Appendix A: Community Impact Assessment

This Community Impact Assessment is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>. 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 – PROPOS	SAL DETAILS
Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.
Service Director:	Andrea Richards.
Service Area:	Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st 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 Tref y Rhyg Primary School and extend the catchment area of Tonyrefail Community School to incorporate the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School. It is proposed that Tref y Rhyg Primary School will close with pupils transferring to Tonyrefail Community School by no later than September 2025.
Overview of the proposal:	The proposal to close Tref y Rhyg Primary School and extend the catchment area of Tonyrefail Community School to incorporate the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School. It is proposed that Tref y Rhyg Primary School will close with pupils transferring to Tonyrefail Community School by no later than September 2025. The proposal is made in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) School Organisation Code (2 nd Edition) (011/2018). Section 2.1 of the WG's School Organisation Code (2 nd Edition) (011/2018) refers to elements of school organisation that require the publication of proposals, including: • The closing of a maintained school.
Catchment	Should the proposal proceed, the catchment area of Tonyrefail Community School will be extended to
changes:	incorporate the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School.
Outline where delivery of this proposal is affected	Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by:
by legislation or	

an and of prooffes.									
as code of practice:	Councils must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the School Standards and Organisation (V								
	Act 2013, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the WG's School Organisation								
	Code (2 nd Edition) (011/2018) 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 15th November 2024. The Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed								
	stakeholders. This Community Impact Assessment is an Appendix of the Consultation Document. Members of the community wishing to find out more about the proposal can attend a public drop in sessi								
Community									
engagement:	where they can provide feedback to Council representatives. These engagement events will be held Wednesday 6th November 2024 between 15:30 to 17:30 at both Tref y Rhyg primary School and Tor								
	_		etween 15:30 to 1	17:30 at both Tre	er y Rnyg primary	School and Tonyre			
SECTION 2 – DATA	Community Sch	001.							
SECTION 2 - DATA Trend data:	Dunil Loval App	ual Cabaal Canau	o (DLASC) data f	or 2024 indicator	a that thara ara C	32 statutory school a			
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Projection data:	five	table that fol academic yea he WG and a	ars based on re based on	the status	quo. Thata for the	ney are one area.	calculate	ed in acc	cordance	e with the g	uidance iss
		Projected Pupil Numbers at Tref y Rhyg Primary School Over the Fu Years (PLASC) Pupils Capacity Academic Year						Surplus Capacity			
		Fupiis	Is Capacity	Academic Year Actual Projections				in 2028 / 2029			
				2023			2026	2027 / 2028	2028	1	
				2024	2025	2026	2027		2029	Number	%
		Statutory School Age Pupils	157	82	74	60	63	60	54	103	65.6%
		Nursery Age Pupils	22	9	11	12	10	9	8		
		Total	179	91	85	72	73	69	62		
	The deve	The data demonstrates that by the academic year 2028/2029: • There will be 65.6% (103) statutory school age capacity at Tref y Rhyg Primary School. There is little housing development planned in the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School, and what developments are planned will have little impact upon pupil places which means demand for places wiremain low.									
Proportion of pupi		ain low. resent*, there	e are 82 statu	utory scho	ol age p	upils atte	ending 7	Γref y RI	nyg Prim	nary School	, 58.5% (48
om the catchmer	nt which	ch live within	the catchme	nt area.					-		

area that attend the	
school:	
Proportion of pupils	At present*, there are 82 statutory school age pupils attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School, 41.5% (34) of
from outside the	
catchment area that	Which live out of the catchinent area.
attend the school:	
	FACILITIES OR SERVICES THAT THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATES
Information about	
other facilities or	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
services that the	establish a parent and toddler group this term.
school	
accommodates e.g.	Tonyrefail Community School is a community school with a private childcare provider co-located on the
youth club, play	school site. Little Inspirations is registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales for 50 places. It is a full day
group, school	
groups, community	childcare offer, and a wraparound service and holiday provision.
library etc.:	
	Should the proposal proceed, this provision will remain available for the parents/carers and pupils of Tref
	Y Rhyg Primary School.
	Breakfast Club
	Both Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School run a breakfast club. The breakfast
	club operating in Tonyrefail Community School is very popular with an average of 106* pupils receiving a
	breakfast every day, as is the breakfast club operating in Tref y Rhyg Primary School with an average of
	31* pupils receiving a breakfast every day. However, the breakfast club at Tonyrefail Community School
	will remain and be made available for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School. *Figures based on average
	daily attendance figures this term.
	Should the proposal proceed, the breakfast club at Tonyrefail Community School will remain and be made
	available for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School.
	Extra-curricular Activities
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Both Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School run a number of extra-curricular activities. Depending on the term Trey y Rhyg Primary School offers after-school activities such as sports clubs, arts and crafts, Lego, music and British Sign Language classes to name just a few. The extra-curricular activities at Tonyrefail Community School include art attack, basketball, clwb dysgu gartef, computer science club, construction club, digi wizards, dungeons and dragons club, fitness club, football, games masters club, multi-sports, netball, reading for pleasure, rugby, STEM club and Welsh club. Both schools also provide a uniform exchange service.

Should the proposal proceed, the extra-curricular activities at Tonyrefail Community School will remain and be made available for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School.

The provision of after school clubs are the responsibility of the individual school and whilst these provisions are considered to be important, it should be noted that post school activities are not a statutory requirement.

Local Community and Third Party Use

Tonyrefail Community School engages in multiple local community and third party activities including Big Box Boyd, musical and drama productions and various seasonal events throughout the year.

Local community and third party use of Tonyrefail Community School is actively encouraged. A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community and 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 to Tref y Rhyg Primary School, parents/carers of pupils attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School could benefit from this.

The outdoor sports areas are also available for use out of hours by the local community. As well as conference and meeting facilities on the school site.

If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where they would be provided Tonyrefail Community School has been designed to be a fully accessible school, increasing opportunities for the whole community to access the facilities, to strengthen relationships and fully integrate the school into the community. A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community are able to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, these facilities would also be available for those pupils currently attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School.

in the event of a closure:

SECTION 4 – OTHER FACILITIES IN THE IMMEDIATE, LOCAL AND WIDER COMMUNITY

Whether other facilities available in 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.:

See above.

the immediate local or wider community School and 2.7 miles from Tref y Rhyg Primary School. If a member of the public cannot access their local library, then arrangements can be made to deliver materials to home via RCTCBC's Home Library Service.

In the locality of Tonyrefail Community School and Tref y Rhyg Primary School, there are a number of parks/play areas:

- To the north-east of Tonyrefail Community School, there is a park/play area located at the Bryngolau estate.
- To the south of Tref y Rhyg Primary School, there are two park/play areas located near Heol Aneurin and Capel Farm.

Tonyrefail Leisure Centre is approximately 0.2 miles from Tonyrefail Community School and 0.8 miles from Tref y Rhyg Primary School. Tonyrefail Community School was part of a wider £44 million leisure and education investment locally, which saw the nearby Tonyrefail Leisure Centre receive a new 3G sports pitch for school and community use – along with specialist teaching facilities for physical education classes to be held at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre.

In the locality of Tonyrefail Community School and Tref y Rhyg Primary School, there are a number of sports facilities:

- To the east of Tonyrefail Community School, approximately 0.4 miles away, there is a football pitch, Multi-Use Games Area, 3G pitch, cricket pitch and park/play area located at Tynybryn Park. This is to the west of Tref y Rhyg Primary School, approximately 0.8 miles away.
- To the east of Tonyrefail Community School, approximately 0.8 miles away, there is a rugby pitch located at Tylcha Faw Playing Fields. This is to the west of Tref y Rhyg Primary School, approximately 0.7 miles away.

SECTION 5 – TRANSPORT/ACTIVE TRAVEL

and wellbeing e.g. if pupils would be less able to walk or cycle to school:

Impact on health 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 out below is the relevant information in relation to the proposal:

- 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/Scho olandCollegeTransport.aspx

There is approximately 1.2 miles between Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School, and all pupils live within the 1.5 mile distance allowed within the home to school transport eligibility criteria. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School to walk to Tonyrefail Community School. As such, no pupils in the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School will be entitled to free home to school transport.

Pupils who currently attend Tref y Rhyg Primary School would still be able to scoot, cycle or walk to Tonyrefail Community School, where there are safe cycle storage facilities to further encourage active travel. Tonyrefail Community 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.

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 '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.'

'Increased levels of walking and cycling lead to a greater level of social interaction creating greater cohesion in our communities.'

Information about wider any implications the changes would have on public transport provisions:

See above.

There is approximately 1.2 miles between Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School, and all pupils live within the 1.5 mile distance allowed within the home to school transport eligibility criteria. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School to walk to Tonyrefail Community School. As such, no pupils in the catchment area of Tref y Rhyg Primary School will be entitled to free home to school transport.

In terms of public transport, there is a public transport service bus which runs regularly. The bus stops are in very close proximity to Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School. However, the cost and operation of the public transport in the area is not within the remit of RCTCBC to manage.

SECTION 6 - IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Information on the Pupils impact on health and wellbeing:

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 statutory school organisation consultation process that RCTCBC considers the overall impact on pupils of the proposal is determined to be positive.

The facilities at Tonyrefail Community School provide a modern, colourful, 21st Century teaching and learning environment. The school buildings are fit for purpose and provide flexible teaching and learning areas to ensure successful delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. The school site includes inviting outdoor play spaces, an outdoor classroom, a forest schools' area and a MUGA, and all areas are fully accessible. These factors will benefit the wellbeing of all pupils.

Understandably, some pupils may initially be daunted at the prospect of moving to a new, larger school on a new site. However, should the proposal proceed, there will be targeted support for all pupils from Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community 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 Tref y Rhyg Primary School and Tonyrefail Community School to ensure that the transition process is as smooth and seamless as possible.

RCTCBC considers that providing education for pupils attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School in a larger, new, purpose built 21st century English medium 3 to 19 all through school at Tonyrefail, amongst other benefits, would offer:

- Greater flexibility and opportunity for pupils within a modern, more enhanced educational environment 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.
- Pupils being taught, in the main, with their year group. Three out of four classes in Tref y Rhyg Primary School are mixed year groups.
- Greater opportunities for pupils to socialise and interact with a larger number of peers from their own year group.
- Greater opportunities to provide a seamless transition between primary and secondary education in terms of curriculum planning, learning, and teaching.

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.

The table that follows outlines the benefits of the proposal:

Benefits

Tref y Rhyg Primary School does not form part of RCTCBC's and the WG's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This means that no investment to create 21st century school facilities is planned for at the site, and there is no budget to make significant improvements in the meantime. Attending a new school of a 21st century schools standard could result in a significant improvement to the quality of the educational provision for the pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School, The proposal addresses the significant surplus capacity and declining pupil numbers in Tref y Rhyg, and offers more sustainable education in the area, delivering enhanced resources to invest in the quality of teaching and learning, and improved capacity to meet the need of all learners, including the most vulnerable.

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.

Tref y Rhyg Primary School was not built to be energy efficient, unlike the new building at Tonyrefail Community School. Tonyrefail Community School has:

- Been built to BREEAM 'excellent' standards.
- Has an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A.
- Has Electric Vehicle chargers on site, contributing to the delivery of RCTCBC's Tackling Climate Change Strategy: 2022 to 2025 <u>Think Climate RCT</u>.

The proposal would also support the WG's <u>Delivery Plan for a Low Carbon Wales</u> and its 'Route Map' to decarbonise the public sector in Wales.

A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community and third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Pupils and parents/carers of Tref y Rhyg Primary School could benefit from this.

Tonyrefail Community School has been designed to comply with 'Secured by Design' standards, which ensure that the school boundary and buildings are fully secure and protected with CCTV. The site perimeter is secure, deterring antisocial behaviour and preventing unauthorised individuals from accessing the site out of school hours.

Tonyrefail Community School was part of a wider £44 million leisure and education investment locally, which saw the nearby Tonyrefail Leisure Centre receive a new 3G sports pitch for school and community use – along with specialist teaching facilities for physical education classes to be held at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre.

Pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School would not have to wait for a new school to be built. The construction of the new school at Tonyrefail Community School is complete.

The data demonstrates that with some small interim measures there is sufficient capacity at Tonyrefail Community School for all current and future pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School and in-catchment pupils to attend, continuing to meet the local demand for English medium primary education. Strict implementation of admissions criteria will be necessary to ensure that school places are prioritised for in-catchment learners.

The benefits of moving to a larger more educationally and financially viable primary school would be realised.

A 3 to 19 school provides a continuity of educational experience which negates the transition dips in pupil performance and creates greater opportunities to provide a seamless transition between primary and secondary education in terms of curriculum planning, learning, and teaching.

Staff

Should the proposal proceed, it is our intention to recommend to the Governing Body of Tonyrefail Community 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 Tref y Rhyg Primary School, in the first instance. This process means that staff at Tref y Rhyg Primary School would be given the first opportunity to apply for additional posts in Tonyrefail Community School, prior to any posts being advertised externally.

If they are successful, they would then simply transfer to Tonyrefail Community 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 Tref y Rhyg Primary 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 Tref y Rhyg Primary School in a larger, new, purpose built 21st century English medium 3 to 19 all through school at Tonyrefail, amongst other benefits, would offer:

- Greater opportunities for progression and professional development for all staff which are created within an all through 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.
- Pupils being taught, in the main, with their year group. Three out of four classes in Tref y Rhyg Primary School are mixed year groups.

Parents/Carers

A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community and 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 of Tref y Rhyg Primary School and their parents/carers could benefit from this.

Local Community

Local community and third party use of Tonyrefail Community School is actively encouraged. A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community and 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 to Tref y Rhyg Primary School, parents/carers of pupils attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School could benefit from this.

The outdoor sports areas are also available for use out of hours by the local community, as are the conference and meeting facilities on the school site.

SECTION 7 - COMMUNITY SAFETY

Information on wider community safety issues:

Should the proposal proceed, the impact of the proposal on community safety is believed to be positive. Tonyrefail Community School has been designed to comply with 'Secured by Design' standards, which ensures that the school boundary and buildings are fully secure and protected with CCTV. The site perimeter is secure, deterring antisocial behaviour and preventing unauthorised individuals from accessing the site out of school hours.

A dedicated area has been designed within Tonyrefail Community School so that the local community and third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.

The existing relationship that Tonyrefail Community School has with South Wales Police and the Police Community Support Officer will continue and will also extend to include the pupils transferring from Tref y Rhyg Primary School.

SECTION 8 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

Whilst there is an acknowledgement that the closure of Trey y Rhyg Primary 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.

The inclusion of community facilities within the Tonyrefail Community School, both internally and externally, ensures the delivery of significantly improved opportunities for community engagement compared to the current arrangements available at Tref y Rhyg Primary School.

Tonyrefail Community School has been designed to be a fully accessible school, increasing opportunities for the whole community to access the facilities, to strengthen relationships and fully integrate the school into the community. Local community and third party use of Tonyrefail Community School is actively encouraged. Should the proposal proceed, the local community to Tref y Rhyg Primary School, parents/carers of pupils attending Tref y Rhyg Primary School and pupils of Tref y Rhyg Primary School could benefit from this.

SECTION 9 – AUTHORISATIONS

Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.
Position	21st Century Schools Business and School Organisation Manager.
Date:	16.09.2024

Recommendations:	Recommendations				
	Recommendation Cross Relevant Recommendation				
	Is implemented with no amendments.				
	Is implemented taking into account the				
	mitigating actions outlined.				
	Is rejected due to disproportionate				
	negative impacts on the community.				
Head of	Andrea Richards.				
Service/Director:					
Position:	Service Director – 21st Century Schools and Transformation.				
Date:	16.09.2024.				
Please submit this Com	munity Impact Assessment with and SLT/Cabinet Reports.				
SECTION 10 - ARRAN	IGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW				
Monitoring and	This Impact Assessment monitored, reviewed and where applicable updated as the consultation				
Review:	progresses.				
SECTION 11 – UPDATES TO COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CONSULTATION					
Date:					
Update:					