



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

23 July 2018

Dear

I am writing in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to be provided with information on the following:

Whether Estyn responded to the first and second consultations on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposal to reconfigure Western Vale Primary Provision which ran between 5 March 2018 and 20 April 2018, and 21 May 2018 and 9 July 2018.

A copy of any formal responses made by Estyn to these consultations, and any additional correspondence with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in connection with its proposal.

Under FOIA, Estyn is required to:

- (i) confirm or deny whether it holds the information of the description specified in the request
- (ii) communicate the information requested to the applicant

In response to your queries, I can confirm that Estyn did respond formally to the first and second consultations on this proposal. Copies of the formal responses are attached to this email. I can also confirm that Estyn did not have any communication with the Vale of Glamorgan about the proposals outside of the formal responses issued.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

If you are not satisfied with the response Estyn has made regarding your request for information, you are entitled to request that we review the matter. Your request for a review should be addressed to the Feedback and Complaints Manager, and receive no later than 20 working days after the date of this communication.

If you are still not satisfied, you also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01624 524510
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Robert Gairey

Swyddog Arweiniol Cyhoeddiadau / Lead Officer: Publications

Estyn

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Her Majesty's Inspectorate For Education and Training in Wales

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.



Dilynwch [@EstynAEM](https://twitter.com/EstynAEM) / Follow [@EstynHMI](https://twitter.com/EstynHMI)

Estyn response to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (Vale of Glamorgan)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors for Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information from Estyn's own databases and from Welsh Government.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal is to:

- reconfigure primary provision in the Vale of Glamorgan by creating a new primary school building on a new site for up to 210 pupils and a nursery class for up to 48 pupils on a part-time basis
- migrate all pupils and staff from Llancarfan Primary School to the new school site, and
- extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years.

This is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancarfan Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancarfan Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhoose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

The proposal establishes that Llancarfan Primary School is a relatively small school with an admission number of 18. Its current catchment area population of 55 children is less than half the school capacity of 126 places. There are 106 pupils on roll currently, of which only around a third live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 pupils live outside the school catchment area and 36 of these pupils live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area. Currently, Rhws Primary School is nearly at maximum capacity.

The proposal sets out clearly that there is a need to address the level of surplus places at Llancarfan Primary School in light of current and projected pupil numbers, in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the school. In addition, the local authority has considered the north-west and north-east housing development in Rhose and has projected an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places by 2023 as a result of the planned housing developments in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

The local authority has considered carefully the condition of the school buildings, facilities and access to Llancarfan Primary School, which include a Victorian school building where pupils are taught in two classrooms and three separate demountable blocks on a small site. A condition survey in 2014, established that a low level of investment is required to ensure that the standard of the building provision is maintained. However, the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested. Furthermore, the potential for further development opportunities at Rhws Primary School to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil numbers in its catchment area, are limited. The school is a grade 2 listed building and the school site is restricted in size.

The council provides a clear rationale for how it will address these issues through migrating all pupils and staff from the current Llancarfan Primary School site to a new primary school building in Rhose, and redefining the catchment areas within the Western Vale region. The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why it has discounted these.

The proposal has considered the impact of the new provision on other schools in the local area and has shown how it would redistribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary Schools and define the new catchment area of the new Llancarfan Primary School site. It anticipates that these revisions will increase pupil numbers for the other schools. However, the projected pupil numbers provided for two of the schools (St Nicholas and St Athan) decrease over time.

The proposal presents clearly the local authority's plan for transferring pupils, staff and governors to the new school site in September 2021, including how the local authority will 'honour' the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to

Cowbridge Comprehensive School for existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils on roll.

The plan has considered appropriately the impact on learner travel arrangements, in terms of pupils' eligibility to access free school transport for pupils of statutory school age under existing local authority policy. It recognises that some pupils who live closer to the current school site will have further to travel. The proposed admission transition arrangements take suitable account of supporting pupils with siblings who would be affected by the change in catchment areas. The council states that it is considering traffic implications as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works. It has considered that there is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the school, as part of its Community Impact Assessment. It is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities

The proposal is likely to have no adverse impact on pupils from different groups, including those pupils with additional learning needs or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, However, the local authority has not included an Equality Impact Assessment. It plans to do this after the consultation.

The proposal will not negatively affect Welsh medium primary education, as the local authority will continue provide this through the catchment area school, Ysgol Dewi Sant. The proposal does not seek to change the status of Llancarfan Primary School as an English medium school.

The local authority's proposal to extend the age range of Llancarfan Primary School to include nursery provision is based upon a strong principle of establishing and supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and to support stability of numbers in the school. However, the proposal does not set out whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area, or that the local authority has considered the effect of the proposal on numbers of nursery pupils in other schools, or on non-maintained settings that provide education for children before compulsory school age.

The legal aspects of the proposal have been considered and operate within the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The plan confirms that proposed procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. In general, it has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this. However, the proposal does not contain an analysis of the school's performance data.

The proposal identifies that Estyn judged the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as 'good' when it inspected the school in 2014. Leadership, including the role of governors, was judged as good. The proposal does not make clear whether the current leaders were in post at the time of the last inspection, but indicates that there have been staffing changes:

'Significant changes in staff have been well managed and the school has a permanent Deputy and 3 Class Teachers.' (p.19)

The school has been placed in a yellow category of support in the latest Welsh Government categorisation of schools, with standards grade 2 and improvement capacity B.

There are a very few inconsistencies in the proposer's broad description of the school's recent outcomes against its targets:

'The school has set challenging whole school targets and **nearly all** 2016-17 outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key stage met or exceeded the targets set' (p.18)

'Targets reflect high expectations for the achievement of all pupils and **these are met consistently.**'

The school's current target for improvement in teaching appears to suggest that the quality of teaching, judged to be adequate at the time of the last inspection, has improved.

The proposal suggests that the new provision is not likely to impact negatively on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the foundation phase and key stage 2, and maintain current standards. It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy.

Risk Assessment

The local authority identifies that 50% funding under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to approval of the business case. The remaining funding is dependent upon completion of the housing development and capital funding from the local authority. The local authority does not include any measures to manage these risks in the proposal.

Estyn response to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (Vale of Glamorgan)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors for Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information from Estyn's own databases and from Welsh Government.

Summary/ Conclusion

Following comments made by members of the local community to the initial document, the local authority has produced a revised consultation document including responses to many questions. The revised document contains more detail and includes a new consultation timeline.

The proposal is to:

- reconfigure primary provision in the Vale of Glamorgan by creating a new primary school building on a new site for up to 210 pupils and a nursery class for up to 48 pupils on a part-time basis
- migrate all pupils and staff from Llancafán Primary School to the new school site, and
- extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years.

This is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancafán Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancafán Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

The proposal establishes that Llancafán Primary School is a relatively small school with an admission number of 18. Its current catchment area population of 55 children is less than

half the school capacity of 126 places. There are 106 pupils on roll currently, of which only around a third live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 pupils live outside the school catchment area and 36 of these pupils live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area. Currently, Rhws Primary School is nearly at maximum capacity.

The proposal sets out clearly that there is a need to address the level of surplus places at Llancarfan Primary School in light of current and projected pupil numbers, in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the school. In addition, the local authority has considered the north-west and north-east housing development in Rhoose and has projected an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places by 2023 as a result of the planned housing developments in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

The local authority has considered carefully the condition of the school buildings, facilities and access to Llancarfan Primary School, which include a Victorian school building where pupils are taught in two classrooms and three separate demountable blocks on a small site. A condition survey in 2014, established that a low level of investment is required to ensure that the standard of the building provision is maintained. However, the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested. Furthermore, the potential for further development opportunities at Rhws Primary School to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil numbers in its catchment area, are limited. The school is a grade 2 listed building and the school site is restricted in size.

The council provides a clear rationale for how it will address these issues through migrating all pupils and staff from the current Llancarfan Primary School site to a new primary school building in Rhoose, and redefining the catchment areas within the Western Vale region. The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why it has discounted these.

The proposal has considered the impact of the new provision on other schools in the local area and has shown how it would redistribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary Schools and define the new catchment area of the new Llancarfan Primary School site. It anticipates that these revisions will increase pupil numbers for the other schools and includes increased projected pupil numbers for Rhws Primary over the next 5 years.

The proposal presents clearly the local authority's plan for transferring pupils, staff and governors to the new school site in September 2021, including how the local authority will 'honour' the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge Comprehensive School for existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils on roll.

The plan has considered appropriately the impact on learner travel arrangements, in terms of pupils' eligibility to access free school transport for pupils of statutory school age under existing local authority policy. It recognises that some pupils who live closer to the current school site will have further to travel. The proposed admission transition arrangements take suitable account of supporting pupils with siblings who would be affected by the change in catchment areas. The council states that it is considering traffic implications as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works. It has considered that there is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe

walking routes for pupils to access the school, as part of its Community Impact Assessment. It is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities

The proposal is likely to have no adverse impact on pupils from different groups, including those pupils with additional learning needs or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. However, the local authority has not included an Equality Impact Assessment. It plans to do this after the consultation.

The proposal will not negatively affect Welsh medium primary education, as the local authority will continue provide this through the catchment area school, Ysgol Dewi Sant. The proposal does not seek to change the status of Llancarfan Primary School as an English medium school.

The local authority's proposal to extend the age range of Llancarfan Primary School to include nursery provision is based upon a strong principle of establishing and supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and to support stability of numbers in the school. The plan states that there is a need for increased nursery provision in the area as is currently no provision in the immediate area and that the closest non-maintained registered providers are located at St Athan West Camp and in the Welsh St Donats area. The local authority predicts that the overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places to take account of the new housing developments planned. The Council expect the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School.

The legal aspects of the proposal have been considered and operate within the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The plan confirms that proposed procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school's performance data over the past 3 years.

The proposal identifies that Estyn judged the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as 'good' when it inspected the school in 2014. Leadership, including the role of governors, was judged as good. The proposal does not make clear whether the current leaders were in post at the time of the last inspection, but indicates that there have been staffing changes. However, the regional consortium judge that the school is very well led by the headteacher and deputy head teacher

The school has been placed in a yellow category of support in the latest Welsh Government categorisation of schools, with standards grade 2 and improvement capacity B.

There are a very few inconsistencies in the proposer's broad description of the school's recent outcomes against its targets:

'The school has set challenging whole school targets and **nearly all** 2016-17 outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key stage met or exceeded the targets set'.

'Targets reflect high expectations for the achievement of all pupils and **these are met consistently.**'

The regional consortium report that teaching at the school is consistently good with elements of excellence indicating that the quality of teaching, judged to be adequate at the time of the last inspection, has improved significantly.

The proposal suggests that the new provision is not likely to impact negatively on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the foundation phase and key stage 2, and maintain current standards. It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy.

Risk Assessment

The local authority identifies that 50% funding under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to approval of the business case. The remaining funding is dependent upon completion of the housing development and capital funding from the local authority. The local authority judges this as a limited risk as some instalments for homes have already been received and the development of the land is well underway.