

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: THE PROVISION OF  
WELSH-MEDIUM AND ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PLACES IN AND AROUND LLANDAFF NORTH**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG  
LEARNING**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

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**PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)**

**Reason for this Report**

1. This report is to inform the Cabinet of the responses received following consultation regarding the provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school provision in and around Llandaff North.

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 26 January 2015 the Cabinet authorised officers to hold a public consultation on proposals to:
  - Consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE at the shared site at Colwill Road, CF14 2QQ from September 2017.
  - Permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1FE from September 2016 with 24FTE nursery places to be established from January 2016.
3. Three potential delivery options were identified:
  - Option 1 – Traditional build extensions and adaptations of the existing school buildings to enable both schools to operate at 1FE
  - Option 2 – New 1FE standardised build school with nursery for Ysgol Glan Ceubal, new standalone nursery and Reception class unit at Gabalfa Primary, retention and refurbishment of existing Gabalfa Primary School accommodation and demolition of current Ysgol Glan Ceubal building.
  - Option 3 – A new 2FE standardised build to be shared by Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

**Issues**

4. The consultation ran from 12 February to 25 March 2015.

5. Parents and others in the local community, together with staff and Governors of the affected schools were invited to respond to the consultation.
6. The consultation process involved:
  - Distribution of a Consultation Document outlining background, rationale and implications. This document has been distributed to parents, local childcare providers, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of nearby schools, all Members of local wards and other stakeholders (a copy of the consultation document can be seen at Appendix 1);
  - Meetings with Staff and Governors of the schools affected and a public meeting at which the proposal was explained and questions answered;
  - Two public drop in sessions where officers were available to answer questions;
  - Workshop sessions with pupils at the school affected to provide an opportunity for pupils to ask questions, learn more about the proposal and give their views. Details of the pupils meetings are attached at Appendix 2.
  - A consultation response slip for return by post or e-mail, attached to the consultation document;
  - An online response form at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/21st](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/21st) Century Schools
7. The views expressed at Council organised meetings and on paper or electronically through the appropriate channels, have been recorded.

### **Responses received during the consultation period**

*(Responses received are summarised below in italicised text)*

8. In total 135 responses were received (89 online responses and 46 paper/e-mail responses).
9. The majority view expressed during the consultation at meetings and in written correspondence was one of support for the proposed organisational changes to Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal.
10. There was also majority support for Option 3 as the preferred delivery model.
11. Of those who stated an option preference, 2 expressed a preference for Option 1, 10 expressed a preference for Option 2 and 114 expressed a preference for Option 3. One respondent expressed support for any of the options and a further three respondents expressed a preference for both Options 2 & 3. 5 responses did not express a preference.
12. A response from Estyn was received which included the following points (for the full response, please see Appendix 3):

- *It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.*
  - *The proposal is unlikely to have a negative impact on any other schools in the area. The proposal is likely to have a positive impact on the availability of Welsh-medium education in the locality and to reduce overall surplus places in Welsh and English medium schools over time.*
  - *However, the proposer has not identified its preferred option at this stage. As such the proposal does not identify potential financial implications or benefits clearly enough. The proposal contains very little information about the potential impact of the reorganisation on the staffing arrangements at the schools involved. The proposal does not evaluate what impact the proposal may have on any providers of pre-school education in the locality other than schools.*
13. Formal written responses were also received from the Headteacher of Gabalfa Primary, Gabalfa Primary School Governing Body, Gabalfa Primary School class teachers and teaching assistants which included the following points (for the full responses please see Appendix 4):
- *Support for the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing temporary site from September 2016*
  - *The proposal does not identify the number of pupils that are likely to require places at Gabalfa Primary School in September 2017. The consolidation of Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE could result in the need for additional accommodation being needed at the school if demand for places exceeded 1FE.*
  - *Do not support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016 because of the potential disruption to staff and children at Gabalfa Primary and the costs involved. The most obvious solution would be for the Ysgol Glan Ceubal Nursery to be established when the permanent building has been completed in September 2017.*
  - *Option 3 is equitable to both schools and would create an innovative means of delivering English-medium and Welsh-medium education, however it would be necessary to ensure that sufficient space was available to ensure Gabalfa Primary School is able to continue providing the number of high quality interventions for vulnerable pupils and to support the many 'newly arrived' families to the UK that the school receives.*
  - *Teaching spaces would need to be flexible and spacious to enable independent learning and more formal learning experiences. The needs of the Foundation Phase pupils must be met both inside and outside with both schools having access to safe, motivating and stimulating outdoor learning provision.*

- *Any design would need to ensure separate accommodation was available for Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal in order to allow for both schools to retain their individual identities.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

14. As part of the consultation three options were put forward for consideration by stakeholders. An essential element of any options that is progressed would be financial viability. Additional work around the comparative costs of new standardised buildings has been undertaken and detailed financial implications will arise from this.
15. Staff at Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal expressed support for the proposal overall. The HR implications arising from these proposals would be assessed through a review of the schools' establishments. Any required changes to the staffing levels would be managed within agreed policies and procedures and full consultation would be required with staff and trade unions.
16. The Council acknowledges the concerns regarding the use of the existing Gabalfa Nursery accommodation to house nursery provision for Ysgol Glan Ceubal. Following further consideration regarding the accommodation and current organisation of the facilities, the opening date has been delayed and is now proposed to align with the start of the academic year opening in September 2016. The nursery would provide 24 part time in the first instance with scope to increase the numbers once in permanent accommodation.
17. Whilst the addition of nursery places would mean there would potentially be a reduced number purchased in the private and voluntary childcare sector, many also provide wrap around places and the opportunities for this could increase with a larger number of families accessing the maintained provision for part-time sessions.
18. As part of the consultation process, local childcare providers were sent a copy of the consultation document and invited to respond to the consultation. No responses regarding any potential impact were received. Two local cylch meithrin settings have recently closed and this has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of Welsh-medium early years places available.
19. The consultation document clearly sets out the expected number of pupils on roll at Gabalfa Primary School in 2017-18, whether the proposal proceeds or does not proceed, in accordance with the requirements of the WG School Organisation Code.
20. Gabalfa Primary School would initially be unable to accommodate all of its pupils within the proposed consolidated 1FE permanent accommodation. The school would therefore require temporary arrangements to aid transition to a 1FE English-medium school.

21. Any design would be in line with Building Bulletin guidelines and officers would work closely with the schools to ensure that any new build would meet the needs of both schools.
22. Any design would ensure that both schools were able to function as separate entities allowing them to retain their separate identities. Additionally the design would take account of community use of the facilities outside of school hours.
23. Additional points raised in the consultation are set out in *italics* below and have been grouped according to the issues raised where appropriate.

### **Welsh-medium nursery provision**

24. *The lack of nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal is discriminating against those who choose Welsh-medium education.*
25. Children in Cardiff are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday and must attend for a minimum of five half days. Nursery places are not allocated on a catchment area basis. Wherever possible places are offered in a local community nursery school or nursery class within two miles of a child's place of residence. If places are unavailable in local community nursery schools or nursery classes, parents may apply for nursery education place funding with a recognised provider.
26. The Local Authority purchases places where demand exceeds local supply. Consistent with this, in and around the Llandaff North area Welsh-medium places are provided in local Welsh-medium schools including Ysgol Melin Gruffydd, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and purchased in approved non-maintained settings including private day care and cylch methrin. Any places provided through establishment of a maintained part-time nursery class established at Ysgol Glan Ceubal would follow the Council Admissions Policy specific to the allocation of nursery education places.
27. *Offsite nursery provision would be difficult to manage.*
28. The establishment of an offsite nursery was put forward as a potential option however given the level of concerns raised, this option has been discounted.

### **Facilities available for both schools**

29. *The proposal will only work if both schools have separate areas.*
30. Any design would ensure that both schools were able to function as separate entities allowing them to retain their separate identities. Additionally the design would take account of community use of the facilities outside of school hours.

## **Traffic**

31. *The proposal will result in additional traffic congestion.*
32. The Council would work with the Governing Bodies of both schools to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption. Traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for any building works.
33. Cardiff's Supplementary Planning Guidance (Access, Circulation and Parking Standards 2010) sets out that all new or expanded schools are required to develop a Travel Plan for submission with a planning application. A School Travel Plan is specifically designed to address the transport needs of pupils and staff and will vary according to the nature of the education being provided, any community facilities on site and the catchment area of a school.

A Travel Plan is a policy and action plan to:

- manage transport efficiently
  - improve access by all means of travel for employees, visitors, parents and students
  - encourage sustainable transport – walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing
  - reduce car use.
34. Cardiff's transport network is under pressure and experiences congestion from commuters driving into the city and people making short local trips by car. Traffic associated with the school run adds to congestion. The City of Cardiff Council's policy is to encourage and promote the increased use of sustainable travel models and to promote independent travel to school wherever possible.
  35. Encouraging active travel to school is a very important means of increasing levels of physical activity in children and tackling the growing problem of childhood obesity. Reducing congestion at the school gate is key to ensuring the safety of pupils and to mitigating impacts on the local neighbourhood.

## **Engagement with children and young people**

36. Officers met with pupils from Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal to explain the proposal and seek their views.

## **Gabalfa Primary School Views**

37. The pupils thought it would be fair for Ysgol Glan Ceubal to remain and that investment in both schools would be good.
38. They were concerned that the proposal could result in smaller classrooms, overcrowding, longer queues at dinner time, a smaller

playground and disruption during the building work. They were also concerned about the impact of any sharing of facilities on their school.

39. Overall the pupils preferred Option 3.

### **Ysgol Glan Ceubal Views**

40. The pupils thought that the proposal was fair to both school and look forward to better facilities.
41. They were concerned that the proposal could result in overcrowding, and wanted to see a larger playground, would like changing facilities for both boys and girls and separate facilities for both schools.
42. Full details of all pupil views are attached at Appendix 2.

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

43. Any design would be in line with Building Bulletin guidelines and officers would work closely with the schools to ensure that any new build would meet the needs of both schools.
44. Any design would ensure that both schools were able to function as separate entities allowing them to retain their separate identities.

### **Summary**

45. There is clear support for the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site and for the age range of the school to be extended from 4 -11 to 3 -11 with Option 3 being preferred by the majority of those who responded to the consultation. However, some expressed that nursery provision should only be established when permanent accommodation was provided.
46. Extending the age range for Ysgol Glan Ceubal through the provision of a nursery class was originally proposed to be established for January 2016. Following further consideration regarding the accommodation and current organisation of the facilities, the opening date is now proposed to be delayed to align with the start of the academic year opening in September 2016.
47. The nursery would provide 24 part-time places in the first instance with scope to increase to 48 part-time places once in permanent accommodation.
48. It is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the delivery of education in either school establishment in the interim period.

## **Local Member consultation**

49. Members were consulted as part of the consultation process. They welcomed the proposal to invest in both English-medium and Welsh-medium provision and were in favour of Option 3 as this would provide parity of investment for both mediums. Additionally Option 3 allows the opportunity to develop facilities that will support the independent operation of both schools as well as a joint asset that could be used for the benefit of the wider community.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

50. It is recommended that Option 3 is progressed in order to respond to the need to provide sufficient capacity to meet the English-medium and Welsh-medium community primary pupil demand in and around the Llandaff North area.
51. Whilst being consistent with the view of the majority of repondees, Option 3 also retains flexibility around options to address any changes to future demand for English-medium and Welsh-medium primary school places in the area.

## **Financial Implications**

52. The project to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School and to permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on the same site is a project which forms part of Cardiff Council's revised 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme which was approved in-principle by Welsh Government in March 2015.
53. Some design works and preparatory works have taken place on the site with regard to an alternative delivery model which would have formed part of the project costs and been eligible for match funding from Welsh Government had the project proceeded to full business case approval stage. Option 3 being chosen will result in these costs becoming ineligible for WG match funding and must therefore be incurred wholly by the Council.
54. The financial impact of this proposal on the revenue budgets for each school need to be understood and form part of the future report to Cabinet. This will include establishing whether or not there are any revenue contributions from School Organisational Plan model and if there are any opportunities for cost sharing between the two.

## **Legal Implications**

55. The proposals and proposed delivery options qualify as regulated alterations which must comply with the requirements of Part 3 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, which include provisions for consultation and publication of statutory notices.
56. The recommendation in this Report to publish a statutory notice follows a period of consultation which ran from 12 February to 25 March 2015.



This Report (together with the appendices attached to it) represents the consultation report which the Code requires to be published. The Cabinet must have due regard to the responses received during the consultation before it makes a decision upon whether to publish a statutory notice.

57. The Code requires that the statutory notice must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the consultation period unless an extension of time has been granted by the Welsh Ministers. As further work was required an application was made to the Welsh Ministers for an extension and this was granted until 23 March 2016. If Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposals a statutory notice must be published before this date.
58. Following publication of the statutory notice there would be a period for objections of at least 28 days following which a further Report would need to be made to the Cabinet summarising the statutory objections and giving responses to those objections. It would then be for the Cabinet to review those objections and determine whether to implement the proposals.

### **HR Implications**

59. The proposal put forward in this report does not necessarily impact on the size of the schools, however the governing bodies of each school would need to consider whether to restructure their current staffing establishment to ensure that it can fully support the needs of their individual schools in a new environment. The governing bodies of each school have adopted the Council's Redeployment and Redundancy Policy for schools and therefore any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on roll, or addition of a nursery provision will provide opportunities for staff on the school redeployment register.
60. The proposal to build a new 2FE standardised school building to be shared between Ysgol Glan Ceubal and Gabalfa Primary means that Cardiff Council will need to work with the governing bodies to reach agreement on how shared facilities would be staffed, managed and funded. It is hoped that any resultant reduction required in staffing levels could be achieved through natural turnover. However, should this not be possible the school will need to manage this using the school's agreed Redeployment and Redundancy Policy and consultation with both staff and trade unions.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

61. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The assessment concluded that this proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. If the proposal were to proceed, further equality impact assessments would be undertaken including an assessment on the design for any new build accommodation.

## **Sustainability Assessment**

62. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposal has been carried out in accordance with European Legislation. The assessment confirms that the proposal is compatible with the environmental objective identified in the SEA of Cardiff's 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Strategic Framework for a School Building Improvement Programme. If the proposal were to proceed, an environmental assessment would be carried out as part of the planning application process.

## **Transport Matters**

63. Traffic and transport implications will be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for building works should these proposals be implemented.

## **Admissions and catchment area arrangements**

64. There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the admission of children to schools as a result of this proposal.
65. Consultation on the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Glan Ceubal was undertaken in early 2013 and the catchment area was formally established in September 2014.
66. Approval for the reduction of the Gabalfa Primary School catchment area, and enlargement of the adjacent Whitchurch Primary School catchment was given the Council Cabinet in April 2014 and was implemented from September 2015.
67. There are no further proposed changes to the catchment area of the schools as part of these proposals.

## **Community Impact**

68. The following are taken into account when considering a proposal: Public Open space, parkland, noise and traffic congestion. Officers will work with school and any community groups to ensure that any proposal(s) brought forward would avoid negative impacts wherever possible.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Authorise the publication of a Notice to:
  - Consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE with 48 part-time nursery places from September 2017
  - Permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site at Colwill Road, Gabalfa, CF14 2PQ at 1FE from September 2016

- Extend the age range of Ysgol Glan Ceubal from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2016
2. Note that the statutory notice will set out Option 3 as the recommended delivery option should the proposal proceed to implementation and subject to securing WG funding at the business case stage.
  3. Note that prior to implementation of the proposal a further report will be provided to the Cabinet providing details of any objections received, the responses to those objections and recommendations for implementation or otherwise of the proposal.

**NICK BATCHELAR**

**Director**

27 November 2015

*The following appendices are attached:*

- Appendix 1 – Consultation document
- Appendix 2 – Details of pupil meetings
- Appendix 3 – Estyn response
- Appendix 4 – Formal responses

# 21st Century Schools Consultation Document 2015

The provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary  
school places in and around Llandaff North

12 February – 25 March 2015



This document can be made available in Braille.  
Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.  
Please contact us on 029 2087 2720 to arrange this.



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## Introduction

This consultation is an opportunity for people to learn about the school organisation proposal put forward in your area. It is your chance to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council decides how to proceed.

A range of individuals and groups will be asked for their views about the proposal. Those the Council is consulting with as part of this process include the following:

- Children and young people
- Parents/carers
- School staff
- School Governing Bodies
- Local residents
- Elected Members (local Councillors, AMs and MPs)
- Church in Wales and Catholic Diocesan Authority directors
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Other schools within a two mile radius of those schools directly affected by the proposals
- Estyn
- Welsh Ministers
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- Regional Educational Consortium
- Regional Transport Consortium
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)
- Trade Unions
- Childcare providers
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Wales Pre-school Providers Association
- Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club
- National Day Nurseries Association

## Explanation of terms used in this document

Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

**'FE'** - a Form of Entry refers to a class of 30 children in each year group.

**'Number on roll data'** - the number of pupils attending school excluding nursery age pupils.

**'PLASC'** - Pupil Level Annual School Census. In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to the Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity, and data on Welsh language, Free School Meals eligibility, Special Educational Needs and first language.

**'SEN'** - Special Educational Needs

**'FSM'** - Free School Meals

**'EAL'** - English as an Additional Language

**School Action** - When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has SEN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.

**School Action Plus** - When the class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through School Action can be put in place.

**Statemented** - A child has SEN if he or she has learning difficulties which requires special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

## How can you find out more and give your views?

Public meetings and drop in sessions have been arranged where the proposals will be explained. These are provided so you can ask questions and make comments that will be recorded. You may also provide your views in writing.

Information regarding this proposal will be displayed at the Llandaff North Library.

Details of the consultation meeting dates are given below:

Nature of Consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Public Meeting	Tuesday 17 Mar 6.30 - 8.30pm	Gabalfa Community Centre, Colwill Road
Drop in session	Wednesday 25 Feb 10.00 - 12.00pm	LLandaff North Library
Drop in session	Tuesday 03 Mar 5.00 - 7.00pm	LLandaff North Library

In addition, workshop sessions will be arranged with local primary age children to provide an opportunity for pupils to ask questions and learn more about the proposal and give their views.

## Your Views Matter

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the proposal. You can do this by attending one of the meetings or drop in sessions above, and/or by completing the Consultation Response Form which can be found on page 32 of this document or completing the online form [www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stCenturySchools](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stCenturySchools).

Alternatively contact the School Organisation Planning Team on (029) 2087 2720.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 25 March 2015.



## Background to the Proposal

Gabalfa Primary School is an English-medium community primary school that occupies two buildings. The infant and junior buildings are separated by shared playing fields. Two of the classrooms in the infant building are occupied by Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

Ysgol Glan Ceubal was formally established on the Gabalfa Primary School site (in part of the Gabalfa Primary infant building) in Sept 2010 following approval from the Welsh Minister. The Welsh Minister noted that the local authority indicated that the site could become a permanent location for the school in the future but that this would require further statutory procedures.

In November 2011, the Council submitted a 21st Century Schools Programme bid to Welsh Government. The level of Capital investment contained within that Programme (predicated upon 50% Welsh Government funding, 50% Authority funding) known as "Band A", was £137m and this was approved in principle in December 2011.

The proposals for this area included in the bid were as follows:

- Gabalfa Primary School – reconstruction project to reduce the surplus English-medium local capacity of the school by consolidating the school from 1.2 Form Entry (FE) to 1FE with 48 part-time nursery places in permanent accommodation in order to reduce English-medium capacity from September 2015.
- Ysgol Glan Ceubal – reconstruction project to increase primary Welsh-medium capacity to 1FE and establish nursery provision with 48 part-time places to meet increasing local demand from September 2016.

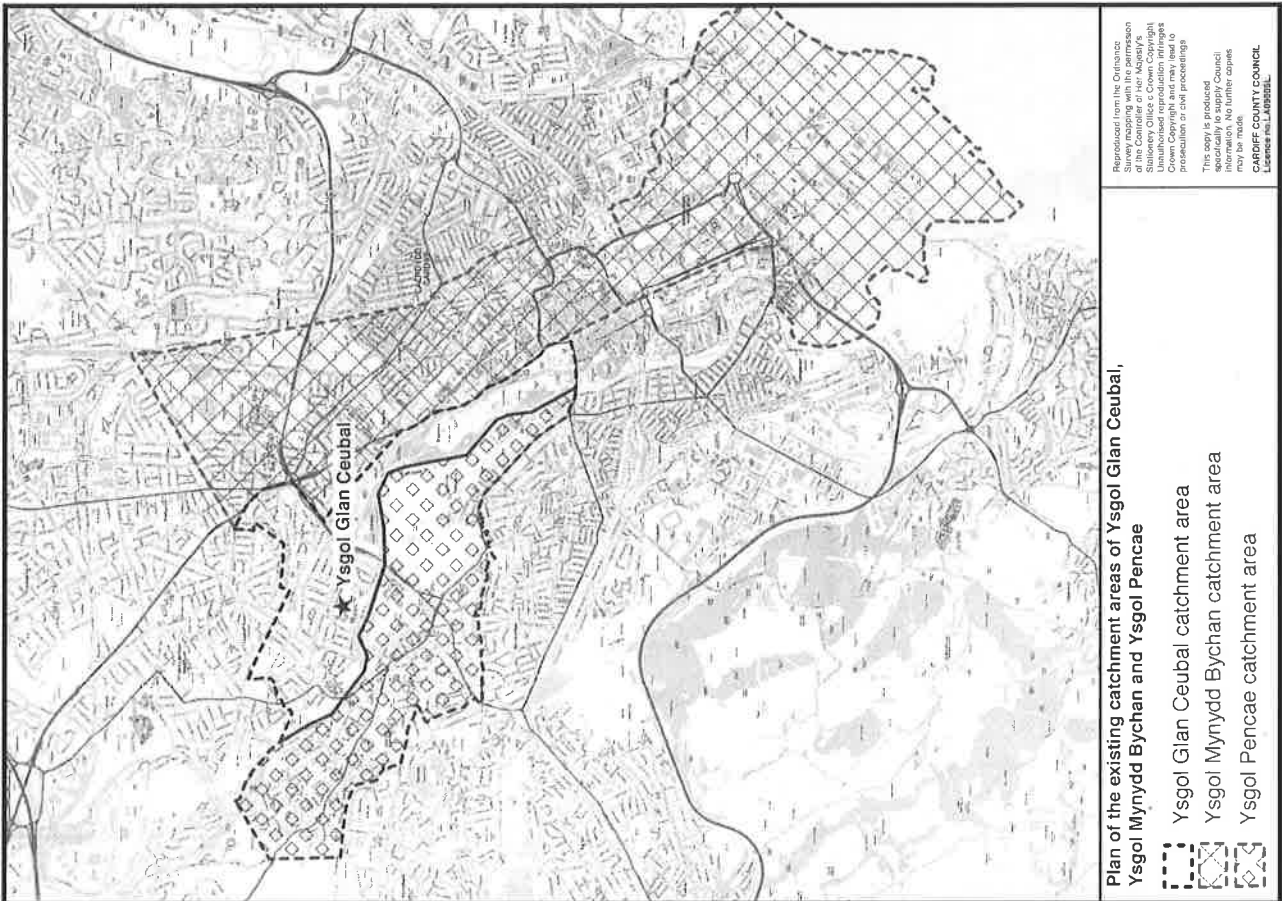
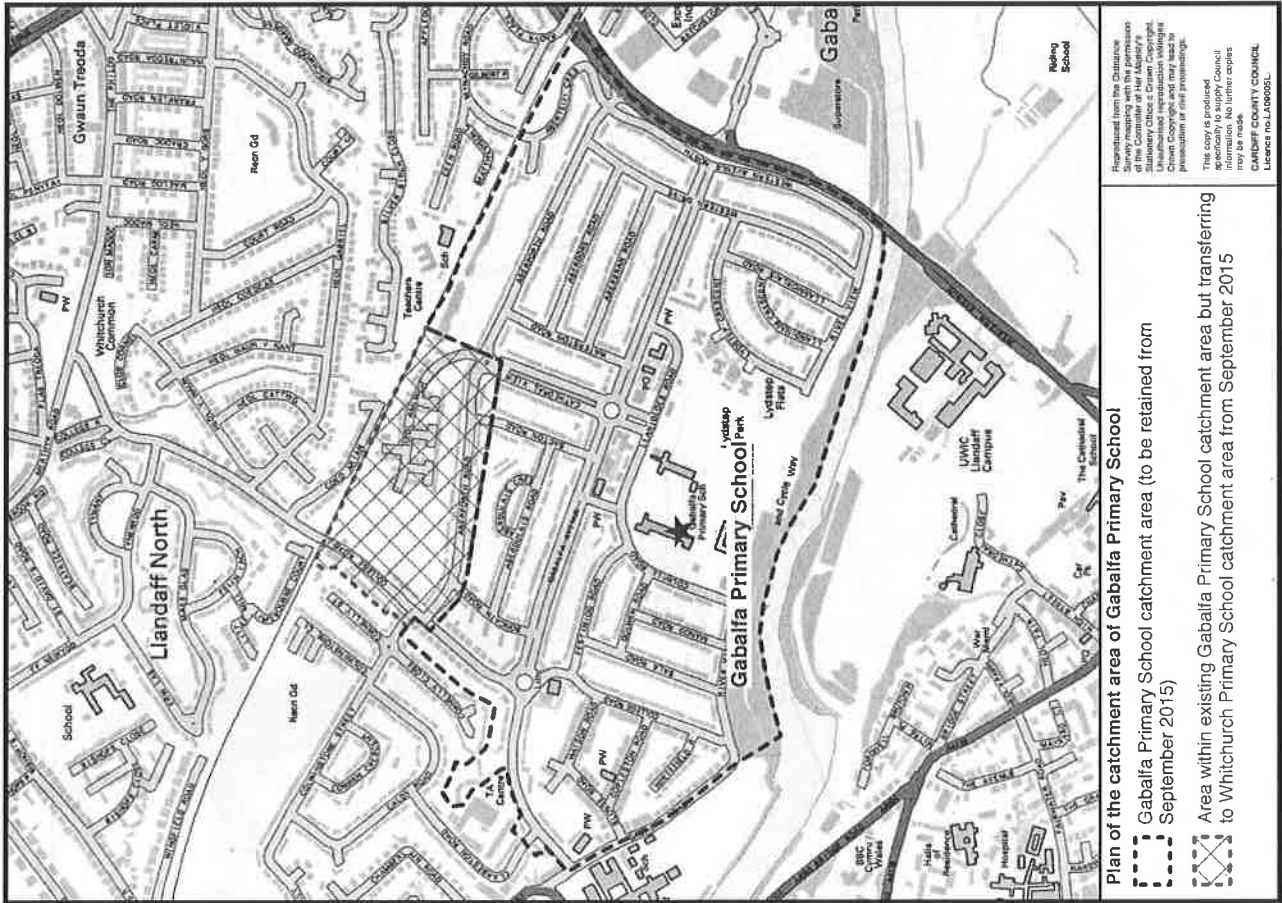
## The proposal

In order to provide sufficient capacity to meet the English-medium and Welsh-medium community primary pupil demand in and around the Llandaff North area the Council is now consulting on the following proposals to:

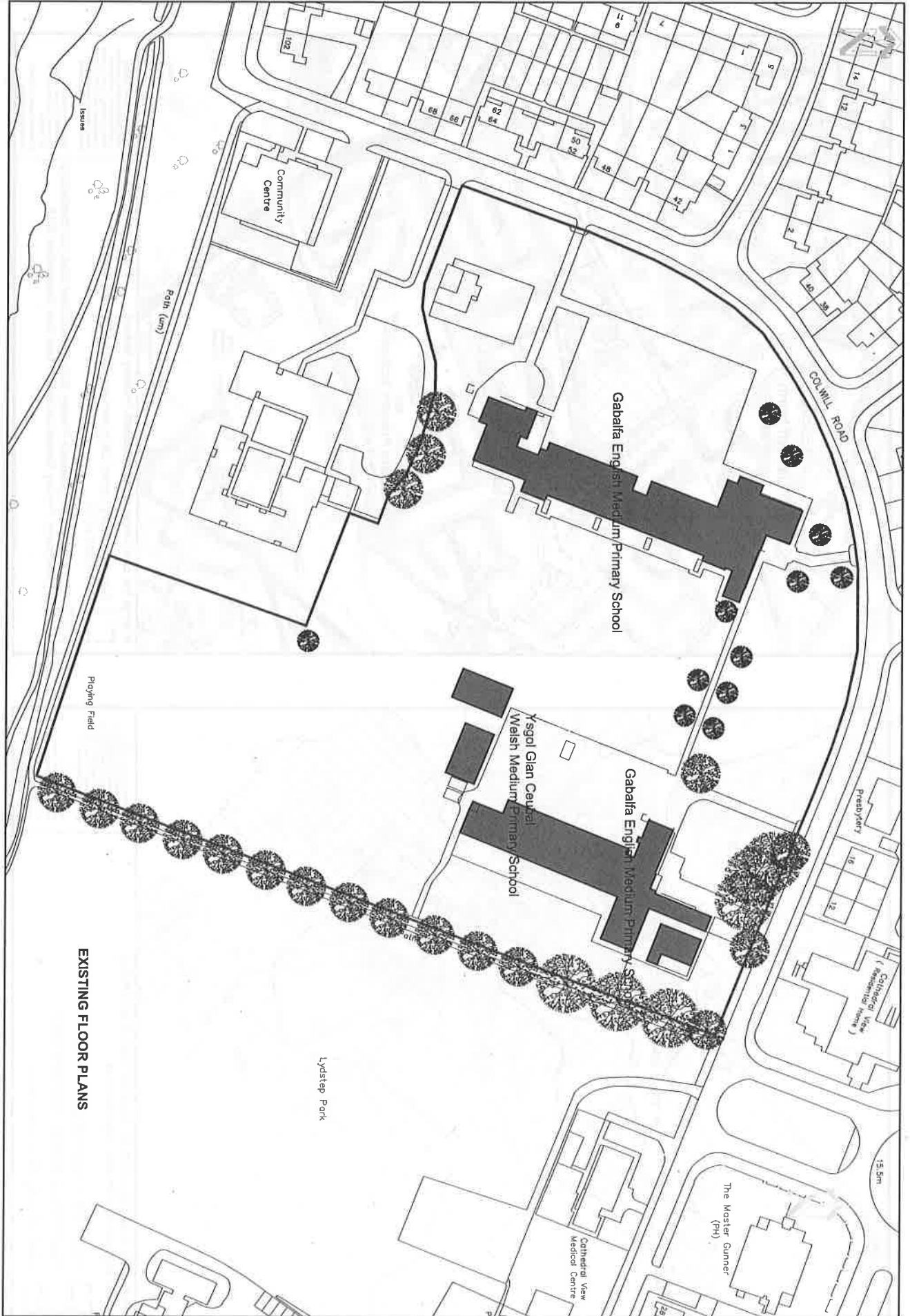
- Consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1 Form of Entry with 48 part-time nursery places from September 2017.
- Permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site at Colwill Road, Gabalfa, CF14 2PQ at 1 Form of Entry from September 2016.
- Extend the age range of Ysgol Glan Ceubal from 4-11 to 3-11 which would require the establishment of 48 part-time nursery places from January 2016.

Three potential delivery options (outlined in detail on pages 14-19) have been identified and we are seeking your opinion on these options.

# Primary School provision catchment area maps



# Existing Site Layout



EXISTING FLOOR PLANS

## Schools serving the area at present

Llandaff North is currently served by a number of English-medium and Welsh-medium community primary schools.

The following sections set out the schools serving the area at present, the capacities, condition and suitability of the school buildings, existing demand for primary school places in and around Llandaff North and forecast demand.

### School Capacities, Condition and Suitability of School Buildings

Table 1 below provides details of school capacities and information regarding the condition and suitability of school buildings.

Name of community primary school	English-medium (EM) / Welsh-medium (WM)	School Buildings	Capacity (age 4-11)	Capacity (nursery - part time places)
Allensbank Primary School	EM	Satisfactory	300	64
Birchgrove Primary School	EM	Satisfactory	411	N/a
Gabalfa Primary School	EM	Satisfactory	247	64
Gladstone Primary	EM	Satisfactory	216	64
Hawthorn Primary School	EM	Good	210	64
Peter Lea Primary School	EM	Satisfactory	320	96
Severn Primary School	EM	Satisfactory	420	160
Whitchurch Primary School	EM	Has not yet been assessed post establishment but is expected to be at least satisfactory	630	80
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	WM	Satisfactory	57*	N/a
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	WM	Has not yet been assessed post transfer to former Eglwys Newydd site but expected to be at least satisfactory	420	64
Ysgol Pencae	WM	Satisfactory	186	N/a
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	WM	Satisfactory	192	64

\*In addition to the permanent capacity of Ysgol Glan Ceubal of 57 places, located within the Gabalfa Primary School buildings, the school also utilises two demountable units which include two additional classrooms, hall space and a staffroom.

There is no faith based primary school provision in the Llandaff North area. Some pupils from this area attend faith based primary schools in other areas.

The most recent school data indicates that, from Llandaff North, an average of 4 pupils per year group attend, St Joseph's RC Primary School and an average of 2 per year group attend Llandaff CiW Primary School. A few pupils from the area attend other faith based primary schools.

## Calculating local demand for school places

In order to calculate the likely demand for school places, historic trends specific to well established school catchment areas have been used. The geographical unit that is most suitable to analyse the demand for English-medium primary school places is the catchment area of Gabalfa Primary School (see page 5).

The geographical units that are most suitable to analyse the demand for Welsh-medium primary school places are the combined catchment areas of Ysgol Glan Ceubal, Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (see page 5).

## Supply of and demand for places

### Capacity available at Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal

The Published Admission Number (PAN) at Gabalfa Primary School is 43 places.

The Published Admission Number for Ysgol Glan Ceubal of 28 is based on the available accommodation allocated to Ysgol Glan Ceubal at the time of its establishment.

At present Gabalfa Primary School is being accommodated in the former Junior School building and four classrooms in the former Infant School building.

Ysgol Glan Ceubal which currently has children in Reception to Year 5 is being accommodated in the remaining Infant School accommodation with an additional two classrooms, a staffroom and a hall space being provided in demountable accommodation.

Additionally a Welsh-medium Education Unit (immersion unit) established in July 2010 is based at Ysgol Glan Ceubal. Pupils here are latecomers to Welsh-medium education and it is intended to accelerate Welsh language learning with a view to pupils joining their substantive school following intensive input.

The unit receives pupils once they have been registered at a Welsh-medium primary school. Current staff based at the unit include, one qualified teacher and one full time teaching assistant and the unit occupies one classroom at Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

## Demand for English-medium places

### Demand from within the Gabalfa Primary School catchment area

The catchment area of Gabalfa Primary School falls entirely within, and serves part of, the Llandaff North ward. The Llandaff North ward is also served by Allensbank, Gabalfa, Hawthorn, Peter Lea and Hawthorn Primary Schools, each of which also serve parts of other wards.

The Gabalfa Primary School catchment area lies within the catchment area of Whitchurch High (Foundation) School. Projected demand for English-medium community school places in each of the primary school catchment areas within this catchment varies. However, the combined demand is at a high level.

Since the approval of school organisation proposals in Whitchurch in January 2011, the number of pupils resident in the existing Gabalfa Primary School catchment area requiring English-medium Reception places has risen from 45 pupils in January 2011 to 48 pupils in 2013, and is projected to rise further to 55 pupils in January 2016 and 57 in January 2017.

The projected demand for English-medium places in the existing Gabalfa Primary School catchment area at entry to Reception exceeds the Published Admission Number in future years until 2016-17, the last year for which data are available.

The number of pupils resident in the existing Whitchurch Primary School catchment area requiring English-medium Reception places has also risen from 59 pupils in January 2011 to 71 pupils in January 2013, and is projected to rise further to 74 pupils in January 2017.

Approval for the reduction of the Gabalfa Primary School catchment area, and enlargement of the adjacent Whitchurch Primary School catchment was given by the Cabinet in April 2014 and will be implemented from September 2015.

The implementation of catchment area changes combined with an increase to the Admission Number of 90 at Whitchurch Primary School will allow for a better balance in the number of pupils resident in the Gabalfa Primary and Whitchurch Primary catchment areas.

Table 2 below table sets out the projected demand from within the existing catchment areas and within the amended catchment areas.

Catchment areas	Academic year			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>Gabalfa Primary - reduced catchment</b>	49	43	41	43
Whitchurch Primary - existing catchment	68	73	72	74
Area transferring from Gabalfa catchment to Whitchurch catchment	13	10	14	14
<b>Expanded Whitchurch Primary catchment</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>

It is evident from the above table that, based on NHS GP registration data and PLASC 2013 data supplied by schools, projected demand for English-medium community school places from within the reduced Gabalfa catchment area broadly matches the number of places available at the school.

## Demand for places at Gabalfa Primary School

The number of pupils taking up places at entry to Reception at Gabalfa Primary School has been lower than the demand from within its existing catchment area as some parents have expressed a preference for other English-medium community schools and have gained admission for their children.

Table 3 below sets out the number of pupils resident within the existing Gabalfa Primary School catchment area enrolled in English-medium community primary schools, and the number of pupils enrolled at the Gabalfa Primary School.

	Year Group							Total
	Rec	1	2	3	4	5	6	
(1) Pupils resident within the existing Gabalfa Primary School catchment area and enrolled in any English-medium community primary school – PLASC January 2013	48	54	47	39	38	35	34	295
(2) The number of pupils enrolled at Gabalfa Primary School, January 2012 (NOR)	34	29	22	15	28	22	26	176
(3) The number of pupils enrolled at Gabalfa Primary School, January 2013 (NOR)	35	39	29	23	17	31	21	195
(4) The number of pupils enrolled at Gabalfa Primary School, January 2014 (NOR)	38	35	42	36	20	16	32	219
(5) The number of pupils enrolled at Gabalfa Primary School, December 2014 (EMS One Live data)	27	38	36	41	33	17	17	209

In recent years, a significant proportion of pupils enrolled at Gabalfa Primary School were admitted outside of the normal admissions round. This may partly be a consequence of a number of schools serving adjacent catchment areas, including Birchgrove, Hawthorn, and Whitchurch primary schools being fully subscribed at entry to Reception and therefore unable to accommodate additional pupils that have subsequently moved to the local area.

## Demand for Welsh-medium places

### Demand from within the Ysgol Glan Ceubal, Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan catchment area

The newly established catchment area of Ysgol Glan Ceubal, implemented from September 2014, serves parts of the Gabalfa, Llandaff North and Whitchurch wards. Each of these wards also serves more than one Welsh-medium primary school.

The catchment area of Ysgol Glan Ceubal was drawn from the catchment areas of Ysgol Pencae in Llandaff and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in Gabalfa. The catchment areas of these two schools were reduced accordingly.

The projected demand for Welsh-medium places in these combined catchment areas at entry to Reception exceeds the Published Admission Numbers of Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in future years until 2016-17, the last year for which data are available.

The below table sets out the projected demand from with the catchment areas of Ysgol Pencae, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Ysgol Glan Ceubal:

Table 4: Projected Welsh-medium (WM) demand at entry to Reception in the Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan catchment areas (Ysgol Glan Ceubal catchment data included within catchments of Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as PLASC data not yet available for the amended catchment boundaries).

Catchment area	Admission Number	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Ysgol Pencae	30	46	43	47	46
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	30	36	40	34	39
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	30 (proposed)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total demand</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>85</b>
Excess demand		22	23	21	25

## Demand for places at Ysgol Glan Ceubal

In the period from its establishment in 2010 to 2013, the growth in demand for places at Ysgol Glan Ceubal has been slow. It should be noted that, until the implementation of its catchment area in September 2014, this area was served by Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Ysgol Pencae. These two schools were each able to accommodate 30 pupils at entry to Reception and parents in the locality had, in accordance with the admissions application process, been informed of these schools being their 'catchment area school'.

Table 5: Recent take up of Welsh-medium places

	Year Group							Total
	Rec	1	2	3	4	5	6	
(1) Pupils resident within the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan or Ysgol Pencae catchment area and enrolled in any Welsh-medium community primary school – PLASC January 2013	87	83	76	63	62	74	47	492
(2) The number of pupils enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, January 2012 (NOR)	8	5	3	-	-	-	-	16
(3) The number of pupils enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, January 2013 (NOR)	10	9	8	3	-	-	-	30
(4) The number of pupils enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, January 2014 (NOR)	10	11	9	8	3	-	-	41
(5) The number of pupils enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, December 2014 (EMS One Live data)	24	11	8	7	8	4	-	62



## Admission to Reception classes – September 2014

Since the implementation of changes to the catchment areas of Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Glan Ceubal in September 2014 the number of pupils admitted to Reception at Ysgol Glan Ceubal has increased significantly when compared to previous intakes.

There are presently 24 pupils enrolled in Reception class\* of which 15 are resident with the Ysgol Glan Ceubal catchment area compared to 10 enrolled in Reception in January 2014. Both Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan are fully subscribed and each has 30 pupils enrolled in Reception.

The number of pupils admitted to Reception at Gabalfa Primary School has reduced in comparison to previous intakes. There are presently 27 pupils enrolled in Reception class\* compared to 38 enrolled in Reception in January 2014.

\* (Source: EMS ONE live database, 3 December 2014).

## Forecast demand for each school and catchment area

As the majority of pupils likely to enrol at Ysgol Glan Ceubal would not only be from within its catchment area, but would also be resident in the catchment area of Gabalfa Primary School, it is expected that as the intakes at one school grows, the intakes at the other school would likely reduce (should the pupil population remain at similar levels).

However, any increase in demand for places at Ysgol Glan Ceubal or at Gabalfa Primary School is not likely to reduce the demand for places at the other school by the equivalent number of pupils, as Ysgol Glan Ceubal serves a larger catchment area than Gabalfa Primary School.

Following a period of slow growth in demand for places at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, during which time the majority of pupils living within the local area were able to access other established schools, there was a significant increase in demand for Reception places in September 2014.

Whilst a single year of admissions data is not indicative of an established pattern, similar increases in demand have also been evident at other Welsh-medium schools including Ysgol Pen Y Pil and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau once catchment areas were implemented and permanence of school sites locations determined. Each of these schools was established as a starter class to meet excess demand in their local area, and demand for places at these schools and from within each catchment area has remained at high levels and has exceeded the number of places available.

At present, Ysgol Glan Ceubal does not have a nursery class. A number of parents resident in the area have therefore enrolled children at other schools offering nursery provision, such as Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, and wish to continue their child's education in the same school. It has also been evident at other new primary schools that the addition of nursery provision leads to an increased uptake in places.

It should be noted that, any projection data for the catchment areas of the schools named in the preceding paragraphs is likely to be different to that which may be forecast when changes to the organisation of the schools and/ or catchment areas are implemented.

Initial analysis of city-wide data provided by the NHS for 2014 also suggests that there are fewer pupils in the cohort born in 2012/13 than in the previous year's cohort (born in 2011/12), upon which projections are based. This fall in the birth-rate is markedly different to the successive birth-rate increases of recent years. It is therefore unclear at this stage whether the previous cohort (born in 2011/12), represents a peak and a new projection trend will begin, or whether the most recent cohort (born in 2012/13) is a 'blip' and is unreflective of a continued trend.

Sufficient accommodation should also be retained on a temporary basis until the larger year cohorts (those in excess of 30 per year group) at Gabalfa Primary School transfer to secondary education. This would allow demand to be monitored for both English-medium and Welsh-medium education, and to respond to any sustained changes in demand.

## List of facilities included in a school

Any changes to the school buildings would be within The Department of Education: Area guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103: April 2014 which sets out that the following facilities need to be included in any school:

- Teaching space: internal and external
- Halls/dining area
- Learning resource areas
- Staff and administration
- Storage
- Toilets and personal care
- Kitchen facilities
- Circulation, plant and internal walls

**Three potential delivery options have been identified.**

### Option 1

**Traditional build extensions and adaptations of the existing school buildings to enable both schools to operate at 1FE**

This option would require the traditional build extensions (including new nursery accommodation) on both schools to be phased, with building works not completed until late 2017/2018.

It is proposed that nursery provision be established at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016. To allow for this, it would be necessary to install demountable accommodation to house the existing Gabalfa Primary Nursery which would in turn allow for the Ysgol Glan Ceubal Nursery unit to be accommodated in the existing Gabalfa Primary School nursery accommodation. This option would enable both nursery units to be situated adjacent to the relevant Foundation Phase classes, and would facilitate a smoother flow from Nursery through to Reception. It would also allow nursery children to have greater integration with the older children and be able to immerse themselves in the Welsh language.

Following completion of the new nursery building at Gabalfa Primary school, the nursery unit would be transferred allowing for the vacated demountable accommodation to be utilised if required by Gabalfa Primary School during the period that the larger year cohorts are moving through the school. It is anticipated that demountable accommodation would be required until the permanent accommodation is completed.

Alternatively, an option of providing nursery provision for Ysgol Glan Ceubal at an adjacent church hall from January 2016 until onsite accommodation becomes available has been considered. Early discussions have taken place with the representatives of the church hall who are supportive of the proposal. However this would require investment in the church hall in the form of an electrical rewire and the installation of nursery toilets. Additionally, this would incur a daily hire charge for use of the hall. The estimated cost for investment works, including one year's hire is approximately £130,000.

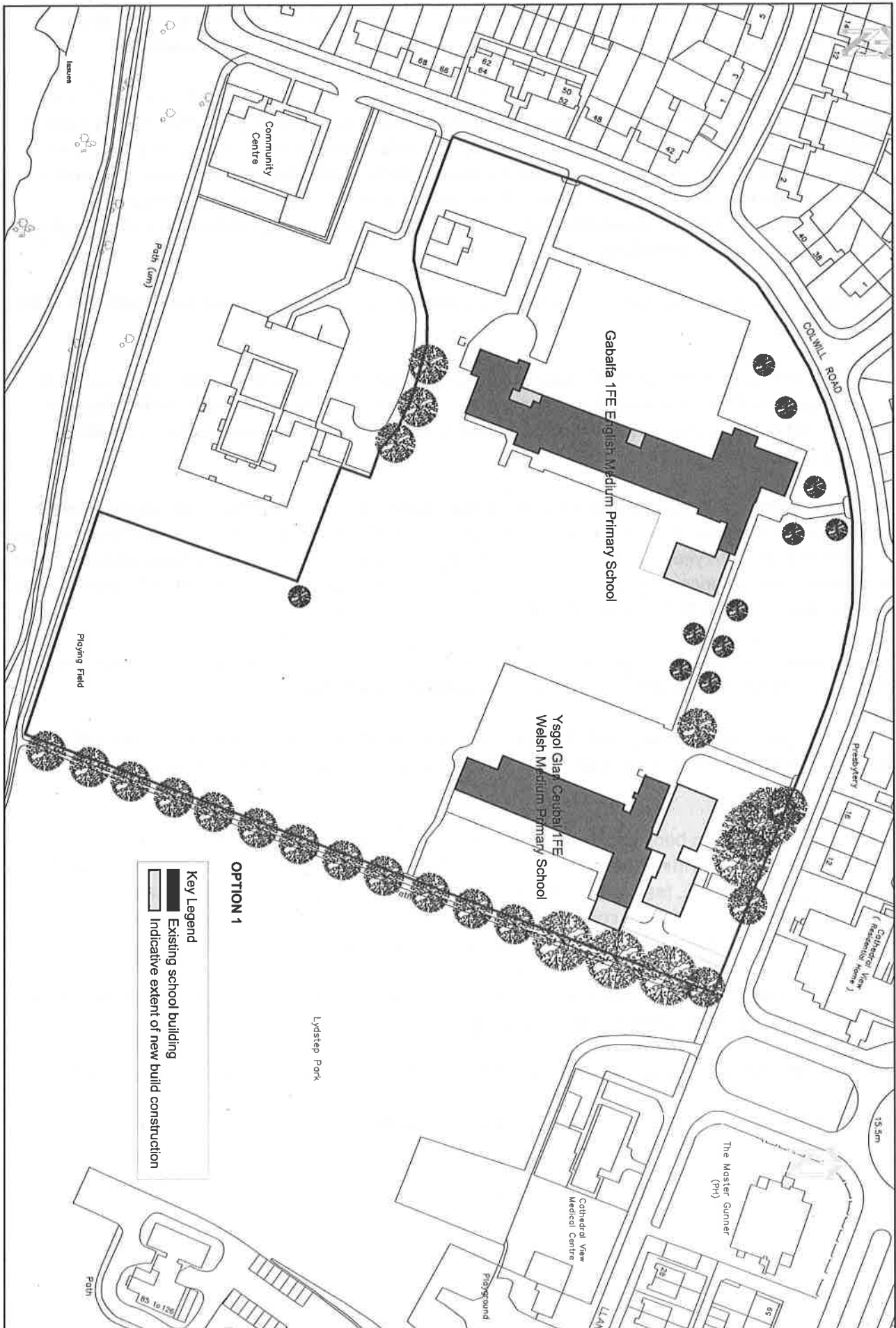
An Initial Development Appraisal (IDA) carried out for this option has indicated costs of £3.569m for construction and light internal refurbishment; however, this would not address the existing high priority asset maintenance issues. Additional costs of c£1m for works such as Highways, IT, FFE, fees, temporary nursery facilities, contingency and money already committed against the budget need to be allowed for. However, further work will be needed on this option to refine this estimate.

This IDA cost also does not take into account ongoing maintenance costs on the aged fabric of the buildings. It is estimated that if all priority items were to be addressed in the next 5-7 years additional funding of c£1 million would be required.

This option would involve several phases including demolition of sections of both existing schools buildings. Managing this, while keeping the schools operational, would be challenging and also offer significant health and safety challenges.

Implementation of this option would mean that both schools would not be able to operate independently of each other for a number of years.

# Option 1



**OPTION 1**

**Key Legend**

- Existing school building
- Indicative extent of new build construction

## Option 2

**New 1FE 'standardised build' school with nursery for Ysgol Glan Ceubal, new standalone nursery and Reception class unit at Gabalfa Primary, retention and refurbishment of existing Gabalfa Primary School accommodation and demolition of current Ysgol Glan Ceubal building.**

A standardised design refers to a predetermined building form, the client (i.e. the Council) effectively buys 'off plan' to a pre designed solution. Contractors are able to minimise costs by reducing the fees spent on design and tendering as they already have a predetermined design and supply chain and also do not have to include a significant cost for risk due to the early engagement of the contractor. In-house design fees are also significantly reduced as it does not require a bespoke design. The buildings would meet Welsh Governments funding conditions such as BREEAM and also be designed in accordance with BB103 Guidelines.

A 1FE standardised build primary school would cost less to build when compared to a traditional build primary school.

Under this option, the former junior building currently occupied by Gabalfa Primary School would be retained, extended and adapted. It is recommended that this building be retained, rather than the former infant building, as it has two halls and also has the advantage of upgrades to the building including double glazing.

The former Infant building occupied by Ysgol Glan Ceubal is in poorer condition and would require a greater level of investment work. Replacing this poorer condition building would potentially save up to £1m over the next ten years, if all items included within the condition survey were to be addressed and for ongoing maintenance. It is therefore proposed that this building be demolished and replaced by a new standardised build 1FE primary school.

A stand-alone nursery and Reception classroom of standardised or modular build and a small covered linkage to the main hall would be provided for Gabalfa Primary School.

The remaining Gabalfa Primary School accommodation would be refurbished and priority asset maintenance issues addressed as part of the scheme. The refurbishment would be undertaken during school holidays.

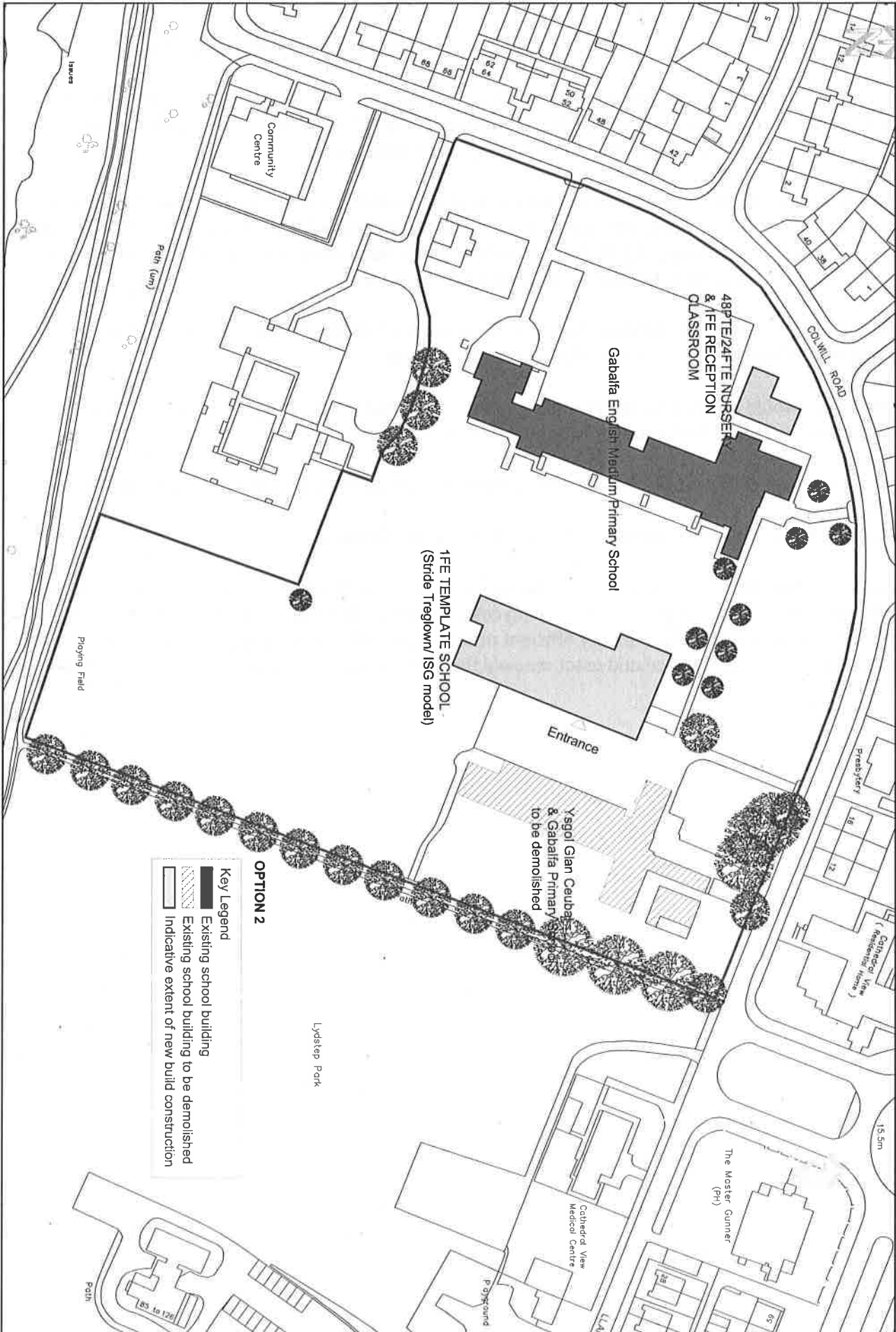
Initial costings based on benchmarking information from other Authorities indicate that the construction cost of providing this option would be c£3.95m. Additional costs of c£1.35m for works such as Highways, IT, FFE, fees, temporary nursery facilities, refurbishment works, demolition costs, contingency and money already committed against the budget need to be allowed for. However, further work would be needed on this option to refine this estimate.

This option would be implemented from September 2017 but would allow for nursery provision to be established for Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016.

Details of how nursery provision would be provided are consistent with those set out in Option 1.

The use of demountable accommodation is also set out in Option 1.

# Option 2



**OPTION 2**

**Key Legend**

- Existing school building
- Existing school building to be demolished
- Indicative extent of new build construction

## Option 3

### **New 2FE standardised build to be shared by Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal**

This option would allow for both schools to be accommodated in a new standardised build.

- This would require the provision of 14 classrooms, two nursery units, two halls, a joint kitchen facility, reception area, and supplementary withdrawal spaces for SEN and learning interventions, accommodation for the immersion unit and separate playgrounds.

Initial costings based on benchmarking information from other Local Authorities indicate that the construction cost of providing this option would be between £4.4 – 5.1m. Additional costs of c£1.3m for works such as Highways, IT, FFE, fees, demolition costs, temporary nursery facilities and money already committed against the budget need to be allowed for.

Consultation would be needed with both schools around the challenges of operating an English-medium and Welsh-medium school from the same building.

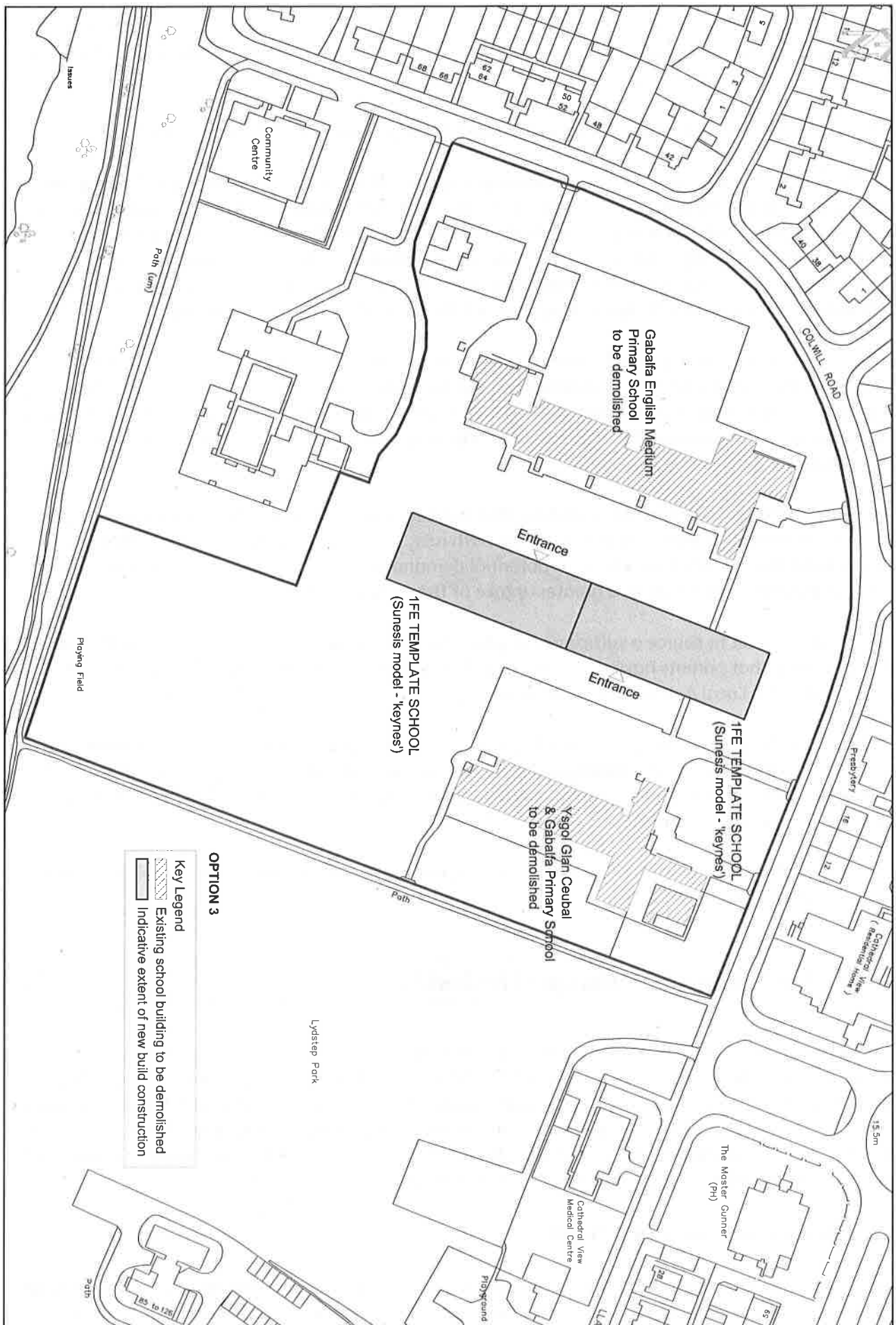
This option would be implemented from September 2017 but would allow for nursery provision to be established at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016.

Details of how nursery provision would be provided are consistent with those set out in Option 1.

The use of demountable accommodation is also set out in Option 1.

Whilst the initial build cost of delivering this option exceeds the budget available, this option could offer value for money due to reduced running costs overtime. This option has the advantage of providing a low maintenance, energy efficient new building which greatly reduces the immediate need for the ongoing maintenance and asset renewal that is associated with the existing older buildings.

# Option 3





## How would nursery provision be affected?

Gabalfa Primary School currently has 64 part-time nursery places. Under this proposal the number would reduce to 48 part-time places, in line with the reduction in the size of the school from 1.2FE to 1FE.

It is proposed that nursery provision be established at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016.

Children in Cardiff are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday and must attend for a minimum of five half days. Nursery places are not allocated on a catchment area basis. Wherever possible places are offered in a local community nursery school or nursery class within two miles of a child's place of residence. If places are unavailable in local community nursery schools or nursery classes, parents may apply for nursery education place funding with a recognised provider designated by the Cardiff Early Childhood Steering Group.

In the event the proposal is implemented, accommodation would need to be of sufficient size to provide for the revised numbers of children and the appropriate investment made to realise the appropriate space in accordance with the numbers of places offered. The outdoor area would also be taken into account to ensure the area is able to offer a range of activities relevant to the delivery of the Foundation Phase to this age group.

The Local Authority has needed to purchase Welsh-medium nursery education places in recent years following increased housing and the rise in the birth rate. Also, some families have not taken up their offered place which means there is potential demand in excess of the supply available and any additional places would support a greater uptake of the nursery entitlement.

It has been difficult to source a sufficiency of places in settings that are approved to provide education places in areas that parents have requested and/or source new providers willing to enter into the contract with the Local Authority in some areas.

Whilst the addition of nursery places would mean there would potentially be a reduced number purchased in the private and voluntary childcare sector, many also provide wrap around places and the opportunities for this could increase with a larger number of families accessing the maintained provision for part time sessions.

It must be noted that having a nursery place at a school, does not guarantee a reception place and is subject to the admissions process.

## How would other schools be affected?

The total number of places available at entry to Reception age in the two primary schools, following the implementation of these proposals, would be 60 (30 at Gabalfa Primary School and 30 at Ysgol Glan Ceubal). This compares to the existing arrangements, in which the Published Admission Numbers for each school enable up to 71 pupils to be admitted (43 at Gabalfa Primary School and 28 at Ysgol Glan Ceubal). The proposal, whilst increasing the combined capacity of the two schools in permanent buildings, would result in an overall reduction in places at entry to Reception.

### English-medium primary schools

The consolidation of Gabalfa Primary School at 1 form of entry is expected to more closely match the future demand for places at the school. The number of pupils enrolled in its Reception age group in

December 2014 is at a lower level than in previous years and similar levels of demand are forecast in future.

The reduction in its capacity to this size is not expected to cause the displacement of pupils to other schools, nor will it allow for a significant increase in the number of pupils able to be admitted.

There are many reasons for popularity of individual schools, and for the expression of parental preferences for admission to those schools at Reception age. Should the proposal to consolidate and invest in Gabalfa Primary School proceed, this may increase its popularity and the number of preferences submitted by parents for the school; however, as admissions would be capped at 30 places there would be no predictable or significant impact on other English-medium primary schools.

Although the number of places available at Gabalfa Primary school would be less than the projected demand for English-medium places from within its catchment area, it is likely that a proportion of pupils will access the surplus places available (compared to demand from within their catchment area) at nearby schools including Birchgrove, Hawthorn and Whitchurch primary schools, as at present.

It is therefore anticipated that the proposed consolidation of Gabalfa Primary School at 1 form of entry would have little or no effect on the number of pupils on roll at schools in the local area.

### **Welsh-medium primary schools**

Following the establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal in 2010, the take up of places at the school was low, whilst the take-up of places of neighbouring Welsh-medium schools (Ysgol Pencae, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Melin Gruffydd) has remained at high levels.

The city-wide population and the population in the locality have each grown in the intervening period, and demand for places at Welsh-medium schools has also grown. City-wide, few surplus Welsh-medium places have been available at entry to Reception year. Only two other Welsh-medium primary schools had more than 4 surplus places at entry to Reception in September 2014, namely Ysgol Coed Y Gof in Pentrebanne (5 places) and Ysgol Gymraeg Pen Y Groes (14 places) whilst three were oversubscribed.

The permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1 form of entry is expected to closely match the future demand for places at the school and from within its catchment area. The number of pupils enrolled in its Reception age group in December 2014 has increased in comparison to previous years and similar levels of demand are forecast in future.

Should the proposal to permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1 form of entry with nursery provision proceed, this may increase its popularity and the number of preferences submitted by parents for the school; however, as admissions would be capped at 30 places there would be no predictable or significant impact on other Welsh-medium primary schools

Very few pupils transfer between Welsh-medium primary schools in Cardiff for reasons other than moving home. It is therefore considered unlikely that there would be a significant net increase in the cohorts of primary-age already enrolled, as a result of pupils transferring from other schools in Cardiff.

It is anticipated that the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1 form of entry would therefore have little or no effect on the number of pupils on roll at other schools in the local area.

### **Faith-based primary schools**

Although there is no faith based primary school provision in the Llandaff North area, some pupils from this area attend faith based primary schools in other areas.

The most recent school data indicates that, from Llandaff North, an average of 4 pupils per year group attend St Joseph's RC Primary School and an average of 2 per year group attend Llandaff CiW Primary School. Fewer pupils from the area attend other faith based primary schools.

Admission to these schools is determined by the Governing Body of the individual school. Llandaff CiW Primary School has been fully subscribed at entry to Reception for a number of years, and the take up of places at St Joseph's has remained at high levels. This is projected to continue in future years and it is not expected that the proposal will impact upon this.

Table 6 below illustrates the number of pupils on roll at schools serving the area and schools in adjacent areas, and the projected numbers of pupils on roll should the proposal proceed as described.

Table 6: Recent and projected numbers on roll at local primary schools should the proposal proceed as described

School	Is this school expected to be affected by the proposals?	January 2009	January 2010	January 2011	January 2012	January 2013	January 2014	014/2015 Projection	015/2016 Projection	2016/2017 Projection	2017/2018 Projection	2018/2019 Projection	2019/2020 Projection
Gabalfa Primary School – should the proposals not proceed	Yes	204	184	187	176	195	219	223	244	263	259	254	245
Gabalfa Primary School – forecast should the proposals proceed	Yes	204	184	187	176	195	219	223	244	256	249	230	225
Ysgol Glan Ceubal– should the proposals not proceed	Yes	0	0	8	16	30	41	51	63	70	75	77	77
Ysgol Glan Ceubal – forecast should the proposals proceed	Yes	0	0	8	16	30	41	51	63	84	100	115	128
Allensbank Primary School	No	148	139	165	218	231	242	247	267	270	286	272	272
Birchgrove Primary School	No	305	325	356	360	397	414	415	417	420	420	420	420
Gladstone Primary	No	195	179	201	197	197	207	199	199	200	200	200	200
Hawthorn Primary School	No	195	200	198	191	203	202	200	205	203	200	198	198
Peter Lea Primary School	No	245	233	254	267	283	303	312	322	315	316	316	316
Severn Primary School	No	370	389	386	369	387	409	402	394	397	400	399	399
Whitchurch Primary School	No	0	0	0	0	582	591	600	604	612	615	618	618
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	No	326	351	355	365	390	406	413	410	414	413	413	413
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	No	202	202	201	207	207	205	204	203	203	204	205	205
Ysgol Pencae	No	204	207	208	207	206	201	201	197	196	193	191	191

The projections for each of the above schools, with the exception of Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal, represent both the projections as if the proposals were not to proceed and also if the proposals were to proceed. Those pupils unable to gain admission to schools due to oversubscription could elect to attend alternative English-medium, Welsh-medium, Faith, private schools or schools outside of Cardiff and for the purpose of clarity are not added to the Numbers on Roll at alternative schools.

Projections based on actual GP registration data beyond 2017 are not yet available and it is therefore difficult to assess the long-term impact on schools; however, there are no data presently available that suggest a reduction in the overall demand for school places.

## Quality and Standards

Quality and standards in schools in Cardiff 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.

Since the establishment of the Central South Consortium (CSC) in September 2012 the LA has commissioned the Consortium to support and enable improvement in Cardiff schools.

### Estyn

The relevant Estyn Inspection reports provide grades against Key Questions and provide schools with recommendations for improvement.

For Estyn inspections carried out before September 2010, there were seven Key Questions each with the following grades which could be awarded:

Grade 1 good with outstanding features

Grade 2 good features and not important shortcomings

Grade 3 good features outweigh shortcomings

Grade 4 some good features, but shortcomings in important areas

Grade 5 many important shortcoming

Estyn Inspection reports after September 2010 provide judgements against three Key Questions and provide schools with recommendations for improvement.

Each Key Question is provided with a judgement:

Excellent - Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice

Good - Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement

Adequate - Strengths outweigh areas for improvement

Unsatisfactory - Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

This section of the document includes information from the most recent Estyn inspections for Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal. The summary sections and reports can be accessed via Estyn website at [www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk).

### Local Authority and Central South Consortium

Information regarding the quality and standards of Cardiff schools is provided in the Cabinet Report: Performance of Cardiff Schools and the Youth Service in 2013/14 which was considered by the Council Cabinet on 26 January 2015.

Since September 2012, the Council's School Improvement Services have been provided by the Central South Consortium (CSC), a regional School Improvement Services for the five local authorities of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Each school is categorised into four categories (A-D) which is reviewed every year:

- A: High performing school with many examples of good practice and potential sector leading practice – not requiring additional support
- B: School with good performance with some areas requiring improvement – may require some external support
- C: School with variable performance in a range of indicators or over time, needing improvement in a number of important areas – requires sustained additional support
- D: Underperforming school with significant weaknesses across a wide range of areas – requires intensive additional support

Table 7 and Table 8 below show the Estyn judgements, recommendations, CSC category and the Foundation Phase and Key stage 2 data for Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

The authority recognises that this inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and should not be used as an indication of the current standards at the school.

Gabalfa Primary School Estyn Inspection Report June 2009	
Key Questions	Grade
<b>Standards</b>	
Key Question 1: How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2
<b>The quality of education and training</b>	
Key Question 2: How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2
Key Question 3: How will do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and wider community?	Grade 2
Key Question 4: How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 1
<b>Leadership and Management</b>	
Key Question 5: How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2
Key Question 6: How well do learners and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 2
Key Question 7: How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2
<b>Recommendations</b>	
R1	Improve attainment at the end of both key stages
R2	Improve attendance rates and punctuality
R3	Provide more opportunities for pupils to develop their entrepreneurial skills
<b>CSC Category 2013/14</b>	
% of pupils achieving Level 2 inc English, Welsh and Maths	86.36
% of pupils achieving CSI	78.57
Attendance in 2012/13	91.83 %

Ysgol Glan Ceubal Estyn Report December 2013

Key Questions	Judgement
<b>Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?</b>	<b>Good</b>
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
<b>Key Question 2: How good is provision?</b>	<b>Good</b>
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
<b>Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?</b>	<b>Good</b>
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
<b>Recommendations</b>	
R1	Raise standards of extended writing in both languages in key stage 2
R2	Raise standards of presentation and handwriting in key stage 2
R3	Provide more of a challenge for more able and talented pupils
R4	Develop the role for the governing body to be critical friends
<b>CSC Category 2013/2014</b>	<b>C</b>
* Pupils achieving the expected outcome in the FP areas of learning in 2013	
* Pupils achieving the expected level in the core subjects at KS2 in 2013.	
* Attendance in 2013	85%

\* further information can be found on the website: [mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk](http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk).

It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on the quality of standards of education or the delivery of the Foundation Phase at any of the schools. It is expected that facilities developed to be suited for purpose would support more effective teaching and learning.

## How would Special Educational Needs (SEN) and EAL provision be affected?

A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which requires special educational provision. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

The percentage of students needing SEN provision is higher than the LA and Wales average.

2013		Gabalfa Primary School	Ysgol Glan Ceubal	LA	Wales
Percentage of SEN Pupils	School Action	25.6%	25%	17.1%	15.2%
	School Action Plus	6.9%	-	6.4%	9.2%
	Statemented	-	-	1.8%	1.7%
Percentage of EAL Pupils		34.4%	-	19.4%	5.1%

There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative affect on SEN provision at the schools and the schools would continue to provide SEN support for pupils. However consideration would need to be given to how any reconfiguration of buildings would facilitate this ongoing requirement.

By retaining and refurbishing Gabalfa Primary School's buildings, the school would have access to rooms other than classrooms to enable any appropriate interventions to support pupils with EAL, disabilities and SEN. If the new build accommodation for Ysgol Glan Ceubal is a standardised design, discussion would be needed on the design approach and how it caters for pupils with disabilities, EAL and SEN needs.

## Other relevant statistics specific to Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal

2013	Gabalfa Primary School	Ysgol Glan Ceubal	LA	Wales
Percentage of FSM pupils – 3 year average	36.7%	28.1%	23.4%	20.8%
Percentage of Minority Ethnic Pupils	41.9%	-	30.7%	9.4%

\* further information can be found on the website: [mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk](http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk).

There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on provision for any group including those who are from Minority Ethnic groups or in receipt of free school meals and the schools would continue to provide support as appropriate in line with individual needs for all pupils.

## What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The following benefits would be expected to result from these proposals:

- Capacity that achieves a better match between the supply of and demand for English-medium and Welsh-medium primary school places within the local area.
- The opportunity to invest in providing high quality, modern facilities which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Welsh Government and the Council has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which is expressed in seven core aims that all children and young people:

1. have a flying start in life;
2. have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;
3. enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;
4. have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;
5. are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;
6. have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing;
7. are not disadvantaged by poverty.

We consider that this proposal benefits the children in the community in accordance with the seven core aims set out above.

## Potential disadvantages of these proposals

Potential increased traffic congestion around the school sites at drop off/pick up times. However, the Council would work with the Governing Body of the schools to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption.

Changes to the existing building and any new build can cause some disruption although experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum and the children's education does not suffer.

## Risks associated with these proposals

There is a risk that the projected increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils entering Reception does not materialise. Whilst this appears most unlikely, the Council will keep its projections under review and respond to any such changes in demand accordingly.

There is a possibility of development constraints not yet identified becoming apparent and having both a cost and delay implications. Site surveys and geo-technic reports would provide further information around this and inform management strategies.

There is a risk that the number of pupil applications for Gabalfa Primary school would reduce if this is the school that retains the older building.

There is a risk that upon progressing the option of a standardised design, it emerges that the approach is not suitable. Further work around this option would help to identify any potential issues and inform management strategies.



## Alternatives considered

### English-medium provision

Doing nothing is not a viable option because there is a need to achieve a better match of supply and demand. Currently Gabalfa Primary School is having to manage fluctuating pupil numbers and this is impacting on the school's ability to plan its classes, budgets and staffing. Limiting the school to 1FE would therefore benefit the operational management of the school.

Another option would be to consider removing English-medium provision offered at the Gabalfa Primary School site such as by expanding neighbouring schools. However, several of these schools are located on confined sites and do not have sufficient space for extension, whilst the expansion of other schools would not provide a sufficiently local catchment area and therefore neither of these options have been taken forward.

### Welsh-medium provision

An alternative could be to expand Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Melin Gruffydd, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan or Ysgol Pencae but this is not feasible because the existing schools sites are too small.

The provision of a new build 1FE Welsh-medium primary school on the Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf site has been investigated but has been discounted as this would reduce scope for expansion if required in the future and would not provide a better solution than the other options proposed.

## Admissions and catchment area arrangements

There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the admission of children to schools as a result of this proposal.

Detailed information regarding admission arrangements is contained in the Council's Admission to Schools booklet, and this information can also be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

Consultation on the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Glan Ceubal was undertaken in early 2013 and the catchment area was formally established in September 2014.

Approval for the reduction of the Gabalfa Primary School catchment area, and enlargement of the adjacent Whitchurch Primary School catchment was given by the Council Cabinet in April 2014 and will be implemented from September 2015.

There are no further proposed changes to the catchment areas of the schools as part of these proposals.

## Financial Matters

Proposals for Gabalfa Primary and Ysgol Glan Ceubal were included within the 21st Century Schools Capital Programme bid which received approval in-principle from Welsh Government in December 2011. The Programme is predicated upon 50% Authority funding and 50% WG Grant funding.

Full approval of grant funding attributable to specific schemes is subject to the successful submission of Business Cases to Welsh Government. Stakeholder expectations arising during the consultation process will need to be managed appropriately by the Directorate until full grant approval is received.

A separate review of the overall 21st Century Schools Programme and an update on priorities and proposals is anticipated to be reported at a future Cabinet meeting.

Within each option consideration could be given to placing a nursery in a non-Council building on a temporary basis with associated revenue requirements. The preferred option which will be reported to Cabinet at the end of the consultation will need to clearly set out the Value for Money case for investment in any non-Council buildings. It should also be noted that the Financial Model does not currently hold any specific Revenue provisions for these proposals.

## Human Resources Matters

The HR implications arising from these proposals would be assessed through a review of the schools' establishments and consideration of any increase/decrease in staff required. Any required changes to the staffing levels would be managed within agreed policies and procedures and full consultation would be required with staff and trade unions.

## Transport Matters

Traffic and transport implications will be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for building works should these proposals be implemented.

## Learner Travel Arrangements

Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. Any pupils affected by this proposal as a result of catchment areas would be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in accordance with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff. The Council's transport policy for school children can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

## Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

The proposal includes increasing the number of Welsh-medium primary school places available in the area in addition to the establishment of nursery provision.

It is anticipated that there would be a positive impact on the Welsh language as a result of this proposal.

The schools subject to the proposals are existing schools which offer a range of after school activities. It is not anticipated that there would be a negative impact on any of these activities.

## Equality Matters

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The assessment concluded that this proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. This assessment will be reviewed following consultation. If the proposal were to proceed, further equality impact assessments would be undertaken including an assessment on the design for any new build accommodation or refurbishment/ adaptation of existing accommodation.

## Sustainability Matters

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposal has been carried out in accordance with European Legislation. The assessment confirms that the proposal is compatible with the environmental objectives identified in the SEA of Cardiff's 21st Century: A Strategic Framework for a School Building Improvement Programme. If the proposal were to proceed, an environmental assessment would be carried out as part of the planning application process.

## Considering Community Impact

The changes outlined within this document could be implemented without impacting adversely on the community. The following are taken into account when considering a proposal: Public Open Space, parkland, noise and traffic congestion. Officers would work with schools and any community group to ensure that the proposal avoids negative impacts wherever possible.

## Key Dates

### What happens next?

The feedback from this consultation will be collated and summarised, and a report presented to the Council's Cabinet. This consultation report will be available for all persons to view on the Council website and copies can be obtained on request by using the contact details in this document.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the report and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, make changes to the proposal or not proceed with the proposal.

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice would be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires 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 or by email, and sent to the Council within 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published.

The Council's Cabinet would consider the outcome of the Statutory Notice at the next available Cabinet meeting and determine whether to implement the proposal.

If there are objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to those objections within 7 days of the day of the determination of the proposal.

This report would be available for all persons in view on the Council website and copies can be obtained on request by using the contact details in this document.

If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, the proposed implementation date is January 16 for nursery provision to be established at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, September 2016 for the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1FE on its existing site and September 2017 for the consolidation of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1FE with a 48 part-time place nursery.

## **What are the key dates proposed for this consultation and the process overall?**

Consultation period 12 February 2015 to 25 March 2015 .

- Officers submit report to the City of Cardiff Council Cabinet on outcomes of consultation
- Council Cabinet considers responses to consultation and makes a decision about whether to proceed to Statutory Notice.
- If Council Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice would be published allowing 28 days for any objections.
- If any objections are received the Council's Cabinet would decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What would the proposals mean for children currently attending Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal?**

Children currently attending these schools would remain at the schools.

- **If the proposal to establish a nursery at Ysgol Glan Ceubal is agreed when would the nursery provision be available?**

It is proposed that nursery places would be available from January 2016.

- **What about local childcare providers in the area?**

The City of Cardiff Council is supportive of Early Years Childcare providers, and as such the aim would be to work with local childcare providers to enable continued service delivery.

- **Would the proposal have an impact on traffic in the local area?**

Traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for building works should this proposal be implemented.

- **Would the building works be carried out whilst children are on site?**

The City of Cardiff Council has increased experience in the successful delivery of building projects on the sites of occupied schools resulting from the progression of a growing school organisation programme. There would be building work carried out on the schools site which would be managed effectively in consultation with the school management to ensure the full curriculum continues to be delivered and that high education standards and safety standards are maintained.

# CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

## (The Provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North 2015)

Your views matter, please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- Completing and returning the accompanying questionnaire to the address given at the bottom of the form.
- Completing the on line response form at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturyschools](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturyschools)
- Or if you prefer you can e-mail your views to: [schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk)

Please note that all comments sent in writing or by e-mail must contain the full name and full postal address of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 25 March 2015. Unfortunately no responses received after this date can be considered by the Council.

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposals. Objections could only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public. However any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your status:  Parent  Governor  Pupil  Member of Staff  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the proposal to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1 FE with a 48 part-time place nursery from September 2017?

Yes  No

Do you support the proposal to permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site at 1FE from September 2016?

Yes  No

Do you support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016?

Yes  No

Please tick to indicate which option (as outlined on pages 14 - 19) you prefer:

Option 1  Option 2  Option 3

If you **do not** support the proposal, please give your reasons together with any changes or alternatives that you would like to suggest.

Do you wish to make any other comments?

**Thank you for your comments**

Please tick the box below if you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report

Please return this form to the School Organisation Planning Team, Room 219, County Hall, CF10 4UW by 25 March 2015.



**Schools Programme  
Record of  
Pupils Meeting  
Gabalfa Primary School  
13.03.2015  
1.30 pm to 2.30 pm**



**Present:**

Rosalie Phillips (Project Officer) and Laura Lloyd-Lewis (Project Officer)

*Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.*

No	Heading	Action
1.	<b>Presentation</b>	
	<p>RP opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introduced Council officers.</p> <p>RP presented on the proposal on the provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North.</p>	
2.	<b>Comments</b>	
	<p>The School Council had developed a Pupil Survey for the proposals that each class had completed. The surveys were provided to the Council Officers as part of their response:</p> <p>Option 1 – 69 pupils thought this was the best option.  Option 2 – 3 pupils thought this was the best option.  Option 3 – 72 pupils thought this was the best option.</p> <p>Officers discussed the pupils’ likes and dislikes of the proposal.</p> <p>The pupils liked the proposal as it would be fair for Glan Ceubal to stay, good if all together, need to learn to share, investment in both schools and fair to both schools.</p> <p>The pupils disliked the proposal as it would be difficult as they don’t mix with Glan Ceubal now, the building work will be disruptive, smaller classroom sizes, overcrowded, sharing the hall, having time for PE, dinner time would need to be longer to make sure everyone has lunch, the school would lose their ICT suite and there would not be as much space in the playground.</p> <p>Officers then explained that their responses will form part of the cabinet report for responses from the consultation.</p> <p>As pupils had no questions the session ended.</p>	



Schools Programme  
Record of  
Pupils Meeting  
Ysgol Glan Ceubal  
03.2015



**Present:**

Rachel Willis (Project Officer), Brett Andrewarthur (Project Officer)

*Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.*

No	Heading	Action
1.	<b>Presentation</b>	
	<p>RW &amp; BA opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and themselves as Council Officers.</p> <p>RW &amp; BA presented on the proposal on the provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North.</p>	
2.	<b>Comments</b>	
	<p>Officers discussed the pupils' likes and dislikes of the proposal and recorded their responses using post it notes and stickers.</p> <p>The pupils <b>liked the proposal</b> as it would make the site fairer for all, might make more friends. They might get better rooms (would like them like Ysgol Treganna), would like more space for dinners (currently get hot food served cold due to kitchen arrangements) would like separate areas on the yard with a bigger playground, would like safe store for bikes &amp; scooters, Climbing Frame on the yard, more toilets, more hand dryers and sinks, Astro Turf, bigger coat room, bigger hall, computer room. The issues which received the most stickers from pupils (and were therefore the most popular) were, in descending order :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fairer for all</li><li>2. Astro Turf</li><li>3. Rooms like Ysgol Treganna</li></ol>	

No	Heading	Action
	<p>The pupils <b>disliked the proposal</b> as it might mean they would lose memories. They were then asked about the current situation, and the things that they currently dislike. They do not like the small playground (want a bigger space), they do not want to share toilets or dinner hall with Gabalfa Primary School. They would like separate buildings from Gabalfa Primary School, with equal space and things.</p> <p>They would like to have more sheltered areas and benches and seats outside as they feel they currently do not have enough. They would like higher nets to stop their balls from going onto the Gabalfa Primary School site, and would like to have the grass trimmed regularly so that they can play football.</p> <p>The issues which received the most stickers from pupils (and were therefore the most popular) were, in descending order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Losing memories</li> <li>2. Do not want to share a Dinner Hall with Gabalfa Primary School</li> <li>3. Need changing rooms for boys &amp; girls</li> </ol> <p>Following the interactive exercise above, officers then explained that their responses will form part of the cabinet report for responses from the consultation.</p>	



G46C15/05

**Estyn's response to the proposal by Cardiff County Council to: Provide sufficient capacity to meet the English-medium and Welsh-medium community primary pupil demand in and around the Llandaff North area.**

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.

### **Introduction**

The consultation proposal is from Cardiff County Council. The proposal is to:

- Consolidate Gabalfa Primary School as a one form entry school with 48 part-time nursery places from September 2017
- Permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site at Colwill Road, Gabalfa, CF14 2PQ as a one form of entry school from September 2016
- Extending the age range of Ysgol Glan Ceubal from 4-11 to 3-11 which would require the establishment of 48 part-time nursery places from January 2016.

### **Summary/Conclusion**

**It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.**

The proposal is unlikely to have a negative impact on any other schools in the area. The proposal is likely to have a positive impact on the availability of Welsh medium education in the locality and to reduce overall surplus places in Welsh and English medium schools over time.

However, the proposer has not identified its preferred option at this stage. As such, the proposal does not identify potential financial implications or benefits clearly enough. The proposal contains very little information about the potential impact of the reorganisation on the staffing arrangements at the schools involved. The proposal does not evaluate what impact the proposal may have on any providers of pre-school education in the locality other than schools.

## **Description and benefits**

The proposal contains three possible options to bring about the desired changes. Overall, each option has the potential to support the achievement of the proposal. However, option one has insufficient clarity. For example, the option is not clear as to whether the nursery provision will be in a demountable classroom or in the local church hall. The proposer indicates that this option would not be complete in time for the identified start dates. The proposal contains insufficient detail about the financial implications for this option. Overall, in its current form, the weaknesses would appear to outweigh the strengths for this option.

Option two contains a suitable rationale for remodelling the school sites and identifies significant potential financial savings in the longer term. However, as with option one, the financial details are unclear and a few figures such as the cost of using demountable classrooms are not included.

Option three identifies a number of strengths that include long term financial savings and a modern purpose-built school for pupils. However, the proposer identifies that the cost of this project exceeds the available funding. The proposer acknowledges, in each option, that the financial implications require more detail.

The proposer does not identify clearly the educational benefits of any option, for example, there is no mention of the potential impact on standards of teaching and learning. However, each option does support the overarching aims of the proposal appropriately, for example, a better match between the supply of and demand for English-medium and Welsh-medium primary school places within the local area. Estyn agrees that each option is likely to provide pupils with modern facilities which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum in the longer term. The proposer states that the proposal will enable the schools to implement the seven core aims UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the proposal does not provide any detail as to how the new arrangements would support this aspiration.

The proposer has compared the benefits of the proposal with the status quo and has considered all other reasonable options fairly. For instance, the proposer raises the possibility of removing English-medium education from the Gabalfa Primary School site and educating pupils in other local schools. However, this is not a viable option due to the restricted size of the sites of these other educational settings.

The proposal indicates that the catchment areas for all schools have changed recently and that these changes have received the required approval. As such, there are unlikely to be any significant transport implications. The proposal states appropriately that the county will apply its transport policy to each of the schools fairly. The proposal recognises that there is potential increased traffic congestion around the school sites at drop off/pick up times. It states that the council would work with the governing bodies of the schools to develop a travel plan to minimise

any potential disruption. However, these plans are not available at the time of the proposal.

The proposal does not identify implications for members of staff or potential staffing requirements clearly, for example, the numbers of staff required or the financial implications. However, it does state reasonably that the council would manage any required changes to the staffing levels within agreed policies and procedures and full consultation.

The proposal is thorough in its use of data with regard to past, present and future pupil numbers in both schools. It clearly demonstrates that the proposal would reduce surplus places significantly in both schools whilst supporting the increased demand for Welsh-medium education in the locality. However, the proposal does not identify the number of pupils that are likely to require places at Gabalfa Primary School in September 2017. It does provide figures for the four year prior to September 2017. In each of these four years, the number of pupils requiring places exceeds 30 which is the intended intake number from September 2017. The proposer states that pupils from within the catchment area are likely to request places at other local schools from September 2017 onwards but this is by no means certain. Both schools will offer 48 nursery places and then only be able to offer 30 full time places. It is unclear whether the proposer has fully considered the potential pinch point in terms of demand for spaces, particularly in the other local Welsh medium schools.

The local authority has considered the current standards of educational outcomes in both schools. It states that both Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal are schools with variable performance in a range of indicators or over time, needing improvement in a number of important areas and that both schools require sustained additional support. The most recent published Estyn inspection report of Gabalfa was in 2009 (the schools was inspected in February 2015, but the report has not yet been published). As such, this is not sufficiently recent to support a current opinion regarding standards. In December 2013, Estyn inspected Ysgol Glan Ceubal and judged the school's performance and prospects for improvement as good at that time. Overall, Estyn agrees with the local authority's current evaluation of educational standards in both schools.

As the schools are already established, there are very few implications for the arrangements for leadership and management related to the proposal. However, the local authority has categorised both schools as category 'C' for improvement capacity. This does not indicate a judgment of strong leadership.

The proposal contains appropriate information with regard to ensuring provision for pupils with additional learning needs and those with statements for special educational needs. It is Estyn's opinion, that the proposal is unlikely to have a detrimental effect on provision for these pupils. There is also an equality impact

assessment that explains how the proposal will support the future of Welsh-medium education in the area. The proposer states reasonably that there is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on provision for any group including those who are from Minority Ethnic groups or in receipt of free school meals.

It is Estyn's opinion that impact of revised admission arrangements will lead to very little disruption to pupils' learning. It is unlikely that the proposal will have any impact upon transition arrangements to secondary school. However, the proposal does not evaluate the implications for any pre-school educational providers in the locality other than schools.



646C15/06

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 Website: [www.gabalfaprm.co.uk](http://www.gabalfaprm.co.uk)  
 Head teacher: Mrs C. L. Jenkins B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

**GABALFA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
 Colwill Road  
 Cardiff  
 CF14 2QQ

March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

Response by the Headteacher of Gabalfa Primary School to the consultation document "The provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North"

Do you support the proposal to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE with a 48 part-time place nursery from September 2017?

I support, with reservations, the proposal to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE with a 48 part-time place nursery from September 2017. Fixing our intake at 30 pupils will sort out the current challenges faced when organising the staffing and class structure of a 43 pupil intake school. However, as there is clearly an ongoing demand for English-medium places in and around the Llandaff North area which we are at present able to accommodate I am concerned about where these additional pupils will be educated. SOAP Officers have indicated that should the demand for English-medium places in our area continue to be sustained or rise then we may be in a situation where additional accommodation is needed on the site. Should this happen I would not want to see demountable accommodation be installed for our school as has happened in many Cardiff schools over the years.

Do you support the proposal to permanently establish Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing site at 1FE from September 2016?

I support the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing temporary site from September 2016 and will continue to encourage the close working of the **three\*** schools that share the site. I welcome the separation of metered utilities; it has been very difficult to ascertain the exact costs involved in hosting Ysgol Glan Ceubal over the years.

Do you support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016?

I do not support the proposal to establish nursery provision for Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016, but would expect that permanent part time nursery provision be available for both schools when the proposed building works is completed in September 2017. I strongly object to the suggestion that Gabalfa pupils and staff vacate a popular and well established Nursery provision merely to benefit another school. The reasons provided in the report are inaccurate; Ysgol Glan Ceubal is accommodated some distance away from the Nursery building of Gabalfa Primary and this would not enable Ysgol Glan Ceubal to work closely as suggested in the report. I am concerned that should Gabalfa Primary school be forced to give up its Nursery provision and move into temporary accommodation my Governors will resign as indicated in their response to the consultation report.

I am also concerned that the costs of providing a Nursery for Ysgol Glan Ceubal in January 2016 would be very expensive. The most obvious solution would be for Ysgol Glan Ceubal's Nursery to be established when the permanent building has been completed in September 2017.

Option 1

I reject this option as I am concerned that this would mean significant, increased maintenance costs for both school buildings which are already over sixty years old and in need of serious refurbishment both externally and internally.

With regards to the establishment of a nursery for Ysgol Glan Ceubal I reaffirm my concerns as stated above.

### Option 2

I reject this option as I find the suggestion that one school be provided with a new building whilst the other simply has a refurbishment to be an insult to the pupils of Gabalfa Primary school. Both schools serve the same community, therefore both schools should offer the same level of provision.

With regards to the establishment of a nursery for Ysgol Glan Ceubal I reaffirm my concerns as stated above.

### Option 3

This is my preferred option. It is fair to both schools and would create an innovative means of delivering English and Welsh medium provision to the community.

I am however concerned that should this option go ahead, we are able to continue to provide the number of high quality interventions for our vulnerable pupils. We would continue to require sufficient space to support the many 'newly arrived;' families to the UK that we receive. This provision is similar to the immersion provision that Ysgol Glan Ceubal offers; newly arrived pupils from many different countries are immersed in the English language with individual and group support to enable them to access the curriculum as soon as possible. This was recently identified by ESTYN as a strength of Gabalfa Primary school.

We also provide a high quality on-site counselling service for our pupils as well as a successful Nurture class for pupils across the primary age range. It is vital that we are able to sustain these services as they have a positive and measurable impact upon standards achieved by the pupils of the school.

It is important that teaching spaces are flexible and spacious to enable independent learning and more formal learning experiences. Both schools would need reliable wi-fi access to support the good standards of ICT that pupils use to enhance their learning experiences. The needs of the Foundation Phase pupils MUST be met both inside and outside with both schools having access to safe, motivating and stimulating outdoor learning provision.

I am grateful, on behalf of the pupils and parents of the school, for this current consultation and hope, after many years of expectation and disappointment that finally agreement can be made that enables both Gabalfa Primary and Ysgol Glan Ceubal schools to work side by side to provide excellent sustained learning experiences to their pupils.

Yours sincerely,  
Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

*C L Jenkins*

Mrs C L Jenkins  
Headteacher

\* Gabalfa Primary School, Meadowbank School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal

G4GG15/09



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**GABALFA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Colwill Road  
Cardiff  
CF14 2QQ

Schedule 2  
24 MAR 2015



Response by the Governing Body of Gabalfa Primary School to the consultation document "The provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North"

The Governing Body of Gabalfa Primary School are, in this letter, responding to the consultation by considering the information and proposals it has seen in the report which was considered by Cardiff Council Cabinet on 26.02.15, the Consultation Document made available in hard copy and on the Cardiff Council website and the presentation made to them by the members of the Cardiff Education Department SOAP team.

1. Response to issues outside the formal consultation paper:

- (i) Gabalfa Primary School has a FE of 1.4 (43 pupils) not 1.2.
- (ii) The whole site is part of Gabalfa Primary School and it hosts Ysgol Glan Ceubal and has done so since Ysgol Glan Ceubal in a temporary way occupied part of Foundation Phase Building.
- (iii) Gabalfa Primary School is accommodated in the CURRENT, not former, Junior School and Foundation Phase Buildings.
- (iv) Reception numbers in 2014/15 in Gabalfa Primary School being at 27, like the current years 5 and 6, may well be aberrant, particularly when the current years 1 to 4 show numbers greater than 1 F.E. This also flies in the face of the assumption (page 20 final paragraph) that there would be a reduction in the demand for places at Gabalfa School. A significant number of pupils transfer into Gabalfa during each school year (30 in the last school year) by immigration into the area and demand for places because of the excellent reputation by the school in dealing with the requirements to advance the educational standards of pupils designated FSM, EAL and SEN.
- (v) Paragraphs 4 and 5 on Page 12 contradict each other.
- (vi) The Governing Body cautions that the reliance on NHS birth rate projections is notoriously unsafe, as many local authorities in other parts of the U.K. have found to their cost.
- (vii) Throughout the report there appears to be an assumption that Gabalfa Primary School would become less popular over the years whilst the popularity of Ysgol Glan Ceubal would grow. There is no evidence for either of these assumptions only speculations. Even if Glan Ceubal had a full 1 F.E. intake in the future it would take until 2020 for it to fill to the level that Gabalfa Primary School is at present. Indeed, if the projected figures for both schools are as suggested as in Table 6 on page 22 then Gabalfa Primary School would in each of the following five years be over its **current** number should the proposals proceed, and even more so should they not.

2. Response to the consultation.

- (i) We support the proposal to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE with a 48 part-time nursery from September 2017, although we cannot see any reason to reduce the current number of 64 except the proposal's desire to make it equal in number to what is proposed for Ysgol Glan Ceubal.





- (ii) We support the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing temporary site from September 2016, but only if it does not interfere or encroach on the provision for the Foundation Phase pupils and staff of Gabalfa Primary School, both within the school buildings and in the outdoor spaces, until such time as new arrangements are made for each school's permanent accommodation. However, Ysgol Glan Ceubal would still need, until that time, to be hosted for its utilities by Gabalfa Primary School as there is only one set of utility meters in the Foundation Phase Building, the cost of use by both schools is paid for by Gabalfa Primary School with re-imbursment from the budget of Ysgol Glan Ceubal.
- (iii) We do NOT support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016. This is not because we do not support, in the future, the establishment of a nursery at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, because we understand why they want one. However, we raise very strong objections to the proposals, for reasons which do not appear on the response form but are in the full consultation document. Those reasons are based on the fact that there is at present no suitable accommodation for such a proposal and are as follows :
- (a) It is suggested that Gabalfa Primary School gives up its current nursery accommodation to Ysgol Glan Ceubal with Gabalfa Primary School having temporary accommodation so that Glan Ceubal pupils can be advantaged by being close to the rest of their school. This is presumably at the expense of Gabalfa pupils who would be expected to move into temporary accommodation and depending on the option chosen- maybe for ever! If this suggestion is implemented, many of the current Governors of Gabalfa Primary School would have to consider their position as Governors.
- (b) The costs involved in establishing the Ysgol Glan Ceubal nursery in January 2016, either on the Gabalfa Primary School site or in Church Hall accommodation, is an expensive waste of money. If they waited until the implementation of any of the three options the costs of establishing the Ysgol Glan Ceubal nursery could be incorporated into the development of any of the proposals.

#### OPTION 1

To accept this option for either school would mean the significant, increasing ongoing maintenance costs of the refurbished school buildings, which are already old and require considerable, ongoing revenue expenditure. The new Foundation Phase unit for Gabalfa Primary School would simply be an add-on and not part of the design of a new or even refurbished school building.

We would reaffirm our objections stated above to the timing and cost of the Ysgol Glan Ceubal nursery proposals.

We therefore **reject** this option, not least due to the disruption it would cause to pupils passing through the school and to staff.

#### OPTION 2

We find this proposal **totally unacceptable**. To have one school in a refurbished building whilst the other has a brand new school built when Gabalfa Primary School has been drawing attention to the deteriorating state of both of its building for many years with promises and proposals to change the situation, is appalling. Gabalfa Primary School pupils would become "second class citizens". As in Option 1, there would be considerable disruption to pupils passing through the school and to staff.

We would reaffirm our objections stated above to the timing and cost of the Ysgol Glan Ceubal nursery proposals.

#### OPTION 3

The Governing body **PREFER** this Option. It is equitable on both schools. It would create an interesting environment for the development of English Medium and Welsh Medium education alongside one another. However, we do **NOT** believe that it would be possible or sensible to attempt



to deliver SEN or EAL support for both schools using the same areas. The language of delivery would presumably be different and we cannot imagine Ysgol Glan Ceubal having EAL pupils unless they were monoglot Welsh and require English language support.

If this option is chosen it will be essential that the staff and governors are actively involved in the arrangements of the internal and external facilities that the school needs to deliver the high quality curriculum opportunities it delivers to the pupils at the present and hopes to extend with the community involved more in the future.

We note that a Travel Plan will be needed – there are already a number considerable of problems with traffic flows around the existing school.

We would reaffirm our objections stated above to the timing and cost of the Ysgol Glan Ceubal nursery proposals.

The Governing Body are grateful, on behalf of the children and parents of the schools and beyond, for the initiative shown by Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government for this consultation and the details within it, but would urge them to treat the children of this English Medium School and the Welsh Medium School equally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Les Maxim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Les Maxim

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the full Governing Body of Gabalfa primary School



GYGCS/10



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Head teacher: Mrs C. L. Jenkins B.Ed (Hons) NPQH  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**GABALFA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Colwill Road  
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CF14 2QQ



To whom it may concern,

**Response by class teachers and teaching assistants of Gabalfa Primary School to the consultation document "The provision of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places in and around Llandaff North"**

- 1) We support, with reservations, the proposal to consolidate Gabalfa Primary School at 1FE with a 48 part-time nursery from September 2017. While we appreciate that fixing our intake at a one form entry makes class organisation and planning for the future far easier, we are aware that the demand for places maybe higher than this, as is the case in many of our current year groups. We are concerned about where these children will be educated and that, if the LA find that the demand for places at our school is consistently higher than 1 FE, we are provided with demountable accommodation as has happened in many schools over the years.
- 2) We support the permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal on its existing temporary site from September 2016 and, as we have done since its introduction, will strive to ensure that we are as accommodating as possible whilst still prioritising the needs of our pupils.
- 3) We do not support the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Glan Ceubal from January 2016 but would expect that a nursery is established when the building works have been completed. It is neither fair nor feasible to expect our Nursery staff and pupils to move into temporary accommodation and the positioning would not benefit the pupils of Ysgol Glan Ceubal as has been suggested.
- 4) Class teachers and teaching assistants prefer Option 3. However, we have reservations about this option because of the advantages of the spacious ks2 accommodation we would be losing. We would expect that the building of a new school would enable us to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum. The teaching spaces need to be flexible and spacious to enable independent learning whilst also enabling more formal learning when appropriate. Each part of the school must be equipped to enable pupils to use technology to enhance their learning experiences. Sufficient spaces must be available for good quality physical activity in both PE lessons and during playtimes. Sufficient space for children to eat must be available, not in the classroom where staff will be setting up new learning experiences, nor in a hall where currently we provide a range of lunchtime clubs as requested by the parents of our pupils. The needs of Foundation Phase children must be met both inside and outside. We must have sufficient spaces to provide the vital group and individual intervention programmes recently complimented by Estyn, the Nurture and counselling provision so vital to the well-being of our pupils and parents, SEN support and support for pupils new to English, (like the Welsh school who require a separate space for an 'Immersion Class', we 'immerse' these pupils using individual and group support in a separate area so they can access the curriculum as soon as possible).

The teachers and teaching assistants of Gabalfa Primary School are grateful for this current consultation and hope, after many years of expectation and disappointment, that finally an agreement can be made that enables both English and Welsh medium schools to provide excellent learning experiences to their pupils.

Yours faithfully,

**E.J.Prescott**

Deputy Headteacher

On behalf of the teachers and teaching assistants of Gabalfa Primary School

