pupils where appropriate.

Will the proposal have a negative impact upon existing pupils at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant?

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant is a 2-form entry school that has a total capacity for 420 pupils. Currently there are 195 pupils attending the school with 14 classrooms available overall. Due to the surplus capacity at the school, not all the classrooms are currently utilised. The SRB would occupy a vacant classroom in the school. As this room is not currently used by pupils it is not considered that this will detract from their learning environment.

Furthermore, the SRB will be incorporated into the operations of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant allowing for sharing of knowledge between staff, helping to improve best practice at the school. Overall, the inclusion of the SRB at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant will benefit both staff and pupils in the long term.

Any further Frequently Asked Questions posed during the consultation will be added to the consultation webpage.

5. INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Our consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018). A range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals.

Before any decisions are made, the Council needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known to enable Cabinet to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

The Council is consulting with the following groups:

Table 3: List of groups to consult as part of the consultation process

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	Governing Body of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at all Welsh medium Primary Schools	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Town and Community Councils	Diocesan Directors of Education
Council's Transportation Department	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Estyn	Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Welsh Government Ministers	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Trade Unions

5.1. INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THE CONSULTATION

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, Councils must make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the SRB. The Council firmly believes that the pupils of from all Welsh medium primary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.

It is intended that a consultation workshop will be held with affected pupils to gather their views about the proposal. The information gathered at these sessions will be included in the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

5.2. HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS

FIND OUT MORE

This document and further supporting information can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan's [School Consultations](#) page.

Any updates can also be found on social media through the Vale of Glamorgan Council Twitter feed and via the Vale of Glamorgan Council Facebook page.

You can also contact us on **01446 709828** or sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk for further information on the proposal.

GIVE YOUR VIEWS

The consultation period will run **from 10 April to 22 May 2024**. You can respond to our proposals at any time during this period. Your views are important to us, and there are a number of ways that you can let us know.

You can:

- Complete the online response form at:
[Proposal to Create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant \(office.com\)](#)

Or

- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:
Creation of Welsh medium Specialist Resource Base
The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Please note that all comments submitted in writing should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 22 May 2024. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered by the Council.

All responses given to us will be considered by Cabinet before it decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice about the proposals.

Responses received from consultees who are opposed to these proposals, although considered as part of the consultation report, will not be treated as statutory objections. A statutory objection would form part of the statutory notice period if it were approved at the next stage by the Council's Cabinet. If you wish to object to the notice at the next stage of the process, should it proceed, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. These key dates are outlined under [Section 5](#).

6. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- completing the online response form at:

[Proposal to Create a Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant \(office.com\)](#)

or

- answering the consultation questions and **adding your points of view on this form**

Please return the form to the postal address:

Creation of Welsh medium Specialist Resource Base

Corporate and Customer Services

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Civic Offices,

Holton Road

Barry CF63 4RU

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 22 May 2024. Unfortunately, no responses received after this date can be considered.

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposals, although considered by the Council when making its decision. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

Please note that all comments should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public. However, any information that would identify an individual such as name, email address and postal address would be removed.

Your Full Name:	
Postcode:	

Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all which apply):					
Parent or Guardian*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandparent*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of Staff*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)					

*Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:	
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1. Do you support the proposal to relocate specialist education by establishing a specialist resource base at Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023?					
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	No opinion either way	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain why:					

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

3. Any other comments?

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than **22 May 2024**.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report via email or post, please provide the relevant details below:

I wish to be notified via: (please delete as appropriate)	Email / Post
Email address:	
Postal address:	

Blank area for notes.

7. VALE OF GLAMORGAN EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

Gender and Gender Identity				
What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male			
At birth were you described as?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Disability				
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental health condition, illness or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or more?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a lot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a little <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Age				
What is your date of birth?				
National Identity				
National Identity – how would you describe your national identity?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> British
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Ethnic Group				
Ethnicity – how would you describe your ethnic group?				
White				

<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British		<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller		<input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background (please specify):	
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups			
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean		<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African	
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify):			
Asian/Asian British			
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian		<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi		<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background (please specify):			
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British			
<input type="checkbox"/> African		<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify):			
Other ethnic group			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			

Welsh Language

Please describe your Welsh language ability by ticking the relevant box(es) below.

	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Identity				
Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual / straight	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay or lesbian		<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Religion				
What is your religion?				
<input type="checkbox"/> No religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations)		<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion (please specify):			<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
Pregnancy and Maternity				
Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant within the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Have you taken maternity leave within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Marriage and Civil Partnership				
What is your legal marital or same sex civil partnership status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Single, that is never married and never registered in a same sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Married and living with husband/wife <input type="checkbox"/> Separated but still legally married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed<input type="checkbox"/> In a registered same-sex civil partnership and living with your partner<input type="checkbox"/> Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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