

**Provision for Children and Young People
with Additional Learning Needs (ALN):
Moorland Primary School Specialist
Resource Base and The Court Special
School – Research Findings**

Background

Cardiff Council is committed to inclusion.

The majority of learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) attend a local mainstream school, and benefit from effective Additional Learning Provision (ALP). These learners do not need to attend a special school or Specialist Resource Base.

However, the number of pupils with severe and complex needs, who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base has continued to grow.

Proposals

In order to respond to demand for additional learning needs places the Council consulted on proposals to

- Increase the capacity of The Court Special School from 42 to 72 places. The school would transfer to two sites, in new build accommodation on the site of Fairwater Primary School and to the current St Mellons, CiW Primary School site in Llanrumney, with 36 pupils on each site from September 2025.
- Establish a 20 place Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs at Moorland Primary School from September 2022.

Methodology

- The survey was from 11 October 2021 – 17 January 2022, covering two proposals.
- A letter was sent to all parents of pupils in the schools affected, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation.
- An e-mail was sent to a range of stakeholders, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation.
- A communication campaign was conducted via social media

Responses

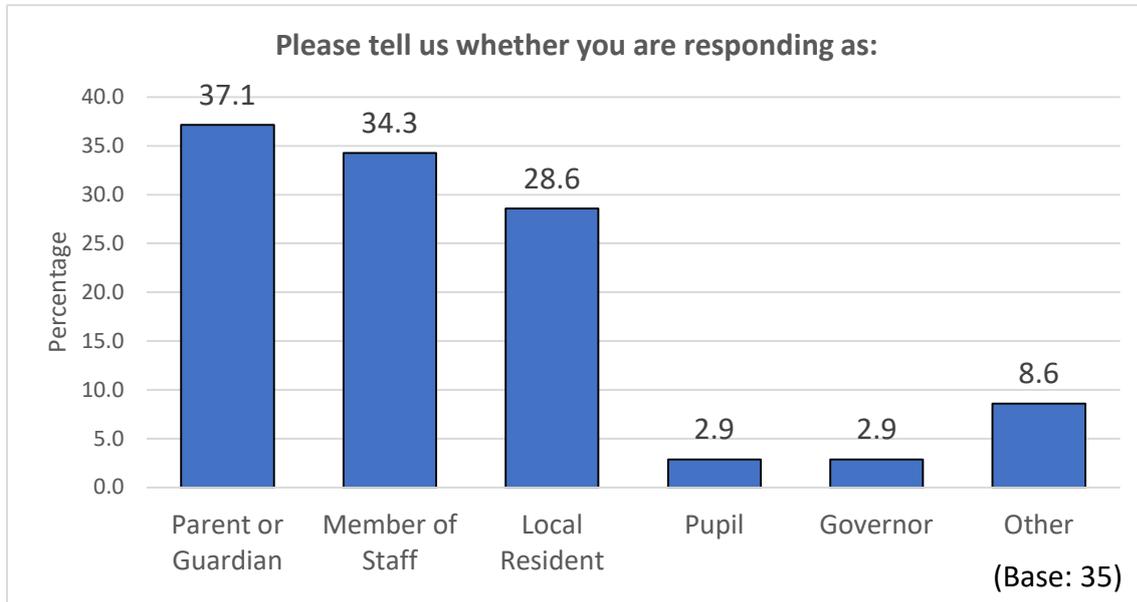
There were 35 responses received to the consultation. A total of 12 emails / letters were received in relation to the consultation, these can be viewed in Appendix A.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Results

Please tell us whether you are responding as:

Parents or guardians (37.1%) made up the main cohort of responses to the survey. This was followed by a member of staff (34.3%) and local residents (28.6%).



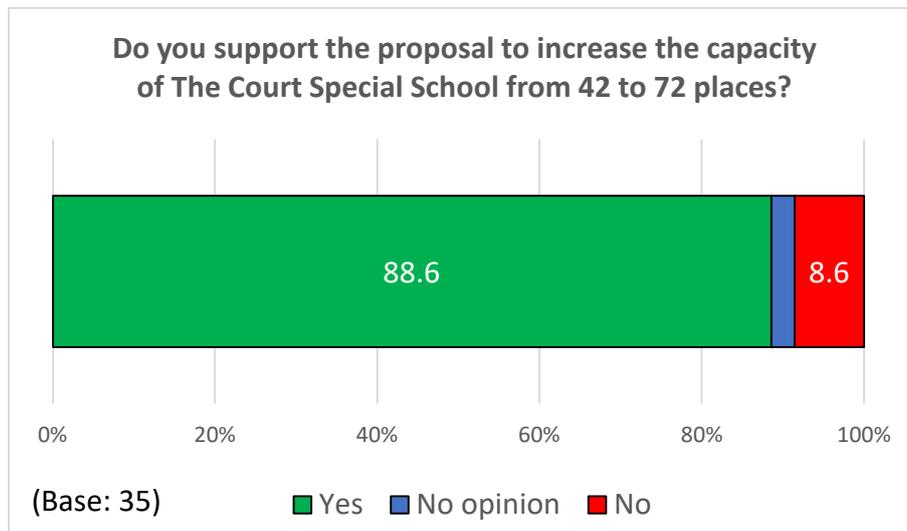
Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:

	No.	%
Moorland Primary School	7	31.8
Fairwater Primary School	4	18.2
The Court Special School	4	18.2
Other	6	27.3
None	1	4.5
Total Respondents	22	100.0

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you support the proposal to increase the capacity of The Court Special School from 42 to 72 places?

Around nine in ten (88.6%) respondents support the proposal.



Please explain why:

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal. Sixteen respondents left feedback as to why they supported the proposal, whilst two respondents left feedback as to why they were against the proposals. A full breakdown can be viewed below:

Support for the proposal

- It is very important for specialist provision to continue being increased to support those children who may not be able to cope within a mainstream environment.
- Yes, but I foresee traffic issues on the road as pupils have a taxi to school. Furthermore it means that parents from Llanrumney can no longer access at Mellon's primary due to travel. This means even more driving across the city.
- More children get a space and the help they need.
- To meet the increased need for some of our most vulnerable learners to access specialist, nurturing provision.
- There are not enough places for the many children needing places in Cardiff. The wait for places is too long.
- Extra spaces is always positive.
- I actually would support not just the numbers but increasing the age limit of the school to 19.
- To support pupils who need the specialist support.
- There seem to be many more children needing special school places that are currently being educated in mainstream schools.
- Understand that there are more children with needs.
- To increase provision for children who need specialist care and intervention.
- Extra spaces are needed.
- There are not enough specialist places for children who desperately need them.
- The provision is needed - the expertise is needed.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

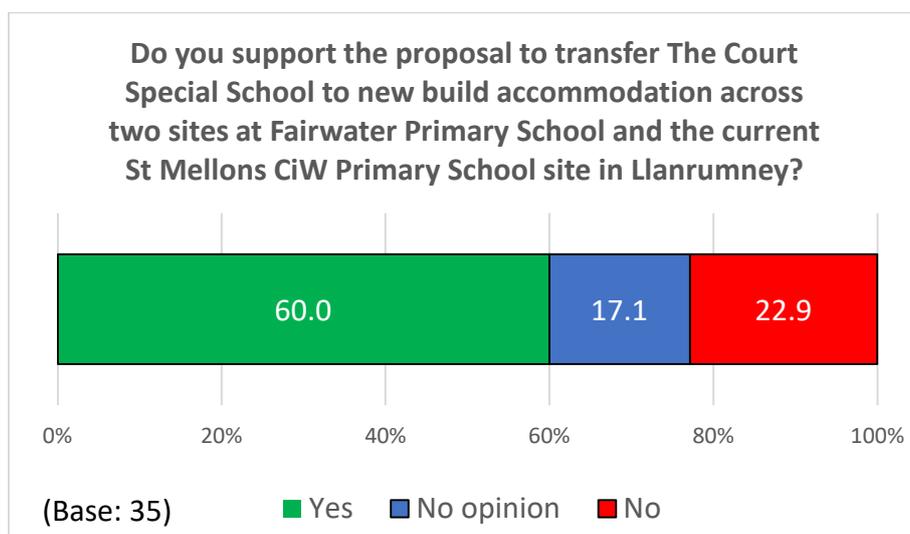
- Cardiff has too few spaces for primary pupils with behavioural challenges, so an increase is needed.
- The number of children with emotional needs causing extreme behavioural issues and requiring the specialist and more focussed support that can be provided by The Court School is rising annually and putting great strain on mainstream schools.

Against the proposal

- Although I understand there needs to be extra provision for ALN Fairwater site is not the correct place. This will affect the children when out playing and is very likely to cause disruption through unwanted behaviour so close to school premises.
- The court school is better off being a more specialised school with the current pupil numbers.

Do you support the proposal to transfer The Court Special School to new build accommodation across two sites at Fairwater Primary School and the current St Mellons CiW Primary School site in Llanrumney?

Three in five (60.0%) respondents support the proposal. However, if no opinion responses are removed from the analysis, then support rises to 72.4%.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Please explain why:

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal. Seven respondents left feedback as to why they supported the proposal, whilst a further seven respondents left feedback as to why they were against the proposals. A full breakdown can be viewed below / overleaf:

Support for the proposal

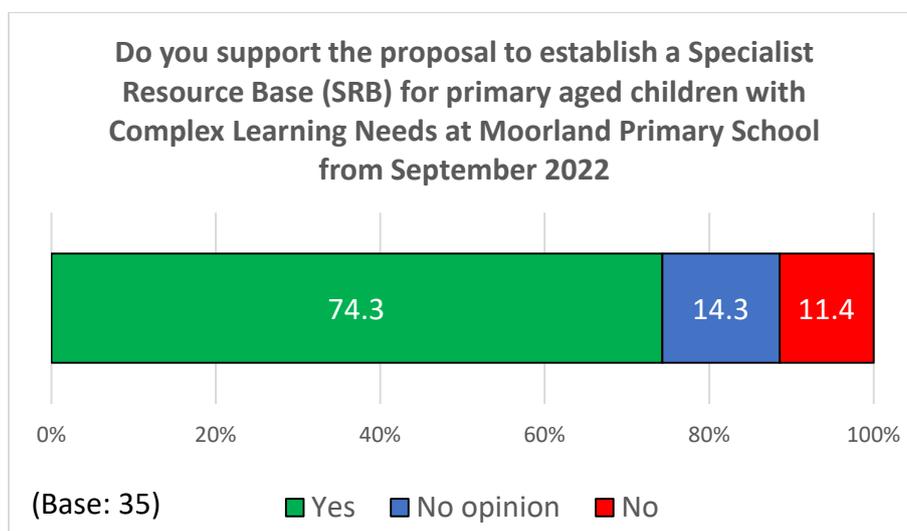
- It's a lot closer for some children.
- Having two sites on different sides of the city will reduce travel distances for lots of children. Being next door to mainstream schools will open up new opportunities for The Court pupils to have inclusion opportunities, and for special school and mainstream staff to share practice and professional learning.
- The school having new site would be great for all the children to access newer facilities, it worked for eastern high.
- A chance for new and modern facilities for children and staff.
- If better facilities can be provided.
- Two smaller units would be better than one large base.
- There seem to be many more children needing special school places that are currently being educated in mainstream schools.

Against the proposal

- Although I understand there needs to be extra provision for ALN Fairwater site is not the correct place. This will affect the children when out playing and is very likely to cause disruption through unwanted behaviour so close to school premises.
- To have 1 school operate on 2 separate sites is a very serious risk to the wellbeing of Staff, Pupils and the Senior Leadership Team who would have to come up with a split team. To split the school's team to different sides of Cardiff would be very difficult to manage. As the proposal is to increase the NOR to 72 pupils, it would make much more sense to transport the Court School to 1 location. The current site at St Mellons Primary School accommodates 115 pupils. With 72 under consideration, it would make much more sense to set up base there, as the school could then have the capacity to increase further in the future. This would reduce costs on operating the school onto a split site and would prevent confusion to other schools if they are needing to feed into the Court for further advice or support from a Mainstream perspective. Please seriously consider keeping The Court onto 1 dedicated site.
- Traffic and yet again parents in Llanrumney penalised as they have been with EHS being built in Trowbridge.
- Fairwater is a suitable site.
- I feel the school needs to be on one site, preferably rural and on the outskirts to provide the children with the kinds of outdoor experiences they require. I feel that urban settings would be detrimental to their development. Llanishen is a lovely setting, however if the school must move it should be more rural to the North of Cardiff, surrounded by greenery.
- Should be on one site.
- Hard to maintain the ethos and Vision across two sites.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you support the proposal to establish a Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs at Moorland Primary School from September 2022? Three in four (74.3%) respondents support the proposal. However, if no opinion responses are removed from the analysis, then support rises to 86.7%.



Please explain why:

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal. Thirteen respondents left feedback as to why they supported the proposal, whilst three respondents left feedback as to why they were against the proposals. A full breakdown can be viewed below:

Support for the proposal

- Cardiff is slow in recognising and addressing pupils with such needs.
- Spaces are needed to support more children in the area.
- There is a shortage of SRB places in the south of the city. A base at Moorlands will increase the opportunities for children with complex needs in Splott and surrounding areas to access a specialist base.
- There is a need in Cardiff for it.
- It is needed in the community.
- A new base is needed for children to access for their well-being that Accessible to them that don't quite need a school like the courts school.
- To support pupils who need the support.
- There seem to be many more children needing special school places that are currently being educated in mainstream schools.
- Education should be available for everyone, by having more special needs school we offer more chances for people to be educated.
- Once a school has decided they can no longer effectively manage a child with complex ALN it is in everyone's best interest for the child to find alternative provision.
- There are not enough specialist places for these children in Cardiff.
- Any increase in SRB spaces across the city is a good thing as currently there are not enough spaces to meet demand.
- If all the staff, governors and parents are in favour, I would support this.

Against the proposal

- It is challenging now to park a car outside the school on a rainy day. I am not convinced that the proposed planning now (planning ref 21/02271/MNR) will improve traffic if additional taxis are needed to ferry students. It would deteriorate the current adverse situation and discourage parents from sending their children to school on a rainy day. As a disabled person, I support improving the accessibility of mainstream schools for people with ALN, but without risking current students' ability to attend school.
- There needs to be more places but more evenly spread across Cardiff.
- Grounds aren't big enough to provide outdoor provision.

Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave any comments they had around changes that could improve the proposals. Seventeen respondents decided to leave feedback; these comments can be viewed below:

- Please reconsider splitting The Court onto 2 sites. Relocating the Court to a soon-to-be vacant site would be more cost effective and would provide 1 dedicated base, whilst still becoming a neighbouring school with Pen-Y-Bryn. Fairwater Primary would not be a suitable idea if the facility is already in full use and if the space would be considered too small to put a Special School in place and if too small to expand in the future.
- To allow for more children.
- For it to happen sooner!
- More spaces for the court school
- I would like to have access to proposed plans. I also think the increased traffic will affect residents and hasn't been fully addressed.
- I don't like the thought of new housing on same site as school.
- Change of location to more rural North Cardiff for The Court School, increasing not only the numbers but also the age range to 19.
- Consideration to school transport needs of these pupils, due to the already congested and dangerous entrances to the school due to parents parking badly.
- Keep all the trees on the site!! Essential for wellbeing in an industrial area.
- Fairwater primary is run down and needs a lot of repair.
- Can the council consider taking and utilising some space from Moorland Park to improve the parking and flow of traffic?
- Consider the needs of BAME community in Cardiff in terms of complex needs.
- Use land beside school old Glam Morgan site.
- To increase pay for teachers.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

- The FP classroom must be easily accessible, on the ground floor and with access to continuous outdoor provision. Suitable provision must be made for toilets and changing area.
- Use of the abandoned Ysgol Glan Morfa building next to Moorland Primary to house the SRB.
- I fully support the proposals, but there is no indication of how the proposals are going to serve pupils receiving Welsh-medium education.

Are there any alternative options you would like to suggest?

Respondents were invited to leave any comments they had around alternative options to the proposals. Twelve respondents decided to leave feedback; these comments can be viewed below:

- Relocate to 1 dedicated site. St Mellons Site would be more suitable.
- Specialist resource bases in other schools too.
- The old glan Morfa used either for nursery or additional learning needs.
- Change of location to more rural North Cardiff for The Court School, increasing not only the numbers but also the age range to 19.
- If more school had well-being units like the one in springwood it would take the pressure off specialist school.
- Introduce specialist resource based in faith schools for those who would normally go to a faith school.
- Make a large working garden for students to learn and grow with nature.
- As cantonian high school is having new build , it makes sense that fairwater primary does and enlarge its well-being class in addition.
- Can the council consider taking and utilising some space from Moorland Park to improve the parking and flow of traffic?
- Have a 20 place resource base for complex needs within the Fitzalan cluster.
- Keeping the court school as one site will be much more cohesive and give the kids a sense of belonging/family which is what our school thrives on.
- These proposals should include Welsh-medium provision as well as the English-medium proposals.

Do you have any other comments?

Respondents were given a final opportunity to leave any comments they had in relation to the consultation. Twelve respondents decided to leave feedback; these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- It's great to see Cardiff taking positive steps to increase specialist provision in Cardiff.
- Please don't put housing on same site.
- The Court School is the most amazing, caring school and I would not wish for that sense of belonging and family to be lost in these changes. Mr Beesley and Dr Alyson Richards really do wonderful work.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

- Please keep all the trees on the proposed site!! They are all we have here...amongst the Steelworks and Industrial parks, the biggest trees on the site are over 100 years old!!.
- Please ensure that there is appropriate and safe drop off points for parents bringing the children to school. Previously there have been damage caused to cars as drop offs did u turns on Moorland Road.
- ALN provision is centred in 'white' areas of Cardiff. The needs of the BAME community in Cardiff are being ignored.
- Worried about detriment to the children's learning during the build. They'll be no room for outdoor learning to take place which is part of curriculum. Also so many delays and every always put back. Staff/ visitor parking during and after build. Safe drop off points for children in SRB classes. Lack of staff adult toilets with increased staff.
- It's great to have more schools that aim to help special need children.
- The table on page 29 of the consultation document shows Marlborough School has a 20 place SRB. As of September 2021 this is now 30 spaces. The new FP classroom there does not have easy access to the outdoor area and toilets/changing facilities are not ideal.
- It seems that the sites have been selected for financial reasons over the well-being needs of the kids.
- Consideration needs to be given to the additional traffic and parking issues, as Moorland already has serious issues with parking near to the school.
- There is no similar provision to the Court School available to pupils receiving their education through the medium of Welsh. The same provision should be offered to the Welsh-medium sector as is offered to the English-medium sector.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

About You

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area: -

	No.	%
Splott	7	31.8
Cyncoed	3	13.6
Fairwater	3	13.6
Llandaff	2	9.1
Llanishen	2	9.1
Llanrumney	2	9.1
Trowbridge	2	9.1
Other Electoral Ward	1	4.5
Total Respondents	22	100.0

What was your age on your last birthday?

	No.	%
25-34	5	14.3
35-44	11	31.4
45-54	10	28.6
55-64	5	14.3
Other age group	1	2.9
Prefer not to say	3	8.6
Total Respondents	35	100.0

Are you...?

	No.	%
Female	27	77.1
Male	6	17.1
Prefer not to say	2	5.7
Total Respondents	35	100.0

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No.	%
Yes	5	14.7
No	25	73.5
Prefer not to say	4	11.8
Total Respondents	34	100.0

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

Nine people identified a health condition that applied to themselves, these can be viewed below:

- Mental health difficulties
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)
- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing
- Learning impairment / difficulties

What is your ethnic group?

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	28	80.0
Other Ethnic Group	4	11.4
Prefer not to say	3	8.6
Total Respondents	35	100.0

**Complex Learning Needs & Autism
Spectrum Condition Provision for Learners
Aged 11-19 - Research Findings**

Background

Cardiff Council is committed to inclusion.

The majority of learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) attend a local mainstream school, and benefit from effective Additional Learning Provision (ALP). These learners do not need to attend a special school or Specialist Resource Base.

However, the number of pupils with severe and complex needs, who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base has continued to grow.

Proposals

In order to respond to demand for additional learning needs places the Council consulted on proposals to:

- Increase the designated number at the Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex needs from 70 to 100 from September 2022.
- Establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School from September 2023.
- Increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022.
- Increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 42 to 66 places from September 2022.
- Establish a 30 place Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base from September 2023.

Methodology

- The survey was open from 14 December 2021 – 01 February 2022.
- A letter was sent to all parents of pupils in the schools affected, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation.
- An e-mail was sent to a range of stakeholders, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation.
- A communication campaign was conducted via social media.

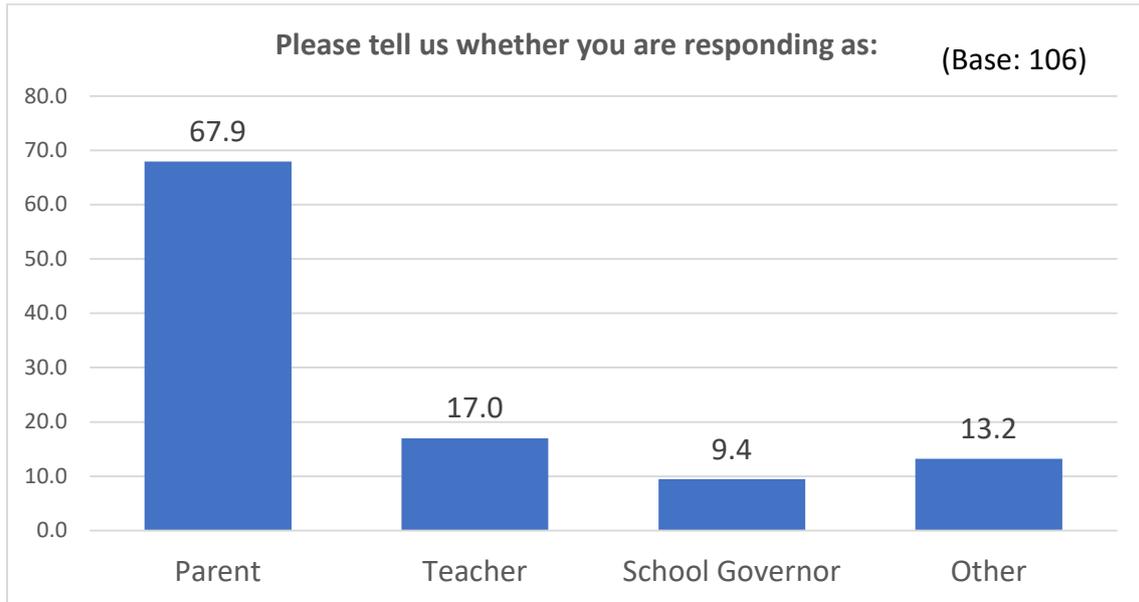
Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Responses

There were 106 responses received to the consultation. There was also a number of letters / emails received in relation to the consultation, these can be viewed in Appendix A.

Please tell us whether you are responding as:

Parents made up two thirds (67.9%) of responses to the survey, with around one in six (17.0%) coming from a teacher.



Teacher – please specify your school:

	No.
Willows High School	5
Willows	2
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	2
Bro Edern	1
Hamadryad	1
Llanishen High School	1
Windsor Clive Primary	1
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf SRB	1
Ysgol y Berllan Deg	1
Total Respondents	15

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

School governor – please specify your school:

	No.
Whitchurch High School	4
Llanishen High School	1
YGG Nant Caerau	1
Ysgol GG Glantaf	1
Ysgol y Berllan Deg	1
Ysgol y wern	1
Total Respondents	9

Other (Please specify)

	No.
Family member	3
HLTA	3
On behalf of The Governing Body of The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School	1
Person	1
Psychologist	1
Primary School Staff	1
Teaching assistant high school	1
Total Respondents	11

Do you have a child/children enrolled at the following schools?

Around one in four (26.7%) respondents has a child enrolled at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, whilst a further one in four had a child enrolled at Whitchurch High School.

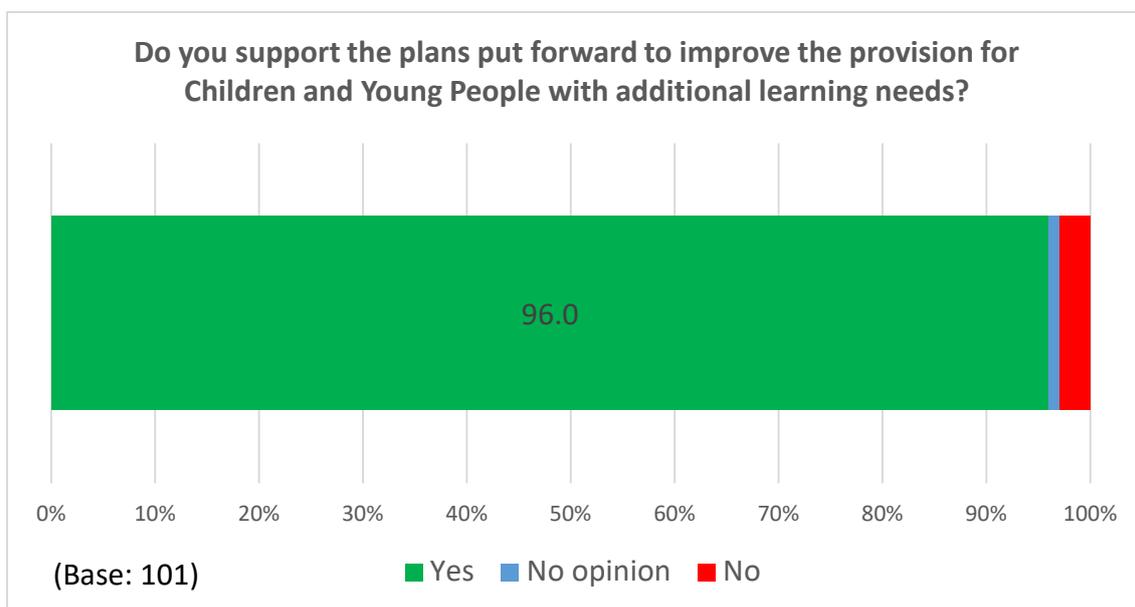
However, three in ten (30.5%) respondents to the survey had no children enrolled in any of the schools covered in this survey.

	No.	%
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	28	26.7
Whitchurch High School	20	19.0
Willows High School	2	1.9
The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School	2	1.9
Llanishen High School	1	1.0
Other	22	21.0
N/A	32	30.5
Total Respondents	105	-

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you support the plans put forward to improve the provision for Children and Young People with additional learning needs?

The overwhelming majority (96.0%) of respondents agreed with the proposal.



Please explain why:

Theme	No.	%	Example comments
Proposals will provide adequate provision / Concerns around current provision	35	50.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate provision currently. • I teach nursery and therefore have an intake of children in the Autism Spectrum and who have other complex needs. The journey for the parents and children through the main-stream and Specialist Education system is hard and not adequate and needs to be improved. • I believe an increase in the provision will benefit the CYP with additional learning needs. Adding additional locations around the city will also ensure that CYP are more likely to be able to attend a provision in their local area. • I can imagine that for parents of children with additional needs, the availability of good local schooling would be a huge concern. I have seen the poor provision within primary school, and I can imagine the impact this must have on parents and children affected. • There is increased need for more places for children with learning difficulties.

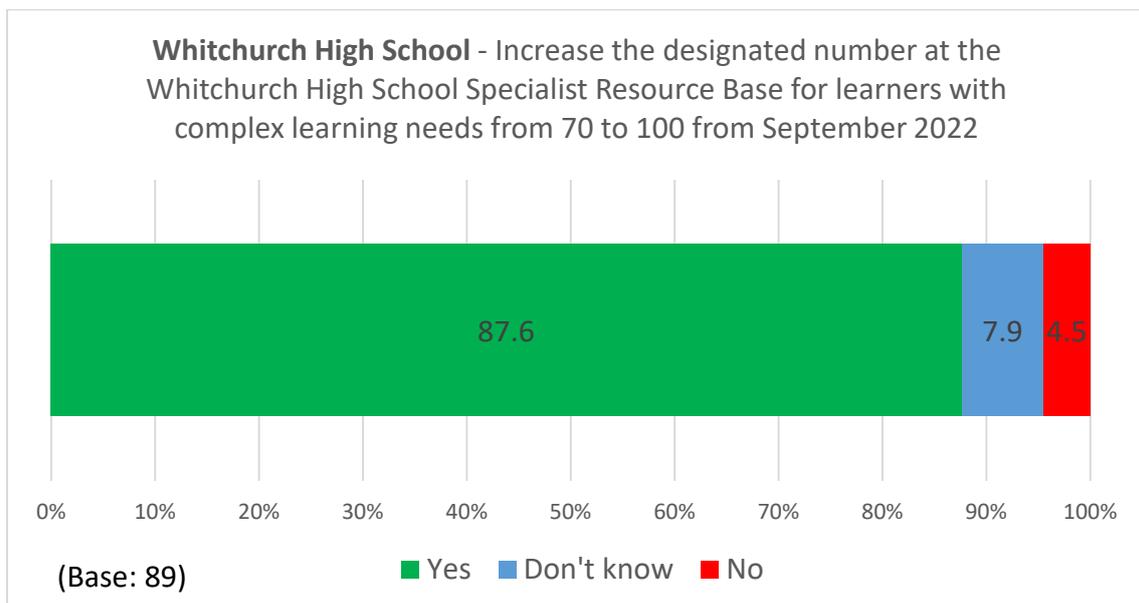
Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Personally affected by the proposal	13	18.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My child has an ASD diagnosis and receives little support. I would like my child to be able to attend Whitchurch. My daughter who attends Ysgol y Wern is autistic. She hopes to go to Glantaf in 2025 and we will welcome the establishment of a special unit for children with autism.
Inclusiveness	9	13.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel that there should be inclusion for all. More inclusive approach and will further support children with additional learning needs. Allows pupils to access their learning and flourish.
General agreement with the proposal	14	20.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need for specialist support. Complex / ASC provision is required in this locality. It will enable them to lead successful lives.
Total Respondents	69	-	

Do you support the proposal for each of the school sites?

Whitchurch High School - Increase the designated number at the Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs from 70 to 100 from September 2022

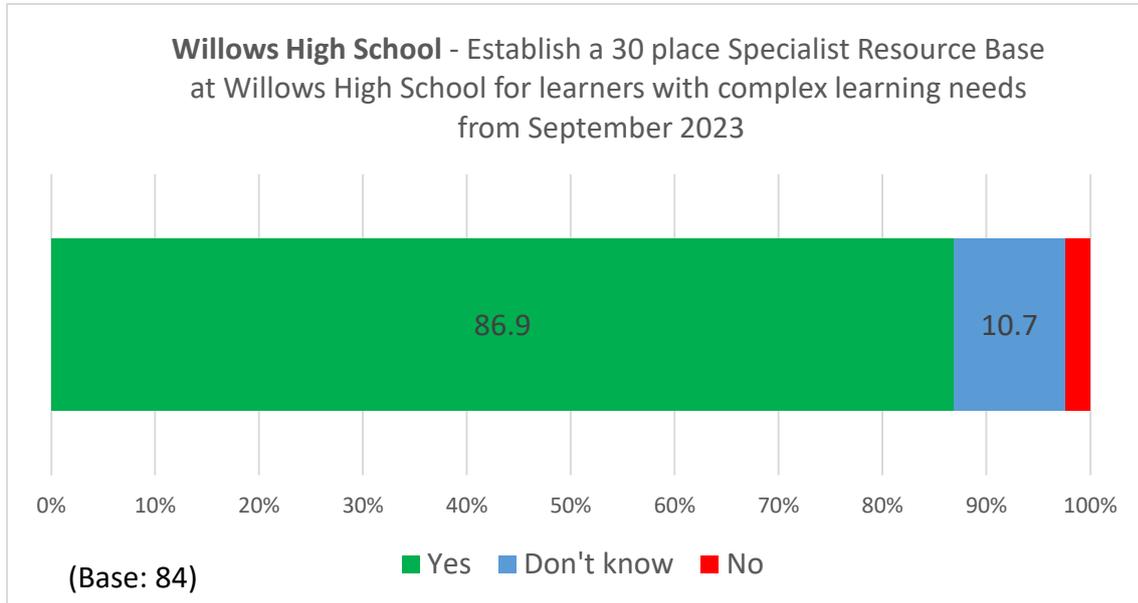
Almost nine in ten (87.6%) respondents agreed with the proposal. If 'Don't know' responses are removed from the analysis, then agreement rises to 94.9%.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

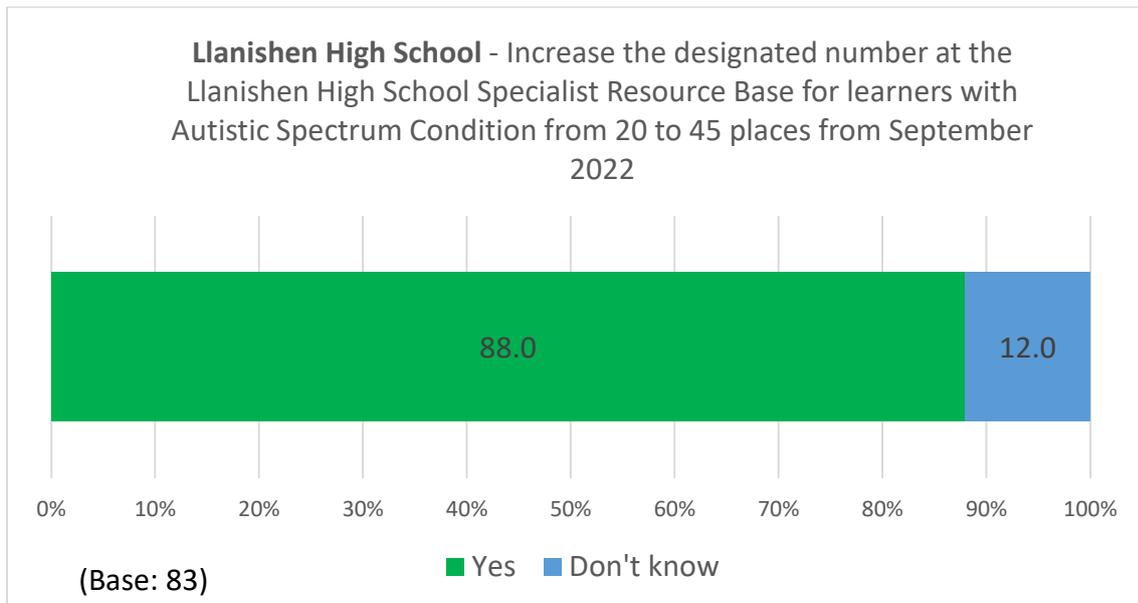
Willows High School - Establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Willows High School for learners with complex learning needs from September 2023

Over four fifths (86.9%) of respondents agreed with the proposal. If 'Don't know' responses are removed from the analysis, then agreement rises to 97.3%.



Llanishen High School - Increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022

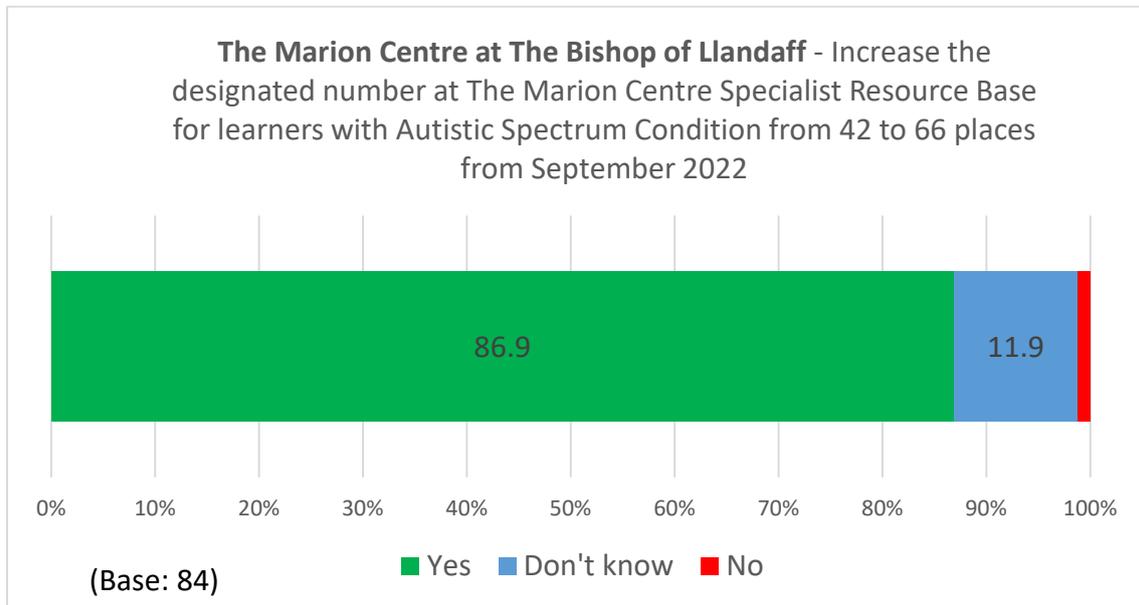
Just under nine tenths (88.0%) of respondents agreed with the proposal. There were no respondents that disagreed.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

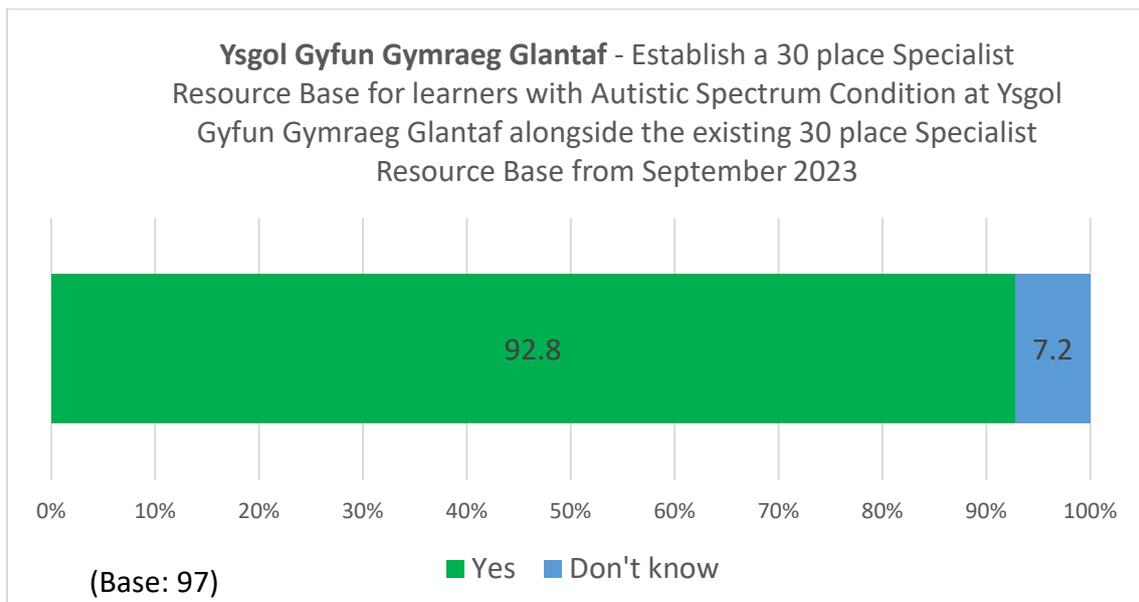
The Marion Centre at The Bishop of Llandaff - Increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition from 42 to 66 places from September 2022

Over four fifths (86.9%) of respondents agreed with the proposal. If 'Don't know' responses are removed from the analysis, then agreement rises to 98.6%.



Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf - Establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base from September 2023

Over nine tenths (92.8%) of respondents agreed with the proposal. There were no respondents that disagreed.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

If you do or do not support the proposed changes than please explain why

Theme	No.	%	Example comments
General agreement with the proposals	32	69.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having increased spaces across all sites will provide greater choice for families looking for specialist provision. I support these changes as I feel very it's very important to meet the needs of ever child. The need for suitable provision for ALN pupils is essential, especially within the Welsh language sector. Severely inadequate provision for children with additional educational needs. These facilities are invaluable for young to have an education in an appropriate setting with appropriate support. I fully support the recommendations. Yes, there needs to be more spaces for children with additional needs.
Concerns around lack of Welsh medium investment	2	4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, there needs to be an additional Welsh-medium school provision (specialist resource base) for 5–11-year-olds!
Proposals should include Faith Schools	1	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, mainstream schools cannot cope with the complex needs that we are seeing, we are failing students as a result of this! The numbers need to be quadrupled; also you need to be offering these services to Faith based schools right across the consortium!
Specific school comments	15	32.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closest provision of this type to Willows is Whitchurch HS. This area of Cardiff does not have the equivalent provision. I support the proposal at Willows and think it would be good to establish the base before moving into a new school. My concerns are around accommodation and that although it appears on paper that we have space, we use all our rooms for current provision. We would need to expand the old Willows site in order to accommodate pupils with complex needs appropriately. It's vital that there is a far

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

			<p>reaching and robust recruitment drive in order to staff the base appropriately too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I support the plans to add to and increase specialist resources for children in Ysgol Glantaf as there are so few Welsh-medium opportunities such as this.
Total Respondents	46	-	

Would you like to suggest any changes or alternatives?

Respondents were given the opportunity to suggest any changes or alternatives they had to the proposals. Nineteen respondents took the opportunity to do so, and these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- More SRBs in other schools.
- Look at both sides of the city.
- More primary age provision through the medium of Welsh, especially in the Bro Edern catchment.
- More places are needed for children on the asd spectrum.
- Open the specialist resource for children with ALN (meeting a certain entry criteria) and not ASD alone.
- Compulsory staff and pupil training to increase ASD awareness.
- A separate area or bigger area to accommodate so as not to disrupt.
- More allocation towards WM schools.
- I would have liked the local authority to give greater thought to the space that the SRB needed for the future. Decisions around classroom space and additional space for meetings, counselling, therapy, etc had not been firmed up. It would have been good to see the local authority plan strategically to ensure SRBs share the same type of facilities and resources in place in Special schools. This would ensure that some of the most vulnerable learners have the opportunity to benefit from a range of specialist rooms (break out spaces, meeting and therapy rooms) as well as outdoor facilities for covered classroom/play areas and specific areas to improve opportunities for exercise and PE such as an astro-turf if one doesn't already.
- Take staffs wellbeing as a top priority.
- More provision/funding to train more specialist ALN teachers and support staff to meet the future demands. Consider home ALN learning pathways and establish networks for families.
- Yes. Within the consultation, there is reference to adjustments. The school's local authority health and safety officer has made recommendations about adjustments to the site to increase safety. We would expect these adjustments to be made to the site as part of this permanent change.
- To the Glantaf SRB -We need purpose-built facilities that can support our pupils needs better. Classrooms with enough space for the group size, including breakout rooms/areas for dis-regulated behaviours. Facilities that meet our pupils sensory needs - sensory light rooms, quiet space, space both indoor and outdoor for physical movement, sensory indoor and outdoor provision for messy sensory play/input. We

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

need adapted toilets and changing facilities for all pupils, including pupils with physical disabilities. We require facilities for pupils who require medical and personal care. Technology that allows us to keep up with modern world, and teaching expectations. Facilities to offer practical life-skills to our pupils - including house set up to learn independent living skills and a adapted kitchen for cooking lessons.

- The current SRB for learners with complex additional needs has to be made a bigger part of these proposals. We don't just need new accommodation; we need a purpose-built building that enables us to offer a fully enriched curriculum for all our learners.
- Investing more in the Welsh-medium sector would be preferable, as currently, only 1 Welsh-medium school benefits from investment compared to 4 English-medium school. 30 places compared with >100.
- A resource where KS4/5 pupils would have the opportunity to develop vocational skills e.g. a small café, would be valuable. An opportunity to handle money, simple cooking and engaging with customers are experiences that would increase their chances of getting paid employment.
- See above - a clear priority for non-Welsh speaking children in the Scheme.
- Autistic spectrum ALN group/class in more than one Welsh-medium school-Ysgol Plasmawr.
- I have not been in any of the centres.

Do you have any other comments?

Respondents were invited to leave any other comments they had in relation to the consultation. Twelve respondents left feedback; these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- More support and provisions.
- Mainstream schools are failing students with complexed needs.
- Whitchurch HS provides excellent provision these extra children can also benefit.
- Fully support the proposal for Whitchurch High School. The SRB is a much valued and respected resource in the school.
- I supported all the schools as it would improve access to more children and make it more accessible to them close to where they live.
- My only concern is space. Willows is already acting at close to capacity despite what the official figures say. The facilities such as toilets and the canteen are at capacity, even if there is more classroom space. If the new SRB is built without addressing this issue, then it will be inefficient as these problems will negate any perceived benefits.
- To note the investment requirement. This is not something that can or should be done "on the cheap."
- Governors wish to support the permanent size of the centre. It is an important part of the school's life. However, the restrictions of the current school site do present genuine problems with regard to student/staff safety. Measures to address this, we believe are a priority, and would significantly reduce the risk of serious injury and/or fatality owing to oncoming traffic owing to the centre itself.
- Best of luck with the developments. I hope that my child will benefit from a new building for the Centre in Glantaf.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

- I will be disappointed if the Welsh-medium sector loses out again in this area.
- I am disappointed that there is no Welsh-language provision for young children. Feb is Language Day. Parents of Welsh-medium school children do not have enough choice where to send their children if they have profound needs.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

About You

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area: -

	No.	%
Llandaff	11	14.7
Rhiwbina	10	13.3
Whitchurch and Tongwynlais	10	13.3
Llanishen	9	12.0
Heath	8	10.7
Fairwater	3	4.0
Llandaff North	3	4.0
Penylan	3	4.0
Riverside	3	4.0
Splott	3	4.0
Canton	2	2.7
Creigiau/St. Fagans	2	2.7
Lisvane	2	2.7
Other Electoral Ward	6	8.0
Total Respondents	75	100.0

What was your age on your last birthday?

	No.	%
16-24	2	1.9
25-34	10	9.7
35-44	41	39.8
45-54	39	37.9
55-64	3	2.9
65-74	6	5.8
Other age group	1	1.0
Prefer not to say	1	1.0
Total Respondents	103	100.0

Are you...?

	No.	%
Female	85	82.5
Male	17	16.5
Prefer not to say	1	1.0

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Total Respondents	103	100.0
--------------------------	------------	--------------

Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No.	%
Yes	1	1.0
No	98	96.1
Prefer not to say	3	2.9
Total Respondents	102	100.0

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

Nine people identified a health condition that applied to themselves, these can be viewed below:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing
- Mental health difficulties
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)

What is your ethnic group?

(Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these)

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	93	90.3
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian	2	1.9
White - Irish	2	1.9
Other Ethnic Group	3	2.9
Prefer not to say	3	2.9
Total Respondents	103	100.0

Provision for Children and Young People
with Additional Learning Needs (ALN):
Complex Learning Needs and Autism
Spectrum Condition Provision for Learners
Aged 3-19 - Research Findings

Background

Cardiff Council is committed to inclusion.

The majority of learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) attend a local mainstream school, and benefit from effective Additional Learning Provision (ALP). These learners do not need to attend a special school or Specialist Resource Base.

However, the number of pupils with severe and complex needs, who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base has continued to grow.

Proposals

In order to respond to demand for additional learning needs places the Council consulted on proposals to:

- Increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 from September 2022.
- Increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 from September 2022.
- Increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 90 to 119 from September 2022.
- Further increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 119 to 150 from September 2023.
- Increase the designated place number of the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen Fach Primary School from 20 to 30 places from September 2023.
- Increase the designated number at Marlborough Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 30 from September 2022.
- Increase the designated number at the Pentrebane Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 24 spaces from September 2022.
- Increase the designated number at Springwood Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 28 from September 2022

Methodology

- The survey was open from 14 December 2021 – 01 February 2022
- A letter was sent to all parents of pupils in the schools affected, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation
- An e-mail was sent to a range of stakeholders, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation
- A communication campaign was conducted via social media

Responses

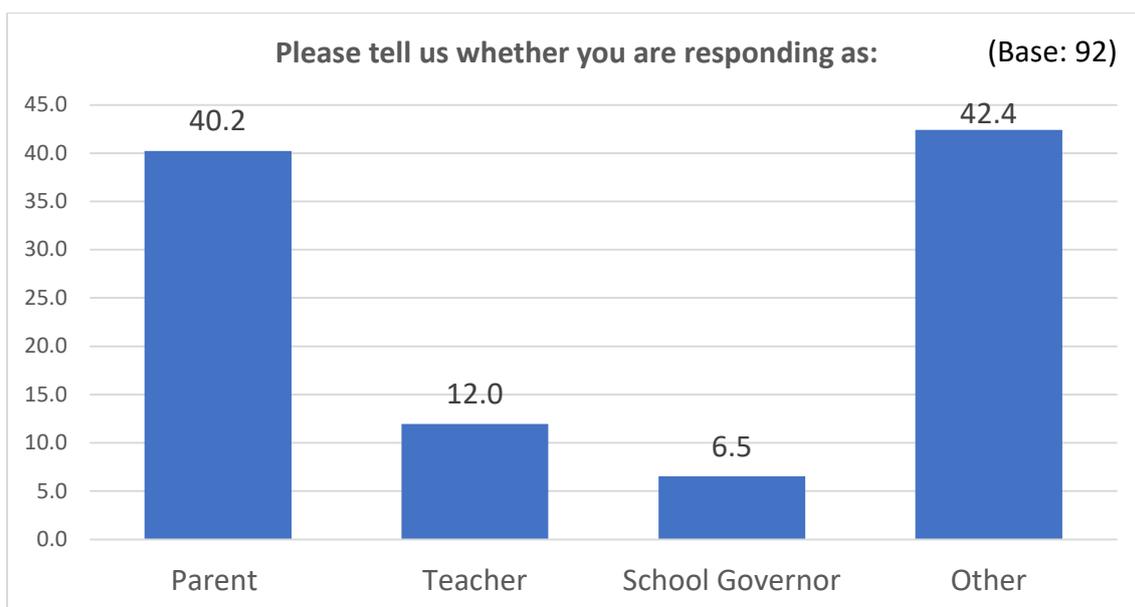
There were 92 responses received to the consultation. There was a number of emails / letters received in relation to the consultation, these can be viewed in Appendix A.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Results

Please tell us whether you are responding as:

Two in five (40.2%) respondents to the survey were parents, whilst around one in eight (12.0%) came from a teacher. A further two in five selected 'other', these can be viewed below.



N.B. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Other - (Please specify)

	No.
Teaching assistant	5
Nursery Nurse	3
A friend of someone who has daughter with autism	1
Carer	1
Child practitioner	1
Childcare practitioner	1
Citizen	1
Former Teacher	1
Friend	1
Friend of a parent	1
Grandad	1
Grandmother	1
HLTA	1
I am a parent of an ALN child and work as a TA in one of the named schools	1
Inclusion Service employee	1
Interested Council Tax payer	1

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Member of the public	1
Headteacher	1
Relatives	1
Resident	1
Resident and educator	1
Retired teacher	1
Special guardian	1
Support Staff	1
Total Respondents	30

Teacher – please specify your school:

Respondents that indicated that they were responding as a teacher were asked to specify their school, these can be viewed below:

	No.
Meadowbank School	4
The Hollies	3
Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre	1
Windsor Clive Primary	1
Ysgol Gynradd Creigiau	1
Total Respondents	10

School governor – please specify your school:

Respondents that indicated that they were responding as a school governor were asked to specify their school, these can be viewed below:

	No.
Ysgol Y Wern	2
Llanishen Fach Primary School	1
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof	1
Ysgol Gynradd Creigiau Primary School	1
Total Respondents	5

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you have a child/children enrolled at the following schools?

Three in five (61.6%) respondents to the survey had no children enrolled in any of the schools covered in this survey.

	No.	%
Meadowbank Special School	5	5.8
Llanishen Fach Primary School	4	4.7
The Hollies Special School	3	3.5
Pentrebane Primary School	2	2.3
Ty Gwyn Special School	1	1.2
Other	18	20.9
N/A	53	61.6
Total Respondents	86	100

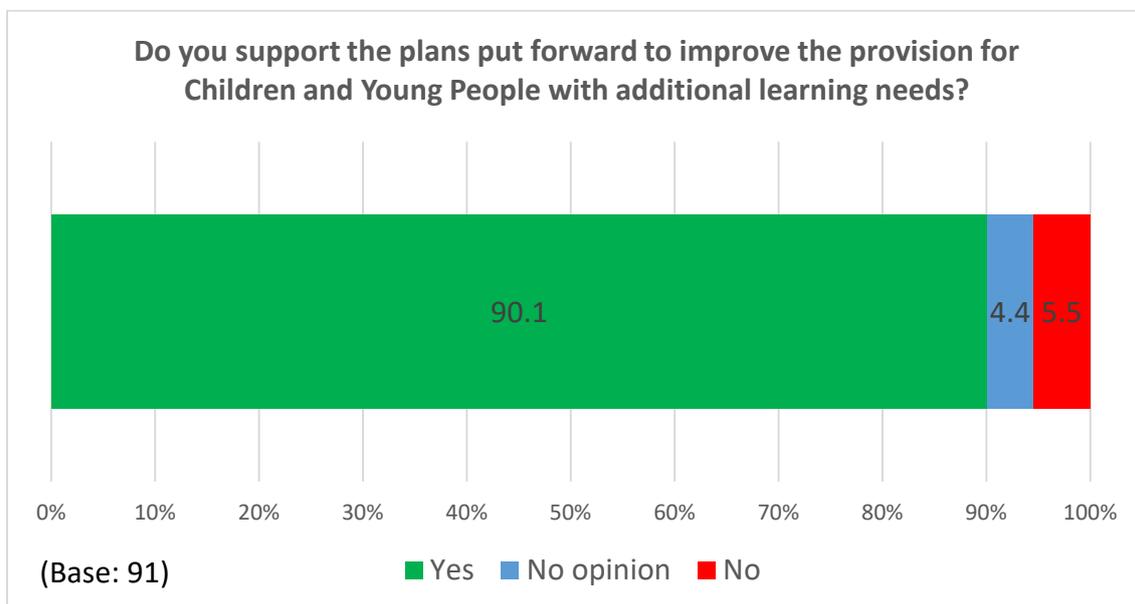
Other - (Please specify)

	No.
Seven road	2
Cardiff Montessori school	1
Bluebell	1
Cogan primary school	1
Cwmbach Community primary school	1
Lisvane	1
My son has autism and attends Nant caerau	1
On roll at Whitchurch High School and Kings Monkton	1
Severn Road but looking at SEN schools	1
St Mary's primary / St teilos high	1
Whitchurch primary but hoping to have a place in Whitchurch high SRB in September 2022	1
Ysgol y wern	1
Ysgol y Wern and ysgol gymraeg Pwllcoch	1
Total Respondents	14

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you support the plans put forward to improve the provision for Children and Young People with additional learning needs?

Nine In ten (90.1%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



Please explain why:

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal - fifty-five respondents left feedback. These comments were then grouped into themes. These themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example comments
Proposals will provide adequate provision / Concerns around current provision	37	67.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More and more children have additional needs and there needs to be spaces with specialist provisions to cater for them. • Because there is a need for more expert provision for these young people. • Too little support currently available. • There is insufficient provision compared with the need. • My child crashed out of the system because there was nowhere for him to go this needs stop.
General agreement with the proposals	15	27.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child deserves to have a place in the right school, for their specific needs.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because it enables children with special needs get places in these schools
No opinion	1	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What this survey doesn't tell us - does this number of additional spaces meet the current and future need of our children.
Against the proposals	4	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of investment and ALN provision for Welsh Medium schools again by the council. The plans do not make adequate provision for Welsh medium education. They do not treat the languages equally and will, therefore, be open to challenge should the be implemented as proposed. As a Governor of a Welsh medium school I have experienced the problems caused by a lack of consideration of Welsh language needs at the planning stages of provision. Inevitably it leads to a need to try to 'retro fit' the plans for an expanded Welsh language capacity, creating greater work, pragmatic solutions and tests the resilience of the teaching and Council staff. The lack of adequate provision for Welsh medium education is not just an issue of language, it is a failure to plan for Future Generations adequately.
Total Respondents	55	-	

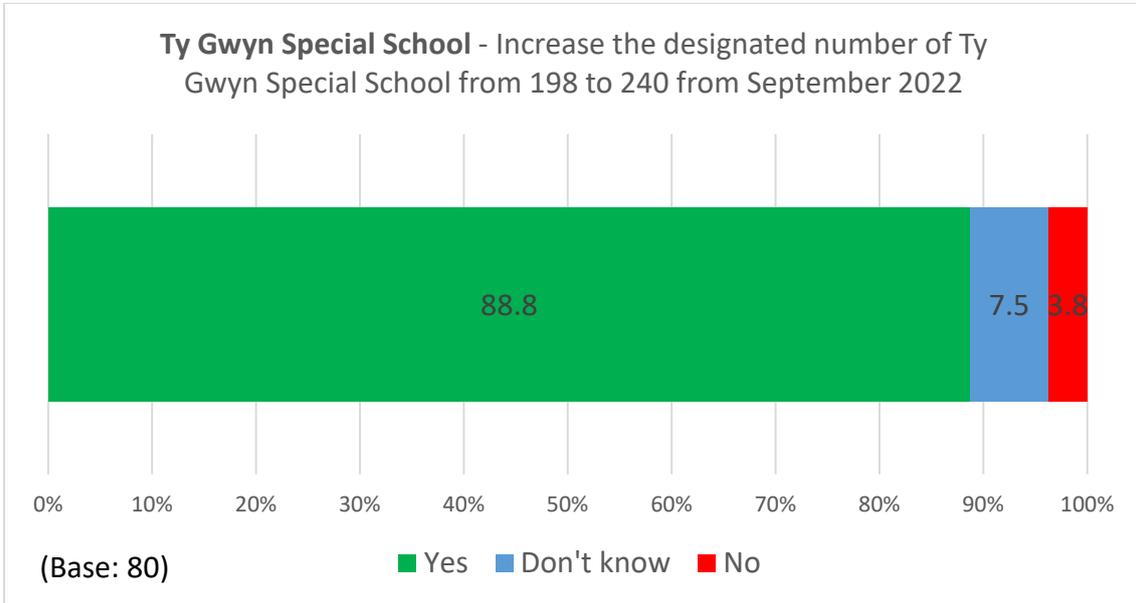
N.B. Percentages do not total 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Do you support the proposal for each of the school sites?

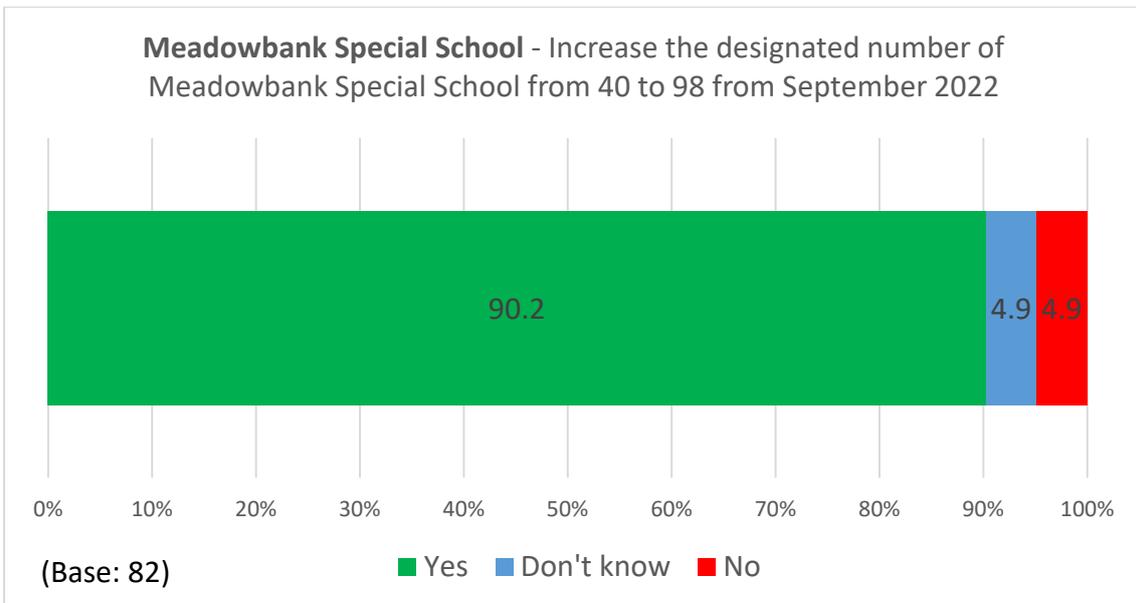
Ty Gwyn Special School - Increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 from September 2022.

Nine in ten (88.8%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



Meadowbank Special School - Increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 from September 2022

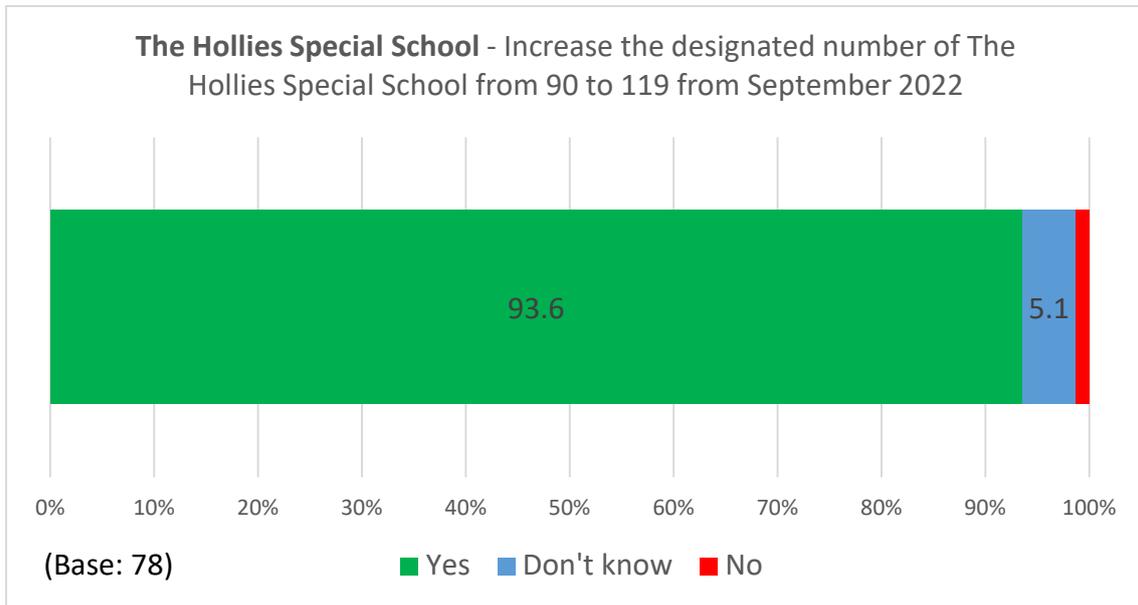
Nine in ten (90.2%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

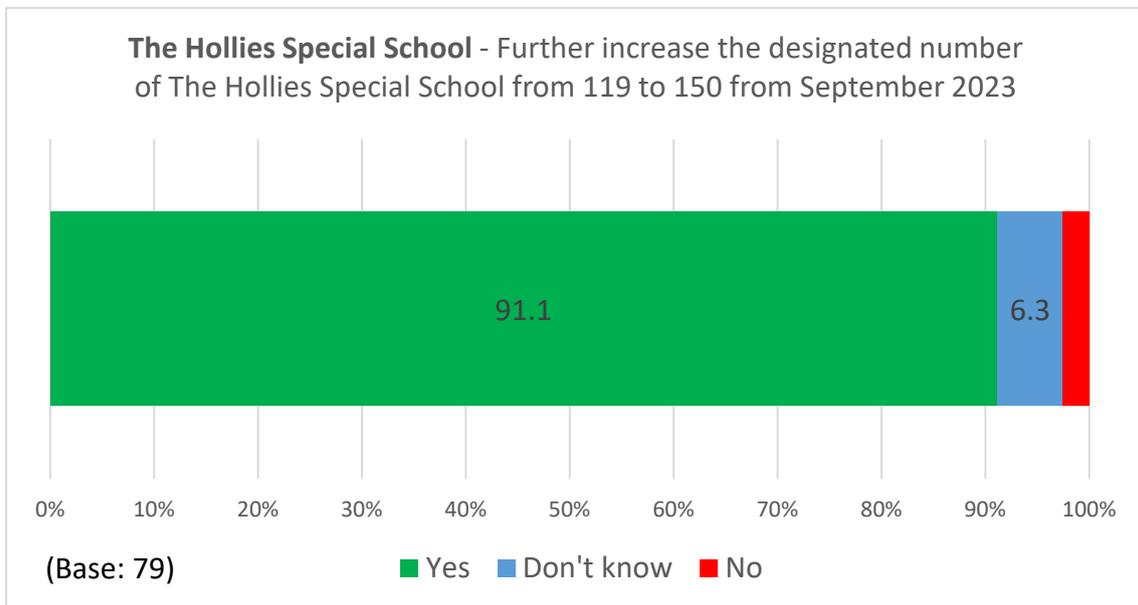
The Hollies Special School - Increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 90 to 119 from September 2022

Over nine tenths (93.6%) of respondents agreed with the proposal.



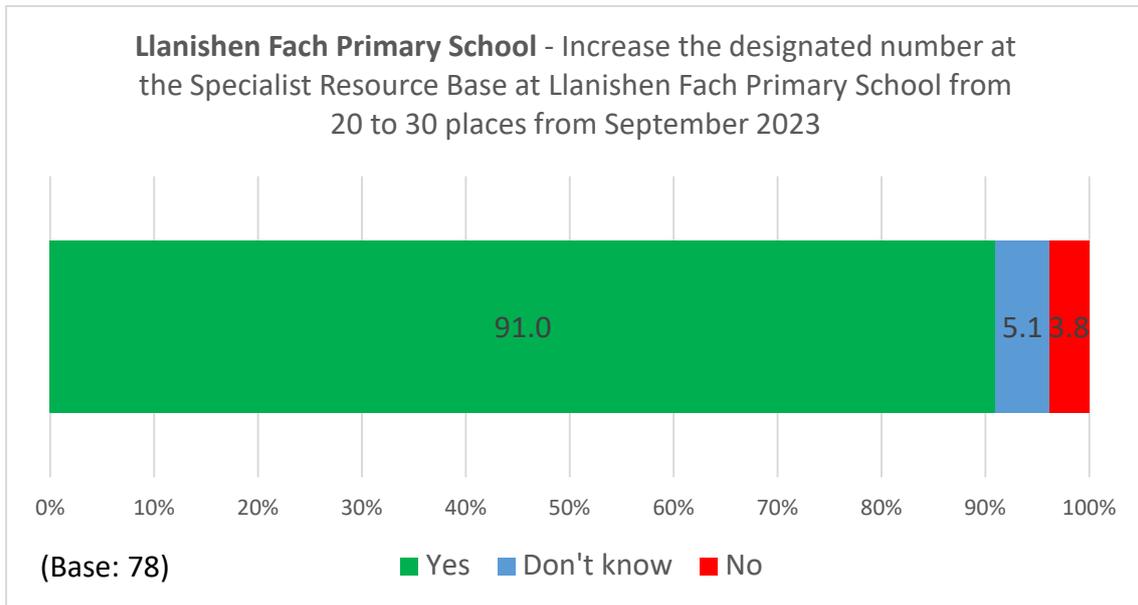
The Hollies Special School - Further increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 119 to 150 from September 2023

Nine in ten (91.1%) respondents agreed with the proposal.

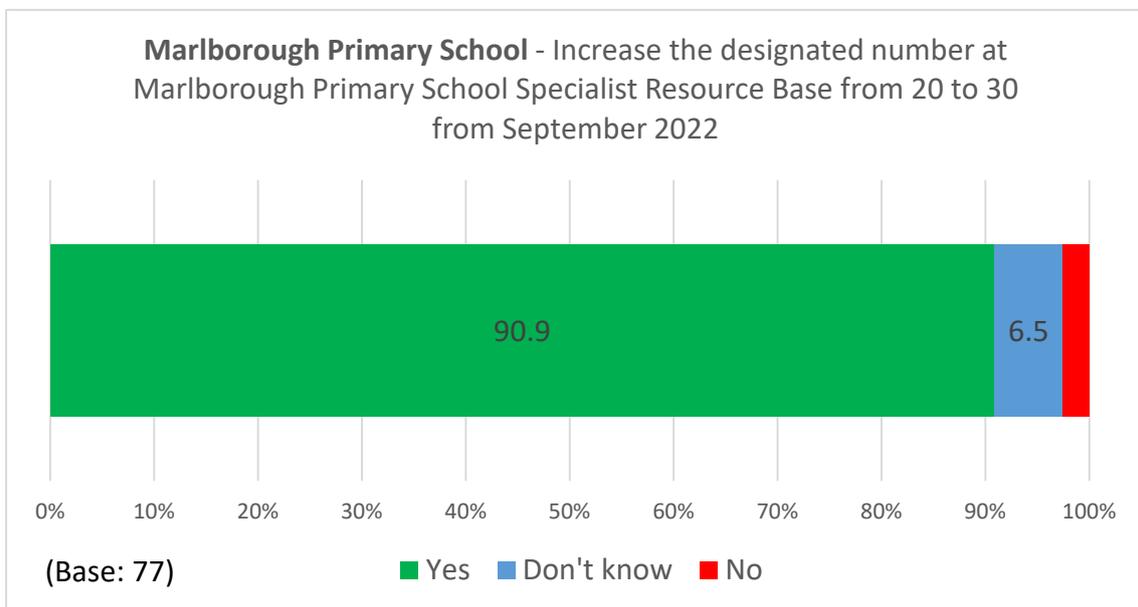


Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Llanishen Fach Primary School - Increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen Fach Primary School from 20 to 30 places from September 2023
Nine in ten (91.0%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



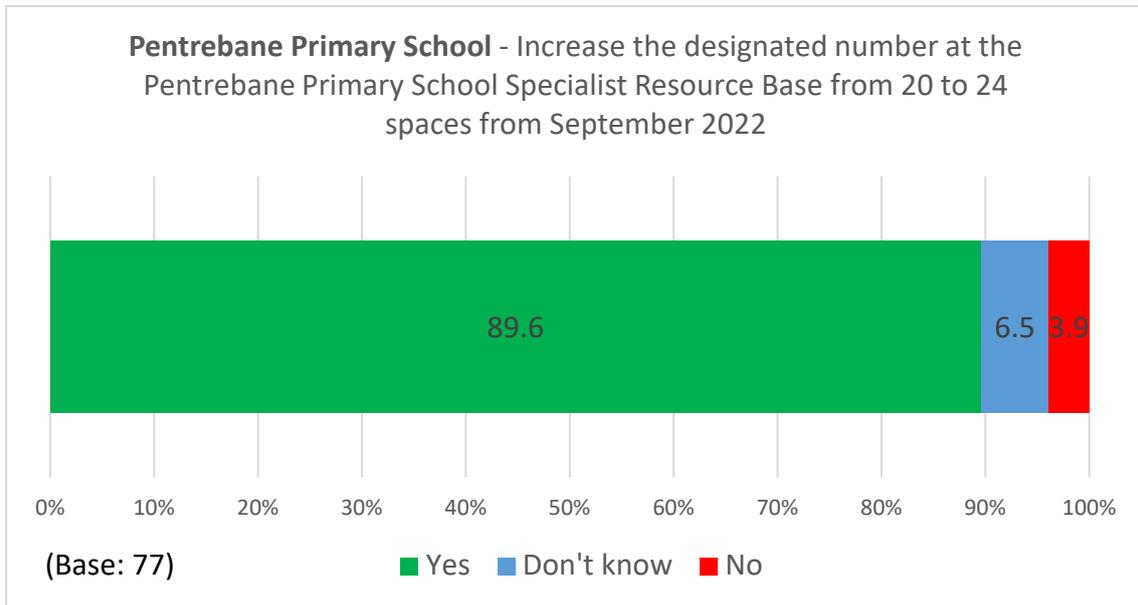
Marlborough Primary School - Increase the designated number at Marlborough Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 30 from September 2022
Nine in ten (90.9%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

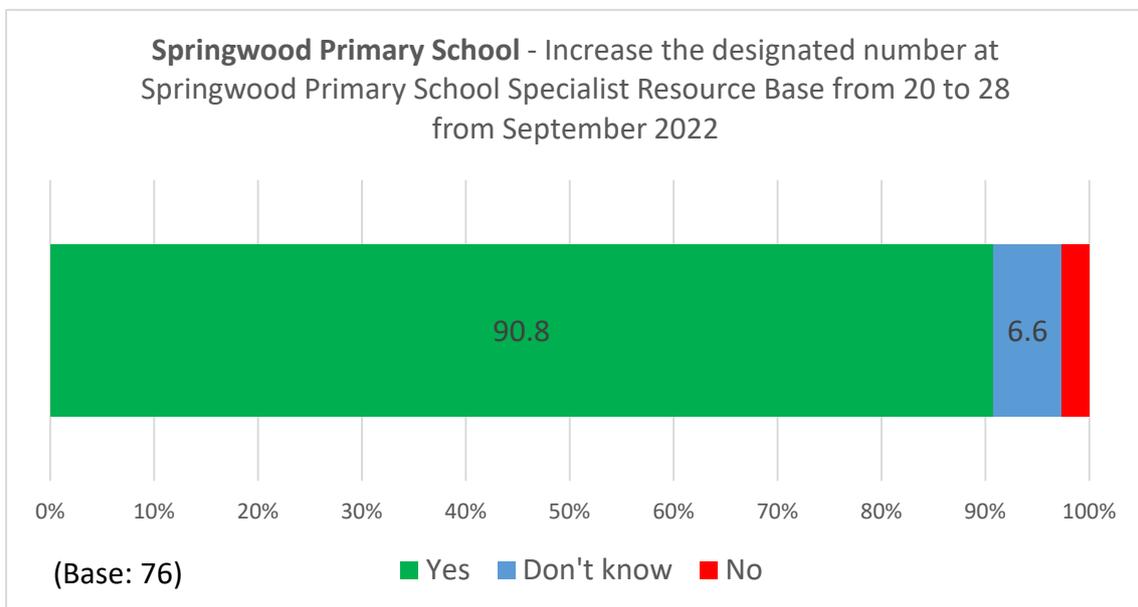
Pentrebane Primary School - Increase the designated number at the Pentrebane Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 24 spaces from September 2022

Nine in ten (89.6%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



Springwood Primary School - Increase the designated number at Springwood Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 28 from September 2022

Nine in ten (90.8%) respondents agreed with the proposal.



If you do or not support the proposed changes than please explain why:

General agreement with the proposals

- I have a daughter with autism and am currently looking at these schools for here. She would be due to start reception in September 2022. The increase in numbers at these schools may help her get a place in a school that will support her needs. The increase in numbers will give more children like my daughter a place at a school they deserve in order to fulfil their full potential.
- I do support the changes because every child deserves a place in a school where their needs are met. I have friends and family with children in special schools and I have had to see them fight and challenge rulings regarding their child qualifying for those schools. It isn't fair for children with needs to have to go mainstream schools if they will not thrive in that environment.
- I would love to see the capacity of each of these schools increased at a rate that includes training more specialist staff and building extensions to the schools to accommodate more classrooms. I hope that the designated numbers can be increased without diminishing the support given to the children already enrolled.
- More children are coming into mainstream with complex needs which cannot be met in a mainstream class. For the benefit of the children and to give them the best start in life they need specialist support.
- All schools need more support for the children who are supposed to manage without access to these units. I thought my son had learning difficulties till I moved him to a small independent school. Where his sensory and hearing needs were met. He's actually bright, but we would never have known if hadn't moved him.
- My child has ASD and therefore has additional learning needs. Currently he is doing well in his mainstream primary school, but it may be that in the future he would be better placed in a designated school. If there are more places available there would be more chance of my child getting a place in school that better suits his needs.
- This will help a lot of children like my daughter find the right school for their needs. We are hoping that my daughter can attend one of these schools in September 2022 as she has autism.
- I support the increased numbers of places across Cardiff's special needs provision.
- I believe it's important that every child get the care they need.
- More places are needed to support the growing number of children that are being diagnosed.
- I have seen Parents struggle to get additional support for their Children for years. This support should be readily available to them.
- Yes, however more and more children are presenting in Mainstream schools, who cannot be supported in the budgets they have. They need to further increase the number further at all of these schools!
- Clearly not enough provision in Cardiff currently. These are very much needed.
- There is increasing need for specialist ALN provision. The approach of raising this provision across the range of schools, as opposed to focusing on a few schools, increases the opportunity for pupils to be in the most beneficial specialist environment. Whilst having access to ALN provision, due to limited school places,

some pupils across Cardiff are not in the most appropriate school environment for their individual needs.

- These particular schools have seen a high demand for places in recent years but struggle to accommodate due to the numbers of places and facilities needed. It is lovely to see sensory rooms and other facilities being incorporated into the plans.
- You need to make further improvements in the high school sector.
- As a Governing Body, we welcome the proposal to invest in resources for some of our most vulnerable learners and are grateful to Cardiff Council for prioritising excellent resources and critically to grow staff specialism in areas of most need. We are fully aware that there is a need to meet the increasing demand for ALN provision and believe that the council is taking significant steps towards developing that provision. However, we have a high level of concern relating to the lack of parity in current provision in the Welsh Medium sector in Cardiff. We are very disappointed that these proposals do not in any way address that lack of parity and go some way towards increasing the current gap in provision between English and Welsh-medium provision. This consultation contradicts the recent WESP consultation which noted the Council's ambition to open three specialist units in WM schools in the Primary sector and a further three SRB in the Secondary sector. We believe that investment in one sector only (English Medium) will encourage parents / families to transfer ALN pupils to the EM sector where the investment and resources are superior. Investment is needed within the Welsh Medium sector in order to ensure parity of provision and full inclusion within WM schools. We feel that an urgent audit is necessary in order to ascertain ALN within the WM sector (especially in the Primary sector). The documentation demonstrates a growing need within the EM sector but not in the WM sector. We believe that an audit would clarify the current position and would welcome clarity on the current numbers of pupils who would benefit from specialist placements in the Welsh-medium. We believe that the current proposals do not take steps to develop specialist WM support in the primary sector in particular and feel that there is a lack of strategic planning for provision across primary and secondary. It would be expected that, to address needs, the number of places available in specialist provisions would be more equal in the primary and secondary sectors. This would aid early intervention. It seems that primary schools are (just about) coping with children with high level needs. We believe that the development of provision in the WM sector needs to consider the different needs of the sector, namely a growing incidence of high-tariff, low-incident need. To achieve parity, the provision does not necessarily have to mirror the provision seen in EM but rather needs to be thoughtful and bespoke, with creative solutions. Such a solution should place at its heart the need to develop the workforce. We believe that increasing and developing specialist provision will, in itself, also serve to develop the workforce. The limited provision to date has not enabled this. The WM sector as a whole is eager to establish a close working partnership between the sector and LA leadership to scope and realise creative and practical solutions to these challenges, which could become a blueprint of outstanding practice for the future.
- I do not know enough about the position of each individual school in the list, but I am very supportive of children with special needs having every opportunity possible like any other child in a school within their community.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

- We support the above changes to the English-language sector, in response to the growth in need, but the same investment must be seen in the Welsh-medium sector to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils. The LEA is missing an opportunity here to promote the Welsh language and seems to go against the Welsh Government's aspirations in terms of the Welsh language. We, as the Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof, fully support the investment in provision for the most vulnerable pupils in our communities. We would like to commend the County Council's intention to invest in the best and critical support to grow staff expertise and specialist centres in areas of clear demand. Securing investment at this level creates a specialist resource and workforce capacity to respond to the increasing demand for provision in this area. However, I would like to express our deep concern about the lack of proposed Welsh-medium provision for our most vulnerable and needy pupils. We believe that this consultation contradicts the recommendations of Cardiff's WESP consultation where the opening of three primary specialist centres and three secondary specialist centres is mentioned. Investing in only one sector (English) encourages families / parents to move ALN children to an English-medium sector where provision and investment is best. Investment in the Welsh-medium sector is needed to ensure equal provision and full inclusion within the sector's schools.

Opinion split / Don't know across the proposals

- Large number increases may affect existing pupils and that impact needs to be taken into account - space, staff (properly trained and experienced), shared resources e.g. trampoline, pools etc. The ones I put I don't know is because I don't know enough about them to give an opinion. Yes, was for small increases. No for huge increases likely to have impact on existing pupils.
- I have put don't know for most as it depends on the reasons and what sort of places are needed. As stated above I do not believe that just because you are Autistic a base is the right place. Llanishen Fach I have put no as in my opinion it is an SRB on a mainstream site which would need expanding taking away from the rest of the school. It is big enough. The parking/drop off facilities are not good enough. The SRB is used to segregate difficult learners. There seems to have been a real rise in severe medical needs.
- I have indicated 'don't know' to each of the questions as the premise of the question is fundamentally wrong - it is not that I don't support an increase in provision, I just don't think this plan provides it at a strategic level.
- The number of increases seems quite low. I think more is needed than you are proposing.

General disagreement with the proposals

- The Mainstream primaries with additional needs units will end up putting children who have ALN in the base rather than supporting them with their needs inclusively within a classroom as it will suit them better. It does not always suit the child better.
- I'm not too sure on what exactly you mean when you say the numbers will be increased in each of these schools? Does this mean that each class will now become bigger? Or that there will just be more classrooms to accommodate the extra children whilst at the same time not interfering with the current classes? If you are looking to making the classes bigger then unfortunately, I don't feel confident in the staff being able to manage that due to personal experience. My 4-year-old son is in a class with just 6 other kids and 4 staff members, yet there have been a few accidents already in only this first term. So I fear to think what would the outcome be if the numbers in his class were to be increased.

Concerns around lack of Welsh medium investment

- Whilst I am supportive of the proposals to increase ALN provision across the city, it is hugely disappointing that there no intention outlined here to increase ALN provision for those choosing Welsh Medium Education. Your draft WESP indicates you will deliver 'An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. How will you achieve this vision with no investment in Welsh medium ALN?
- WM schools should get more investment and more provision.
- Can we draw your attention to the LEA's review of its Welsh medium Additional Learning Needs provision in 2009-10, conducted by Meinir Rees HMI, and previously a SENCO at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr? This review noted the establishing of new Welsh medium schools as an opportunity to develop specialist Additional Learning Needs provision. Sadly, time has proved that this has been an opportunity missed. 5 new Welsh medium primary schools and a secondary school have since opened, with no Additional Learning Needs specialist provision. Furthermore, 4 Welsh medium schools have been expanded and provided with new buildings - again with no specialist ALN provision. With Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Coed y Gof closing to be replaced by a more specific Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch, the only new provision for Welsh medium schools since this 2009-10 review is the revolving door provision at Ysgol Pen y Groes. This lack of specialist Welsh medium provision has led to parents moving their children to English medium to satisfy their children's additional learning needs.

Specific school comments

Pentrebane

- Very small and congested school. Inadequate space and provision for children already present in school or base.
- To increase spaces at Pentrebane Primary school, a lot more needs to be done to improve the state of the existing facilities, provision and space in school, as it is a very small school and space already inadequate for the number of children present.

Ty Gwyn

- Concerns - Staffing - i.e. numbers of quality suitable staff to deal with pmlid and children so that quality education/ healthcare is delivered. Transport issues - increasing vehicle numbers exacerbating an already difficult to manage situation. Resources being further overstretched leading to timetabling / fairness issues. School community relationships being lost due to ever expanding buildings/workforce. Will there be ongoing council support/ funding?
- It's too much of a jump in numbers, the reason these schools are fantastic is because they can provide what is needed and have smaller classes. The increase would be amazing, if everything was increased e.g. The space, the staff, the resources, physical resources. I'm not sure this would be the case.

Meadowbank

- I support the expansion of Meadowbank school if the facilities proposed are fully tailored to meet the needs of the more complex children who will attend
- It's too much of a jump in numbers, the reason these schools are fantastic is because they can provide what is needed and have smaller classes. The increase would be amazing, if everything was increased e.g. The space, the staff, the resources, physical resources. I'm not sure this would be the case.

The Hollies

- It's too much of a jump in numbers, the reason these schools are fantastic is because they can provide what is needed and have smaller classes. The increase would be amazing, if everything was increased e.g. The space, the staff, the resources, physical resources. I'm not sure this would be the case.
- Improvement to the school building is very much needed in order to improve the provision for pupils with autism- increasing places will enable more children to access specialist provision across the city.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Would you like to suggest any changes or alternatives?

Respondents were given the opportunity to suggest any changes or alternatives they had to the proposals. Twenty-five respondents took the opportunity to do so, and these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- More SRB's in other schools.
- More SRBs in other schools, more facilities and space to be created for the provision at Pentrebane Primary School.
- I would like to see more permanent one-to-one staff in 'mainstream' schools too.
- Look at local grass root groups and charities that may be able to help with supporting and creating a sense of community, identity and accessible activities outside of the school environment.
- Small units in all schools.
- Better ASD and neurodiversity training for all school staff and better choice of provision including self-directed learning support.
- Another new school.
- The hollies, school for autism, seems to need a new build. Check feasibility of sites for large increases in numbers proposed.
- It is paramount that the Local Education Authorities improve the access to pupils with any ALN. Further training is required in non-specialist schools to support unstatemented pupils and especially around Individual Educational Learning Plans for pupils. More Educational psychologists are needed, and schools should stop covering up their mistakes on paper to "appear as being supportive and inclusive".
- Extra classrooms and don't interfere with the current ones.
- I suggest all school staff are taught about autism so all children who go to mainstream get the best they can put of their school life.
- Look at Faith based schools to offer this support as well! These numbers needed to be doubled if not quadrupled.
- Additional spaces in Welsh language secondary.
- Offer more options for education, EOTAS options, self directed learning, forest school.
- I would like to see an impact study that demonstrates how this plan takes into account a) increased demand for Welsh language provision, b) the Welsh Government plans to increase the numbers of Welsh speakers even further and c) how Future Generations have been considered in this plan.
- Consideration for Welsh Medium ALN Provision.
- Allocation towards WM schools.
- Increased provision for ALN who do not have a statement/IDP - the current secondary school provision for this category of learners is non-existent in Cardiff. Hence we have had to go out of borough.
- Regarding the Meadowbank new build, there are some major flaws in the proposed design including the lack of an enclosed walkway for the children to safely reach their classroom, some 200 metres, not acceptable for children with mobility and anxiety issues, also the lack of bespoke sensory areas in the new build is also a major flaw, there is a huge need for these to meet the children's complex medical and sensory needs.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

- More specialists provision. Add units to primary schools if they have the space and the need.
- A full review of existing provision in order to provide parity between Welsh and English medium.
- The consultation document in the section Demand for Places on Page 16 outlines the projected demand (plus 10%) as 602 by 25/26 across the city. It states this is taking into account returning the out of county placements as well as the projections from population data analysis. Concern is raised whether there is sufficient future capacity proposed to meet not only known demand but also unknown demand leading to issues in years to come. A question is raised why the capacity proposed isn't further increased, particularly as savings in the region of £3.8m would be realised with the return of the out of county placements. The Local Development Plan proposed a large increase in housing across the city in the coming years with the subsequent need of increased infrastructure including new school provision. It is hoped that any new school building proposals would include the need for additional ALN provision on top of what is currently proposed. The proposals outline increasing capacity to meet this increased demand in both special schools as well as in Special Resource Bases situated in mainstream schools. Further analysis would be needed to ensure a 'fit' for each pupil was attained to ensure pupils accessed the correct provision based on their assessed need not on availability of placement.
- The consultation contradicts the recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which noted the council's ambition to open three specialist units in Welsh Medium Schools in the primary sector and a further three SRB in the secondary sector. Investment is needed in the Welsh Medium Sector in order to ensure parity of provision and full inclusion within Welsh Medium Schools. An urgent audit is also required in the primary sector in order to ascertain the correct numbers. How was the conclusion reached that the English Medium Sector has a growing need but not in the Welsh Medium Sector? Was the Welsh Medium Sector included in this research?
- A current audit into the needs of pupils in the primary Welsh-medium sector is needed soon. The documentation shows an increasing need within the English-medium sector, but NOT in the Welsh-medium sector, which is not an accurate reflection of the situation within our schools. There is a clear lack of provision in terms of emotional health and well-being and behaviour within the Welsh-medium sector for Stage 4-5 pupils (who have needs beyond mainstream provision). The recommendations do not address this need at all. In addition, there is a lack of space / rooms for wellbeing/ nutrition classes in many schools due to the popularity of Welsh-medium education and the lack of suitable placements. Opportunities to expand ALN provision and resources have been missed in new Welsh-medium schools in the city, and investment in specialist centres is needed to create Welsh-medium ALN capacity within the workforce. A rich training programme is needed to drive specialist ALN training within the Welsh-medium workforce at all levels. There is a clear lack of consideration of autism needs within the primary sector, particularly in establishing an autism specialist centre within the secondary sector, in the recommendations, and a plan needs to be put in place to ensure that we provide appropriate education for all individuals, and that provision is available in Welsh. The Body does not feel that the Local Authority is complying with the requirements of Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act in relation to ALN

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

provision which states: "Local authorities will have a duty to take all reasonable steps to secure Welsh language provision where required and, when reviewing UDPs, to consider the adequacy of Welsh-medium additional learning provision". As a result, this can lead to an increase in dispute between the Authority and parents, and an increase in the number of tribunal cases due to a lack of provision in Welsh.

- Provision will be required for children with ASD. Dedicated units for children with ALN will be required in Welsh very quickly.

Do you have any other comments?

Respondents were invited to leave any other comments they had in relation to the consultation. Twenty-four respondents left feedback; these comments can be viewed below / overleaf

- Autism SRB provision at St. Mary the Virgin Primary School, for residents of Cardiff City Centre area.
- SRB provision for residents in and around city centre at St. Mary the Virgin primary school.
- Done cautiously with grants and all the children's needs in mind this would be wonderful.
- Better assessment and support before children fail.
- Listen to all experts including parents who really do understand their child. Educational professionals within county need to fully understand the picture.
- Hope you are having extra teachers in to cover the extra kids in the class.
- The staffing ratio needs to increase as well as the ratio of places. Expanding class sizes is not an option but expanding number of classes is.
- Whilst I really support the increase in places. My concern is that sufficient resources, space and staff are also provided to do this safely, and to maintain the standards needed.
- Every child deserves an education.
- Mainstream schools need further training in identifying and supporting all pupils with ALN and especially schools in Caerau and Ely as these schools especially Pencaerau.
- Yea train all staff on what autism is and how to deal as not one size fits all approach oral.
- I am concerned that safeguards are put in place to ensure that pupil numbers at Meadowbank do not increase without the necessary changes to the school facilities being implemented first. An increase in pupil intake, especially with increasingly complex needs, requires changes to the building's current capabilities. Primary concerns are the current suitability of outdoor areas, sensory regulation spaces and changing facilities.
- The school at this present moment would be too small and would need to be bigger to accommodate more individuals.
- Meadowbank School is situated within a residential area, located alongside two other primary schools and a community centre. Parking is at capacity for the site and surrounding areas. If the plan is to double the capacity of places for pupils,

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

staffing levels will also increase. Are there plans to provide additional parking spaces as there is already a clear need which will be exasperated by additional staff?

- Could you please share the EIA that has been completed for this proposal.
- This is all very positive!
- I fully support the changes to The Hollies School providing that Cardiff follow through with their promises to improve the provision for both new and existing pupils. The current capacity is 90 however there are already 117 pupils on roll. The school has already been promised updated facilities including new classrooms which have not been done so there is already greater pressure on staffing due to increased numbers in classes that are not designed for this purpose. In addition, consideration needs to be given to updating the communal areas that pupils with ASD need access to e.g. sensory rooms. Without this being improved, an increase in numbers to 150 would mean that the school would not be able to provide the individual provision that pupils with ALN will need. None of this information is given in the consultation document and therefore would like to request that more consideration is given to the information that is published in the consultation document. Not only are the numbers on roll not correct but there is no detail in changes the council proposes to enable the school to accommodate the higher number of pupils. I am sure that this information is shared during consultation meetings but for those who are unable to attend, there is simply not enough detail. For example, the document says that there will be no negative impact on teaching and learning as a result of these changes, however without the additional information on what provision the existing and new pupils will have access to, I am unable to see how this conclusion could be made.
- Increased provision for ALN who do not have a statement/IDP - the current secondary school provision for this category of learners is non-existent in Cardiff. Hence we have had to go out of borough.
- Architects and decision makers need to listen more closely concerning the Meadowbank new build, staff are the experts on how the children can be best supported, not building designers or finance officers. If the council is going to spend on a new build, please make it fit for purpose for the long term, for the increasingly complex children to be accommodated there.
- We see a clear deficiency as regards wellbeing, behaviour, and emotional support in the Welsh Medium sector specifically for pupils on Stage 4-5 who struggle with mainstream provision. Due to the lack of space within Welsh Medium schools, it is proving difficult if not impossible to provide nurture / wellbeing classes within most settings. You will be aware that Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, has funded a highly praised nurture class out of our budget (mainly PDG) to meet this need. This nurture class is housed within a demountable building that is becoming unfit for purpose! We feel the LEA is losing an opportunity to provide specialist bases for these pupils.
- As a Governing Body, we welcome the proposal to invest in resources for some of our most vulnerable learners and are grateful to Cardiff Council for prioritising excellent resources and critically to grow staff specialism in areas of most need. We are fully aware that there is a need to meet the increasing demand for ALN provision and believe that the council is taking significant steps towards developing that provision. However, we have a high level of concern relating to the lack of parity in current provision in the Welsh Medium sector in Cardiff. We are very disappointed

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

that these proposals do not in any way address that lack of parity, and go some way towards increasing the current gap in provision between English and Welsh-medium provision. This consultation contradicts the recent WESP consultation which noted the Council's ambition to open three specialist units in WM schools in the Primary sector and a further three SRB in the Secondary sector. We believe that investment in one sector only (English Medium) will encourage parents / families to transfer ALN pupils to the EM sector where the investment and resources are superior.

Investment is needed within the Welsh Medium sector in order to ensure parity of provision and full inclusion within WM schools. We feel that an urgent audit is necessary in order to ascertain ALN within the WM sector (especially in the Primary sector). The documentation demonstrates a growing need within the EM sector but not in the WM sector. We believe that an audit would clarify the current position and would welcome clarity on the current numbers of pupils who would benefit from specialist placements in the Welsh-medium. We believe that the current proposals do not take steps to develop specialist WM support in the primary sector in particular and feel that there is a lack of strategic planning for provision across primary and secondary. It would be expected that, to address needs, the number of places available in specialist provisions would be more equal in the primary and secondary sectors. This would aid early intervention. It seems that primary schools are (just about) coping with children with high level needs. We believe that the development of provision in the WM sector needs to consider the different needs of the sector, namely a growing incidence of high-tariff, low-incident need. To achieve parity, the provision does not necessarily have to mirror the provision seen in EM but rather needs to be thoughtful and bespoke, with creative solutions. Such a solution should place at its heart the need to develop the workforce. We believe that increasing and developing specialist provision will, in itself, also serve to develop the workforce. The limited provision to date has not enabled this. The WM sector as a whole is eager to establish a close working partnership between the sector and LA leadership to scope and realise creative and practical solutions to these challenges, which could become a blueprint of outstanding practice for the future.

- The building works programme must take into consideration the needs of the children and how they find change and disruption a challenge so delays in completing works must be avoided.
- We also feel that there is a lost opportunity when establishing and building new Welsh Medium Primary schools that due consideration hasn't taken place for an inclusion of an ALN provision. Newly established SRB (Schools Resource Base) seems to be an afterthought and are put into existing buildings rather than building a purpose built building. We encourage Cardiff Council when looking at future plans to build new school buildings for Ysgol Pen-y-Pil and Ysgol Nant Caerau to look into establishing a fit for purpose permanent home to these SRB's.
- It would be an idea to gather views from Welsh and Dual Stream schools before proceeding with these plans.

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

About You

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area

	No.	%
Riverside	9	13.4
Rhiwbina	8	11.9
Llanishen	6	9.0
Caerau	5	7.5
Ely	4	6.0
Whitchurch and Tongwynlais	4	6.0
Canton	3	4.5
Creigiau/St. Fagans	3	4.5
Heath	3	4.5
Llandaff North	3	4.5
Splott	3	4.5
Adamsdown	2	3.0
Cathays	2	3.0
Cyncoed	2	3.0
Fairwater	2	3.0
Pentwyn	2	3.0
Other Electoral Ward	6	9.0
Total Respondents	67	100.0

What was your age on your last birthday?

	No.	%
16-24	4	4.4
25-34	15	16.5
35-44	28	30.8
45-54	24	26.4
55-64	13	14.3
75+	2	2.2
Other age group	1	1.1
Prefer not to say	4	4.4
Total Respondents	91	100.0

Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Provision

Are you...?

	No.	%
Female	72	80.0
Male	14	15.6
Prefer not to say	4	4.4
Total Respondents	90	100.0

Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No.	%
Yes	9	10.0
No	71	78.9
Prefer not to say	10	11.1
Total Respondents	90	100.0

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

Seventeen people identified a health condition that applied to themselves, these can be viewed below:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing
- Mental health difficulties
- Wheelchair user
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)

What is your ethnic group?

(Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these).

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	67	74.4
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian	4	4.4
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean	3	3.3
White - Any other white background	3	3.3
Arab	2	2.2
Other Ethnic Group	5	5.6
Prefer not to say	6	6.7
Total Respondents	90	100.0