

EDUCATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY CAERDYDD 2024 - 2033

EASY READ DOCUMENT

Proposals to Establish more Specialist School Places for Learners with Complex Learning Needs

9 FEBRUARY - 26 MARCH 2026



What are the proposed changes about?

Cardiff Council wants to increase the number of specialist places for children and young people aged 3–19 who have Complex Learning Needs (CLN).

Complex Learning Needs include difficulties with learning, communication, physical or sensory needs, and other conditions that mean children and young people need more support in school.

What does the Council want to do?

The Council wants to:

Establish New Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) at:

- **Adamsdown Primary School** – create a 10 place Complex Learning Needs Specialist Resource Base from January 2027
- **Pencaerau Primary School** – create a 20 place Complex Learning Needs Specialist Resource Base from January 2027
- **Peter Lea Primary School** – create a 20 place Complex Learning Needs Specialist Resource base from January 2027

Increase the number of places in Special Schools

- **Meadowbank Special School** – increase the number of places at the school from 98 to 110 places from January 2027
- **Tŷ Gwyn Special School** – increase the number of places at the school from 240 to 300 places from January 2027, then to 320 places when the school moves to a new building at Tŷ Glas in September 2030
- **Woodlands High School** – increase the number of places at the school from 240 to 300 places from January 2027, then to 360 in September 2032. Learners attending the school would be accommodated across two sites (the existing school site at Vincent Road and the Fairwater Campus site)

You can find full details of these proposals in the consultation document at [Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) provisions](#)

Why are these changes needed?

- The number of children with Complex Learning Needs in Cardiff has grown
- There are not enough specialist places in Cardiff schools
- Some children have to go to schools outside Cardiff, which can mean long journeys and cost the Council lots of money
- More local places will help children stay closer to home and be part of their community
- Cardiff wants to make sure all children get the right support, in the right school, at the right time

What is a Specialist Resource Base?

A Specialist Resource Base is:

- A small specialist class in a mainstream school
- Led by trained teachers and staff
- A place where learners can get extra help, while still being part of a mainstream school community
- A safe, supportive space with small groups, higher staffing levels, and access to therapies

What is a Special School?

Special schools:

- Support children with the highest levels of need
- Have small classes and specialist staff
- Provide therapies, sensory rooms, adapted equipment and personalised learning
- Help pupils develop important life and independence skills

Benefits of the proposals

- More children will get the specialist support they need within Cardiff
- Fewer children will have to travel longer distances
- The Council can spend less on expensive independent placements
- It makes use of spare spaces in school buildings
- Families can feel more confident their children are learning in the best place for them

Possible disadvantages

- There could be more school traffic at drop-off and pick up times
- Moving to a new school building (such as at Tŷ Glas) can feel worrying for some pupils
- Building work may cause some disruption, but the Council will work to keep this to a minimum

Support for children

All learners in Specialist Resource Bases or special schools have an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Schools will continue to support all learners with:

- Additional Learning Needs
- English as an Additional Language
- Known to be eligible for Free School Meals
- Minority Ethnic backgrounds

There is no evidence that the proposals will negatively affect these learners.

Travel to school

- The Council will continue to provide free school transport for learners who qualify
- More local places could mean shorter journeys for some children
- All school sites will have safe drop-off and pick up areas

School Staff

- Mainstream schools would have fewer pupils and need fewer staff
- Jobs will be created in the new specialist provision
- There will be opportunities for existing staff to take on new roles

How to have your say

The Council wants to know what you think.

You can give your views by:

- Attending an in-person drop-in session. You do not need to pre-book for these sessions. Just attend the venue at the date and time specified
- Attending an online drop-in session. Please contact us via e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk confirming which session you would like to attend, and we will provide a link and instructions on how you can access the meeting
- Attending the in-person public meeting. Please contact us via e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk and we will reply to confirm arrangements
- Filling in the online form (link in the full document).
- Email: schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk
- Writing to: School Organisation Planning, Room 463, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW

The dates of the drop-in sessions and the public meeting are below

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Drop-in session	Thursday 19 February 2026 9:30am - 11:30am	Llanishen Hub
Drop-in session	Friday 27 February 2026 10:30am -12:30pm	Ely and Caerau Hub
Drop-in session	Friday 6 March 2026 11:30am - 1:30pm	Star Hub
Drop-in session	Monday 9 March 2026 12 noon - 2pm	Loudon Culture and Media Centre
Drop-in session	Wednesday 18 March 2026 11am - 1pm	St Mellons Hub
On-line drop-in session	Wednesday 18 February 2026 12 noon - 1pm	Teams
On-line drop-in session	Monday 23 February 2026 1pm - 2pm	Teams
On-line drop-in session	Tuesday 24 February 2026 2pm - 3pm	Teams
On-line drop-in session	Monday 2 March 2026 5pm - 6pm	Teams
On-line drop-in session	Friday 13 March 2026 12:30pm - 1:30pm	Teams
Public meeting (in person)	Thursday 19 March 2026 5:30pm - 6:30pm	Central Library

The consultation runs from 09 February to 26 March 2026

Responses received after this date cannot be considered.

What happens next

- After the consultation ends, a report will go to the Council Cabinet.
- If agreed, Statutory Notices will be published so people can make formal objections.
- A final decision will be made in September 2026.