

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 20TH JULY, 2023

“C71 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO DELIVER A NEW BUILDING FOR ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Cabinet of the consultation on a proposal to deliver a new building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on its existing site from September 2025.

Councillor Birch made the point that there would be climate change and nature implications here, but that new build elements of the Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme would meet the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent rating for significantly reducing the running costs and the carbon emissions arising from the building which was an ambition of the Council.

The Leader said that there was much excitement in the school that the proposal would be moving forward for consultation and looked forward to receiving the results of the consultation in October.

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 Governing Body’s decision to undertake a period of consultation from 5th September, 2023 to 17th October, 2023 on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to their school to increase the capacity of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025 be endorsed.

(2) T H A T implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.

(3) 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 note the Governing Body's decision to seek feedback through a formal consultation with prescribed stakeholders, prior to any publication of its proposal, as required by the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.
- (2) To note that implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.
- (3) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the proposal."

Attached as an Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 20th July, 2023

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 20 July 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Consultation on proposal to deliver a new building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School
Purpose of Report:	To advise Cabinet of the consultation on a proposal to deliver a new building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on its existing site from September 2025
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Trevor Baker, Head of Strategy, Community Learning & Resources Lisa Lewis, Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources Natasha Burton, Sustainable Communities for Learning Project Manager Kelly Williams, Sustainable Communities for Learning Project Manager Gemma Jones, Operational Manager, Accountancy Mike Matthews, Principal Strategic Planning Officer Committee Reports
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report is to advise Cabinet of the governing body of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School's proposal to undertake a statutory consultation supported by the Sustainable Community for Learning Team. The school is currently maintained by the Vale of Glamorgan LEA/Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Governing bodies of voluntary schools may make proposals to make a regulated alteration to their school, in this instance, managed by the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team. The draft Consultation document can be found at Appendix A. The proposal is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a new school building at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on the existing site at the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. 	

- Increase the capacity of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025. This equates to 210 pupils in each year group.
- The proposal would ensure that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is able to meet increased demand for school places within the catchment area and would address the condition and suitability issues with the existing buildings.
- The establishment of a Specialist Resource Base unit for 60 pupils will also be developed as part of the consultation to provide additional support to a range of pupils with individual learning plans.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has been included as part of Band B of the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Capital Programme with the creation of a new 1050 school building scheduled for completion by September 2025.
- Vale of Glamorgan Council will lead on the consultation of this project. Feedback received throughout the consultation period will be presented to Cabinet for reference and the Governing Body will be kept informed of the outcome and will have the ultimate decision.
- This project was originally planned to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) which is a revenue funded programme. After undertaking a cost analysis, it was decided to progress this proposal as a Capital scheme. The proposal will result in a smaller development, however, the construction sector has experienced increased costs due to recent global events and inflationary pressures affecting the sector. This has had a significant impact on the costs being received from contractors to deliver construction projects. Therefore, although the scheme is smaller in scale the costs to deliver the scheme are higher for both the MIM and capital funding route and maybe subject to further increases which will need to be considered during the design and feasibility phase. Within our current project cost proposal there has been an inflation sum included for up to the year 2025, to try to mitigate against the over cost for delivery of the project.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the Governing Body's decision to undertake a period of consultation from 5th September, 2023 to 17th October, 2023 on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to their school to increase the capacity of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025.
2. That Cabinet notes that implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and notes that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.
3. 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 note the Governing Body's decision to seek feedback through a formal consultation with prescribed stakeholders, prior to any publication of its proposal, as required by the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.
2. To note that implementation of the proposal would be subject to the relevant statutory processes and that Welsh Government capital funding would be subject to approval of a rigorous business case.
3. To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee is consulted on the proposal.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and diocesan authorities.
- 1.2 Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme started in April 2019 and required the Council to meet the following investment objectives:
 - addressing growth in demand for Welsh medium education;
 - reductions of surplus capacity and inefficiency in the system;
 - expansion of schools in areas of increased demand for educational services;
 - address condition of educational assets; and
 - making assets available for community use where demand exists
- 1.3 A proposal submitted as part of the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B submission was the redevelopment for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on the existing site to meet current and future demand for school places as well as addressing the poor condition of the existing building.

- 1.4 Cabinet have considered and approved the Council's programme for Sustainable Communities for Learning. An update on the programme will be provided to Cabinet later this year.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to review the number and type of schools in the area and to make the best use of resources to raise standards in schools.
- 2.2 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places in its area to meet current and future demand for school places in line with national, regional and local strategies.
- 2.3 Expanding schools and developing new schools is required where there is a shortfall in school places, current and future, to meet demand for Welsh, English and denominational schools. This may arise due to large scale housing developments planned for an area, increased demand and changes to parental preference for schooling.

Housing Developments

- 2.4 Local development plans are reviewed regularly by the Council. However this school proposal is not impacted by any local developments.

Catchment Area



- 2.5 The following table shows previous and projected pupil numbers at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.

School	Current School Capacity	PLASC 2019	PLASC 2020	PLASC 2021	PLASC 2022	Current NOR 2023	2023/24 Projections	2024/25 Projections	2025/26 Projections	2026/27 Projections	2027/28 Projections
St Richard Gwyn	813	791	795	801	821	833	844	862	877	846	868

2.6 In order to ensure St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is able to meet anticipated future demand for education, its capacity would need to increase.

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School Information

School	Type of school	Language category	Admission number	School capacity	Number on roll	Age range
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided	English Medium	163	813	833	11 - 16

2.7 The table above shows that the current school building has a capacity of 813 places but has 833 pupils on roll. This shows that current demand for school places at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is above the current capacity. This means there is no capacity to accommodate additional pupils.

2.8 Pupil projections over the next five years indicate insufficient capacity to meet future demand for school places at the school. Large scale housing in the Barry area and across the Vale of Glamorgan has impacted upon secondary school demand across all sectors with increased demand for school places. In order to manage future demand, an increase in capacity at the school is required to meet parental preference for schooling in future.

2.9 The Council considers that a 1,050 place building is the minimum size from an efficiency and sustainability perspective. This would provide for a 7 form entry school with classes of 30 pupils and an admission number of 210. A 1,050 place school would accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers over the years.

2.10 In order to ensure the school is able to accommodate additional pupils between now and the opening of the new school in September 2025, the governing body is currently exploring temporary measures to increase capacity in the interim.

2.11 The following table highlights the capacity of local secondary schools in the area. In the event that the governing body are unable to implement a temporary

measure to increase capacity, applicants would need to be offered a place at the nearest available school with limited capacity to be able to offer such places.

School	Current School Capacity	2023/24 projection	2024/25 projection	2025/26 projection	2026/27 projection	2027/28 projection
Pencoedtre	1250	1206	1257	1278	1293	1270
Whitmore	1100	1110	1127	1128	1135	1117
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	1450	1210	1236	1231	1246	1285

Specialist Resource Base Unit (SRB)

- 2.12** St Richard Gwyn does not currently have an SRB; it provides specialist support for children who have identified needs in an inclusive setting within the school.
- 2.13** Whitmore High School and Pencoedtre High School have successfully introduced SRB units within their school settings and this is a model that both the Council and the governing body would like to introduce at St Richard Gwyn.
- 2.14** It is proposed that 60 SRB places will be developed for identified pupils. All pupils attending the SRB will have individual learning plans. They will be supported in a specialist class and will attend mainstream classes in varying amounts of time, alongside whole school activities where appropriate. This to ensure all pupils are provided with education that is appropriate to their needs.

Condition of Existing Buildings

- 2.15** St Richard Gwyn has 5.2 hectares of land and is comprised of a main building block and several modular blocks and containers.
- 2.16** Elements of the school were categorised as being in poor condition following a recent review of the site.
- 2.17** There is tarmac and shale finishes to the main and overflow car parks which are in poor condition and require re-surfacing. The access drive to the front of the main building and the drive to the rear playground areas are both in poor condition and also require re-surfacing.
- 2.18** In addition to the poor building condition, the following should also be considered:
 - There is a significant issue with flooding to the current site due to poor drainage. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have worked with NRW to implement improved drainage systems to avoid risk of flooding in future.
 - The new school building would be located on the same site with improvements made to the drainage systems before construction takes place
- 2.19** The outcome of the 2022/23 condition survey is outlined below.

School	Type	Condition	Suitability	Backlog Maintenance
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Voluntary aided	Poor	Not known	£3,485,000

2.20 The backlog maintenance includes a few of the following major items:

Building element	2022 estimate (£)
Roof renewal	550,000
Mechanical Engineering systems renewal	650,000
Electrical Engineering systems renewal	850,000
Renewal of cladding and external doors and windows	320,000
Repairs and upgrade to external site areas	300,000

2.21 St Richard Gwyn has been included as part of the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Capital Programme. A new 1,050 place school building would be built on the existing school site. It is anticipated that the new school building would open by September 2025.

2.22 This project was originally planned to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) which is a revenue funded programme.

2.23 After undertaking a cost analysis, it was decided to drive this proposal forward as a Capital scheme. The proposal will result in a smaller development; however, the construction sector has experienced increased costs due to recent global events and inflationary pressures affecting the sector.

2.24 This has had a significant impact on the costs being received from contractors to deliver construction projects. Therefore, although the scheme is smaller in scale the costs to deliver the scheme are higher for both the MIM and capital funding route and maybe subject to further increases which will need to be considered during the design and feasibility phase. Within our current project cost proposal there has been an inflation sum included for up to the year 2025, to try to mitigate against the over cost for delivery of the project.

2.25 It has been decided that delivering the scheme under our Capital programme will deliver better value for money.

2.26 Pupils would be educated in a high-quality modern building which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Statutory Process

2.27 Welsh Government issued a revised School Organisation Code in 2018 ("the Code") that 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.

- 2.28** 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.
- 2.29** 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. Meetings will be held during the consultation period to provide additional information as requested and would include meetings with parents, pupil representatives, governing bodies, staff of the school and the community as set out in the Code.
- 2.30** A consultation report must be published including a summary of comments received and the Governing Body's response to these comments, at least two weeks prior to the publication of any statutory notice.
- 2.31** The Governing Body must then decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal within twenty six weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses. If following the consultation process the Governing Body 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).
- 2.32** If objections are received, an objection report must be published with a summary of the objections and the Governing Body's response before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination. Under the legislation as the proposal does not relate to 6th form education the Local Authority can determine the proposal if objections are received.
- 2.33** Appendix A 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** 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

3.3 This proposal contributes to achieving the wellbeing goals by:

- Improving sustainability of school buildings through the creation of BREEAM Excellent accommodation.
- Ensure an efficient supply and demand of school places across the Vale of Glamorgan through effective forecasting of future demand.
- A 1,050 place school is an efficient model, which ensures the future sustainability of St Richard Catholic High School.
- The new school would be designed to better meet the needs of pupils. The new building would provide a modern education facility with improved external areas.
- A key objective of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is to increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school. A full Community Impact assessment is included at Appendix B. The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.
- The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Supporting contractors to deliver a programme of community benefits that aims to reduce unemployment through increased apprenticeship opportunities

3.4 The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out "sustainable development", defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals." The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives.

3.5 Previously completed Band A projects have contributed to improving the economic and environmental wellbeing of Wales as follows:

- Over 70% of project spend has been within Wales.
- Over 90% of the workforce has been recruited from within Wales

- A minimum of 80% of waste has been averted from landfill and recycled
- 3.6** Band B has also contributed to improving the economic and environmental wellbeing of Wales, with our additional aspiration to develop schools to become more community focused and Net Zero Carbon efficient by working on our standard building designs and focusing on the fabric first approach to ensure the building works smarter to allow for the inclusion of carbon reduced measures. This has resulted in the first Net Zero Carbon in Operation School in Wales being delivered at South Point Primary School and all developments meeting BEEAM Excellent standard.
- 3.7** 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
- 3.8** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-25 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 a number of Well-being objectives to deliver this vision.
- 3.9** These are specifically linked to education with a number of objectives contributing to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. We have prioritised the need to raise standards of achievement as one of our well-being objectives. We are proud of the Vale of Glamorgan and our place in Wales and that the use of the Welsh language is growing in the Vale. We respect and value diversity within our communities and recognise the importance of promoting equality of opportunity. We also appreciate our unique heritage and culture and the importance for people of all ages to enjoy a range of activities and to have opportunities to be creative. We have therefore identified valuing culture and diversity as one of our eight well-being objectives.
- 3.10** Details of the objectives that the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme supports and contributes to are outlined below.
- Wellbeing Outcome 1: Working with and for our communities.
 - Ensuring our communities are involved in the development of the school and our schools are built for our communities.

- Wellbeing Outcome 2: To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.
 - Ensuring the projects are developed to support learning, employment and economic growth with the Vale area.
 - Wellbeing Outcome 4: To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
 - Ensuring our education facilities are used with respect but developed to enhance enjoyment to pupils, staff, communities and all other stakeholders.
- 3.11** The proposed consultation exercise would be undertaken in line with the five ways of working, promoting collaboration and ensuring all stakeholders are involved throughout the decision-making process.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** New build elements of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme will meet BREEAM excellent rating significantly reducing the running costs and carbon emissions arising from the building.
- 4.2** Welsh Government announced in November 2022 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards.
- 4.3** The Council's created the first net zero carbon in operation school building model for the authority and Wales at South Point Primary School in Rhoose.
- 4.4** New build and refurbishment elements will adhere to this directive as a minimum, the programme will develop the model to achieve a fully compliant net zero carbon building.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school on the proposed site would be £62.039 million. This funding is included in the approved Sustainable Communities Schools outline Programme.
- 5.2** The project will be 85% funded by Welsh Government and 15% funded by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, based on submission of a robust business case approval. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have successfully secured funding for Band A and Band B of the programme and have a good track record for securing the funding.
- 5.3** The estimated annual cost of operating a new 1,050 place school at St Richard Gwyn would be £5.060M based on a full capacity of 210 pupils per year group using funding factors from the 2023/24 mainstream funding formula. The revenue budget delegated to St Richard Gwyn school for 2023/24 was £4.125M for 836 pupils. The increased cost of £935k (which excludes the impact of inflation) would occur incrementally over a period of five years as the schools'

larger capacity would be filled each year from year 7. The increased cost for the first year is estimated at £208k although this will depend on the final opening date of the new building as the formula will be adjusted on a pro rata basis.

- 5.4** The Council's SSA for education is driven by pupil number data; an increase in population in schools should then result in an increase in the Council's SSA for Education, and in turn an increase in funding from Welsh Government. The Learning and Skills Directorate will submit a cost pressure as part of the Council's budget setting processes to fund any demographic increase in mainstream schools; and this increased funding will be used to fund the increased cost of the larger school at St Richard Gwyn, this would be due to delay in receiving funding for additional pupil numbers from Welsh Government. If the cost pressure is not awarded or partially awarded, the difference would be met from the overall schools delegated budget.
- 5.5** The proposals include the establishment of a resource base for pupils with additional learning needs. The annual revenue cost of the resource base will depend on the number of pupils enrolled and the complexities of their needs. The Directorate will submit a budget cost pressure with regards to increasing resource base provision in the secondary sector as part of the budget setting process. If the cost pressure is not awarded or partially awarded, the difference would be met from the overall schools delegated budget.
- 5.6** A school's delegated budget is driven by pupils on roll rather than capacity, therefore, this budget growth would be gradual in line with the growth of pupils on roll.

Employment

- 5.7** The staff, governing body and pupils at St Richard Gwyn Catholic School would move to the new school building. Staff would remain on current terms and conditions.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.8** 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.
- 5.9** 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 promoting 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.

- 5.10** 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.
- 5.11** Powers for Local Authority's and Governing bodies of voluntary schools to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

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

- 5.12** 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://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-organisation-code.pdf>
- 5.13** Chapter 2 of Part 3 of the 2013 Act deals with school organisation proposals. An alteration which is a "regulated alteration" in relation to the type of school in question may be made to a maintained school only in accordance with Part 3 of the 2013 Act. The term "regulated alteration" is defined in Schedule 2 to the Act. The following changes are "regulated alterations":
- 5.14** The enlargement of the premises of the school which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils as compared with the school's capacity on the appropriate date is a regulated alteration (see paragraph 10 of Schedule 2 to the Act)
- 5.15** Under section 42(1)(c) of the 2013 Act, the governing body of a voluntary school may make proposals to make a regulated alteration to the school.
- 5.16** Section 48(2) of the 2013 Act provides that before publishing such proposals, a proposer (in this case, the Governing body under sections 41-45 of 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.
- 5.17** 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.

- 5.18** If the Governing Body decides to proceed with a proposal to make regulated alterations to the school. The Governing Body must publish a consultation report on their website at least two weeks prior to the publication of a 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).
- 5.19** 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 Governing Body must then publish a summary of all objections made to the proposal and its response to those objections before the end of 28 days beginning with the day of the objection period. The Objection Report must be published by being posted on the proposer's website, if it has one; on the website of the existing/proposed maintaining local authority, where this differs from the above. In addition, hard copies must be made available on request.
- 5.20** Where the proposal does not require approval under section 50 and 51 of the 2013 Act, they fall to be determined by the proposer. Under section 53 of the 2013 Act, determination by the proposer must be made within 16 weeks (112 days) of the end of the objection period. Where the proposer fails to determine the proposal within the period of 16 weeks it is taken to have withdrawn the proposal and it is required to republish the proposals if it wishes to proceed.
- 5.21** Proposals published under section 48 require approval under section 51 of the 2013 Act if a) they do not require approval by the Welsh Ministers; b) they have been made by a proposer other than the relevant local authority; c) an objection to the proposals has been made and has not been withdrawn in writing before the end of 28 days beginning with the end of the objection period.
- 5.22** Where proposals require approval by the local authority, the proposer must notify the local authority of a proposal requiring approval and forward to them the documents following documents within 35 days of the end of the objection period; a copy of the consultation document, consultation report, published notice, objection report, copies of the statutory notice, copies of the statutory objections, copies of all of the documents listed, in relation to any proposals which are related to the proposals requiring approval. Local Authorities must decide whether any related proposals sent to them require their approval. They must deal with the proposals which require approval without delay in so far as is compatible with the proper consideration of the issues. In any event, the local authority must issue its decision within 16 weeks (112 days) beginning with the end of the objection period. However, a failure to comply with that time limit does not affect the validity of any decision reached. The Local Authority must decide whether to approve, reject or approve with modifications, the proposals.
- 5.23** Modifications can only include changes to matters related to implementation such as changes to admission numbers or to the timing of implementation. The Local Authority must not make modifications that would, in effect, substitute a new proposal for that proposal which was published. Before making any modification, the local authority must first consult with the proposer and obtain either consent to the modification. The must also obtains the consent of the

Welsh Ministers. If consent cannot be obtained, and the local authority believes that the proposals are not acceptable in the published state, they must reject the proposals. The local authority must also consult with the opening of any school to which the proposals relate.

(2) The Code

5.24 The Code contains the following elements.

5.25 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.

5.26 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.

5.27 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)
- Sustainable Communities for Learning – 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
- 5.28** Section 1.4 of the School Organisation Code 2018 outlines that Council’s should consider the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).
- 5.29** If following the consultation process and the consideration of responses a decision is made to proceed to a statutory notice to increase the capacity of St Richard Gwyn Catholic School, the notice will comply with the requirements of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, Statutory Code Document no. 011/2018.

6. Background Papers

None.



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Consultation on the proposal to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places from September 2025



This document can be made available in Braille. Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.

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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

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.

‘WESP’ (Welsh Education Strategic Plan) – the WESP sets out the Council’s ten-year plan for further developing the provision of Welsh medium and Welsh language education. It builds on the work of the previous WESP for the period between 2017 to 2022 and sets out a workplan which demonstrates how the Council intends to achieve its ten-year vision.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school. There are 833 pupils currently on roll with a total capacity for 813 pupils. It is the only Catholic secondary school in the Vale of Glamorgan and is located in Barry. It has a large catchment area which includes parishes such as Our Lady and St Illtyd's, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Rhoose in the west, and St Helen's, Barry St Mary's Dinas Powys and St Joseph's Penarth in the east. It also attracts some pupils from the west of Cardiff. The school provides religious education and worship distinctive of the teaching and practices of the Catholic Church.

The governing body and the Archdiocese of Cardiff of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and 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 schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges, and dioceses. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has an excellent record for delivering projects undertaken as part of Band A and B of the Programme on time and within budget. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme as part of the rolling programme for new school development to build a new school building on the current site with improved alterations to the drainage systems.

There has been local development of The Waterfront which is located to the south-west of Barry town centre and is positioned between the town centre and Barry Island. Approximately 1,700 dwellings will be built in total by 2024. The Barry Waterfront Development in total is projected to yield around 170 nursery, 473 primary and 422 secondary school pupils. The projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. 1559 units in total have been built and occupied to date with children placed at schools serving the area. Within the Local Development (LDP) allocations there are a further 488 units planned for the Cosmeston area in Penarth and 403 units in the Sully area that serve St Richard Gwyn for parents wishing for a faith education. The 891 units are projected to yield around 89 nursery, 248 primary and 221 secondary age pupils.

The Barry Waterfront Development currently serves High Street and Holton Primary Schools and for English medium primary provision, Whitmore High and Pencoedtre High for English Secondary provision. Ysgol Sant Baruc for Welsh medium primary provision and Ysgol

Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium provision. All Saints, St Helens primary schools and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School for faith education. No change to this arrangement is proposed as part of this consultation.

The designated feeder schools for the school are St Helens RC Primary School in Barry and St Joseph's RC Primary School in Penarth. A number of pupils from outside the feeder primaries attend the school subject to the application of the school's oversubscription criteria.

The Governing Body and Archdiocese of Cardiff has authorised the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a **consultation on its behalf from 5th September 2023 to 17th October 2023.**

1.2. THE PROPOSAL

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%.

The Council must ensure that schools serve their local communities and are reflective of demand. A new 1,050 place school at the current site is included as part of the Council's School Investment Programme funded by Welsh Governments Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. The proposal is to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn High school and increase its capacity from 813 places to 1,050 places. The proposal will also include a 60 place specialist resource base.

It is proposed that St Richard Gwyn High school would move into the new building by **September 2025.**

Although transferring the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, the new school will be located on the existing school site. The new school building will be in the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have a duty to ensure that the current school can run effectively during the construction period and have experience of doing so on a number of other sites.

The proposed development will be funded by the Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council under the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

Responding to the proposal

The governing body and the Archdiocese of Cardiff at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and the Council are committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant, and appropriate for the communities that are involved. We have 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 we decide 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](#).

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires that any feedback is received by the closing date, 17th October 2023, in order to be considered as part of this consultation. Any responses received after that date cannot be considered.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1. SUMMARY

The proposal is to expand and develop a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school with an increased capacity of 1,050 places from September 2025. The proposal will also include a 60 place SRB unit.

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 increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%.

2.2. WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN?

The proposal would mean constructing a new 1,050 place Catholic Secondary school on the existing school site at the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction. Upon completion of the building, St Richard Gwyn High School would transfer to the new school building by September 2025. This would provide an additional 237 Secondary school places and a 60 place SRB unit. This would respond to increased pupil growth in the area and support demand for secondary school places in Barry.

The school would be at the heart of the community and would promote Catholic education. This proposal would improve accessibility and condition of the school. The proposal would also provide state of the art facilities for staff and learners of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.

The current school have experienced major flooding of the site over the past few years due to poor drainage. The Vale of Glamorgan Council have worked closely with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to implement improvement for drainage before the redevelopment of the site takes place.

To ensure all pupils are provided with education that is appropriate to their needs, the new school building will house a specialist resource base (SRB). This would provide 60 places for identified pupils. All pupils attending the SRB will have individual learning plans. They are supported in a specialist class and will attend mainstream classes in varying amounts of time, alongside whole school activities where appropriate.

CATCHMENT AREA

No changes to St Richard Gwyn's catchment area or admissions policy is proposed as part of this consultation.

Figure 1: St Richard Gwyn Catchment Area



However, all catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation managed by the school governing body.

2.3. WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THE CHANGES?

BUILDING CONDITION AND SUITABILITY

St Richard Gwyn is the remaining secondary school within the Vale of Glamorgan that has not yet received investment as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

St Richard Gwyn is situated on 5.2 hectares of land and is comprised of a main building block and several modular blocks and containers. Elements of the school were categorised as being in poor condition following a review of its condition. There is tarmac and shale finishes to the main and overflow car parks which are in poor condition and require re-surfacing. The access drive to the front of the main building and the drive to the rear playground areas are both in poor condition and also require re-surfacing. In addition to the poor building condition, the following should also be considered;

- There is a significant issue with flooding to the current site due to poor drainage in place, Vale of Glamorgan Council have worked with NRW to implement improved drainage systems to avoid risk of flooding in future.

- The new school building would be located on the same site with the improvement made to the drainage systems before construction takes place.

The redevelopment of St Richard Gwyn, increasing the number of school places from 813 to 1,050, offers a more efficient and sustainable model than a refurbishment of the current school building. The proposal also addresses issues with the existing building, such as condition, suitability, and flooding issues. Pupils would be educated in a high-quality sustainable modern building which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The proposal will ensure that the new building will meet modern building standards to reduce recurrent costs and be net zero carbon in operation. The new building will also meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellence standards.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL

3.1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

The table below outlines the current capacity information for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School:

TABLE 1: ST RICHARD GWYN SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Type of school	Language category	Admission number	School capacity	Number on roll	Age range
St Richard Gwyn	Voluntary Aided	English Medium	163	813	833	11 - 16

St Richard Gwyn is a Voluntary Aided faith school. The Governing Body is the admitting authority for the school and all admissions are authorised by the governing body's Admissions Committee. The school cooperates fully with the local authority who administer the year 7 transfer process on behalf of the governing body as part of the agreed coordinated admission arrangements in place.

DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

The following table provides the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) number on roll in January each year and projected number on roll data.

TABLE 2: ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTED PUPIL DEMAND

School	Current School Capacity	PLAS C 2019	PLAS C 2020	PLAS C 2021	PLAS C 2022	Current NOR 2023	2023 /24 Projections	2024/ 25 Projections	2025 /26 Projections	2026/ 27 Projections	2027/28 Projections
St Richard Gwyn	813	791	795	801	821	833	844	862	877	846	868

The tables below indicate the current numbers on roll (NOR) for Barry maintained schools and the school's feeder primary schools.

TABLE 3: NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS' AND FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS INFORMATION

School	AN	School Capacity	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total NOR	Total Surplus Capacity
All Saints CIW	30	210	25	28	26	30	29	28	23	189	21
Barry Island	30	210	28	30	30	30	23	29	31	201	9
Cadoxton Primary	60	420	59	59	53	57	60	58	61	407	13
Colcot Primary	45	315	41	42	37	40	45	44	43	292	23
Gladstone Primary	60	420	48	58	50	50	46	58	60	370	50
High Street Primary	30	210	26	29	30	30	31	29	31	206	4
Holton Primary	60	420	46	45	49	56	48	57	60	361	59
Jenner Park Primary	30	210	20	23	25	32	29	24	36	189	21
Oakfield Primary	30	210	30	19	22	30	23	21	31	176	34
Romilly Primary	90	630	88	84	89	89	89	85	89	613	17
Palmerston Primary	30	210	31	29	30	29	29	29	29	206	4

St Helens RC (feeder school)	44	308	39	46	44	44	32	43	45	293	15
St Josephs (feeder school)	30	210	26	27	29	29	30	29	31	201	9
Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	60	270	25	37	31	31	16	32	29	201	9
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	30	210	30	29	28	30	26	29	29	201	9
Ysgol St Curig	60	420	60	60	57	52	48	51	53	381	39
Ysgol St Baruc	60	420	44	30	31	29	29	30	25	218	202
Total	779	5303	666	675	661	688	633	676	706	4705	589
Places available in year groups			113	104	118	91	146	103	73	-	-

School	Admission Number	Capacity	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total NOR	Surplus Capacity
Pencoedtre	210	1250	229	211	206	205	174	51	28	1104	146
Whitmore	180	1100	184	183	194	185	174	87	69	1076	24
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	300	1450	204	204	209	205	177	89	79	1167	283

The following table provides the previous Number on Roll data for the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) number on roll in January each year for neighbouring schools and feeder primary schools,

**TABLE 5: NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS AND FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS
PREVIOUS NUMBER ON ROLL DATA**

School	Current School Capacity	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022
Pencoedtre	1250	787	872	935	993
Whitmore	1100	891	922	1011	1079
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	1450	924	1015	1094	1141
All Saints CIW	210	207	206	204	206
Barry Island	210	207	207	208	206
Cadoxton Primary	420	411	416	407	407
Colcot Primary	315	294	290	280	293
Gladstone Primary	420	396	389	392	382
High Street Primary	310	210	211	206	209
Holton Primary	420	386	388	391	375
Jenner Park Primary	216	211	211	210	198
Oakfield Primary	210	172	166	170	175
Palmerston Primary	210	206	207	204	204
Romilly Primary	630	621	622	619	623
St Helens RC (feeder school)	308	280	277	276	278
St Josephs (feeder school)	210	196	196	199	201

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	270	205	212	210	208
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	210	202	199	197	202
Ysgol St Curig	420	368	358	371	373
Ysgol St Baruc	210	196	200	198	199

The following table provides the projected Number on Roll data for neighbouring schools and feeder primary schools.

TABLE 6: NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS AND FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROJECTED NUMBER ON ROLL DATA

School	Current School Capacity	2023/24 projection	2024/25 projection	2025/26 projection	2026/27 projection	2027/28 projection
Pencoedtre	1250	1206	1257	1278	1293	1270
Whitmore	1100	1110	1127	1128	1135	1117
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	1450	1210	1236	1231	1246	1285
All Saints CIW	210	196	193	187	184	184
Barry Island	210	195	192	195	193	192
Cadoxton Primary	420	408	408	406	403	409
Colcot Primary	315	290	288	284	286	288
Gladstone Primary	420	360	352	354	358	361
High Street Primary	210	198	199	196	198	196
Holton Primary	420	351	343	345	337	336
Jenner Park Primary	216	172	170	163	156	153

Oakfield Primary	210	168	170	168	163	166
Palmerston Primary	210	204	204	201	201	200
Romilly Primary	630	613	611	602	602	597
St Helens RC (feeder school)	308	294	295	305	299	293
St Josephs (feeder school)	210	198	200	199	198	196
Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	270	191	178	179	172	167
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	210	201	200	204	203	204
Ysgol St Curig	420	374	370	364	363	358
Ysgol St Baruc	210	235	241	245	252	256

3.2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

The governing body works closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to ensure that standards are robust, that teaching and learning is of a high quality, and that leadership and governance is strong. The Council works with two organisations to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

Estyn is the office of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under section 104 of the Government Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) was established in September 2012. The Local Authority works with the Consortium to support and challenge all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise the standards achieved by their pupils.

St Richard Gwyn was last inspected in May 2017. The report summarises:

The school provides religious education and worship distinctive of the teaching and practices of the Catholic Church.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of individual pupils. It works effectively with other providers to offer a worthwhile range of general and vocational courses, for example through pupils attending a military preparation course. The provision for literacy is planned clearly and support materials for subject areas provided.

The school plans well to ensure progression in learning experiences as pupils transfer to the secondary school and then to post-16 education. It offers a wide range of opportunities and resources to prepare pupils well for the next stage of their studies or the world of work. The needs of more able pupils are met appropriately.

Effective use of the Welsh language and the promotion of the Welsh dimension provide valuable opportunities for pupils to increase their cultural and historical understanding of Wales, for example by celebrating Welsh saints during pastoral time. This has a positive impact on standards achieved and attitudes towards the Welsh language. The school provides a beneficial range of extra-curricular activities that give pupils access to worthwhile sporting, educational and cultural opportunities.

Specialist teachers and teaching assistants ensure that pupils with additional learning needs are supported effectively. Individual education plans are of good quality and include a great deal of information and useful strategies to meet pupils' learning needs. Parents and pupils have valuable input into these individual education plans. However, these plans are not used consistently by teachers to adapt activities and materials to meet individual needs.

The headteacher, senior leadership team and governors articulate a clear vision for the school. This is focused on high aspirations, a strong ethos of care and compassion and a developing culture of professional learning to improve the quality of teaching. This has a positive impact on pupils' attitudes, wellbeing and standards, and is creating a unified and collegiate staff.

The governing body has an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Governors perform their role effectively and provide an appropriate balance of support and challenge. The governors' wide ranging skills and experience enable them to engage with a range of activities to quality assure, scrutinise and challenge the academic and pastoral standards within the school.

INSPECTION OF DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION

As a school with religious character, St Richard Gwyn is also subject to an inspection of denominational education under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005.

The last Section 50 inspection took place in July 2017 and the Report graded the school Good in both its effectiveness in providing Catholic education and its prospects for improvement. The Report noted that:

Catholic education at St Richard Gwyn High School is based on its Mission Statement and its ethos is firmly rooted in Gospel values. The school provides a good level of Catholic education because:

- The headteacher has a clear vision of the School's mission which is shared by all staff and stakeholders
- The governing body is effective and knowledgeable and supports the school well.
- The Chaplain provides good support for the Religious Education department and makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the whole school.
- The school is a welcoming and inclusive community.
- Pupils are very proud of their school and its Catholic identity.
- Excellent pastoral care provided to pupils is an outstanding feature and supports pupils' well-being effectively.
- Relationships within the school are strong and this contributes to the sense of cohesiveness.

The school's prospects for improvement are good because:

- Self-evaluation processes are developing and the headteacher, governors and Head of Religious Education understand what is needed to move the Religious Education.
- The link governor for Religious Education provides good support and challenge within the RE department and in the Catholic life of the school.
- The RE department's Improvement Plan accurately identifies areas for improvement.

ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- R1 Improve standards in key stage 4
- R2 Improve the quality of teaching
- R3 Reduce persistent absence
- R4 Strengthen arrangements for improvement planning

The inspection report for St Richard Gwyn can be found at:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/St%20Richard%20Gwyn%20R.C.%20High%20School.pdf>

INSPECTION OF DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION RECCOMENDATIONS

- R1 Continue to improve the quality of teaching in Religious Education so that all teaching is considered good or better.

- R2 Embed a more rigorous assessment, monitoring and tracking system to identify pupils who are under-performing, and plan timely interventions, in particular at Key Stage 4.
- R3 Review the consistency and accuracy of marking across the RE department, ensuring quality feedback which enables pupils at all key stages to progress.
- R4 Continue to develop opportunities for all children to be involved in the preparation, leading and delivery of worship.

3.3. INTENDED IMPACT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES

This consultation proposes the development of a new school building for St Richard Gwyn High school from September 2025. The current school would remain occupied whilst the new building is under construction on the current site with safety measures in place.

STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Many pupils listen attentively to their peers and teachers and follow instructions well. Many work well in pairs and small groups.
- Many pupils are articulate, speak with confidence in whole-class situations and express their views using appropriate language and tone. They are respectful of the views of others and careful in the language they use so as not to offend or upset each other.
- Many pupils use appropriate reading strategies, such as skimming and scanning to locate relevant information. They annotate texts usefully to identify key facts and language features. A few pupils demonstrate very good higher-order reading skills.
- Most pupils have effective information and communication technology (ICT) skills. Many pupils are able to use these skills effectively for a wide range of purposes, including research, presentation, multimedia projects, data collection and analysis.

The proposal will have a positive impact on standards. The learning environment and infrastructure, including both indoor and outdoor facilities and learning space are key elements in supporting both teachers and learners. This is reflected in the aims of the national curriculum and Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and the Council’s ambitions for Sustainable Communities for Learning schools with full access to modern technologies.

The DCF was produced in order to ensure the development of digital literacy, competency and skills from an early age. “Digital Competence is the set of skills and knowledge and attitudes that enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems. It is essential for learners if they are to be informed, capable and have the potential to be successful in today’s society.” Classroom task ideas will need to “change and develop to reflect new technologies and the increasing experience and expertise within the digital learning field”. From September 2022, settings and schools will be delivering digital competence on a cross-curricular basis. They will:

- Have embedded digital competence across the school curriculum
- Continue to adapt existing digital competence approaches to the new curriculum
- Continue to review and refine their approach to digital competence.

Providing the appropriate resources and technologies to ensure we support learners to meet the objectives of the framework is therefore an important consideration in developing our plans for new school buildings as part of our strategy for the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

WELLBEING AND ATTITUDES TO LEARNING

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Nearly all pupils are proud of their school. They are welcoming, courteous, and helpful. Nearly all pupils feel safe at school. They feel very well supported by the pastoral, subject staff and senior leaders when they have personal challenges or concerns.
- Most pupils have a very good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy through diet and exercise. The majority take part in sport or exercise. Many pupils engage enthusiastically in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities.
- Many pupils behave very well in lessons and around the school and demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. In a few lessons, a few pupils engage in off task behaviour, and a very few disrupt the learning of others in these lessons.

As a result of the proposal, the school will be transferred to a new school building on the same site. The new school would have improved outdoor facilities which will be more accessible. The new school would also include breakout areas and SRB unit to help improve wellbeing of pupils and their attitudes to learning.

TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of individual pupils. It works effectively with other providers to offer a worthwhile range of general and vocational courses, for example through pupils attending a military preparation course.
- The provision for literacy is planned clearly and support materials for subject areas provided. There are worthwhile opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy skills appropriately across the curriculum. However, opportunities for pupils to practice their numeracy skills in appropriate contexts are insufficient.
- The school supports those pupils with the weakest literacy and numeracy skills well. The school plans well to ensure progression in learning experiences as pupils transfer to the secondary school and then to post-16 education. It offers a wide range

of opportunities and resources to prepare pupils well for the next stage of their studies or the world of work. The needs of more able pupils are met appropriately.

The proposal would result in improved teaching and learning experiences through the provision of modern education facilities. This includes break out spaces and an SRB unit for additional learning areas, improved digital infrastructure throughout the new school building reflecting the digital curriculum standards. Furthermore, the design of the building will support effective pedagogy through improved facilities, standardised classroom sizes and through providing a building and outdoor spaces which reflect the space requirements of Building Bulletin 99.

CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The school has highly effective provision for care, support and guidance. It is a caring and inclusive community where pupils feel secure and valued.
- The provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education across the school is an outstanding feature. This is very well planned and themes are threaded through a comprehensive programme of tailored focus days, assemblies, reflection time and lessons.
- This provision has a significant impact on pupil wellbeing. The beneficial advice and guidance given to pupils as they progress through the school are a particular strength.
- High quality transition procedures from the primary schools are well embedded.
- Pupils are also very effectively supported regarding their subject choices and options for future education, employment and training.
- Specialist teachers and teaching assistants ensure that pupils with additional learning needs are supported effectively.
- Individual education plans are of good quality and include a great deal of information and useful strategies to meet pupils' learning needs

As a result of the proposal, the school will be transferred to a new school building on the current site. The new school would have larger and improved outdoor areas to enhance pupils' wellbeing. The new school would also include breakout areas and SRB unit for additional learning spaces to help improve wellbeing of pupils and their attitudes to learning. Furthermore, the design of the new building includes improved transitions from year groups.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The headteacher, senior leadership team and governors articulate a clear vision for the school.
- The leadership team's roles and responsibilities have been defined clearly in order to make sure that lines of accountability are clear and that the focus is on improving further the quality of teaching and learning.

- A robust, regular and coherent structure to team meetings enables school priorities to be communicated effectively and actions to support these implemented.
- Meetings are purposeful and focus appropriately upon learners' progress towards targets.
- Performance management arrangements are effective.
- The governing body has an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Governors perform their role effectively and provide an appropriate balance of support and challenge.

This has a positive impact on pupils' attitudes, wellbeing and standards, and is creating a unified and collegiate staff. A new school building will result in the removal of the limitations with the current school's buildings and grounds resulting in a more manageable space for staff and learners.

3.4. 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.

St Richard Gwyn is not a Welsh medium secondary school but offers a range of extra-curricular activities that give pupils access to worthwhile sporting, educational and cultural opportunities. The Vale of Glamorgan promote positive impact on standards achieved and attitudes towards the Welsh language.

3.5. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) PROVISION

St Richard Gwyn does not currently have a SRB; it provides specialist support for children who have identified needs in an inclusive setting within the school. Whitmore High School and Pencoedtre High School have successfully introduced SRB units within their school settings, and this is a model that both the Council and the governing body would like to introduce at St Richard Gwyn.

The following table provides information about the needs of current pupils.

Table 4: ALN Information for St Richard Gwyn

2022/ 2023		<i>St Richard Gwyn</i>	<i>LA</i>	<i>Wales</i>
	School Action	N/A	4.1%	7.3%

Percentage of ALN Pupils	School Action Plus	5.17%	4.3%	6.1%
	Statemented	0%	0.5%	2%

The school provides a targeted and bespoke curriculum which is responsive to the individual child's abilities and ensures that all children who require additional support are integrated across all areas of the curriculum.

3.6. IMPACTS UPON OTHER SCHOOLS

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other schools in the local area as no change to the existing catchment area is proposed.

3.7. LAND AND BUILDINGS

Both the governing body and the council have a vision to provide the best possible facilities for children and young people to support their learning and there is an acknowledgment that the current school site has a number of challenges. The Council's latest condition survey of the school was undertaken in 2022 indicated that there are considerable issues with the existing building. A condition survey involves a visual assessment of all exposed parts of the buildings to identify significant defects and items of disrepair.

Table 5: St Richard Gwyn Condition Report 2022

School	Type	Condition	Suitability	Backlog Maintenance
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Voluntary aided	Poor	Partly inadequate	£3,485,000

St Richard Gwyn's current site is based on 5.2 hectares of land and comprises of a main building block and several modular blocks and containers. There is tarmac and shale finishes to the main and overflow car parks which are in poor condition and require re-surfacing. The access drive to the front of the main building and the drive to the rear playground areas are both in poor condition and also require re-surfacing. There is a significant issue with flooding to the site due to poor drainage in place.

The old existing building will be demolished after the new school is built due to its condition and the poor drainage around it. The new school building will be built on the south-west corner of the school grounds, thus allowing the existing school to remain operational during construction.

- The existing building has an internal area of 5,228 m². The new building would meet Building Bulletin 99 for Secondary Schools and have improved outdoor sports provision. The proposal will ensure the new building will meet BREEAM (Building

Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and be net zero carbon in operation.

The proposed new building would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21st Century
- A modern building facility that is fit for purpose and provides pupils with better learning opportunities
- Enhanced safeguarding and site security for pupils and staff
- Improved outdoor sports facilities for both pupil and community use
- Full access for the whole community with full disabled access to internal and external areas.

3.8. FINANCE

CAPITAL FUNDING

Subject to the approval of this proposal, a significant capital investment will be made to establish a new school building for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. The Council would manage the process and the governing body, staff, parents, and pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will be fully engaged in the development of the plans. The Council will also be responsible for managing the construction.

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school be £62 million. The Council is expected to receive £52.7 million (85%) in Welsh Government match funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme for this project.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council have received funding for Band A and Band B of the programme and have a good track record for securing the funding.

REVENUE FUNDING

The estimated annual cost of operating a new 1,050 place school at St Richard Gwyn would be £5.060M based on a full capacity of 210 pupils per year group using funding factors from the 2023/24 mainstream funding formula. The revenue budget delegated to St Richard Gwyn school for 2023/24 was £4.125M for 836 pupils. The increased cost of £935k (which excludes the impact of inflation) would occur incrementally over a period of five years as the schools larger capacity would be filled each year from year 7. The increased cost for the first year is estimated at £208k although this will depend on the final opening date of the new building as the formula will be adjusted on a pro rata basis.

The Council's SSA for education is driven by pupil number data; an increase in population in schools should then result in an increase in the Councils SSA for Education, and in turn an increase in funding from Welsh Government. The Learning and Skills Directorate will submit a cost pressure as part of the Council's budget setting processes to fund any demographic increase in mainstream schools; and this increased funding will be used to

fund the increased cost of the larger school at St Richard Gwyn, this would be due to delay in receiving funding for additional pupil numbers from Welsh Government. If the cost pressure is not awarded or partially awarded, the difference would be met from the overall schools delegated budget.

The proposals include the establishment of a resource base for pupils with additional learning needs. The annual revenue cost of the resource base will depend on the number of pupils enrolled and the complexities of their needs. The Directorate will submit a budget cost pressure with regards to increasing resource base provision in the secondary sector as part of the budget setting process.

3.9. HUMAN RESOURCES

It is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impacts for staff as they would simply move to a new building on their existing contracts. This proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as additional pupil numbers would lead to growth in future staffing levels. If the new school development takes place, the governing body and headteacher would need to consider an increase in the staffing structure for the additional pupil numbers. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trades unions where necessary.

3.10. TRANSPORT AND LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that will be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools.

The Vale of Glamorgan 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. Due to the new school being built on its original site, this proposal will not provide any changes and therefore there will be no impact on the transport for pupils.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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

Expanding the school and relocating to south-west corner of the original school grounds would;

- Enable the school to further improve while ensuring appropriate provisions for a growing pupil population, including those with additional learning needs.
- Ensure the Council is able to accommodate future demand for places.
- Provide special recourse base (SRB) unit to facilitate additional support for pupils.

- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support pupils to reach their full potential.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the schools' educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- Ensure new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and be net zero carbon in operation.

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

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the building of the new school building
- There is the potential for disruption for pupils and staff as they transition and become accustomed to their new environment.
- There is potential for pupils to be disrupted during the construction of new building.

Potential risks of this proposal and measures to mitigate identified risks.

The Council aims to secure 85% of funding for the proposal from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This will be subject to approval of a business case submission. The remaining funding for the new school building will be funded by the Council.

Until funding for the project has been approved there is a risk to the project. To mitigate the risk associated with funding the Council will produce robust business case submission for Welsh Government funding working closely with the relevant Council departments and Welsh Government colleagues. In addition, the internal Council funding will be subject to a Capital bid process and need to be supported by a robust and evidence driven bid document to secure funding.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council have successfully secured funding for all other projects within the Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

4.3. 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.

4.4. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to determine any impacts this proposal would have on the local community. The proposal was assessed across a number of measures.

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

The proposal would maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue should the proposal be progressed.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School would better meet the needs of the local community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places. The full Community Impact Assessment can be viewed via the following link:

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

(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

4.5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

[The Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) requires us to think about the long-term impact of our 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 is does not form part of the statutory consultation process but was considered beneficial to meeting the spirit of the Act.

4.6. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

OPTION 1: CONSIDER MOVING SCHOOL TO ALTERNATIVE SITE

Why was this option discounted?

St Richard Gwyn would move to an alternative site with development of a new school.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The area was assessed and there were no sites available in the area which could have been considered.

OPTION 2: REMODELLING CURRENT BUILDING

Why was this option discounted?

St Richard Gwyn would remain in the same location on site with the school being modernised.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- This option does not address the current site issues at St Richard Gwyn where the school is currently located.
- This option would be too expensive and would not deliver value for money.
- This option would not address the capacity issue and the projections over the next few years.

OPTION 3: MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

Why was this option discounted?

St Richard Gwyn would remain the same with no changes.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- This option does not address the current site issues at St Richard Gwyn where the school is currently located.
- This option would not address the capacity issue and the projections over the next few years.
- This would not address the condition of the building; the current building is not fit for purpose.

5. OPTION 2: REMODELLING THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Table 6: Outline of the statutory consultation process

Steps	Description
Step 1: Develop a proposal	An initial proposal will be developed and considered. Section 2 of the School Organisation Code outlines when the statutory procedure is required.
Step 2: Cabinet consideration	Consideration of the proposal by the Governing Body of St Richard Gwyn and Archdiocese of Cardiff.
Step 3: Consultation	A consultation document must be published on the school's 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.
Step 4: Consultation response report	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented for consideration.
Step 5: Cabinet consideration	The Governing Body and Archdiocese of Cardiff will inform Vale of Glamorgan Council after consideration of the consultation response report and determine whether to publish the report and to approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.

Step 6: Statutory notice	The statutory notice must be published on a school day and as outlined in section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018).
Step 7: Objection period	Anyone wishing to make objections to a proposal has the opportunity to do so. Objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published.
Step 8: Objection report	Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
Step 9: Cabinet consideration	Where objections are received, Cabinet considers the objection report for final determination on the proposal.
Step 10: Decision letter	Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders.

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 governing body will have to go through before a final decision is made. These stages are set out below:

Table 7: Key dates of the process

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	5 September 2023

Closing date for views on the proposals	17 October 2023
Consultation report considered by the governing body and Archdiocese of Cardiff published on the school and Council's website	16 November 2023
Subject to Cabinet approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	1 December 2023
End of Statutory Notice Period	14th December 2023
Determination by Cabinet where objections are received with objection report.	January 2024
Decision notification	January 2024
Increased capacity to be introduced from	September 2025

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that construction of the new school would commence by January 2024 and be completed by September 2025.

When would staff and pupils transfer to the new school building?

The proposal is that the new school would be operational by September 2025.

Would there be a new headteacher?

All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.

How would potential transport implications be considered as part of this proposal?

The Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning team would be responsible for the building process. A contractor would be appointed and a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process. Any implications identified would be factored into the design of the new building. The contractor would submit a full planning application for the new building.

Who would manage the construction of the new school building?

The Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Team would be responsible for managing the building process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the school, council, and contractor.

Would the construction of the new school result in disruption for staff, pupils and local residents?

It is proposed that the new school building is built on the existing site which would result in some disruption for staff, pupils and local residents during the construction phase. The school would work closely with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team to limit disruption through restricting delivery times and working collaboratively with the site manager.

How would we be involved throughout the design process?

A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school. Any feedback or thoughts can be sent to the Sustainable Communities for Learning team on: Sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.go.uk;

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

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, we need to ensure that there are a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

We are consulting with the following groups:

Table 8: List of groups to consult as part of the consultation process

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Diocesan Directors of Education
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Barry Town Council
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	Neighbouring 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

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 governing body and Archdiocese of Cardiff firmly believes that the pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic 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 St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School to gather their views about the proposal. The information gathered at these sessions will be included in the final consultation report.

7.2. INVOLVING PARENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF - HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, that suitable arrangements are made to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the school.

Engagement sessions will be held with pupils at St Ricard Gwyn 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.

The governing body also intends to hold drop-in sessions for all stakeholders as part of the process. Parents/carers and guardians of pupils at the school and the community are invited to attend the drop-in session where you can ask any questions about the proposal.

Staff and the governing body of the school also have engagement sessions arranged to discuss the proposal in more detail.

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

It is vital that stakeholders complete a consultation response form as we can only accept views in writing.

Details of the consultation meeting dates are given below:

Table 9: Consultation Engagement Events

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Staff meeting	3:30 – 4:30 25 th September 2023.	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Argae Ln, Barry CF63 1BL
Governors' meeting	6:00 – 7:00 25 th September 2023.	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Argae Ln, Barry CF63 1BL
Parents and Community drop in session	4:45 – 5:45 25 th September 2023.	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Argae Ln, Barry CF63 1BL
Pupil engagement sessions With current school and feeder schools	2:20 – 3:20 25 th September 2023.	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Argae Ln, Barry CF63 1BL

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

FIND OUT MORE

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

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

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

GIVE YOUR VIEWS

The consultation period will run from **5th September until 17th October 2023**. 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:
(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

Or

- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:
Redevelopment and expansion of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School
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 17th October 2023. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered.

All responses given to us will be considered by Governing Body and 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:

(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

or

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

Please return the form to the postal address:

Redevelopment and expansion of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Civic Offices

Holton Road

Barry

CF63 4RU

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 17th October 2023. 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 governing body and council when making its decision. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

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

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

Your Full Name:	
Postcode:	

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

*Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:	
--	--

1. Do you support the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025?					
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	No opinion either way	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain why:					

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

3. Any other comments?

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than **27th October 2023**.

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

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

Blank area for notes.

9. VALE OF GLAMORGAN EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

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

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

Welsh Language

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

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

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

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



DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO
REDEVELOP ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL ON EXSITING SITE FROM
SEPTEMBER 2025.



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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1. 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 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 proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 1050 place school with a 60 place specialist resource base will replace the current provision, on the same site and has been included as part of the council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. It is proposed that St Richard Gwyn RC Comprehensive School would move into this building by September 2025 to provide the required capacity. The Published Admission Number (PAN) would be 210.

2. National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 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.

3. Local Policy Context.

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – '**Strong Communities with a bright future**'.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an 'Aspirational Vale' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

4. Current Challenges

The proposal to increase capacity at St Richard Gwyn RC Comprehensive School would address a number of challenges.

- Ensure the Council is able to accommodate the future demand for faith based education based on current trends.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide a consistent approach from 11-16 years and that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- To ensure all pupils are provided with education that is appropriate to their needs, the new school building will house a specialist resource base. This would provide 60 places for identified pupils. All pupils attending the specialist resource base will have individual learning plans.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent standards and be built to an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) A rating.
- Provide a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

5. Community Profile

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is located on the eastern side of the Vale of Glamorgan, in the north east of Barry.

As a result of the proposal, the school would transfer to a new school building. It is anticipated that the new school building would be from September 2025.

Housing Developments

Local development of The Waterfront development is located to the south-west of Barry town centre and is positioned between the town centre and Barry Island. Approximately 1,700 dwellings will be built in total by 2024. The Barry Waterfront Development in total is projected to yield around 170 nursery, 473 primary and 422 secondary school pupils. The projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. 1559 units in total have been built and occupied to date with children placed at schools serving the area.

The Barry Waterfront Development currently serves High Street and Holton Primary Schools and for English medium primary provision, Whitmore High and Pencoedtre High for English Secondary provision. Ysgol Sant Baruc for Welsh medium primary provision and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium provision. All Saints, St Helens primary schools and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School for faith education. No change to this is arrangement is proposed as part of this consultation.

6. 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 project. 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 response 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

6. Impacts on the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School catchment is the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan geographical area.
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include 5 aside community football, archery, football training, basketball training and the site is also used as a base for the Caravan club.</p> <p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal was to go ahead. The proposal would result in increased pupil numbers which is likely to result in increased demand for school services, as well as providing the opportunity to expand the number of services offered.</p> <p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p>

CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	St Richard Gwyn do not use other facilities within the community.
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>St Richard Gwyn also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include 5 aside community football, archery, football training, basketball training and the site is also used as a base for the Caravan club.</p> <p>A key aim of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance the facilities available.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and moving the school to a new building would result in improved facilities for the community to use.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	<p>The school is not near any major businesses or shopping areas. There is a supermarket close by.</p> <p>The school does not have close links or support any local businesses.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	3	All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their

			<p>terms and conditions of employment.</p> <p>As the school would be increasing to 1050 places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>Access to the site is being revised. Currently there are two entrances onto the site, both serving on site parking for staff and visitors. The new proposal will provide an access and exit route feeding into drop off area for buses and cars, staff parking, visitor parking and deliveries. The proposal will be a betterment to the current provision for vehicles to drop off and pick up time, which causes congestion on Argae Lane due to the limited space available within the current car parking area for buses to safely access the site and manoeuvre.</p> <p>Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school.¹</p>

¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

			<i>"This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route."²</i>
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²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

7. Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	1
CI2	2
CI3	0
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	3
CI7	3
CI8	0
Average Score	1.5

8. Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

The proposal would maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School would better meet the needs of the local community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.