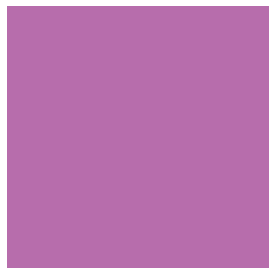
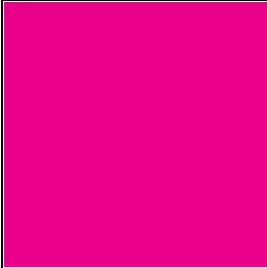


# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS



## **CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO CLOSE TRALLWNG INFANTS' SCHOOL WITH PUPILS TRANSFERRING TO COEDPENMAEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Consultation Document and Appendices are also available on the 'Get Involved' page on Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's website.

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg/This document is available in Welsh.

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## Introduction

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.

The proposal is made in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018). Section 2.1 of the WG's School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018) refers to elements of school organisation that require the publication of proposals, including:

- The closing of a maintained school.

## Consultees

We are seeking the views of the following stakeholders:

- The Governing Bodies of:
  - Trallwng Infants' School.
  - Coedpenmaen Primary School.
- Parents/carers, prospective parents/carers (where possible), and staff members of:
  - Trallwng Infants' School.
  - Coedpenmaen Primary School.
- Pupils of:
  - Trallwng Infants' School.
  - Coedpenmaen Primary School.
- Neighbouring Councils.
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities.
- Welsh Ministers.
- Members of the Senedd for the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf constituencies and regional Members of the Senedd for the area.
- Members of Parliament for the Rhondda, Cynon, and Taf constituencies
- Estyn.
- Teaching and staff trade unions.
- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service.
- Police and Crime Commissioner for the area.
- Childcare providers.
- Mudiad Meithrin.
- Menter Iaith.
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- Children and Young People's Partnership.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.
- Welsh Language Commissioner.
- Pontypridd Town Council.

## **Consultation Process**

The consultation will start on Monday September 30th, 2024, and will be completed at 17:00 on Friday November 15th, 2024. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and it is anticipated a Consultation Report will be presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet during December 2024. This Consultation Report will be available for all persons to view on RCTCBC's website, and copies can be obtained on request from the address detailed on page 5 of this Consultation Document.

RCTCBC's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report and decide, based on the feedback, whether to proceed with the proposal, amend the proposal or not proceed with the proposal. If RCTCBC's Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of the proposal.

If RCTCBC's Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal can do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections **must** be made in writing or by email, and sent to RCTCBC within 28 days of the date on which the Statutory Notice was published.

RCTCBC's Cabinet will consider the outcome of the Statutory Notice at the next available Cabinet meeting and determine the proposal.

If there are objections, RCTCBC's Director of Education and Inclusion Services will publish an Objection Report providing a summary of the objections and the response to them within seven days of the determination of the proposal. This Objection Report will also be available for all persons to view on RCTCBC's website, and copies can be obtained on request from the address detailed on page 5 of this Consultation Document.

If RCTCBC's Cabinet approve the proposal, it will be implemented in accordance with the date stated in the Statutory Notice or any subsequently modified date.

## **What to Consider?**

The remainder of this Consultation Document sets out the rationale for the proposal. We would like you to consider the information and to hear your views as to whether you support the proposal.

## **Making your Views Known**

Face to face meetings will be arranged with School Councils, Governing Bodies and staff and the wider community as set out in the table that follows:

<b>Making your Views Known</b>			
<b>School(s) Affected</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Time/Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>School Council</b>			
Trallwng Infants' School.	School Council.	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 14:00.	Trallwng Infants' School.
Coedpenmaen Primary School.	School Council.		Coedpenmaen Primary School.
<b>Governing Body and Staff</b>			
Trallwng Infants' School.	Governing Body and Staff	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 15:45.	Trallwng Infants' School.
Coedpenmaen Primary School.	Governing Body and Staff	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 15:45.	Coedpenmaen Primary School.
<b>Public Drop in Session</b>			
Parents/carers and members of the local community.		Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 15:30 to 17:30.	Trallwng Infants' School.
			Coedpenmaen Primary School.

A Consultation Response Form is attached on page 31 of this Consultation Document. The Consultation Response Form will also be available at the meetings detailed in the previous table and on RCTCBC's website on the 'Get Involved' page.

The Consultation Response Form enables consultees to indicate if they wish to be notified of the publication of the Consultation Report, once presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet.

Consultees are also welcomed to put their views, comments, and any questions in writing to:

Director of Education and Inclusion Services 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Valleys Innovation Centre Navigation Park Abercynon CF45 4SN	<b>OR</b>	<a href="mailto:schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk">schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk</a>
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**All correspondence should be received no later than 17:00 on Friday November 15th, 2024.**

Please note that responses to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal unless expressly requested. Objections can only be forwarded following the publication of the Statutory Notice.

## **Views of Children and Young People**

RCTCBC has acknowledged that the voice of children and young people is important, and they must be involved as active participants in the development, delivery, management, and improvement of their educational experience.

Children and young people have a right to express their views in all matters affecting them and for their views to be heard and considered in accordance with their age and maturity. As such, RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team will ensure that suitable arrangements are made to involve children and young people as active participants throughout this consultation process, and if a decision is made to progress the proposal, throughout the implementation process.

RCTCBC will consult with the children and young people who attend:

- Trallwng Infants' School
- Coedpenmaen Primary School.

This will be done by meeting with the School Councils/pupils of:

- Trallwng Infants' School.
- Coedpenmaen Primary School.

To discuss the proposal. These consultation sessions will have the support of school based specialist staff to support pupils and assist with the engagement process. Feedback from these meetings will be collated and summarised, and a Consultation Report will be presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet for consideration once the consultation period has ended.

## **Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments**

As set out in the WG's School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018), it is a requirement to publish Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments. These have been produced and are appended to this Consultation Document, they are also available to read on the RCTCBC website:

- Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment.
- Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment.
- Appendix C – Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

## Section One – Background to the Proposal

### Where are we now... Trallwng Infants' School

Trallwng Infants' School is a 3 to 7 English medium Infants' school located on Bonvilston Road, Trallwng, Pontypridd, with a capacity for 105 statutory school age (reception to year two) infant pupils. Pupils transition to Coedpenmaen Primary School at year 3.

Trallwng Infants' School was constructed circa. 1904. The pedestrian access gates are located off Bonvilston Road and Thurston Road to the rear. There is no vehicle access to the school site, although double gates are located off Bonvilston Road and the lane of Bonvilston Road provide access for service/emergency vehicles. The school is comprised of one main building, with a boiler room in the basement and an external brick built store room. The main building is comprised of a teaching block with school administration, reception and a non-production kitchen. Over the last few years grant funding has been invested at the school to improve the kitchen facilities there to enable the roll out of Welsh Government's statutory Universal Free School Meals initiative (UFSM). In addition, improvements to other areas of the school including staff and admin areas, toilets and the creation of a sensory room has also recently been implemented.

According to the property condition survey carried out by RCTCBC in April 2022, Trallwng Infants' School is graded C for condition and C for suitability, where A is the highest and D is the lowest performing building, respectively.

The backlog maintenance figure for Trallwng Infants' School is circa. £227,760. This figure represents the total cost of all maintenance work identified as being required. It does not include costs of further improvements to enable Trallwng Infants' School to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century schools' standards.

The site itself and the school building does not fully comply with the Equality Act 2010.



*External view of Trallwng Infants' School.*

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data for 2024 indicates that there were 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 School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018).

<b>Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School Over the Previous Five Academic Years (PLASC)</b>					
<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Academic Year</b>				
	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>Statutory School Age Pupils</b>	75	73	69	63	50
<b>Nursery Age Pupils</b>	30	22	16	19	21
<b>Total</b>	105	95	85	82	71

The data demonstrates that between the academic years 2019/2020 and 2023/2024:

- The number of statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School decreased by 33.3% (25) from 75 to 50.
- The total number of pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School decreased by 32.3% (34) from 105 to 71.

Out of the 50 statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School, 40.0% (20) live out of catchment. The table that follows outlines the number of statutory school age pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School by their catchment primary school.

<b>Number of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Trallwng Infants' School by Catchment School (PLASC)</b>		
<b>Catchment Primary School</b>	<b>Number of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Trallwng Infants' School</b>	<b>Percentage of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Trallwng Infants' School</b>
Cefn Primary School	2	4.0%
Coedpenmaen Primary School	5	10.0%
Coedylan Primary School	1	2.0%
Craig yr Hesg Primary School	5	10.0%
Cymmer Primary School	1	2.0%
Maesycoed Primary School	2	4.0%
Parc Lewis Primary School	1	2.0%
Trallwng Infants' School	30	60.0%
Trehopcyn Primary School	1	2.0%
Ysgol Afon Wen	1	2.0%
Ysgol Bro Taf	1	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



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

<b>Projected Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)</b>									
<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Academic Year</b>						<b>Surplus Capacity in 2028 / 2029</b>	
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projections</b>						
		<b>2023 / 2024 PLASC</b>	<b>2024 / 2025</b>	<b>2025 / 2026</b>	<b>2026 / 2027</b>	<b>2027 / 2028</b>	<b>2028 / 2029</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Statutory School Age Pupils</b>	105	50	49	48	50	49	48	57	54%
<b>Nursery Age Pupils</b>	N/A	21	17	20	19	17	15		

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

- There will be 54% (57) statutory school age surplus capacity at Trallwng Infants' School.

### **Where we are now...Coedpenmaen Primary School**

Coedpenmaen Primary School is a 3 to 11 English medium primary school located on Coedpenmaen Road, Pontypridd with a capacity for 269 statutory school age pupils.

Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides provision for year 3 to 6 for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School.

Coedpenmaen Primary School was constructed circa. 1875 with a new junior block being constructed in 2008 following a major fire. The main pedestrian access gate and vehicle access is located off Coedpenmaen Close. There are secondary pedestrian gates and vehicle access to the rear staff car park located off Llanover Road. Coedpenmaen Primary School is located within an enclosed area, surrounded by boundaries consisting of stone walling, block walls (rebuilt in 2004) and varying metal railings/fencing. The school building consists of a continuous single block which is split over two levels due to the contour of the site. The building fronting Coedpenmaen Close is an older single storey Victorian building housing administration, classrooms, kitchen and hall. The new rear section houses classrooms and toilets which was constructed after the major fire of 2006. There is a conservatory construction to the side of the Victorian section which is houses the reception class. The playground areas wrap around the school building and are generally comprised of tarmac finish which fall away from the Llanover Road side of the school due to contour of the site – these areas are in general good state of repair.

There nursery area has a soft play top laid in circa 2008. Coedpenmaen Primary School is generally in a good state of repair with minor defects/repairs required in isolated areas. Recent investment in the school has delivered improvements to the teaching and learning areas, as well as external works to develop external teaching areas including the installation of a canopy.

According to the property condition survey carried out by RCTCBC in August 2020, Coedpenmaen Primary School is graded B for condition and B for suitability, where A is the highest and D is the lowest performing building, respectively.

The backlog maintenance figure for Coedpenmaen Primary School is circa. £122,842. This figure represents the total cost of all maintenance work identified as being required. It does not include costs of further improvements to enable Coedpenmaen Primary School to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century schools' standards or to become energy efficient.

The site itself and the school building does not fully comply with the Equality Act 2010 as Coedpenmaen Primary School as a rating of B meaning it is partly compliant.



*External view of Coedpenmaen Primary School.*

PLASC data for 2024 indicates that there were 242 statutory school age pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School. The table that follows outlines the pupil numbers at Coedpenmaen Primary 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 School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018).

<b>Pupil Numbers at Coedpenmaen Primary School Over the Previous Five Academic Years (PLASC)</b>					
<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Academic Year</b>				
	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>Statutory School Age Pupils</b>	252	238	235	233	242
<b>Nursery Age Pupils</b>	12	11	25	15	19

<b>Total</b>	264	249	260	248	261
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The data demonstrates that between the academic years 2019/2020 and 2023/2024:

- The number of statutory school age pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School has decreased by 4.0% (10) from 252 to 242.
- The total number of pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School has remained largely static.

There were 242 statutory school age pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School, 43% (106) of which live out of catchment. The table that follows outlines the number of statutory school age pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School by their catchment primary school.

<b>Number of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Coedpenmaen Primary School by Catchment School (PLASC)</b>		
<b>Catchment Primary School</b>	<b>Number of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Coedpenmaen Primary School</b>	<b>Percentage of Statutory School Age Pupils Attending Coedpenmaen Primary School</b>
No catchment defined	3	1.23%
Blaengwawr Primary School	1	0.41%
Coedpenmaen Primary School	136	57%
Coedylan Primary School	2	0.8%
Craig Yr Hesg Primary School	12	5.0%
Cymmer Primary School	1	0.4%
Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School	1	0.4%
Hafod Primary School	2	0.8%
Maesycod Primary School	7	2.9%
Parc Lewis Primary School	22	9.2%
Penygawsi Primary School	1	0.4%
Porth Community School	1	0.4%
Trallwng Infants' School	17	7.1%
Trehopcyn Primary School	7	2.9%
Treobart Primary School	2	0.8%
Ynyshir Community Primary School	1	0.4%
Ysgol Bro Taf	18	3.3%
Ysgol Afon Wen	8	7.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The table that follows outlines the projected pupil numbers at Coedpenmaen Primary 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 Coedpenmaen Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)									
Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year						Surplus Capacity in 2028 / 2029	
		Actual	Projections						
		2023 / 2024 PLASC	2024 / 2026	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%
Statutory School Age Pupils	269	242	241	232	223	221	222	47	17.5%
Nursery Age Pupils	N/A	19	18	18	17	15	13		
<b>Total</b>	269	261	259	250	240	236	235		

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

- There will be 17.5% (47) statutory school age surplus capacity at Coedpenmaen Primary School.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

In accordance with the WG's School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018), alternative options were identified and consciously considered. Some of the benefits and disadvantages of each of the discounted options are listed in the table that follows.

Option	Benefit	Disadvantages
Retain the status quo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No capital investment required.</li> <li>• No disruption to the pupils, parents/carers and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater flexibility and opportunity for pupils in which they can learn and grow in a larger primary environment will not be achieved.</li> <li>• Potential for financial savings in terms of services which accrue within a larger school, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils will not be achieved.</li> <li>• Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group will not be achieved.</li> </ul>
Federate Trallwng Infants' School and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No capital investment required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for financial savings in terms of</li> </ul>

Option	Benefit	Disadvantages
Coedpenmaen Primary School under one head teacher and one Governing Body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No disruption to the pupils, parents/carers and staff.</li> <li>Consistent pedagogical approaches across the schools.</li> </ul>	<p>services which accrue within a larger school, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils will not be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group will not be achieved.</li> <li>Potential HR issues for school-based staff.</li> <li>Proposal does not address diminishing pupil number and surplus capacity in two school settings.</li> </ul>
Close both Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Infants' School and create a new build primary school on a new site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils, parents/carers and staff are benefit from brand new school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant WG Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme investment required – there is no funding allocated for this.</li> <li>Significant RCTCBC investment required – there is no funding allocated for this.</li> <li>There are no suitable sites available for a new build primary school in the locality of Trallwng Primary School and Coedpenmaen Primary School.</li> </ul>

### **Benefits and Disadvantages, Risks and Mitigation Factors**

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

The benefits and disadvantages of the proposal are highlighted in the table that follows, as is information as to how any identified risks can be mitigated.

<b>Benefits</b>
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.
<b>Disadvantages</b>
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 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.
Understandably, some staff may be concerned. However, 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 human resource (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.
Understandably, there will be a community impact of removing a much valued school. In a small community the loss of a school will be felt proportionately more than in a larger community. However, it is anticipated that the proposed changes will not have a long term, adverse impact and it should be noted at this point in the

consultation process that RCTCBC considers the overall community impact of the proposal is determined to be positive. Nevertheless, RCTCBC acknowledges that it is likely that the closure of Trallwng Infants' School will have an impact on the community and that some will feel this loss. Should the proposal proceed, the existing Trallwng Infants' School site will become redundant. As this is an initial consultation process no decisions have yet been made in respect of the future of this site and building. However, one option, if the site does become surplus, is to consult with the local community to ascertain whether there is a sustainable community need locally that can be successfully delivered and met from this site. This process will be managed in accordance with RCTCBC's Policy on Surplus Land and Buildings.

Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Action(s)
<p><b>Approval</b> – Parents/carers choose to send their children to another primary school.</p>	<p>Low.</p>	<p>Low.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team will ensure that suitable arrangements are made to involve parents/carers and children and young people as active participants throughout this consultation process, and if a decision is made to progress the proposal, throughout the implementation process.</li> <li>• Choosing a school is a parent/carer's choice. Applications will be dealt with in accordance with the <u>WG's School Standards and</u></li> </ul>

			<u>Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.</u>
<b>Increased Traffic</b> – Increased traffic as a result of the proposal.	Low.	Low.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is approximately 0.2 miles between Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School which is under 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' School will be entitled to free home to school transport.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b> – Existing Trallwng Infants' School staff may not be retained following implementation of the proposal.	Medium.	Medium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCTCBC has well established HR policies and procedures that give reassurance to staff and</li> </ul>



			<p>employers about the management of organisational change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Impact</b> – Impact of the proposal on the local community.</p>	Medium.	Medium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should the proposal proceed, the existing Trallwng Infants' School site will become redundant. As this is an initial consultation process no decisions have yet been made in respect of the future of this site and building. However, one option, if the site does become surplus, is to consult with the local community to ascertain whether there is a sustainable community need locally that can be</li> </ul>

			<p>successfully delivered and met from this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As set out in the WG's <u>School Organisation Code</u> (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018), it is a requirement to publish a Community Impact Assessment. This has been produced and is appended to this Consultation Document and is also available on RCTCBC's website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Capacity Pressures</b> Caused by high levels of out of catchment pupils attending Coedpenmaen Primary School.</p>	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strict application of admissions criteria and prioritisation of in-catchment pupils for placement.</li> </ul>

**Where we'd like to be...**

It is being proposed to close Trallwng Infants' School. The pupils of Trallwng Infants' School will instead attend Coedpenmaen Primary School which is the school pupils already transition to in year 3. Should the proposal proceed, pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School will transfer to Coedpenmaen Primary School by no later than September 2025.

RCTCBC's school modernisation programme has been successfully making excellent progress in modernising its school estate, meeting and rationalising demand for school places, delivering efficiencies, and ensuring the education portfolio is in the best possible position to help RCTCBC deliver on its carbon reduction targets. The proposal builds on the successful progress already made. Based on PLASC data for the academic years 2023/2024 the table that follows outlines the combined projected pupil numbers at Coedpenmaen Primary School and Trallwng Infants' School over the future five academic years should the proposal go ahead. They are calculated in accordance with the guidance issued by the WG and are based on live birth data for the area. It

does not reflect the impact that the proposal may have on admissions as a result of the changes.

<b>Combined Projected Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)</b>									
Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year						Surplus Capacity in 2028 / 2029	
		Actual	Projections						
		2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%
<b>Statutory School Age Pupils</b>	269	292	290	280	273	270	270	-1	-0.4
<b>Nursery Age Pupils</b>	N/A	40	35	38	36	32	28	N/A	N/A

Should the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School proceed, the 2023/24 PLASC data demonstrates that:

- At year 1 of opening (2025/26) Coedpenmaen School will be oversubscribed by 11 statutory aged pupils.
- There is a projected year on year reduction in the total pupil numbers.

As with most schools however, the number of pupils on roll is only accurate for a short period of time as in-year transfers are commonplace. As such, and for the purpose of the consultation, the actual number of pupils on roll as of September 2024, plus the pupil projections based on the live data rather than the PLASC combined for both schools, is outlined in the table that follows:

<b>Combined Projected Pupil Numbers at Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years</b>									
Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year					Surplus Capacity in 2028 / 2029		
		Actual	Projections based on live data						
		Sept 2024 - Actual	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%	
<b>Statutory School Age Pupils</b>	269	254	244	240	221	228	41	15.0	
<b>Nursery Age Pupils</b>	N/A	32	33	35	38	41	N/A	N/A	

Should the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School proceed, the live data demonstrates that:

- At year 1 of opening (2025/2026) Coedpenmaen Primary School will have a surplus capacity of 25 statutory aged pupils.
- All pupils transferring from Trallwng Infants' School can be accommodated.

Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides year 3-6 education provision for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School. Relationships between the two schools are well established and this should help to ensure a seamless transition across the settings.

Coedpenmaen Primary School is a 3 to 11 English medium primary school located on Coedpenmaen Road, Pontypridd with a capacity for 269 statutory school age pupils. Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides year 3 to 6 provisions for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School.

The catchment areas of Trallwng Infants' School Coedpenmaen Primary School sit within the larger catchment area of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf (YGG Awel Taf), and as is already the case and in accordance with the WG's School Admissions Code 2013 (05/2013), choosing which school their child attends is a decision for the parent/carer. As such, pupils of Trallwng Infants' School have the option to attend YGG Awel Taf, the local Welsh medium primary school. RCTCBC's Welsh Language Immersion Team provides excellent support for pupils who choose to move into Welsh medium education from the English sector; this provision has proved successful in other schools and will be available for any pupils that wish to utilise it. There is sufficient capacity at YGG Awel Taf for pupils of Trallwng Infants' School who wish to attend Welsh medium primary education instead of continuing with English medium primary education provision at Coedpenmaen Primary School.

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

1. Greater flexibility and opportunity for pupils in which they can learn and grow in a larger educational environment.
2. Potential for financial savings in terms of services which accrue within a larger school, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils.
3. Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group.
4. Greater opportunities for progression and professional development for all staff which are created within a 3 to 11 primary school environment.
5. Seamless transition and greater continuity of learning given that education will be accessed on one site.
6. 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.

### **Additional Learning Needs Provision**

There are no ALN learning support classes (LSCs) at Trallwng Infants' School or Coedpenmaen Primary School. Trallwng Infants' School has three statutory school aged pupils with ALN, whilst Coedpenmaen Primary School has eleven statutory school aged pupils with ALN. Should the proposal proceed, support for pupils

provided by RCTCBC's Access and Inclusion Service Team will continue and will not be affected.

Trallwng Infants' School as a rating of C whilst Coedpenmaen Primary School has been assessed with a rating of B for equality meaning the school is deemed to be more accessible. The ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 requires Councils to keep arrangements for supporting pupils with ALN within their area under review and consider whether they are sufficient. As such, the need for an ALN LSC at Coedpenmaen Primary School will continue to be reviewed.

### **The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan**

All Councils in Wales must produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The WESP is a long term language planning tool which sets the direction for the strategic planning, delivery and growth in Welsh medium and Welsh language education. Through the WESP, and effective strategic planning and investment, RCTCBC aims to contribute significantly to achieving the vision of one million people in Wales being Welsh speakers by 2050 as set out in the WG's Cymraeg 2050. RCTCBC's WESP can be viewed and downloaded from RCTCBC's website via the following link:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/SchoolsandLearning/SchoolAdmissions/relateddocuments/WESPJune2022.pdf>

There are seven outcomes within RCTCBC's WESP which will help RCTCBC to archive the targets set, one of which is:

- More opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in different contexts in school.

RCTCBC aims to embed positive habits and attitudes towards the Welsh language through purposeful planning to promote the informal use the Welsh language amongst pupils inside and outside school. Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School support this aim by participating in initiatives such as 'Cryw Cymraeg,' and both Trallwng Infants' School and Coedpenmaen Primary School encourage pupils to use incidental Welsh wherever possible. Should the proposal proceed, pupils attending Trallwng Infants' School would continue to be encouraged to use the Welsh language.

The catchment areas of Trallwng Infants' School Coedpenmaen Primary School sit within the larger catchment area of YGG Awel Taf), and as is already the case and in accordance with the WG's School Admissions Code 2013 (05/2013), choosing which school their child attends is a decision for the parent/carer. As such, pupils of Trallwng Infants' School have the option to attend YGG Awel Taf, the local Welsh medium primary school. RCTCBC's Welsh Language Immersion Team provides excellent support for pupils who choose to move into Welsh medium education from the English sector; this provision has proved successful in other schools and will be available for any pupils that wish to utilise it. There is sufficient and ample capacity at YGG Awel Taf for pupils of Trallwng Infants' School who wish to attend Welsh medium primary education instead of continuing with English medium primary education provision at Coedpenmaen Primary School.

A Welsh Language Impact Assessment for the proposal has been written and is included within the consultation documentation. This is available on RCTCBC's website.

As set out in the WG's School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018), it is a requirement to publish a Welsh Language Impact Assessment. This has been produced and is appended to this Consultation Document and is also available on RCTCBC's website.

### **Admission Arrangements**

The current and projected surplus capacity at Coedpenmaen Primary School indicates a lack of available space to accommodate the pupils proposed to relocate from Trallwng Infants' School, however only 57% of the statutory school age pupils attending live in catchment (based on PLASC data).

In order to ensure that pupils from Trallwng Infants' School can attend Coedpenmaen Primary School, RCTCBC will strictly apply the admissions criteria, in accordance with the School Admission Code 2013 (005/2013) to manage the allocation of places. This way all in-catchment pupils will be prioritised for placement. However, it will be possible to place at existing pupils from Trallwng Infants' School in Coedpenmaen Primary School.

In the case of oversubscription at any school, published admissions criteria are applied to all applications received for places, to determine which pupils are successful in obtaining the places available. These criteria, which are outlined in RCTCBC's School Admission Policy booklet entitled 'Starting School' are listed in priority order below:

1. Category One – 'Looked after' children (children in public care) and previously 'looked after' children.
2. Category Two – Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending the school from the same address, who will continue to attend that school on the expected date of admission of the younger sibling.
3. Category Three – Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.
4. Category Four – Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending the school from the same address, who will continue to attend that school on the expected date of admission of the younger sibling.
5. Category Five – Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.

The term 'home' in the categories above refers to the actual location of the residential dwelling in which the child lives.

Children will be admitted up to the Published Admission Number in the order of priority as outlined above. If, within any one of the priority categories listed, all applicants cannot be offered a place, preference will be given to children living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured using the shortest, safe walking

route between the home address and the nearest open school gate. In areas where no safe walking route has been identified, the shortest driving route between the home address and the nearest open school gate will be used. This distance will be measured using the 'MapInfo System' only. Measurements calculated by any other system will not be considered. The home address in instances where parents/carers have shared responsibility for children, will be the address to which Child Benefit is paid.

The admission application period for a September 2025 start commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. Any applications for Trallwng Infants' School would automatically transfer to Coedpenmaen Primary School unless parents/carers choose to apply for another school.

## Section Two – The Likely Impact of the Proposal

### Educational Case of the Proposal

The proposal will provide an opportunity to address surplus capacity in two neighbouring schools with declining pupil numbers. There are many benefits from accessing education in a primary school setting for pupils from nursery to year 6, as opposed to education in an infant school setting with transfer to a primary school for the provision of junior aged education. The benefits include:

- Access to a consistent culture, ethos and strategic vision from nursery to year 6, bringing about benefits for pupils, staff, parents and carers.
- The continuity of educational experience offered within one primary setting, will negate the transition dips in pupil performance that are evident at key points. The transition from year 2 to 3 will be smoother for pupils and their families, which is likely to promote an increase in feelings of stability, security and confidence due to the provision of education in one setting.
- The opportunity to provide a bridge between years 2 and 3, and key progression points will create a seamless transition for pupils in terms of curriculum planning and delivery, and approaches to teaching and learning.
- A consistent approach to assessment across all age ranges thus ensuring greater consistency and progression in children's learning along with an increased ability to track long term attainment and progress.
- Introduction of consistent behaviour management strategies across all ages, providing clear expectations and a shared ethos which is understood by all pupils, parents and carers throughout the primary education.
- A 3-11 school will allow all pupils to share the outcomes of their learning over time and access to a nurturing environment where pupils can learn and play together over a longer period of time. This will assist in developing a greater understanding and appreciation of each another's diverse strengths, skills and personalities which should impact positively on social skills and relationship development.
- Parents/carers will become familiar with one set of policies which will foster a close working partnership between school and families and a shared understanding of aspirations and expectations.
- Increased opportunities for existing staff to develop their professional and specialist skills. This will assist with recruitment and retention of staff by providing greater professional opportunities and progression.
- Increasing the range and capacity for extra-curricular/after school clubs.
- The potential for financial savings in terms of services which accrue within a larger school, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils, including the most vulnerable pupils.

It is RCTCBC's view that closing Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School could potentially bring improved investment into the educational opportunities and provision for the pupils of Trallwng Infants' School due to the enhanced resources accessed by larger schools.



As all schools are allocated funding based on the number of pupils they have on roll, larger schools have greater financial flexibility and economies of scale. As Trallwng Infants' School is a small school, it will also face additional pressures as they are not able to benefit from the efficiencies that are often generated in larger schools e.g., a greater number of teachers to share the wide range of roles required i.e., Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO), curriculum leads, attendance, behaviour and safeguarding leads etc.

RCTCBC's school modernisation programme has been successfully making excellent progress in modernising its school estate, meeting and rationalising demand for school places, delivering efficiencies, and ensuring the education portfolio is in the best possible position to help RCTCBC deliver on its carbon reduction targets. The proposal builds on the successful progress already made. Coedpenmaen Primary School is the associated primary school that provides junior aged provision for the catchment area of Trallwng Infants' School.

Pupils in infant schools face a significant transition when moving to junior or primary schools. This change can be disruptive and stressful, as they need to adapt to a new environment, new teachers, and new friendship groups. The transition period can affect a pupil's academic and social and emotional development. Should the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School proceed, the transition from infant school to primary school would be eliminated, providing continuity in primary education provision.

### **Likely Impact on Pupils of the Proposal**

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. 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 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.

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

- Greater flexibility and opportunity for pupils in which they can learn and grow.
- Potential for financial savings in terms of services which accrue within a larger school, which can be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils.
- More opportunities for extra-curricular activities.

- Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group.

The WG and RCTCBC has adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is expressed in seven core aims that all children and young people have a right to:

1. Have a flying start in life.
2. Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.
3. Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation, and exploitation.
4. Have access to play, leisure, sporting, and cultural activities.
5. Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised.
6. Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing.
7. Are not disadvantaged by poverty.

RCTCBC considers that the proposal benefits the children and young people accordance with the seven core aims set out above.

As set out in the WG's School Organisation Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) (011/2018), it is a requirement to publish an Equality Impact Assessment. This has been produced and is appended to this Consultation Document and is also available on RCTCBC's website. Further information relating to the impact of the proposal on pupils, including how the proposal contributes to all seven goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and an assessment of the proposal on the five ways of working, can be found in the Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Likely Impact on Staff of the Proposal**

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 are 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.

### **Estyn Information**

Trallwng Infants' School was inspected by Estyn in July 2022. The school did not require any follow up following the inspection. Estyn set out recommendations for Trallwng Infants' School to implement in order to make improvements to the quality of education provision on offer. Estyn's recommendations were as follows:

1. Recommendation One – Ensure that teaching and provision provides pupils with opportunities to influence how they learn and develops their independence.
2. Recommendation Two – Focus professional learning for all staff on extending their range of teaching and learning and learning pedagogies, particularly around early child development.

As a result of the Estyn inspection in July 2022, Trallwng Infants' School drew up an action plan to demonstrate how it was going to address the recommendations set out by Estyn.

Coedpenmaen Primary School was inspected by Estyn in May 2022. Estyn set out recommendations for Coedpenmaen Primary School to implement in order to make improvements to the quality of education provision on offer. Estyn's recommendations were as follows:

1. Recommendation One – Improve the effectiveness of leadership at all levels, including that of the Governing Body.
2. Recommendation Two – Develop stronger collaborative working arrangements between staff.
3. Recommendation Three – Ensure that teachers match teaching and learning opportunities closely to pupils' needs.
4. Recommendation Four – Ensure that the school is prepared for the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.
5. Recommendation Five – Ensure that the organisation of the classing structure of the school meets the needs of all pupils and enables pupils to access the learning experiences that are required for their age and ability.

As a result of the Estyn inspection in May 2022, Coedpenmaen Primary School was placed in the statutory category of special measures. Following termly monitoring by Estyn, in April 2024, Coedpenmaen Primary School was judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to its post inspection action plan and was removed from Estyn's list of schools requiring special measures.

It is RCTCBC's view that the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School, with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School by no later than September 2025, could have a major positive impact on all five Estyn inspection areas, as detailed below:

1. **Standards (Learning)** – Larger schools have more potential for economies of scale and financial efficiencies which can accrue and be reinvested for the benefit of all pupils, including the most vulnerable.
2. **Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning** – There could be greater flexibility for pupils due to an extended, more enhanced educational environment in which to learn and grow, and there will be greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with large numbers of their year group peers.
3. **Teaching and Learning Experiences** – Moving pupils from Trallwng Infants' School, a small school, to the larger Coedpenmaen Primary School will increase opportunities for interaction, coordination and the sharing of expertise and experience. Smaller schools may find it more difficult to deliver all Areas of Learning and Experience of the Curriculum for Wales as they have fewer staff to specialise and to lead on curriculum and strategic developments. Larger schools can provide greater flexibility for pupils due to an extended, more enhanced educational environment in which to learn and develop. There is also more opportunity for staff to develop specialisms and more bespoke interventions, which is important for pupil progression and the achievement of good educational outcomes for all.
4. **Care, Support and Guidance** – Small schools, by their very nature, have a limited choice for extra-curricular activities; the opportunity to create traditional clubs such as football, rugby and netball etc. may not be possible as there are not enough pupils of that age range to create teams. Similarly, if teachers or support staff are providing the extra-curricular activities, if there are fewer staff, inevitably there will be fewer extra-curricular activities on offer. As a result, there are less opportunities afforded to pupils to engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities to enhance their social and emotional skills and this means that as they progress to their education, they, in comparison to their peers from larger schools, could potentially be less developed in certain areas. The same could be said for pupil voice in smaller schools; small numbers could mean that there are not enough available pupils to be involved in the various committees, or that the committees are made up of the same pupils. This could result in a lack of varying views and perspectives, with the potential for repetition of ideas and action plans for each committee. A small school inevitably provides less opportunities for pupils to interact with a wide range of children and young people of the same age and to develop extended friendship groups.
5. **Leadership (and Management)** – It is important that leadership in schools is supported by fit for purpose resources that are appropriate for education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A larger school will provide more professional and progression opportunities for the teaching and support staff and greater scope for distributed models of leadership.

### **Financial Implications of the Proposal**

Should the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School proceed, there will be no capital funding implications, and revenue savings accrued from the closure will be reinvested into supporting the education of children and young people in RCT.

Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of the closure of Trallwng Infants' School, including the schools' delegated budget, will be identified as the proposal is developed and incorporated into RCTCBC's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements.

At the end of the 2023/2024 financial year, the outturn budget set by the respective Governing Bodies at both schools means that Trallwng Infants' School will have a deficit balance of £1,667.00 and Coedpenmaen Primary School while have a surplus balance of £42,361.00.

At present the cost per pupil for Trallwng Infants' School is £6,749.59 and the cost per pupil for Coedpenmaen Primary School is £3,994.26. Should the proposal proceed, the estimated cost per pupil for Coedpenmaen Primary School would be £3,682.35.

Schools are facing increased financial pressure from pay awards for staff, which are significantly in excess of the budget uplift provided to Local Government, as well as increased energy costs and other inflationary financial challenges. As a result, for the financial year 2024/2025, if no action is taken, it is estimated that Trallwng Infants' School will end the 2024/2025 financial year with a deficit of £15,115.98, whilst Coedpenmaen Primary School will have a surplus of £29,948.65.

However, should the proposal proceed Coedpenmaen Primary School will receive an increase in their funding formula as a result of the additional pupils on roll.

### **Home to School Transport Provision**

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 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 which is under 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.

### **Land and Buildings Information**

Should the proposal proceed, the existing Trallwng Infants' School site will become redundant. As this is an initial consultation process no decisions have yet been made in respect of the future of this site and building. This process will be managed in accordance with RCTCBC's Policy on Surplus Land and Buildings.

## Consultation Response Form

To comply with the legal duty under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and help RCTCBC reach a decision on the proposal, it would be helpful if you could answer the following questions. Please note, any personal information given will not be shared and will only be used to provide you with feedback, should you request it. Any comments that could identify you will be anonymised in the Consultation Report produced. Completed Consultation Response Forms should be returned to:

Director of Education and Inclusion Services 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Valleys Innovation Centre Navigation Park Abercynon CF45 4SN	OR	<a href="mailto:schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk">schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk</a>
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### The proposal:

To close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen Primary School.

Do you agree with the proposal?	Yes		No		Not Sure	
<i>Please tick</i>						

### Please let us know the reasons for your choice.


### Do you think the proposal could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive or Negative)?








## **Equality Monitoring Form**

RCTCBC is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and having a clear picture of the equality profile of our consultation respondents can help monitor the effectiveness of our equal opportunities policies and procedures. We conduct monitoring in order to identify gaps in access to our services, and make targeted changes where gaps are identified. Data is only used to improve services and in reporting.

You are entirely free to decide whether or not to complete this form and there are no consequences of failing to do so. We do not intend on capturing any personal identifiable information through this form. Please be mindful of this in the responses you provide within the free text areas. In the instance where you do provide us with information about yourself or others, RCTCBC will ensure it will be processed in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and only used for monitoring and reporting purposes.

### **Age:**

1. How old are you?

- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say.

### **Sex:**

2. Are you:

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say.

A question on Gender Identity will be asked later.

Do you identify as:

- Non-binary
- Trans
- N/A
- Prefer not to say.

If you prefer your own term, please provide this here: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Gender Identity:**

3. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- Yes
- No, please write in your gender: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say.

**Sexual Orientation:**

4. Which of the follow best describes your sexual orientation?

- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman/Lesbian
- Heterosexual/Straight
- Prefer not to say.

If you prefer to use your own term, please provide this here: \_\_\_\_\_

**National Identity:**

5. How would you describe your national identity?

- British
- Cornish
- English
- Irish
- Northern Irish
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ say

**Ethnicity:**

6. How would you describe your ethnic origin?

- Arab
- Asian: British
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian: Cornish
- Asian: English
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian: Irish
- Asian: Northern Irish
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian: Scottish
- Asian or Asian British: Other East Asian
- Asian or Asian British: Other South Asian
- Asian: Welsh
- Asian or Asian British: Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- Black: British
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black: Cornish
- Black: English
- Black: Irish
- Black: Northern Irish
- Black: Scottish
- Black: Welsh
- Black, Black British or Black African: Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

- English Gypsy
- Irish Gypsy
- Irish Traveller
- Scottish Gypsy
- Scottish Traveller
- Welsh Gypsy
- Mixed/Multiple: African & Caribbean
- Mixed/Multiple: Black British and White
- Mixed/Multiple: Black African & White
- Mixed/Multiple: Black Caribbean & White
- Mixed/Multiple: East Asian & White
- Mixed/Multiple: South Asian & White
- Mixed/Multiple: Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- Roma
- Sinti
- White: British
- White: Cornish
- White: English
- White: Gypsy
- White: Irish
- White: Irish Traveller
- White: Northern Irish
- White: Scottish
- White: Welsh
- White: Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say.

If other Ethnic Group or if you would prefer to use your own definition, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Disability:**

7. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

'The definition of disability as defined under the Equality Act (2010) is 'a *physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out day-to-day activities*'.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say.

**Religion or belief:**

8. What is your religion or belief?

- Buddhist
- Christian (including Church of Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other denominations)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Non-religious (e.g. Atheist, Humanist etc.)
- Sikh

- Prefer not to say.

If other Religion or Belief, or if you prefer to use your own definition, please provide this here: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Caring Responsibilities**

9. Do you look after, or support family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: a long term physical or mental condition/disability or problems related to old age?

- No  
 Yes, 1-19 hours a week.  
 Yes, 20-49 hours a week.  
 Yes, 50 or more hours a week.  
 Prefer not to say.

### **Pregnancy and maternity**

10. Are you currently pregnant, or have you been pregnant within the last 12 months?

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say.

11. Have you taken (or are you currently taking) maternity leave in the last 12 months?

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say.

### **Veterans and Armed Forces**

12. Have you ever, or are you currently, serving in the Armed Forces?

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say.

- I do not wish to provide any of the information requested on this form.**