

CARDIFF COUNCIL**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
FOR A
SCHOOL BUILDINGS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME****Vision**

Success in education is key to individuals' self-fulfilment and to their social and economic engagement. Successful engagement in learning by all individuals lays foundations for community development and the economic prosperity of the City. Investment in the buildings enables the schools to be best placed to provide the opportunities for learners to achieve the outcomes to which they are entitled.

Goal

The overarching goal will be:

To provide the best possible quality of education for pupils through the creation of a consistent, sustainable, pattern of "fit for purpose" schools which will provide opportunities for all learners to achieve high standards and contribute to community development, social inclusion and economic prosperity across the City.

In implementing the programme in the light of this goal, the following principles will determine the shaping of proposals:

Principles**1. Equality of opportunity and high standards:**

- Proposals will be designed to create equal opportunities for access to a high quality of education and provide the varied opportunities which will enable the achievement of high standards by all learners.
- Proposals for changes in the organisation of schools will be brought forward against the background of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to drive up standards in all schools. Such proposals will give prime consideration to the effect of the proposed changes on the standard of education to be provided in the area. This reflects the relevant themes of the "Learning Country"; in particular that the interests of learners should override all others and inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals must be narrowed in the interests of all.

2. Local schools for local children:

- Proposals will be designed to create the situation that parents will turn with confidence to a local school in the secure knowledge that it will offer a high quality of education.
- Proposals may involve review of and modifications to school catchment areas.
- The development of proposals will be considered in the context of the local community and there will be consultation with the local community on any proposals.

3. Inclusive schools:

Proposals will be designed to:

- build the capacity of schools to cater effectively for the great majority of the children in the local community
- promote social inclusion by reducing the gap in educational attainment between different groups of people
- enable schools to be at the heart of their communities and contribute to community development and neighbourhood renewal by offering learning opportunities for pupils and their communities in and beyond the school day; opportunities will be taken to develop schools which provide communities with easy access to a variety of services. To ensure this, consultations with the communities of Cardiff will be undertaken.

4. Best use of resources:

Proposals will make effective and efficient use of resources by:

- reducing revenue funding spent on surplus places
- realising maximum opportunities for capital funding in order to produce significant investment in school buildings over the period of the plan
- pursuing, in collaboration with school governing bodies, human resources policies which will recruit and retain the best quality teaching and support staff in Cardiff schools

Objectives

In producing proposals which will translate the vision into reality the specific objectives will be, to:

- Establish the number of children at each age-range, current and projected, requiring school places in each area of the city; achieve the best match possible between supply and demand of school places in each area of the City in order to focus resources in each area on producing the best possible quality of education

- Leave a level of flexibility in the supply of school places (10%) which will allow for fluctuations in demand
- Seek to ensure that all school governing bodies collaborate with Council human resources policies, with particular attention to the retention of teaching and non teaching staff through an effective redeployment policy
- Create secure, viable primary schools in every area of the city, the number of these schools matched to the numbers of local children
- Review the role of Nursery schools and seek to extend the concept of Integrated Children's Centres to other parts of the City
- Wherever possible, seek to create all through primary schools, catering for the age-range 3 – 11, organised preferably with 2 forms of entry, which will enable children to:
 - Participate effectively in the Foundation Phase
 - Achieve high standards at Key Stage 2
 - Transfer seamlessly to secondary education
- Create a secure, viable English medium community comprehensive school in good quality buildings in every area of the City
- Seek to establish secondary of a size capable of:
 - Taking all children from the local primary schools
 - Providing individual learning pathways for pupils post 14

(The desired size of secondary is in the range between 6 and 10 forms of entry)
- Meet the targets for Welsh medium education set out in the Council's Welsh education scheme
- Secure the best match between numbers of children preferring education in the voluntary aided sector and the number of voluntary aided schools
- Seek to create a mix of community, voluntary aided, English and Welsh medium in every area of the City
- Organise secondary schools so as to provide maximum curriculum opportunities for all young people aged 14 – 19
- Work with other partners to create arrangements so that all young people can access the full range of options for education and training post 16
- Define the role of community focused schools and produce an implementation plan to secure this role for schools