

21st Century Schools Summary Document 2018

CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE LLANRUMNEY AREA

10 September – 22 October 2018



This summary document can be made available in Braille
This is not the Consultation Document. The Consultation Document
is available at: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ glanyrafonschool](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/glanyrafonschool)



English-Medium Primary School Places in the Llanrumney Area

Cardiff Council is suggesting changes to primary school places in Llanrumney.

In the Llanrumney area there is a much greater number of places in primary schools than pupils who wish to attend those schools. This has been the case for a number of years. Even though the number of children living in Llanrumney has increased, there are still many more places than are needed.

The Council is therefore proposing to remove some of the surplus (empty) school places in schools in Llanrumney.

What are we proposing to do?

- Close Glan yr Afon Primary School from 31 August 2019

How can I find out more?

This document gives a summary of the changes we are suggesting. It explains the reasons for the proposal and what would happen if the decision were made to close.

Where can I find more information?

Full details can be found in the Consultation Document here:
www.cardiff.gov.uk/glanyrafonschool

We have organised a public meeting and drop-in sessions that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you and for you to ask us questions. These are listed below:

Type of Consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Drop in session for Glan Yr Afon parents	To be arranged with school	Glan Yr Afon Primary School
Drop in session for all parents	Wednesday 19 September 10.00am - 12.00	Llanrumney Hub, Countisbury Av
Staff Meeting	To be arranged with school	Glan Yr Afon Primary School
Governing Body meeting	To be arranged with school	Glan Yr Afon Primary School
Public Meeting	Thursday 4th October 5.30pm – 7.00 pm	The John Reynolds Centre, Shaw Close
Drop in session for Glan Yr Afon parents	To be arranged with school	Glan Yr Afon Primary School
Admissions advice session for Glan Yr Afon parents	To be arranged with school	Glan Yr Afon Primary School

How can I give my views?

You can provide your views at www.cardiff.gov.uk/glanyrafonschool

A response form for you to provide your views is also enclosed on pages 7 and 8.

What does primary education look like in Llanrumney now?

Primary school places in the Llanrumney area are currently provided at several schools.

- There are three English-medium community primary schools in Llanrumney: - Bryn Hafod Primary, Glan yr Afon Primary and Pen y Bryn Primary.
- There are two voluntary aided faith schools, St Mellon's Church in Wales Primary School and St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School that also serve the area.
- Welsh-medium education is available at Ysgol Bro Eirwg and Ysgol Pen y Pil, which serve parts of Llanrumney, Rumney, Trowbridge and Old St Mellons.

Of the 1,342 places available in these schools 1,073 are taken up and 269 are unfilled.

Will pupil numbers in Llanrumney increase?

There is no big growth in pupil numbers expected in the area from within the current local population.

Several new housing sites are being built in Llanrumney. However, the total increase in pupils from the known sites would be fewer than four in each year group. This is not expected to have much effect on the number of pupils needing places at primary schools in Llanrumney.

Why are we proposing to close Glan Yr Afon and not the other English-medium primary schools?

The aim of the proposed change is to reduce the number of unfilled English-medium primary places in the Llanrumney area. There are a number of reasons why the proposal to close Glan Yr Afon Primary School has been recommended as the best way to achieve this.

The number of families choosing to take up place at Glan Yr Afon Primary School is low in all year groups. Most of the families that live in the catchment area request places at other schools. This has been happening for a number of years.

There were 151 pupils at the school during the 2018 spring term (Reception – Year 6). There were 141 spare places at the school. Almost half (48%) of the spaces were unfilled.

Much of the funding schools receive is based on the number of pupils they have. The low number of pupils at Glan Yr Afon Primary School means the school gets less funding to provide education than a school with more pupils and they are unable to pay for unforeseen issues such as problems with the condition of the building.

The school has a deficit budget of £130,000 for 2018/19. This means that the school plans to spend £130,000 more than it has. Small schools find it very difficult to recover from a deficit of this size.

It is unlikely that the number of pupils at the school will increase greatly and there are still spare places in other schools in the Llanrumney area.

Condition and Suitability

The condition of the Glan Yr Afon Primary School building is poor. The suitability of the building has also been assessed as poor. With low pupil numbers it is likely the school will continue to have financial problems. The school would then find it difficult to manage the school building issues.

Admission Arrangements and transfer of Glan Yr Afon pupils

If Glan yr Afon Primary School is closed, demand for English-medium primary school places in the area could be met in other ways.

The Governing Body of St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School is also deciding how to use the space in the school in the future. Changing the use of existing rooms at St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School could create more places

They may decide to increase the number of places in each year group from 45 to 60. It is up to the school to decide whether to increase school places. If they did decide to increase the number of places they would have to consult on this with parents at the school and others.

If Glan-yr-Afon Primary School closed in August 2019, pupils in the school at that time would need to transfer to places at other schools.

In 2017-18 there were 113 pupils enrolled in the Reception – Year 4 classes at Glan Yr Afon Primary School. If the school closed and St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School also increased their places, there would be 156 places available in the schools in Llanrumney.

Pupils from Glan Yr Afon Primary School could move to other schools in Llanrumney. They could also access places in schools outside the area if preferred. Alternative options are available locally if St Cadoc's Primary School decided not to consult on increasing its places.

If Glan yr Afon Primary School were to close, Admissions Officers would work with parents to provide details on available places and information on schools so that families could make a well informed decision about their child's transfer.

More information about admission arrangements is in the Council's Admission to Schools booklet at www.cardiff.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Nursery Places

There are enough nursery places in other Llanrumney schools, and it is possible to increase places in some schools if required.

How would secondary school places be affected?

The proposal would have no impact on secondary school places.

Wellbeing Class and Flying Start

There are Flying Start facilities and a Wellbeing Class and Flying Start Facilities at Glan yr Afon Primary School. If the school closed the Council would make arrangements to move the Flying Start provision and it would stay in the local area.

The Wellbeing Class serves children from across Cardiff, children attend this class for a maximum of 6 months before returning to their usual school. The Council is planning to open more classes in other schools.

Quality and Standards

Every school in Wales is inspected by Estyn to ensure that they are providing a good quality of education to their pupils and 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 a serious cause for concern and require the most support.

Standards of schools in the Llanrumney area are set out in the table below. The table also indicates Estyn's assessment of each school's prospects of improvement. The colours used show the most recent categorisation using the Welsh Government's Categorisation in January 2018.

School	Inspection Date	Standards	Prospects for Improvement	Language medium and Category of School
Bryn Hafod	Nov 2015	Adequate - required monitoring	Adequate	Removed from monitoring March 2017
Glan Yr Afon	Jan 2015	Adequate - required monitoring	Good	Removed from monitoring July 2018
Pen Y Bryn	Jul 2018	Good	Good	
St Cadocs	Jan 2017	Good	Good	
St Mellons	Oct 2016	Good	Good	
Ysgol Bro Eirwg	Jan 2016	Good	Good	
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	May 2012	Good	Good	

How would support for Glan Yr Afon pupils be affected?

All schools in Cardiff would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil.

There is no information to suggest that the needs of any of the below groups of pupils would be negatively affected:

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

What are the benefits of the proposal?

- A better match between the number of pupils and school places in Llanrumney.
- One less school site and building to maintain would mean that more of the funding for schools could be used for teaching and learning.
- The Council believes the proposal would improve standards, or at least keep the current standards of education the same
- More chances for children to learn with others of the same age
- Larger schools have more staff and could better share their workload
- Money saved could be invested in school buildings and facilities.

What are the possible disadvantages of the proposal?

- Pupils at Glan yr Afon Primary School have to move to other schools. However the quality of teaching and learning at other schools in the area has been judged to be of an equal or higher standard.
- The proposal would reduce the number of school places available in the area. However more of the funding available could be used for teaching and learning.
- Some pupils would have to travel further to school.

Risks associated with the proposal

- If St Cadoc's Primary School decides not to increase the number of places at the school from 45 to 60 the Council would need to look at other changes to schools.
- The Council could consult on changes to catchment areas and school capacities at a later date. This would be across a wider area including Llanrumney, Old St Mellons, Rumney and Trowbridge. This would still mean that there are enough places in each area for the pupils to attend a nearby school.

Why can't the closure be phased over a longer time?

The Council thinks that a phased closure is more of a risk to the teaching and learning at the school than a full closure in August 2019. A phased closure would cause a number of difficulties:

- Fewer pupils would mean that the Governing Body would get less funding.
- The school would therefore need to reduce the number of staff every year.
- A smaller school may have difficulties in retaining the best staff and attracting new staff.
- Less funding would make it difficult to improve the learning environment.

Teaching and learning at other schools in the area has been judged to be of a better or similar standard at present.

How would Glan Yr Afon staff be affected?

The Council has worked with Headteachers, Governors, unions and others to produce a Human Resources SOP Framework

This supports governing bodies and staff working in schools through a variety of strategies. It aims to minimise compulsory redundancies across schools in Cardiff.

Most schools in Cardiff have adopted a School Redeployment and Redundancy policy. Where possible, the Council aims to redeploy staff to other roles rather than staff leave their role through voluntary or forced means.

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.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the changes it must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. This is an official statement saying that the changes will go ahead.

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.

Where can I find more information?

Full details of the proposal can be found at www.cardiff.gov.uk/glanyrafonschool.

Have Your Say!

What is proposed?

The Council is proposing to close Glan Yr Afon Primary School from 31st August 2019

- There are not enough pupils attending the school. Glan yr Afon currently has 141 spaces free – almost half of all spaces.
- Fewer spaces means less funding for the school. The school currently has a deficit budget of £130,000. It is extremely unlikely that this situation will change.
- The school building is in need of major repair and provides poor suitability for purpose.
- Spaces are available to accommodate existing pupils across other schools in the local area. The quality of the education and buildings at these schools is of a higher or equal standard.

1. Are you responding as: Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of a child at Glan yr Afon | <input type="checkbox"/> School Employee (Which school?) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of a child at another primary school (which school?) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil (Which School) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Governor (which school?) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested Member of the Public |

2. Do you understand the reasons for the proposal to close Glan yr Afon Primary?

Yes No

3. Which of the following do you believe are most important when choosing a primary school for your child/ren? (Tick 3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size of the school | <input type="checkbox"/> Proximity to home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Siblings already in the school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of school buildings and resources | <input type="checkbox"/> I / family members went to the school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please tell us) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational attainment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good reputation | |
- _____
- _____



4. How many children do you have at primary school?

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

5. Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes Yes, if certain concerns can be addressed No

What are your concerns and how can they be addressed?
Please give your reasons and suggest alternatives

6. Please let us have any additional comments or views regarding the proposal. Please tell us why you feel this way

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

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 School Organisation Planning, Room 422, County Hall, CF10 4UW by no later than 22 October 2018.

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.

For further information on how Cardiff Council manages personal information, see our full Privacy Policy on the Council's website https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx