

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF YGG TAN-Y-LAN FROM 1 JANUARY 2021

1. This Welsh language impact assessment has been carried out in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.
2. Implementing the proposal would increase the capacity of YGG Tan-y-lan by building a new school at Beacons View Road, Clase, Swansea. If the proposal goes ahead it will be ready for pupils to attend in January 2021. It should be noted that the Council does not need to consult on moving the school to a new location as it is within a mile of the existing site, but does need to consult on increasing the size of the school.
3. The proposal will also impact on the catchment area of YGG Tan-y-lan and a number of other Welsh-medium primary schools and by implication on both Welsh-medium secondary schools in Swansea.
4. The size of the new school building will depend on the outcome of the Council's 'Increasing Welsh Medium Provision Capital Grant' application to the Welsh Government. If successful, the new school will have a capacity of approximately 420 and an admission number of 60 ie a 2 form entry school. However, if this bid is unsuccessful the Council will build a smaller school with a capacity of 315 and an admission number of 45 ie a 1.5 form of entry school, subject to a successful business case as part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. Either option would considerably increase the number of places at the school as the school currently has a capacity of 130 and an admission number for September 2019 of 18. If the capacity of a school increases by more than 25% then the Council is required to undertake formal consultation and therefore the new build is subject to the outcome of this consultation process as well as the bids for funding and planning approval.
5. The catchment area of YGG Tan-y-lan, if relocated, will increase to encompass the Clase and Llangyfelach areas that currently feed YGG Tirdeunaw. This will affect other Welsh medium primary schools, providing a better balance of demand for, and availability of Welsh medium places. It will also indirectly affect both of the Welsh medium secondary schools in Swansea through the impact on their existing partner primary schools.
6. Consequently, there are several specific reasons why this proposal has been made on educational grounds:
 - a. YGG Tan-y-lan is currently over capacity and the school is not of sufficient size or suitability to meet the current and future demand for Welsh-medium education in the local area. Projections indicate that there is a need for more Welsh-medium school places across Swansea.

- b. A new and enlarged YGG Tan-y-lan, along with the proposed Welsh-medium catchment changes, would help to address the projected shortfall in Welsh-medium places across the county and particularly address the immediate pressures facing YGG Tan-y-lan, YGG Tirdeunaw and YGG Pontybrenin.
- c. The Council has been working on a wide-ranging school organisation programme, called Quality in Education (QEd), for some time. This proposal has been identified following much discussion with headteachers, governors and other interested parties that have been working with the Council on the QEd programme.
- d. The proposal supports the targets in the Council's approved Welsh Education Strategic Plan and would expand the Welsh language provision in Swansea.
- e. The Welsh Government also requires local authorities to promote the Welsh language, including increasing the number of school places in Welsh-medium schools, and the recently announced this is why they have introduced their Welsh-medium Capital Grant is intended to facilitate the earlier delivery of such measures.
- f. YGG Tan-y-lan is located on a constrained site in Morriston of 0.6 acres with very little outdoor space and no opportunity for expansion to provide suitable provision for learners in accordance with Building Bulletin.

7. The benefits of the relocation and enlargement of YGG Tan-y-lan are:

- a. It will provide a fit for purpose, 21st Century learning environment for existing pupils and staff at YGG Tan-y-lan in line with Building Bulletin guidance and Welsh Government cost and size standards.
- b. It will increase the number of Welsh medium primary places available in the local area.
- c. It will relieve pressures at YGG Tirdeunaw and YGG Pontybrenin, with a catchment review to further re-balance the demand for, and availability of places, and ensure future sustainability.
- d. There are potential opportunities for short to medium-term use of some of the additional capacity and facilities to support Welsh medium child care / wrap-around care / adult Welsh classes etc.
- e. The proposed new location for YGG Tan-y-lan would mean that it would be in close proximity to the M4 and major employers including the DVLA and Morriston Hospital, which are likely to generate considerable demand for Welsh-medium pre-school childcare / day care in this location.

- f. The proposed new site is still within walking distance for the majority of existing pupils.
 - g. The current school site is constrained and cannot support the facilities required to accommodate the demand for places.
 - h. The Council would benefit from the removal of a condition category C building, reduced backlog maintenance and improved building efficiency.
8. The latest Estyn Inspection rating for YGG Tan-y-lan was:

Date of Inspection	October 2015
Current Performance	Good
Prospects for Improvement	Good

9. During the consultation the following issues were raised in relation to the impact on the Welsh language in the community:

The impact survey on the Welsh language does not note the impact of moving Ysgol Tan-y-lan away from the main population centres of Morrleston, from Plasmarl to Ynystawe. This would have a negative impact. Whilst moving the school to Clase will attract pupils from another area, this move emphasises the need for a Welsh-medium school in Morrleston and this should be mentioned in the document.

Our response to these points are as follows:

Issue	Response
Impact of moving the school from its current community.	<p>The catchment changes linked to the proposal ensures that school will be at the heart of its school community. The school will embrace its wider community and work to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to play an active part in school life.</p> <p>The Council's wider Welsh in Education Strategic Plan seeks to increase the number of Welsh-medium places in Swansea significantly. As a result of proposals to reach our targets we believe that this would increase opportunities for more people to use the Welsh language and ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>The increase in Welsh-medium places will see Swansea playing its part in the Welsh Government's target of having</p>

	<p>one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the demand for Welsh-medium education and plan accordingly to meet future demand and future targets.</p>
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10. Against this background and combined with the advantages as listed above we believe that the proposal should result in a positive impact on Welsh language development in Swansea.

11. As such, the Council is satisfied that provision for Welsh language will be improved in Swansea.