

Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB

Notice is given in accordance with section 43 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Torfaen County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to discontinue Pontnewynydd Primary School, Lower Leigh Road, Pontnewynydd, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 8LQ. The school is currently maintained by Torfaen County Borough Council.

Torfaen County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on: <http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/21st-Century-Learning/Latest-News.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2015.

It is intended that pupils currently attending Pontnewynydd Primary School (including those already admitted at the time of the proposed closure) will be accommodated at Penygarn Community Primary School, Penygarn Road, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 8JR.

There is sufficient space within the current footprint of Penygarn Community Primary School to accommodate all the pupils from Pontnewynydd Primary School as a consequence of the proposed discontinuance, although some internal remodelling may be required to enhance the teaching and learning environment.

It is the intention Torfaen County Borough Council that transport shall be provided free of charge for pupils to their new school in accordance with the Council policy at that time. The current policy is that primary school aged pupils are eligible for free transport if:

- a) They live more than 1 ½ miles from the catchment school
- b) The Authority is satisfied that the route between home and school is sufficiently dangerous to warrant such provision, even though the distance is under that quoted above.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 30th June 2014 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Alison Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YG. Email: primaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk

Signed: Alison Ward, Chief Executive Officer

For the Torfaen County Borough Council

Date: Monday 2nd June 2014

Explanatory Note

(This explanatory note does not form part of Notice but is offered by way of explanation)

This statutory notice is the outcome of discussions to discontinue Pontnewynydd Primary School. The proposal is one of a number arising from the Authority's 21st Century Schools Programme. This is a strategic plan to create a generation of 21st Century Schools across the Borough. Consultation meetings were held with staff, governors, parents/carers and other interested parties of the affected schools during November and December 2013.

Following these consultation events, at which a number of issues were raised about the content of the consultation document, it was decided to provide additional information in an updated document and give an opportunity to stakeholders to comment further on the proposal. Taking this into account the consultation period was extended to 28th April 2014.

Parents/carers can of course express a preference for any school for their child(ren). It is however intended that pupils currently attending Pontnewynydd Primary School (including those already admitted at the time of the proposed closure) will be admitted to Penygarn Community Primary School. The proposal would also see catchment areas amended with the current Pontnewynydd Primary School catchment area being re designated to Penygarn Community Primary School. The revised catchment areas would then apply for all new admissions to Penygarn Community Primary School from September 2015.

It should be noted that the current home to school transport policy will change from September 2015. The changes will be phased in meaning pupils currently receiving free transport under the current policy/mileage criteria (1 ½ miles) will continue to do so if their circumstances remain unchanged and until they complete their studies at their current school.

From September 2015 the new mileage criteria (2 miles) will apply for those children starting primary school at Reception Year when eligibility for free transport will be assessed using the new mileage criteria.

A Welsh version of this notice can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council's website: www.torfaen.gov.uk

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