

# EDUCATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY CAERDYDD 2024 - 2033

## EASY READ DOCUMENT

### Proposals to Establish more Specialist School Places for Learners with Autism/Social Communication 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 4–19 who have Autism/Social Communication Needs (ASC).

Children and young people with Autism/Social Communication Needs may have a range of issues and a combination of needs. These could include needs relating to social interactions or their environment.

[www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)



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## What does the Council want to do?

The Council wants to:

### Establish New Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) at:

- **Hywel Dda Primary School** – create a new 20 place English-medium Autism/Social Communication Needs Specialist Resource Base from January 2027. The base would provide 10 places in 2026/27 and extend to 20 places from 2028/29.
- **Radnor Primary School** – create a 30 place English-medium Autism/Social Communication Needs Specialist Resource Base from January 2027. The base would provide 10 places in 2026/27, 20 places in 2027/29 and 30 places in 2028/29
- **Ysgol Glan Morfa** – create a 10 place Welsh-medium Autism/Social Communication Needs Specialist Resource base from January 2027
- **Fitzalan High School** – create a 42 place English-medium Autism/Social Communication Specialist Resource Base from January 2027
- **Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern** – create a 10 place Welsh-medium Autism/Social Communication Specialist Resource Base from September 2027

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 Autism/Social Communication 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 costs the Council a lot 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.