

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF YGG TIRDEUNAW 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 Tirdeunaw by building a new school on land currently part of the YGG Bryn Tawe site, Heol Gwyrosydd, Penlan. If the proposal goes ahead it will be ready for pupils to attend in January 2021. It will also mean that the Flying Start will move to the new building at the same time. Note 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 Tirdeunaw and a number of other Welsh-medium primary schools and by implication both Welsh-medium secondary schools in Swansea.
4. The size of the new school building will depend on the outcome of the Council's Welsh-medium Capital Grant bid to the Welsh Government. If successful, the new school will have a capacity of approximately 525 and an Admission Number of 75 i.e. a 2.5 form entry school. However, if this bid is unsuccessful the Council will build the school with a capacity of approximately 420 and an Admission Number of 60 i.e. a 2 form entry school, subject to a successful business case as part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. The first, preferred option would increase the number of places at the school, as the school currently has a capacity of 413 and an Admission Number for September 2019 of 59. If the capacity of a school increases by more than 25% then the Council is required to undertake formal consultation and therefore the proposed new build with a capacity of 525 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 Tirdeunaw, if relocated and expanded, would increase to encompass Blaenymaes, Cadle, Clwyd, Gendros, and Portmead catchment areas currently feeding YGG Pontybrenin and would also include Brynhyfryd and Burlais catchment areas currently feeding YGG Bryn-y-mor. Clase and Llangyfelach areas would no longer feed YGG Tirdeunaw but would feed YGG Tan-y-lan instead, with a separate proposal underway to rebuild that school in the Clase area. The impact on other Welsh-medium primary schools will provide a better balance of demand and availability for places. It will also indirectly affect both of the Welsh-medium secondary school in Swansea through the impact on their existing partner primary schools.
6. The proposed catchment changes to a large extent formalise the choices already being made by parents and as such should not significantly destabilise intake numbers in future years. This is apparent from a

comparison of the number and proportion of current pupils from within current catchment areas with the number and proportion after the proposed changes to catchment areas, as well as the specific pupil distribution maps for each school, which are available. As at January 2018 47.6% of pupils came from within the current catchment area compared with 68.4% within the proposed catchment area.

7. The catchment proposals seek to maintain a careful balance between the changes and refinements that are necessary to better reflect the demand for and availability of places, and the desire to minimise unnecessary uncertainty and change for parents and schools. All existing pupils can be reassured that any changes will not affect them since changes will be phased in for new pupils. Similarly, the local authority will recognise the need to support families for siblings to attend the same school where this is requested by parents. This obligation will last until August 2021 (on assumption of a construction completion date in January 2021) as the local authority will seek to admit younger siblings transferring to the original catchment school up to the end of Year 6 for primary aged siblings and up to Year 11 (that is to the end of statutory school age) for secondary aged siblings.
8. Consequently, there are several specific reasons why this proposal has been made on educational grounds:
 - a. YGG Tirdeunaw is nearly full to 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. Pupil projections indicate that there is a need for more Welsh-medium school places across Swansea.
 - b. A new and enlarged YGG Tirdeunaw, along with the proposed Welsh-medium catchment changes, would help address the projected shortfall in Welsh-medium places across the county and particularly the immediate pressures facing YGG Tirdeunaw, YGG Tan-y-lan 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 places in Welsh-medium schools, and the recently announced 'Increasing Welsh-medium Provision Capital Grant' is intended to facilitate the earlier delivery of such measures.

- f. The school is within what was originally part of the Daniel James Community School buildings which were not designed for primary school provision and any remodel or refurbishment of the existing buildings would not be able to conform to the Building Bulletin. The mechanical and electrical provision at the site is also interconnected and so the buildings are not operating efficiently, and any attempt to remodel and refurbish the existing school premises would be expensive and complex.
9. The benefits of the relocation and enlargement of YGG Tirdeunaw are:
- a. It will provide a fit for purpose, 21st Century learning environment for existing pupils and staff at YGG Tirdeunaw in line with Building Bulletin guidance and Welsh Government cost and size standards.
 - b. It will provide opportunities for improved transition for pupils to YGG Bryn Tawe.
 - c. It will provide opportunities for the shared use of resources between YGG Tirdeunaw and YGG Bryn Tawe.
 - d. It will provide opportunities to link with the Penlan Leisure Centre, including benefiting from those facilities.
 - e. It will increase the number of Welsh-medium primary places available in the local area.
 - f. It will relieve pressures at YGG Pontybrenin with a catchment review to further re-balance the demand for, and availability of places, and ensure future sustainability.
 - g. 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.
 - h. The proposed new site is still within walking distance for the majority of existing pupils and at the heart of the existing catchment area, as apparent from pupil distribution maps.
 - i. The council would benefit from the removal of a condition category C building, reduced backlog maintenance and improved building efficiency.

10. The latest Estyn Inspection rating for YGG Tirdeunaw was:

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

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

The consultation in the Study of Impact on the Welsh language does not mention the linguistic effect of moving the school from the current community, except for mentioning the number of pupils. Due consideration is needed of the impact on the Treboeth community, and the linguistic and cultural connections.

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12. Our response to these issues 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 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>

13. 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.

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