

# 21st Century Schools Summary Document 2019

**THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL, RIVERBANK  
SPECIAL SCHOOL AND WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL**

4 February - 22 March 2019



This summary can be made available in Braille.  
This is not the consultation document.  
The consultation document is available at  
[www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)



## Background

We have identified a need for more secondary school places and more primary and secondary Additional Learning Needs (ALN) places for children with complex learning needs. This is part of the Council's Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.

This booklet contains information about proposals to provide more school places. The proposals are to replace the existing Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School buildings.

## What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing, from September 2023, to:

- Expand Cantonian High School from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form places for up to 250 pupils. Replace the Cantonian High School buildings with larger new build school facilities on the same site
- Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) that is hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places. The new school buildings would include enlarged purpose built accommodation for the SRB.
- Expand Riverbank Special School from 70 to 140 places. Move the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.
- Expand Woodlands High School from 140 places to 240 places. Move the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.

The changes outlined in this document would need to be approved by Welsh Ministers in order for them to go ahead.

## Where can I find more information?

Full details can be found in the Consultation Document here:

[www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)

We have organised public meetings and drop-in sessions that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you. You can also ask us questions.

Separate meetings have been arranged for staff and governors and details of these can be found in the consultation document.

Nature of Consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Drop in session	Friday 08 February 2019 9am – 11am	Fairwater Library Hub
Public Meeting	Wednesday 13 February 2019 7pm	Cantonian High School
Public Meeting	Wednesday 20 February 2019 7pm	Ty Gwyn Special School
Drop in session	Thursday 07 March 2019 5pm – 7pm	Central Library Hub
Drop in session	Tuesday 12 March 2019 10am-12 noon	Ely and Caerau Community Hub
Drop in session	Wednesday 20 March 2019 2:30pm – 4:30pm	Fairwater Library Hub

## How can I give my views?

You can provide your views at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)

Or you can fill in the response form on pages 11 and 12 of this booklet.

## Why are we proposing these changes?

**School places** - All councils in Wales must make sure they provide enough school places for pupils of all ages. School places must meet the needs of all pupils and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

**Condition & Suitability** - School facilities must be fit for purpose. Schools must support the delivery of high quality learning.

## What is the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a major, long-term investment programme. It aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

The first part of the Programme (Band A) runs until March 2019. Around £164million has been invested in schools in the Band A investment period.

The second part of this funding (Band B) is due to start in April 2019. As part of this, Cardiff Council is planning to invest around £284million. This is jointly funded by the Council and the Welsh Government.

By 2024, Cardiff's Band B 21st Century Schools programme is set to deliver:

- 5 new or expanded secondary schools
- 4 new special schools
- 4 new primary schools

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)



# Why are more places needed?

## Community Secondary School Places

Over the last five years, the number of pupils entering secondary school (Year 7) in Cardiff has increased. Projections suggest that:

- the number of pupils entering Year 7 in English-medium community schools will continue to rise, and
- there will be more pupils than the number of places currently available until at least September 2023.

By September 2024 the overall demand for places from pupils living in existing housing may fall. However, there are several new housing sites planned across the city. As a result, we expect that there will continue to be more pupils than the number of places currently available in our schools beyond 2024.

The areas with the greatest projected shortfall of places are in the central area of the city. Three of the secondary schools in this central area (Cantonian High School, Fitzalan High School and Willows High School) are also in very poor condition.

**The Council is proposing to expand Cantonian High School to meet part of the increased demand for secondary school places.**

## Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Provision

Pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) attend supported placements in mainstream schools, in Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs), or special schools.

Most children with an ASC do not require a special school place in order to learn and thrive. Many young people successfully attend a local mainstream school and access additional specialist support through an SRB.

It is expected that demand for places will continue to grow over the next 5-10 years. This is because of a growing population and better diagnosis of ASC.

**The Council is proposing to meet part of the increased demand for ASC SRB places in Cardiff by expanding the existing SRB provision at Cantonian High School.**

## Special School Places

As the overall number of people living in Cardiff has grown, the number of children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) has also grown.

Cardiff Council is committed to the principles of inclusion. We recognise that most pupils with additional needs are best supported in their local mainstream schools. However, pupils with the most complex ALN are not able to go to mainstream schools. They need a specialist environment to thrive and fulfil their potential.

Current projections show the number of pupils will continue to grow over the next 5 to 10 years. At present, there are more pupils with significant needs who need a place in one of these settings than there are places available.

At present 118 pupils attend out of county or independent special school places at a cost to the Council of £2.8million per year. We want to use this money more effectively. We would like to provide more special school and SRB places in Cardiff to both deal with higher demand and to reduce reliance on the independent sector.

**The Council is therefore proposing to provide additional special school places to meet increased demand. Children with additional learning needs could then be educated within Cardiff.**

## Why expand and replace Cantonian High School?

Forecasts suggest that the Cantonian High School catchment area will need between 120-150 community secondary school places in each year group. This would be enough places to serve the existing Cantonian High School catchment area alone.

In addition to this demand, there are a number of planned housing developments in or near to the Cantonian High School catchment area. These would significantly increase the number of children in the area.

Cantonian High School is also well placed to meet excess demand for places from other catchment areas. This is consistent with our aim to increase places in the central area of Cardiff.

The Cantonian High School site is one of the largest in Cardiff and offers opportunities for accommodating a greater number of pupils. A new Cantonian High School with 240 places in each year group would contribute towards achieving a better balance of demand and supply of school places in Cardiff.

## Why expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

Cantonian High School has a successful SRB for learners with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). It is proposed to retain the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Cantonian High School as part of the future school. The number of places will be formally increased from 20 to 30 places. This will ensure continued provision for current and future pupils.

Additionally, moving Woodlands High School to the same site would support links between the SRB and the special school. There would be opportunities to share expertise and for professional development for staff.

## Why expand Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School? Why move these schools?

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are special schools. They provide a highly specialist learning environment and curriculum for children with complex learning needs. This type of learning environment is essential for these pupils to fulfil their potential.

All of the children attending these schools have a severe general learning disability. Their additional needs cannot be met in a less specialised environment.

Special schools provide specialised places for pupils throughout Cardiff based on the specific needs of the pupils. Both Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools admit pupils from all over Cardiff. All pupils admitted to the schools have a statement of Special Educational Needs.

Both schools have admitted an increasing number of young people with ASC over the last few years. Projections show that the need for ASC special school places is growing faster than for complex learning disabilities. Ty Gwyn School, The Hollies School and Ysgol y Deri (in the Vale of Glamorgan) offer ASC places.

There are not enough ASC places available at these schools to meet future demand. We propose to meet this demand by increasing the number of special school places at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School.

## Why expand Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School? Why move these schools? (cont.)

Both special schools would receive support from the Council to further develop their expertise in relation to ASC.

It is proposed that:

- Riverbank Special School will increase from 70 places in total for primary aged children (4-11), to 140 places.
- Woodlands High School will increase from 140 school places in total for secondary aged children (11-19), to 240 places.

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are part of the 'Western Learning Federation' along with Ty Gwyn Special School. All three of these special schools are currently on the same site next to Trelai Park in the West of Cardiff. There is not enough room on the current site to expand either or both schools.

Further consideration would need to be given to the future use of Riverbank and Woodlands sites. Any decisions regarding these sites would take into account the neighbouring Ty Gwyn Special School and any potential future needs.

## Why move Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School to the Cantonian High School site?

- the Cantonian High School site is one of the largest school sites in Cardiff. It has space for Cantonian High School and for two of the Western Learning Federation special schools
- the site is close to the Ty Gwyn Special School site (1.1 miles to 1.5 miles);
- travel times between the two sites would be short (approximately 5 - 10 minutes by car);
- there is space for buses and pupils taxis on site;
- the site is relatively central, has good public transport links and is close to main roads.

Moving Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School would not affect the Federation. These schools will continue to be governed by one federated Governing Body. The three Western Learning Federation schools will continue to deliver the vision of the Federation to become a centre of excellence in special education.

The two special schools will remain as separate entities. However, moving them to the same site as Cantonian High School would allow for all of the schools to work together. This includes access to specialist facilities.

## Condition & Suitability

In order to prioritise schools within the Band B programme all school properties were assessed and rated from A to D, with schools rated D in the poorest condition.

The Welsh Government informed all councils in Wales that all school buildings rated as D for condition were to be replaced/ upgraded. This was a requirement to receive capital funding investment from the Band B 21st Century Schools programme. Cantonian High School is rated D for condition (end of life).

Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School are both rated D for suitability (very poor). This is due to 'unsuitable' learning environments. This means it is difficult for the schools to deliver the curriculum in their current buildings.

Further details on the ratings can be found in the consultation document at:

[www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)

## Quality and Standards

Every school in Wales is inspected by Estyn. They ensure that schools are providing a good quality of education to their pupils and all children are supported to learn by excellent teaching and learning staff. Schools are also placed in one of the four colour-coded support categories (green, yellow, amber and red) as part of the Welsh Government's National School Categorisation System. Amber and Red schools are those that require the most support.

Details of standards at Cantonian High School, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School as set out in each schools Estyn report are outlined in the table below. Whilst all required monitoring following inspection, all have made sufficient progress and have been removed from further follow up visits.

The colours used show the most recent categorisation using the Welsh Government's Categorisation in January 2019.

School	Inspection Date	Standards	Prospects for Improvement	Progress
Cantonian High School	Feb 15	Adequate – required monitoring	Unsatisfactory	Removed from monitoring Jun 2017
Riverbank Special School	Nov 15	Adequate – required monitoring	Adequate	Removed from monitoring Nov 2017
Woodlands High School	Jan 16	Adequate – required monitoring	Unsatisfactory	Removed from monitoring Dec 17

Further details on quality and standards can be found in the consultation document at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/doyleavenueproposals)

## How would Post 16 provision be affected?

### Cantonian High School

As part of the expansion of Cantonian High School, it is proposed to increase post 16 (sixth form) provision. The new school would allow for up to 250 sixth form pupils. This is consistent with the average proportion of learners continuing on to sixth form provision in schools across the city.

### Woodlands High School

Woodlands High School is a school for learners with complex learning difficulties. The majority of Woodlands pupils stay on at school for post-16 provision. This is because there are few entry-level courses provided through Further Education colleges.

Post-16 learners at Woodlands need access to entry-level courses and a curriculum that supports the development of independent life skills.

In recent years, a small number of Woodlands High School pupils have transferred to specialist colleges, post-19, or to adult day care services. Some may attend a further education college. However, the majority of pupils would be unable to access a college course at Year 12.

In future, as part of the work to implement the ALNET Act, the LA will be working with local colleges to develop options for a wider range of offers. However, it is likely that 50-75 % of Woodlands High School pupils will continue to need to access post-16 in a special school.

## How would support for pupils be affected?

All three schools would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil. There is no information to suggest that the need of any of the below groups would be negatively affected by the proposed changes:

- pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- pupils with English as an Additional Language
- pupils receiving Free School Meals
- Minority Ethnic pupils

## Benefits of the proposal

- an increase in the number of English-medium secondary school places. It would contribute towards meeting projected demand;
- an increase in the number of special school places for learners with complex ALN aged 4-19. It would contribute towards meeting projected demand;
- an increase in the number of SRB places for learners aged 11-19 with an Autistic Spectrum Condition;
- new school buildings will address the substandard condition of the existing buildings and reduce the maintenance backlog;
- new build schools provide high quality facilities, which improve learning choices and opportunities for pupils;
- fully accessible new buildings, compliant with the Equality Act 2010;
- locating the three schools on one site will give opportunities for the schools to work together. There will be opportunities to share expertise and specialist facilities;
- improved outdoor sports facilities would provide enhanced opportunities for both pupil and community use.



## Potential disadvantages of the proposal

- there is potential for increased traffic congestion around the school site at the start and end of the school day. However, the Council would work with the Governing Bodies of the schools to develop a Travel Plan to minimise any potential disruption;
- the Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met;
- some pupils with ALN can find change difficult. They may find moving to a new building on a new site unsettling. We know they will need carefully planned support to adapt to the new setting. However, there would be sufficient time to plan and support such a transition. We have experience of successfully relocating special school provision through the transfer to Ty Gwyn Special School and would draw on this experience to support these moves if agreed.

## Risks associated with the proposal

- there is a risk that the projected increase in the number of pupils does not happen. However, based on the number of pupils in primary schools in Cardiff and proposed new housing in a number of areas of Cardiff this appears unlikely;
- there may be development constraints that have not yet been identified. If any became apparent, there could be implications for cost and delay. Site surveys and geo-technical reports would take place. These would provide further information around this and inform management strategies;
- the proposal may not be achievable if Welsh Government capital funding is not secured at the business case stage;
- if the Council did not get this funding from the Welsh Government then the Council would be fully responsible for all costs relating to the proposal. In this case, investment options would be reviewed to ensure the delivery of sufficient school places.

## What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that building work would start in the 2019/2020 school year and be completed in readiness for pupils to use all new facilities in the 2023/2024 school year.

## How would staff be affected?

There is a proposed increase in pupil numbers for each of the three schools. This will require the Governing Bodies of Cantonian High School and the Western Learning Federation to plan for the workforce requirements to meet this increase.

HR People Services will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes.

The relocation of Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools would require high levels of staff and trade union consultation. It will need clear communication plans regarding the arrangements for the transition from one school site to another. Additionally, there would need to be staff involvement in the development of building specifications or designs.

There may also be HR implications arising from the potential for the three schools to be co-located on one school site. For example, governance arrangements for shared service contracts such as cleaning and estates management arrangements. The full implications of this would need to be assessed as the proposal progresses. The Governing Bodies will need to ensure full consultation with staff and trade union colleagues.

## What happens next?

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the changes it must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'.

The statutory notice set out the details of the proposals and asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council within the dates given on the notice.

If objections to the published statutory notice are received, the Council must publish a summary of these objections and the Council's response to them. The Objection Report would be published on the Council website.

These proposals affect sixth form provision and will therefore require the approval of Welsh Ministers. This means the Welsh Ministers will make the final decision on whether the changes go ahead.

Following a decision by the Welsh Government, the Council will let everyone affected by the proposal know what the decision taken is. It will be published electronically on the Council's website.

# Have Your Say!

## What is proposed?

We are proposing, from September 2023, to:

- Expand Cantonian High School from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form places for up to 250 pupils including the replacement of the Cantonian High School buildings with larger new build school facilities on the same site.
- Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) that is hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places. The new Cantonian school buildings would include enlarged purpose built accommodation for the SRB.
- Expand Riverbank Special School from 70 to 140 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.
- Expand Woodlands High School from 140 places to 240 places, which is to be achieved by relocating the school into new larger purpose built facilities on the Cantonian High School site.

### 1. Are you responding as: Please tick all that apply

Parent

Pupil (Which School)

Governor

Member of Staff

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Do you support the proposal to expand and replace the Cantonian High School buildings?

Yes

No

### 3. Do you support the proposal to expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)?

Yes

No

### 4. Do you support the proposal to expand and move Riverbank Special School to the current Cantonian High School site?

Yes

No

### 5. Do you support the proposal to expand and move Woodlands High School to the current Cantonian High School site?

Yes

No

## 6. If you support or do not support the proposal then please explain why

## 7. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please details these below

## 8. Any other comments?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice. If you wish to be notified of publication of the Consultation report please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date.

**Thank you for your comments**

**Please return this form to School Organisation Planning, Room 422, County Hall, CF10 4UW by no later than 22 March 2019.**

The information you have provided above will be processed by Cardiff Council in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation. The information provided to us in relation to this consultation will be treated as confidential but it may be used by the Council or disclosed to others when required by law. The purpose of processing the personal data is required to perform a specific task in the public interest. 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.

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