

21st Century Schools Consultation Document 2021

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN);
COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS AND AUTISM SPECTRUM
CONDITION PROVISION FOR LEARNERS AGED 11 - 19
14 DECEMBER 2021 – 1 FEBRUARY 2022



This document can be made available in Braille.
A full version of the consultation document is available at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNsSchoolProposals
Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.
Please contact us on 029 2087 2720 to arrange this.



Background

Cardiff's 2030 vision for education and learning in Cardiff sets a goal of A Learning Entitlement, in which all children and young people are able to:

- access appropriate routes into education and learning opportunities
- thrive and fulfil their potential
- realise their individual dreams and ambitions

This booklet contains summarised information about proposals to improve access to education in line with the above principles of inclusion.

This is your chance to ask questions and make comments. We want to know your views because this helps us to make sure any proposal that goes forward really works for children, young people and the community local to the schools involved.

What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing to:

- increase the designated number at Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs from 70 to 100, from September 2022
- establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School, from September 2023
- increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places, from September 2022
- increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base at The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School for learners with autism from 42 to 66 places from September 2022
- establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for learners with autism, alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base, from September 2023

Where can I find more information?

- Full details can be found in the Consultation Document on the Council website at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoollproposals
- If you are unable to access the document on-line, printed copies of this consultation document will be available by post on request. You may request a copy by telephoning 02920 872720.

- We have organised an online meeting and drop-in sessions that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you. You can also ask us questions. If you would like to attend an online meeting, please contact us by e-mailing schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk and tell us which meeting you would like to attend. We will then provide a link and instructions for attending the meeting.

The dates of the public consultation meetings are set out below:

Table 1: Consultation Meeting Dates		
Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Public meeting	Wednesday 19 January 2022 5:30pm	Online via Microsoft Teams
Drop in sessions	On request by emailing schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk	Online via Microsoft Teams

Separate meetings have been arranged for staff and governors.

The views of children and young people are key to the way education is delivered. We will consult with pupils in each school and include their feedback in the final consultation report.

How can I give my views?

- You can attend the public meeting or a drop-in session
- You can provide your views at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoollproposals
- You can fill in the response form at the back of this booklet.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 1 February 2022.

Why are we proposing these changes?

School places

All councils in Wales must provide enough school places for pupils of all ages. School places must meet the needs of all pupils and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

Why are more places needed?

Sufficiency in the Special Sector

Most learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) attend a local mainstream school and have extra support there. Learners who have more severe or complex needs attend a special school or Specialist Resource Base. The number of pupils who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base has continued to grow.

A Specialist Resource Base enables learners with learning difficulties to succeed in a mainstream school environment. This can include pupils with Complex Learning Needs and/ or with Autism Spectrum Condition.

Pupils in a Specialist Resource Base are taught in a small class by specialist staff and benefit from a specialist curriculum. They also benefit from the full range of education opportunities available to all pupils at the school.

At the end of March 2021, there were 2,265 children in Cardiff with a statement of Special Education Needs. As the population grows, so will the number of children and young people with significant and complex Additional Learning Needs.

In 2020/21

- a total of 1,116 places in specialist resource bases or special schools were funded by Cardiff Council
- 48 temporary places for learners were available at Wellbeing Class and Speech and Language Classes
- 90 places were available in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Whilst there are a number of existing specialist settings across Cardiff, there are not enough places available. The number of children who would benefit from a specialist place is projected to increase over coming years.

Demand for places

In 2021/22 there are a total of 461 specialist places for pupils of secondary school age with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition funded by Cardiff Council. These were in maintained schools in Cardiff and in other establishments commissioned by the Council.

The Welsh Government has approved a proposal to expand Woodlands High School, which would increase the capacity in Cardiff to 561 specialist places by 2025/26.

Allowing for some surplus to support flexibility, sufficient capacity would be to provide 638 places in 2021/22, and 692 places by 2025/26.

In summary, there is an estimated shortfall of 177 places for learners aged 11-18 in 2021/22, reducing to 131 by 2025/26.

Condition and Suitability of School Buildings

All school properties in Cardiff have been assessed for the condition of their buildings. All have been rated from A to D, with schools rated D in the poorest condition. This process helps us to prioritise which schools need improvements to their buildings and which need investment.

Details on the ratings for each school can be found in the consultation document at:

www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoollproposals

Geographical distribution of specialist provision

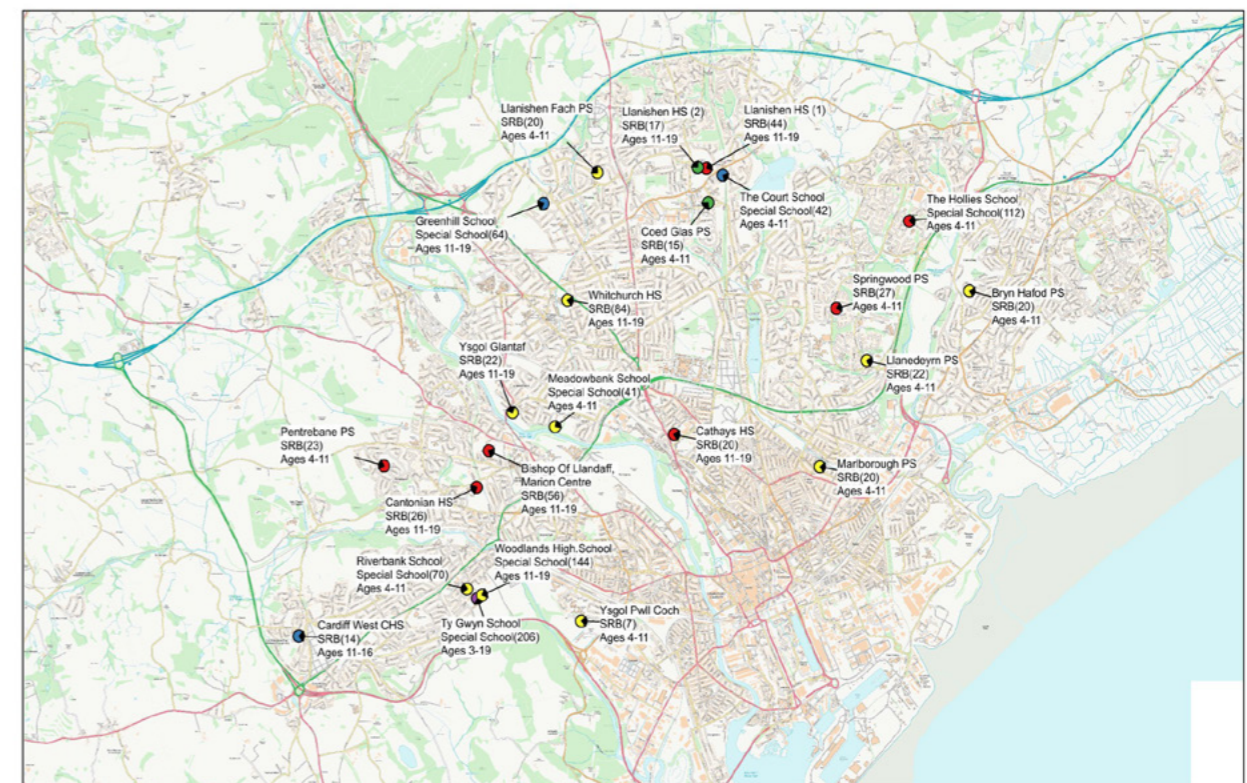
The location of specialist resource bases and Wellbeing Classes is not well distributed across the city.

A map showing location of existing specialist provision can be seen below.

The lack of specialist resource bases in some localities can disadvantage learners living in those areas. Some families are unfamiliar with the areas where provision is located. Parents or carers may lack the means to travel easily to those areas.

A better distribution of specialist resource bases across the city would improve access for pupils. It would reduce travel times for many pupils, as well as increasing the number of places available.

Cardiff Special Schools and SRBs 2021



Special schools & SRBs: Type & Capacity	
Autism	(7)
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Needs	(3)
Hearing Impairment	(2)
Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities, Medical Needs, Autism	(1)
Severe Learning Disabilities, Medical Needs, Speech and Language, Autism	(10)

This map is produced specifically to help Cardiff Council information. No further copies may be made. Users may not use this map for commercial purposes. © Cardiff Council 2021. Distance Survey 100002019. Ordnance Survey & GeoInformation Wales 2017. Noddy Desktop 100002019.

Transport matters

The Council applies the three-mile statutory qualifying walking distance criteria for secondary age pupils to qualify for free home to school transport to special schools and specialist resource bases. Some learners who live within three miles of the school may be provided with free transport due to their individual learning needs and social issues.

The proposals are expected to increase the demand for Learner Transport at a number of schools. Suitable improved and / or expanded facilities for drop-off and pick-up may be required within the sites to accommodate the appropriate numbers of vehicles.

The Council's current Corporate Plan includes a commitment to every school in Cardiff developing an Active Travel Plan.

Further information in respect of transport matters can be found in the consultation document at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals

Expansion of Specialist Resource Base provision at Whitchurch High School for pupils with Complex Learning Needs

Whitchurch High School is an English-medium Foundation school for pupils aged 11-18. The school hosts a specialist resource base designated for complex learning needs. The school is located over two sites at Manor Way and Penline Road in Whitchurch.

To meet the demand for secondary specialist resource places for learners with complex learning needs it is proposed to:

- increase the designated number at Whitchurch High School Special Resource Base from 70 to 100 from September 2022.

It is proposed that the current specialist resource base accommodation would be improved and refurbished, creating additional classrooms and learning spaces.

Establishment of Specialist Resource Base provision at Willows High School for pupils with Complex Learning Needs

Willows High School is an English-medium community high school for pupils aged 11 – 16. The school is currently located at Willows Avenue, Tremorfa.

To meet the demand for secondary specialist resource places for learners with complex learning needs it is proposed to:

- establish a 30-place specialist resource base at Willows High School Special Resource Base from September 2023.

It is proposed that the new base would initially be accommodated within the existing buildings, with the necessary adaptations undertaken. Specialist accommodation would then be provided as part of the development of the new Willows High School.

Expansion of Specialist Resource Base provision at Llanishen High School for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition

Llanishen High School is an English-medium community high school for pupils aged 11-19. The school hosts an Autism Spectrum Condition base and a base for hearing impaired learners. The school is located at Heol Hir in Llanishen.

To meet the demand for secondary age specialist provision it is proposed to:

- increase the designated number of the Llanishen High School Autism Spectrum Condition specialist resource base from 20 to 45 places from September 2022.

Interim works have been undertaken and further works would be necessary to improve and extend the current Specialist Resource Base facilities and accommodation.

Expansion of Specialist Resource Base provision at The Marion Centre, The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition

The Bishop of Llandaff is an English-medium Church in Wales High School for pupils aged 11-18. The school hosts a specialist resource base, named The Marion Centre, designated for pupils with autism. The school is located at Rookwood Close in Llandaff.

To meet the demand for secondary specialist resource places for learners with autism spectrum condition it is proposed to:

- increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Special Resource Base from 42 to 66 places from September 2022.

It is proposed that the current specialist resource base accommodation would be improved and refurbished, creating additional classrooms and learning spaces.

Establishment of Specialist Resource Base provision at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf is a Welsh-medium community high school located at Bridge Road in Llandaff North for pupils aged 11-18. The school hosts a Specialist Resource Base designated for complex learning disabilities.

To meet the demand for secondary specialist resource places for learners with autism spectrum condition it is proposed to:

- establish a 30 place Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for learners with autism, alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base, from September 2023.

It is proposed that new accommodation would be developed on site to provide purpose-built facilities for both resource bases.

Quality and Standards

Every school in Wales is inspected by Estyn.

Estyn ensures that schools are providing a good quality of education to their pupils and that all children, are supported to learn by excellent teaching and learning staff.

Schools are also placed in one of the four colour-coded support categories (green, yellow, amber and red) as part of the Welsh Government's National School Categorisation System. Amber and Red schools are those that require the most support.

Details of standards at each school, as set out their most recent Estyn report are outlined in the table below.

The colours used show the most recent categorisation using the Welsh Government's Categorisation in January 2020.

School	Inspection Date	Standards	Progress
Whitchurch High School	January 2016	Adequate – monitoring required	Removed from monitoring Nov 2017
Willows High School	April 2018	Adequate / good	
Llanishen High School	February 2016	Adequate – monitoring required	Removed from monitoring Nov 2016
The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School	February 2018	Excellent	
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	May 2017	Good / adequate	Removed from monitoring Nov 2018

Further details on quality and standards can be found in the consultation document on the Council website at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoollproposals

What are the benefits of the proposed changes?

- Each of the proposals would increase the number of specialist places for secondary aged learners with Complex Learning Needs and / or Autism Spectrum Condition and would contribute towards meeting projected demand
- The opportunity to employ specialist staff and to work more closely with specialist services in Cardiff would enhance inclusive teaching in schools. This would benefit all pupils in each school
- The proposed expansion of places would allow pupils to travel shorter distances to access local specialist provision.

Potential disadvantages of the proposed changes

- Some pupils with ALN can find change difficult. They may find moving to a new building on a new site unsettling. We know they will need carefully planned support to adapt to the new setting. However, there would be sufficient time to plan and support such a transition.
- There is potential for increased traffic congestion around the school sites at the start and end of the day. The Council would work with the Governing Body of the school to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption.

How would staff be affected?

The Council will work with the Governing Bodies of each school to address the HR implications arising from the expansion / establishment of a Specialist Resource Base at the school. There may be a need for additional staffing.

Where the Governing Body has adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of the expansion / establishment of the Specialist Resource Base will provide opportunities for school-based staff on the school redeployment register.

What happens next?

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet in a consultation report. This will help the elected members understand stakeholders' views and will give them information to help make their decision.

The Council and the Governing Bodies of Whitchurch High School and The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School will each publish a consultation report on their websites. The report will go over the issues raised during the consultation period and give the Council's / Governing Bodies response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.

We expect to report on the outcome of the consultation in March 2021.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the changes to Llanishen High School, Willows High School and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, the Council must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. This is an official statement saying that the changes will go ahead. If the Governing Bodies of Whitchurch High School and The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School decide to continue with the changes, they must also publish a 'statutory notice'.

The statutory notice sets out the details of the proposals and asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council / relevant Governing Body within the dates given on the notice.

Cardiff Council Cabinet would determine the proposals for Llanishen High School, Willows High School and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.

The Cabinet may decide to approve or reject the proposal, or they may approve the proposal with some changes (modifications). The Cabinet would take any objections received in the Objection Period into account when making their decision.

If there are no objections to the proposals for Whitchurch High School and The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School, the Governing Bodies would determine the proposals. The Governing Bodies may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposals with modifications. The Governing Bodies will take any objection received in the Objection Period into account when making this decision.

If there were objections to the proposals for Whitchurch High School or The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School, the proposals would be referred to the Council for determination within 35 days of the end of the objection period.

Once a decision is made, we will let everyone affected by the proposal know. The decision will also be published on the Council's website.

Have Your Say!

You can complete this response form online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals

We are proposing to:

- increase the designated number at the Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex needs from 70 to 100 from September 2022
- establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School from September 2023
- increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022
- increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 42 to 66 places from September 2022
- establish a 30 place Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base from September 2023

Your views matter, please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- Completing and returning the accompanying questionnaire to the address given at the bottom of the form.
- Completing the online response form at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals
- Or if you prefer you can e-mail your views to: schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

**The closing date for responses to this consultation is 1 February 2022.
Unfortunately, no responses received after that date can be considered.**

1. Which of the following are you responding as?

- Parent
- Teacher – please specify your school:
- School governor – please specify your school:
- Other – please specify:

2. Do you have a child/children enrolled at the following schools? (tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Whitchurch High School	<input type="checkbox"/> Willows High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Llanishen High School	<input type="checkbox"/> Bishop of Llandaff
<input type="checkbox"/> Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify:	<input type="text"/>

3. Do you support the plans put forward to improve the provision for Children and Young People with additional learning needs?

Yes No Don't know

4. Do you support the proposal for each of the school sites?

School and proposal in brief	Yes	No	No Opinion
Whitchurch High School - increase the designated number at the Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs from 70 to 100 from September 2022			
Willows High School - establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Willows High School for learners with complex learning needs from September 2023			
Llanishen High School - increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022			

School and proposal in brief	Yes	No	No Opinion
The Marion Centre at The Bishop of Llandaff - increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 42 to 66 places from September 2022			
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf - establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base from September 2023			

5. If you do or not support the proposed changes than please explain why

6. Would you like to suggest any changes or alternatives?

7. Additional comments

Name: Postcode:

Address:

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 1 February 2022.

The Council is not able to consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposal.

Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the Consultation report please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date.

Email:

Please return this form to the School Organisation Planning Team, Room 401, County Hall, CF10 4UW or by email to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk by no later than 1 February 2022.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

About You

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area:-

What was your age on your last birthday?

- Under 16 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+ Prefer not to say

Are you...?

- Female Male Other Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a disabled person?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing Visual impairment Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)
 Mental health difficulties Wheelchair user Prefer not to say
 Learning impairment / difficulties Mobility impairment Other

Please specify

What is your ethnic group?

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Bangladeshi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Any other white background | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Any other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

The information you have provided above will be processed by Cardiff Council in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation. The information provided to us in relation to this consultation will be treated as confidential but it may be used by the Council or disclosed to others when required by law. The purpose of processing the personal data is required to perform a specific task in the public interest. Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public, however any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

For further information on how Cardiff Council manages personal information, see our full Privacy Policy on the Council's website

https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx