

Newport City Council

School Reorganisation Proposal

Consultation Report

**Proposal to permanently remove the Learning Resource Base provision at
Llanwern High School with effect from January 2018**

**Formal Consultation Period:
10th July 2017 to 24th September 2017**

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Learner Voice
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn
- Copy of the Pupil Questionnaire (at Appendix A)

The Proposal

To permanently remove the Learning Resource Base (LRB) provision currently at Llanwern High School with effect from January 2018.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with either a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website and an electronic version of the pack sent by e-mail or alternatively by hard copies of the consultation material being issued:

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Llanwern High School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Llanwern High School, including the Learning Resource Base provision;
- Pupils at Llanwern High School;
- Parents, carers and guardians of children attending Learning Resource Base classes in primary and secondary schools across the City;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all other Newport schools which host Learning Resource Base classes;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- All Newport Community Councils;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the schools subject to the proposals;
- Other Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium region, including relevant Transport departments;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff at Llanwern High School;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent);
- SNAP Cymru.

The following consultation events were arranged and were publicised via a letter to stakeholders. This information was also publicised on the Council website and throughout the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Llanwern High School, Hartridge Farm Road, Newport, NP18 2YE	Thursday 13 th July 2017 10.00am - 12 noon	Drop-in event
Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR	Tuesday 12 th September 2017 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Drop-in event

The first drop-in session was held at Llanwern High School and attended by four separate past, current and prospective parents. The second event held at the Civic Centre did not generate any attendance. The following points and questions were raised at the first event:

I am afraid that pupils will be left to ‘survive’ in mainstream when this environment is not suitable for them.

This will not be the case. The pupils will be able to access small group provision suitable for up to 10 pupils. This will be operated by the school and will cater for pupils across the Year 7 to Year 11 groups. This will be an extension of the current provision which only accommodates Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Pupils will not be integrated into mainstream classes until it is deemed appropriate for them.

There is a fear that pupils will be forced to move around the main school building to attend their various lessons.

Pupils who will attend the re-branded internal provision will be taught in the same room(s) for the majority of the school day. Any integration into mainstream classes will only occur when deemed appropriate for the pupil, and this will be supported as appropriate by nominated members of staff.

What will happen if pupils need small group placements?

The school will operate an internal small group provision suitable for up to 10 pupils. This will be available to any pupil requiring such provision, with the aim being to provide a flexible placement which supports small group work with access to mainstream where appropriate.

What will happen if this provision doesn’t work?

If a small group placement is not successful for an individual pupil, the school will make a referral to the Local Authority (LA) to consider a more appropriate placement. This will be determined by the Special Education Needs (SEN) Panel and / or the Managed Move Panel, whichever is deemed more appropriate based on individual needs.

How will transition work for pupils who are currently in Year 6 and may require a small group placement in Year 7?

Any pupil who is identified as requiring small group provision upon transition will be the subject of discussion between the current primary school, Llanwern High School and the SEN Panel as appropriate. Transition days are standard practice between primary and secondary schools and enhanced transition visits can be arranged for pupils who require this additional support.

Will pupils receive school transport?

The Council’s Home to School Transport policy states that free transport will be provided to mainstream secondary-age pupils who reside 3 miles or more from their catchment school, or alternatively from their nearest available school. There is no discretion to provide assistance to pupils who are successful in an application to attend a school that is not their catchment school. Any requests for free transport to be provided to pupils with a statement of SEN will be considered by the SEN Panel.

There are some pupils who require small group nurture provision but do not meet the entry criteria for other bases. What will happen to those pupils if this LRB closes?

The SEN Team will liaise with providers across Newport to ensure that there is appropriate provision to meet the needs of all individual pupils. Suitable alternative placements have already been identified for all pupils currently attending the LRB.

Will the closure of this base mean that pupils living in the catchment area will be disadvantaged in accessing such provision in the future?

Each Newport secondary school operates alternative small group provision to meet the needs of pupils who are unable to access a full curriculum of mainstream classes.

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was published and shared with stakeholders. This document was also targeted at children and young people.

Officers from the Council also met with a small number of pupils who were at the time attending the Learning Resource Base at the school. A breakdown of their comments is included in the **Learner Voice** section below.

In addition a children's questionnaire was created and shared with Llanwern High School for distribution amongst pupils. A copy of the questionnaire is shown at Appendix A, although it is unfortunate that no completed responses were returned to the Council.

Learner Voice

The Education Service Development Manager and the Special Education Needs Manager visited the LRB on 19th July 2017 to discuss the proposal with the affected pupils. Unfortunately only three pupils were available, one of whom chose not to engage with the officers.

One of the remaining two pupils indicated that he was indifferent to the proposal and would adapt to any new arrangement that was put into place. His preference would be a mainstream placement.

The final pupil had an opposing view however and said he was sad about the proposed closure of the LRB and had some concerns about moving into a mainstream environment, even though he had more friends in mainstream than in the LRB.

Consultation Responses

4 consultation responses were received from stakeholders, only 1 of which was in support of the proposal. The three responses against the proposal stated reasons including that:

- The LRB is an important part of the school community which is vital in helping pupils with additional needs to develop their skills;
- Education should come before cost;
- There could be a detrimental or negative effect on the pupils placed in the LRB as their education will be disrupted.

Whilst acknowledging these potential issues, the LA remains committed to the proposal to permanently close the LRB. This will support and promote inclusion as pupils will now be taught in a mainstream environment, rather than in a small group provision, with additional support and increased outreach services from the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) being provided where appropriate to meet the specific needs of individual pupils.

Estyn

The formal response from Estyn concluded that the proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal and it was Estyn's opinion that "the proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of provision and has the potential for individual pupil needs being better met at more inclusive Additional Learning Needs (ALN) settings within mainstream host schools". They felt that the majority of aspects had received appropriate consideration.

However Estyn noted that the projection figures included in the consultation document did not outline how many pupils could be affected by the proposal in the future. The LRB is able to accommodate a maximum of 6-8 pupils each year. Should this proposal be approved and implemented, these young people will be educated in their mainstream host schools with access to additional support from the PRU as required.

It was also Estyn's view that the proposal did not satisfactorily suggest how the LA intended to mitigate the issues identified as potential disadvantages:

- The majority of pupils who were attending the LRB have now successfully moved to small group provision in host schools. The one remaining pupil was not attending the provision regularly and has moved to a small nurture group for vulnerable pupils, which is more suitable to his specific needs.
- None of the staff previously employed to work in the LRB are currently facing redundancy. Some are continuing to working with the pupils in small group mainstream provision and others have taken on alternative roles within Llanwern High School.
- The trained staff employed at host schools and the increased use of outreach support should reduce the number of pupils requiring placements at the PRU and therefore will ensure that they can continue to attend their mainstream schools. In terms of budgetary pressures, funding has been delegated to schools which will enable them to make best use of resources at a local level to support pupils through small group provision, interventions and support.

Estyn also commented that the consultation document failed to provide an analysis of outcomes for pupils attending the LRB and any future effect that the proposal would have on this. However as the provision was restricted to Year 7 and Year 8 pupils only, at which point they were integrated into their mainstream host schools, there are no End of Key Stage Outcomes reported specifically for the Base.

A number of additional questions were also raised. These are outlined below, along with the relevant LA response:

- *Why has the proposer changed its mind that the pupils involved no longer need specialist support?*
There is still recognition that the pupils need specialist support but the LA feels that this can best achieved via small group provision within a host school setting. This will enable extended integration and a more personalised learning pathway.

- How will the affected pupils cope in a mainstream setting?
The young people will have access to a high level of support within their mainstream setting. This will include broader access to a menu of interventions and interaction with positive role models. The emphasis will be on the provision of a nurturing environment to support individual needs throughout the school not simply to the end of Year 8 as offered under the current arrangement.
- *How can the LA ensure that mainstream provision is best placed to meet the needs of these pupils?*
The LA has provided extensive training to mainstream staff and there has been collaboration across the City involving staff members that operate small groups and Inclusion Centres in mainstream schools. There is a number of highly skilled staff including Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinators (ALNCOs) and Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) who will be best placed to work with these young people.
- *Has the proposal been discussed with the parents and pupils likely to be affected and have statements of Special Educational Needs been amended?*
Officers have held drop-in sessions with parents and pupils, and formal statement reviews have been held resulting in the adjustment of statements where necessary and appropriate.
- *How will provision for the child not living within the catchment area be addressed?*
All mainstream schools have Learning Support Centres with small group provision, and collaborative training for staff operating these centres is already in place. This particular pupil has poor attendance and following a review has decided that he does not wish to attend either Llanwern High School or his nearest available school. Provision has therefore been made available for him in a small group placement, aligned to the PRU, for vulnerable youngsters.
- *What transition arrangements are being considered for ensure that the pupils fully integrate successfully?*
The pupils attending the LRB were integrating into set weekly mainstream lessons. However the ALNCO and other school staff feel that this proposal will enable more flexibility around this integration as pupils will be able to determine which lessons are likely to hold more success for them as individuals. Regular Pupil Centred Planning (PCP) meetings and Individual Development Plan (IDP) targets will closely monitor progress and inform next steps.
- *How will any disruption to pupils be minimised?*
All pupils know the school well and have worked with the ALNCO and other inclusion staff previously. Some of the staff from the LRB will continue to work with them and regular monitoring meetings will take place so that any concerns can be addressed swiftly. The current provision only accommodates pupils in Year 7 and 8, and therefore this proposal will offer more stability in terms of provision for these young people.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk




To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Service Development Manager on 01633 656656 or email school.reorg@newport.gov.uk



Learning Resource Base at Llanwern High School




We want to close the Learning Resource Base (LRB) hosted at Llanwern High School and instead move the children into more inclusive settings within mainstream schools. The provision currently accommodates up to 8 pupils from across Years 7 and 8.

1. Do you think that closing the LRB at Llanwern High School is a good idea?

No Don't know Yes

2. Do you think that making provision for children to be taught in mainstream settings instead is a good idea?

No Don't know Yes

3. What do you think is good about this?

4. Can you think of any reasons why we shouldn't do this?

5. Do you have anything else you would like to tell us?

Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think!

