

Community Impact Assessment

Proposal to change the language medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School, amend the catchment area of Penderyn Community Primary School and increase the pupil capacity of Hirwaun Primary School

This assessment is prepared in accordance with guidance contained within the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

This proposal is to be consulted on between 1st October and 31st December 2018. A detailed consultation document has been circulated to all prescribed consultees. 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.

The proposal

The proposal is to change the language medium of Penderyn Community Primary School from dual language to wholly Welsh medium, with an amended catchment area encompassing the communities of Trenant and Penywaun; and extend the capacity of Hirwaun Primary School by the construction of a new, larger building on the current Hirwaun Primary School site. Both schools will offer provision for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years, with Penderyn Community Primary School offering places through the medium of Welsh and Hirwaun Primary School offering places through the medium of English. Penderyn Community Primary School will have Welsh medium capacity for 231 pupils (plus nursery) and Hirwaun Primary School will have English medium capacity for 390 pupils (plus nursery). The Council, in partnership with Welsh Government, will invest £10.4m in constructing a new primary building at Hirwaun to ensure pupils have a high quality, viable and sustainable 21st Century learning environment.

Community impact

It has to be stressed at this point that the community impact of these proposals is negligible. The proposal does not involve the physical closure of any school buildings or facilities. If anything, community access will actually be improved. Hirwaun Primary School is proposed to be replaced by a new, state of the art purpose built English medium primary school for the villages of Hirwaun and Penderyn. The new building will be built on the site of the existing Hirwaun Primary School and will have brand new community rooms that can be used by existing community groups and will be able to accommodate further community usage. The facilities can be used by groups such as Flying Start parenting groups, parent and toddler groups, health visitors and adult learning. The whole school will be accessible and fully compliant

with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Also included in the new facilities at Hirwaun will be external grass playing field provision and Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) facilities that will be for the exclusive use of the pupils during the school day, but will be available to the community outside of school hours.

Penderyn Community Primary School is a new building which was opened in 2006 and already benefits from MUGA facilities, as well as a woodland area.

The existence of 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, especially as no existing facilities will be lost under these proposals.

Pupils within and outside current catchments

The percentage of pupils attending Penderyn Community Primary School and Hirwaun Primary School that reside within and outside of their current respective catchment areas are as follows:-

School	Pupil numbers – January 2018 (including nursery)	% pupils in current catchment	% pupils from outside current catchment
Penderyn Community Primary School (whole school)	233	72.1%	27.9%
Penderyn Community Primary School (Welsh)	179	81.5%	18.5%
Penderyn Community Primary School (English)	54	40.1%	59.9%
Hirwaun Primary School	249	93.9%	6.1%

It can be noted that of the 54 pupils attending the English medium stream of Penderyn Community Primary School, only 22 pupils live within the Penderyn catchment area. The majority of pupils (27 pupils) live within the Hirwaun catchment area.

Catchment changes

This proposal seeks to enhance the accommodation and facilities available to pupils from within the catchment areas requiring Welsh-medium and English-medium

education. It is proposed to extend the catchment area of Hirwaun Primary School to incorporate the current catchment area of the English medium stream of Penderyn Community Primary School.

Pupils living in Hirwaun who require Welsh medium education will still attend Penderyn Community Primary School (subject to parental preference). It is also proposed to extend the Welsh medium catchment area of Penderyn Community Primary School to encompass the communities of Trenant and Penywaun (which are currently in the catchment area of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar). This adjustment is being made to the Welsh medium catchment areas to match the demand for Welsh medium places with the available supply across the Welsh medium primary school sector in this part of the County Borough. Additional demand for places is also being driven by housing development in this part of the County Borough. Proposals to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar by 60 pupil places and proposals to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun by 162 pupil places also seek to address the Welsh medium demand in this part of the County Borough.

Travel implications

Some pupils may have further to travel to school, however, the Council's policy regarding home to school transport provision will apply to both schools whereby pupils of compulsory school age attending primary school who live one and a half miles or further safe "walking distance" from their nearest suitable school will be provided with free home to school transport.

Pupils living in the communities of Trenant and Penywaun whose home addresses will be within the extended Penderyn Community Primary School catchment area will receive free transport to Penderyn Primary School for Welsh medium education as they reside more than 1½ miles safe "walking distance" from their nearest suitable school.

In catchment pupils (resident in the village of Penderyn and Rhondda Cynon Taf) attending the English medium stream of Penderyn Community Primary School will receive free transport to the new Hirwaun Primary School building as the walking route is deemed to be 'unavailable'. This provision will not be available to any English Medium pupils who currently attend Penderyn but do not reside in the designated catchment area, as they are attending this school as a result of parental preference.

Hirwaun Primary School and Penderyn Community Primary School are 2.6 miles apart and the journey time between both schools by bus is not expected to exceed 15 minutes.

There will be no changes whatsoever to distances travelled by pupils currently attending Penderyn Community Primary School for Welsh-medium education - they will remain in the same school, consequently there will be no changes or any other implications for home to school transport provision for these pupils.

Current 'out of school hours' usage

Should these proposals proceed, all current before and after school activities in both schools will continue. The breakfast clubs currently offered by both schools would continue. Also, all after school clubs would continue to be offered. Current after school activities comprise:-

Penderyn Community Primary School

Urdd After School Club

Sports Club

Hirwaun Primary School

Athletics

Netball

Tennis

Girls' football

Cricket

The construction of the new, larger building at Hirwaun will allow for expansion of such activities. Also, the change in language medium at Penderyn Community School from dual language to Welsh medium could also offer further opportunities for the development of further after school activities through the medium of Welsh.

Community and third party use of the schools' facilities will be encouraged. Also, any usage by groups affiliated to the schools, such as the PTA for functions, would continue to be offered by both schools should these proposals proceed.