

Appendix A: Community Impact Assessment

This Community Impact Assessment is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018). It is to be read alongside the Consultation Document, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and the Equality Impact Assessment as the information contained within all documents is related and the themes within them are cross-cutting.

SECTION 1 – PROPOSAL DETAILS	
Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.
Service Director:	Andrea Richards.
Service Area:	Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services, 21 st Century Schools Team.
Date:	16.09.2024.
Proposal:	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) wishes to seek the views of stakeholders on the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School by no later than September 2025.
Overview of the proposal:	<p>The proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School by no later than September 2025. It is proposed that Trallwng Infants' School will close with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School by no later than September 2025.</p> <p>The proposal is made in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>. Section 2.1 of the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u> refers to elements of school organisation that require the publication of proposals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closing of a maintained school.
Catchment changes:	Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides provision for year 3 to 6 for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School.
Outline where delivery of this proposal is affected by legislation or other drivers such as code of practice:	<p>Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013</u>. • The WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>.

	Council's must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the <u>School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013</u> , act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u> and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it.																																			
Consultation dates:	The consultation for the proposal will start on Monday 30 th September 2024 and will be completed at 17:00 on Friday 15 th November 2024. The Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed stakeholders. This Community Impact Assessment is an Appendix of the Consultation Document.																																			
Community engagement:	Members of the community wishing to find out more about the proposal can attend a public drop in session where they can provide feedback to Council representatives. These engagement events will be held at on Monday 4 th November 2024 between 15:30 to 17:30 at both Trallwng Infants School and Coedpenmaen Primary School.																																			
SECTION 2 – DATA																																				
Trend data:	<p>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data for 2024 indicates that there are 50 statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School. The table that follows outlines the pupil numbers at Trallwng Infants' School over the previous five academic years. The number of nursery age pupils for each academic year is shown separately, as required by the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="571 790 2004 1133"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School Over the Previous Five Academic Years (PLASC)</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Pupils</th> <th colspan="5">Academic Year</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2019/2020</th> <th>2020/2021</th> <th>2021/2022</th> <th>2022/2023</th> <th>2023/2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Statutory School Age Pupils</td> <td>75</td> <td>73</td> <td>69</td> <td>63</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursery Age Pupils</td> <td>30</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>19</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>105</td> <td>95</td> <td>85</td> <td>82</td> <td>71</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The data demonstrates that between the academic years 2019/2020 and 2023/2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School has decreased by 33.3% (25) from 75 to 50. 	Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School Over the Previous Five Academic Years (PLASC)						Pupils	Academic Year					2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Statutory School Age Pupils	75	73	69	63	50	Nursery Age Pupils	30	22	16	19	21	Total	105	95	85	82	71
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Projection data:

The table that follows outlines the projected pupil numbers at Trallwng Infants' School over the future five academic years. They are calculated in accordance with the guidance issued by the WG and are based on live birth data for the area.

Projected Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)									
Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year						Surplus Capacity in 2028 / 2029	
		Actual	Projections						
		2023 / 2024 PLASC	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%
Statutory School Age Pupils	105	50	49	48	50	49	48	57	45.7%
Nursery Age Pupils	N/A	21	17	20	19	17	15	N/A	N/A
Total	140	71	66	68	69	66	63		

The data demonstrates that by the academic year 2028/2029:

- There will be 45.7% (57) statutory school age surplus capacity at Trallwng Infants' School.

Proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school:

At present, there are 50 statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School. 60.0% (30) of which live within the catchment area.

Proportion of pupils from outside the catchment area that attend the school:

At present, there are 50 statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School. 40.0% (20) of which live outside the catchment area.

SECTION 3 – OTHER FACILITIES OR SERVICES THAT THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATES

Information about other facilities or

Childcare

<p>services that the school accommodates e.g. youth club, play group, school groups, community library etc.:</p>	<p>There are currently no childcare providers co-located at either Trallwng Infants School or Coedpenmaen Primary School.</p> <p>Breakfast Club Trallwng Infants School and Coedpenmaen Primary School both run a breakfast club. The breakfast clubs operating in both schools are very popular with an average of 19* and 43* pupils respectively receiving a breakfast every day. <i>*Figures based on average daily attendances this term. .</i></p> <p>Should the proposal proceed, the breakfast club at Coedpenmaen Primary School will remain and be made available to those pupils from Trallwng Infants School.</p> <p>Extra-curricular Activities Over the course of the academic year Coedpenmaen Primary School runs extra-curricular activities including sports clubs, a film club, arts and crafts, coding, mindfulness, geometry and more.</p> <p>At Trallwng Infants School extra-curricular activities include gardening club, cooking club, STEM club and sports club.</p> <p>Should the proposal proceed, the extra-curricular activities run at Coedpenmaen Primary School will continue to be delivered and be made available to those pupils from Trallwng Infants School.</p> <p>The provision of extra-curricular activities is the responsibility of the individual schools and whilst extra-curricular activities are important, it should be noted that they are not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>Local Community and Third Party Use Local community and third party use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. There is a Coedpenmaen Community Cupboard at the entrance of the school where any members of the community, school or visitors can take what they need - food/toiletries/school uniform and clothes.</p> <p>The school also has links with a number of community groups and organisations who regularly attend the school such as PONT charity, St Catherines Church, Coedpenmaen Church and Women’s Aid to name a few.</p>
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	<p>Trallwng Infants school also use Coedpenmaen Primary's school field for their sports day and other events.</p> <p>Should the proposal proceed, the local community of Trallwng Infant's School, parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School and pupils of Trallwng Infant's School could benefit from this.</p>
<p>If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where they would be provided in the event of a closure:</p>	<p>Local community and third party use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. Third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, the local community of Trallwng Infant's School, parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School and pupils of Trallwng Infant's School could benefit from this.</p>
<p>SECTION 4 – OTHER FACILITIES IN THE IMMEDIATE, LOCAL AND WIDER COMMUNITY</p>	
<p>Whether other facilities available in the immediate local or wider community will or could be enhanced in the event of a school closure e.g. improvements to village halls, playgrounds, provision of holiday play schemes etc.:</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides provision for year 3 to 6 for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School, located just 0.2 miles apart. As such, pupils attending both schools would have access to the same facilities in both the immediate local and wider community.</p>
<p>SECTION 5 – TRANSPORT/ACTIVE TRAVEL</p>	
<p>Impact on health and wellbeing e.g. if pupils would be less able to walk or cycle to school:</p>	<p>There is a statutory duty placed on all Councils in Wales to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond safe 'walking distance' to that school. The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided mainstream primary school, secondary school or special school/class as appropriate. The law relating to safe 'walking distance' is</p>

defined as two miles for pupils of statutory school age receiving primary education and three miles for pupils of statutory school age (year 7 to 11) receiving secondary education.

RCTCBC has exercised the discretionary powers afforded to it under the provision of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to make a more generous provision to pupils. Following a recent public consultation exercise initiated by RCTCBC's Cabinet, in relation to a proposed new Home to School Transport Policy for RCTCBC, the information set below is the relevant information in relation to Trallwng Infants' School Coedpenmaen Primary School:

- The eligibility criteria for walking distance for pupils of statutory school age receiving primary education at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1½ miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
- Free transport to their nearest suitable school, where places are available, is provided to pupils who meet the 1½ mile eligibility criteria from the start of Foundation Phase, rather than from the start of statutory school as required by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
- The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate.

Further information in relation to the RCTCBC's Home to School transport provision can be viewed and downloaded from RCTCBC's website via:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/SchoolandCollegeTransport/SchoolandCollegeTransport.aspx>

There is approximately 0.2 miles between Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School, and all pupils live within the 1.5 mile distance allowed within the home to school transport eligibility criteria listed above. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Trallwng Infants' School to walk to Coedpenmaen Primary School. As such, no pupils in the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' Primary School will be entitled to free home to school transport.

Pupils who currently attend Trallwng Infants School would still be able to scoot, cycle or walk to Coedpenmaen Primary School, where there are safe cycle storage facilities to further encourage active

	<p>travel. Coedpenmaen Primary School has an Active Travel School Plan in place to encourage active and more sustainable methods of transport. This would be reviewed in light of any catchment changes.</p> <p>The Active Travel Act makes direct links with Active Travel and well-being. Active travel contributes towards meeting the Well-being of Future Generations Act as it:</p> <p><i>'Makes Wales healthier by encouraging physical activity which helps prevent disease such as diabetes type 2. Displacing car journeys also has significant impacts on air quality. Active travel contributes to a more equal Wales by providing an affordable alternative to motorised travel. Almost a quarter of Welsh households do not have access to a car.'</i></p> <p><i>'Increased levels of walking and cycling lead to a greater level of social interaction creating greater cohesion in our communities.'</i></p>
<p>Information about any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions:</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>There is approximately 0.2 miles between Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School, and all pupils live within the 1.5 mile distance allowed within the home to school transport eligibility criteria listed above. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Trallwng Infants' School to walk to Coedpenmaen Primary School. As such, no pupils in the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' Primary School will be entitled to free home to school transport.</p> <p>In terms of public transport, there is a public transport service bus which runs regularly. The bus stops are in very close proximity to Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School. However, the cost and operation of the public transport in the area is not within the remit of RCTCBC to manage.</p>
<p>SECTION 6 – IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING</p>	
<p>Information on the impact on health and wellbeing:</p>	<p>Pupils</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed changes will not have a long term, adverse impact on pupils and it should be noted at this point in the consultation process that RCTCBC considers the overall impact on pupils of the proposal is determined to be positive.</p> <p>Understandably, some pupils may initially be daunted at the prospect of moving to a new school on a new site. However, should the proposal proceed, there will be targeted support for all pupils from Trallwng</p>

Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School. Meaningful and positive transition is an integral part of ensuring that pupils settle into their new school setting with little disruption to their wellbeing and education. This is supported by providing effective pastoral and academic support and structured opportunities for pupils to become familiar with the new school environment and staff.

Advice and support will be provided by RCTCBC to staff from Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen School to ensure that the transition process is as smooth and seamless as possible.

Any proposals involving school reorganisation will inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty, although experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum through meaningful engagement throughout the consultation process, and if a decision is made to proceed with the proposal, during the implementation phase.

That table that follows outlines the benefits of the proposal:

Benefits
Consistent culture, ethos and vision of school improvement adopted from nursery to year 6 with consistent pedagogical approaches adopted.
Seamless transition and greater continuity of teaching and learning given that education will be accessed on one site with one team of school-based staff.
Parents/carers will become familiar with one set of policies, developing a close working partnership between school and families with a shared understanding of aspirations and expectations for teaching and learning, and all school related matters.
More capacity to target resources to support both vulnerable and more able pupils who require additional academic challenge or support.
Potential for financial savings in terms of services which accrue within a larger school will be realised, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils.
Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group.
Greater opportunities for progression and professional development for all staff within a larger school environment.

Greater capacity to support the development of middle and senior leaders in their strategic knowledge and understanding of effective school improvement strategies.

Greater opportunities for peer mentoring and coaching, using older pupils in years 5 and 6 to support development, knowledge and understanding in areas such as literacy, numeracy, ITC etc.

Proposal addresses the diminishing pupil number and surplus capacity in two school settings and provides a sustainable and financially viable proposal.

Less demand on staff as responsibilities for developing the Areas of Learning and Experience, as part of the Curriculum for Wales, and ALN statutory obligations, will be shared.

Staff

Should the proposal proceed, it is our intention to recommend to the Governing Body of Coedpenmaen Primary School that any additional posts required as a result of increased pupil numbers, below senior leadership level, are ringfenced to the existing staff employed at Trallwng Infants' School, in the first instance. This process means that staff at Trallwng Infants' School would be given the first opportunity to apply for additional posts in Coedpenmaen Primary School, prior to any posts being advertised externally. If they are successful, they would then simply transfer to Coedpenmaen Primary School when the proposal is implemented. RCTCBC has well established HR policies and procedures that give reassurance to staff and employers about the management of organisational change. RCTCBC's HR Team will visit all staff in Trallwng Infants' School and make them aware of the processes that may follow and the operational and personal support that is on offer.

RCTCBC considers that providing education for pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School in Coedpenmaen Primary School, amongst other benefits, would offer:

- Greater opportunities for progression and professional development for all staff which are created within a 3 to 11 primary school environment.
- Less demand on staff as responsibilities for developing the Areas of Learning and Experience, as part of the Curriculum for Wales, and ALN statutory obligations, will be shared.

Parents/Carers

Parent/carer use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. Parents/carers are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed,

	<p>current pupils and parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School could benefit from this.</p> <p>Local Community Local community and third party use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. Third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, current pupils and parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School could benefit from this.</p>
SECTION 7 – COMMUNITY SAFETY	
Information on wider community safety issues:	<p>Local community and third party use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. Third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, current pupils and parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School could benefit from this.</p> <p>The existing relationships that Trallwng Infants School and Coedpenmaen Primary School have with the South Wales Police and the Police Community Support Officer will continue.</p>
SECTION 8 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY IMPACT	
	<p>Whilst there is an acknowledgement that the closure of Trallwng Infants School will be emotional and the loss of the school will be felt by the local community , RCTCBC considers the overall community impact of the proposal to be positive.</p> <p>Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides provision for year 3 to 6 for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants’ School.</p> <p>Local community and third party use of Coedpenmaen Primary School is actively encouraged. Third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, current pupils and parents/carers of pupils attending Trallwng Infants School could benefit from this.</p>
SECTION 9 – AUTHORISATIONS	
Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.
Position	21 st Century Schools Business and School Organisation Manager.
Date:	16.09.2024.
Recommendations:	Recommendations

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Recommendation</td> <td>Cross Relevant Recommendation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is implemented with no amendments.</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the community.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Recommendation	Cross Relevant Recommendation	Is implemented with no amendments.	X	Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined.		Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the community.	
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Head of Service/Director:	Andrea Richards.								
Position:	Service Director – 21 st Century Schools and Transformation.								
Date:	16.09.2024.								
Please submit this Community Impact Assessment with and SLT/Cabinet Reports.									
SECTION 10 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW									
Monitoring and Review:	Should the proposal proceed, the impact upon the community will be continuously monitored and reviewed as it progresses.								
SECTION 11 – UPDATES TO COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CONSULTATION									
Date:									
Update:									