

R16/06

Estyn response to the proposal to the provision of additional English-medium primary school places at Radyr Primary School.

This report has been prepared by Her 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 will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Cardiff County Council.

The proposal is to increase the capacity of Radyr Primary School to allow the school to admit up to 60 pupils from September 2017.

Summary / Conclusion

The proposer has suitably outlined the benefits of the proposal in addressing the issue of the increased demand for English medium school places in the Radyr and Morganstown area.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposal is to increase the capacity of Radyr Primary School from an intake of 45 to 60 a year. This has already been a temporary arrangement for the past five years. The proposer has appropriately considered the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo. For example, it has clearly demonstrated the demand for places in the catchment area as well as the projections for the future demand for places. These are expected to continue to exceed the capacity of local schools in future years.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact on other schools in the area which may be affected by the proposals, including Welsh medium schools and faith schools. It has suitably demonstrated that the proposal is unlikely to have any impact on these schools as the demand for these schools broadly balances with the places available. The proposer has appropriately considered the impact on early years' providers in the area and recognises that an increase in capacity for nursery pupils could have potential impact on private nurseries and the voluntary childcare sector.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements, which is likely to be limited because there is no change proposed to the catchment area. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy. Although the proposer has commissioned a Traffic and Transport Assessment this has not been completed in time to be included at this stage of the consultation.

The proposer has completed an initial equality impact assessment that concluded that the proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. The proposer also considers the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language and reasonably concludes that there will be no negative impact on the Welsh language or Welsh medium provision in the area.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has provided basic headline data from 2015, but no concise analysis of this data. It has considered the fact that the school's current performance is currently in standards group 1 following national categorisation. The local consortium has placed the school in the yellow colour coded support category that indicates that the school knows what it is doing well and what it needs to improve. The proposer has also appropriately considered the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes for Radyr Primary School in 2011 when the school was placed into the category of Estyn monitoring. The school was subsequently removed from this category in October 2012 after it was judged that it had made good progress against recommendations.

The proposer does not suitably outline the impact of the proposal on provision within the school. However, this proposal has been in place on a temporary basis since September 2012 and it is reasonable to assume that this has already been addressed.

The proposer has appropriately considered the condition of the building for the proposal and that extra capacity would be needed if the proposal were to go ahead. However, it has not identified what work will be carried out in order to do this.

The proposer suitably considers that there is no information available to suggest that the proposal would impact negatively on the current provision offered for pupils with special educational needs, or for individual groups of pupils such as those eligible for free school meals or from ethnic minority groups.