

## CARDIFF COUNCIL

### SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

#### ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS PROVISION

#### Tŷ GWYN SPECIAL SCHOOL

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** in accordance with Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, that Cardiff Council (herein after “the Authority”), having consulted such persons as appeared to them to be appropriate, propose to alter Tŷ Gwyn Special School, Vincent Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5AQ as follows:

- Increase the capacity of Tŷ Gwyn Special School from 240 places to 300.
- The school would be accommodated across two sites including the existing Tŷ Gwyn buildings and the vacated accommodation at Riverbank Special School from January 2027.
- The expanded school would transfer to new build accommodation on the Tŷ Glas site in Llanishen with a further increase in capacity to 320 places from September 2030.

It is proposed to implement the proposal from January 2027.

The school is currently maintained by Cardiff Council.

The Authority undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees and the Authority’s responses and the views of Estyn on the proposed change is available to view at:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 28th May, 2026, 2.00 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

The current school capacity is 240 places for children aged 3-19. The current number of pupils at the school is 251.

There are no plans to change the Council’s policy on the admission of children to schools as a result of these proposals.

Admissions to the school would be managed by the local authority and be subject to an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Any arrangements for the transport of pupils will be made in accordance with the Authority’s existing policies on school transport.

Within a period of 28 days of the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 13 July 2026, any person may object to these proposals.

Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff Council, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW.

Objections may also be sent to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff Council using the following e-mail address: [SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk)

Please note that any such objection must contain the full name and postal address of the objector.

The Authority will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, before the end of 7 days beginning with the day the proposal is determined.

Dated 16 June 2026

Signed: Debbie Marles  
Director of Governance and Legal Services

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This does not form part of the Notice but is intended to explain its general meanings)

Tŷ Gwyn is a special school located at Vincent Road in Caerau. The school admits pupils from across Cardiff.

The school is designated to provide 240 places for learners aged 3-19 with profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties, autism, and complex medical needs. The number of pupils at the school is 251 with the additional children being accommodated within the existing accommodation.

The school offers specialist facilities such as hydrotherapy pools, sensory rooms, and therapy spaces, supported by multidisciplinary teams. The school provides highly specialised provision unavailable elsewhere in Cardiff. Very few places of this type of provision exist within the independent sector in Cardiff and surrounding areas.

It was expanded from 198 to 240 places in 2022 and has been part of the Western Learning Federation with Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High

School since January 2018. Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are also currently located at Vincent Road, on adjacent sites, but each will transfer to new build accommodation at the Fairwater Community Campus in 2026.

Surveys undertaken in 2024 and 2025 have identified structural issues with the Tŷ Gwyn Special School buildings. Further investigations are underway to assess the nature of the concerns, however there are no immediate Health and Safety concerns. Whilst some learners could be provided for at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School, there is not sufficient capacity overall long term. The permanent accommodation for Tŷ Gwyn Special School requires specialist facilities and capacity for further expansion. The Council is therefore proposing that a new build replacement Tŷ Gwyn Special School is developed at the earliest opportunity.

To meet the demand for specialist provision and to accommodate the Tŷ Gwyn learners it is proposed to increase the capacity from 240 to 300 from January 2027. The expanded school would transfer to new build accommodation on the Tŷ Glas site in Llanishen with a further increase in capacity to 320 places from September 2030.

In addition to the proposal for Tŷ Gwyn, the proposed expansions of Meadowbank Special School, which provides Complex Learning Needs places for primary aged pupils and Woodlands High School which provides Complex Learning Needs places for secondary aged pupils are being progressed. Proposals to establish Complex Learning Needs specialist resource base provision for primary age pupils at Adamsdown Primary School, Pencaerau Primary School and Peter Lea Primary School are also being progressed.

In relation to Autism/Social Communication Needs, proposals to establish specialist resource base provision for primary age pupils at Hywel Dda Primary School, Radnor Primary School and Welsh-medium specialist resource base provision at Ysgol Glan Morfa are being progressed. For secondary age pupils, proposals to establish a specialist resource base at Fitzalan High School and Welsh-medium specialist resource base provision at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder are being progressed.

In relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs, proposals to establish a Welsh-medium specialist resource base at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and to increase the designated number of places at specialist resource base provision for primary age pupils at Baden Powell Primary School and Fairwater Primary School are being progressed. The proposed expansion of Greenhill Special School, which

provides Emotional Health and Wellbeing places for secondary aged pupils is also being progressed.



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Details of these proposals and copies of the statutory notices can be found at:  
[Proposals and Consultations \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](http://cardiff.gov.uk)