

# Consultation Document

## Proposal to close Rhydri Primary School

9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024



This document is available electronically at  
<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/sustainable-communities-learning>

This document is available in Welsh and English. Information can also be made available in other formats, languages and in hard copy on request. Please contact us on 01443 864817 / [21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk) to arrange this.



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# INTRODUCTION

## What is this booklet about?

This booklet is for anyone who has an interest in education in Caerphilly and may be of particular interest to parents/guardians of children attending or expecting to attend Rhydri Primary School.

This booklet sets out the changes we are suggesting to these educational facilities in the Borough and the reasons for these proposed changes.

The consultation process represents an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments that will be recorded and summarised in a consultation report. This report will be published on the Council's website and will be considered when Cabinet decides on the way forward.

## What are we proposing to do?

The Council wishes to make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

Due to the falling rolls and significant projected deficit budget at Rhydri Primary school, several meetings were arranged by the Head Teacher and the Governing body with Local Authority representatives including the Chief Education Officer, to discuss the future viability of the school. At the conclusion of these meetings in March 2024, the Governing Body advised that the school could no longer maintain a balanced budget and an appropriate staffing level, therefore requested the Local Authority start the consultation process to pursue the proposed closure of Rhydri Primary School with effect from July 2025.

We are proposing:

- **Closure of Rhydri Primary School**

The proposal relates to the closure of Rhydri Primary School with effect from July 2025, following a request to consult from the Governing Body of the School made at their meeting of the 14th March 2024.





# CONSULTATION PROCESS

## Who are we consulting with?

Through [TeamCaerphilly - Better Together](#), the Council is committed to ensuring high quality, citizen focused services for the communities that comprise our county borough. In future-proofing public services, we recognise the need to ensure effective engagement which is central to our decision making - [Read more about our approach to Consultation and Engagement here](#)

For this proposal, our consultation process must follow the Welsh Government Statutory guidance as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

We are obligated to advise the following of our proposals by letter or email:

Table 1: Consultee List	
Pupils and Pupil Councils*	Welsh Ministers
Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers*	Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served *
Headteacher, Staff and Governing bodies*	Local CCBC Members
Directors of Education for Neighbouring Authorities	Local Town and Community Councils
Teaching and Support Staff Associations	Estyn
Parent Network	Welsh Education Forum
Diocesan Directors / Boards of Education	South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners	South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith and voluntary nursery providers

*\*of schools directly or likely to be affected by the proposal only*

### **Please note:**

- All responses received during the consultation period will be recorded and summarised in a Consultation Report.
- The Consultation Report will be presented for initial review and endorsement at Education Scrutiny Committee, with final approval to proceed to the next stage sitting with Cabinet.
- Cabinet members will be provided with copies of all the responses received within the consultation period and in their original format as part of the decision making process.
- Any negative responses made during the consultation period will not be counted as objections to the proposal but as adverse comments.

- Objections to a proposal can only be registered after the publication of a statutory notice which is the second stage in the proposal, subject to approval by Cabinet.

## **How can you find out more?**

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making.

As part of this proposal, the following documentation has been produced:

- A Consultation Document outlining the proposal (this document)
- A Children and Young People's Summary
- An Integrated Impact Assessment

Information is made available on the Council's website and all documentation is published in Welsh and English and available in other languages or formats on request.

Further details in relation to the processes and timelines can be found later in this document in the **'Next Steps'** Section.

## **Views of children on the proposal**

The Council has acknowledged that the voice of young people is about involving them as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational and student experience and needs to be at the heart of planning, provision and evaluation.

Young people have a right to act to express their views in all matters affecting them and for their views to be heard and given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. The Council recognises the potential of young people to enrich the decision-making processes, to share perspectives and to participate as citizens and facilitators of change.

This is also been reflected by the Estyn report 'Pupil Participation: a best practice guide', which highlights how effective participation benefits pupils and helps schools to improve.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Team in Caerphilly will ensure that when bringing forward any proposal, suitable arrangements are made to consult and involve pupils throughout the process and post occupancy. A child friendly version of the Consultation Document will be produced and any feedback from pupils and School Council's will be included in the documentation forwarded to Cabinet for consideration once the consultation period has ended.





# WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THESE CHANGES?

## Background Information

Rhydri Primary School provides education to pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 and has a capacity figure of 91 places with a published admission number of 13.

In February 2014 the school was encouraged to work collaboratively with Bedwas Junior School to move out of special measures and support its financial outlook. As a result of this being successfully implemented, the school saw an initial increase in pupil numbers and a move out of special measures, the formal Federation of the Governing Bodies of Rhydri Primary School and Bedwas Junior School was established in September 2019.

However, the Head Teacher and Governing Body acknowledged that Rhydri Primary School faced a significant financial deficit with pupil numbers projected to decrease moving forward and approached the Local Authority to work together to look at all potential solutions and various financial models to explore the potential scenarios for recovery.

Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, individual school budgets are determined using a locally agreed funding formula in accordance with factors which are property and learner led. Schools must be able to demonstrate via a financial action plan that the school will work to deliver a balanced budget.

In Summer of 2023, the advice was to reduce from 3 classes to 2 classes in order to maximise the time available to the school to recover its financial position. This advice was based on successful precedents in other local authorities and working closely with the Education Achievement Service. At this point, the Governing Body voted in favour of this proposal, as did the staff affected. The emphasis was on prolonging the viability of the school and minimising the impact on children and the education delivered.

However, due to concerns raised by parents, the decision was reversed by the Governing Body resulting in retaining 3 classes at the school and pursuit of additional pupils through a proactive marketing campaign designed to drive up pupil numbers.

The Local Authority made it clear to Governors when considering this alternative position, that should pupil numbers not significantly increase by the Spring of 2024 the school may have no option but to move to closure. The Governing Body ultimately chose to vote in favour of the parental desire to retain 3 classes and against the advice of the Local Authority, in spite of the accelerated risk to the future viability of the school.

Whilst there was an initial increase in pupil numbers noted, during this time, the costs of continuing with 3 classrooms have continued to increase the deficit facing the school. At the end of the 2023/2024 financial year the school reported on a deficit budget of £22,000, and despite cutting back in all areas working closely with the Local Authority, the school have submitted their 2024/2025 figures of a deficit budget of £175,000. When a school reports a deficit budget, they must produce a 3 year action plan that will return the budget to a surplus position. Whilst there is an option to explore this over a 5 year period with permission from the Local Authority's Section 151 Officer, even over a 5 year period, a surplus position remains unachievable for the school.

At time of writing, the number of pupils anticipated to attend the school in September 2024, is 39 pupils (31 Full Time and 8 Part Time) with 79% of these pupils residing outside of the catchment

area of the school. Based on the anticipated numbers for September 2024, surplus places will be at 62% and projected to increase in future years as the number of pupils predicted to attend the school is anticipated to decline linked to a reduction in live birth rates in the area and parental preference.

All reasonable alternatives to closure have been explored, and all avenues presented by the Governing Body explored including the viability of a Church of Wales School option. However, the projected pupil numbers and resultant deficit financial outlook for the school provides a significant challenge to the Head and School Governors to agree a balanced budget to maintain the school and an appropriate staffing level, which has led to a request from the Governing Body at its meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to the local authority to consider closing the school from July 2025 and undertake the required Statutory Consultation.

## Planning of school places

All Councils in Wales must make sure they provide enough school spaces for pupils of all ages in order to provide the best quality of education and ensure the funding provided by the Welsh government is used effectively. All Councils in Wales must also provide places that meet the needs of the pupils in Welsh, English or Faith medium and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

### ➤ Rhydri Primary School

<b>Table 2: Pupil Numbers</b>			
<b>Rhydri Primary School</b>			
<b>Year Group</b>	<b>As at January 2024</b>	<b>As at July 2024</b>	<b>Projected for September 2024</b>
Nursery	6 (3 FTE)	5 (2.5 FTE)	8 (4 FTE)
Reception	7	4	6
Year 1	4	1	4
Year 2	9	7	1
Year 3	9	7	5
Year 4	6	3	3
Year 5	11	10	3
Year 6	9	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b> (58 FTE)	<b>46</b> (43.5 FTE)	<b>39</b> (35 FTE)

\*FTE – Full Time Equivalent as nursery pupils only attend school on a part time basis.

## Projected Demand

### Projections

Projections are calculated based on historical trends, and then this information is used to project forward.

### Population Decline

Despite Caerphilly being ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for total population and the 4<sup>th</sup> most densely populated of Wales' 22 Local Authorities, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 census data identified an overall population decrease by 1.6%, from around 178,800 in 2011 to 175,900 in 2021. This is particularly evident with a decrease of 7.1% seen in children numbers under the age of 15 years, especially in the 0 to 4 age group range with a drop of 19% which is above the Wales average.

<b>Table 3: Office for National Statistics - Population Data for Caerphilly</b>									
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Ages 0-15	34,079	34,000	33,906	33,886	33,736	33,554	33,221	32,935	32,547

### Live Birth Data

The Local Health Board provides the Local Authority with data relating to the number of Live Births within the Borough. Reflecting the general population decline, the Authority has seen a significant drop in live births.

<b>Table 4: Local Health Board - Live Birth Data for Caerphilly</b>									
<i>Number of children eligible to attend schools (born 3 years earlier)</i>									
<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	
2,048	2,037	1,963	1,959	1,765	1,715	1,539	1,682	1,561	

For the Rhydri Primary School catchment area, 7 live births were recorded in 2019/2020 who were then eligible to attend nursery in Rhydri Primary School from September 2023 subject to parental preference. Based on historical information there is an expectation that a proportion of these children would attend either Welsh Medium Education, Faith School or an alternative out of catchment English Medium Primary School.

Of those 7, only 3 attended nursery at Rhydri Primary School, and this is a consistent historical trend.

## HOW WOULD OTHER SCHOOLS BE AFFECTED?

When considering any proposals, the sustainability and enhancement of the education network and wider area is considered. Due regard will be given to the impact of this proposal and consultation will be undertaken with any affected schools.



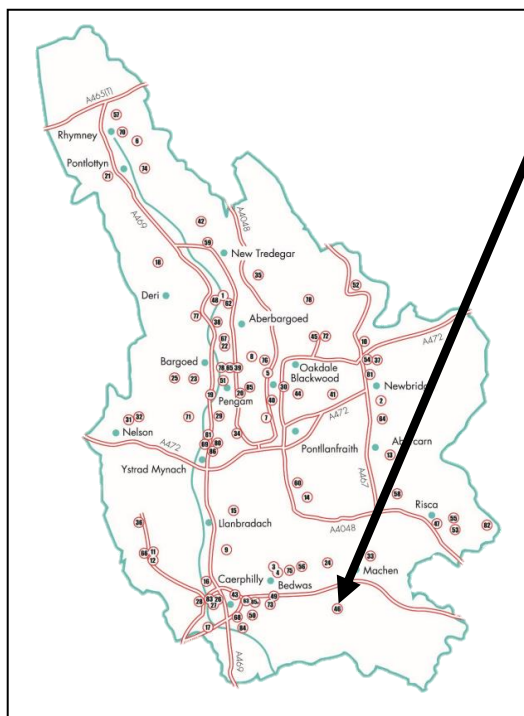
## Early Years Provision

Caerphilly County Borough Council recognises the value and importance of childcare as a vital element of the anti-poverty agenda as well as providing an enriched, safe and nurturing environment in which the children and young people of the county borough can flourish and have fun. As such the Council has an Early Years' Service area that is dedicated to managing all aspects of the childcare market in a coordinated manner.

There is no registered childcare attached to Rhydri Primary School currently, however, there are registered childcare providers in the nearby areas. Local Primary Schools offer Early Years Education for rising 3s with the exception of Machen Primary. There are sufficient local childcare providers who offer fee paying wraparound as well as Childcare Offer, tax free childcare funded placements and some who also offer Flying Start funded placements for eligible children. There is no anticipated detrimental impact on nearby childcare providers to meet the demand from families, although the local authority Early Years and Childcare team continues to work with providers to support them to expand where need arises.

## Catchment Area and Learner Travel Arrangements

Of the 30 wards in Caerphilly Borough, Rhydri Primary School is part of the Machen and Rudry Ward.



Rhydri Primary School is located within the Caerphilly Basin area and is a feeder school for St Martin's secondary school.

In order to ensure there is no change to the catchment area for Secondary provision, it is proposed that the catchment area remains within that for St Martins secondary school.

To enable this, the nearest primary school with availability to accommodate all pupils from Rhydri Primary School across all age groups, and within the St Martins secondary school catchment is St.James Primary School. Therefore, should this proposal be agreed by Cabinet, all pupils will be able to transition to St. James Primary School subject to parental preference.

Transport will be provided in line with the Council's Transport Policy.

## Impact on other schools

The Council is mindful to ensure that any school proposals have minimal impact on neighbouring schools.

These being:

<b>Table 5: Neighbouring Schools Data</b>				
<b>School</b>	<b>Published Capacity</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>	<b>Feeder School into Secondary School</b>	<b>Distance from Rhydri Primary School</b>
St James Primary	330	47	St Martins School	2.2 miles
The Twyn Primary	393	56	St Martins School	2.6 miles
Bedwas Infants School	120	40	Bedwas High School	2.6 miles
Bedwas Junior School	173	43	Bedwas High School	2.4 miles
Graig Y Rhacca Primary	210	30	Bedwas High School	1.8 miles
Machen Primary	192	27	Bedwas High School	2.2 miles
Plasyfelin Primary	394	56	Bedwas High School	3.4 miles
Tynywern Primary	223	31	Bedwas High School	2.1 miles

Based on current pupil numbers, the large percentage of pupils attending Rhydri Primary School who reside outside of its catchment; therefore it is envisaged that there will be minimal impact on any of the neighbouring schools.

The proposed new catchment of St James Primary School has sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils who are currently attending Rhydri Primary School, subject to parental preference and all Year 6 pupils will naturally progress to a Secondary provision subject to parental preference.

### **Disruption to pupils**

Subject to Cabinet approval, the School Admissions Team will work with parents to support transition to a new school.

As this proposal is to close at the end of the academic year 2025. There will be no impact on the delivery of education during the school year.

### **Secondary Provision**

Rhydri Primary School is a feeder for St Martins Secondary School and the proposed allocation of St James Primary School is also a feeder school for St Martins. As such, this proposal will have no perceived impact on the current arrangement at Secondary level.



# WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL?

## Education Standards, Quality and Leadership

Quality and standards in schools in Caerphilly are monitored by Estyn and the Local Authority (LA). Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales. Copies of the full reports for each individual school are available from the [Estyn website](#)

Pupils that are currently in Year 6 will receive the usual transition opportunities to prepare for the next stage of education in St Martin's Secondary School or elsewhere. This will include opportunities, prior to the start of the new academic year, for pupils to engage in pre-planned relationship-building activities with peers across the St Martin's cluster. Discussions will also take place between schools to promote continuity of learning and ensure that individual needs will be met in the new setting. Regular meetings between the Local Authority and the school will monitor the induction and progress of this group of pupils.

Similarly, robust transition arrangements will be provided for pupils moving to another primary school. Senior leaders of St James Primary School will meet monthly with the Local Authority throughout 2024-25 to consider progress against the recommendations of the recent Estyn Inspection. These meetings will also identify the integration of Rhydri Primary pupils into their new setting, identifying any further support that the school may require. Pupils moving to other primary schools will be subject to the usual transition arrangements between schools. As above, discussion will take place between schools to promote continuity of learning and raise awareness of individual needs.

## Governance Arrangements

The proposed changes would be planned carefully to minimise any negative impact. Subject to approval, the Governing Body of Rhydri Primary School will be disbanded at the time of closure.

Rhydri Primary School is currently federated with Bedwas Junior School and the federation has been established since February 2019 after a successful period of collaboration. Subject to approval to close, the federation will automatically dissolve, and the authority will work with the Governing Body of Bedwas Junior School to ensure that any statutory processes and support are followed.

## Staff Matters

Further discussions with the school will be made as the proposal progresses and the Council's Human Resources Team will work closely with all relevant parties to ensure that processes are adhered to, and support is provided as required.

## **Financial Matters**

The projected pupil numbers and resultant financial outlook for the school provides a significant challenge to the Head and School Governors to agree a balanced budget to maintain the school and an appropriate staffing level which has led to a request to the local authority to consider closing the school from July 2025.

At the end of the 2023/2024 financial year the school reported on a deficit budget of £22,000 and despite cutting back in all areas working closely with the Local Authority, the school have submitted their 2024/2025 figures of a deficit budget of £175,000. When a school reports a deficit budget, they must produce a 3 year action plan that will return the budget to a surplus position. Whilst there is an option to explore this over a 5 year period with permission from the Local Authority's Section 151 Officer, even over a 5 year period, a surplus position remains unachievable for the school.

## **Specialist Facilities / Additional Learning Needs**

A key responsibility of the Council is to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places in the most appropriate locations and maintain an awareness of demographic changes (i.e. increases and decreases in the pupil population). The Council is also required to identify an authority-wide strategy for community provision in schools, as well as specialist provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or disabilities.

The Authority recognises the impact of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (2018) and the need to future proof provision. Consideration of the correct types, quantity and quality of provision to meet the future needs of the population has been considered.

Currently of the 39 pupils attending the school as of July 2024, a number have additional learning needs (ALN). Whilst the percentage of children with ALN in Rhydri may be greater than in other schools this has to be considered in the context of the number on roll.

The new unified ALN system ensures that there is a coherent approach across all schools to meeting ALN needs, supported well by the LA. The majority of children with ALN have their needs met in mainstream, through the development of additional learning provision (ALP), as outlined by the ALN Act and Code. In a very few cases children required ALP that is delivered through a specialist resource base (SRB) or at a special school.

The LA has clear criteria for consideration of such provision and each case is considered against those criteria in accordance with the law, by the LA panel.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the proposed closure of Rhydri Primary would mean that children with ALN transition to a new school. The existing person-centred process will facilitate the sharing of information between schools thus ensuring that the new school is able to consider how to develop ALP to meet the needs of the pupils, and a review of any existing IDP would take place upon transition. Should any of these children require specialist provision that would be considered in line with the existing LA process.

The development of any specialist provision within the LA is under review in line with the LA duties. Any new county wide provision development is linked to need and the existing LA criteria. It would not necessarily be the case that any of the children with ALN currently attending Rhydri primary would meet the criteria for existing, or any new provision developed within the LA.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

The Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities.

Impact assessments help us to show that the council has due regard in the exercise of its equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. They are a tool we use to ensure the policies, practices, projects and activities which shape our work are ensuring equal access to all our services.

Impact assessments look at whether changes to how we do things (like working practices or ways we deliver services) are likely to have a positive or negative impact on the people we serve and on those who deliver our services. They help us to plan to reduce or remove negative impact – for example by making reasonable changes to how a group receives a service (perhaps providing information in a different format or providing ramped access into a building etc.).

The utilisation of the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment design will shape the Council's work in ensuring equal access to all services and further help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

A full Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

This document is available to view a part of the consultation pack on the website.

As a summary:

### *Community Impact*

Subject to the proposal gaining approval and the closure of Rhydri Primary School, the existing school building and site would then be classified as surplus to educational requirement and become an unallocated Corporate Asset. Future use of the building and site would then be subject to a stringent series of tests to ensure Welsh Language and Local Community Use are prioritised. Any current community groups would be encouraged to relocate and will be engaged with as part of the consultation process.

### *Impact on Welsh Language Provision*

The Council is committed to developing opportunities for provision to be delivered through the medium of Welsh where possible, however, the proposal seeks to make changes associated with an English Medium School and it is envisaged that this will have minimal impact on the current Welsh Medium offer available across the Borough.



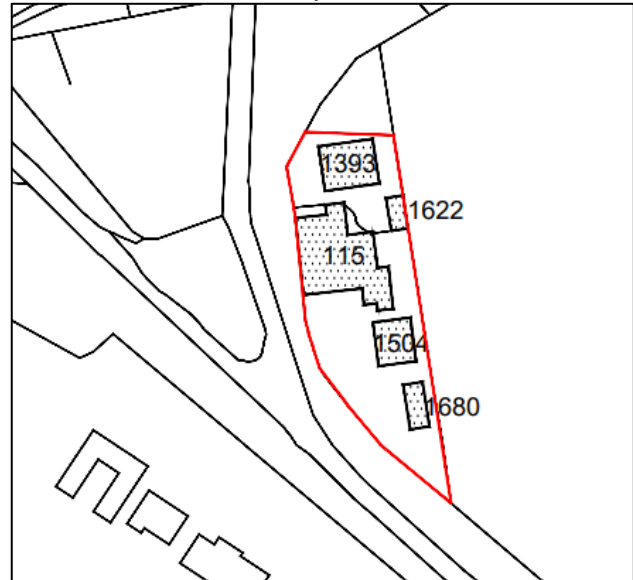
## Condition, Suitability and Decarbonisation of school buildings

Built circa 1900 and situated in Rhydri, the school occupies a total area of approximately 0.1 Hectares, and accommodates 1 main structure, 2 demountables, Staff Room and Intervention space, with limited outside space utilised for curriculum activities.

Current Site



Siteplan



The school has a condition rating of C, a Suitability grading of D and a Display Energy Certificate category of G. In comparison, St James Primary School, which was replaced with a new building in 2011, has a condition rating of C+ and a suitability grading of A with a Display Energy Certificate of C.

## WHAT WILL THE PROPOSAL ACHIEVE

Subject to Cabinet approval:

Transition of pupils to St James Primary School, subject to parental preference

- HR support provided to Staff to look at available options
- Closure of a school premises
- Removal of all surplus places at Rhydri Primary School
- Reduction by circa 10% of surplus places at St James Primary School (*based on all current Rhydri Primary School pupils being accommodate*)
- Realignment of catchment area
- Continuity of Secondary Education Transition
- Transport requirements (only 21% of pupils reside within catchment)
- Financial
- Dissolution of Federation between Rhydri Primary School and Bedwas Junior Primary School

Risks will be managed pro-actively in accordance with our risk management procedures.

A number of teams within the Authority will provide support in all relevant areas, such as Human Resources, School Transport, School Admissions, taking a Team Around the School approach should this proposal be approved, to support the Governing Body and Head to implement the closure.

## Options

All reasonable alternatives to closure have been explored:

- Collaboration with Bedwas Junior School (implemented in February 2014)
- Federation with Bedwas Junior School (implemented in September 2019)
- Recommendation from LA relating to Class Reduction from 3 to 2 (not taken up)
- Parental marketing campaign
- The agreed timeline for the Governing Body to produce a balanced budget was extended from 3 to 5 years as agreed by the Authority's Section 151 Officer.

In addition, all avenues presented by the Governing Body and raised at Cabinet on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 have been explored including the viability of a Church of Wales School option, the option to extend to 5-year financial recovery plan, by permission of Section 151 Officer and consideration of ALN provision.

Therefore, the projected pupil numbers and resultant deficit financial outlook for the school provides a significant challenge to the Head and School Governors to agree a balanced budget to maintain the school and an appropriate staffing level, which has led to a request from the Governing Body at its meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to the local authority to consider closing the school from July 2025 and undertake the required Statutory Consultation.



## NEXT STEPS

### Consultation Period and key dates

**The formal consultation process begins on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

This consultation document and response form are available electronically on the Council website. Further information is available on the [Sustainable Communities for Learning webpage](#)

A Children and Young People's Everyday Summary Version of this consultation has also been produced. Both this and the full version are available via the Caerphilly County Borough Council website and printed copies are also available on request.

If you would like this information in any other format, for example large print, or help with interpretation in a different language, please contact us on 01443 864817 / [21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk) so that the necessary arrangements can be made to provide this service.

## **The closing date for responses to this consultation is midnight on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to consider any responses received after this date.

### **Statutory Notices, Reporting and Decision Making**

Following consultation, Caerphilly's Cabinet will receive a Consultation Report which will outline the proposal and all the comments received from the public during the consultation period. At this stage, the members can decide whether to proceed with the proposal, make changes to the proposal or not to proceed with the proposal.

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the 28-day period.

Cabinet will then consider the outcome of the Statutory Notice at a future meeting and determine whether to implement the proposal having given due consideration to all the information provided.

In the event of objections, the Council will publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and Cabinet's response to those objections. This report will be available for all persons to view on the Council website and paper copies will be available on request.

### **Have your say**

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have proposed in this document. We would like you to consider the information contained within the document and to hear your views as to whether or not you support the proposal. All views are welcomed in support of or opposed to the proposal. This is your chance to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council decides how to proceed.

If you would like to comment on the proposal, you can do this by:

- Completing the online response form on the Council's website
- Complete a printed response form and return via post
- Email your comments to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team at Caerphilly

### **Your views matter**

Please complete the questionnaire and return via post or email to:

## Consultation Response 'Rhydri'

c/o Sustainable Communities for Learning Team  
Directorate of Education and Corporate Services  
Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Penallta House  
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Please note that we are only able to receive comments in writing, either via the online form, pro forma or via email. You must include your full name and postal address as part of the information provided.