

# **Newport City Council**

## **School Reorganisation Proposal**

### **Consultation Report**

**Proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026**

**Formal Consultation Period:**

**11 November 2024 – 22 December 2024**

#### **Purpose**

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, November 2018.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Learner Voice
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn's Response
- Impact on the Welsh Language
- Assessment of the Proposal
- Recommendations
- Appendices

## The Proposal

This consultation report concerns a proposal to establish a new primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years on the Great Milton Park housing development with effect from September 2026.

## Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the stakeholders outlined below, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail:

- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Pupils attending all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Members of staff currently employed at all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Neighbouring Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium area;
- The Headteacher and Governing Bodies of all Newport schools;
- 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 school subject to the proposal;
- 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 employed at all schools affected by this proposal;
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Newport's Welsh in Education Forum;
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Gwent Police;
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board;
- Public Health Wales;
- Newport Serennu Centre;
- SNAP Cymru;
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations;
- Preventative Services;
- Redrow sales office at Great Milton Park.

### Affected Schools

**Llanwern High School** will be affected by this proposal, as the size of the Year 6 cohort in the cluster that would usually transition to Year 7 each year will eventually increase by up to 45 pupils.

The following schools could also potentially be affected by this proposal due to them being within 2 miles of the new development:

- Milton Primary School (0.6 miles)
- Ringland Primary School (1.2 miles)
- Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd (1.3 miles)
- Alway Primary School (1.7 miles)

### Distribution of Information

In addition to the formal (main) consultation document, a Children & Young People's Everyday Summary version was also produced. All documents were available bilingually in Welsh and English.

Hard copies of the full consultation document and the Children and Young People's Everyday Summary version were provided to the sales office at the Great Milton Park housing development, Llanwern High School, and Milton Primary School.

Hard copies could also be requested by emailing [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk) or telephoning 01633 656656 and these were available bilingually in Welsh and English. The document was also offered in other languages on request, although no such requests were received.

The consultation information has been shared on the Newport City Council's Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) accounts.

### Questions

It was noted in the consultation documents and via the Council's website that questions could be submitted by email to [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk) and Council officers would provide a response within 7 days.

## **Learner Voice**

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners, and this was facilitated through sessions held with pupils at Milton Primary School, Ringland Primary School, and Llanwern High School.

Alway Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd were also invited to carry out pupil voice sessions, but these schools chose not to take up the offer.

### Milton Primary School

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Milton Primary School on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- Headteacher
- Assistant Headteacher / School Council Leader
- 9 pupils made up of Pupil Leaders and members of the School Council across Years 5 & 6

The pupils had been briefly informed about the proposal prior to the session, but further details were provided about the housing development and the agreement by the developer to provide a new school. The school's proposed catchment area, site plan and floor plans were discussed, as were changes being made to new schools due to climate change and the Council's plan to become Carbon Neutral by 2030. Officers outlined the consultation process, and the following questions were asked by pupils throughout the session:

<b>Question/Comment</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
<b>Why is the school being built behind the golf course?</b>	As the developer owns the land, they could decide where the school would be built.
<b>What will the school be called? Can the school be called Llanwern Primary School?</b>	If the Council makes the decision to open the school, a temporary governing body will be established. The temporary governing body will then choose the school name and decide on the school uniform.
<b>Can they connect the primary school with Llanwern High School?</b>	There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School, but improvements will need to be made to ensure the route is safe.
<b>In the consultation document it says that the school will cost £9m. Is that true?</b>	Yes, that is the cost estimate for the school. The money to build the school will come from the housing developer and the Council will contribute some funding to provide furniture and equipment.
<b>There is a big field next to Llanwern High School. Could this be used for a primary school?</b>	No, as these are the playing fields for Llanwern High School.

The Headteacher then asked some additional questions on behalf of the pupils, and these are detailed below:

<b>Question/Comment</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
<b>What happens to the consultation responses?</b>	Once the consultation period is over, all of the responses received will be summarised and included in a consultation report. This report will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Education & Early Years when she decides whether to move to the next stage of the process.

<p><b>What happens if the Cabinet Member decides not to proceed with the proposal?</b></p>	<p>If the school is not established as set out in this proposal, the Council could consult on a different proposal for the school. If no school is established on the site, the land could be used by the developer for something else.</p>
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The pupils were given the opportunity to complete the consultation response pro-forma. These were completed and then returned to the Council.

*Llanwern High School*

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Llanwern High School on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- Assistant Headteacher
- 18 pupils from across Year 11 and the school Senedd.

The pupils had been briefly informed about the proposal prior to the session. Officers than provided some background information about the housing development and the agreement with the developer to provide the new school. This included details around how pupil calculations informed the proposed capacity of the new primary school and how the number of houses built each year informed the decision to open the school on a phased basis. The following question was asked during the session:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
<p><b>When will the new primary school open?</b></p>	<p>The proposed opening for the new primary school is September 2026. This allows time for the temporary Governing Body to be set up and for a Headteacher and other staff to be appointed. All year groups will be operational from September 2026, but the capacity will be capped and will increase each year until eventually there are 45 pupil places available in each year group.</p>

The pupils were given the opportunity to complete hard copies of the Consultation Response Pro-forma during the session. These were completed and the responses have been recorded.

*Ringland Primary School*

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Ringland Primary School on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- 6 x Pupils from the School Council across Years 4 to 6

Officers explained the consultation process and provided some background information about the housing development. The group discussed the capacities of local primary schools, and the pupils agreed that opening a new school would be a good idea as there are not enough places available at local primary schools. Officers then explained the difference between English-medium and Welsh-medium schools and outlined the reasons for the new school being an English-medium provision. The following table shows questions the pupils asked throughout the session:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
<b>Which other schools have you spoken to about the proposal?</b>	We offered to meet with Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Alway Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd and Llanwern High School. Up to now, we have met with Milton Primary School and Llanwern High School.
<b>Why don't you build a Welsh-medium school and an English-medium school on the site?</b>	Unfortunately, there is not enough room on the site for two schools.
<b>Will you build another high school?</b>	No, there are no plans to build another high school. The Great Milton Park development is within the catchment area for Llanwern High School. There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School, although this will need some improvements. The Council will receive some money from the housing developer to support secondary education provision but there are no plans for this currently.

The pupils were given the opportunity to complete hard copies of the Consultation Response Pro-forma during the session. These were completed and the responses have been recorded.

The Council is very grateful to the staff and pupils who took part in these sessions and would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to this consultation process.

## Consultation Responses

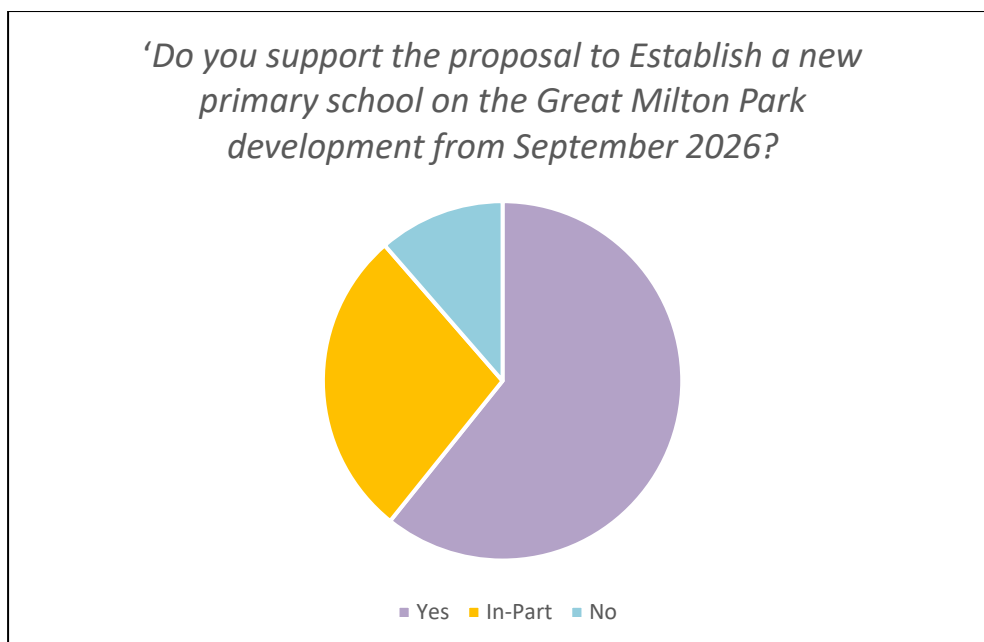
Overall, a total of 81 responses were received during the consultation period. 79 responses were received via the response pro-forma (see Appendix A) by a variety of stakeholders including:

- Parents/Carers
- Residents at the Great Milton Park development
- Newport residents
- Pupils
- Governor of local school

There were also 2 written responses, received from a Teachers' Trade Union and Estyn (His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales).

The response pro-forma offered the opportunity for respondents to answer the following direct question in relation to the proposal:

*'Do you support the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026?'*



48 out of 79 respondents (61%) supported the proposal, with the majority of respondents stating that the school is needed on the housing development.

22 out of 79 respondents (28%) supported the proposal in part. The comments raised via these forms have been summarised below, alongside a response from the Council:

Comment	No. of similar comments	Council's Response
There are already other primary schools in close proximity with spaces available.	4	Although there is some surplus capacity within the primary schools nearby (Alway Primary, Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd), this is not sufficient to accommodate all the children likely to emerge from the housing development. Without the new school, children living on the new development might potentially have to attend different primary schools across the local area, causing issues for families.

<p>Establishing a new school may impact funding at other local/nearby primary schools.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>The capital cost is mainly being met by the developer, with a small amount committed by the Council and Welsh Government to support fixtures, fittings and equipment, and meeting net zero carbon targets. The associated revenue costs are included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and will be reviewed annually.</p>
<p>The school will likely be empty for the first few years as children living on the development will already be attending other Primary Schools.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The new school will be established as a growing school to support the growth of the development. Under this model, admission to the school will be capped over the growth period to allow the school to grow with the size of the development. This model has previously been used successfully at Jubilee Park and Glan Llyn primary schools. Both schools were well subscribed from the first year of opening. The school will be fully grown from the start of the sixth year, in September 2031.</p>
<p>The proposed location for the new school will impact on traffic and congestion at the start and end of the school day.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The approved masterplan for the development has always featured a primary school in the proposed location, and the site infrastructure has been developed accordingly, with permeability throughout to encourage active travel. The Council encourages and expects the majority of pupils attending the school to use active travel options.</p>
<p>The school site should be arranged so that it doesn't affect residents' outlook, and that noise pollution to neighbours is minimised.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The school will be set out to maximise use of the available space on a sloping site. The sports court and pitch will feature acoustic barrier fencing to reduce noise.</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to investing in additional secondary provision to serve the local area as the new housing developments are not yet well served in terms of adequate transport links to either Llanwern High or Lliswerry High.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The new primary school will be within the Llanwern High School cluster. Llanwern High School currently has 27.5% surplus places. The Council will receive money (Section 106 funding) from the housing developer to increase and improve secondary facilities in the area and to accommodate the additional pupils coming from the housing development. There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School which will need improvements.</p>



Extra school places are needed on the Glan Llyn development as new residents cannot get their children into the local primary school as it is full.	1	A second primary school will be established on the Glan Llyn development once the 2000th house has been occupied on the site. There are surplus places in nearby schools to accommodate additional pupils in the meantime.
The Council has experienced delays in establishing new schools previously. Is this likely in relation to this proposal?	1	A proposed estimated timeframe for the new school can be found in the consultation document. Work to deliver the new school is currently on track. Delay is a potential risk, and this will be monitored by the Council. Stakeholders will be kept informed on progress at all stages.
The consultation document also does not accurately describe the provision that will be available for children with additional needs.	1	This has been reviewed and the description in the consultation document concerning access to ALN class bases has been confirmed as accurate.

9 out of 79 respondents (11%) did not support the proposal. The comments raised via these forms have been summarised, together with a response from the Council as follows:

<b>Comment</b>	<b>No. of similar comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
The new school will impact on the privacy and outlook of local residents, increase traffic congestion and cause issues with illegal parking .	3	The location of the proposed school was included on all of Redrow's development site plans which would have been available to residents before they purchased their home. Privacy and the visual impact of the development will be taken into account as part of the planning application process. The approved masterplan for the development has always featured a primary school in the proposed location, and the site infrastructure has been developed accordingly with permeability throughout to encourage active travel. The Council expects pupils to consider active travel options.
The establishment of a brand new school will have an impact on other local schools where buildings are older and in a poorer condition.	1	The new school will be established on a growing school basis to support the growing Great Milton Park development. Under this model, admission to the school will be capped over the growth period to allow the school to grow with the size of the development. As a result, there is expected to be very little impact on other schools in the local area.

Rather than building another new primary school, consideration should have been given to increasing and improving provision for secondary age pupils with additional learning needs.	1	As part of the planning permission for the new housing development, the developer is required to provide Newport City Council with a new primary school building.
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The written response received from a School Trade Union included the following comments which are responded to below:

*'We note that no other local authority in Wales funds children to a lesser degree than Newport in terms of delegated school expenditure per pupil (Welsh Government statistical release, October 2024). We are concerned, therefore, about the affordability of the proposal and the potential impact that this will have on per-pupil funding across the city.'*

**Council response:**

**In relation to the statistical release issued by Stats Wales on 'reserves held by schools', whilst Newport is shown as having the lowest delegated school expenditure per pupil in the table, these figures are gross and include the total resources available to schools including the use of reserves which will have an influence on the delegated expenditure per pupil figure.**

**It is important to note that Newport had one of the highest reserves per pupil, at £465 per pupil (5 out of 22) in 23/24 and is currently ranked 18 out of 22 in relation to the delegated school budget per pupil for 24/25.**

*'We note the statement that the "new community-maintained English-medium primary school would not have any staffing implications at this time". We would welcome, however, a statement on the long-term impact of the new school upon (i) the roll at other primaries in Newport and (ii) consequently the impact upon staffing at other schools.'*

**Council response:**

**The opening of the new school is proposed in a phased manner, over a period of six years, to mitigate the risk of a disproportionate number of out-of-catchment pupils being allocated places, at the detriment of other local schools. In the longer term, we anticipate that the school will be fully subscribed, with only in-catchment pupils living on the development securing places. We therefore consider that the proposal will provide a number of job and development opportunities within the city, without detrimentally affecting the staffing levels required at other schools.**

**Estyn's Response**

The full response from Estyn is included at Appendix B of this report. In summary, the response notes that the proposal is likely to at least improve the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Other comments within the report include that:

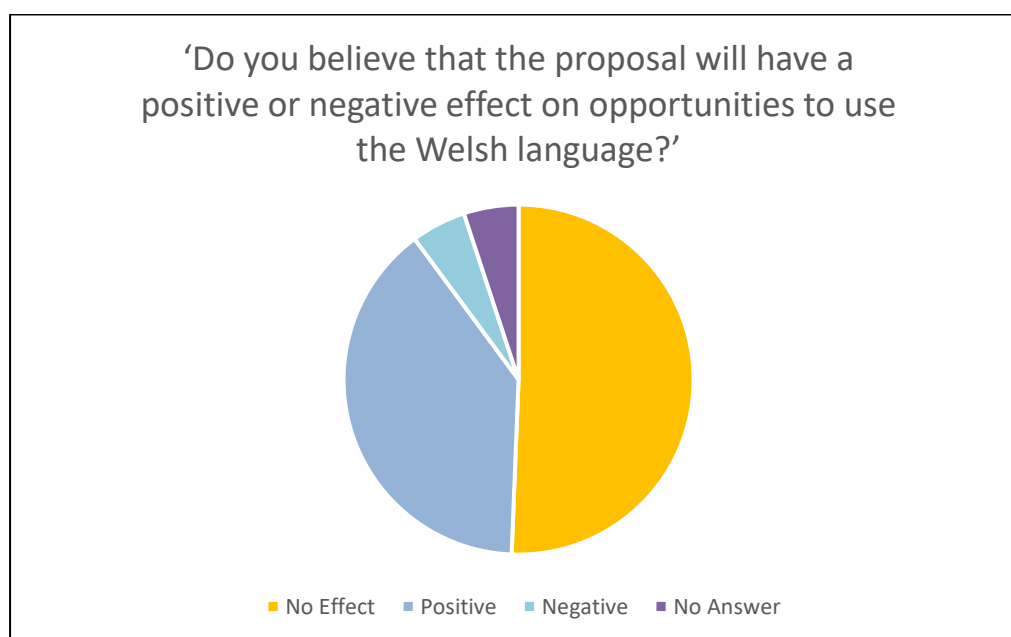
- The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal.
- The local authority provides an appropriately detailed description of the proposal.
- The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages compared to the status quo.
- It is presumed that nearly all of the risks are low impact, and clear and achievable countermeasures are proposed in response to the four possibilities that may arise.
- The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision.
- The local authority has shown the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately.
- The proposal considers the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority.
- The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal.
- The proposal usefully considers the effect of the proposal on quality and standards in education.
- The proposal considers appropriate information from the latest Estyn reports for each school that may be affected either directly or indirectly by the proposal.
- The proposal provides a useful description of its impact on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN).

The response notes that the proposal identifies a few disadvantages to the proposal. However, the response also states that the consultation document includes explanations for the approach being taken.

## Impact on the Welsh language

The consultation response pro-forma also asked respondents to give their views on the likely impact of the proposal on the Welsh language.

*'Do you believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?'*



31 out of 79 respondents (39%) answered 'Positive'. 40 respondents (51%) answered 'No effect', 4 respondents (5%) answered 'Negative', and 4 respondents (5%) did not answer.

In response to the question 'Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?', 19 out of 79 respondents (24%) answered 'Yes'. No further comments were received.

## Assessment of the Proposal

Following the public consultation period, the Council maintains the view that the proposal is still the preferred option over the alternative options available when considering the establishment of a primary school on the Great Milton Park development. The options considered are listed below with reasoning as to why they are discounted or preferred.

### **Option 1** - *To establish the school from September 2026 as a Welsh-medium school under a seedling school arrangement.*

This option was discounted due to the close proximity of Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, the fact that Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli is not yet grown to full capacity, and the current number of surplus Welsh-medium primary school places across the city. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

### **Option 2** - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 under a growing school arrangement.*

This is the preferred option. Stakeholders expressed their thoughts around other local schools being nearby with places available. However, there are not enough surplus places within any one of the primary schools nearby (Alway Primary, Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd) to accommodate all children from the housing development. Without the new school, children of families moving to the new development would potentially have to attend different primary schools across the area.

Stakeholders also raised that the new school would likely be empty for the first few years. The new school is being established on a growing school basis to support the growing Great Milton Park development while limiting any detrimental impact on pupil numbers other schools in the local area. This model has previously been used successfully at Jubilee Park and Glan Llyn primary schools.

Stakeholders raised concerns around the potential increase in traffic on the development. All options considered would establish a primary school of the same size, at the same location. Therefore option 2 will not see any more traffic than the other options considered.

Stakeholders commented that the school site should be arranged to minimise noise and consider the outlook for residents. Again, all options considered would establish a primary school of the same size, at the same location. Therefore option 2 will not see any difference in the location/noise level of the school. Traffic, noise and neighbourhood impact considerations are currently being addressed in relation to the planning application for the school.

**Option 3** - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 on a seedling basis, restricted to Nursery, Reception and Year One in the first year, and growing incrementally for the next five years.*

This was discounted due to the increased possibility of siblings being unable to attend the same school. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

**Option 4** - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 to full 1.5 form entry capacity arrangements.*

This was discounted due to the fact that it would not meet the needs of the local community in the medium to long term. This would pose additional risk as places at the school could be taken by children who live outside of the catchment area, resulting in the possibility of more traffic around the development. There could also be some disruption to other schools if large numbers of pupils elect to move to the new school. Some classes could be difficult to resource if a significant number of places remain vacant across certain year groups. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

**Option 5** - *To defer establishing the new school until the housing development is fully complete.*

This was discounted due to the fact that it would not meet the needs of the local community in the short term. If the school didn't open until 2038, an estimated 330 pupils would need to find school places in the local area. Children of families moving to the new development would most likely have to attend different primary schools. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

To conclude, after re-considering all options, the preferred option is option 2, which is to establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 under a growing school arrangement.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that permission be sought to move this proposal forward by publishing a statutory notice. This decision will be referred to the Cabinet Member for Education & Early Years and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

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In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2018) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at <https://www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/proposals-and-consultations>

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Information and Development Officer on 01633 656656 or email [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk)

## Appendix A - Consultation Response Pro-forma

**This response relates to the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026.**

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by completing this questionnaire online at [www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/proposals-and-consultations](http://www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/proposals-and-consultations). Alternatively, you can complete this form and return it to the Education Information and Development Officer, Newport City Council, Room 425W, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR or email your response to [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk)

**The closing date for the submission of responses to this consultation is midnight on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.** Please note that negative responses made to this consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, they will be recorded as adverse comments. Objections can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice.

### 1) Do you support the proposal to:

Establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026.

Yes  No  In part

**Please use the box below to provide comments or explain which element of the proposal you do/do not support.**

The Council has a duty to consider and identify all the possible effects a policy decision may have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

### 2) Do you believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?

Positive  Negative  No effect

### 3) If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?

**4) Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?**

Yes  No

**Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent/carer of a child attending a local nursery)**

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<b>Please select your Ethnic group</b>			
White British		Asian-Bangladeshi	
White Irish		Asian-Indian	
Any other White background (please state): _____		Asian-Pakistani	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Any other Asian background	
White and Asian		Black Caribbean	
White and Black African		Black African	
White and Black Caribbean		Any other Black background	
Any other Mixed background (please state): _____		Arab	
Asian-Bangladeshi		Chinese	
Asian-Indian		Any other ethnic group (please state): _____	
Asian-Pakistani		Prefer not to say	

<b>Welsh language</b>			
<b>Do you consider yourself a Welsh speaker?</b>			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say

<b>Caring Responsibilities</b>			
<b>Do you care for children of school age?</b>			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say
<b>Do you care for children of pre-school age?</b>			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say
<b>Do you care for a dependent adult or child above school age?</b>			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say

If you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report, please supply your contact details:

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B – Estyn’s Response

### Estyn’s response to the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026

#### Introduction

This report has been prepared by His 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 acting 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.

The proposal is to establish a new English-medium community-maintained primary school on the new Great Milton Park housing development from September 2026.

#### Summary / Conclusion

Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least improve the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

#### Description and benefits

The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal, which is to establish a new 3-11 English-medium primary school on the Great Milton Park housing development in the Llanwern area of Newport. A new 1.5 form school will be acquired from the housing developer as part of the agreement with the council to meet the needs of the local community. Over time, this means that 45 places will be available for each year group. It will also be possible to offer places for 48 Nursery pupils between two morning and afternoon sessions by the time the school grows with the size of the development. It proposes that this development will increase the number of primary school places in this area of the city over a specified period.

The local authority provides an appropriately detailed description of the proposal. It also provides an expected timetable for statutory procedures. It proposes that a new English-medium community-maintained school will open in September 2026 under a ‘growing school’ arrangement to support the growing housing development. It appears that the new school will be fully operational from September 2031 for pupils aged 3-11.

The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages compared to the status quo. One of the main advantages is that opening a new school as a ‘growing school’ allows it to grow in size as the population of the development increases. By implementing this model, it is possible to mitigate the risk of a lack of places available for children who move to the catchment area at a later date, meaning that they would be forced to attend other schools across the city. As a result, the school’s capacity will increase incrementally over a six-year period. By 2031/32, it is anticipated that the school will have 315 pupils, and the school will have reached its capacity. Another advantage is that additional school places will be created across all year groups. This, in turn, will support families moving to the area who may have more than one child of primary school age. The number of staff will also increase over time which, in turn, provides stable, phased recruitment opportunities. The school will grow in line with the population of the development and will ensure that places are available for families who move during the final stages of the



housing development. It appears that this proposal will have a positive effect on the number of pupils who attend Llanwern High School, as the size of the cluster's Year 6 cohort will eventually increase by up to 45 pupils.

The proposal identifies a few disadvantages to the proposal, namely the possibility that some families who move to the development may have to wait until the beginning of the following academic year before their children can join the school. It appears that if the school has a reduced published admission number, pupils who live outside the school's catchment area can still apply for a place at the school and may be successful. The new school will not meet the needs of families moving to the development who want Welsh education for their children. As a result, it appears that the proposal does not contribute purposefully to the council's plans to increase Welsh-medium education provision throughout Newport, as outlined in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The council acknowledges that opening this new school as an English school does not provide this development with equal access to Welsh medium education. However, families living in the new development who choose Welsh-medium education will be approximately 1.2 miles from their Welsh medium catchment primary school, namely Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd.

It is presumed that nearly all of the risks are low impact, and clear and achievable countermeasures are proposed in response to the four possibilities that may arise. The local authority has considered five other options, outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each option clearly. As one of the options, deferring the establishment of the new school until the new housing development is completed in full is considered. However, it states that this proposal would not meet the needs of the local community in the short term.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision. It appears that most of the homes within the development will be closer to the new on-site school than to any other primary school. The next nearest schools are Milton (0.6 miles), Ringland (1.2 miles) and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd (1.2 miles). As a result, it appears that attending the new school will be the most convenient option for families living at the new housing development. Free home-to-school transport is provided for all pupils who live 2 miles or more from their catchment area school and this proposal will not affect the arrangement. The availability of home-to-school walking routes will be maintained.

The local authority has shown the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately. As the new housing development continues to grow in size, there will be surplus places available at the school until 2037-2038. After that, it is anticipated that there will not be enough space available for pupils as the school will have reached its capacity. The proposer has identified a risk of the possibility that the school will not receive enough applications in the first year. Opening as a 'growing school' will enable mixed-age classes to operate during the first year. In addition, the school will grow in line with the population of the development. As a result, it appears that leaders will manage class sizes sensibly to support the school's staffing and budget. It is likely that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on other schools in Newport. However, there are four schools within 2 miles of the new development, and they are defined in Newport City's Council's home-to-school transport policy as having safe walking routes. The proposal is also likely to increase the demand for places at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, as the number of families living within the catchment area of this school will increase.

The proposal considers the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority. It appears that the proposal to open the new school as a school in language category 1, namely English-medium, will not have a detrimental effect on Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. This is because there are currently a significant number of Welsh-medium places across the city. It appears that families living at the new development will be able to

access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. The proposal states that the new school will not support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan directly. However, Ysgol Nant Gwenlli will be moving to a larger site in 2025, which will enable the school to grow to a 2-form entry. As a result, it appears that alternative options are being considered to increase the number of Welsh-medium education places available across the city from 2026 onwards, in line with the council's WESP commitment. The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal. The capital cost of the new building appears to be around £9m and will be paid for by the housing developer and Newport City Council, with support from the Welsh Government. It is possible that there will be an increase in staff costs throughout the whole authority through the creation of a new school and a headteacher will need to be appointed before the school's opening date to support the initial set-up. Newport City Council appears to have a policy of awarding a sum of £35,000 to any newly established school. The recurring costs associated with the staffing and running of the school will also be met by Newport City Council.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal usefully considers the effect of the proposal on quality and standards in education. It is unlikely that the proposal will have any impact on the quality and standards of teaching and learning at any of the other primary schools within the Llanwern High School cluster. Teaching and learning experiences will continue to follow Curriculum for Wales, with English as the language of teaching and learning. In terms of well-being and attitudes to learning, the construction of the new primary school is likely to enable children to attend school in their local community. It is also likely to have a positive effect on their teaching and learning experiences as they attend a new school building with a learning environment and range of facilities of a high standard. It states further that the proposal will not affect well-being and attitudes to learning at any other schools.

It is unlikely that there will not be any change in terms of support, care and guidance. In terms of leadership and management, it appears that there will be no change in leadership and management at any other school. It appears that the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority and the Education Achievement Service to ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.

The proposal considers appropriate information from the latest Estyn reports for each school that may be affected either directly or indirectly by the proposal. Newport appears to have a positive track record of establishing new primary schools that provide good standards, with each having received a positive inspection or an invitation to prepare good practice case studies from Estyn since October 2022.

The proposal provides a useful description of its impact on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN). It appears that there will be a specific additional learning needs class that provides places for 10 pupils between 3-11 years old with additional learning needs, specifically for supporting pupils diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school is likely to be completely accessible for pupils with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, which promotes the sense of establishing an inclusive learning community purposefully. It is possible that, following a period of targeted support for individual pupils based on their needs, the intention is to reintegrate them into mainstream classes. A good range of specialist resources and facilities will be provided, for example a therapy and hygiene room, a lift and accessible toilets and showers. It appears that this proposal will not have any adverse effect on existing special educational provision across the city.