

Stanwell School Consultation

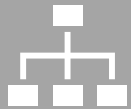
To advise the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee of the proposal presented by the governing body of Stanwell School to change its category from a Foundation School to a Community School with effect from September 2024



Scope of the consultation



Proposal from the Governing Body of Stanwell Comprehensive to change the schools' category from Foundation school to Community school



Proposal under section 1.13 of the School Organisation Code (2018)



Change of category regulated under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Why is the governing body proposing changes

- Move to community school status is in the best interests of staff, pupils & local community and will allow for additional assurance and specialist support
- Support financial sustainability in terms of revenue, due diligence and compliance with Fair Funding
- Support sustainability of the school's finances with access to Council's capital investment programme, and additional funding streams such as S.106 for capital investment and renewal schemes.
- Coordinated school admissions for parents, prioritising those residing in the local area via catchment and mirroring admissions/catchment strategies already in place in feeder schools
- Facilitate the school in sustaining the good practice as identified by Estyn and mitigate against challenges faced by all schools in the current financial climate with support of the LA

Admissions

- Currently operating a local feeder school system. 30% of pupils outside of catchment. School seeking to increase capacity.
- Would move to local catchment system (consistent with existing feeder schools)
- Coordinated admissions for parents
- Transitional arrangements with retention of feeder status up until the year 6 transfer process to Secondary education for September 2030



Buildings



- Strongly believe in investing in learning environments. Vale has highest level per capita investment in education estate in Wales
- Buildings are currently owned by the Governing body
- As a community school, buildings would transfer to the Local Authority
- Buildings monitored and prioritised via suitability and condition surveys
- Community schools form part of the Vale's School Investment Strategy and Asset Renewal/Capital Program, meaning improvement/major works would not need to be funded from schools' delegated budgets, for example.
- As a community schools VAT on capital expenditure can be claimed
- Also enables access to S106 funding

Impact on Staff, Learning and Teaching



The school is successful in its delivery of the curriculum and the opportunities afforded to pupils. This change would allow the school to have the support to further improve



The day to day running of the school would not be affected. Additional support and resilience would be provided to SLT and the Governing Body from the Council.



Management, decision making, budgets, priorities etc remain the responsibility of the Head, SLT and Governing Body, as is the case with all our schools.



Under this proposal the Vale of Glamorgan will become the employer. The Schools HR provider and the Council would work closely to ensure that there is a smooth transition for all staff to the new contracts of employment .

Consultation Events

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Staff meeting	12 September	Stanwell School, 8 Salisbury Avenue, Penarth CF64 2XL
Parents and Community drop in session	27 September	Stanwell School, 8 Salisbury Avenue, Penarth CF64 2XL
Pupil engagement session		
Pupil engagement session and feeder school session	4 October	Stanwell School, 8 Salisbury Avenue, Penarth CF64 2XL
Community drop in session	11 October	Stanwell School, 8 Salisbury Avenue, Penarth CF64 2XL

Consultation & Decision points

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	11 th September 2023
Closing date for views on the proposals	23 October 2023
Consultation report considered and published on the school and Council's website	November 2023
Subject to approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	20 th November 2023
End of Statutory Notice Period	18 th December 2023
Determination with objection report	January 2024
Decision notification	February 2024 If no objections are received the governing body will determine the proposal. March 2024 - If objections are received the matter is referred to the Councils Cabinet for determination
Introduce change from	September 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the Vale of Glamorgan Council become the admission authority for the school?

The Vale of Glamorgan Council will be the admission authority for the school from September 2024.

Will the school catchment area change?

There are no current plans to change the schools catchment area. Any future changes to catchment areas would be outlined in a future annual admissions arrangement's consultation by Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Will the feeder school arrangements to the school cease from September 2024?

The feeder school system would cease from September 2024 but the Council will establish transitional arrangements for children in attendance at a feeder primary school prior to the change in status. The local authority's admission arrangements will apply from September 2024 for children not eligible for these transition arrangements.

What are the transitional arrangement for children currently in a feeder school prior to the change?

The Council will establish transitional arrangements for children in attendance at a linked feeder school prior to the change in status. The Council will therefore retain the feeder primary school link for those children in attendance at a designated feeder primary school during the academic year 2023/2024. All children in the reception to year 6 age group of a designated feeder school during the 2023/2024 academic year would retain their feeder school status.

When will the transitional arrangements cease?

The transitional arrangements would cease for the year 6 transfer process to Secondary education in September 2030 when the last child under transitional arrangements leaves their feeder primary school.

Will the year 6 transfer process for the September 2024 intake to the school be managed by the Council?

The year 6 transfer process for September 2024 commences in September 2023 with offers of places made to parents on the 1 March 2024. Stanwell will therefore manage the year 7 intake to the school for the September 2024 intake

When will the Council manage the year 6 transfer process to the school?

The Council will manage the year 6 transfer process to Stanwell School for the September 2025 intake which commences in September 2024

How will in year admission requests/applications be dealt with and who administers admission appeals?

Parents will need to contact the admissions section of the Council to obtain and complete an appropriate application form. The Council will make an offer or decline a school place. The Council will manage the appeal process for parents. All parents of year 6 pupils in Stanwell's feeder schools will be advised of the process they need to follow along with all other year 6 pupils in Vale of Glamorgan schools.

Will the Council liaise with the school on an admission request/application

The Council will liaise with the school on all admission requests for the school, confirming numbers on roll and the availability of places as is the case with all admissions to community maintained schools.