

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS

Community Impact Assessment

On the proposal to provide additional school places to meet the future demand for Welsh Medium education by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.



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1. Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 420 place school at Barry Waterfront has been included as part of the council's 21st Century Schools programme. It is proposed that Ysgol Sant Baruc would move into this building by September 2021 to provide the required capacity.

Although the transferring of the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, this is not subject to the statutory process as the transfer would be within 1.609344 kilometres (1 mile).

2. National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017, and sets out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is one of the three key themes, and the following key transformational changes will be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision.

3. Local Policy Context.

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – ‘**Strong Communities with a bright future**’.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an ‘Aspirational Vale’ raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

The Welsh in Education Plan 2017 - 2021 sets out a direction for the development of Welsh medium and Welsh language education over the four year period, in line with the vision of Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers and Education in Wales.

4. Current Challenges

The proposal to increase capacity at Ysgol Sant Baruc would address a number of challenges.

- Ensure the Council is able to accommodate the future demand for Welsh medium education based on current trends.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school’s educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent standards and be built to an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) A rating.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

- Contributes effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

5. Community Profile

Ysgol Sant Baruc is on St Pauls Avenue, in the south west of Barry. The school shares an access road with the neighbouring High Street primary school. The school is also near the High Street shopping area.

As a result of the proposal, the school would transfer to a new school building on the Barry Waterfront development. It is anticipated that the new school building would be completed in time for the increase in pupil numbers which takes effect from September 2021.

Housing Developments

The Waterfront development is located to the south-west of Barry town centre and is positioned between the town centre and Barry Island. Approximately 1,700 dwellings will be built in total by 2022. The Barry Waterfront Development in total is projected to yield around 170 nursery, 473 primary and 422 secondary school pupils. The projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. 756 units in total have been built and occupied to date with children placed at schools serving the area.

The Barry Waterfront Development currently serves High Street and Holton Primary Schools for English medium primary provision, Ysgol Sant Baruc for Welsh medium primary provision and All Saints and St Helens primary schools for denominational education. No change to this is proposed as part of this consultation.

There are 900 houses left to be built and completed by 2022 on the Waterfront development that excludes 1 bed flats and apartments which are not considered to accommodate children. The remaining 900 houses are projected to yield a further 90 nursery, 250 primary and 223 secondary school places. Of the 250 primary age children emanating from the Waterfront development in Barry, 47 (19%) would require Welsh medium provision based on current demand in the area.

6. Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the project. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the consultation response report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
C11	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
C12	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
C13	Community facilities used regularly by the school
C14	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
C15	Impact on local businesses
C16	Impact on local employment
C17	Impact on local infrastructure
C18	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement

6. Impacts on the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	<p>Recent housing developments have resulted in increased pupil numbers in the south west of Barry. Projections indicate that Ysgol Sant Baruc would not be able to meet demand from September 2021. Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc by September 2021 would result in the school being able to accommodate the projected demand from within the catchment area.</p> <p>There are a number of local English medium primary schools with capacity. There is also the opportunity to increase a number of English medium primary schools if additional places are required.</p> <p>However, there has been a trend towards increasing pupil numbers in Welsh medium education. This has been evident in Llantwit Major with the opening of Ygol Dewi Sant. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained just 3 pupils. Just 7 years later, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.</p> <p>All catchment and feeder arrangement in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review and a widespread review is scheduled to take place during the academic year 2018/19. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.</p>

CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>Ysgol Sant Baruc currently offers a breakfast club and a privately run after school club.</p> <p>The breakfast club is available from 7.40am to 9am.</p> <p>The after school club is available from 3.20pm and 5pm.</p> <p>The breakfast club has been running for 2 years following adaptations to the building allowing for a small serving hatch. The after school club started from September 2018. Both clubs are popular with parents.</p> <p>Ysgol Sant Baruc also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include cross-country, rugby and weekly sessions in partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru.</p> <p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal was to go ahead. The proposal would result in increased pupil numbers which is likely to result in increased demand for school services, as well as providing the opportunity to expand the number of services offered.</p> <p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the 21st Century Schools Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p>
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CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>Ysgol Sant Baruc currently uses a number of external facilities due to the limitations with the existing site.</p> <p>High Street Primary School share dining facilities with Ysgol Sant Baruc. Pupils are escorted from Ysgol Sant Baruc to High Street every lunch time. This results in limited time for pupils to finish their lunch. This has been raised by Estyn.</p> <p>Parc Porthceri is utilised by the school for cross country running due to limited outdoor space.</p> <p>Ysgol Sant Curig is currently used for sport as the existing site does not have a field and limited outside space.</p> <p>Trinity Church Hall is also used for concerts due to the limited hall size in the existing building.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity of the school and moving it into a new building would result in the school no longer having to use High Street Primary, Ysgol Sant Curig and Trinity Church Hall. The new school would have improved facilities including sport, performance and dining. This could be accessed by the community.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>Ysgol Sant Baruc does not currently offer any lettings or facilities for community use. This is due to the limitations with the existing school site.</p> <p>A key aim of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local</p>

			<p>community.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance the facilities available.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and moving the school to a new building would result in improved facilities for the community to use.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	<p>The school is near a number of businesses, particularly those on High Street, a major shopping area in Barry.</p> <p>The school does not have close links or support any local businesses.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	3	<p>All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.</p> <p>As the school would be increasing from 210 places to 420 places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>Access to Ysgol Sant Baruc is limited as it shares an access road with High Street Primary School. The access road is a dead end road and has limited on road parking. The school does not have a car park.</p>

			<p>Increasing the capacity and transferring the school to the new building would ease congestion around the existing site. The new site has been designed to accommodate a school.</p> <p>Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school.¹</p> <p><i>“This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route.”²</i></p> <p>Any pupil attending Ysgol Sant Baruc on the date of transfer to the new site who lives more than 2 miles from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport</p>

¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

7. Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	1
CI2	2
CI3	1
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	3
CI7	3
CI8	0
Average Score	1.625

8. Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential.

The proposal would maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The proposal would provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places at Ysgol Sant Baruc would better meet the needs of the wider community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.