



NEW WELSH MEDIUM ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS PROVISION CONSULTATION REPORT

April 2026



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1. Background

Following a review of demand for Welsh medium provision, the Council proposes to open a Learning Resource Base (LRB) at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw. This is to ensure that we can meet our responsibilities under the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code and to avoid pupils who meet the criteria for specialist placement having to leave Welsh Medium settings for English Medium settings.

Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable school places for children and young people (CYP) within its county, and in doing so ensure that resources and facilities are efficiently utilised to deliver the education opportunities for all CYP.

It is recognised that many CYP have a range of needs, and all schools, including special schools, are expected to make reasonable adjustments to meet the full range of needs of a CYP to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010. The duty is anticipatory in the sense that it requires consideration of, and action in relation to, barriers that impede people with disabilities seeking to use services and participation in experiences prior to them accessing it.

In line with the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act Wales 2018 (ALNET) and the Curriculum for Wales, Torfaen Local Authority expects that most children will have their additional learning needs met in their local school. Therefore, reasonable adjustments are expected to meet the full range of needs. For the majority of CYP, their needs will be met at universal or targeted provision which will enable them to make expected progress. A very small minority of CYP may have additional learning needs which require additional learning provision over and above that which a mainstream school is able to provide. These pupils may be appropriately placed in a Learning Resource Base (LRB) attached to a mainstream school or the LA's Special School, namely Crownbridge Special School, depending upon the individual's additional learning needs.

The proposed new base will initially cater for up to 10 pupils aged 4-16 (Reception to Year 11). The LRB would cater for primary learners in the first year of implementation with a review of need for subsequent years.

Following a review of space with the headteacher, the Council plans to use existing learning environments to create classroom spaces and associated facilities to accommodate and provide appropriate resources for the proposed LRB. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the school to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development of the base.

The Council will support the school and the governing body who will be responsible for the appointment of staff.

Prior to the opening on 1st September 2026, the Governing body will take key decisions required regarding the staffing structure, uniform expectations, policies etc, because of the creation of the LRB.

2. Methodology

Consultations on these proposals were undertaken with prescribed consultees contained within the School Organisation Code 2018. A list of those consultees is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

The consultation ran from 26th January to 12th March 2026 using a consultation document and accompanying response form. The document outlined the changes being considered, the rationale for these, details of the consultation process and incorporated the response form.

The consultation document was made available for distribution to pupils and their parents/carers through schools' normal communication channels.

A separate age-appropriate document/questionnaire was published for Children and Young People with the opportunity to submit their views and comments.

A drop-in consultation event in relation to these proposals was held at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw on 3rd February 2026. All consultees were welcome to attend.

The consultation document, feedback form, pupil questionnaire and drop-in event were also promoted online via the council website, 'Torfaen get involved' and social media channels.

Officers from the council were in attendance at these sessions to answer questions and ensure comments/views made were recorded to allow Elected Members to make an informed decision at the appropriate time.

3. Comments and responses

The following Council officers were at the consultation event to deal with any queries:

- Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing
- ALN & Inclusion Wellbeing Advisor
- Principal Officer, Forward Planning
- Head of Access & Engagement

Five members of staff from Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw attended the consultation drop-in event and made comments and asked questions.

The council received a number of further written responses to the consultation exercise from other parties. All the comments received have been included in the report.

A list of those who responded to the consultation or attended the drop-in event is as follows:

- 1 ward member
- 2 Governors
- 4 Headteachers
- Estyn
- 269 Pupils
- 5 members of school staff

A file of all the comments and views received during the consultation period has been made available to Elected Members as part of this process ahead of any decisions being made.

The majority were supportive of the proposal, but some questions were raised which along with the council's responses are grouped into themes and summarised below.

<u>Comment/Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p><u>English Medium vs Welsh Medium</u></p> <p>I agree that we need additional ALN provision in Torfaen and we should be getting funding to accommodate this. However, why is this not linked to English Medium where the demand is higher?</p> <p>Sometimes pupils struggle in a Welsh medium setting and their basic skills are extremely poor. These are pupils that are not necessarily ALN but present as below their peers in basic skills. If they had additional needs as well, they would be even further behind their peers.</p> <p>Is this money ring-fenced such that it can only be spent on Welsh medium provision?</p> <p>We support the proposal as for too long pupils and their families have had to leave Welsh-medium education to access specialist ALN provision within TCBC.</p>	<p>This provision is being proposed to ensure that the LA meets its statutory duties under the ALN Code to ensure that there is sufficiency of provision across Torfaen and that this is equitable.</p> <p>Funding has been identified from the Education budget to deliver this provision next year.</p> <p>Families are entitled to choose to pursue a Welsh Language education for their children, and having an additional learning need should not be a barrier to that.</p>

<p>The principle to create a Welsh-medium LRB is sound and very welcome.</p>	
<p><u>Location</u></p> <p>Siting the planned provision on the site of all-age Welsh-medium school is a sound long term strategic plan, as it allows all age provision to be developed in a proactive incremental manner.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>
<p><u>Staffing / Funding</u></p> <p>How will you ensure suitably qualified staff will be recruited and trained and how will it be funded?</p> <p>Given the needs of the pupils, one concern is that the funding of £110,000 per year will not be enough, for example some pupils may have medical care needs which could result in more staff being required or ongoing specialist training may be needed.</p> <p>Where will the staff be appointed from? There is a danger in appointing new, inexperienced staff, who will not</p>	<p>The Local Authority will support the school with the recruitment process for the LRB to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and experienced.</p> <p>The Learning Resource Base would be funded in line with the LA LRB funding formula and in accordance with the LA and LRB Partnership Agreement which was co-constructed with the ALN Headteacher Strategy Group. Funding is delegated directly to the LRB and allows the setting flexibility to use delegated funding to employ and deploy staff to meet learner needs.</p> <p>The £110k is to establish the LRB, which is sufficient for the anticipated number of placements this year, from September 2026. The budget will be reviewed and monitored annually.</p> <p>The Local Authority will support the school with the recruitment process for</p>

<p>have the necessary skills to work with pupils who have intensive needs.</p> <p>What are the intentions for staffing of this provision? Will staff be redeployed from within the existing staffing pool of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw, or recruited externally through a dedicated recruitment process?</p> <p>In the event of external recruitment, or where there is a need to backfill staff from the main Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw setting, what is the timetable for recruitment to ensure the LRB and affected schools are appropriately staffed for September 2026?</p> <p>It would be useful in the future to foster an Outreach arrangement to further support schools.</p> <p>Would there be consideration given to offsetting the financial impacts for cluster schools experiencing pupil attrition attributable to this provision?</p>	<p>the LRB to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and experienced.</p> <p>The LA is aware of the difficulties recruiting appropriately skilled, Welsh speaking staff. It does not want to undermine existing provisions and will work with all the Welsh Medium provisions to make the best possible use of current and new staff.</p> <p>There will be an open recruitment process following Torfaen’s recruitment policy. They will not be ringfenced to staff from one school. The recruitment process will commence as soon as possible dependent on the outcome of the consultation with a view to opening in September or as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>We already have Outreach arrangement to further support schools. There is a clearly understood referral process for all schools. The Local Authority keeps the offer under review to ensure that support is equally available for both English and Welsh medium settings.</p> <p>Due to the small size of the base, a significant impact on other school budgets is not anticipated.</p>
<p><u>Admission Process</u></p> <p>Will there be an equitable and fair process?</p>	<p>Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to</p>

<p>Have the individual children who would benefit from this provision already been identified?</p> <p>How is the Authority clearly defining and differentiating ALN needs versus challenges with Welsh language acquisition?</p> <p>Does the Authority foresee a risk that families may elect to transfer their children to Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw on the premise that they will receive enhanced ALN provision, even if their child is not eligible for the LRB?</p>	<p>consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting. There will be no preferential treatment given to pupils already in YGG. Only pupils who have been admitted by the ALN Panel will be able to access the provision.</p> <p>The ALN Panel has received applications for the 2026-2027 academic year from schools, which have been considered by the ALN Panel and provisional places have been identified.</p> <p>This LRB can only be accessed if pupils meet the Entry and Exit criteria which is related to cognition and learning and communication (ASD). Spaces are not allocated for pupils based on their Welsh language acquisition. A wide range of evidence is considered as part of the specialist placement process.</p> <p>The admissions team will be clear with families that this provision is accessed via entry and exit criteria only. Mainstream children cannot access the provision.</p>
<p><u>Capacity and space</u></p> <p>What work has been undertaken to determine that the initial need is for 10 children and the future growth.</p>	<p>A wider analysis of the demand for specialist provision has informed the determination of capacity.</p> <p>The provision will be an 'all-through' age provision. However, it is being created as a primary provision in the first instance. A separate room / area will be developed for use for secondary aged learners.</p>

<p>What will the indoor and outdoor spaces be like? There are certain requirements to meet needs of the curriculum, different age groups and individual needs. In particular, outdoor space needs to be looked at.</p>	<p>Outdoor learning areas and the need for smaller break out learning spaces will be incorporated. For example, there is a planned sensory room area and garden area. Space requirements will need to be reviewed annually.</p>
<p><u>Transport and site</u></p> <p>The issue of traffic management must be properly assessed and planned for in order to provide adequate safeguards as pupils will be transported to site.</p> <p>What consideration has been given to the impact of extended daily travel on the wellbeing and readiness to learn of children who may already have complex sensory, emotional, or behavioural needs?</p> <p>What arrangements will be made for escort provision, recognising both the safeguarding requirements and the practical reality that some pupils will require additional support during the journey itself?</p>	<p>We will support the school to ensure the site traffic is managed safely. The safety of the pupils is a priority, for example, there may be a need to reconsider the location of the present security gate, disabled car parks, and additional measures to allow traffic to reach Gwladys building at specific times of the school day.</p> <p>There is an LRB Network which can share good practice of how pupils are supported upon arrival at the LRB following a period of transport and prepared for the journey home.</p> <p>Escort provision will be authorised only where a clear need has been evidenced through a formal assessment undertaken jointly by the ALN Service and the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU). The PTU and allocated contractor(s) will liaise with families to discuss needs and put arrangements in place.</p>

4. Estyn Comments

Introduction

This report has been prepared by His Majesty’s Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn.

However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code, and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn provides its opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium

Learning Resource Base (LRB) for pupils with additional learning needs at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary / Conclusion

Overall, the proposal appears likely to improve access to Welsh-medium specialist provision for pupils with additional learning needs in Torfaen, particularly by reducing the need for pupils to transfer to English-medium settings in order to access specialist support.

However, the consultation document does not identify clearly the specific additional learning needs of the pupils who would attend the proposed Learning Resource Base (LRB), which limits the extent to which Estyn can evaluate fully the likely educational impact of the proposal. In addition, the proposal to establish a single base for up to 10 pupils aged 4–16 raises important considerations about curriculum delivery, staffing expertise, safeguarding, the physical suitability of accommodation and the compatibility of pupils’ needs.

Addressing these issues more explicitly would strengthen confidence that the proposal is likely to maintain or improve educational provision for all pupils who may attend the LRB.

Description and benefits

The local authority provides a clear and appropriate strategic rationale for the proposal, rooted in its statutory duties under the Additional learning needs (ALN) Code and its commitment to strengthening Welsh-medium provision. The intention to avoid pupils leaving Welsh-medium education in order to access specialist ALN provision is a significant and well-articulated benefit.

The proposal is described clearly in procedural terms, including leadership arrangements, timescales and funding. The identification of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw as the host school appears logical, given its all-through status and improving trajectory.

However, while the authority explains the need for additional Welsh-medium specialist provision, it does not define sufficiently the specific profiles, complexity or range of additional learning needs that the proposed LRB is intended to serve. For example, the consultation document does not clarify whether the provision is primarily intended for pupils with autism spectrum condition, complex learning needs, social, emotional and mental health needs, or a combination of need types.

This lack of clarity limits evaluation of:

- whether the proposed accommodation will meet pupils' sensory and physical needs, including considerations such as acoustics, lighting, accessibility, access to specialist facilities and appropriate outdoor provision
- whether staffing arrangements will include sufficient specialist expertise to meet a potentially wide range of needs
- how compatibility between pupils with differing needs will be ensured
- how safeguarding and wellbeing risks associated with mixed needs will be managed

The proposal to accommodate up to 10 pupils aged 4–16 within a single LRB raises further considerations. While the authority indicates that the base would initially cater for primary-aged pupils, the consultation document does not explain sufficiently the longer-term educational rationale for grouping pupils across such a wide age range. This has implications for:

- curriculum breadth, progression and age-appropriate pedagogy
- staffing structures and deployment
- the management of interactions between significantly younger and older pupils
- safeguarding arrangements as the cohort changes over time

The local authority sets out benefits and risks in a balanced way and demonstrates that it has considered alternative options. The preferred option appears proportionate given current demand. However, uncertainty about future demand raises questions about whether a capacity of 10 pupils may, over time, lead either to under-utilisation of provision or to pressure to broaden the cohort beyond what is educationally optimal.

The local authority has provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment as part of this proposal. The local authority has provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

Estyn notes that it does not evaluate the quality of these assessments but confirms that they have been included at consultation stage.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal appears to give appropriate high-level consideration to standards, wellbeing, teaching and leadership. The intention for pupils in the LRB to access the Curriculum for Wales and remain part of the wider school community is positive.

In our inspection of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw in 2019, we noted that the school had suitable arrangements to identify and support pupils with additional learning needs, supported by useful information in individual education plans and the staff

handbook. Targeted provision such as the Hafan centre and Clwb Cwtsh provided effective emotional, medical and social support for vulnerable pupils. The school worked appropriately with external agencies and partner schools, including to support transition from primary to key stage 3. However, systems to track pupils' progress against individual targets were not implemented consistently enough.

Our monitoring report in 2023 does not explicitly evaluate provision for, or leadership of, additional learning needs. References to support, wellbeing or tracking of pupils' progress are implicit and apply to learners generally, rather than providing specific evaluative evidence about the quality or impact of ALN arrangements.

In this context, the absence of clarity within the consultation document about the specific needs of pupils who would attend the LRB is significant.

The proposal also presents potential challenges associated with accommodating pupils aged 4–16 within a single specialist base, including ensuring appropriate curriculum progression, age appropriate teaching approaches and safe, purposeful interactions between pupils of different ages. While the authority indicates that disruption to learners will be minimised, there is limited detail on how transition into and within the provision will be managed, particularly for pupils entering at different phases or transferring from other schools.

Overall, while the proposal has clear potential to enhance Welsh-medium ALN provision, there is not enough specificity about the intended cohort and how provision will be adapted to meet a wide range of needs and ages and its likely impact on learners' outcomes.

Council response to Estyn comments

Learning has been taken from other Local Authorities where Learning Bases have been created as 'general' ALN provisions.

We recognise that there will be pupils with a range of needs including cognition and learning and sensory and communication. This is reflective of many of our current LRBs where staff have had to adapt their practice and pedagogy as pupils present with a wide range of needs in addition to their primary need.

Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting using the TCBC entry and exit criteria. Analysis of demand over the last 5 years and future forecasting of need has demonstrated that a setting with a capacity of 10 places will meet forecast demand in the next 5 years.

The provision will support learners with moderate and specific additional learning needs whose requirements cannot be fully met through mainstream Welsh-medium provision, but who do not require placement in a specialist school. This includes pupils with developmental language disorder, specific learning difficulties, speech, language and communication needs, mild–moderate autistic spectrum condition, or

mild–moderate cognitive difficulties. Well established pupil level assessments processes will be used to monitor and guide progress for individual learners and for the LRB as a whole.

An enhanced transition process is used for all pupils who are allocated a place at a specialist provision including visits for the pupil and their family to the setting and meetings with all professionals involved to ensure a smooth handover of documentation.

The provision will be an ‘all-through’ age provision in the long term. However, it is being created as a primary provision in the first instance. A separate room / area will be developed for use for secondary aged learners and curriculum planning, staffing arrangements and safeguarding practices will be organised to ensure age-appropriate pedagogy and safe interactions across age groups.

The Local Authority can support the school with the recruitment process for the LRB to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and experienced.

Comments/Questions noted during the drop in event

Questions / Comments from pupils	LA Response
Who will work in the LRB?	The Local Authority will support the school with the recruitment process for the LRB to ensure that staff are suitably qualified and experienced.
What will be the profile of need?	We recognise that there will be pupils with a range of needs including cognition and learning and sensory and communication. This is reflective of many of our current LRBs where staff have had to adapt their practice and pedagogy as pupils present with a wide range of needs in addition to their primary need. Learning has been taken from other Local Authorities where Learning Bases have been created as ‘general’ ALN provisions.
What will be the age range and where will they be taught?	The provision will be an ‘all-through’ age provision in the long term. However, it is being created as a primary provision in the first instance. A separate room / area will be developed for use for secondary aged learners.
How many pupils will there be?	10 primary places are being created initially.

5. Children and young people document / questionnaire

The Head teachers of the Welsh Medium secondary and primary schools were contacted at the start of the consultation period (26th January 2026) to facilitate consultation with their respective pupils.

Pupils were issued with their own version of the consultation document which included a questionnaire so they could submit their views and comments on the proposal.

The questionnaire asked:

Q1) How do you feel about opening a special space (LRB) just for children who learn in Welsh?

Q2) Do you think Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw is a good place for the new support base?

Q3) Is there anything you would change about our plan?

Q4) Would you like to ask us a question?

Responses were received from pupils as follows:

Ysgol Panteg

50 Year 6 pupils participated in the questionnaire and submitted responses. These are as follows:

Q1) Happy Face = 48, Neutral Face = 2, Unhappy Face = 0

Q2) Happy Face = 28, Neutral Face = 17, Unhappy Face = 3

Questions / Comments from pupils	LA Response
What ages is this for?	This is for primary age pupils to begin with.
Why is it only one class? Some children have different needs and some children may be very different ages like having a teenager in with a Year 3 kid.	Secondary age pupils will have a separate classroom. The staff will have the right qualifications and experience to support children with ALN.
Why Gwynllyw? How will kids from Cwmbran get there? How will children from Cwmbran get there if they have needs? XYZ doesn't like buses and he can't sit on the bus for like half hour. I don't think that is fair.	The reason YGG has been chosen is because all the Welsh Medium primaries feed into YGG and it's an all through school. Families of pupils with ALN in specialist settings can apply for them to be considered for help with transport. Pupils may qualify for free

	transport under the Councils Home to School Transport policy. Families can also take their children there themselves.
How will you pick kids to go to the class? It's got to be fair.	Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting.
What about it if is full will they have to go an English school instead for the same help.	We've planned enough places to meet expected demand. This will be reviewed annually.
Is it just Welsh they will learn or will they learn more things there?	Pupils will be taught through the medium of Welsh, but taught a varied curriculum.
Will this help children with sensory needs like me?	This will be for pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Pupils with sensory needs could be supported in this setting if they meet the criteria.
I think that Gwynllyw is really busy. What happens when someone needs quiet space?	The school day will be the same times as the mainstream school and the lessons and learning will be planned to meet the learners' needs. They will get extra help and support and be taught in smaller groups.
It's really good that they will have the opportunity to learn Welsh. It's good that this will be in Welsh because my friend down the street goes to an English one.	Noted.

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran

155 pupils participated in the questionnaire and submitted responses. These are as follows:

Q1) Happy Face = 109, Neutral Face = 39, Unhappy Face = 7

Q2) Happy Face = 83, Neutral Face = 48, Unhappy Face = 24

Questions / Comments from pupils	LA Response
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Where is playtime?	This will be for the school to organise. They will create a separate garden area for the children to play in.
What is the age?	It will start with primary school age.
What work can we do in Gwynllyw?	This will be for the school to organise and the teachers will make sure the children get all the help they need.
What do I eat?	The lunch will be the same as the rest of the school pupil eat.
What language are you going to teach them in the Gwynllyw school?	Pupils will be taught through the medium of Welsh.
What do we do about the number of bodies? How many rooms will there be in the CAD? Is the place big?	There will be space for 10 pupils. There will be one main classroom and 2 smaller rooms.
They speak English, Spanish, French for a few days there and we "cot"?	Pupils will be taught through the medium of Welsh.
What will be different about this than Gwynllyw?	This will be for pupils with Additional Learning Needs.
Are you going to open one in Cwmbran as a child needs to be close to the family? What about a building in the middle of the borough? Why not put the building in the centre of Wales.	The reason YGG has been chosen is because all the Welsh Medium primaries feed into YGG which is an 'all-through' provision. It is being created as a primary provision in the first instance, but has the space required to expand this for an all age LRB provision.
Do parents need to drive children there or do the buses do it? In my opinion a school should be closer to Cwmbran.	Families of pupils with ALN in specialist settings can apply for them to be considered for help with transport. Pupils may qualify for free transport under the Councils Home to School Transport policy. Families can also take their children there themselves.
How do they go about. Can it be for ADHD?	Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting.
Will the building be inside Gwynllyw?	Yes, in the Primary setting, Gwladys building.
Can you do one for smaller people like 11-3?	This is for primary aged children to begin with. Secondary aged children would have a different room as and when they reach that age.

Are they able to be with friends?	Children attending the base will be able to make friends with other pupils in the base and the wider school.
How is everyone going To Learn Things? When does Gwynllyw start?	Pupils will be taught through the medium of Welsh and taught a varied curriculum. The school day will be the same times as the mainstream school and the lessons and learning will be planned to meet the learners' needs. They will get extra help and support and be taught in smaller groups.

Some of the questions above were asked by several pupils. The most frequently asked questions / comments related to the location, e.g. “why there and not in Cwmbran or elsewhere” (19 comments / queries) and how to get there (20 comments / queries).

There were 17 comments that didn’t need a response such as “I think everything is fine at Ysgol Gwynllyw”.

There were a few responses which could not be interpreted as comments or questions.

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw

64 pupils participated in the questionnaire and submitted responses. Depending on the age group, they were a mixture of smiley face responses and comments / questions. These are as follows:

Q1) Happy Face = 14, Neutral Face = 2, Unhappy Face = 2

Q2) Happy Face = 16, Neutral Face = 2, Unhappy Face = 0.

Questions / Comments from pupils	LA Response
[Will] The people who go to these places will be able to see their friends who are not at the centre?	Pupils at the base will be able to make new friends.
What is the name of this centre and the logo? Have they thought of the name for the centre?	The uniform , badge and logo will be the responsibility of the Governing Body of YGG whilst taking pupil voice into account.
Why is the school so far from Abergavenny almost ten etc?	The proposed centre is in Torfaen because it is Torfaen Local Authority which is setting it up.

<p>If there is a CAD coming to Gwynllyw there will be a place for children who do not need help.</p>	<p>There will be enough space/places left for other pupils once the LRB is created, i.e. those one who do not need to go the base.</p>
<p>Is there a place for all Welsh-medium primary schools?</p>	<p>This place will be available to pupils in all Welsh Medium schools in Torfaen not just YGG.</p>
<p>What is a school day going to look like for them?</p>	<p>The school day will be the same times as the mainstream school and the lessons and learning will be planned to meet the learners' needs. They will get extra help and support and be taught in smaller groups.</p>
<p>How are the children going to get to school?</p> <p>Will there be enough buses or transport for these children?</p> <p>Would they be comfortable traveling with the other children?</p>	<p>Families of pupils with ALN in specialist settings can apply for them to be considered for help with transport. Pupils may qualify for free transport under the Councils Home to School Transport policy. Families can also take their children there themselves.</p> <p>There will be enough transport provided for all the eligible children.</p> <p>There are escorts on all school transport for pupils going to LRBs. The Transport division and the allocated contractor will liaise with families to discuss particular needs and put arrangements in place, if the transport is awarded.</p>
<p>Can this be about local Welsh schools as a trip for children who need help?</p>	<p>The base is for pupils to attend full time and not for short term / temporary support.</p>
<p>How many people from Cwmbran have gone to Gwynllyw.</p>	<p>We would need further clarification of the question before we could answer this.</p>
<p>There's no room for everyone because it's more people.</p> <p>Is there enough space?</p>	<p>There will be room for up to 10 places.</p> <p>Yes. There will also be scope to review this and expand in future years if the need arises.</p>

<p>What is the name of a centre? Logo.</p> <p>Can it be called 'Dafydd Iwan'?</p>	<p>The uniform , badge and logo will be the responsibility of the Governing Body of YGG whilst taking pupil voice into account.</p>
<p>What a day will look like, what will happen if a child is not happy with something.</p>	<p>The school day will be the same times as the mainstream school and the lessons and learning will be planned to meet the learners' needs. They will get extra help and support and be taught in smaller groups.</p>
<p>How will the children treat it? Are they going to change the school uniform?</p>	<p>Initial thoughts are that the uniform will be the same as the main school (YGG). There may be the opportunity to adapt the school badge for the base.</p> <p>The uniform, badge and logo will be the responsibility of the Governing Body of YGG whilst taking pupil voice into account.</p>
<p>Is there a new plan for places like Abergavenny?</p>	<p>Torfaen Local Authority cannot make plans for Abergavenny as this is in Monmouthshire.</p>
<p>Do you think the centre will work?</p>	<p>Creating LRBs for pupils with additional learning needs results in a positive learning experience for pupils.</p>
<p>What will a child from Abergavenny or Bro Helyg school do?</p> <p>How would it affect children everywhere?</p>	<p>Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting and if there is space. <u>Priority will be given to pupils from Torfaen.</u></p>
<p>Is there a place for everyone coming from year six?</p>	<p>Applications for a place would need to be sent to the Torfaen Local Authority Additional Learning Needs Panel to consider if the child's needs can be met in the setting and if there is space.</p>
<p>Will there be specific teachers for the centre?</p>	<p>The setting will need to employ teachers with the right qualifications and experience to work in the centre.</p>
<p>What is the plan for the building?</p>	<p>The initial plan is to use one main classroom and 2 smaller ones in the Primary phase block, Gwladys building. This will be kept under review.</p>

Is there transport, schools in Monmouthshire?	Transport for pupils from Monmouthshire is the responsibility of Monmouthshire County Council.
A good plan, there will be an opportunity for the Gwynllyw sixth form to help within the centre (volunteer).	Comment noted.
We have enough equipment to provide the necessary support.	The school will be responsible for providing all necessary equipment.

There were some comments that did not require a response. These were as follows:

- To get everything to the unit though.
- Not just one unit a minibus can pick them up.
- Maybe the parents can sit in on one lesson to see if their child can cope with the lessons, we can have a specific year group to go along to help and get understanding, and change the year group weekly.
- Games, TV, Friends, Somewhere to get creative
- More help to focus, Help to read, more books
- Books
- Teachers, a place to be creative
- Safe place
- Blocks, Plenty of play
- Games, TV, Painting
- Books
- Teachers, Flowers, Gardening
- Pencils, Table, Plant, ICT Computers, Food, Flowers, People
- Plants, Friends and Teachers, Rocket, Chalk and creative time
- Water, TV, Bin, Chalk, Games, Awards, Stickers
- Chalk and being creative, Plants, Music, People (lots of friends and teachers)
- Chairs, Tables, Fresh air
- Games and screen, Friends
- Games, TV, Shield, Awards
- Playtime with friends outside
- Men as a teachers

Appendix 1 - Distribution list for the consultation document

- The Governing body (via Chair of Governors) of each school maintained by Torfaen LA
- The Headteacher of each Torfaen schools
- The Archdiocesan Director of Education of the Roman Catholic Church
- The Diocesan Director of Education of the Church in Wales
- Awdurdod Cynwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales)
- The Welsh Joint Education Committee CBAC Limited
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Welsh Government Officials and Welsh Minister
- ESTYN
- Pan-Gwent Chief Education Officers (Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate)
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Children & Young People's Partnership
- Coleg Gwent
- The Careers Service
- Torfaen Association of School Governors
- Libraries; (Blaenavon, Cwmbran and Pontypool)
- Other Directorates of Torfaen County Borough Council - Transport
- Schools Library Service
- Blaenavon, Cwmbran, Pontypool, Ponthir, Henllys, Croesyceiliog and Llanyravon Community Councils
- All relevant Professional Associations (NEU; NASUWT; UCAC; UNISON; GMB; NAHT; ASCL)
- Local MS – Lynne Neagle
- Local MP – Nick Thomas-Symonds
- Other MSs and MPs representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.
- All Elected Members of Torfaen County Borough Council
- Parents/Carers of all pupils affected by proposals
- RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)
- Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings/Providers in Torfaen
- Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
- Communities First Partnership Board
- CYDAG (Cwmdeithas Ysgolion Dros Addysg Gymraeg)
- Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- Education Achievement Service
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area
- The relevant Health Authority (Aneurin Bevan Health Board)
- Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officer, NHS Wales
- SNAP Cymru
- Torfaen Access Forum
- SEWC Directors of Education

Appendix 2 – Consultation letter

EDUCATION SERVICE GWASANAETH ADDYSG
Director of Education / Cyfarwyddwr Addysg
Dr Andrew Powles



Your ref/Eich cyf:	Please contact/Cysyllter â:	Kath Worwood
Our ref/Ein cyf:	Direct line/Llinell ffôn:	01495 766989
Date/Dyddiad: 26 January 2026	Email/Ebost:	kath.worwood@torfaen.gov.uk

To: All Statutory Consultees and Interested Parties
Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal to establish a new Welsh medium ALN provision

The Council is proposing to create a Welsh medium Learning Resource Base for pupils with additional learning needs at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw (September 2026).

In accordance with the Welsh Government's School Reorganisation Code, the Council is required to carry out statutory consultation as part of the process and before making a decision on whether to implement the proposal or not.

You are therefore invited to submit your views on the above proposal. This is also your opportunity to suggest alternatives to this proposal.

Please do so in writing by:

- completing the attached form returning it to Andrew Powles, Director of Education at the following address: FAO Kath Worwood, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB,
- or email via kath.worwood@torfaen.gov.uk

All responses must be received by no later than 12 March 2026.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathryn Worwood
Principal Officer, Forward Planning
Education Service

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT AND BRAILLE UPON REQUEST

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.

Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.

Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200

Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200

www.torfaen.gov.uk

For information on how we handle your personal data please refer to our Privacy Notice at Torfaen.gov.uk

I gael gwybodaeth am sut rydym yn trin eich data personol, gweler ein Hysbysiad Preifatwydd ar Torfaen.gov.uk

**TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN**