

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Education Directorate, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to make a regulated alteration to Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School, Dynea Road, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5DP so that the age range of the pupils it can admit is amended from 11-19 years to 11–16 years and that the Sixth Form provision be removed.

Post-16 students from Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School will have the option of attending another school's sixth form provision of their choice, or the local college, Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw, Heol y Coleg, Nantgarw CF15 7QY for their post-16 education. Pupils who wish to continue their post-16 education through the Catholic faith could choose to attend St David's Sixth Form College, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff CF23 5QD.

RCTCBC undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/SchoolConsultations/SchoolsConsultations.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 1st September 2022.

The capacity of Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School after this proposal is implemented will be 900 pupil places. Some of the school buildings could be removed to reduce the surplus or the Archdiocese of Cardiff could use the space to develop or transfer primary school provision on the site. From September 2022 the proposed admission number for the school will be 180 for pupils age 11 (Year 7).

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. At present, RCTCBC provides free transport for pupils who attend their relevant Secondary school if they reside beyond 2 miles walking distance to that school. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest suitable school. This distance criterion is also applied to transport provision for post-16 students at present. RCTCBC will provide free transportation to the nearest provision that offers the chosen post-16 selection of courses for RCT-resident students, providing that they meet the initial qualifying distance criteria of residing more than 2 miles from that provision.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which this proposal is published, that is to say by May 31st 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st Century Schools, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ, e-mail schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

RCTCBC will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

RCTCBC will submit the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for determination.



Signed:
Gaynor Davies
Director of Education and Inclusion Services
For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Date: April 30th 2019

Explanatory Note of the Proposals

RCTCBC has recently undertaken a comprehensive consultation exercise in respect of the proposed reorganisation of school provision in the Pontypridd area of the County Borough as part of its proposals under the 21st Century Schools Programme.

RCTCBC's Cabinet have agreed to publish the following statutory notices:-

- The alteration of the age range of pupils that may be admitted to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, from 11–19 years to 11–16 years, resulting in the removal of the sixth form provision;
- The closure of Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School and the creation of a new 3 – 16 'all through' School on the site of the current Pontypridd High School. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- The closure of Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School and the creation of a new 3 – 16 'all through' School on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools, with the Local Authority designated ALN specialist class located in Hawthorn High School, as well as the current pupils receiving education through the medium of English at Heol Y Celyn Primary School transferring to the new school. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- The closure of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Heol Y Celyn Primary School and the opening of a new Welsh Medium Community Primary School on the site of the current Heol Y Celyn Primary School.

To reduce any disruption to learners, prior to September 2022, the Council will ensure that the Year 12 students, who will be most affected by the change will be undertaking programmes of study that will be continued in their new sixth form.