

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2022

**“C25 CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE AT LLANDOUGH PRIMARY TO YSGOL Y DDRAIG (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The report sought Cabinet approval to consult on the proposal to permanently relocate the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.

The proposal was presented under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code referred to Regulated Alterations of a school, and if accepted by Cabinet, would be subject to the relevant statutory consultation as set out in the body of the report.

The current SRB provision at Llandough Primary School moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure social distancing and a safe learning environment could be maintained.

The Council investigated the options available to deliver the provision from an alternative school site which had the space that would allow social distancing, good ventilation, and safe use of pupil toilets. That space was found at Ysgol Y Ddraig primary in the west of the Vale of Glamorgan.

The agreed arrangement was temporary and reviewed regularly, with a view that the base would return to Llandough Primary School when COVID restrictions eased. Local authority officers from Building Services had surveyed the accommodation at Llandough and concluded that extensive re-modelling of the ground floor section of the school would be required in order to provide a functional space for the provision going forward.

In addition, because of the limitations of the site, any remodelling would not create the same standard of environment as could be offered at Ysgol y Ddraig which was a newly built facility with all the benefits of a 21st Century school.

Councillor Williams was interested to see the outcome of the consultation and looked forward to the discussion at Scrutiny.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Director of Learning and Skills be authorised to undertake a consultation on the proposal to transfer the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To seek Cabinet authority to carry out a statutory consultation in compliance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 on the proposal to transfer the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.
- (2) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the proposals.”

Attached as Appendix: Report to Cabinet: 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 23 June 2022</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Consultation on the proposal to Transfer specialist resource base at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig.
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet approval to consult with stakeholders on proposals to transfer the specialist resource base at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and Welsh Language
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Head of Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources Project Manager, Sustainable Communities for Learning Local Ward Members would be consulted as part of the consultation process in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This report seeks Cabinet approval to consult on the proposal to permanently relocate the specialist resource base at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.</li> <li>• The proposal is presented 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, and if accepted by Cabinet, would be subject to the relevant statutory consultation as set out in the body of the report.</li> <li>• The current SRB provision at Llandough Primary School moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure social distancing and a safe learning environment could be maintained.</li> <li>• The Council investigated the options available to deliver the provision from an alternative school site which had the space that would allow social distancing, good ventilation, and safe use of pupil toilets. This space was found at Ysgol Y Ddraig primary in the west of the Vale of Glamorgan.</li> <li>• The agreed arrangement was temporary and reviewed regularly, with a view that the base would return to Llandough Primary School when COVID restrictions eased.</li> </ul>	

- Local authority officers from Buildings Services have surveyed the accommodation at Llandough and concluded that extensive re-modelling of the ground floor section of the school would be required in order to provide a functional space for the provision going forward.
- In addition, because of the limitations of the site, any remodelling would not create the same standard of environment as can be offered at Ysgol y Ddraig which is a newly built facility with all the benefits of a 21st century school.

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a consultation on the proposal to transfer the specialist resource base (SRB) at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.
2. That Cabinet refers this report to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To seek Cabinet authority to carry out a statutory consultation in compliance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 on the proposal to transfer the specialist resource base (SRB) at Llandough Primary to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.
2. To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee is consulted on the proposals.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. 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.
- 1.2 The current SRB provision at Llandough Primary School moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 The space was found to be too small for social distancing with insufficient ventilation to prevent the spread of the disease. Pupils from the resource base also shared toilets with year 1 pupils from the mainstream school which added to the risk of increased infection as pupils were not able to be contained in “bubbles” which were operating at this time.
- 1.4 The Council reviewed the SRB to explore if any measures could be taken to make the space useable under COVID regulations. Though ventilation could be improved, and the social distancing eased by rotating pupils in and out of the SRB, this would not have been sufficient to meet the guidance at the time. Additionally, the use of toilets by more than one class was seen as an infection risk and this risk could not be mitigated.

- 1.5 A number of models were considered which would keep all pupils and staff safe in both the SRB and school, whilst allowing access to the specialist provision. However, no solutions were found to ensure that all the pupils could access learning within the environment as it existed and remain safe.
- 1.6 As a consequence, the Council investigated the options available to deliver the provision from an alternative school site which had the space that would allow social distancing, good ventilation, and safe use of pupil toilets. This space was found at Ysgol Y Ddraig Primary School in Llantwit Major.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The agreed arrangement was temporary and reviewed regularly, with a view that the base would return to Llandough Primary School when COVID restrictions eased. It is only very recently that COVID restrictions have eased sufficiently to consider a return to Llandough Primary School.
- 2.2 Local authority officers from Buildings Services have surveyed the accommodation at Llandough and concluded that extensive re-modelling of the ground floor section of the school would be required in order to provide a functional space for the provision going forward.
- 2.3 This re-modelling would cause significant disruption to the wider school and would also require a significant additional funding to complete the works required.
- 2.4 In addition, because of the limitations of what is a relatively old building on a limited site, it would be impossible for any re-modelling to create the same standard of environment as can be offered at Ysgol y Ddraig which is a newly built facility with all the benefits of a 21st century school.
- 2.5 Following the success of the temporary relocation and the availability of improved facilities at Ysgol Y Ddraig, it is considered that the SRB would benefit from a permanent relocation to Ysgol Y Ddraig. This would allow the SRB to continue to benefit from the facilities available at the school and allow this group of children access to the best possible specialist provision for Speech, Language and Communication Needs. It would also allow for a more equitable distribution of specialist bases across the Vale of Glamorgan.

### **Land and Buildings**

- 2.6 Ysgol Y Ddraig is an existing school with a building which was constructed as part of Band A of the 21st Century Schools programme. An area of the building would be allocated for the SRB unit.
- 2.7 Ysgol Y Ddraig is situated in Llantwit Major, 16 miles away from Llandough Primary School. The existing buildings are classed as being in good condition and of good suitability. The buildings at Llandough are classed as being in poor condition and suitability overall.

- 2.8** The SRB is currently situated at Ysgol Y Ddraig where it is operating well, therefore no modifications to the site would be required as a consequence of this proposal.

### Impact on Education Outcomes

- 2.9** There would be a positive impact regarding ALN as the proposal would result in improved provision available for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. The proposal would support pupils to access mainstream education with additional support.
- 2.10** The relocated SRB at Ysgol Y Ddraig will benefit from the same staff and school arrangements as Llandough Primary School but within an improved setting.

### Admissions Arrangements

Table 1: Previous NOR at Ysgol Y Ddraig (data from PLASC)

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ysgol Y Ddraig	Community	EM	420	285	285	275	289

Table 2: Projected demand at Ysgol Y Ddraig (data from PLASC)

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ysgol Y Ddraig	Community	EM	420	289	284	279	275
YYDd SRB*	Special	EM	20	28	28	28	28

*\*Capacity and demand from LPS used as baseline*

- 2.11** All admissions to the SRB at would be via Local Authority Panel.
- 2.12** As part of an ongoing review of school capacity, the Published Admission Number (PAN) of both Llandough Primary School and Ysgol Y Ddraig will be considered and any amendments presented to Cabinet as part of the annual consultation on admission arrangements.

### Transport Implications

- 2.13** 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'.
- 2.14** Mainstream primary aged pupils are provided with free school transport if they live 3 miles or further from their nearest suitable school.
- 2.15** 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.
- 2.16** 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. Pupils attend the SRB from all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. All pupils are currently being transported to the temporary accommodation at Ysgol Y Ddraig. There would be no overall increase in the number of primary and nursery places available as a result of the proposals.

### **2.17 Potential benefits of proposal**

The proposal would allow the Council to:

- Continue to provide targeted support for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs within a mainstream primary school environment.
- Provide improved learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide continuity of provision within the Vale of Glamorgan for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.
- Provide opportunities for professional development throughout Ysgol Y Ddraig.
- Ensure 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.

### **2.18 Potential disadvantages of proposal:**

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the implementation of the proposal. As the base is already at the proposed site, this would be minimal.
- Pupils maybe further disrupted due to the proposal. It is noted that the SRB has temporarily moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig which would limit any additional disruption if the proposal were approved.
- Some staff and pupils will have further to travel to the relocated base.

## **Statutory Process**

- 2.19** Welsh Government's revised School Organisation Code 2018 came into effect on 1st November, 2018. The Council must "act in accordance with the Code" as determined by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 2.20** Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 Act requires that before school organisation proposals are published, they must first be subject to consultation. A consultation document must be published and provided to prescribed consultees and Welsh Ministers.
- 2.21** Consultees must be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document and that a hard copy can be obtained on request. Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.

- 2.22** A consultation report must be published including a summary of comments received and the Council's response to these comments, at least two weeks prior to the publication of any statutory notice. A Community Impact Assessment (Appendix B) will also be made available. Any person could respond to the consultation during the consultation period, either in writing or through completion of an online form hosted on the Council's website.
- 2.23** The Council must then decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses. If following the consultation process the Council decides that the proposal is to be progressed, a statutory notice would be published providing 28 days for objections. The notice must be published on a school day and must include 15 school days (in addition to the day on which it is published).
- 2.24** If objections are received, an objection report must be published with a summary of the objections and the Council's response before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination.
- 2.25** Appendix A, page 17 sets out the anticipated timescale for this process if approved by Cabinet.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act") 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.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of 'Working Together for a Brighter Future'. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities
  - Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
  - Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community
  - Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
- A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales
  - A healthier Wales
  - A more equal Wales



- A Wales of cohesive communities
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
  - A globally responsible Wales
- 3.4** This proposal contributes to achieving the wellbeing goals by:
- Ensuring a more efficient financial model for ALN management in the Vale.
  - Ensuring a more equitable distribution of specialist resources across the Vale.
- 3.5** The 2015 Act sets out five ways of working needed for the Council to achieve the seven well-being goals, these being:
- The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
  - Considering how the Council’s objectives impact upon each of the wellbeing goals listed above.
  - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council services.
  - Acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.
  - Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
- 3.6** These proposals meet the five ways of working by:
- Responding to the need to ensure that there is a well-resourced specialist provision available to pupils.
  - Making best use of schools that have an environment reflective of the national mission for education in Wales and future curriculum.
  - Delivering rigorous consultation with open communication channels and numerous opportunities for stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- 3.7** The proposals have been appraised in terms of how they contribute to delivering upon the aspirations of the Act, the well-being goals, and the ways-of-working. This is does not form part of the statutory consultation process but was considered beneficial to meeting the spirit of the Act.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** 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’. ALN pupils attending a specialist resource base will often require with specific travel arrangements which will have an adverse impact. Transport routes for SRBs can fluctuate considerably depending on the home address of the pupils attending the SRB therefore no specific climate impact of the proposal can be

accurately forecast. Pupils can attend for all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan therefore the provision of transport for SRBs will also fluctuate.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The cost for the staff and the resources required to support the pupils attending the SRB would continue on the same basis as currently in place. The funding for the SRB for 22/23 is £223,525 and is held centrally within the Learning & Skills Directorate. This funds two full time teachers plus four full time learning support assistants. 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.
- 5.2** Transport costs to 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 savings or increases to transport cannot be accurately forecast in the longer term. Pupils living in all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan can attend the SRB.

### **Employment**

- 5.3** 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.
- 5.4** Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.5** Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
- 5.6** Section 13A(3) of the 1996 Act states that a local authority in Wales must ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards and the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom the subsection applies, including those who are of compulsory school age or are below school age and are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority.

- 5.7** Section 14 of the 1996 Act then provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education. Appropriate education means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of (a) the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes; and (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and training appropriate to their different needs.
- 5.8** Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. The Council is to comply with the relevant provisions in connection with the proposal.

### **(1) School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013**

- 5.9** Part 3 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act") is concerned with school organisation. The Welsh Ministers have issued the School Organisation Code ("the Code"). Local authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>
- 5.10** Chapter 2 of Part 3 of the 2013 Act deals with school organisation proposals.
- 5.11** Section 48(2) of the 2013 Act provides that before publishing such proposals, a proposer (in this case, the Council) must consult on its proposals in accordance with the Code. The consultation document must be issued during the term time of the schools affected and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.
- 5.12** The proposer must publish a report on the consultation it has carried out in accordance with the Code. The consultation report must summarise each of the issues raised by consultees, responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons; and setting out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.
- 5.13** If a local authority decides to proceed with a proposal to make regulated alterations to a maintained school, it must publish proposals to that effect in accordance with the Code (section 48(1)). The proposal must be published by way of statutory notice. Chapter 4 of the Code sets out specific requirements as to how statutory proposals must be published. Proposals must be published on a school day and the objection period must include 15 school days (in addition to the day on which it is published).
- 5.14** Section 49 of the 2013 Act makes provision for any person to object to proposals published under section 48 within the objection period of 28 days. The Council

must then publish a summary of all objections made to the proposal and its response to those objections before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the Council's determination.

- 5.15** The local authority proposer must then determine whether the proposals should be implemented. Where a local authority's proposals have received objections, and require determination, those objections will be carefully considered before a final determination is made. A further report to Cabinet will be prepared before any such determination is made. This determination must take place before the end of 16 weeks beginning with the end of the objection period.

## **(2) The Code**

- 5.16** The Code contains the following elements:

- It imposes requirements in accordance with which relevant bodies (including all local authorities in Wales) must act. Where mandatory requirements are imposed by the Code or by the 2013 Act or another statute or statutory instrument, it is stated that the relevant bodies must comply with the particular provision. Where practices are prohibited, it is stated that the relevant bodies must not use this practice.
- It includes statutory guidance to which the Council must have due regard and sets out the policy context, general principles and factors that should be taken into account by those bringing forward proposals to reconfigure school provision and by those responsible for determining proposals. Where guidance is given by the Code, it is stated that relevant bodies should follow this guidance unless they can demonstrate that they are justified in not doing so.

- 5.17** Paragraph 1.1 of the Code sets out the key background principles and policies, which should be taken into account by the Council in developing school organisation proposals. These include:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (see below)
- Cymraeg 2050, A Million Welsh Speakers
- Action Plan, Cymraeg 2050
- One Wales: One planet, a new sustainable development scheme for Wales May 2009 or any successor strategy
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (issued February 2011 Information document number 95/2011), or any successor strategy
- Faith in Education
- Local plans for economic or housing development
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (made under part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013)
- Children and Young People's Plans (or successor plans)

- 21st Century Schools – Capital Investment Programme and the relevant wave of investment
  - Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014: <https://beta.gov.wales/learner-travel-statutory-provision-and-operational-guidance>
  - Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, Circular No: 021/2011: <https://beta.gov.wales/measuring-capacity-schools-guidance>
  - Children and Young People’s National Participation Standards
- 5.18** Section 1.4 of the School Organisation Code 2018 outlines that Councils should consider the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

### **(3) The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

- 5.19** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (‘the 2015 Act’) sets out new ways of working – of planning and making decisions – for local authorities and other public bodies it lists. The aim is that, by improving these things, the overall well-being of Wales will be better improved by the things public bodies collectively do. The Act and the statutory guidance makes it clear that local authorities must, in the course of their corporate planning and their delivery against those plans:
- balance short term needs against the ability to meet long term needs;
  - think about the impact their objectives have on other organisations’ objectives, and on the well-being of Wales, in an integrated way;
  - involve in those processes people who reflect the diversity of the population they serve;
  - work together collaboratively with other organisations to better meet each other’s objectives; and
  - deploy their resources to prevent problems from getting worse or from occurring in the first place.
- 5.20** The statutory guidance, for organisations subject to the Act, sets out the expectations for how the duties should be met: <https://gov.wales/well-being-of-future-generations-wales>
- 5.21** The Act itself is available to view online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted>

### **(4) Equalities Act 2010**

- 5.22** The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Council’s must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.

- 5.23** A full Equality Impact Assessment will be developed as part of the consultation exercise and will be included within the consultation report.

**(5) The Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021**

- 5.24** On the 10 and 11 March 2021 respectively, the Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/295) and the Equality Act 2010 (Commencement No 15) (Wales) Order 2021 (SI 2021/298) were made, and the ‘socio-economic’ inequality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and make public bodies subject to the duty.

- 5.25** A commencement order and regulations were made concerning the coming into force of the public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities, as follows:

- *The Equality Act 2010 (Commencement No 15) (Wales) Order 2021 (SI 2021/298)* was made on 11 March 2021 brought section 1 (that is, the socio-economic inequality duty) and section 3 (enforcement for the purposes of section 1) of the Equality Act 2010 into force on 31 March 2021
- *The Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/295)* were made on 10 March 2021 and came into force on 30 March 2021. The Regulations make specific Welsh public bodies subject to the socio-economic inequality duty when the duty is brought into force under the above Order.

- 5.26** The Socio-economic duty places a duty on the Council, as a public sector organisation in Wales, to consider how it might help reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when strategic decisions are made, including decision which would include deciding priorities and setting objectives, such as:

- Strategic directive and intent.
- Strategies developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards which impact on a public body’s functions.
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans).
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy).
- Changes to and development of public services.
- Strategic financial planning.
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions.
- Strategic policy development.

- 5.27** When making decisions, and reviewing previous strategic decisions, the Council needs to do the following:

- Take account of evidence and potential impact.

- Through consultation and engagement, understand the views and needs of those impacted by the decision, particularly those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage.
- Welcome challenge and scrutiny.
- Drive a change in the way that decisions are made and the way that decision makers operate.

**5.28** When making a decision or reviewing a previously made strategic decision made after the 31 March about how to exercise their functions, the Council must show that it has had 'due regard' (giving weight to a particular issue in proportion to its relevance) to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. Those subject to the duty includes government ministers and departments, local authorities and NHS bodies.

**5.29** This would form part of the full Equality Impact Assessment which would be developed as part of the consultation process.

## **6. Background Papers**

None.

# DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER  
SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE AT LLANDOUGH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL TO YSGOL Y DDRAIG FROM  
JANUARY 2023.



*This document can be made available in Braille. Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed. Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.*

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## EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

**'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

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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.

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# 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022** on a proposal to establish a specialist resource base at Ysgol Y Ddraig.

## 1.2. THE PROPOSAL

This document outlines the Council's proposal to permanently relocate the specialist resource base from Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.

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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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 relocate the existing Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig.

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. The element within this section which is relevant to the proposal is the relocation of SEN provision to a new site beyond 1 mile from the main entrance of the existing site.

### 2.2. WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN?

The proposal would mean specialist educational provision for pupils aged 4-11 year with Speech, Language and Communication Needs would be relocated from Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig.

Llandough Primary School has hosted the Local Authority provision for pupils with Speech and Language barriers to learning since 2002. The provision is made up of classes for pupils aged 4-11 year with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. The staff are employed by the local authority and the school receives a resource budget based on the number of pupils attending the provision.

The pupils are dual registered with their home schools and spend 3 days in the resource base and 2 days in their home school. This model enables pupils to be taught and practice specific speech and language skills within the base and practice them through the week, in their home schools.

The pupils are supported in their mainstream schools by the resource base LSAs and teachers. By supporting pupils in their mainstream schools this allows speech and language skills demonstrations, support, and training to go into schools on a weekly basis, allowing specialist staff to model strategies, and enabling schools to build expertise in working with pupils with speech and language needs.

It also allows children to be fully included in their mainstream school. The model was designed in conjunction with the NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Ysgol Y Ddraig is an English medium community school located in Llantwit Major which currently caters for 3–11-year-olds. An area of the building has been allocated for the SRB. It is proposed that the SRB would follow the same model as described above, maintaining its focus on pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

This model was adapted due to Covid restrictions in order to manage the contacts of pupils from different settings and to mitigate the risk of spreading infection between schools. As a result pupils have been spending alternate weeks in the base and their mainstream schools, rather than 3 days in the resource base and 2 days in school on a

weekly basis. Now restrictions have eased and because of the facilities available at Ysgol y Ddraig, it will be possible to revert to the original model which will provide the optimal support for the needs of the pupils.

### 2.3. WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THE CHANGES?

The SRB provision at Llandough Primary School was moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig during the Covid-19 pandemic. The space at Llandough was considered to be too small for social distancing with insufficient ventilation to prevent the spread of the disease. Pupils from the resource base also shared toilets with year 1 pupils from the mainstream school which added to the risk of increased infection as pupils were not able to be contained in “bubbles” which were operating at this time.

The Council reviewed the SRB at Llandough Primary School to explore if any measures could be taken to make the space useable under Covid regulations. Though ventilation could be improved, and the social distancing eased by rotating pupils in and out of the SRB, this would not have been sufficient to meet the guidance at the time. Additionally, the use of toilets by more than one class was seen as an infection risk and this risk could not be mitigated. A number of options were considered which would keep all pupils and staff safe in both the SRB and school, whilst allowing access to the specialist provision. However, no solutions were found to ensure that all the pupils could access learning safely.

As a consequence, the Council investigated alternative options to deliver the provision from an alternative school site which had the space that would allow social distancing, good ventilation, and safe use of pupil toilets. This space was found at Ysgol Y Ddraig Primary School in Llantwit Major. Two full time classrooms with break out space, separate outside space, and separate toilets were accessed. The base could also be entered through a separate entrance. Thus, the base was self-contained, ensuring that pupils and staff were safe and compliant with Covid regulations.

The agreed arrangement was temporary and reviewed regularly, with the intention that the base would return to Llandough Primary School when Covid restrictions eased. It is only very recently that Covid restrictions have eased sufficiently to consider a return to Llandough Primary School. However, despite the easing of restrictions it is still evident that the accommodation available at Llandough Primary School is no longer fit for purpose and is not comparable with that available at Ysgol y Ddraig.

Local authority officers have surveyed the accommodation at Llandough and concluded that extensive re-modelling of the ground floor section of the school would be required in order to provide a functional space for the provision going forward. This re-modelling would cause significant disruption to the wider school and would also require additional funding to complete the works required. This is estimated as being a minimum of £50,000. In addition, because of the limitations of what is a relatively old building on a limited site, it would be impossible for any re-modelling to create the same standard of environment as



can be offered at Ysgol y Ddraig which is a newly built facility with all the benefits of a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.

As a result of the success of the temporary relocation and the availability of improved facilities at Ysgol Y Ddraig, it is therefore considered that the SRB would benefit from a permanent relocation to Ysgol Y Ddraig. This would allow the SRB to continue to benefit from the facilities available at the school and allow this group of children access to the best possible specialist provision for Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

### 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, National Categorisation of school report, and internal assessments of the buildings condition and suitability of Ysgol Y Ddraig.

#### 3.2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

##### STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

The SRB would ensure pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs have access to specialist learning & resources in an improved environment. 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 wider school which would benefit all staff and pupils.

Skilful and creative planning ensures a clear structure to lessons and a wide range of activities and approaches within the SRB. This has 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.

Self-evaluation is a strong feature of Ysgol Y Ddraig, being comprehensive, robust, and involving all members of staff. The school has a clear timetable of monitoring activities and draws upon a range of first-hand information to inform their judgements. Self-evaluation makes a strong contribution to improving and maintaining good standards, as well as the quality of teaching and learning. Improvement planning is highly effective and takes account of local and national priorities.

The school's leaders give a high priority to developing the workforce and are highly effective in creating a culture and ethos of a 'learning organisation'. Performance management 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.

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## WELLBEING AND ATTITUDES TO LEARNING

The SRB would provide a safe environment for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs to access throughout the school day. Access to an outdoor area is important for both classes; there are children with ALN in each class 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. Adults playing alongside the children in this environment provides a wealth of opportunities to develop play and language skills. There is an enhanced range of outdoor activities available.

In Ysgol y Ddraig there is a positive relationship with parents and carers who have appreciated the support for well-being, strong communication during the pandemic and access to blended learning provision of high quality.

With regard to Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: the accelerating learning programme grant is being suitably deployed, focussing on the most vulnerable learners to ensure they continue to make progress and catch up accordingly. Similarly, the Pupil Development Grant is appropriately targeted at pupils in receipt of free school meals, with a strong emphasis on providing additional literacy and wellbeing interventions.

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## TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Curriculum development is strong, and Ysgol Y Ddraig has worked effectively with cluster schools to develop the capacity across all the schools. The school is well-prepared for the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales (CfW) in line with national expectations. The school continues to reflect on and refine the school curriculum model using the four purposes as key drivers to inform practice and pupils' learning experiences. Consideration of the progress made by vulnerable pupils, including those with additional learning needs has been an integral part of the planning for the CfW, ensuring that these pupils will be able to fully access the new curriculum as it becomes embedded. The school has a clear vision for the development of their assessment processes in line with the new curriculum.

The SRB at Ysgol Y Ddraig would provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century 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. Ysgol Y Ddraig was delivered within Band A of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme and has created nature areas with ponds, bug hotels and planting as part of their outdoor learning space. The proposed permanent relocation 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 to develop their language and vocabulary in a functional way. Being able to provide opportunities to develop language through play is crucial for the children. Play enables children to practise the language skills they have learnt and extend their expanding vocabulary. Interacting with adults and peers also enables children to refine their speech sounds through listening to others.

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## CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Ysgol Y Ddraig currently does not have an Estyn Report. The Report is due on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, however Llandough Primary School does have an available [Estyn Report](#) from March 2022. The relocated SRB at Ysgol Y Ddraig will benefit from the same staff, resources and school arrangements as Llandough Primary School but within an improved setting. It is noted in the most recent Estyn inspection for Llandough Primary School, 'Pupils from mainstream classes have benefited from specialist support in the learning resource bases to improve their communication skills.' The proposal would continue to build on this support with the same dedicated team overseeing the SRB.

The relocation of the SRB would improve the learning environment and increase facilities to support wellbeing, and the provision.

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## LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The interim executive headteacher and head of school of Ysgol y Ddraig lead the school very effectively and have skilfully developed a shared vision and strategy to improve outcomes for learners with a strong emphasis on wellbeing of learners and raising standards.

The wider leadership team contributes effectively to school improvement and monitoring activities, and the school continues to maintain a strong focus on leadership development. This focus has improved the school's capacity to manage change very effectively. The roles and responsibilities of leaders and staff are well defined and communicated clearly. Senior leaders have a good track record for improving performance and quality of education. Together, leaders continue to refine and embed effective practices and processes.

Governors, through committees, have a very good understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement and effectively hold leaders to account in their role as critical friends. Their work to support and challenge the school's performance is very strong. Governors are developing a clear understanding of the school curriculum reform through regular sessions of professional learning. Governors make a valuable contribution to the school's improvement planning and self-evaluation.

### 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.

Although Ysgol Y Ddraig teaches predominantly through the medium of English, Welsh language is part of the curriculum contributing to the Council's commitment to encouraging bilingual speakers. Ysgol Y Ddraig will continue to seek to improve Welsh language provision through its existing curriculum framework.

### 3.4. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) PROVISION

There would be a positive impact regarding ALN as the proposal would result in improved provision available for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, not only for pupils with complex needs from throughout the Vale, but also for pupils from Ysgol y Ddraig who would benefit from the increased on-site expertise.

- A key role of the SRB would be to support the implementation of school-wide policies and procedures to strengthen support available to all pupils at Ysgol Y Ddraig.
- 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. IMPACTS UPON OTHER SCHOOLS

The relocation of ALN provision will result in the loss of the Speech, Language and Communication Needs SRB at Llandough Primary School. However, the relocation of the SRB would provide additional space at Llandough Primary School allowing the school to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil population arising in the area. It is forecast that 209 pupils will attend Llandough Primary School in 2025 which is near the threshold of the school's capacity of 210 places. The relocation will also support a more equitable distribution of specialist resources across the Vale of Glamorgan.

### 3.6. ADMISSIONS

#### PREVIOUS NUMBERS ON ROLL

Table 1: Previous NOR at Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough (data from PLASC)

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ysgol Y Ddraig	Community	EM	420	285	285	275	289
Llandough	Community	EM	210	190	185	190	191

#### PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL

Table 2: Projected demand at Ysgol Y Ddraig (data from PLASC)

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ysgol Y Ddraig	Community	EM	420	289	284	279	275
Ysgol Y Ddraig SRB*	Specialist	EM	20	20	20	20	20
Llandough	Community	EM	210	190	201	205	209

*\*Capacity and demand from Llandough Primary School used as baseline*

#### ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

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

### 3.7. LAND AND BUILDINGS

Ysgol Y Ddraig is an existing school with associated building which was constructed as part of Band A of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme. An area of the building would be allocated for the SRB unit.

Figure 1: Image of Ysgol Y Ddraig building (outside view)



Ysgol Y Ddraig 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. Within the grounds, there are external play areas, a multi-use games area (MUGA) and habitat areas to enhance pupil wellbeing.

The SRB would be accommodated within two adjacent classrooms with access to outdoor space. Staff would utilise the existing staff room within Ysgol Y Ddraig to help foster a strong connection between the SRB and Ysgol Y Ddraig improving integration.

The proposed new location would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Unobstructed access between all internal areas for children and staff
- Enhanced safeguarding and site security for pupils and staff
- Improved outdoor sports facilities for ALN pupils
- Specialist provision to provide a curriculum that best meets the needs of learners
- Full access for the whole community with full disabled access to internal and external areas.

### 3.8. FINANCE

#### CAPITAL FUNDING

No capital funding is required to undertake the relocation. The implementation of the proposal does not require amendments to the Ysgol Y Ddraig school building.

#### REVENUE FUNDING

The funding for the SRB for 22/23 is £223,525 and is held centrally within the Learning & Skills Directorate. This funds two full time teachers plus four full time learning support assistants. 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 to 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 cannot be accurately forecast in the longer term. Pupils can attend for all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.

### 3.9. HUMAN RESOURCES

The existing staff would continue to be employed at the new location of Ysgol Y Ddraig. No redundancies would be necessary as part of the relocation or additional staffing requirements.

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 Y Ddraig to ensure the SRB is able to operate within the school framework.

The SRB area at Ysgol Y Ddraig will accommodate up to 20 learners. It is proposed that the base is established from January 2023. Staff from the existing SRB at Llandough Primary School would be formally relocated to Ysgol Y Ddraig 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.

### 3.10. 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 3 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.



## 4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### 4.1. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE STATUS QUO

The Council:

- 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.

### 4.2. 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 at the proposed site, this would be minimal.
- Pupils maybe further disrupted due to the proposal. It is noted that the SRB has temporarily moved to Ysgol Y Ddraig which would limit any additional disruption if the proposal were approved.
- Some staff and pupils will have further to travel to the relocated base.

### 4.3. POTENTIAL RISKS OF THIS PROPOSAL AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE IDENTIFIED RISKS

**Table 3: Potential risks and mitigation measures**

Risk	Mitigation
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<p>Inadequate facilities at Llandough Primary School to provide an SRB in light of pandemic restrictions</p>	<p>The SRB would maintain its existing capacity of 20 pupils. The aim of the SRB is to support learners with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. The new location of the SRB would be able to provide an improved learning environment to the existing location. The facilities available at Ysgol Y Ddraig are appropriate for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and allow for adequate space to comply with potential future pandemic restrictions ensuring continuity of learning.</p>
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#### 4.4. 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.

#### 4.5. 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 identified that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 8 of the 8 measures assessed.

The proposal would provide targeted support for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs 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 neutral impact upon the local community.

The full Community Impact Assessment can be viewed via the following link:

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

## 4.6. 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.

## 4.7. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

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### OPTION 1: DO NOT RELOCATE THE SRB AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST EDUCATION FROM LLANDOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

#### **Why was this option discounted?**

The Local Authority has looked at options around how to accommodate the Speech and Language and Communication Resource Base at Llandough Primary School.

Plans were drawn up by the Council's Buildings Services team which would provide an appropriate space for the Resource Base going forward in Llandough Primary School. This plan requires extensive re-modelling to a ground floor section of the school. The cost of this re-modelling was estimated to be a minimum of £50k and while this would provide a functional space, it would not provide the same standard of accommodation as that available at Ysgol y Ddraig which is a relatively new building.

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### 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, were in a similar condition to Llandough Primary School or would have required extensive capital cost to provide the SRB on site. Consequently it was considered Ysgol Y Ddraig represented the most cost effective option which provided improved facilities and an enhanced learning environment.

## 5. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Table 4: Outline of the statutory consultation process

Steps	Description
<b>Step 1: Develop a proposal</b>	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.
<b>Step 2: Cabinet consideration</b>	The Council's Cabinet to consider the proposal and approval to consult.
<b>Step 3: Consultation</b>	<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><b>The consultation period for this proposal starts on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and ends on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.</b> See page 25 for further details of how to respond and make your views known.</p> <p>Within 13 weeks of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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 October 2022 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>
<b>Step 4: Consultation response report</b>	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.
<b>Step 5: Cabinet consideration</b>	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.

<p><b>Step 6: Statutory notice</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Step 7: Objection period</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Step 8: Objection report</b></p>	<p>Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers <b>must</b> publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer’s response to those objections (“the Objection Report”).</p>
<p><b>Step 9: Cabinet consideration</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Step 10: Decision letter</b></p>	<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>

## 5.1. 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 5: Key dates of the process**

<b>Statutory Process</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Issue consultation document	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b>
Closing date for views on the proposals	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>
Consultation report considered by Cabinet and published on the school and Council's website	<b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>
Subject to Cabinet approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	<b>27<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>
End of Statutory Notice Period	<b>24<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>
Determination by Cabinet with objection report.	<b>December 2022</b>
Decision notification	<b>December 2022</b>
Proposal implemented	<b>January 2023</b>

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

## 6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

*What is the intended timescale of the proposal?*

The permanent relocation to Ysgol Y Ddraig school building is due to be completed for January 2023.

*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 Y Ddraig. This would be based on an assessment of the individual needs of the pupils.

*Who would manage and support learners attending the SRB?*

Ysgol Y Ddraig would receive additional funding for the SRB to ensure the appropriate support is available. The school would appoint a leader to manage the SRB with staff from the original SRB at Llandough Primary School relocating to Ysgol Y Ddraig to support individual learners. 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 Y Ddraig 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 Y Ddraig?*

Ysgol Y Ddraig is a 2-form entry school and has capacity for 420 pupils. Currently there are 289 pupils attending the school set over 14 classrooms. Due to the surplus capacity at the school, not all the classrooms are utilised. The SRB would occupy 2 vacant

classrooms on the ground floor of the school. As these rooms are 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 Y Ddraig allowing for sharing of knowledge between staff, helping to improve best practice at the school. Overall, the inclusion of the SRB at Ysgol Y Ddraig 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.

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## 7. 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 6: List of groups to consult as part of the consultation process**

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School	Governing Body of Llandough Primary School
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School	Governing Body of Ysgol Y Ddraig
Town and Community Councils	Diocesan Directors of Education
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board	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
Council's Transportation Department	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities

## 7.1. 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 school. The Council firmly believes that the pupils of Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.

It is intended that a consultation workshop will be held with pupils at Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School 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.

## 7.2. HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS

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### 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](mailto:sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) for further information on the proposal.

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### GIVE YOUR VIEWS

The consultation period will run from **30<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. 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:

Or

- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:

Freepost

Transfer Specialist Resource Base to Ysgol Y Ddraig

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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 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](#).

## 8. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

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

- **completing the online response** form at
- or
- answering the consultation questions and **adding your points of view on this form**
- 

Please return the form to the postal address:

Freepost

Transfer Specialist Resource Base to Ysgol Y Ddraig

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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 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.

<b>Your Full Name:</b>	
<b>Postcode:</b>	

<b>Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all which apply):</b>					
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)					

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

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

Empty response box for question 2.

**3. Any other comments?**

Empty response box for question 3.

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than **8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

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

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

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Empty rectangular box for notes.



# 9. VALE OF GLAMORGAN EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

<b>Gender and Gender Identity</b>				
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			
<b>Disability</b>				
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			
<b>Age</b>				
What is your date of birth?				
<b>National Identity</b>				
<b>National Identity – how would you describe your national identity?</b>				
<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		
<b>Ethnic Group</b>				
<b>Ethnicity – how would you describe your ethnic group?</b>				
<b>White</b>				

<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):	
<b>Mixed/multiple ethnic groups</b>			
<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):			
<b>Asian/Asian British</b>			
<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):			
<b>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> African		<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify):			
<b>Other ethnic group</b>			
<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"/>
<b>Sexual Identity</b>				
<b>Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?</b>				
<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			
<b>Religion</b>				
<b>What is your religion?</b>				
<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	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>				
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			
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>				
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"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> In a registered same-sex civil partnership and living with your partner</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say</li></ul>
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# DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO  
TRANSFER SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE  
AT LLANDOUGH PRIMARY TO YSGOL Y  
DDRAIG FROM JANUARY 2023.**



*This document can be made available in Braille. Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed. Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.*

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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 relocate the specialist resource base at Llandough Primary School to Ysgol Y Ddraig from January 2023.

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.

## 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 Speech, Language and Communication Needs within a suitable mainstream primary school environment in order to ensure that pupils reach their full potential.
- Provide 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 for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.
- Provide opportunities for professional development throughout Ysgol Y Ddraig.
- Reduced reliance on costly out of county provision.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

There are currently 5 schools which serve the area surrounding Ysgol Y Ddraig in Llantwit Major:

School name	Type	Language	Age range	Capacity*	Nursery places (part-time)	Distance from Ysgol Y Ddraig (miles)
St Illtyd	Community	EM	3-11	379	76	0.5
Wick and Marcross CiW Primary School	Denominational	EM	3-11	154	24	3.9
St Helen's R.C Primary School*	Denominational	EM	3-11	308	48	8.8
Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant	Community	WM	3-11	210	56	0.2
Llantwit Major High School	Community	EM	3-16	1,050		0.1

*\*Nearest Roman Catholic denominational school serving the area.*

Ysgol Y Ddraig is located within the ward Llantwit Major which is made up of 7 lower super output areas (LSOAs). Ysgol Y Ddraig is located in Llantwit Major 2 and is surrounded by the LSOAs Llantwit Major 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Llantwit Major 2 is the central area of Llantwit Major and includes the district centre, school site and residential areas of Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan, in south Wales. The other Llantwit Major areas make up the remaining parts of the town, with the exception of ward areas 3 and 5 which relate to the rural outskirts of the area.



The Llantwit Major ward has a population of 10,966 based upon the 2020 mid-year estimates. Llantwit Major 2 has a population of 1,564 (Office of National Statistics, 2021)<sup>1</sup>.

The data below for the Llantwit Major ward surrounding Ysgol Y Ddraig 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)
Llantwit Major 1	W01001106	1822	50% least deprived	1747	50% least deprived	1863	50% least deprived
Llantwit Major 2	W01001107	1655	50% least deprived	1373	50% least deprived	1732	50% least deprived
Llantwit Major 3	W01001108	1429	50% least deprived	1244	50% least deprived	631	30% - 50% most deprived
Llantwit Major 4	W01001109	1363	50% least deprived	1188	50% least deprived	802	30% - 50% most deprived
Llantwit Major 5	W01001110	1686	50% least deprived	1844	50% least deprived	453	20% - 30% most deprived
Llantwit Major 6	W01001111	815	30% – 50% most deprived	694	30% - 50%	807	30-50% most deprived

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<sup>1</sup> StatsWales - Population estimates by lower super output area and age group:  
<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Small-Area/populationestimates-by-lowersuperoutputarea-agegroup>

					most deprived		
Llantwit Major 7	W01001112	1873	50% least deprived	1805	50% least deprived	1520	50% least deprived

As the table above shows, the wards surrounding Ysgol Y Ddraig are mixed in terms of levels of deprivation. The LSOA area the school is located in is one of the least deprived areas across the 3 measures. Areas 3 and 4 have been identified as being in the 30% - 50% most deprived and Area 5 is identified as 20% - 30% most deprived in terms of access to services. This is reflective of the more rural location of these areas where services will generally be more difficult to access. Area 6 has been identified as being 30% – 50% most deprived across all measures. The remaining areas share the same profile to Area 2.

#### ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

There is currently a temporary arrangement in place allowing the SRB for Speech, Language and Communication Needs to operate out of Ysgol Y Ddraig following the assessment of the Llandough Primary School SRB under Covid 19 regulations.

It is considered there would be a positive impact regarding ALN as the proposal would result in improved provision available for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs due to the improvement to the physical environment at Ysgol Y Ddraig which has been developed under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The proposal would support pupils to access mainstream education with additional support. This would particularly benefit those pupils who would not normally meet the criteria to attend YYD.

- A key role of the SRB would be to support the implementation of school-wide policies and procedures to strengthen support available to all pupils at Ysgol Y Ddraig.

#### 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
C11	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	0	<p>Placing the specialist resource base within a mainstream primary school, provides additional support for pupils Speech, Language and Communication Needs whilst ensuring they can access mainstream primary education.</p> <p>The relocation of ALN provision will result in the loss of the Speech, Language and Communication Needs SRB at Llandough Primary School. However, ALN provision is not provided based on proximity to an SRB, with pupils attending from across the Authority.</p> <p>The relocation of the SRB would provide additional space at Llandough Primary School allowing the school to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil population arising in the area. It is expected 209 pupils would attend Llandough Primary School in 2025 which is near the threshold of the school's capacity of 210 places.</p>
C12	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 Llandough Primary School and Ysgol Y Ddraig would continue and that there would be no loss of provision.</p>
C13	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	<p>There would be no loss of access for Llandough Primary School and Ysgol Y Ddraig to community facilities as a result of this proposal.</p>

CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	0	The proposal will not change the current community facilities provided by either school.
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	There would be no impacts upon local businesses as a result of this proposal concerning Ysgol Y Ddraig and Llandough Primary School.
CI6	Impact on local employment	0	The existing staff at Llandough Primary School SRB would be transferred to Ysgol Y Ddraig School.
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	0	<p>The proposal would not result in an increase in capacity at Ysgol y Ddraig which would cause increased pressure on local infrastructure. Instead the proposal will adapt to existing vacant classrooms within the school building.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Ddraig supports travel to the school by active modes of travel such as walking and cycling where possible. This would extend to ALN pupils and staff where appropriate. This would help to alleviate pressures on local infrastructure.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	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>Mainstream primary aged pupils are provided with free school transport if they live 3 miles or further from their nearest suitable school.</p> <p>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.</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 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.

The proposal would provide targeted support for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs 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 neutral impact upon the local community.