

Estyn's response to the consultation by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council to establish new primary school provision for the Llanilid housing development, by extending the provision of Dolau primary school, from September 2021.

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

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

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal appropriately sets out the need for additional educational provision to accommodate both the planned and potential for further housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan. It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of educational provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposal sets out clearly the need for additional nursery and pupil places arising from the planned housing developments and the potential for further developments in the area. The proposal appropriately considers the advantages and disadvantages associated with the extension of the current school, through the creative use of a new school build, alongside the construction of a major new housing development.

The proposal usefully explains how the current primary school at Dolau will respond to the increasing population expected within the new housing development, by using

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.

Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

the new build as an extension to the existing school. The benefits of this approach are well set out within the proposal, which include the management of an 'ad hoc' demand for new places throughout the school year, associated with the arrivals of new residents. The proposer also explains well the disadvantages associated with the alternative of opening a brand new school immediately without full capacity.

The current primary school at Dolau is a dual stream school, and the expansion will accommodate both language preferences, therefore maintaining parental choice and should provide sufficient places as demand increases in the short term. However, the intended change from an extension to the existing school to the creation of a separate new school, and its language preference remains deferred until an unspecified time in the future.

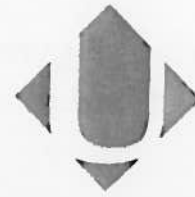
The proposer sets out well the current local authority practice for the provision of school transport, which is more generous than the statutory minimum. The proposal sets out clearly that the policy will be applied for pupils attending this school, and also takes into account the risk assessments for the walking routes to school, which are considered to be unsuitable for pupil foot traffic. Additionally the proposals sets out clearly the implications for secondary aged pupils who will live on this new housing development, and their options for either the closest school which is in neighbouring local authority, or the nearest English medium and Welsh medium schools in the proposer's local authority. The proposer also clarifies how the local authority's current policy for home to school transport will apply for these pupils.

The proposer provides detailed past and projected nursery places and pupil numbers for Dolau primary school, which take account of the expected numbers based on the current catchment, and the planned new development.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The construction of the new school, and its initial use as an extension to the current school should not represent a risk to the school and its education provision. The opportunities arising from additional space, state of the art classroom design and new outdoors facilities are likely to enhance the learning opportunities for pupils.

The proposal appropriately considers the likely impact of the new school on standards, provision and leadership by referring to the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspections, as well as the Regional Consortium's categorisation of the school. In July 2015, Estyn judged the school's performance to be good, and its prospects for improvement also good. The local consortium categorises the school as green. This information supports the proposer's reasonable claim that Dolau Primary school should be able to maintain its current standards during the expansion.



UCAC
Undeb
Cenedlaethol
Athrawon
Cymru

YMGYNGHORIAD AR GYNNIG I
SEFYDLU DARPARIAETH ADDYSG
GYNRADD NEWYDD AR GYFER
DATBLYGIAD TAI LLANILID DRWY
YMESTYN DARPARIAETH YSGOL
GYNRADD DOLAU

Rhagfyr 2018

UCAC | yr undeb sy'n diogelu athrawon a darlithwyr Cymru

Yr ymgynghoriad ar gynnig i sefydlu darpariaeth addysg gynradd newydd ar gyfer datblygiad tai Llanilid drwy ymestyn darpariaeth Ysgol Gynradd Dolau

Mae Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC) yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ymateb i'r ddogfen ymgynghori hon gan Gyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Mae UCAC yn falch gweld dyhead Cyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf i geisio creu mwy o lefydd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir ac yn cadw at yr hyn a amlinellwyd yn eu Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg drwy *"Adeiladau ysgol newydd a gwell sydd â lefelau priodol o leoedd ar gael i fodloni'r rhagolygon o ran galw am ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn eu dalgylchoedd."*

Rydym am weld y bydd pob cyfle i blant yr ardal gael addysg Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gynradd Dolau os ydynt yn dymuno hynny. Nid ydym am weld darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Saesneg yn cael mwy o flaenoriaeth nac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a bod tegwch a chyfle cyfartal i bob plentyn. Mae dyletswydd ar Gyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf i gynyddu nifer o blant y sir sy'n cael eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ac felly mae angen sicrhau rhoi blaenoriaeth i ehangu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir. Bydd hyn yn cyd-fynd gyda nôd Llywodraeth Cymru o gael miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Cydnabyddir bod ad-drefnu ysgolion fel hyn yn fater cymhleth a bod amrywiaeth barn a theimladau cryfion o du disgyblion, rhieni, staff ysgol a'r gymuned ehangach.

Os bydd y cynllun arfaethedig yn cael ei gymeradwyo gan Gyngor Sir Rhondda Cynon Taf mae UCAC yn gofyn am sicrwydd y bydd ymgynghoriad llawn gyda staff ac undebau llafur yr ysgol os bydd unrhyw newidiadau staffio.

UCAC
Rhagfyr 2018

WRITTEN FEEDBACK FOR THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND DOLAU PRIAMRY SCHOOL

Agree with proposal	Comments	Additional Views
Yes	For quality education you need to ensure you have the classroom sizes to cater for the population of the community.	<p>I would like to see Community Services taken into account and infrastructure of informed educational opportunities to be catered for - ensuring sufficient play and youth support services for the growing population of our community.</p> <p>I would like to see a joined up collaborative approach to this development involving local youth and community charity Llanharan Community Development Project (LCDP), with Persimmon Homes and Education working together to provide better community services outside of school hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After school clubs - Outdoor play space - Open natural play space - Community building to support further education classes as well as informal education opportunities for all ages.
Not sure	<p>I agree that a large increase in the population of Llanharan will necessitate additional capacity within Dolau Primary School and longer term a new secondary school. My main concern is what changes will be made to the existing infrastructure to accommodate the increase in the population of Llanharan. The existing road through Llanharan struggles to cope with the volume of traffic using it at non rush hour period, especially at the railway bridge when larger vehicles or even vans pass each other. The situation outside the school during morning and evening drop off/pick up times is particularly bad, especially during the winter months when the weather is poor. Parents struggle to park their vehicles and park wherever they can – on verges, within the neighbouring estate or the Greggs car park. Will there be a drop off/pick up collection points for parents? It would be preferable for the students of Dolau to walk/cycle to school if possible which would reduce the requirement for parents to drive their children to school but the existing infrastructure doesn't encourage this.</p>	<p>Will Active Travel initiatives be included as part of the development scheme? The current road through Llanharan is unlit for the majority of the route which would be used by school children coming from the west of the new school building. The footpaths are narrow and not suitable for walking or cycling safely. The existing carriageway is narrow and does not lend itself to safe cycling, especially for young children. Cars pass along his section very quickly. Would a 20mph speed limit be introduced with crossing points for residents on the north side of the road to commute to school? The footpaths could be widened and a shared segregated cycle/pedestrian route introduced along the length of the A473. This road is well used by runners and dog walkers through the lighter summer months but in the dark evenings is hardly used due to the poor lighting etc mentioned previously. Also, the residents of the new Llanilid developments and existing residents at Enterprise Way may benefit from using the section of carriageway, currently not in use, being opened to remove additional vehicles off the A473. It will still be used as a rat run by large delivery vehicles etc. The new development will need as many access points as possible to reduce the volume of traffic using the roundabouts on the A473 thereby maintaining the flow of traffic on the A473. I look forward to seeing how the project develops.</p>
Yes	The extension to Dolau and further proposals will provide appropriate Primary Education	We would wish to support any choices made by residents who wish to select Pencoed

	<p>provision for the Housing Development at Llanilid</p>	<p>Comprehensive School (including the Penybont 6th Form College) as a school and 6th Form provision for their children. Our current capacity will allow residents of the development to opt for our school should they choose. The school currently has some 900 pupils on roll with a capacity of 1137. However, projections made by Bridgend County Borough Council (in its consultation document on the potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend suggests that the school will be over capacity by 2022 taking account of new build programmes within the Local Authority boundaries. We note the commitment, in the consultation document, of the local authority to provide free transportation to this school, as it is the nearest English Medium Comprehensive School to the development.</p>
<p>Not sure</p>	<p>Y Pant School is already full. Pencoed has space for another 150/200 or so pupils. When the new secondary is built how will this affect the existing schools? Will they see a fall in numbers? Will the secondary school have a sixth form? If so how will this affect the current provision in both Pencoed and Y Pant. If the new school English medium is should be beneficial to Llanharri which is under-capacity.</p>	<p>Road, both main and side roads, are already congested to excess in this area. The motorway is also congested at peak times going into Cardiff. What effect will this have on existing housing in the immediate and wider vicinity?</p>

Appendix 3

Llanilid consultation – public event 18.10.18

Comments left on 'Have your say' boards:

- Great progress, but please consider 'play opportunities' for out of school times all year around. After school clubs, early years services – Llanharan community development project.
- Good opportunity for new changes
- Can you ensure that the green space isn't lost and the forest area isn't built on as this is great for the children's education?
- As a parent and teacher I feel this extension is too big for a primary school and am worried this would impact on the education my children would receive and the security.
- Can you ensure there will be sufficient childcare (including Welsh childcare) in the area for working parents?
- How will you deal with the 299 homes with children before the new school is ready? Parking is a major issue. How will this be dealt with? I'm worried such a big extension to a primary would affect quality.
- Can you please ensure that we promote benefits of raising your child bilingually with families in the area so they will consider Welsh language education?
- Please consider traffic access and parking spaces for school drop off/pick up. It is already extremely busy on Bridgend Road and surrounding areas.
- If the school is split into an English and Welsh site, can you ensure that all children will be given the same opportunities e.g choir, sport, eisteddfod regardless of their language medium.
- Woodland!

