

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

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 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 alter Croesyceiliog School, Woodland Road, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 2YB, so that the capacity of the school is decreased to 1200 places. 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 2018.

The current number of 11 to 16 aged pupils at Croesyceiliog School is 1320, the total pupil capacity of the school is 1609 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1200. It should be noted that the 1609 capacity quoted also caters for 6th form students, and the notional capacity for 11 to 16 aged pupils, based on the current admission Number of 274 is 1370.

The admission number for year 7 and each year group up to and including Year 11 at Croesyceiliog School in the first school year in which the proposal has been implemented will be 240.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by Thursday 23rd February 2017 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 6YB. Email: secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk

Torfaen County Borough council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed: Alison Ward, Chief Executive Officer

For the Torfaen County Borough Council

Date: Thursday 26th January 2017

Explanatory Note

This statutory notice is the outcome of discussions to decrease the capacity of Croesyceiliog School. The proposal arises 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 in relation to this proposal was held during October and November 2016. It should be noted that a separate consultation was undertaken during November and December 2016 in relation to making a regulated alteration to Croesyceiliog School (and also, Cwmbran High School and St Alban's RC High School) by ending 6th form provision and establishing a 6th Form Centre for Torfaen. Proposals to reduce the 11 – 16 capacity with a new school build for Croesyceiliog and to remove its 6th form provision are part of the council's strategic plan.

The council is advancing a proposal to build a new Croesyceiliog School on its existing site which would be ready for occupation in September 2019. Reducing the school's Admission Number from September 2018 will ensure the council has a new school of the right size and help to manage the transition and revenue costs associated with the new build. It will not affect current learners in the school but will change the annual intake of the school from an approximate 9 form entry (274 places) to an 8 form entry (240 places).

The admission number for a school, when incorporated into the published admission arrangements, sets the number of pupils to be admitted to the school each year and is calculated using the Welsh Government guidance "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" (2011).

The admission authority (i.e. Torfaen County Borough Council) also wishes to set an admission number which is lower than the current calculation indicates and is required to publish a notice of their intention so that parents of children who live in the relevant area have the opportunity to object to the Welsh Ministers about this lower number if they consider it appropriate.

This will be subject to a separate statutory notice that will be published within 14 days of the date that the admission arrangements (for the 2018/2019 academic session) are determined.

There currently remains quite high numbers attending from the North of the borough and the authority needs to be mindful of the effect of this on other schools within the area. The council would not want to encourage drift from other schools catchment areas by the capacity of the school being larger than is necessary to serve the pupils within its catchment area.

Further information on this particular proposal and other school reorganisation proposals can be found here:

<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/21st-Century-Learning/Latest-News.aspx>

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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