

<p>Title of Consultation:</p>	<p>PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL GYMRAEG COED-Y-GOF</p>
<p>Brief Description of proposal:</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the age range of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof from age 4 – 11 to age 3 – 11 by establishing a Welsh-medium nursery unit as part of the school from September 2026.
<p>Why is a change proposed?</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's "Cymraeg 2050" strategy aims to achieve one million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to publish a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), setting out a ten-year target for increasing Year 1 learners educated in Welsh.</p> <p>At its meeting in February 2022, the Cabinet adopted a target of 25-29% of Year 1 learners educated through Welsh-medium schools by 2031 consistent with the target proposed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Cardiff is committed to achieving a scale of growth in line with its adopted 25 – 29% WESP target; however, the local target must balance ambition with an understanding of the prevailing trends, which includes falling birth rates and heightened uncertainty relating to school admission choices due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The Council is implementing a workplan to address each of the WESP outcomes. Outcome 1 of the WESP sets out the Council's intention to increase the number of nursery children/ three-year-olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Outcome 1 of the WESP sets out the Council's intention to increase the number of nursery children/ three-year-olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The take up of Welsh-medium places at entry to primary education by children resident within the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof has, for many years, exceeded the school's Published Admission Number of 60 places.</p> <p>However, a significant proportion of these children have taken up places at alternative schools including schools that</p>

	<p>are in closer proximity to their home address and schools that offer nursery education.</p> <p>As the number of pupils enrolling in primary education has fallen, the ability of children to gain admission to other schools has increased and consequently intakes to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof have fallen. Whilst enrolment in a nursery class has no bearing on the decision-making process for admission to primary education, it is evident that few families transfer to an alternative Welsh-medium primary school following enrolment in a nursery class.</p> <p>The current lack of Welsh-medium nursery provision in the immediate Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof locality is a significant barrier to growing Welsh-medium education and contradicts the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both Bilingual Cardiff's 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP plan.</p> <p>Flying Start provision has already been established on site at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen, a non-maintained childcare setting accommodated within its own purpose-built building.</p> <p>The establishment of Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school moving forward to be more sustainable.</p>
<p>Is the proposed change temporary or permanent?</p>	<p>The proposed change would result in the permanent establishment of nursery provision at the school.</p>
<p>When is the change planned to take effect?</p>	<p>The proposed change would take effect from September 2026.</p>
<p>Where can more details on the consultation be found?</p>	<p>Details on the consultation can be found at: www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals</p>

We understand that changes to schools can affect the community in which they are based or that they serve. The impact of changes is assessed through the production of a **Community Impact Assessment**.

The following areas will be considered:

What geographical area is included in this Community Impact Assessment?

The Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof catchment area includes Ely, Fairwater, and parts of Llandaff, St Fagans, Radyr and Morganstown.

Proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

As at the January 2024 (PLASC) there were 455 children living in the Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof catchment attending Welsh-medium primary schools.

These children were on roll at the following schools.

Welsh-medium (WM) or Dual Language (DL) schools attended by the 455 primary-age pupils' resident in the catchment area of Ysgol Coed y Gof (PLASC January 2024)

Welsh-medium/ Dual language School attended	Number of pupils in WM/ DL school	% of 455 pupils in WM/ DL school
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	188	41%
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-Wen	10	2%
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	48	11%
Ysgol Pencae	27	6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	64	14%
Other Welsh-medium schools	118	26%
Total pupils	455	

Proportion of pupils from outside the catchment area that attend the school

The 212 pupils who attended Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof live in the catchment areas of the following Welsh-medium primary schools (PLASC 2024):

Catchment area	Number of Pupils	Percentage of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof population
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	188	88.7%
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	13	6.1%
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	3	1.4%
Out of County	2	0.9%
Ysgol Pencae	2	0.9%
Ysgol Creigiau	1	0.5%
Ysgol Hamadryad	1	0.5%
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	1	0.5%
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	1	0.5%
Total	212	100%

Any other facilities that the school accommodates e.g., youth club/play group

The school has a community room which is used by groups such as “Stay and Play” and Cardiff Parenting, during school hours.

During school holidays, Menter Caerdydd run a free play scheme at the school for two hours, four mornings per week.

Any other facilities or services the school provides e.g., after school clubs, community library.

The school hosts a variety of groups and workshops for school parents and those in the community in the school community room, an example of activities is below:

19.09.24	Cardiff Parenting:11-week Parenting Programme (Additional Needs) for families, in our community room. 9:15-11:15am every Thursday morning
26.09.24	Drop-in session to meet the specialist teacher team
20.11.24	Supporting literacy and numeracy at home by specialist teacher learning support team 1:30 -3pm
15.01.25	Four-week cooking course for parents run by Menter Caerdydd
16.01.25	"Drop-in" session for parents with the school nurse, in the community room, 9-11am
17.01.25	Workshop for parents by specialist health and well-being teacher: "Rewards, sanctions and consequences"
04.02.25	“Cookstars” Parent and child cooking course – three-week course
20.03.25	Educational Psychologist, “Emotional Coaching” (workshop for parents)

In addition, there is a food bank on site, the school delivers Christmas hampers and present parcels for families in need and works with the Ely and Caerau Learning Partnership on developing community resources for families.

The school has a wide stock of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr school uniform which are freely available to pupils. Within the clothes bank there is a wide range of children's clothing including shoes, pyjamas, leisure wear and a toy bank.

The school library is open after school once a week to enable parents to read with their children and to borrow books. There is a wide range of books suitable for younger and older siblings, and for parents.

The school is working in partnership with Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to develop a community garden and Big Bocs Bwyd facility in Caerau. The aim of this project is to develop a community garden and food bank for families in the area, with a longer-term plan for school uniform exchange, laundry and family kitchen. Although not geographically close to the school, many of the school families live in Caerau and Ely.

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The school participates in many community events throughout the year, for example, singing at the lighting of Fairwater Christmas tree, singing at the local care home, being “community champions” by litter picking in the locality, planting trees with Coed Caerdydd at the Fairwater Leisure Centre and Bishop Hannon Drive locations.

Does the school use any community facilities?

The school uses several community facilities to enhance curriculum delivery, for example, Fairwater Leisure Centre (swimming lessons), the Fairwater Green Hub library and the Church of the Resurrection in Ely.

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Expected Impact on Accommodation, Facilities or Services		
If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, are any changes anticipated? <i>Increase / decrease / alternative providers or facilities in the event of a school closure</i>	Positive / Neutral / Negative	How this could be mitigated if required
The school does not anticipate any changes in community usage if the nursery proposal went ahead. There is sufficient space within the school building to accommodate the nursery without impacting the Community Room. Additionally, the school does not anticipate a change in their use of facilities within the community.	Neutral	
If a school can no longer provide accommodation, facilities and services will or could other facilities available in the immediate local or wider community be enhanced (e.g. improvements to village halls, playgrounds, provision of holiday play schemes)	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
N/A		
Information about the facilities and services provided at any alternative school	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
N/A		

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How will/could parents' and pupils' engagement with an alternative school and any facilities it may offer be supported (e.g. how pupils (and particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
N/A		
Expected Impact on Transport and Infrastructure		
Are changes in travel distance/time for pupils anticipated?	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
The proposal would remove the need for families to travel to alternative sites for siblings of primary and nursery age, and in turn impacting positively on parents' time and reducing the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative childcare provider may cause.	Positive	
Impact on health and wellbeing e.g. if pupils would be more or less able to walk or cycle to school	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
The proposal would allow for children to access nursery provision closer to home and could increase the number of children more able to walk, cycle and scoot to school.	Positive	
Any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
No changes are anticipated to public transport provisions as a result of this proposal.	Neutral	

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Expected Impact on Stakeholders		
What benefits / disadvantages are expected to result for families with school aged children, living in catchment?	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
Benefits and disadvantages have been set out in the consultation document	Positive	
What benefits / disadvantages are expected to result for neighbours of the school?	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
Benefits and disadvantages have been set out in the consultation document	Positive	
What benefits / disadvantages are expected to result for the wider community, including any safety issues?	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
Benefits and disadvantages have been set out in the consultation document	Positive	
Any additional points to note	Positive / Neutral / Negative	
N/A		

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Conclusion

The proposed change would be beneficial overall.

Establishing a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would directly support the growth of Welsh-medium education and would align with the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both the Bilingual Cardiff 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP.

There is already Flying Start provision on site at Gofal Plant Cwtch. Establishing Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school to be more sustainable.

Young children and families would benefit from the establishment of nursery provision and the school would continue to provide a range of community activities if the changes to establish nursery provision were made.

The table below outlines how it is anticipated the proposed changes will contribute to the wellbeing goals:

Well-being of Future Generations Act

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
<p>Prosperous An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The following benefits would be expected to result from the establishment of nursery provision at the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Welsh-medium nursery places serving local families; • Removing the need to travel to alternative sites for siblings of primary and nursery age, and in turn impacting positively on parents' time and reducing the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative childcare provider may cause; • Continuity of provision to support and embed the ethos and culture of the school; • The development of strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity can be supported; • Ease of transition for a nursery-aged child when promoting to Reception class (where Reception admission application has been successful); • Earlier identification of vulnerable groups and learning needs; • By having an early years unit within the school, pupils' well-being and learning would be advantaged; • Continuity and progression between Early Years and Foundation Phase would be secured, enhancing the opportunity to appropriately address individual developmental and cultural needs.

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
<p>Healthier A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood</p>	<p>In line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act Cardiff Council is committed to providing Local Schools for Local Children, together with encouraging use of sustainable modes to travel to schools, such as walking and cycling. Each School project takes into account key transport issues when they are being designed and the firm need to provide safer routes to encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes to schools.</p> <p>The Council is committed to ensuring that every school in Cardiff has an Active Travel Plan. Such a plan identifies actions by the school to support and encourage active travel to school and will also identify any improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys.</p> <p>Removing the need to travel to alternative sites for siblings of primary and nursery age will impact positively on parents’ time and reducing the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative childcare provider may cause.</p> <p>The Council’s Active Travel officers can support the development of the Active Travel Plans and can support with engagement on the Active Travel Plans as part of the implementation of the proposed expansion of places.</p> <p>The Council’s Road Safety Team already provides a programme of cycle and pedestrian training to further encourage take up of active travel to school. This support will continue as part of the ongoing engagement and support that will be provided by the Council’s Schools Active Travel Team on Active Travel Plan development and delivery.</p>
<p>Equal A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)</p>	<p>The Council’s ‘Stronger, Fairer, Greener’ policy sets out the key themes and commitments for the next five years with a strong focus on putting children and young people front and centre of their ambitions for the city. Central to this is the explicit belief that good education is the surest route out of poverty and, in turn that, the long-term prosperity of</p>

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
	<p>the city relies on firm support for our children and young people to reach their potential.</p> <p>Education is consistently ranked as the top priority for children and young people in Cardiff, a key social and cultural right which plays an essential role in overcoming poverty and disadvantage.</p> <p>The establishment of Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would provide a consistent approach to teaching and planning and would contribute to raising standards across the school.</p> <p>The following benefits would be expected to result from the establishment of nursery provision at the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Welsh-medium nursery places serving local families; • Removing the need to travel to alternative sites for siblings of primary and nursery age. This should impact positively on parents' time and reduce the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative childcare provider may cause. • Continuity of provision to support and embed the ethos and culture of the school; • The development of strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity can be supported; • Ease of transition for a nursery-aged child when promoting to Reception class (where Reception admission application has been successful); • Earlier identification of vulnerable groups and learning needs; • By having an Early Years unit within the school, pupils' well-being and learning will be advantaged. Continuity and progression between Early Years and Foundation Phase will be secured, enhancing the opportunity to appropriately address individual developmental and cultural needs.

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
	<p>It is anticipated that the proposals would have a positive or neutral impact on local wrap-around childcare providers, such as Gofal Plant Cwtch, to meet the demand from local families.</p>
<p>Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>It is expected that the proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language.</p> <p>The establishment of a Welsh-medium nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would directly support the growth of Welsh-medium education and aligns with the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both Bilingual Cardiff's 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP plan.</p> <p>The proposal would increase parental choice in the area and support the increased provision of Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>It would make Welsh language education more accessible for local families and be a more attractive option to parents in the area by reducing travel time, costs, provide the potential for improved wraparound services for working parents, and would work to embed the school within the local community.</p> <p>Flying Start provision has already been established on site at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen and eligible families can access funded childcare through The Childcare Offer for Wales at the setting's Cylch.</p> <p>The establishment of Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school moving forward to be more sustainable.</p> <p>The proposals would also afford Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof the option of considering whether it wishes to offer wrap around childcare provision from the site in conjunction with local partners or use the space to provide community activities in the event there is no need for further nursery places.</p>

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
	<p>It is proposed that the Welsh-medium nursery class would initially operate at 24 part-time places but with sufficient capacity for expansion.</p> <p>The school is part of the WESP Supporting Schools pilot group, which is supporting Welsh-medium schools experiencing reduced reception numbers to promote the Welsh language education offer within the community through open days, community events, promotional leaflets etc. to make parents aware of the provision available.</p> <p>The consultation will advise local parents that Welsh-medium nursery provision is being considered for Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and how they can make their views on this known.</p> <p>The views expressed during the consultation will be considered in full and the impact assessment updated to reflect these.</p> <p>In the event of the proposals being implemented, parental preferences and the take-up of places at the Welsh-medium nursery unit will be kept under review and the number of places increased as required.</p> <p>An initial Welsh Language Assessment has been carried out and is available to view at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals</p> <p>This assessment will be reviewed and updated after the consultation and at key points if the proposals were to proceed.</p>
<p>Globally Responsible A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being</p>	<p>The proposed changes align with corporate, local and national strategies. The Council works closely with Welsh Government, stakeholders and partners to ensure that the projects are being supported, and that the strategic direction is understood. This means that stakeholders know how the proposed scheme will help to achieve the business goals, strategic aims and plans of the Authority.</p>

Goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</p>	<p>The proposed change would allow for increased collaboration between services and communities to ensure the continued delivery of education to all pupils</p> <p>The consultation involves extensive engagement and involvement with pupils, staff, governors and the community. This will include collaborating with stakeholders during and after the consultation process to secure the long-term future of education in the area.</p> <p>The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that schools will meet the short-term and future needs of the users and the communities they serve.</p>
<p>Integration Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies</p>	<p>Community integration is a focus of all schools creating an environment to support culture, heritage and the Welsh language. Establishing nursery provision at the school supports social, environmental and cultural objectives.</p>
<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>The proposal is subject to a formal statutory consultation. This will enable stakeholders (anyone interested in the proposal, particular those impacted by it, including members of the public) involvement in the proposal.</p>
<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the long-term need</p>	<p>Ensuring the long-term sustainability of education in the community and ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs both now and in the future.</p>
<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>Securing the long-term future of Welsh-medium education in the area.</p>