



The Governing Body of The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School

Objection Report The proposed expansion of The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base

Reason for this Report

1. Between 14 December 2021 and 01 February 2022, the Governing Body of The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School, in partnership with Cardiff Council, consulted on a proposal to increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base (hereafter also referred to as 'SRB') from 42 to 66 students from September 2022.
2. The consultation set out the proposal and the reasons for the proposed change. The consultation process followed Welsh Government guidelines and was an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the proposal and for the Governing Body to hear the views of all those with an interest in the proposed changes.

Consultation Report

3. In accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code the Governing Body published a consultation report. (A copy of the consultation report can be seen at Appendix 1).

Statutory Notice

4. At its meeting on 14 June 2022 the Governing Body agreed the publication of a statutory notice to
 - Increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base from 42 to 66 places
5. A copy of the minutes from The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School Governing Body meeting on 14 June 2022 can be seen at Appendix 2.
6. It is proposed to implement the proposal from September 2022. The notice stated that the number of students within the base has already reached the proposed number of 66 places.
7. The statutory notice was published on 30 June 2022 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period expired on 27 July 2022. (A copy of the notice can be seen at Appendix 3).

8. The notice was published on the school website ([Consultation on Expansion of The Marion Centre - The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School](#)), Cardiff Council website ([Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) provision \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](#)) and posted at the entrances to the school.
9. Copies of the notice were distributed to students, parents, carers and guardian, governors and staff members. All other organisations and consultees required under the School Organisation Code 2018 were e-mailed a link to the published notice on the school website.
10. Where objections are received to the statutory notice, an objection report must be published summarising the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections.

Objections to the proposals

11. The Governing Body received one objection by the statutory notice closing date.
12. A summary of the objection and the Governing Body's response can be seen below. The objector understood the need for The Marion Centre but strongly objected to the proposed increase in places with the following points raised in the objection
 - Taxis are currently queuing from Pwllmelin Road from about 2:15pm which causes difficulties for anyone accessing or trying to exit Rookwood Close;
 - Parking caused by the school has become a major issue and nothing is being done to improve the situation despite discussions with the school, the police and local councillors;
 - Students parking their cars on Rookwood Close has resulted in difficulties for emergency vehicles (ambulance) gaining necessary access/egress;
 - Parents collecting their children are causing problems from 2.30pm onwards which is made worse if it is raining; and
 - It is only a matter of time before someone dies due to access difficulties.

The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School response to the objections:

13. The Council has provided the following advice to the Governing Body in respect of traffic and transport issues outside of the school site.
14. The Council applies three-mile statutory qualifying walking distance criteria for students to qualify for free home to school transport to secondary schools.
15. Some specialist resource base students who live within three miles of the school may be provided with free home to school transport due to their individual learning needs and/or social issues. Other students are able to travel independently or with parent/ carers and if resident within the three-mile qualifying distance may not be eligible for home to school transport. These

students as well as staff and school visitors would benefit from any required improvements in facilities for active travel to school or public transport facilities.

16. The Council's current Corporate Plan includes a commitment to every school in Cardiff developing an Active Travel Plan. Such a plan will identify actions by the school to support and encourage active travel to school and also any improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys.
17. Increasing travel to school by active modes (walking, cycling and scooting) by ensuring safe facilities are provided will have a positive impact on children's health and wellbeing. A number of initiatives have successfully demonstrated support and encouragement for active and sustainable travel amongst the Additional Learning Needs cohort, which would be offered to students as appropriate, including Independent Travel Training for older students (to be reviewed each year), cycle maintenance and cycle training.
18. The Governing Body acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to increased traffic. The Governing Body notes that, as the Specialist Resource Base at the Marion Centre is already operating at the proposed designated number of 66 places, the proposals to formalise this increase in the designated number is not expected to require any additional school transport vehicles.
19. The school is working closely with Cardiff Council and a number of potential mitigation measures for existing congestion issues on Rookwood Close and Pwllmelin Road are being considered and include
 - Management of the school transport arrival times to avoid unduly long waiting periods;
 - A review of the access gate location and barrier arrangement;
 - A review of the design and layout of the drop-off and pick-up area;
 - A review of coach parking arrangements on Pwllmelin Road to improve visibility; and
 - Consideration of traffic restrictions including parking, loading and unauthorised access restrictions at specific times.

Determination of proposal

20. Proposals published under section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act require approval by the local authority if they have been made by a proposer other than the local authority and an objection to the proposals has been made and not been withdrawn in writing before the end of 28 days beginning with the end of the objection period.
21. Where proposals require approval by the local authority, the proposer must notify the local authority of a proposal requiring approval and forward to them the documents listed below within 35 days of the end of the objection period
 - A copy of the consultation document

- A copy of the consultation report;
- A copy of the published notice;
- A copy of the objection report;
- Copies of the statutory objections; and
- Copies of all the above in relation to any proposals which are related to the proposal requiring approval.

22. Local authorities must decide whether to approve, reject to approve with modifications, the proposals.

23. In line with these requirements the proposal has been referred to Cardiff Council for determination.

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1 – Consultation Report

Appendix 2 - Minutes of The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School Governing Body meeting on 14 June 2022

Appendix 3 – Statutory Notice