



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

15th MAY 2023

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – NAMING OF THE NEW SCHOOLS

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND WELSH, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

**Author: Miss Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency
Planning**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the recommendations made by the temporary governing bodies in relation to the names for the new schools being created as a part of the greater Pontypridd school organisation proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Agree to the name put forward by the temporary governing body of the new 3-16 School in Hawthorn, which is due to open in September 2024 – the name put forward is Ysgol Afon Wen.
- 2.2 Agree to the name put forward by the temporary governing body of the new 3-16 School in Pontypridd, which is due to open in September 2024 – the name put forward is Ysgol Bro Taf.
- 2.3 Agree to the name put forward by the temporary governing body of the new Welsh Medium Primary School in Rhydyfelin, which is due to open in September 2024 – the name put forward is Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Following a statutory school organisation consultation undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, in 2019 Cabinet resolved to approve the proposals as consulted upon, which sought to reorganise schools in the greater Pontypridd area. These schools are due to open in September 2024.

3.2 The process for naming these new schools has been undertaken in line with a protocol document written by the Director of Education and agreed by Cabinet in April 2012. This protocol document is attached for information, as Appendix 1. The temporary governing bodies have followed due process as outlined in this protocol.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Cabinet agreed at their meeting held on 18th July 2019 to formally approve the proposals to create new 3–16 ‘all through’ schools at Hawthorn and Pontypridd, and a new Welsh Medium Primary School in Rhydyfelin. These decisions followed a robust statutory consultation process and the publication of statutory notices, all conducted in accordance with statutory guidance contained in the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code.

4.2 As a part of the formal process to create the new schools, temporary governing bodies were established. Since then, the temporary governing bodies have undertaken a number of tasks including appointing the new headteachers for the three schools. It is anticipated that the process of appointing all other staff will commence in earnest in the Summer Term 2023, following the consultation and adoption of the agreed staffing structures.

4.3 In addition to the work undertaken by the governing bodies, and as a part of their role to establish the new schools, the headteachers are required to prepare the documentation and policies for their respective schools. As a part of this remit, work to develop the ‘branding’ of the new schools is vitally important, including the designing of school signage and logos, school uniforms etc. Evidently, this work is dependent upon the determination of the new school names.

4.4 As a part of the process to name the schools, and in line with the protocol referenced in paragraph 3.2 and included at Appendix 1, the headteachers met with pupil representatives from each of the six schools directly affected by the creation of the new schools. The protocol states, “Best practice suggests that pupils of the school should play the lead role in determining a suitable school name” and as such this process was pupil led. Engagement sessions were held with the school councils of the schools directly involved, to note the role and responsibilities of each school council is to represent the pupils of their respective schools.

4.5 Following these engagement sessions, feedback was provided to the headteachers via the School Councils from each of the schools listed below:

New school	School councils inputting into proposals
New 3-16 School, Hawthorn	Hawthorn Primary School Heol-y-Celyn Primary School Hawthorn High School
New 3-16 School, Pontypridd	Cilfynydd Primary School Pontypridd High School
New Welsh Medium Primary	Heol-y-Celyn Primary School

4.6 These pupil engagement sessions were then followed by sessions held with staff and culminated in a wider, community consultation hosted on the Council's website, with the consultation link also being shared with all relevant associated schools. The process followed for each of the new schools is outlined below.

4.7 New 3-16 School, Hawthorn

4.7.1 The following long list of proposed names were presented to the temporary governing body by the headteacher following engagement with pupils from Hawthorn Primary School, Heol-y-Celyn Primary School and Hawthorn High School:

- Ysgol Afon Wen
- Ysgol Glan Dwr
- Ysgol Cae Celyn
- Hawthorn Inclusive School
- Ysgol Cae llan
- Ysgol Glan yr Afon (already in existence in Mold)
- Ysgol Morgannwg Ganol
- Ysgol Gymunedol y Ddraenen Wen
- Ysgol Afon Taf (already in existence in Merthyr)
- Ysgol Glan Taff Campus

4.7.2 The headteacher informed the governing body that consultation on the long list of proposed names had been undertaken with the relevant school councils and staff at the three schools, with the majority of both pupils and staff voting for Ysgol Afon Wen as their preferred choice.

4.7.3 Members of the temporary governing body gave careful consideration to the names proposed by the pupils, and the votes cast by both pupils and staff members, and agreed to consult with wider stakeholders on the proposed names of:

- Ysgol Afon Wen
- Ysgol Glan Dwr
- Ysgol Cae Celyn
- Ysgol Cae llan

4.8 New 3-16 School, Pontypridd

4.8.1 The consensus between both schools was to have a Welsh name to show their appreciation of the school's location, the language and their heritage. The following long list of proposed names were presented to the temporary governing body by the headteacher following engagement with pupils of Cilfynydd Primary School and Pontypridd High School.

- Ysgol Cwm Taf / Bro Taf
- Albion Community School
- Ysgol Pontypridd

- Ysgol Pont Newydd
- Ysgol Coedylan

4.8.2 The headteacher informed the governing body that consultation on the long list of proposed names had been undertaken with the relevant school councils and staff at the two schools, with the majority of both pupils and staff voting for Ysgol Bro Taf as their preferred choice.

4.8.2 Members of the temporary governing body gave careful consideration to the names proposed by the pupils, and the votes cast by both pupils and staff members, and agreed to consult with wider stakeholders on the proposed names of:

- Ysgol Gymunedol Bro Taf
- Ysgol Bro Taf
- Ysgol Gymunedol Pontypridd
- Ysgol Pontypridd

4.9 New Welsh Medium Primary School, Rhydyfelin

4.9.1 The following long list of proposed names was presented to the temporary governing body by the headteacher following engagement with pupils of Heol-y-Celyn Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton:

- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Glyndwr
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tir y Glo
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Dyffryn y Gamlas
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynys Angharad
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Heol y Bryn
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel y Taf
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Nant Corrwg
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg yr Hen Gamlas
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Dyffryn Corrwg
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg yr Hen Gamlas
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Nant Corrwg
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Dyffryn y Gamlas

4.9.2 Governors also proposed Ysgol Rhyd-y-Bont and Ysgol Eglwys llan as additional options to be included on the long list.

4.9.3 The headteacher informed the governing body that consultation on the long list of proposed names had been undertaken with the pupils and staff at the two schools, with the majority of both pupils and staff voting for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel y Taf as their preferred choice.

4.9.4 Members of the temporary governing body discussed the outcomes and it was proposed to add one additional name for consideration – YGG Bro llan. Governors agreed to proceed with the following four names for the wider consultation:

- YGG Awel y Taf
- YGG Dyffryn Corrwg

- YGG Dyffryn y Gamlas
- YGG Bro llan

4.10 New school names proposed

4.10.1 Following a consultation process via the Council's website, the temporary governing body of the new 3-16 School in Hawthorn reviewed the outcome of the consultation and noted that Ysgol Afon Wen had received the highest number of votes (36%) – please see Appendix 2. This outcome was reflective of the result of the consultation carried out with pupils and staff at the three affected schools. As such, Governors wish to recommend Ysgol Afon Wen as the name of the new 3-16 school in Hawthorn.

4.10.2 Following a consultation process via the Council's website, the temporary governing body of the new 3-16 School in Pontypridd reviewed the outcome of the wider consultation and noted that Ysgol Pontypridd had received the highest number of votes (40%) followed by Ysgol Bro Taf (17%) – please see Appendix 3. This was not reflective of the results of the consultation carried out with pupils and staff of both schools which identified Ysgol Bro Taf as the preferred choice. As such, Governors wish to recommend Ysgol Bro Taf as the name of the new 3-16 school in Pontypridd.

4.10.3 Following a further consultation process via the Council's website, the temporary governing of the new Welsh Medium Primary School reviewed the outcome of the consultation and noted that Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Y Taf had received the highest number of votes (52%) – please see Appendix 4. Governors noted in the meeting that the grammatically correct name would be Awel Taf. This outcome was reflective of the result of the consultation carried out with pupils and staff of both schools. As such, Governors wish to recommend Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf as the name of the new Welsh Medium school in Rhydyfelin.

4.10.4 During the engagement process additional issues were raised in relation to the cost of new uniforms and branding. These concerns will be further discussed in line with the remit of the temporary governing bodies during the summer term 2023, and due process will be followed in line with all Welsh Government guidance. Concerns were also raised regarding the locations of some of the new schools – these concerns were consulted upon and addressed previously in the statutory school organisation consultation which was subsequently approved by Cabinet in July 2019.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared in respect of these proposals.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been prepared for these proposals. The new Welsh Medium Primary School that will open in September 2024 will have excellent facilities and will increase the capacity of Welsh medium education in RCT supporting the delivery of Cymraeg 2050 and the outcomes of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Although there is no statutory requirement to undertake consultation for these proposals, the Council has undertaken an online community consultation, hosted via the Council's website. The process for naming these new schools has been undertaken in line with a protocol document written by the Director of Education and agreed by Cabinet in April 2012. This protocol document is attached for information, as Appendix 1. The temporary governing bodies have followed due process as outlined in this policy, with the process being pupil led.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in respect of this issue. All costs associated with the 'rebranding' of the schools, such as design of logos and badges, new uniforms etc will be met from the delegated budgets of the schools themselves.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications in respect of decisions on school names.
- 9.2 New Instruments of Government will be required for the three new schools. These will be prepared in the summer 2024, in readiness for the opening of the schools in September 2024.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

The proposal will also support the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in particular "A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language. The New Welsh Medium Primary School will develop skills, increase opportunities and respect our status as a bilingual nation. The three schools having Welsh names will also promote bilingualism.

- 10.2

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/ActionPlanforWelshLanguage>

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/ComplianceNoticeStandards.pdf> [gePromotionalStrategy.pdf](#)

This proposal will support Priority 1 – Increasing the number of Welsh speakers by establishing a new Welsh Medium Primary School, therefore strengthening the statutory education system which will increase the number of confident Welsh speakers.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The new Welsh Medium Primary School sits in the electoral wards of Upper Rhydyfelin and Glyntaf.
- 11.2 The new 3-16 school in Hawthorn sits in the electoral wards of Hawthorn and Lower Rhydyfelin.
- 11.3 The new 3-16 school in Cilfynydd, Pontypridd sits in the electoral ward of Cilfynydd.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Members are asked to consider the names that have been put forward for the three schools detailed in this report by their respective temporary governing bodies, and to agree to their implementation, noting that all the appropriate consultation that is required has been undertaken.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Education and Inclusion Services Scrutiny

Contact Officer

Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency Planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Item: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – NAMING OF THE NEW SCHOOLS

Officer to contact: Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency Planning

Appendix 1

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL POLICY ON THE SETTING AND CHANGING OF SCHOOL NAMES

1. This policy relates to the official names of schools meaning the name set out in the Instrument of Government (“IOG”).
2. School names must be consistent with legal requirements the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005. Paragraph 35 of the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 is especially relevant: a copy is attached as part of this policy.
3. School names must not be misleading. Therefore, the Council shall expect that:
 - Where a school is a voluntary school and has a religious character, this is clear from the school’s name
 - Where a school serves all or part of the primary age-range (ages 5-11), and
 - is not a special school, one of the following phrases is used:
 - Infant School
 - Junior School
 - Primary School
 - Where a school has “Primary” in its name it will serve all age-groups in nursery, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two
 - Any implication or perceived implication in the school’s name is accurate;
 - Where a school is relocated, on a permanent basis, from a location in one electoral ward and/or community to a different electoral ward and/or community, the Council will request that the governing body review the IOG and the name of the school and shall not retain a name linked to its previous location that may mislead or confuse any interested parties. The governing body will have 60 calendar days to complete the review of the IOG
 - If the governing body determines that there should be no change to the IOG and school name, it is required to inform the Council of the reasons why. Where the Council’s Cabinet has concerns over the proposed name, or if it does not meet the requirements in the Council’s policy, it will refer the matter back to the governing body for reconsideration with an explanation of their decision.
 - If the governing body does not comply with this request, the Council will review the IOG and recommend to the governing body a suitable new name for the school. The Council will notify the governing body of the proposed change to the school name and the reasons for the change. The governing body will have 90 calendar days or at the discretion of the Council “reasonable time” to discuss the proposed changes with the Council in order to come to an agreement on the name. If no agreement can be reached the Council’s Cabinet will determine the change of name of the school

4. If the governing body decides that the name of the school should be changed it has to consult with pupils, parents and other stakeholders, all consultees shall be informed that the new name must not mislead or confuse anyone as to the schools location. Best practice suggests that pupils of the school should play the lead role in determining a suitable school name. After a period of consultation with pupils, parents and other stakeholders the process for determining a school's name shall be as follows:
 - a) An item shall be placed on the agenda of a meeting of the full governing body making clear that a change of the school's name is proposed and specifying the proposed new name (or options)
 - b) A change to a school name must be decided by the governing body
 - c) Where the school is a voluntary school, the new name must also be approved by the relevant diocesan authority (for Church of Wales and Roman Catholic Schools)
 - d) If the governing body agrees to the proposed school name, they shall inform the Council so that the Instrument of Government can be changed
 - e) Where the above stages have been completed satisfactorily, the Council's Cabinet will consider the proposed new name in accordance with the Council's policy and arrange for the school's Instrument of Government to be changed
 - f) Where the Council's Cabinet has concerns over the proposed new name, or if it does not meet the requirements in the Council's policy, it will refer the matter back to the governing body for reconsideration, with an explanation of their decision.

5. For new schools, the role of the governing body outlined in 4(a) – (f) above shall be undertaken by the temporary governing body until the permanent governing body has been set up.

Extract from the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005

Review of instruments of government

35. (1) The governing after it is made.

- (2) Where on anybody or the local education authority may review the instrument of government at any time review the governing body or the local education authority decides that the instrument of government should be varied, the governing body or (as the case may be) the local education authority must notify the other of its proposed variation together with its reasons for proposing such a variation.
- (3) Where the governing body has received notification under paragraph (2), it must inform the local education authority as to whether or not it is content with the proposed variation and, if not content, its reasons.
- (4) Where the school has foundation governors, the governing body must not—
 - (a) give the local education authority any notification under paragraph (2), or
 - (b) inform the authority under paragraph (3) that it is content with the authority's proposed variation, unless the persons listed in regulation 34(2) have approved the proposed variation.
- (5) If—
 - (a) whichever of the governing body and the local education authority is the recipient of a notification under paragraph (2) agrees with the proposed variation, or
 - (b) there is agreement between the local education authority, the governing body and (if the school has foundation governors) the other persons listed in regulation 34(2) that some other variation should be made instead, the local education authority must vary the instrument of government accordingly.
- (6) If, in the case of a school which has foundation governors, at any time the persons listed in regulation 34(2) disagree with the proposed variation any of those persons may refer it to the National Assembly for Wales; and on such a reference the National Assembly for Wales must give such direction as it thinks fit having regard, in particular, to the category of school to which the school belongs.
- (7) If neither sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (5) applies in the case of a school which does not have foundation governors, the local education authority must—
 - (a) inform the governing body of the reasons—
 - (i) why it is not content with the governing body's proposed variation, or as the case may be,
 - (ii) why it wishes to proceed with its own variation, and
 - (b) give the governing body a reasonable opportunity to reach agreement with it with regard to the variation; and the instrument of government must be varied by it either in the manner agreed between it and the governing body or (in the absence of such agreement) in such manner as it thinks fit

having regard, in particular, to the category of school to which the school belongs.

- (8) Nothing in this regulation is to be taken as requiring the local education authority to vary the instrument of government if it does not consider it appropriate to do so.
- (9) Where an instrument of government is varied under this regulation—
 - (a) the instrument must set out the date on which the variation takes effect; and
 - (b) regulation 33(3) applies in relation to any variation relating to the manner in which the governing body is to be constituted as if it referred to the date when the variation is made rather than the date when the instrument is made.