

Background

In 2017, we identified a need to increase the number of secondary school places as part of the Council's 21st Century, Band B Schools Programme and the need to improve school buildings.

This booklet contains summarised information about proposals to provide more school places at Cathays High School and to replace the existing Cathays High School buildings.

This is your chance to ask questions and make comments. We want to know your views because this helps us to make sure any proposal that goes forward really works for children, young people and the community local to Cathays High School.

What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing to:

- Increase the capacity of Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places), from September 2023
- Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new buildings on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road
- Increase the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) places for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places
- Improve community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa by making the new school facilities available for shared use with the wider local community
- Continue to provide space for the local community to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use

Where can I find more information?

- Full details can be found in the Consultation Document here: www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals
- If you are unable to access the document on-line, printed copies of this consultation document will be available by post on request. You may request a copy by telephoning **02920 872720**.
- We have organised online meetings that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you. You can also ask us questions. If you would like to attend an online meeting please contact us by e-mailing schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk and tell us which meeting you would like to attend. We will then provide a link and instructions for attending the meeting.

The dates of the public consultation meetings are set out below:

Table 1: Consultation Meeting Dates

Nature of Consultation	Date/Time
Online public meeting	Wednesday 24 February 2021 5:30pm – 7pm
Online public meeting	Monday 01 March 2021 2pm – 3:30pm

Separate meetings have been arranged for staff and governors and details of these can be found in the consultation document at:

www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals

How can I give my views?

- You can attend one of the meetings
- You can provide your views at www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals
- You can fill in the response form on pages 9 and 10 of this booklet.

Why are we proposing these changes?

School places - All councils in Wales must provide enough school places for pupils of all ages. School places must meet the needs of all pupils and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

Condition & Suitability - School facilities must be fit for purpose. Schools must support the delivery of high quality learning.

What is the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a major, long-term investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. It aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

The first part of the Programme (Band A) ran until March 2019.

The second part of this funding (Band B) started in April 2019. As part of this, Cardiff Council is planning an investment programme of around £284million.

Why are more places needed?

Community Secondary School Places

Over the last five years, the number of pupils entering secondary school (Year 7) in Cardiff has increased. Projections suggest that:

- the number of pupils entering Year 7 in English-medium community schools will continue to rise, and
- there will be more pupils than the number of places currently available until at least September 2023

By September 2024 the overall demand for places from pupils living in existing housing may fall. However, there are several new housing sites planned across the city. As a result, we expect that there will continue to be more pupils than the number of places currently available in our schools beyond 2024.

The areas with the greatest projected shortfall of places are in the central area of the city. Cathays High School is located centrally in Cardiff. Therefore, it is in a good position to take children from surrounding catchment areas as well as its own.

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)

Places for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition are offered in mainstream schools as supported placements, in Specialist Resource Bases or special schools. Most children with this condition do not require a special school place in order to learn and thrive.

There are Specialist Resource Bases in a number of secondary schools and primary schools in Cardiff.

Many young people successfully attend a local mainstream school and have additional specialist support provided by a Specialist Resource Base in that school.

It is expected that demand for places will continue to grow over the next 5-10 years. This is because of a growing population and better diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition.

Why expand and replace Cathays High School?

The Council's forecasts suggest that rebuilding Cathays High School with 240 places in each year group would provide enough places to serve the existing Cathays High School catchment area.

Current data shows a secondary school with three forms of entry (90 places per year group) would have enough places for the existing Cathays High School catchment area.

There are currently no large planned housing developments within, or close to, the Cathays High School catchment area. However, there are planned housing developments in the south of the city. This will significantly increase pupil numbers in neighbouring school catchment areas.

Cathays High School is well placed to meet excess demand for places from other catchment areas. Expanding Cathays High School would increase places to serve the central areas of Cardiff.

A new Cathays High School with 240 places in each year group would

- create an efficient class organisation
- provide sufficient capacity for local children expected to want an English-medium community high school place, and
- contribute some additional places to meet the projected demand from the wider area.

Specialist Resource Base (SRB)

The Specialist Resource Base for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) at Cathays High School supports up to 16 pupils aged 11-18. It is proposed to retain the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Cathays High School as part of the future school.

The number of places would also be increased from 16 to 50 places. This would ensure continued provision for current and future pupils.

Post 16 provision

As part of the expansion of Cathays High School, it is proposed to increase post 16 (sixth form) provision from 247 places to 250 places. This is consistent with the average proportion of learners continuing on to sixth form provision in English-medium schools across the city.

This would give pupils access to a broader curriculum and increased opportunities for all learners. The improved facilities will allow the school to offer a bespoke curriculum, working with industries, colleges and work-based learning providers. Pupils would have access to both academic and vocational learning.

Community Facilities

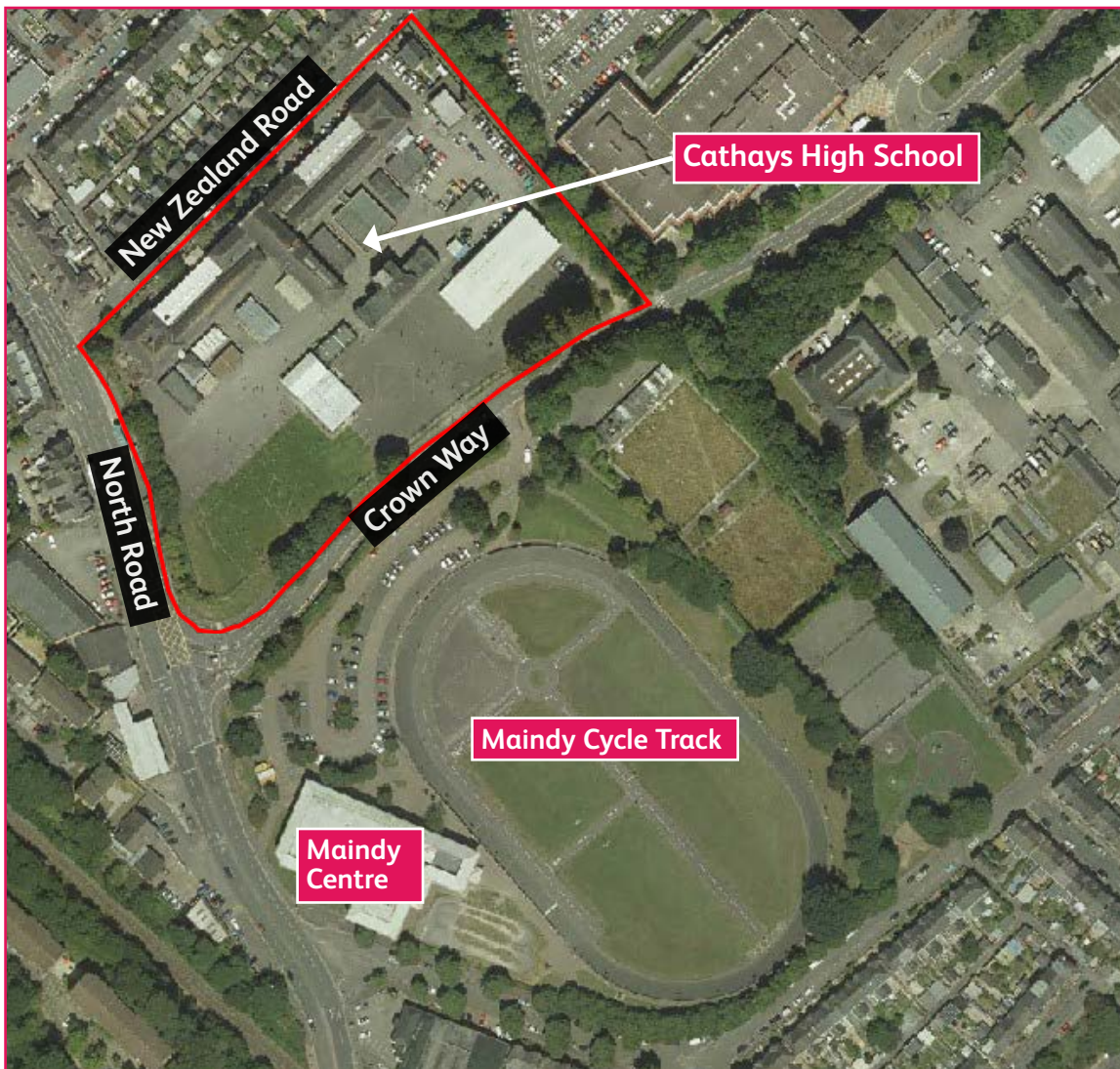
The new school building would still be close to the Maindy Centre. Currently, the Maindy Centre includes the indoor leisure centre and pool, the Maindy Cycle and BMX track, and outdoor football pitches.

The Maindy cycle track has been home to the Maindy Flyers Cycling Club since 1995. The club has approximately 200 members aged 5 to 18 years old. Cardiff's Road Safety Centre, providing adult and child cycle training, is also located at the Maindy site.

The cycle club has outgrown the facility and the track requires investment. The proposed redevelopment of Cathays High School provides an opportunity for a new track facility. A new track facility located in the heart of Cardiff Bay at the International Sports Village is to be brought forward in early 2021.

There would be improved community facilities located on the new Cathays High School site. The facilities would be available for use by all. Together this would create a hub for sports that would also be of benefit to the community.

Site map



Condition & Suitability

All school properties in Cardiff have been assessed for the condition of their buildings. All have been rated from A to D, with schools rated D in the poorest condition. This process helps us to prioritise which schools need improvements to their buildings and which need investment.

Cathays High School is rated as a “C” category for condition. This means the buildings are poor condition with major defects. The poor state of the buildings makes it hard for staff to deliver the curriculum. The school buildings have also been rated as C (Poor) for their suitability for teaching and learning. Much of the accommodation at Cathays is in demountable buildings.

Further details on the ratings can be found in the consultation document at:

www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals

Quality and Standards

Every school in Wales is inspected by Estyn.

Estyn ensures that schools are providing a good quality of education to their pupils and that all children, are supported to learn by excellent teaching and learning staff.

Schools are, also placed in one of the four colour-coded support categories (green, yellow, amber and red) as part of the Welsh Government’s National School Categorisation System. Amber and Red schools are those that require the most support.

Details of standards at Cathays High School as set out in the school’s Estyn report are outlined in the table below:

School	Inspection Date	Standards	Prospects for Improvement
Cathays High School	Feb 2013	Good	Good

The most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation in January 2020, categorised Cathays High School as Green.

This means Cathays High School:

- is a well run school with strong leadership
- is clear about priorities for improvement
- has a track record in raising standards
- has the capacity to support other schools

Further details on quality and standards can be found in the consultation document at:

www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals

How would support for pupils be affected?

The school would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil.

There is no information to suggest that the need of any of the below groups would be negatively affected by the proposed changes:

- pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- pupils with English as an Additional Language
- pupils receiving Free School Meals
- Minority Ethnic pupils

Benefits of the proposal

- An increase in the number of English-medium secondary school places to help meet projected demand.
- An increase in the number of SRB places for learners aged 11-19 with an Autistic Spectrum Condition.
- School buildings in very poor condition would be removed.
- New build schools provide high quality facilities, which improve learning choices and opportunities for pupils. The Cardiff 2030 vision sets out the need to provide high quality school places. High quality learning environments have a strong impact on improving pupil outcomes.
- The new building would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- Improved outdoor sports facilities would provide enhanced opportunities for both pupil and community use.

Potential disadvantages of the proposal

- There is potential for increased traffic congestion around the school site at the start and end of the school day. However, the Council would work with the Governing Body of the school to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption.
- Some pupils with ALN can find change difficult. They may find moving to a new building on a new site unsettling. We know they would need carefully planned support to adapt to the new setting. However, there would be sufficient time to plan and support such a transition.

Risks associated with the proposal

- There is a risk that the projected increase in the number of pupils does not happen. However, based on the number of pupils in primary schools in Cardiff and proposed new housing in a number of areas of Cardiff this appears unlikely. The Council will keep its projections under review and would respond to any such changes in demand if required.
- There may be development constraints that have not yet been identified. If any became apparent, there could be higher costs and/ or delays. Site surveys and geo-technical reports would take place to provide further information.
- The proposal may not be possible if the bid for Welsh Government funding is not successful.
- If the Council did not get the funding required from the Welsh Government then the Council would be fully responsible for all costs relating to the proposal. In this case, investment options would need to be reviewed.

How would staff be affected?

The Council has worked with Headteachers, Governors, unions and others to produce a Human Resources SOP Framework that is used when schools are reorganised. As part of this the Council provides direct advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies and members of staff in each of the schools affected throughout the process.

There is a proposed increase in pupil numbers at Cathays High School. This would require the Governing Body of Cathays High School to consider their staffing requirements to meet this increase.

Any vacancies that arise should be considered as redeployment opportunities for staff on the school redeployment register. In addition, full consultation with staff and trade union colleagues would be needed to ensure there is a smooth transition into the new school building.

The Governing Body and the school's leadership team would also need to consider whether any staffing changes are required to support the use of school premises by the wider community. HR People Services will provide this advice and support as necessary.

What happens next?

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet. This will help the elected members understand stakeholders' views and will give them information to help make their decision.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the changes it must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. The statutory notice sets out the details of the proposals and asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council within the dates given on the notice.

The Cabinet may decide to approve or reject the proposal, or they may approve the proposal with some changes (modifications). The Cabinet would take any objections received in the Objection Period into account when making their decision.

Once a decision is made, we will let everyone affected by the proposal know. The decision will also be published on the Council's website.

If these proposals were agreed, when would the new school buildings open?

It is intended that building work would start in the 2023/24 school year and be completed for pupils to use all new facilities in the 2025/26 school year.

Have Your Say!

You can complete this response form online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals

We are proposing to:

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- Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new buildings on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;
- Increase the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) places for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places
- Improve community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa by making the new school facilities available for shared use with the wider local community;
- Continue to provide space for the local community to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use

1. Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent or Guardian* | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Staff* | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor* | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

Please confirm which schools you are affiliated with

2. Do you support the proposal to increase the number of places at Cathays High School from 1,072 to 1,450?

Yes No No opinion

Please explain why

3. Do you support the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building, with upgraded community facilities?

Yes No No opinion

Please explain why

4. Do you agree that the number of places in the Specialist Resource Base at Cathays High School should increase from 16 places to 50 places?

Yes

No

No opinion

Please explain why

5. Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

6. Are there any alternatives options you would like to suggest?

7. Do you have any other comments?

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 19 March 2021.

The Council is not able to consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Consultation responses will **not** be counted as objections to the proposal.

Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the Consultation report please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date

Thank you for your comments

Please return this form to the School Organisation Planning Team, Room 401, County Hall, CF10 4UW by no later than 19 March 2021.

The information you have provided above will be processed by Cardiff Council in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation. The information provided to us in relation to this consultation will be treated as confidential but it may be used by the Council or disclosed to others when required by law. The purpose of processing the personal data is required to perform a specific tasks in the public interest. Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public, however any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

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