

CARDIFF COUNCIL

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS PROVISION

WOODLANDS HIGH 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 Woodlands High School, Vincent Road, Caerau, Cardiff, CF5 5AQ as follows:

- Increase the capacity of Woodlands High School from 240 places to 300 places.
- The school would be accommodated across two sites including the Fairwater Campus site and the existing Vincent Road campus site. The capacity of the school would be further increased to 360 places from September 2032 upon completion of new build accommodation at the Vincent Road campus site.

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 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/agenda/cabinet/2026/05/28/2026-05-28-2000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000-0000)

The current school capacity is 180 places for children aged 11-19. The capacity will increase to 240 places when works are completed on new build accommodation and the school transfers to its new site on the Fairwater Community Campus site in September 2026. The current number of pupils at the school is 182.

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

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)

Woodlands High School is a special school located at Vincent Road in Caerau. The school admits pupils from across Cardiff.

The school is designated to provide 180 places for learners aged 11-19 with complex learning needs and/ or autism.

The Council consulted in February/March 2019 on a proposal to increase the capacity of the school from 140 places to 240 places from September 2023, by relocating the school into new larger purpose-built facilities on the Cantonian High School site. The proposal was determined by the Welsh Government Minister for Education in July 2020. The proposal as agreed by the Welsh Ministers was determined for implementation in September 2023. However, the Covid 19 pandemic, along with operational issues and the need to optimise the site layout and building design for learners, significantly delayed the progression of the proposals and the planned works. In order to ensure the provision of sufficient suitable places in the interim period, it was agreed that the capacity of Woodlands High School

increase from 140 places to 180 places in September 2023, ahead of the permanent expansion to 240 places when works are completed and the school transfers to its new build accommodation on the Fairwater Community Campus site; the additional places to be provided through the use of new temporary accommodation on the existing school site. The school will be transferring to the new site at the Fairwater Community Campus, Fairwater from September 2026.

To meet the demand for specialist provision for learners with complex learning needs it is proposed to increase the capacity of Woodlands High School from 240 to 300 from January 2027.

In addition to the proposal for Woodlands High School, the proposed expansions of Meadowbank Special School, which provides Complex Learning Needs places for primary aged pupils and Tŷ Gwyn Special School which provides Complex Learning Needs places for primary and 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.

Details of these proposals and copies of the statutory notices can be found at:

[Proposals and Consultations \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/proposals-and-consultations)