

Newport City Council

School Reorganisation Proposal

Consultation Report

**Proposal to establish a Learning Resource Base at Caerleon Lodge Hill
Primary School**

**Formal Consultation Period:
5 September 2018 – 16 October 2018**

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Learner Voice
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn
- Recommendations

The Proposal

To establish a generic 10-place Learning Resource Base class for pupils aged between 4 years and 11 years with additional learning needs at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School with effect from April 2019.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the stakeholders outlined below, with either a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website and an electronic version of the pack sent by e-mail, or alternatively by hard copies of the consultation material being issued:

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School;
- Pupils at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all schools within the Caerleon Comprehensive School cluster: Caerleon Comprehensive School, Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School and Langstone Primary School;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of those schools in Newport that currently host Learning Resource Base provision: Alway Primary School, Crindau Primary School, Gaer Primary School, Kimberley Nursery School, Llanmartin Primary School, Malpas Court Primary School, Monnow Primary School, Pillgwenlly Primary School, Ringland Primary School, Rogerstone Primary School, St Andrews Primary School, The John Frost School and St Julians School;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the schools subject to the proposals;
- Other Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium region, including relevant Transport departments;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Gwent Police;
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board;
- Public Health Wales;
- Newport Serennu Centre;
- SNAP Cymru;
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations;
- Preventative Services.

The following consultation events were arranged and were publicised via a letter to stakeholders and via the consultation documentation. This information was also shared on the Council website:

Location	Date & Time	Event Type
Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary (former Junior building), Lodge Hill, Caerleon, NP18 3BY	Tuesday 11 th September 2018 3.45pm – 5.45pm	Drop-in event
Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary (former Junior building), Lodge Hill, Caerleon, NP18 3BY	Thursday 27 th September 2018 3.45pm – 5.45pm	Drop-in event

Five people attended the first drop-in session, four of which were parents of children currently attending the school. The fifth was a member of staff employed by Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB). This session was supported by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Manager, a SEN and Inclusion Officer and an Education Information and Development Officer. The second session was also supported by the same two SEN representatives along with the Education Service Manager (Planning & Resources). The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher were also in attendance. Two parents joined this session, one of whom had also attended the first drop-in. The following questions were raised during the two sessions:

Admissions

How does a child gain a space in the LRB?

Pupils will not be able to apply for a place at the Learning Resource Base via the Council's usual admission arrangements. Instead, admission will be based on individual need following an assessment undertaken by the Education Inclusion Team. All pupils attending the base will have a statement of Special Educational Needs. The Council will determine admission taking parental preference into consideration and following consultation with the Headteacher and Governing Body as to the appropriateness of the placement. There are no plans to change these arrangements under this proposal.

Will this pupil take a space of another child on the waiting list for the school?

No, the LRB has no effect on the published admission number for the school.

Can a child gain a space in mainstream at the school after being in the LRB?

Pupils who attend LRB placements have opportunities for inclusion within mainstream classes. This will be undertaken for any subjects that they are able to access. The desired outcome for all pupils within LRBs is that they will be able to re-integrate back into a mainstream class on a full time basis following a period of intervention within the LRB. If a LRB pupil is deemed appropriate to reintegrate back into a mainstream class, the expectation is that the pupil will return to their original school. However, if a parent/carer decides to make an application for continuation of placement at an alternative school, this will be progressed in accordance with the Council's School Admissions Policy.

Will mainstream statemented pupils be able to access the LRB?

Mainstream pupils will not be able to access the LRB unless agreed via the LA's SEN Panel.

How quickly will the LRB class be filled?

Placements in the LRB will be allocated subject to demand.

Will admission to the LRB be restricted to pupils who live in the catchment area?

If approved, this LRB will primarily serve pupils living within the Caerleon cluster although placements will be available to wider Newport pupils if required.

Staffing**Will the additional funding that the school receives be sufficient to meet the costs associated with the LRB?**

An amount of £64,000 is allocated to host school budgets to meet the costs associated with operating a 10-place LRB. In addition, the school will receive the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) costs for each pupil who is allocated a place in the base. This AWPU funding is based on the age of the pupil. The allocated funding will be sufficient to meet the costs of operating the LRB.

How many teachers and teaching assistants will be in the class?

It is usual that a 10-place LRB is supported by one Teacher and two Teaching Assistants.

How will staff sickness, PPA and break times be covered?

Any sickness of staff within the LRB will be covered as per agreed school processes and arrangements. This will include flexible use of existing staff or engaging agency staff as required. PPA and break time cover is organised by the Headteacher and this will be extended to include the LRB.

Will all staff at the school receive additional training to support the needs of these pupils?

Staff within the LRB and the wider school will be able to access a range of training and consultation opportunities to support pupils within the LRB such as:

- Invitations to attend LA ALN training which may include general sharing of information, updates on processes and procedures, and training which focuses on specific interventions;
- Annual LA conference on ALN;
- Annual LA facilitated Training Day for all LRB staff;
- Termly ALN Clinics operated by the LA's Inclusion Enrichment Team;
- Incidental open days with key speakers;
- Attendance at monthly 'bite-size' sessions which will provide tasters on new training and reinforce existing training, and;
- Specific requests via Cluster Network meetings.

Will the LRB affect the amount of time the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) spends with the rest of the school? Is there a budget consideration for this?

The LRB will be part of the whole school. Any time that is spent supporting the LRB will be considered as part of the overall roles and responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team.

School Organisation

As the LRB will be able to accommodate pupils across a variety of ages, how will this be organised?

The LRB will be within one standard classroom with opportunities to use the multi-purpose room which is adjacent to the LRB. The classroom set-up will be determined by the class teacher taking into account the pupils placed and their individual needs. The delivery of work will be differentiated to meet individual pupil and relevant curriculum needs.

Will LRB pupils have the same break time and lunch time as the rest of the school?

The LRB pupils will operate to the same times as the rest of the school. This reflects the inclusive practice of the LRBs across Newport. Pupils who access the LRB may however have the opportunity to access the canteen earlier than mainstream peers if for example they have particular sensory issues and are sensitive to increased levels of noise.

Will the LRB affect the school's insurance?

The schools building insurance will be reviewed in preparation for the move to the new building. There is no additional premium associated with hosting a LRB.

How will damage costs be recovered?

Any damage will be managed by the Governing Body which, along with the Headteacher, is responsible for maintaining the building and considering any actions.

Class Base

What security is on the classroom door?

The internal door to the classroom will have fob security access. The external door will be fitted with two thumb turn locks, one of which will be placed at a higher level. The door will be fitted with one deadlock as per current standards for additional security.

How is the classroom soundproofed?

Soundproofing measures have been included as part of the school building design in accordance with building regulation requirements.

Is the outside canopy area fenced?

Yes, this area is within the school's boundary fence to ensure pupils are not able to leave the site without permission. There will also be some additional fencing to provide a secure external learning environment for pupils.

Additional Needs

Will the pupils in the LRB have access to therapeutic services?

Access to any therapeutic services will be dependent on each individual pupil's identified need and the provision that is required to meet those needs.

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was also published and was targeted specifically at children and young people.

Learner Voice

The Council was keen to gain the views of learners, and this was facilitated through a specific meeting between the School Council and two members of staff from the Education Service which was held on Tuesday 16th October 2018 at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School. The Council is very grateful to the staff and pupils who took part in this session and would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to this process.

Twelve children in total attended the meeting and all agreed that introducing a LRB class to the school was a good idea as it would help children with additional learning needs to feel part of a whole school. The following specific questions were also raised by those present:

Question	Answer
Will the LRB classroom be soundproofed as if the pupils are noisy, it may be distracting for other learners?	All classrooms in the new school will be built to modern standards and will be much more soundproofed than those in the current school buildings.
Will the children in the LRB share the same playground and playtimes as other pupils?	The LRB class will have a dedicated small safe play area immediately outside the classroom. Some of the children attending the class might not like busy spaces or loud noises so the main yard wouldn't be suitable for them at the same time as the rest of the school. If they are able to however, yes they will join the rest of the school. This will be decided by the teacher and the pupils themselves.
What age will the children be in the new class?	The LRB can have up to 10 children aged between 4 years to 11 years.
How many teachers will there be in the new class?	There will be 1 teacher and 2 teaching assistants in the new class.
Will we get to use the LRB?	The LRB class will be designed exactly like the other classes in the school and therefore there will be no special facilities that other pupils will need to use. However, there will be shared facilities around the school that everyone will be able to use.
Why have you chosen this school for a LRB?	The Council is trying to ensure that all new school builds include a LRB class so that pupils who need additional help can attend a local school.
Will the children do the same work as the other pupils in the school?	The children in the LRB may be unable to do the same work as the pupils in other classes, but the work will be suitable for them.
Will the teacher in the LRB class have special experience?	The governing body will want to ensure that they pick the best possible person to teach this class. This may be someone who has experience of teaching in another LRB or of working with children with additional needs.
What will happen if one of the children is very disruptive?	The teacher will deal with behaviour in the same way as your teachers would in your classes at the moment.
When will the children start coming to the school?	The LRB is planned to open in April 2019 (after the Easter holidays) and pupils will start attending the class shortly after this.
Can the children move from the LRB into the other classes in the school if they are doing well?	Possibly, but this will be decided jointly by the Headteacher and the council.

Consultation Responses

Three formal responses were received during the consultation period. Two respondents supported the proposal whilst one opposed it on the basis of the possible disruption that might be caused to her children and the school.

The responses in support of the proposal outlined that the LRB would bring enormous benefits to pupils with additional learning needs. The Council supports this position and is committed to providing such facilities in all new school builds as it supports a more inclusive approach for pupils with additional learning needs. There is also a desire to move to a position where there is a least one Learning Resource Base class in each cluster of primary schools. There is currently no such provision within the Caerleon cluster, or in the neighbouring St Julian's cluster.

In terms of the response opposing the proposal, the Council has been clear that the LRB will not be a provision for pupils with behavioural problems. The proposal will not have any detrimental impact on mainstream education provision at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School. The Council considers that this will bring long term benefits for both the school and the wider community.

Estyn

The formal response from Estyn concluded that the proposal "is likely to maintain the standard of education provision in the area, and maintain or improve the standard of provision for pupils with additional learning needs."

It also outlines that the Council has outlined a clear rationale for the proposal and sets out clearly and fairly the expected benefits and disadvantages when compared with the current situation along with some risks. However, whilst other alternatives have been outlined, they do not appear to have been considered well enough, particularly the possibility of placing the LRB anywhere other than at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School.

LA Response: *The Council is committed to meeting the growing need for specialist provision across the city of Newport and as such wants to establish a LRB in all new school buildings. The 21st Century Schools funded project to re-build Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School represented an opportunity to create specialist provision in a cluster that otherwise does not benefit from a LRB.*

The response then makes reference to the need for clarity in relation to home to school transport arrangements.

LA Response: *The Council's Home to School Transport for mainstream pupils is based solely on a distance criterion from the catchment or nearest available school. Where the Council's SEN Panel determines that the needs of a specific child can be best met in a LRB placement, consideration is given to transport arrangements. In certain cases, the SEN Panel may decide that Home to School Transport should be facilitated on either a temporary or permanent basis and this will be communicated with parents / carers.*

In relation to educational aspects of the proposal, Estyn has noted pupil achievement and attendance is only noted up to the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, and does not comment on the quality of leadership and management at the school.

LA Response: This data was the most up-to-date information available when the consultation document was prepared in the summer term of 2018. Further information is now available as follows:

- The 3 year average FSM % for Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary was 14.5% in 2018, placing the school in the 8-16% FSM benchmark group for comparison of achievement.
- Attendance was 95.9% in 2018, which is above the Newport average of 94.6%.

In terms of leadership and management, the most recent school categorisation report has confirmed that the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team provide strong leadership with a shared vision that influences practice across the school. A record of raising pupil achievement has been maintained over time and the Headteacher is clear in her expectations for future achievement. The governing body is very effective in holding the school to account, and well established performance management systems ensure that staff members are held to account for pupil progress and wellbeing.

Estyn also noted that the proposal does not consider the likely impact on the delivery of the full curriculum at the foundation phase and at key stage 2.

LA Response: The LA view is that the proposal will support the delivery of curriculum to pupils with Additional Learning Needs through expanding provision to learners who attend the Learning Resource Base. These learners will benefit from a more appropriate learning environment. Mainstream learners will not be impacted by the proposal.

The response ends by stating that the local authority does not identify specifically how it will minimise the disruption to learners, for example those pupils with a statement of special educational needs who will move to this resource base class. However, it does show that it plans to 'provide the governing body with sufficient time to recruit appropriate teaching and support staff and will also ensure that pupil transition can be effectively facilitated'.

LA Response: The SEN Panel will determine placements at the LRB following consultation with parents / carer and with existing provisions to determine the appropriateness of the proposed placement. A period of transition will be facilitated to minimise disruption to the learner.

Recommendations

It is recommended that permission be sought to move this proposal forward by publishing a statutory notice. This decision will be referred to the Leader of Newport City Council and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation

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