

## **Newport City Council**

### **Consultation report**

#### *Proposal to establish a Welsh-medium secondary school in Newport*

Formal Consultation period: 1<sup>st</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

#### **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 sets out a summary of the responses received to the above consultation.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

An invitation to partake in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail, or hard copies being provided to parents through the schools.

- Parents, guardians and carers of all pupils at the four Welsh-medium primary schools directly affected by the proposal; (3 Newport primaries and 1 Monmouthshire primary)
- Parents, guardians and carers of all pupils who may be attending Duffryn High School on or after the implementation date;
- Headteachers, staff and governors at the above mentioned five schools directly affected by this proposal;
- Pupils / School Councils of the above mentioned five schools directly affected by the proposal;
- Headteachers, staff and governors at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni;
- Headteachers of all schools in Newport and Monmouthshire;
- All Newport and Monmouthshire elected members;
- All Newport and Monmouthshire community councils;
- Welsh Ministers;

- Welsh Government – Schools Management, Post-16 and Welsh Language divisions;
- All Newport and Monmouthshire Welsh Government members, including regional Assembly Members;
- Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council Scrutiny Committees;
- All Members of Parliament representing Newport and Monmouthshire;
- Chief Education Officers of all bordering and consortium LAs – Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Cardiff;
- Roman Catholic and Church in Wales Diocesan Directors of Education;
- ESTYN;
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- Principals of Coleg Gwent and Coleg Y Cymoedd;
- The University of South Wales
- Newport Governors Association;
- Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council Youth Forums;
- Careers Wales;
- Teaching Associations;
- Support Staff Associations;
- Heads of Service within Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council;
- Policy Officers for Equalities and Welsh Language within Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council;
- Welsh Language Commissioner;
- Regional Welsh Education Forum;
- Local Welsh Education Forum members of both Newport and Monmouthshire;
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru;
- Mudiad Meithrin;
- RHAG;
- Regular community users of Duffryn High School;
- Transport departments of Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Cardiff;
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- All Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council Libraries;
- Families First;
- Communities First Development Officer;
- GAVO.

A 'Children & Young People Everyday Summary Version' of the consultation pack was produced and distributed to every child attending the three Welsh-medium Primary schools in Newport and the Welsh-medium Primary school in south Monmouthshire and also to the eight Primary schools within the Duffryn High School Cluster.

The following Formal Consultation events were held for stakeholders to attend, ask questions, learn more about the proposal and express their views.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
Proposed new WM2 location, Lower School Block, on the Duffryn High School site, Newport	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015 5pm – 7pm	Formal Consultation meeting
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, Newport	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2015; 3.30pm – 6.00pm	Drop-in event
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, Newport	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2015; 3.00pm – 5.30pm	Drop-in event
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion, Newport	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2015; 3.20pm – 6.00pm	Drop-in event
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin, Caldicot	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2015; 3.00pm – 6.00pm	Drop-in event
Duffryn High School, Newport	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2015; 10am – 12 noon	Drop-in event

Meetings were generally well attended and mostly positive.

The proposals were also considered by the school council of each affected school, with the offer of the attendance of the Education Business Development Officer for Newport City Council to explain the proposal, answer questions and hear views.

### **Consultation Responses Received:**

- A total of 214 consultation responses were received. Comments and questions submitted are summarised in Table A below
- 171 respondents (79.9%) supported the proposal.
- 39 Respondents (18.2%) did not support the proposal –19 of these respondents submitted views which have been deemed to be adverse comments. These are summarised in Table B below.
- 4 Respondents (1.9%) asked questions but neither supported nor objected to the proposal.

### **Views of young people:**

18 of the total respondents identified themselves as pupils. Their comments together with the issues and views raised by school councils are summarised towards the end of this report in Tables C1 and C2.

One letter of support was received from a Welsh Assembly Member, and one letter of support was received from a neighbouring Local Authority.

Two responses were received from school governing bodies, one in favour of the proposal (Welsh-medium primary, Newport) and one stating that resources should be focussed on improving standards for the majority of the population rather than on promoting the Welsh language (English-medium primary, Monmouthshire).

The remainder of this report sets out the concerns, issues or adverse comments submitted during the public consultation and provides the Council's response.

**Table A: WM2 Consultation issues and questions raised and response from Newport City Council**

Comment/ question	Response
<p>I am concerned about management of the additional traffic that this proposal will entail for the Duffryn area</p>	<p>Traffic issues will be considered within the design process. Traffic plans will be submitted with the planning application and will be reviewed by the highways department, to ensure traffic is manageable.</p> <p>The governing body for the new school will be invited to consider how the start and finish times for the school can best fit with neighbouring schools.</p>
<p>With three (Welsh-medium) primary schools in Newport it makes absolute sense for there to be a High School. However this must be a permanent solution for WM education and not just a stop-gap</p>	<p>This is not a temporary solution. The proposal is to permanently establish a Welsh-medium secondary school in Newport that will be able to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium secondary education for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>Duffryn is not a good location logistically / there must be better sites / the school should be in the East of the city</p>	<p>Other options were developed and considered by officers over four years, with assets and estate across Gwent being reviewed for suitability. The long list of options was detailed in the 21CS Regional Strategic Outline Case and the long list of options were tested and reduced to a shortlist of three options. The three options were further tested to give us our preferred option. The recommendation that Duffryn High School site is the preferred option and the principles of working towards the delivery of this preferred option has been accepted by Welsh Government to date. They approved the Outline Business Case further qualifying this preferred option and have now requested a Full Business Case to that effect.</p>
<p>I would prefer the school to have its own site &amp; grounds</p>	<p>Once established, the school will have its own site and its own grounds. It will not be a case of two schools sharing a single site</p>
<p>I am concerned about problems between the pupils of the two schools, and problems with</p>	<p>The behaviour of school pupils is a matter for the schools, but Newport is a culturally diverse city. Mixing with and understanding</p>

bullying	different cultures is encouraged, and diversity embraced.
Will there be enough space? The school is suited to 1200, but this proposal will add another 900?	This proposal allows the reconfiguration of the layout of the English-medium school at Duffryn which will make better use of the available space. The size of both sites will be in excess of the Building Bulletin (BB98) guidelines for schools.
How do you expect to house 900 Welsh-medium pupils in one building when it currently houses 400 English-medium pupils?	The existing Lower Block will be used to accommodate the initial intake to the Welsh-medium school. The proposal is to build a new extension to this block to enable the school's capacity to grow up to 900 places.
I wholeheartedly support the proposal to establish the school. What if the Welsh-medium school needs to expand further?	The proposal is being developed with potential expansion in mind. The school is predicted to have approximately 520 pupils in years 7-11 by 2020, but is designed to accommodate up to 900. It is not anticipated that this school would be expanded beyond this capacity.
It is disappointing that the school will only open to year 7 in 2016 and other year groups, including sixth form, will have to wait.	To open the school to more year groups would inevitably draw pupils away from existing schools. This could have a detrimental effect on the ability of those schools to deliver the curriculum. It would also be likely to result in excessively small and unsustainable class sizes. Opening the school as a growing school is the best way to ensure the new school is sustainable and that neighbouring schools are not undermined.
Llantarnum High School site in Torfaen would have been a better option.	Torfaen County Borough Council is already funding a Welsh-medium secondary school and the demand for Welsh-medium secondary education is in Newport.
I am concerned about the crossing of Lighthouse road and the suitability of the playing fields on the other side of the road which pose health risks due to dog fouling, amongst other things	Ensuring the safety of children crossing Lighthouse Road is of paramount importance and proposed arrangements for the new Welsh-medium secondary school includes a review by the Highways Department, who in turn will make recommendations. The current proposal for Lighthouse Road is to remove the existing crossing near the junction to Duffryn Way and relocate the crossing closer to the Duffryn High School site entrance. Highways feel this will provide

	<p>a safer and more suitable crossing for pupils accessing both schools, it will also be key in providing safer access to the sports pitches on the opposite side of the road. The sports pitches will be secured with fencing for the provision of timetabled curriculum sports activities.</p>
<p>The (Lower Block) building is not in good condition. Given the age of the building, it's full of asbestos and poses a health risk.</p>	<p>We are aware that the building contains asbestos. An asbestos survey conducted in 2014 identified the vast majority of samples taken as being low risk. As part of the design process, a full refurbishment and demolition survey will be undertaken to ensure asbestos present is managed or removed as necessary during the development.</p>
<p>I am in favour of a Welsh-medium school in Newport but I would much prefer us to have a new school</p>	<p>Unfortunately the Council is unable to fund a new build Welsh-medium school and needs to balance this demand with other requirements. The Council feels this proposal provides the best possible solution with the finances available.</p>
<p>The majority of the budget seems to be being spent on the provision of a new facility in which to re-house the English language school, rather than on the provision of a Welsh language school, which has to make do with shabby, out of date facilities.</p>	<p>The £17m project budget will provide two new buildings and the necessary access and groundworks required to enable effective operation of the two schools. Each school will have a new build addition to accommodate a similar number of pupils. While we do not know the exact cost split, the money is being used to provide similar facilities for each school. The existing Lower Block building already has new toilets, a canteen and a gymnasium for the initial pupil cohorts who would attend the school.</p>
<p>You should not consider opening a Welsh language school you can be sure there is a real need for one.</p>	<p>Newport now has three Welsh-medium primary schools educating in the region of 550 children. This is forecast to increase to around 750 by 2019. The current secondary education provision in Torfaen is insufficient to cater for forecast demand. Council admissions and transport policies will encourage children from each area to attend their catchment school.</p>
<p>Marshfield Community Council is concerned as to whether or not there will be boundary changes that will impact on residents of Marshfield and the catchment area of</p>	<p>The proposal does not seek to change any community boundaries and all Newport primary school catchment areas will remain</p>

children who attend Marshfield Primary School. The Council would like you to clarify the status of the proposed school.	unchanged.
Is there enough time to prepare the site and complete the necessary building works ready for September 2016?	The new build section for Duffryn High will be complete by September 2016 and the new Welsh-medium secondary school will also be operational by this date. The new extension to the Welsh-medium school will then be complete before September 2018.

**Table B: Adverse Comments received in response to the consultation**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
I do not support the proposed investment in Welsh-medium education. Money should be invested in improving education for the majority of children not a small minority.	Noted as an adverse comment. Each local authority has a statutory obligation to Welsh Government to plan and provide Welsh-medium education. Newport has three Welsh-medium primary schools, with children having to travel to Torfaen for secondary education. The demand for secondary places in the region is forecast to exceed the current provision and investment in additional secondary provision is therefore required.
I do not support investment in the Welsh language. The money should be spent on essential services.	Noted as an adverse comment, response as above.
What is the justification for spending this amount of Newport taxpayers money in the current economic climate to educate a miniscule number of children in a language which will restrict them to a very limited range of job opportunities...The Council should think again.....and stop throwing tax payers money at a dead language and take the opportunity to use this £7million, which they have suddenly found, for the benefit of ALL residents of this City.	Noted as an adverse comment. The Council's response is as above.
This school is not needed and definitely not	Noted as an adverse comment. The

<p>wanted in Newport, the money would be better spent on our other schools ,Hospitals or Ambulance service, The people of Newport are English speaking but also proud to be Welsh. The children need to learn other more useful languages that will help with their career, not a historic language that has NO PRACTICAL USE. The welsh assembly are already trying to foist Welsh into the work place wasting huge amounts when cuts have to be made, please see sense and be practical</p>	<p>Council's response is as above.</p>
<p>I don't think it'll work as the school isn't big enough. As it is the money should be put towards the improvement of the school's appearance</p>	<p>Noted as an adverse comment.</p>
<p>Duffryn is in a poor state and was due to be rebuilt after Hartridge and Bettws. This investment is now being split between two schools, both of which will have poor buildings. I think the sharing of the school grounds will weaken Duffryn's status and results.</p>	<p>Noted as an adverse comment. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints experienced by the Council make the rebuilding of Duffryn High school unachievable. This proposal seeks to make the best use of the money available to make improvements to Duffryn and allow the establishment of a new school which is needed to meet demand.</p>
<p>Have 2 children in two different secondary schools will cause considerable inconveniences for myself. An option for families with one child already attending Gymraeg Gyfun Gwynllyw should be available.</p>	<p>Noted as an adverse comment. The Council is of the opinion that to allow other year groups to transfer in to the new school would threaten the viability of both the existing and new schools.</p>
<p>The money should be spent on improving the buildings and standards at Duffryn High School</p>	<p>Noted as an adverse comment. The Council's response is as above.</p>
<p>Adding another school in close proximity to Duffryn and St. Joseph's High Schools will only serve to increase bullying and problems between pupils</p>	<p>Noted as an adverse comment. The behaviour of school pupils is a matter for the schools, but Newport is a culturally diverse city. Mixing with and understanding different cultures is encouraged, and diversity embraced.</p>



## Views submitted by Children and Young People:

Children's responses to the consultation were positive. Their responses are detailed here in Table C1

<b>Table C1: Consultation responses from school pupils</b>
I think it is a good idea because I won't have to travel (for) so long (to get to secondary school)
I think you should do it because it will give a better chance for children to learn Welsh
(I support the proposal) Because it gives more people the opportunity to have a school of their language close by
I think putting this new school in place is a really good idea because it gives people to experience new things and it will be quite hard to get the hang of new things
Yes for the Welsh school would be able to go to that school because there aren't many Welsh schools. Also I think Duffryn High School is too big
I think it's a good idea because it lets a new school be built out of a part of a (sic) older school and I think it will be fun
In my opinion a Welsh Secondary school in Newport would be a good idea but I am concerned about not having enough space for us all and I am worried about crossing the road to the sports field.
Yes, because it is a creative idea.
Yes, because it will give children a better chance to learn Welsh.
because Welsh speaking children would have no school to go to in the next two years because the one in Pontypool is too full.
because they already have too far to travel and spend too long on a bus.
because it's just fair!
because Duffryn have so much space anyway and there's enough room for two schools.
because Duffryn gets refurbished.
It will be good for children to have more choice for secondary education, especially for the Welsh medium children
It will be good for the children at Duffryn high because it will be easier to get from one class to the next without getting cold and wet in winter
It's a good opportunity to make new friends
More people can speak Welsh in school

Pupils from the school councils raised a number of questions and concerns which are listed below, with responses.

<b>Table C2: Questions and concerns raised by school councils, with Newport City Council's response.</b>	
<b>Comment/ Question</b>	<b>Council Response</b>
Will the schools share any of the space or facilities?	Each school will have their own facilities and playgrounds/ games areas.
Will the children from each school mix during the school day?	It is not proposed that the children of each school will mix during the school day.
Will we get along?	The school leadership teams will be responsible for ensuring that the pupils treat each other with due respect.
Is there enough space for everybody?	Yes. The new build extensions will be built to current WG specifications and there is plenty of outdoor space available.
Will the space be split equally between the schools or will one get more space than the other?	The English-medium high school will have more pupils and it will have more of the space.
How long will the new school take to build?	The new build for the English-medium school will be complete by September 2016 and the new school will be operational from that date.  The extension to the Welsh-medium school will be complete before September 2018.
Can any children choose to go to the Welsh school?	As all lessons in this school will be taught through the medium of Welsh, the school will primarily be for children who have attended Welsh-medium primary schools. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, but a level of competence in Welsh language will be necessary for admission.
Will both schools study the same subjects in the same ways?	The curriculum at the two schools will be very similar.
Will the English school be better or worse for the changes?	The English medium school will be considerably improved as a result of the changes.

<p>How will that (access) be improved to accommodate two separate schools?</p> <p>How will all the school buses manage to drop off / pick up?</p>	<p>Each school will have its' own entrance and pick up/drop off points. The design team will work with Highways department to ensure suitable access and traffic flow solutions are implemented</p>
<p>Will the development include anything that will make Duffryn high school unique?</p>	<p>There will be a new building for Duffryn with new facilities and the swimming pool will still be there.</p>
<p>What will happen to the swimming pool?</p>	<p>The pool will be retained by Duffryn High School.</p>
<p>Will we have a new canteen (at Duffryn)? Two canteens would be good.</p>	<p>Yes, a new canteen will be provided as part of the development. There will be dining facilities enough for all pupils. It is not yet known if this will be through one or two canteens.</p>
<p>Will there be new computer rooms?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be new computer rooms.</p>
<p>What will the Welsh-medium school be called?</p>	<p>This will be decided by the new head teacher and governing body, should the school go ahead.</p>
<p>I hope they fix the heating and leaks in some of the classrooms (business classrooms mentioned – very cold)</p>	<p>The head teacher is working with the design team to make the best of the money available. Other work can be undertaken from the standard maintenance budget.</p>
<p>Will we have the unisex toilets the same as in the Lower Block?</p>	<p>This request has been passed to the design team.</p>
<p>How much disruption will there be during class time?</p>	<p>The more disruptive work will be scheduled for school holidays, where appropriate, but there is likely to be some disruption from building works in school time.</p>
<p>It may be confusing getting used to the positions of the new buildings, and not being able to go to the Lower Block.</p>	<p>We think you will soon get used to the new layout, and prefer it.</p>
<p>Will the schools play sports against each other?</p>	<p>This will be a matter for the school leadership teams, but there are lots of possibilities.</p>
<p>How much will it cost?</p>	<p>The budget for the project is £17million.</p>
<p>Where is the funding coming from?</p>	<p>£8 million is being provided by Newport City Council, Half a million from Monmouthshire County Council. This is being matched by</p>

	Welsh Government to make £17million.
Will it be safe?	Safety during the building works is of paramount importance.
How will the sites be separated?	There will be a fence and some planting so that it looks nice.
Will the building works, and having another school next door be a distraction?	Having another school next door should not be, but the building work may be, for a short while.
Why do you need to separate the schools, can't it be one school?	The Welsh-medium school needs to create a Welsh-language environment for the entire school and so needs to be separate. It also makes it easier for the staff to manage.
There will be more pupils, so will you be making the school bigger?	In total, there will be additional space for approximately 900 pupils across the two sites.
Can it be done in that time?	Yes.
Will there be sports days and after school clubs etc (in the new school)?	The new school should have everything necessary to give the pupils the best possible education, including sports days and clubs.
Will there be swimming lessons for the Welsh-medium school?	This would have to be decided upon and negotiated by the new headteacher.
Will they get rid of the Graffiti? – And redecorate?	There will be some redecoration but some areas will remain as they are
Will we learn the full range of subjects?	Yes
Will there be a canteen and sports facilities?	Yes
Could we still go to Gwynllyw if we wanted to? Particularly those who have siblings in the school?	You could apply for a place but the school is forecast to be full. Also you may have to arrange your own transport to Torfaen.
What will the school uniform be?	The school uniform for the new school will be chosen by the new governing body for the school, which will include the new headteacher.
The schools could share some areas to save money	There is enough space for each school to have its' own facilities. This will avoid confusion about who can use what, and when.

How will we get there	Home to school transport will be provided in accordance with the policy of your home local authority.
Will there be enough pupils in the new school to have sports teams?	There will probably only be 80-90 children in the school in the first year, but there will still be enough for sports teams. There can then be more of these as the school grows.
Children who go to Gwynllyw all go away in year 6 to meet each other and do activities. Will children who are going to the new school be able to go, too?	The four primary schools are all keen to ensure that the good practice in place with YG Gwynllyw is replicated with the new school. Ensuring a smooth transition into the school will be the responsibility of the new head teacher, working together with the primary head teachers.

## Estyn

**Estyn** is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. Estyn is independent of, but funded by, the National Assembly for Wales. The purpose of Estyn is to inspect quality and standards in education and training in Wales.

**Estyn's response to the proposal:** It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to address the expected demand for secondary Welsh-medium education and will improve the current educational provision in the area.

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

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