

# 21st Century Schools Consultation Document 2019

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL, RIVERBANK  
SPECIAL SCHOOL AND WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

4 February - 22 March 2019



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# Introduction

## What is this booklet about?

This booklet is for parents/ carers, school staff, school governors and anyone who has an interest in education in Cardiff. It will be of particular interest to parents/ carers of children attending, or expecting to attend, Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School and those that have or currently work with children with complex Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

It sets out changes we are suggesting to provide high quality primary and secondary school places and the reasons for these proposed changes.

## Background

In 2017, we identified a need to increase the number of secondary education places and the number of primary and secondary ALN places for children with complex learning needs as part of the Council's 21st Century, Band B Schools Programme.

Cantonian High School was one of three high school buildings identified as being in such poor condition that it must be replaced.

Additionally Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School were also identified as being in need of replacement.

This booklet contains information about proposals to provide additional school places and to replace the existing Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School buildings.

We want everyone to understand what is being proposed, so you can tell us what you think about the changes.

This is your chance to ask questions and make comments.

## What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing, from September 2023, to:

- Expand Cantonian High School from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form places for up to 250 pupils including the replacement of the Cantonian High School buildings with larger new build school facilities on the same site
- Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) that is hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places. The new Cantonian High School buildings would include enlarged purpose built accommodation for the SRB.
- Expand Riverbank Special School from 70 to 140 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.
- Expand Woodlands High School from 140 places to 240 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.

The changes outlined in this document would require the approval of Welsh Ministers in order for these to proceed.

# Consultation

Our consultation process must follow the Welsh Government guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

As part of this, we are asking people what they think about the changes we are proposing.

There are a number of ways for people to tell us their views.

**Table 1 below sets out who the Council is consulting:**

Table 1: Groups the Council is consulting with	
Children and young people	Welsh Ministers
Parents/carers	Police & Crime Commissioner
School staff	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES)
School Governing Bodies	Welsh Language Commissioner
Local residents	Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)
Local Members/Assembly Members (AMs)/ Regional Assembly Members/Member of Parliament (MPs)	Trade Unions
Diocesan Directors of Education	Family Information Service
Neighbouring Authorities	Mudiad Meithrin
All Cardiff schools	Wales Pre-School Providers Association
Estyn	Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club
Communities First Partnership	National Day Nurseries Association
Community Council's	Future Generations Commissioner
Children's Commissioner	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Voluntary Sector organisations	Cardiff and Vale College
St David's College	Welsh Education Forum (WEF)

## How can you find out more and let us know your views?

- The full consultation document and a summary document are available electronically on the Council website at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)
- Printed copies of this consultation document will be available at Community Hubs and Libraries. We will also advise families with children in Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School, Woodlands Special School and primary schools in Fairwater how they can access a copy of the document.
- We have organised public meetings and drop-in sessions that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you and for you to ask us questions. These are listed on the next page.
- Council officers will meet with the Governing Bodies and staff of Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School.
- We will also work with the schools to find out what pupils think.
- You can also write to the Council to tell us what you think.

## How can you find out more and let us know your views?

The dates of the consultation meetings are set out below:

**Table 2: Consultation Meeting Dates**

Nature of Consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Drop in session	Friday 8 February 2019 9am - 11am	Fairwater Library Hub
Cantonian High School Staff Meeting	Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 3:30pm	Cantonian High School
Cantonian High School Governing Body	Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 5:30pm	Cantonian High School
Public Meeting	Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 7pm	Cantonian High School
Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School Staff Meeting	Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 3:30pm	Ty Gwyn Special School
Western Learning Federation Governing Body Meeting	Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 5:30pm	Ty Gwyn Special School
Public Meeting	Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7pm	Ty Gwyn Special School
Drop in session	Thursday 7 March 2019 5pm - 7pm	Central Library Hub
Drop in session	Tuesday 12 March 2019 10am - 12noon	Ely and Caerau Community Hub
Drop in session	Wednesday 20 March 2019 2:30pm - 4:30pm	Fairwater Library Hub

### Your views are important to us

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have suggested in this document.

You can do this by:

- Attending one of the public meetings or drop in sessions listed above.
- Completing the online response form at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)
- Completing the consultation response form, which you can find on page 43.
- Contacting the School Organisation Planning Team on (029) 2087 2720, by e-mail to [schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk) or by post to Room 422, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW.

**The closing date for responses to this consultation is 22 March 2019.**

The Council will not consider any consultation responses received after this date.

# Explanation of terms used in this document

Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

**Admission Number** - all maintained schools admit pupils up to at least their Published Admission Number. The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.

**ALN** - Additional Learning Needs. This may be due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities or behavioural problems. (ALN is sometimes referred to as Special Educational Needs).

**BREEAM** - BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is a sustainability assessment method that is used to masterplan projects, infrastructure and buildings.

**Brownfield site** – previously developed land that has the potential to be redeveloped. It is often (but not always) land that has been used for industrial, commercial or residential purposes.

**Capital funding for schools** – money used to build new school buildings or improve existing facilities.

**Community Schools** – a primary or secondary school where the Council arranges school admissions.

**Catchment area** – an area that a community school would normally serve. In Cardiff, children living within this area have higher priority for admission to the school than children outside of this area.

**Greenfield site** – areas of land, usually agricultural or amenity land, which are being considered for urban development.

**Local Authority** – an organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.

**Mainstream** - a mainstream school is a maintained school which is not a special school. Mainstream schools are not selective and do not require students to pay fees.

**Number on Roll data** - the number of pupils at a school (not including nursery pupils).

**PLASC** - Pupil Level Annual School Census. In January of every year, the Welsh Government collects information from schools. This includes the number of pupils at each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity, and data on Welsh language, Special Educational Needs, first language and pupils who have Free School Meals.

**School Action** - when a class or subject teacher gives extra support to a pupil with ALN.

**School Action Plus** - when outside specialists help the class or school staff to give extra support to a pupil with ALN. This is different or additional to the support provided through School Action.

**Special School** – a school for children with an additional learning need or disability, whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school. The pupils at a special school have a statement of ALN.

**SRB** - Specialist Resource Base. A small class in a mainstream school for pupils with significant ALN. All pupils attending an SRB have a statement of ALN and are taught by specialist teachers and learning support assistants. Sometimes SRB pupils also have opportunities to attend some mainstream classes.

**Statement of Additional Learning Needs** – a child with a statement of ALN has learning difficulties which need special support. This means:

- the child has significantly greater difficulty learning than most children of the same age, or
- the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

**Surplus places** – empty/unfilled places in a school.

**Statutory Notice** – a statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council Cabinet to proceed with a proposal following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirements as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

# Why are we proposing these changes?

## The provision of school places

All local authorities in Wales must make sure they provide enough school places for pupils of all ages.

School places must meet the needs of all pupils and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

In order to provide the best quality of education it is important that funding provided by the Welsh Government is used effectively. This means matching the number of children to the number of school places as closely as possible.

## Condition & Suitability

As well as having the right number of school places, the Council must ensure that school facilities are fit for purpose. Schools must support the delivery of high quality learning.

Cardiff has over 127 school properties of varying ages and condition. A number of primary, secondary and special schools are in a poor state of repair. Due to the current state of some of our buildings, a large amount of money needs to be spent on maintenance and condition issues. There is currently a large maintenance backlog of around £68million; around £8million of this is work to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

At present, the Council spends around £4.7million each year on school asset renewal.

In 2018-19, the Council allocated an extra £25million to the asset renewal budget over the next 5 years. The Council allocates this extra money on a priority basis. It is mainly limited to keeping properties safe and watertight.

## What is the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

The first part of the Programme (Band A) runs until March 2019.

Cardiff has benefitted greatly from investment in the initial “Band A” 21st Century Schools programme with approximately £164 million invested in schools to expand the number of both English and Welsh medium places.

Band A funds in Cardiff have been used to deliver two new high schools, Eastern High (in collaboration with Cardiff & Vale College) and Cardiff West Community High School and six new (English-medium and Welsh-medium) primary schools.

The second part of this funding (Band B) is due to start in April 2019. As part of this, Cardiff Council is planning a c£284million investment programme, jointly funded by the Council and the Welsh Government.



Cardiff's Band B proposals focus on:

- providing enough school places across the city that are in the right place
- providing high quality educational facilities that will meet the diverse requirements of the 21st Century
- optimising the use of education facilities for the benefit of the wider community across Cardiff.
- ensuring best value for money

By 2024, Cardiff's Band B 21st Century Schools programme is set to deliver:

- 5 new or expanded secondary schools
- 4 new special schools
- 4 new primary schools

## Community Secondary School Places

### Demand for places

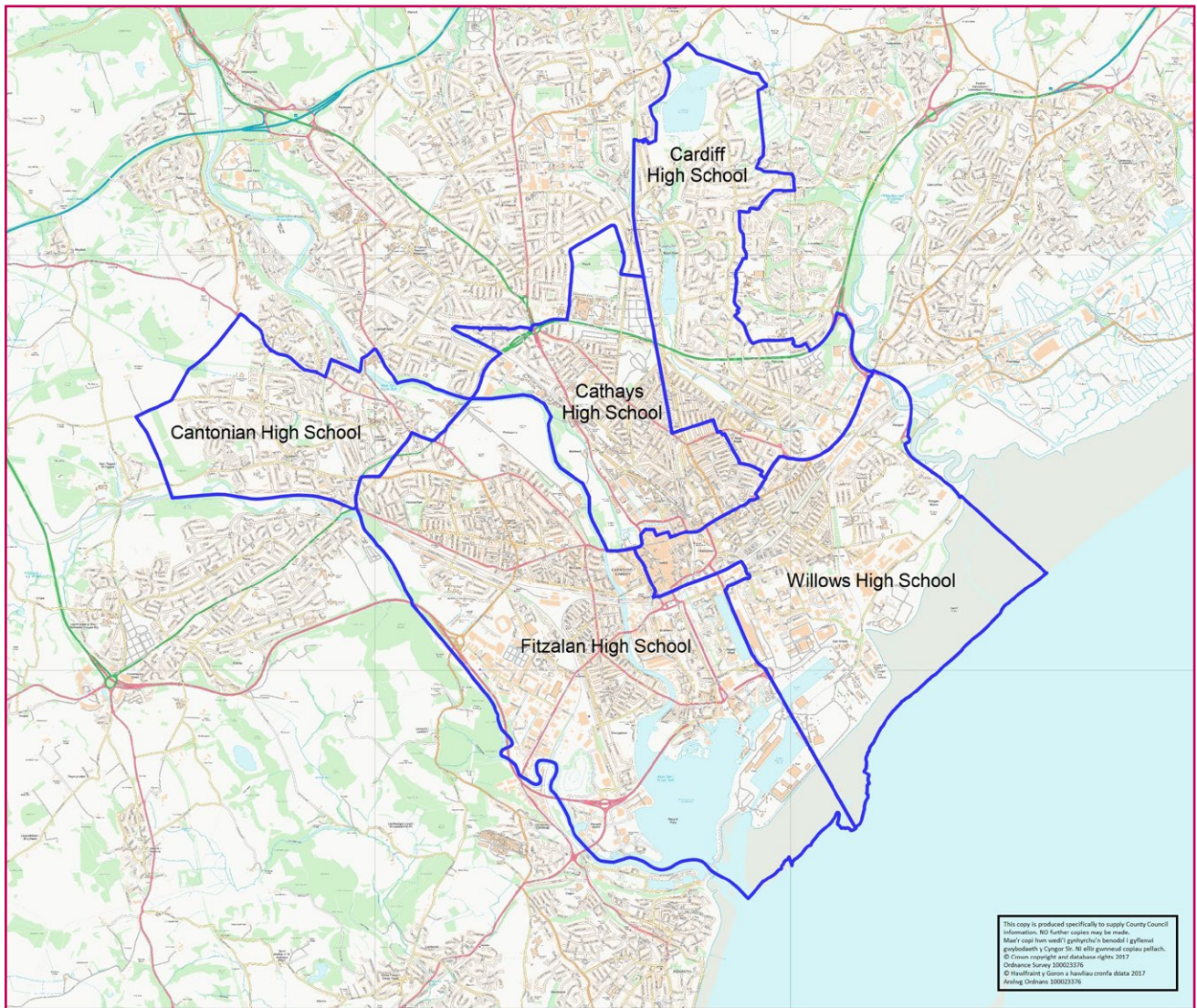
Over the last five years the number of pupils entering secondary school (Year 7) in Cardiff has increased. Projections based on the most recent school census data (PLASC) received in 2018 suggest that:

- the number of pupils entering Year 7 in English-medium community schools will continue to rise, and
- there will be more pupils than the number of places currently available until at least September 2023.

In September 2024 it is projected that the overall demand for places from pupils living in existing housing will fall. However, there are several new housing sites planned across the city. These include housing within the Local Development Plan. As a result, we expect that there will continue to be more pupils than the number of places currently available in our schools beyond 2024.

The areas with the greatest projected shortfall of places are in the central area of the city. Three of the secondary schools in this central area, namely Cantonian High School, Fitzalan High School and Willows High School, are also in very poor condition.

The map below shows the catchment area of the five community secondary schools in Cardiff's Band B programme.



City-wide forecasts show increased demand for places at entry to secondary school.

During the period 2019 - 2023, the number of pupils in each year group in existing housing will increase by about 200 children.

The combined capacity of the English-medium secondary schools in the central area of the city will need to expand from around 1,200 places per year group to around 1,320 places in each year group. This would allow for the expected increased number of children throughout the combined area. This would also provide a level of surplus places to allow for any further increase.

On average, in the past 5 years, 733 houses have been built in Cardiff each year. This level of growth is expected to continue. Much of Cardiff's future growth will be in new communities on greenfield developments on the outskirts of Cardiff. New schools have been proposed for these developments.

Over 26,000 new homes are expected to be built in Cardiff in the next 20 years. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the LDP. This includes over 10,000 homes on brownfield sites. Sites that already have planning permission or are part of the LDP will provide about:

- 4,300 extra homes in Butetown,
- 1,600 extra homes in Grangetown,
- 750 extra homes in Canton and,
- 600 extra homes in Llandaff.

All these communities are within the catchment areas of the schools included within the Band B programme.

There will be more children living in new housing as well as more children living in existing housing. Therefore, extra secondary school places will be needed in the catchment areas of existing schools.

The Council is proposing to meet part of the increased demand for secondary school places through the expansion of Cantonian High School.

## Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Provision

Places for pupils with ASC are offered in a range of settings across Cardiff which support identified pupil needs. This includes supported placements at both primary and secondary level in mainstream schools and places in SRBs and special schools.

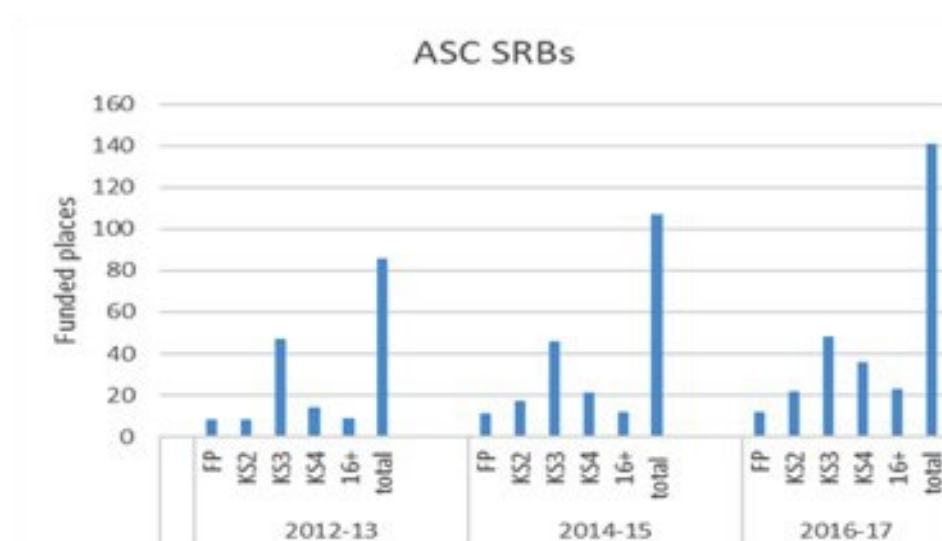
Most children with an ASC do not require a special school place in order to learn and thrive. Many young people successfully attend a local mainstream school and access additional specialist support through an SRB.

SRBs allow pupils with ALN to succeed in a mainstream school where pupils are supported to attend mainstream lessons. They benefit from the full range of educational opportunities available to all pupils at the school.

SRB staff specialise in providing education to pupils with ALN and are trained to provide extra pastoral and teaching support in order to provide effectively for pupils' specific needs. They also provide training and information to mainstream school staff to support the inclusion of pupils.

Each SRB has its own facilities where the pupils can access small group or individual teaching. The base also provides a nurturing and 'safe' environment for pupils when required. The provision is tailored according to pupils' needs. Pupils have short or prolonged periods where they are taught mainly or solely in the SRB. This can be because of anxiety, sensory challenges or as part of a transition from a more specialist environment.

Between 2012 and 2017, the number of ASC places offered in SRBs in Cardiff increased from 82 to 140. It is expected that demand for places in specialist provision will continue to grow over the next 5 - 10 years as a result of a growing population and better diagnosis of ASC.



Cardiff Council manages all admissions to specialist provision in Cardiff in line with the SEN Code of Practice for Wales. Pupils are subject to an assessment of need.

We are proposing to meet part of the increased demand for ASC SRB places in Cardiff through the expansion of the existing SRB provision at Cantonian High School.

## Special School Places

As the overall number of people living in Cardiff has grown, the number of children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) has also increased. At present, 23.4 % of pupils in Cardiff schools have an Additional Learning Need.

There are currently around 2,000 children with a Statement of ALN in Cardiff.

Population growth is the main cause of the increase in pupils needing a place in a specialist class or school. However, there are also other factors to consider.

These include:

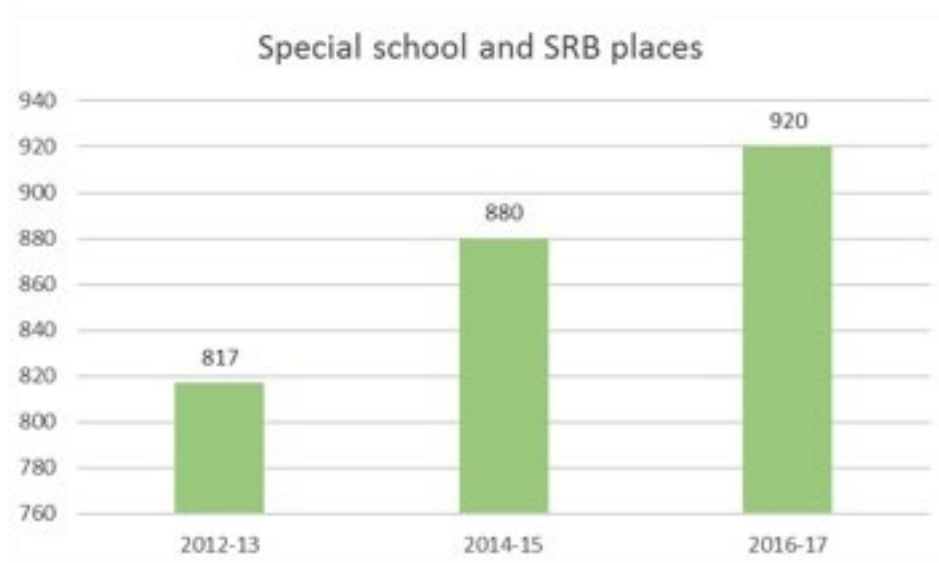
- higher survival rates for children with complex disabilities;
- more cases and/or better diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and complex medical conditions;
- some families with children who have ALN who may choose to move to Cardiff because of the benefits of the Children's Hospital for Wales and a wide range of special schools.

Cardiff Council is committed to the principles of inclusion and we recognise that most pupils with additional needs are best supported in their local mainstream schools. It will continue to make sure that learners with ALN have effective support in every school. This will be done by providing schools with training and resources, and promoting the sharing of best inclusive practice.

However, pupils with the most complex ALN that are not able to go to mainstream schools, need a specialist environment to thrive and fulfil their potential.

There are a number of specialist settings across Cardiff including special schools and SRBs.

The number of funded places in these settings has been increased by 103 places over a five year period (2012 - 2017).



These extra places have been provided by:

- increasing the number of places at special schools and specialist resource bases where space was available on their premises;
- increasing the number of places Ty Gwyn Special School in 2010 by relocating the school into a larger premises on a new site;
- setting up The Marion Centre in a new purpose built facility in 2011.

In July 2018, the Council agreed that further places were required to meet current and future demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with complex learning needs and ASC.

To provide places it was agreed to:

- increase the capacity of Ty Gwyn Special School to allow for up to 198 places;
- change the type of special educational need Meadowbank Special School provides for from ‘speech language and communication needs’ to ‘speech, language and communication needs and complex learning disabilities’.

**Table 3: Recent and projected numbers on roll at special schools and projected ALN pupil numbers**

School	2012-13	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/2019 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection	2023/2024 Projection
Riverbank	70	69	69	70	67	70	70	70	70	70	70	80
Ty Gwyn	127	137	152	170	171	175	182	182	182	182	182	182
The Hollies	80	85	89	83	90	90	96	96	96	96	96	96
Meadowbank	31	30	26	22	17	14	20	20	20	20	20	20
Woodlands	130	128	131	128	129	135	140	140	140	140	140	160
Projected numbers that cannot be accommodated in existing Cardiff Primary ALN provision*							13	26	39	52	65	68
Projected numbers that cannot be accommodated in existing Cardiff Secondary ALN provision*							14	27	41	55	68	62

*The special schools within these proposals will be fully subscribed throughout the period prior to expansion. Any demand for places that cannot be met by these schools will be accommodated through increasing SRB places, or by funding places at schools outside of Cardiff or in the independent sector.*

Current projections show the number of pupils will continue to grow over the next 5 to 10 years. At present, there are more pupils with significant needs who need a place in one of these settings than there are places available.

Cardiff currently has to rely on purchasing places in out of county provision and independent schools to fulfil its statutory duties. At present 118 pupils attend out of county or independent special school places at a cost of £2.8million per year.

We want to use this money more effectively to provide more special school and SRB places in Cardiff to both deal with higher demand and to reduce reliance on the independent sector.

The Council is therefore proposing to provide additional special school places in order to meet increased demand and to allow for children with additional learning needs to be educated within Cardiff.

# Why expand and replace Cantonian High School?

## Schools serving the area at present

The following secondary schools serve the Cantonian High School catchment area:

**Table 4: Secondary schools serving the area**

Name of School	Language medium and category of school	Age range	Published Admission Number
Cantonian High School	English-medium Community Secondary	11-19 Yrs	181
Corpus Christi Catholic High School	English-medium Voluntary Aided Secondary	11-16 Yrs	186
The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School	English-medium Voluntary Aided Secondary	11-19 Yrs	180
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	Welsh-medium Community Secondary	11-19 Yrs	180

Children from the Cantonian High School catchment area also attend other English-medium schools including Fitzalan High School and Radyr Comprehensive School although the number of children able to do so is likely to reduce as populations across the city increase.

The primary schools that are within the catchment area of Cantonian High School are:

**Table 5: Primary schools within the Cantonian High School catchment**

Name of School	Language medium and category of school	Age range	Published Admission Number
Fairwater Primary School	English-medium Community Primary	4-11 Yrs	40
Holy Family RC Primary School	English-medium Voluntary Aided Primary	4-11 Yrs	35
Llandaff City Church in Wales Primary School	English-medium Voluntary Aided Primary	4-11 Yrs	60
Pentrebane Primary School	English-medium Community Primary	3-11 Yrs	30
Peter Lea Primary School	English-medium Community Primary	3-11 Yrs	45
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof	Welsh-medium Community Primary	4-11 Yrs	60

## Demand for places

On average, children living in the Cantonian High School catchment area take up 204 primary school places in each year group. This has varied between 2012 and 2018 with the lowest take up being 187 places and the highest 225 places. A similar number of children are projected in future years from the existing housing.

On average in each year group, 82 children go on to English-medium community secondary schools; 52 children per year group go on to English-medium faith-based secondary schools. The rest choose to take up places in Welsh-medium secondary schools.

The majority of children in Year 6 normally transfer to Year 7. This means the number of children in Year 6 cohorts remains about the same as the number in the next year's Year 7 cohorts. This means almost all the children who live in the area still go to community or faith schools in Cardiff when they transfer to secondary school.

Forecasts suggest that the area will need between 165 and 210 English-medium secondary places during the Band B investment period. About 54 of these places would be taken up in faith-based schools. The remaining 111 to 156 places would be required in community schools.

In addition to this demand, there are a number of planned housing developments in or near to the Cantonian High School catchment area. These would significantly increase the number of children in the area. The proposed development at the BBC site on Llantrisant Road would increase the number of children in the catchment area of Cantonian High School. It is expected that children living in housing proposed for the site would take up about five of the projected surplus places in each year group.

There is also a development of 689 homes to the North and South of Llantrisant Road. This site overlaps the catchment areas of Cantonian High School and Radyr Comprehensive School, albeit it is closer to Radyr Comprehensive School. Children living there would take up about 19 of the projected surplus places in each year group between these two schools.

Rebuilding Cantonian High School as a secondary school of four to five forms of entry would provide 120-150 places in each year group. This would be enough places to serve the existing Cantonian High School catchment area alone.

Table 6 shows past numbers on roll and future projections for Cantonian High School and other secondary schools serving its catchment area. It also shows the numbers for Fitzalan High School and Radyr Comprehensive School. These schools have catchment areas bordering the Cantonian High School catchment area.

**Table 6: Recent and projected numbers on roll at local secondary schools (Year 7 to Year 11 inclusive) should the proposals proceed / not proceed**

School	January 2013 (NOR)	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/2019 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection	2023/2024 Projection
Cantonian High School	431	395	379	391	472	533	577	597	711	783	774	821
Corpus Christi RC High School	1,006	1,028	1,041	1,047	1,050	1,080	1082	1087	1091	1081	1081	1078
Fitzalan High School	1,251	1,308	1,344	1,371	1,390	1,380	1417	1429	1453	1471	1500	1500
Radyr Comprehensive School	986	1,023	1,030	1,028	1,025	1,006	1009	990	997	1004	1006	1028
The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School	968	977	960	968	958	957	951	951	953	952	952	952
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	826	832	851	868	880	889	899	902	900	909	899	900

Cantonian High School is well placed to meet excess demand for places from other catchment areas, consistent with our aim to increase places in the central area of Cardiff. A new Cantonian High School would also provide enough places for children living within the school's catchment area.

The additional places proposed would serve both its current catchment area and neighbouring areas.

The Cantonian High School site is large and offers opportunities for accommodating a greater number of pupils. This would contribute towards achieving a better balance of demand and supply of school places.

The site is close to a train station and several bus stops. There are regular trains and buses stopping near the site to support independent public transport use by pupils. Active transport routes including road-crossing points are already available and would be upgraded/increased if identified as part of the Transport Assessment (TA).

Catchment areas for English-medium community secondary schools may need to change. Changes to catchment areas make sure there is a suitable balance in the supply of and take-up of places. Public consultation would take place at an appropriate time to address this balance. Catchment areas are only part of the school admission oversubscription-criteria; living in a catchment area does not guarantee admission to a school. The Council has to make sure there are enough secondary school places regardless of catchment areas.

## Condition & Suitability

In order to prioritise schools within the Band B programme all school properties were given a rating.

The ratings were based on:

- Sufficiency of places available
- Condition of the school buildings;
- Suitability of the environment for teaching

Ratings were from A to D with schools rated D in the worst condition.

All Councils in Wales were informed by the Welsh Government that in order to receive capital funding investment from the Band B 21st Century Schools programme, all school buildings rated as D for condition were to be replaced/upgraded.



**Table 7: Condition and suitability gradings**

Grading	Condition	Suitability
A	Good and operating efficiently.	<b>Good. Facilities suitable for teaching, learning and wellbeing in school.</b>
B	Satisfactory but with minor deterioration.	<b>Satisfactory. Performing as intended, but does not effectively support the delivery of the curriculum in some areas.</b>
C	Poor with major defects.	<b>Poor. Teaching methods inhibited / adverse impact on school organisation.</b>
D	End of Life; life has expired or risk of imminent failure.	<b>Very Poor. Buildings seriously inhibit the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum.</b>

Table 8 below gives information on school capacity, condition and suitability of Cantonian High School.

**Table 8: School capacity, condition and suitability**

Name of School	Type of school	* Condition of School Buildings	* Suitability of School Buildings	Capacity
Cantonian High School	English-medium Community	Category D – End of life.	Category C – Poor.	1046 (age 11-19)

\*Condition rating as identified by 21st Century Schools survey

In 2017, part of the Cantonian High School accommodation was deemed to be unsafe and high quality temporary accommodation was put in place.

As Cantonian High School is rated D for condition. This means the permanent school buildings are 'life-expired' and should be replaced.

This means that Cantonian High School is automatically a priority for investment in the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.

## Why expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

Cantonian High School has a successful SRB for learners with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). The Admission Number for the SRB is 20. However, it is currently operating with five additional children owing to the increased demand and a shortage of specialist ASC places in Cardiff.

It is proposed to retain the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Cantonian High School as part of the future school. This will ensure continued provision for current and future pupils. The current expertise and inclusive practice of the school would be maintained. Extra places would help to ensure there are enough places to meet the increased demand within the city. This demand comes from a growing pupil population and more cases and/or better diagnosis of ASC in Cardiff.

The proposal includes the expansion of the SRB in order to meet demand for places in both mainstream and special education.

It is proposed to formally increase the number of places in the ASC SRB from 20 to 30 places.

The SRB at Cantonian High School has its own accommodation where its pupils can access small group or individual teaching. They have short or prolonged periods where they are taught mainly or solely in the SRB as appropriate to each individual's needs.

Additionally, moving Woodlands High School to the same site would support links between the SRB and the special school. There would be opportunities to share expertise and for professional development for staff.

## Why expand Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School? Why move these schools?

### The provision of special school places

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are special schools which provide a highly specialist learning environment and curriculum for children with complex learning needs. This type of learning environment is essential for pupils with complex learning needs to fulfil their potential at these schools.

Riverbank Special School currently has 70 places in total for primary aged children (4-11).

Woodlands High School currently has 140 school places in total for secondary aged children (11-19).

All of the children attending these schools have a severe general learning disability. Their additional needs cannot be met in a less specialised environment. Most of the young people also have a range of secondary needs. These include speech and language, medical needs, physical disabilities and/or an autism spectrum condition.

Many pupils are achieving National Curriculum Level 1 or lower.

Special schools do not have catchment areas. They provide specialised places for pupils throughout Cardiff based on the specific needs of the pupils. Both Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools admit pupils from all over Cardiff. All pupils admitted to the schools have a statement of Special Educational Needs.

Cardiff Council manages all admissions to Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School in line with the SEN Code of Practice for Wales. The SEN Code of Practice will be replaced by the ALN Code of Practice from September 2020.

Both schools have admitted an increasing number of young people with ASC over the last few years. Projections show that the need for ASC special school places is growing faster than for complex learning disabilities. Ty Gwyn School, The Hollies School and Ysgol y Deri (in the Vale of Glamorgan) offer ASC places.

There are not enough ASC places available at these schools to meet future demand. We propose to meet this demand by increasing the number of special school places at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School.

Both special schools would receive support from the Council to further develop their expertise in relation to ASC.

It is proposed that:

- Riverbank Special School will increase from 70 to 140 places.
- Woodlands High School will increase from 140 to 240 places.

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are part of the 'Western Learning Federation' along with Ty Gwyn Special School. At present, all three of these special schools are currently on the same site next to Trelai Park in the West of Cardiff. There is not enough room on the current site to expand either or both schools.

## Why move Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School to the Cantonian High School site?

- the site in Fairwater is one of the largest school sites in Cardiff with space for two of the Western Learning Federation special schools as well as Cantonian High School;
- the site is close to the Ty Gwyn Special School site (1.1 miles to 1.5 miles);
- travel times between the two sites would be short (approximately 5 – 10 minutes by car);
- there is space for buses and pupils taxis on site;
- the site is relatively central, has good public transport links and is close to main arterial routes.

Moving Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would not affect the Federation. The schools will continue to be governed by one federated Governing Body. The three Western Learning Federation schools will continue to deliver the vision of the Federation to become a centre of excellence in special education.

The two special schools will remain as separate entities. However, moving them to the same site as Cantonian High School would allow for all of the schools to work together. This includes access to specialist facilities.

## Condition & Suitability

Table 9 below gives information on school capacities and condition and suitability of Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School.

**Table 9: School capacity, condition and suitability**

Name of School	Type of school	* Condition of School Buildings	* Suitability of School Buildings	Capacity
Riverbank School	Special School	Category C- – Poor.	Category D – Very Poor	70 (age 4-11)
Woodlands High School	Special School	Category C- – Poor.	Category D – Very Poor	140 (age 11-19)

*\*Condition rating as identified by 21st Century Schools survey*

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are both rated D for suitability. This is due to 'unsuitable' learning environments. This means it is difficult for the schools to deliver the curriculum in their current buildings.

The Council has to provide appropriate education for children with ALN. It is therefore essential to replace and expand these schools to provide for the number of pupils with complex learning needs effectively.

## How would other schools be affected?

At present, a significant proportion of pupils resident in the Cantonian High School catchment area attend Radyr Comprehensive School.

The proposal to replace Cantonian High School is expected to reduce the number of pupils in the Cantonian High School catchment area commuting to other English-medium community schools. However, the number of pupils resident in the Radyr Comprehensive School will increase as a result of new housing and intakes to Radyr Comprehensive School are expected to remain at a similar level to that at present.

Special schools in Cardiff provide specialist provision for the whole of the City and County of Cardiff. There are not enough places to meet demand in maintained provision, which has an impact on existing schools where in some cases there may be a higher number of pupils compared to the Published Admission Number (PAN) or desired number in an SRB.

Cardiff currently has to rely on purchasing places in out of county provision and independent schools to fulfil its statutory duties. At present 118 pupils attend independent special school places at a cost to the Council of £2.8million per year.

There could be a longer term impact on out of county providers and on independent schools as there is likely to be a reduction in the number of places purchased by the Council.

## Facilities included in a school

Any new buildings would meet Welsh Government funding conditions such as BREEAM certification and be designed in accordance with the Department of Education: Area guidelines which set out that the following facilities need to be included in any school:

- Teaching space
- Internal and external halls/ dining area
- Learning resource areas
- Staff and administration
- Storage
- Toilets and personal care
- Kitchen facilities
- Circulation, plant and internal walls
- Withdrawal areas to support small group/SEN working

Detailed designs would be agreed with relevant Headteachers and governing bodies if the proposals are progressed to implementation.

## Site Map

The Cantonian High School site is large enough to accommodate what is being proposed with three separate schools sharing one building.

The design process for the new schools has not yet commenced. This would include input from a range of stakeholder including governing bodies, headteachers, staff and children.



## Quality and Standards

The Council works closely with two organisations in order to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales.

Estyn inspects quality and standards in schools and other education providers in Wales.

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) is the regional School Improvement Service for the five councils of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council works with the Consortium to support and challenge all schools in Cardiff.

Local Authorities, such as Cardiff Council, must consider Estyn reports and other evidence about school performance and effectiveness when suggesting changes to schools.

Local Authorities must also consider the likely impact of the proposed changes on:

- standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care support and guidance
- leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)

### ESTYN

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

The relevant Estyn Inspection reports provide grades against Key Questions and provide schools with recommendations for improvement.

Inspections carried out between 2010 and 2017 provided judgements against three key questions

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?

Inspectors also provided an overall judgement on the school's performance at that time and prospects for improvement.

In these evaluations, inspectors used a four-point scale as set out in Table 10 below:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Good Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

If a school is judged as adequate or unsatisfactory, they will be subject to monitoring by Estyn or the Local Authority until such time as they are judged to have made sufficient progress to be removed from the list of schools requiring improvement,

You can find inspection reports on the Estyn website [www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk)

## Welsh Government categorisation of schools

In 2014, the Welsh Government introduced a new categorisation system.

It looks at each school's standards and how much a school is able to improve. This identifies the level of support schools require. Organisations such as the Central South Consortium (CSCJES) and the school improvement service then work with schools' leaders to identify, provide and/or broker any support required for further improvement.

The categorisation system is described in Table 11 below:

Category of support	What the category means
Green	A highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement.
Yellow	An effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve.
Amber	A School in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly.
Red	A school in need of greatest improvement and will receive immediate, intensive support.

Schools will be in one of four groups, A to D. Schools where the judgement is an A show the greatest capacity to improve along with the ability to support other schools. Those where the judgement is D need the most support. The final categorisation is a colour code that shows the level of support a school needs – green, yellow, amber or red (with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support).

Updated categorisations for each school are published every year in January.

More information about the categorisation scheme can be found in the Welsh Government's parents' guide to the National School Categorisation System here:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150119-parents-guide-en.pdf>

## Cantonian High School

Estyn inspected Cantonian High School in February 2015. At that time the school's performance was judged as adequate. The school's chances for improvement were judged as unsatisfactory.

The school was judged to be in need of significant improvement.

The school was required to draw up an action plan, showing how it was going to address the recommendations set out in the report. Estyn determined that there was a need to monitor progress at the school.

A follow up Estyn monitoring visit took place in June 2017. Estyn decided the school had made sufficient progress against the specific recommendations from the 2015 inspection. The school was then removed from the list of schools requiring significant improvement.

In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2019, the school was categorised as Yellow (an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve).

## Riverbank Special School

Estyn inspected Riverbank Special School in November 2015. At that time the school's performance was judged as adequate. The school's chances for improvement were also judged as adequate.

The school was required to draw up an action plan, which showed how it was going to address the recommendations from the 2015 inspection. Estyn determined that there was a need to monitor progress at the school.

A follow up Estyn Monitoring visit took place in November 2017. Estyn decided the school had made good progress against the specific recommendations from the 2015 inspection. The school was then removed from schools requiring Estyn monitoring.

In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2019, the school was categorised as Yellow (an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve).

## Woodlands High School

Estyn inspected Woodlands High School in January 2016. At that time the school's performance was judged as adequate. The school's chances for improvement were judged as unsatisfactory.

The school was judged to be in need of special measures.

The school was required to draw up an action plan, showing how it was going to address the recommendations from the 2016 inspection. Estyn determined that there was a need to monitor the school's progress on a termly basis.

A follow up Estyn Monitoring visit took place in December 2017. Estyn decided the school had made sufficient progress against the specific recommendations from the 2016 inspection. The school was then removed from any further follow-up activity.

In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2019, the school was categorised as Yellow (an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve).



# How would standards in schools be affected by the changes?

## Standards

The Council's has made a clear commitment to continuing the investment in, and improvement of, Cardiff schools to make sure every child has the best possible start in life ([www.cardiffcommitment.co.uk](http://www.cardiffcommitment.co.uk)).

The delivery of 21st Century Learning environments will ensure that there are appropriate, high quality school places for young people which meets the needs of Cardiff's growing and changing population.

The Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to make sure that standards in schools are high, that teaching is good and that leadership and governance is strong.

The Council does not expect the proposal to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education, the delivery of the Foundation Phase or each key stage of education at any of the three schools or the SRB based at Cantonian High School. The Council expects that 21st century school facilities will better support the delivery of high quality education.

## Teaching and learning experiences

The new school facilities will support the delivery of the new 'Curriculum for Wales' for learners (3-16) which is due to be implemented in Welsh schools from 2022. The new curriculum will adopt an approach, which is inclusive and designed to address the need to prepare children and young people in Wales to thrive and be successful in a rapidly changing world.

It is recognised that the new curriculum should provide breadth, enable greater depth of learning, ensure better progression, provide scope for more imaginative and creative use of time, and place a much greater emphasis on skills. New 21st Century Schools need to meet the needs of this new, flexible curriculum.

## Care support and guidance

All three schools have a suitable range of policies and provision in place to promote pupils' health and wellbeing.

They are committed to fostering school communities in which learning is valued and pupils achieve their potential in a happy and safe environment in which they show respect and tolerance for others.

The Council would work with the leadership of each of the schools to make sure everyone at the school understands their responsibility for helping to improve and sustain care support and guidance.

## Leadership and Management

The Council would continue to work with the leadership of each of the schools to make sure everyone in the school understands their responsibility for helping to improve and sustain high performance. It would support the school to have good relationships with parents and other partners so that pupils receive a high quality education.

The proposed changes would be planned carefully so that the schools leadership and governance are not disrupted, which could have a negative impact on educational outcomes.

## How would nursery provision be affected?

None of the schools considered have nursery provision. There is also no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on nursery provision elsewhere.

## How would Post 16 provision be affected?

### Cantonian High School

Research suggests that the minimum size of sixth form provision should be no less than 200 places. Much of the funding that a school receives is based on the number of pupils in the school. The amount of funding for pupils in sixth form (age 16-19) is less than it is for pupils in years 7 -11 (age 11-16).

A sixth form of more than 200 places should provide a level of funding that would support the range of relevant courses and qualifications available without the need for financial subsidy from 11 – 16 funding or alternative sources.

Cantonian High School currently offers Post 16 provision to learners undertaking either a suite of Level 3 or Level 2 qualifications. Pupils undertake a range of qualifications either at A Level or equivalent in a variety of subjects including Art, Drama, Business, Health and Social Care, Sport, Finance, Science and English Literature.

Currently 31 % of pupils complete Level 2 qualifications in Sweet (Personal and Social Development), Travel and Tourism, Princes Trust (Personal Development and Employability Skills). In addition, pupils also have the opportunity to undertake the Skills Challenge Certificate as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

At present, Post 16 learning is integrated within the whole school; pupils are taught in classrooms alongside Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 learners with no designated sixth form space with the exception of a sixth form study space.

The school currently retains approximately 40 % of its pupils moving from Key Stage 4 to Post 16 learning. The remaining learners either continue their education at college or undertake work-based learning; 0 % of pupils were NEET in 2018/19.

As part of the expansion of Cantonian High School, it is proposed to increase post 16 (sixth form provision) to allow for up to 250 pupils. This is consistent with the average proportion of learners continuing on to sixth form provision in schools across the city.

This will enable pupils to have access to a broader curriculum, providing increased opportunities for all learners. Through improved facilities and a discrete sixth form learning environment the school will be able to offer a bespoke curriculum, facilitated through close collaboration with industries, colleges and work-based learning providers. This will ensure that there is an appropriate and purposeful learning pathway for all pupils of both an academic or vocational route.

Creating a larger sixth form at Cantonian High School creates the capacity and economies of scale to be able to improve:

- standards and Achievement – raising standards of success and achievement and increasing progression to Higher Education and employment;
- choice – improving the breadth and depth of curriculum creating greater choice for all young people to choose learning pathways that best enable them to mix and match vocational, academic and occupational qualifications and experience;
- participation – increasing participation and attendance rates;
- equality – to ensure every sixth form student is able to access the curriculum of choice;
- financial viability and effectiveness – providing a cost effective and efficient model for delivery, generating economies of scale and expanding economies of scope.

Sixth form projections will be kept under review and proposals to increase/decrease provision will be brought forward at the relevant time if required.

## Woodlands High School

As a school for learners with complex learning difficulties, the Woodlands High School curriculum is highly differentiated to meet the needs of pupils who may be working at pre-level 1 or level 1, throughout their school career.

Post-16 learners require access to entry-level courses and a curriculum that supports the development of independent life skills.

In recent years, a small number of Woodlands High School pupils have transferred to specialist colleges, post-19, or to adult day care services and some may attend a further education college. However, the majority of pupils would be unable to access a college course at Y12.

The majority of pupils stay on at school for post-16 provision, as there are few entry-level courses provided through FE colleges.

In future, as part of the work to implement the ALNET Act, the LA will be working with local colleges to develop options for a wider range of offers. However, it is likely that 50-75 % of Woodlands High School pupils will continue to need to access post-16 in a special school.

## Additional support for pupils

Tables 12 below show the percentages of:

- Pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- Pupils receiving Free School Meals
- Pupils with English as an Additional Language
- Minority Ethnic pupils

at each of the schools.

School	% of Pupils on School Action	% of Pupils on School Action Plus	% of Pupils with a statement of ALN	% of Free School Meal Pupils - 3 year average	% of Pupils with English as an Additional Language	% of Minority Ethnic Pupils
Cantonian High School	16.9 %	16.6 %	8.1 %	37.6 %	5.8 %	20.9 %
Riverbank Special School	N/A	N/A	100 %	51.4 %	32.9 %	41.4 %
Woodlands High School	N/A	N/A	100 %	54.1 %	20.7 %	14.8 %

\*further information can be found on the website: [mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk](http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk)

### How would support for pupils with English as an Additional Language be affected?

Pupils that receive support because they have English as an additional language can be supported in any school in Cardiff.

There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on how children with English as an additional language are supported. All schools in Cardiff would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil.

### How would pupils receiving Free School Meals be affected?

Some of the funding that a school receives is based on the number of pupils in the school who receive Free School Meals. All schools in Cardiff would receive funding for these pupils.

There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on pupils who receive Free School Meals.

### How would Minority Ethnic pupils be affected?

There is also no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on provision for any ethnic group.

## How would health provision be affected?

The expansion of special school and SRB places will have implications for health provision. The Council will continue to work closely with Cardiff and the Vale Health Board. Specialist settings must have access to support, training and provision from health and other specialist colleagues in order to meet the needs of learners effectively.

Health and other specialist services work in partnership with schools to meet pupils' needs. The ALN Reform Act 2018 will bring new responsibilities. The Act will be implemented over three years from September 2020. Services for health, education and social care will need to work together cohesively to coordinate assessment and provision effectively.

The Council is carrying out a joint review with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. The review looks at health and specialist provision in Cardiff special schools and the pupil referral unit. It is overseen by a project group of representatives from health, education, social services, schools, and parents. The findings will inform the design of the specialist provision at the site.

## What are the benefits of the proposal?

- the proposal would increase the number of English-medium secondary school places. It would contribute towards meeting projected demand;
- the proposal would increase the number of special school places for learners with complex ALN aged 4-19. It would contribute towards meeting projected demand;
- the proposal would increase the number of SRB places for learners aged 11 – 19 with an Autistic Spectrum Condition;
- new school buildings will address the substandard condition of the existing buildings and reduce the maintenance backlog;
- new build schools provide high quality facilities, which improve learning choices and opportunities for pupils. The Cardiff 2020 vision sets out the need to provide high quality school places. High quality learning environments have a strong impact on improving pupil outcomes;
- the new buildings will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010;
- having the three schools on one site will give opportunities for the schools to work together. There will be opportunities to share expertise and specialist facilities;
- improved outdoor sports facilities would provide enhanced opportunities for both pupil and community use.

## Potential disadvantages of the proposal

- there is potential for increased traffic congestion around the school site at the start and end of the school day. However, the Council would work with the Governing Bodies of the schools to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption;
- the Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met. They will further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the school;
- some pupils with ALN can find change difficult. They may find moving to a new building on a new site unsettling. We know they will need carefully planned support to adapt to the new setting. However, there would be sufficient time to plan and support such a transition. We have experience of successfully relocating special school provision through the transfer to Ty Gwyn Special School and would draw on this experience to support these moves if agreed.

## Risks associated with the proposal

- there is a risk that the projected increase in the number of pupils does not happen. However, based on the number of pupils in primary schools in Cardiff and proposed new housing in a number of areas of Cardiff this appears unlikely. The Council will keep its projections under review and would respond to any such changes in demand if required;
- there may be development constraints that have not yet been identified. If any became apparent, there could be implications for cost and delay. Site surveys and geo-technical reports would take place. These would provide further information around this and inform management strategies;
- the proposal may not be achievable if Welsh Government capital funding is not secured at the business case stage;
- if the Council did not get this funding from the Welsh Government then the Council would be fully responsible for all costs relating to the proposal. In this case, investment options would be reviewed to ensure the delivery of sufficient school places.

## Alternative Options

### Doing Nothing

- doing nothing is not a viable option. Addressing the maintenance backlog would only address health and safety issues. It would not provide sustainable schools for the future.

### Refurbishment of existing buildings

- refurbishment would address capacity needs at Cantonian High School for its catchment population but would not result in the increase in the number of English-medium places required at secondary age over a wider area. It would not be economical to refurbish a condition D building. It would not significantly improve the learning environment. There may still be long-term maintenance issues, which would compromise the value for money than can be achieved through the investment of public money;
- Woodlands and Riverbank Special Schools would not have space to expand if they stayed on their current sites. Only moving one special school to the new site would prevent integrated primary and secondary ALN provision. There is also no identified alternative site to build a new special school on.

## Admissions Arrangements

There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the admission of children to schools as a result of this proposal. It is possible that catchment areas for English-medium community secondary schools may need to change as a result of changes proposed in the overall 21st Century Band B Schools Programme.

Detailed information about admission arrangements is in the Council's Admission to Schools booklet. You can find this information on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

Changes to catchment areas would make sure there is a suitable balance in the supply of and take-up of places. Consultation would take place at an appropriate time to address this balance.

The Council will continue to manage all admissions to the ASC provision at Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School, in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice. This will be replaced by the ALN Code of Practice from September 2020.

Admissions to ALN provision are county-wide.

## Financial Matters

The proposed scheme on the existing Cantonian High School site is set to form part of the Council's £284 million 21st Century Schools Band B Programme. The cost of this particular scheme will be finalised in future months. However, at the time of developing the outline programme, it was anticipated that if this scheme is progressed, it would represent at least 20 % of the overall programme.

The cost of the scheme will be met jointly by the Council and the Welsh Government, with the Welsh Government funding a minimum of 65 % of the total cost, via a specific grant.

The Council's share will be funded by a combination of external borrowing, which will need to be repaid over a number of years, and capital receipts generated by the sale of Council assets.

Operational costs incurred in managing the scheme and transition from current buildings to new buildings will be met from a dedicated revenue budget.

The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers will be met through the school funding formula, which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers.

## Human Resources Matters

There are significant HR implications arising from the proposals. Firstly, the proposed increase in pupil numbers for each of the three schools will require the Governing Bodies of Cantonian High School and the Western Learning Federation to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for their respective expansions. The Governing Bodies will be encouraged to undertake this work in line with the School Organisation Planning HR Framework.

HR People Services will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes. Where the Governing Bodies have adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on the role will provide opportunities for school based staff on the school redeployment register.

Secondly, the proposals include the relocation of Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools which will require high levels of staff and trade union consultation; clear communication plans regarding the arrangements for the transition from one school site to another; in addition to staff involvement in the development of building specifications or designs.

There may also be HR implications arising from the potential for the three schools to be co-located on one school site. For example, governance arrangements for shared service contracts such as cleaning and estates management arrangements. The full implications of this will need to be assessed as the proposal progresses, and the Governing Bodies will need to ensure full consultation with staff and trade union colleagues.

## Transport Matters

The Council's strategy is to increase the overall share of daily journeys that are made by sustainable modes of transport – walking, cycling and public transport. Many journeys to school are very short; 75% of journeys to education in Cardiff are within 3km of people's homes. More of these journeys could be made by active modes if improvements could be made to the safety of roads and routes for walking and cycling within school catchment areas. The health and wellbeing benefits of enabling children to travel actively and independently to school, as opposed to being escorted by car, are well documented and evidenced.

These proposals will increase educational activity on this site through the expansion of mainstream places, the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) and accommodation of expanded capacity relocated from Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School. The expanded provision will result in additional trips to the site, which have the potential to add/alter existing pressures on the local highway network.

The current target for journeys by sustainable modes of transport (contained in the adopted Local Development Plan) is to achieve a 'modal shift' to a 50:50 split between journeys by car and journeys made by other modes including by foot, cycle and/or use of public transport by 2026. This will be achieved by ensuring that new developments are fully integrated with transport infrastructure which will reduce any negative transport impacts and maximises opportunities for more people travelling by sustainable modes. It is important that this new school facility fully reflects the Council's transport policies and makes a positive contribution to the modal shift.

This can be achieved by ensuring that the design and layout of buildings and the site access arrangements prioritise travel by active and sustainable modes. Other critical elements will be the location of access points to the site. Careful positioning of entrances to the schools, which take account of the surrounding roads and pathways is important to minimise walking and cycling distances and avoid unnecessary detours for people travelling on foot and by bicycle. The provision of on-site facilities, such as secure cycle parking spaces will also be essential.

Access to the site by private car needs to be carefully managed, particularly given how close the site is to existing residential housing. On-site parking should be planned in accordance with the Council's Managing Transport Impacts Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (2018). The parking requirements for schools within the SPG is one parking space per 30 pupils and this would apply to the mainstream school provision at the site.

The SPG does not specifically refer to provision for special schools. However, there is generally a higher ratio of staff to pupils within special education settings, together with the additional site access requirements (e.g. the quantity of minibus based pupil transport). It is recommended that parking requirements for the special education element of this development "be considered on a site specific basis and on its individual merits" (6.3, p.22).

Transport mitigation for the development will be identified through the Transport Assessment process, which will inform the proposals submitted for planning permission. The first stage of transport assessment was undertaken in October 2018. This provided an initial assessment of the traffic and transport implications of implementing the scheme.

The assessment identifies works associated with improving vehicular access and off-site highway measures including a school safety zone, traffic calming and pedestrian crossing facilities. Further transport assessment work will be required to support the detailed proposals for the new school site and to inform the future planning application for the development.



## Transport Matters (cont.)

In addition to highways measures within the immediate vicinity of the school gates, this work will need to identify other off-site improvements which can help to increase opportunities for pupils to travel to school by walking and cycling.

The Council is committed to ensuring that every school in Cardiff has an Active Travel Plan by 2020. All schools developed under Band B will need to have such a plan in place from the outset of their operation and therefore, in the event the proposed development proceeds, it would need to be supported by a travel plan, which should be informed by the Transport Assessment.

## Learner Travel Arrangements

There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from school. Any pupils affected by this proposal would be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in line with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff.

The Council's transport policy for school children can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk))

In the event of the proposal being progressed to implementation, all pupils entitlement to free home to school transport will be re-assessed from the new location.

The Council provides free home to school transport for pupils with statements for ALN dependent on the shortest available walking distance that they live from their home address to the school/base location nearest appropriate gate.

The distance criteria used are that pupils of primary school age need to live two or more miles, and secondary aged pupils three or more miles, from the school via the shortest available walking distance to the nearest appropriate gate.

For pupils with ALN the Council also takes into consideration their:

- cognitive age, and then applies the relevant distance criteria for the cognitive age
- any disabilities that will impact their ability to walk these distances.

All pupils distance assessments for entitlement to free home to school transport are undertaken on the basis that the child is accompanied on the route to school as appropriate. It is the responsibility of parents or guardians of a child to arrange for their child to be accompanied along the walking route to school.

It is anticipated that more pupils would be entitled to free transport if Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are relocated to the Cantonian High School site. However, some pupils who currently qualify for free home to school transport may no longer qualify to the new location as they will live within the distance criteria (i.e. closer to the new school).

The new site design would need to ensure adequate accessibility and capacity for the number of vehicles required to transport all of the pupils qualifying for, free home to school transport. Consideration would need to be given to the site layout for the safe flow of the vehicles so that pupils are able to access the transport and school safely.

## Partnerships

The 'Cardiff Commitment' ([www.cardiffcommitment.co.uk](http://www.cardiffcommitment.co.uk)) is the Council's youth engagement and progression strategy. It sets out how the Council and a wide range of public, private and third sector partners will work together to ensure positive outcomes for young people. Every young person in Cardiff should be either in employment or further education and training after they finish school.

To date over 120 businesses have pledged to support Cardiff Commitment. They provide opportunities to schools and young people that better prepare them for the world of work and contributing to the future economic growth of the city.

The Council's proposals for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme, and the Cardiff 2020 strategy, clearly state the link between improving the environment for learning and raising standards of achievement.

The Council is keen to assist with the development of opportunities between schools and businesses. This would help to create a sustainable pool of talent for future workforce needs. It would spread skills across the city. An example of this is the Creative Education Partnership that has been established between Cardiff West Community High School and a number of partner organisations.

The proposal would support opportunities for strong partnerships with businesses and employers. Opportunities for further partnerships are being explored. These will be progressed in line with the priorities set out in the Cardiff Commitment.

## Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

This proposal would not change the number of Welsh-medium secondary school places available in the area.

The Council does not expect any negative impact on the Welsh Language from this proposal.

Welsh is taught in English-medium schools in line with the National Curriculum. This would continue to apply if Cantonian High School was expanded.

The Council works closely and constructively with partners on its Welsh Education Forum (WEF). The forum includes representatives of nursery, primary, secondary and further education, childcare, RhAG and the Welsh Government. It actively informs the planning of Welsh-medium places. It also supports the Council's plan to sustainably increase the number of Welsh learners. This includes learners in Welsh-medium schools and those learning Welsh in English-medium schools.

The Council and the Welsh Education Forum are committed to driving the increase in the number of pupils in Welsh-medium education. They aim to meet the targets within Cardiff's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and set out in the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

The Council monitors birth rates, the number of extra pupils that may come from new housing and the patterns of how many pupils are in Welsh-medium schools. This allows the Council to bring forward suitable plans to deal with any increase in demand.

Forecasts suggest that extra places will also be needed in Welsh-medium secondary schools. Separate proposals will be brought forward to address this. This will be at an appropriate time to ensure there are enough places available.

## Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (cont.)

The Council must make sure that the expansion of school provision is brought forward in a strategic and timely manner.

These proposals do not include opportunities to develop Welsh-medium ALN provision. The Council are taking separate steps to expand specialist ALN provision in the Welsh medium sector. This is through the WESP, the Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act Regional Implementation Plan and the Cardiff ALN Strategy.

Since 2016 the number of SRB places for Welsh-medium learners has increased from 20 SRB places at Ysgol Coed Y Gof to 60 SRB places between Ysgol Coed Y Gof and Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch. At January 2019, about 25 SRB places will be taken-up. There is spare capacity for growth in the Welsh-medium sector of up to 35 places.

In addition to these, a Welsh-medium primary 'wellbeing class' was established in 2016-17. It offers 6 month placements for up to 8 pupils in each year group with significant emotional health and wellbeing needs and 26 assessment/ 'Pupil Referral Unit -type' places.

In January 2018, a secondary 'virtual Pupil Referral Unit' offering specialist support to pupils learning through the medium of Welsh, at risk of exclusion was established, offering places for up to 18 pupils in each year group in the three Welsh-medium secondary schools. These are sufficient to meet demand.

The Council is keeping capacity under review and will take steps to extend places in response to pupil needs.

In addition to the establishment of a greater number of places for learners in Cardiff with ALN, the Council are leading on the ALNET Regional Implementation Plan, Priority 7. This is to 'Review and improve Welsh medium provision and specialist support to increase regional capacity to support ALN'.

The objectives are to:

- Analyse how widespread ALN and the level of need are in the Welsh-medium sector. This will look at each local authority across the region (Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr);
- Map what Welsh-medium provision and support is available across the region;
- Increase sharing of good practice for ALN in the Welsh-medium sector;
- Ensure that the ALNET Regional Implementation Plan supports and complements regional WESP priorities.

## Governance Arrangements

The proposal is that the three schools continue to operate as three separate schools with their own governance and management arrangements.

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would continue to be governed as part of the Western Learning Campus Federation.

There will be opportunities for some shared facilities on site and use of these by all three schools. This will support the development of inclusion opportunities between Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School.

Additionally, a joint committee, representing both Cantonian High School and the Federation, accountable to both governing bodies, would be established to facilitate joint management of the site.

## Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that looks at a policy, project or scheme to make sure it does not discriminate against anyone based on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation).

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. It concluded that the proposed changes would not negatively affect a particular group in society.

This assessment will be reviewed after the consultation and at key points if the proposals were to proceed.

If the proposal goes ahead, another equality impact assessment would be carried out.

This would identify accessibility to the new build high school site. The equality impact assessment would take into account policies such as the Equality Act 2010, TAN 12: Design 2014 as well as building regulations such as BS8300, Part M and relevant Building Bulletins.

## Community Impact

When considering the potential for impact on the wider community as a result of a proposal, the following are taken into account: Public Open Space, parkland, the current use of school facilities by the community, noise and traffic congestion. Officers will work with schools and any community group to make sure that the proposal avoids negative impacts if possible.

The schools that might be affected by the proposals are existing schools. They offer a range of after school activities and some have community organisations offering services from the school. It is not thought that there would be a negative impact on any of these activities as a result of the these proposals.

Many schools have established or are developing sports and wider leisure provision for use by the public. A key objective is to enable third party to access the sports facilities at schools. This would be on a sustainable financial basis.

Welsh Government's aim for shared facilities in community-focussed schools are to:

- provide opportunities for the local community and sports organisations to participate in sport and physical activity for health improvement and development of their skills, particularly amongst low participant groups;
- operate in line with the national agenda for sport taking into account nationally adopted strategies;
- generate positive attitudes in sport and physical activity by young people and reducing the dropout rate in sports participation with age;
- increase the number of people of all ages and abilities participating in sport and physical activity including people with disabilities;
- use the facilities to encourage the range, quality and number of school sports club links and to stimulate competition that is inclusive of young people and adults;
- provide affordable access to the facilities and to be self-financing and cost neutral in the first instance, generating sustainable income for the school in the future.

## Community Impact (cont.)

The Council will maximise Community Benefits wherever possible, including benefits for children and young people, through its procurement practices, and has explicitly identified this as one aspect of its programme to promote children's rights as a participating member of the UNICEF Child Rights Partner Programme.

The Council intends to work proactively with contractors and the local community to progress Community Benefit procurement initiatives and exchange best practice wherever possible.

The Council will work with contractors to ensure that their supply chains are aware of the Council's aspirations for Community Benefits and ensure the credentials of suppliers in this respect. This will safeguard, wherever possible, the Council's aspiration to secure Community Benefits is integrated into the specification.

In line with Welsh Government guidelines on Community Benefits, the Council will strive to meet the benchmark targets.

These four targets are:

- Jobs
- Apprenticeships
- STEM Engagement
- Training

## Wellbeing of Future Generations

In line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act Cardiff's Band B programme is committed to providing local schools for local children. It encourages use of sustainable modes of travel to schools, such as walking and cycling. Each school project takes into account key transport issues when they are being designed. The firm need to provide safer routes to encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes to schools is considered and supported.

With the current investments in ICT across the city, student movements may be further reduced as mobile technology develops. This allows more flexible teaching methods. These have the potential to result in a more efficient Travel Plan and further contribute to the Council's targets to reduce its carbon emissions.

We are keen to maximise the long-term impact of this investment. Any design taken forward for this proposal would be developed to ensure the delivery of high quality modern facilities. Facilities would be able to respond to pupils' needs and support the delivery of effective teaching and learning methods. Facilities would be designed to incorporate the flexibility to take account of changes in needs over time. These could be affected by changing demographics and pupil numbers, changing curriculum and changing types of pupil needs.

## Potential Disruption to Pupils

The Council has significant experience in the successful delivery of building projects on the sites of occupied schools as a result of progressing a large and growing school organisation programme.

Any building work carried out on the Cantonian High School site would be managed effectively in consultation with the school to ensure the full curriculum continues to be delivered and that high education standards and safety standards are maintained.

Pupils enrolled at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would remain on their current sites until the new build school facilities are ready.

## What would happen to the Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School sites?

Both schools would remain on their current sites until the new build school facilities are ready.

Further consideration would have to be given to the future use of the sites. Any decisions regarding these sites would take into account the neighbouring Ty Gwyn Special School and any potential future needs.

## Interim Arrangements

Pupil projections are kept under review and interim arrangements would be brought forward as necessary to ensure continuation of education for pupils in each of the schools.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Will the Cantonian High School site be large enough to accommodate all three schools?**

The Cantonian High School site is one of the largest in Cardiff and there is sufficient space available to accommodate the proposed expansion of Cantonian High School, increased SRB provision, an expanded Riverbank Special School and an expanded Woodlands High School.

### **Will the federation between Ty Gwyn, Riverbank and Woodlands High School be affected if two of the schools move to the Cantonian High School site?**

The proposal is that the three schools continue to operate as three separate schools with their own governance and management arrangements.

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would continue to be governed as part of the Western Learning Campus Federation.

## Frequently asked questions (cont.)

### **Will Health Service provision at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School be increased in line with the proposed increase in pupil numbers?**

The expansion of special school and SRB places will have implications for health provision. The Council will continue to work closely with Cardiff and the Vale Health Board. Specialist settings must have access to support, training and provision from health and other specialist colleagues to meet the needs of learners.

Health and other specialist services work in partnership with schools to meet pupils' needs. The ALN Reform Act 2018 will bring new responsibilities. The Act will be implemented over three years from September 2020. Services for health, education and social care will need to work together to coordinate assessment and provision.

The Council is carrying out a joint review with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. The review looks at health and specialist provision in Cardiff special schools and the pupil referral unit. It is overseen by a project group of representatives from health, education, social services, schools, and parents. The findings will inform the design of the specialist provision at the site.

### **Will pupils' education be disrupted as a result of the proposals?**

The Council has significant experience in the successful delivery of building projects on the sites of occupied schools resulting from the progression of a large and growing school organisation programme.

Any building work carried out on the Cantonian High School site would be managed effectively in consultation with the school to ensure the full curriculum continues to be delivered and that high education standards and safety standards are maintained.

Pupils enrolled at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would remain on their current sites until the new build school facilities are ready.

### **What will happen to the Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School sites?**

Further consideration would need to be given to the future use of the sites. Any decisions regarding these sites would take into account the neighbouring Ty Gwyn Special School and any potential future needs.

### **What is the intended timescale of development?**

It is intended that building work would on start in the 2019/2020 school year and be completed in readiness for pupils to use all new facilities in the 2023/2024 school year.

# Next steps, how to make your views known and feedback form

## What happens next?

### Key Dates

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet. This consultation report will be available for anyone to view/download on the Council website. You can also get a copy by using the contact details in this document.

If the proposals are agreed to proceed following consultation there are a number of further stages that the Council would have to go through before a final decision is made.

These stages are set out in Table 13 below:

**Table 13: Further stages**

Statutory Process	Timescale
Consultation Period	04 February – 22 March 2019
Consultation report considered by the Council Cabinet and published on the Council website	May 2019
Expected date for start of Objection Period, when statutory notice has been issued (when formal objections can be made)	June 2019
Expected date for end of Objection Period	June 2019
Publication of Objection Report	July 2019
Determination of proposal by the Welsh Ministers	Autumn 2019

This timetable may be subject to change.

### Consultation period

The consultation period for these proposals starts on 04 February 2019 and ends on 22 March 2019. See page 5 for further details of how to respond and make your views known.

Within 13 weeks of 22 March the Council will publish a consultation report on its website. You can also ask for a hard copy of the report. The report will go over the issues raised by people during the consultation period and give the Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposed changes.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the changes it must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. This is an official statement saying that the changes will go ahead.



## Statutory Notice

A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. The approval to publish a statutory notice must be given by the Council's Cabinet. This would only be considered after the Cabinet have received a report on all the consultation responses. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Council would publish the statutory notice on its website. It would also put copies of the notice at or near the main entrance to the school(s)/site(s) affected by the notice. Schools that are affected would also be given copies of the notice to give out to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email). The notice sets out the details of the proposals and asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council within the dates given on the notice.

## Objection Report

If objections to the published statutory notice are received, the Council would publish a summary of these objections and the Council's response to those objections. The Objection Report would be published on the Council website.

## Determination of the proposals

These proposals affect sixth form provision and will therefore require the approval of Welsh Ministers. This means the Welsh Ministers will make the final decision on whether the changes go ahead.

Within 35 days of the end of the objection period the Council will forward copies of the statutory objections in addition to the objection report to the Welsh Ministers.

The Welsh Ministers may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposals with modification.

Modifications would normally only include changes to matters such as the timing of implementation or admission numbers. The Welsh Ministers are not able to make modifications that would in effect substitute a new proposal for the proposal which was published. Before making any modification, the Welsh Ministers must first consult the proposer and the relevant Governing Body/ bodies and Local Authority (where they are not the proposers), and obtain the proposer's agreement to the modification.

Approvals can be made conditional on a specified event occurring.

## Decision Notification

Following a decision by the Welsh Government, the Council will let everyone affected by the proposal know what the decision taken is. It will be published electronically on the Council's website.

## 21st Century Schools

The redevelopment of Cantonian High School,  
Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School

# Have Your Say!

## What is proposed?

We are proposing, from September 2023, to:

- Expand Cantonian High School from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form places for up to 250 pupils including the replacement of the Cantonian High School buildings with larger new build school facilities on the same site.
- Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) that is hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places. The new Cantonian school buildings would include enlarged purpose built accommodation for the SRB.
- Expand Riverbank Special School from 70 to 140 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.
- Expand Woodlands High School from 140 places to 240 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.

### 1. Are you responding as: Please tick all that apply

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil (Which School) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Staff      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |   |

### 2. Do you support the proposal to expand and replace the Cantonian High School buildings?

Yes  No

### 3. Do you support the proposal to expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)?

Yes  No

### 4. Do you support the proposal to expand and move Riverbank Special School to the current Cantonian High School site?

Yes  No

### 5. Do you support the proposal to expand and move Woodlands High School to the current Cantonian High School site?

Yes  No

## 6. If you support or do not support the proposal then please explain why

## 7. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please details these below

## 8. Any other comments?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice. If you wish to be notified of publication of the Consultation report please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date.

**Thank you for your comments**

**Please return this form to School Organisation Planning, Room 422, County Hall, CF10 4UW by no later than 22 March 2019.**

The information you have provided above will be processed by Cardiff Council in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation. The information provided to us in relation to this consultation will be treated as confidential but it may be used by the Council or disclosed to others when required by law. The purpose of processing the personal data is required to perform a specific task in the public interest. Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public, however any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

For further information on how Cardiff Council manages personal information, see our full Privacy Policy on the Council's website [https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New\\_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx)