

# **Proposal to amalgamate Cwmaman Infants' and Glynhafod Junior Schools**

## **Community Impact Assessment**

This assessment is prepared in accordance with guidance contained within Annex D of statutory guidance circular 006/2013, the School Organisation Code.

This proposal is to be consulted on between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. A detailed consultation document has been circulated to all prescribed consultees. Copies have already been forwarded to the WG in compliance with consultation and publication guidelines. This document clearly focuses on the education argument and case for change, this Impact Assessment is not included in the consultation document as we are mindful that the document needs to be as concise and informative as possible, whilst at the same time being readable and 'user-friendly'. The free availability of this document is however stressed; in addition, it is available for any person to view or download from the Council website.

It has to be stressed at this point that the community impact of these proposals is negligible; if anything, community access to the new school that is being proposed to be built will be improved. The two schools are, in essence, closing in name only as they are being replaced by a new, state of the art purpose built Primary school for the village of Cwmaman that will be constructed on the site of the former Fforchaman Colliery site; we are not removing any school provision from this area. The new school will have playing field facilities immediately adjacent to it that will be for the exclusive use of the pupils during the school day. It is therefore considered that the overall impact of these proposals will be neutral on the local community, there will be no change to the level of services and provision that are offered at present in the two separate schools.

At the current time, the percentage of pupils attending Cwmaman Infants and Glynhafod Junior Schools that reside within the catchment area is 84%. Of the total number of pupils on roll in January 2015 (date of the PLASC return), including non-statutory Nursery and pre-Nursery pupils (236 between the two schools), just 37 do not live in catchment (the majority of these reside in the neighbouring catchment of Oaklands Primary).

Both Cwmaman Infants and Glynhafod Junior offer breakfast clubs to all pupils; this provision will continue in the Primary school should this proposal be agreed. Both schools also offer some after school clubs; again the construction of a new Primary school will allow for expansion of such facilities.

Neither school has any regular out of hours usage made of their school building by any outside organisations, except for ad hoc usage by groups affiliated to the school, such as the PTA for functions. This is not uncommon, especially for Infants' schools; as these schools cater for children of a very young age they rarely have facilities that are suitable for regular use by older children or adults.

This proposal seeks to enhance the accommodation and facilities available to the pupils who will attend this new Primary school in the future from its catchment area (which will also remain unchanged). This is not a rural area, and the existence of so many other schools and other community facilities within a short distance means that it is not deemed necessary to consider the enhancement of other community facilities that may exist in the local area.

It must also be noted that the two school sites are located a mile apart at present, and that the new proposed site will be located in a relatively central part of the catchment area. No additional transportation will be required as a result. This is also considered to be a benefit to parents with children of both Infant and Junior age in future, as their children's school provision will be located in the same school, as opposed to two separate ones at present.

As children are going to attend a single school that is relatively centrally located in a reasonably small catchment area, it is not considered that there will be any major changes to their mode or method of transportation to school and there will be no considerable extra distance involved in respect of this journey; some journeys to school may even be shorter.