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## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

OPEN A 3-11 WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Monmouthshire County Council fully supports and is committed to the Welsh Government's national strategy Cymraeg 2050, which introduces a long-term vision for a Wales where the Welsh Language thrives. The strategy aims to increase the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050.

Welsh Government announced that they would be providing funding to support capital investments and facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and the use of the Welsh language.

Monmouthshire County Council bid for funding and were successful in obtaining £2.1 million to open a seedling Welsh medium primary school with Early Years and Childcare provision in the Monmouth area subject to successful statutory consultation processes.

This document represents the Council's responsibilities as part of the School Organisation Code 2018 (a document produced by virtue of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013) to consult with appropriate stakeholders when giving consideration to any significant school reorganisation proposals.

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the Council's proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling primary school in Monmouth.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Monmouthshire currently have two Welsh medium Primary Schools, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni located in the north of the county in Abergavenny and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin located in the south of the county in Caldicot.

We have increased Welsh medium provision in the north by increasing the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 317. The school will also be relocated to a new site in September 2024, which will enable them to become a 420 place primary school.

We have started the refurbishment and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin to ensure it has the capacity to become a 210 primary school, with a Cylch Meithrin within the grounds of the school.

Whilst these are important developments, we acknowledge that the north east of Monmouthshire is currently without Welsh medium primary provision and as a result, we plan to open a seedling Welsh medium primary school in Monmouth.

Over the last three years, significant work has been carried out to identify a suitable location for a new Welsh medium primary school within the Monmouth area. However, despite our efforts, we have not been able to secure a suitable site within the town because of a lack of available or suitable land.

Although we have looked further afield, any prospective sites were judged unsuitable and/or the distance to travel was too great.

Please see the options appraisal below for further information.

### 3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

**Option 1** – Do nothing and maintain the status quo. This would mean there would be no change to existing provision beyond our 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools proposals.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Low Cost	Does not provide primary Welsh medium provision in the Monmouth area where there is an identified demand
	Pupils will continue to travel long distances to access Welsh medium provision and this may suppress demand
	Would not contribute to the Welsh Government's aim of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050
	We would not meet our agreed WESP target

**Option 2** – Build a new Welsh medium Community Primary school on a new site in the Monmouth area to include early years and childcare provision.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Would meet the identified demand in the Monmouth area	High Cost
Pupils living in the Monmouth area would not need to travel long distances to access Welsh medium provision	There are no suitable building sites available within the Monmouth area
New school building could stimulate demand	Existing English medium school estate would not be fully utilised
Contributes to the Welsh Government's aim of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050	There may be an impact on the numbers travelling to Y Fenni resulting in surplus capacity in the school
Increase the availability of Welsh medium early years and childcare provision	There would be limited impact on uptake and primary/secondary transition numbers

**Option 3** – Utilise Osbaston CIW primary school site in Monmouth to create additional Welsh medium primary provision and bilingual childcare.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Medium Cost	Increase in traffic would be difficult to manage due to lack of space
Pupils living in Monmouth would not need to travel long distances to access Welsh medium provision	Osbaston school may not facilitate the utilisation of their site
Enhances facilities in all schools involved in the development	Sharing a site would not support full immersion in the Welsh language
Provides an opportunity to increase the number of childcare settings	There is a risk of flooding on the site
Makes better and more efficient ways of delivering education for the future as well as managing the school estate more effectively	The space on the site may be limited and not sufficient for two schools
Contributes to the Welsh Governments aim of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050	Legalities surrounding ownership of the site

**Option 4** – Utilise the former Raglan junior school building to create Welsh medium primary provision and build a new Welsh medium early years and childcare provision on the site.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Medium cost	Pupil numbers at Raglan primary school may decrease
The new school would have its own site	Pupil numbers may be lower because parents living in the town will not want their children being transported
The site is accessible and less prone to traffic concerns	Numbers in the Cylch Meithrin Trefynwy may be affected
Provides an opportunity to increase the number of Welsh medium early years and childcare settings	Cylch Meithrin Trefynwy may no longer be viable
Central location so travel distances may be reduced for pupils living in areas outside of the town	There may be opposition to the proposal from the community
Contributes to the Welsh Governments aim of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050	

Opportunity to create a community focussed school	
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**Option 5** – Utilise existing accommodation available on the Overmonnow Primary School site to establish a seedling welsh medium primary school and early years and childcare provision.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Medium Cost	Pupil numbers at Overmonnow may decrease over time
Pupils living in Monmouth would not need to travel long distances to access Welsh medium provision	Traffic management issues
Cylch Meithrin Trefynwy could transfer to the new site	Sharing a site would not support full immersion in the Welsh language
Contributes to the Welsh Governments aim of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050	
Makes better and more efficient ways of delivering education for the future as well as managing the school estate more effectively	
Provides an opportunity to increase the number of Welsh medium early years and childcare settings	

### 3.1 THE PREFERRED OPTION

Our preferred option is option 5, to utilise existing accommodation available on the Overmonnow Primary School site to establish a 3-11 seedling welsh medium primary school to include childcare provision.

## 4. THE PROPOSAL

***The proposal is to open a 3-11 seedling Welsh Medium primary school on the Overmonnow Primary School site from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. This will be achieved by utilising existing accommodation at the school. There will also be a Local Authority nursery on site and childcare provision.***

From September 2023 there will be a satellite class located on Overmonnow primary school site, this provision is under the leadership, management and governance of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin. If the proposal is agreed, a new seedling Welsh medium primary school will be established.

The school will open initially with pupils in nursery, Reception and year 1, pupils who are currently attending the satellite class will automatically transfer to the new school. There would also be an opportunity for pupils who would like to move into Welsh medium education to be supported from the immersion class in Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin.

Overmonnow Primary school is an English medium primary school situated in Monmouth town. Following a condition survey that was undertaken in 2019 the school buildings were categorised as Condition Category C, which is defined as “*Operational but major repair or replacement needed in the short to medium-term (generally 3 years)*”. The backlog of maintenance is estimated to be £251,898.93.

### Seedling Schools

A seedling school is a model that neighbouring authorities have used to good effect, it enables the facilities and staff to be used efficiently when the school grows to its full potential.

#### Benefits of seedling schools

- The school capacity would grow over time in line with demand
- Stable growth to support existing schools
- Reduces the possibility of mass movement of pupils from other schools
- Effectively manages class sizes to support staffing and the school budget

#### Disadvantages of seedling schools

- Takes a number of years to deliver growth and the growth is not linear
- Possible implications for siblings with changing catchments
- Possible implications for families moving into the area with different aged children due to change in catchments

In its first year the school will have pupils in Nursery, reception and year 1, a year group will be added each academic year until the Year 1 cohort reaches year 6. All seven year groups will be in operation by September 2029.

During the first year three mainstream classes will be in operation as follows:

- A nursery class where 30 part-time places will be offered as a morning session and wrap around childcare provision would be provided in the afternoon.
- A reception class with a maximum of 30 places.
- A year 1 class with a maximum of 30 places

The table below illustrates how the school will grow if the maximum number of pupils are allocated places.

Year Group	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Academic Year	Maximum places per year group							
2024/25	30	30						60
2025/26	30	30	30					90
2026/27	30	30	30	30				120
2027/28	30	30	30	30	30			150
2028/29	30	30	30	30	30	30		180
2029/30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

### Projected Pupil Numbers

The projection below shows how the school will grow based on current pupils accessing Welsh medium early years provision in the area. We have also looked at growth trends for our current Welsh medium primary schools when they were first established and applied a percentage increase.

Year Group	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Academic Year								
2024/25	10	7						17
2025/26	7	10	7					24
2026/27	4	7	10	7				28
2027/28	6	4	7	10	7			34
2028/29	9	6	4	7	10	7		43
2029/30	6	9	6	4	7	10	7	49

### Early Years and Childcare provision

Take up of early education places is monitored on a termly basis and, although there are currently sufficient English medium places throughout Monmouthshire, there is no Welsh medium early education provision in the Monmouth area.

The intention is for a Cylch Meithrin to be co-located on the school site, they will then provide Welsh medium childcare for 2-3 year olds and wrap around childcare for 3-4 year olds.

### Catchment Areas

There will be a need to establish a catchment area for the seedling Welsh medium primary school so therefore we will need to amend the catchment areas of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin to reflect the additional provision in Monmouth.



The existing and proposed catchment areas can be found at appendix 1, they have been established whilst taking into account travel times and projected demand for school places in the surrounding areas.

## 5. RISKS AND COUNTER MEASURES

Risks	Counter Measures
The project will not be delivered on time and within budget	Aim to meet the programme dates to deliver on time Grant funding is being provided by WG Monitor tender returns and scrutinise what is included in the package
Statutory objections are received to the proposals	Ensure thorough statutory consultation processes are followed and key stakeholders are consulted with and fully informed from the outset
Welsh medium demand in the area is not as expected and pupil numbers are low	It is very difficult to predict whether demand for places will be as expected. An appropriate promotion campaign will also be developed to stimulate demand.
The majority of the funding formula is based on pupil numbers and therefore growing schools will see a delay in funding which could put the school in a deficit.	There are elements of the funding formula that offer protection to allow schools to classes of a maximum of 30 in each key stage, in addition to this there is a minimum level of funding built in for management and administration. Several of the premises costs are delegated on floor area which will allow classrooms to be resourced.
Numbers on roll in the English medium schools in the Monmouth cluster may decline as a result of the proposal	This will be counter balanced by an increase in Welsh medium places but overall the number of places will be the same
There may be an increase in surplus places in English medium schools within the cluster	Surplus places are monitored closely and school reorganisation proposals implemented if necessary

## 6. SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL

The following table shows general information on the schools affected or likely to be affected by the proposals.

The Welsh medium primary schools Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin may be affected by the proposal because the catchment area for these schools

will reduce as parents may choose to send their children to the new seedling provision due to its location. It is possible that all schools within the Monmouth cluster will be affected by the proposal particularly Overmonnow due to it being located on the same site.

The Language category and the capacity has been calculated using the Welsh Government guidance “Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales” and the capacities below are based on the calculations for 2022/23 academic year.

School Name	Language Category	School Type	Capacity & Admission Number	Number of Nursery Places	Age Range	Pupil Numbers Jan 2022 (Exc Nursery)
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	WM	Community	317 / 45	60	3-11	250
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	WM	Community	180 / 25	30	3-11	93
Osbaston CIW Primary	EM	Voluntary Controlled	210 / 30	N/A	4-11	204
Overmonnow Primary School	EM	Community	390 / 55	60	3-11	309
Kymin View Primary School	EM	Community	210 / 30	60	3-11	154
Llandogo Primary School	EM	Community	111 / 15	N/A	4-11	72
Raglan CIW Primary School	EM	Voluntary Controlled	210 / 30	N/A	4-11	182
Trellech Primary School	EM	Community	180 / 25	N/A	4-11	178
Cross Ash Primary School	EM	Community	210 / 30	N/A	4-11	172
Usk CIW Primary school	EM	Voluntary Controlled	280 / 40	N/A	4-11	274

The following table shows the number of pupils on roll for the last four annual school censuses for all school affected by the proposal. The figures do not include nursery pupils or pupils on roll at Special Needs Resource bases.

School Name	January 2021	January 2020	January 2019	January 2018
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	228	232	230	234
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	92	101	108	127
Overmonnow Primary School	311	296	298	329

<b>Osbaston CIW Primary</b>	210	208	201	200
<b>Kymin View Primary School</b>	165	164	183	174
<b>Llandogo Primary School</b>	78	79	67	72
<b>Raglan CIW Primary School</b>	195	199	202	203
<b>Trellech Primary School</b>	172	180	176	172
<b>Cross Ash Primary School</b>	174	175	182	190
<b>Usk CIW Primary school</b>	278	269	261	251

The following table provides forecasted pupil numbers for the next five years for the schools likely to be affected by the proposals:

<b>School Name</b>	<b>January 2023</b>	<b>January 2024</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>January 2027</b>
<b>Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni</b>	253	260	268	286	290
<b>Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin</b>	104	105	104	106	102
<b>Overmonnow Primary School</b>	297	307	285	262	260
<b>Osbaston CIW Primary</b>	206	206	206	207	208
<b>Kymin view Primary School</b>	145	130	115	103	101
<b>Llandogo Primary School</b>	68	62	66	69	65
<b>Raglan CIW Primary School</b>	175	159	155	145	133
<b>Trellech Primary School</b>	178	172	167	158	142
<b>Cross Ash Primary School</b>	169	170	159	151	142
<b>Usk CIW Primary school</b>	260	247	233	223	208
<b>Total in Monmouth Cluster</b>	<b>1498</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1259</b>

The table below shows the building condition rating as assessed during the most recent condition survey carried out by Monmouthshire County Council for those schools likely to be affected by the proposal:

Condition Rating	Definition
A	As new condition
B	Sound, operationally safe, and exhibiting only minor deterioration
C	Operational but major repair or replacement needed in the short to medium-term (generally 3 years)
D	Inoperable or serious risk of major failure or breakdown

School	Condition rating
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	C
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	C
Overmonnow Primary School	C
Osbaston CIW Primary	C
Kymin view Primary School	B
Llandogo Primary School	C
Raglan CIW Primary School	A
Trellech Primary School	C
Cross Ash Primary School	C
Usk CIW Primary school	C

## 7. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

As a new school, the leadership team at the new Welsh medium Primary School will receive support from both the Local Authority and the regional consortia the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to help ensure the school establishes effective management and teaching practices. Monmouthshire has a good track record of delivering quality primary education, with none of our primary or secondary schools being in an Estyn category as at December 2019.

Consideration of the potential impact of the proposal on quality and standards is aligned with the Estyn Inspection framework:

### Learning

The proposal will not affect the quality of learning in any of the English medium schools in the Monmouth cluster or in either of our existing two Welsh medium schools affected. The new Welsh medium primary school will receive the appropriate level of challenge and support to ensure that a high quality learning is achieved.

#### Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

The creation of a new seedling Welsh medium primary school in Monmouth will increase parental choice in the town by providing Welsh medium education closer to home for children living in the north west of the county. As a result of shorter travel times, we expect the proposal to significantly improve the wellbeing of children in the seedling provision. Pupil wellbeing is a priority which is monitored and reported through school self-evaluation processes and improvement plans. The proposal will not impact wellbeing and attitudes towards learning at the other affected schools.

#### Teaching and learning experiences

Teaching and learning experiences in the new Welsh medium will follow Curriculum for Wales with Welsh as the language of teaching and learning. The proposal will not impact the teaching and learning experiences at the other affected schools.

#### Care support and guidance

The new Welsh medium primary school will be supported by the local authority and the Education Achievement Service to provide high quality care, support and guidance. There will be no change in care support and guidance at the other affected schools.

#### Leadership and management

There will be no change to the quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers at the other affected schools. At the new Welsh medium primary school, the school leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority and Education Achievement Service to ensure best practice in leadership and management are adopted.

A summary of Estyn Reports for affected schools can be found at appendix 2.

## 8. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Monmouthshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was approved by Welsh Government in June 2022. The establishment of a third Welsh medium primary school in Monmouthshire is a central element of our Welsh in Education Strategy to enable us to reach our target of having 115 learners, in each primary year group, being taught through the medium of Welsh by 2031.

The location of the new school in the town of Monmouth will encourage more parents to choose a Welsh medium education because it will reduce the need for learners to

travel long distances to access Welsh medium education in Abergavenny. This has been a determining factor for some parents when selecting a school for their child.

## 9. FINANCE

The initial costs for the seedling provision for the reception class will be:

Staffing costs	£90,882	One full time teacher and one full time teaching assistant for foundation phase. This includes agency costs to cover absence and PPA
Executive Headteacher	£34,700	Management of the seedling provision.
Resources	£5,000	

The costs above are for the full year, for the first year the costs will be lower to reflect the final 7 months of the financial year.

Overmonnow Primary School is currently fully funded for utilities, maintenance and grounds therefore no additional costs are expected.

The transport costs are expected to be neutral, it is anticipated that the any additional costs will be offset by savings of transporting pupils to other Welsh medium primary schools.

As the school increases in size, the costs for each class will be:

Staffing costs	£80,882	One full time teacher and one full time teaching assistant for foundation phase.
Higher Level Teaching Assistant	£33,652	40%
Headteacher	£65,000	
Resources	£5,000	

To set up the Welsh medium seeding the capital costs will be £478,000 for early years and £1,637,699 for the school. The total of £2,115,699 will be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.

## 10. LAND AND BUILDINGS

There will be no transfer or disposal of land and buildings necessary because the Welsh medium seedling provision will be located on an existing site.

## 11. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council proposes ***to open a 3-11 seedling Welsh Medium Primary School on the Overmonnow Primary School site by utilising existing accommodation.***

The council is now engaging in statutory consultation processes with all interested parties to ensure that any decision taken by the Council is one that is informed.

The timescales for the formal consultation process are:

Statutory Consultation Period to commence by	Statutory Consultation Period concludes by	Period of consultation required
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	July 2023	6 weeks (including 20 school days)

#### 4.1 FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

The formal consultation process represents an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments that will be recorded and considered when the Council determines whether or not to implement the proposal.

The Council seeks to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on the proposal outlined in this consultation document. A full list of the consultees can be found under Appendix 3.

As part of the consultation process, the Council has arranged for the following sessions to engage interested parties who may wish to learn about the proposal.

Day	Date	Time	Venue
TBC	TBC	TBC	Overmonnow Primary School

In addition to the above, any views, comments, or questions on the proposal can be submitted to the Council by:

- Completing the online consultation questionnaire available via [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation)
- Emailing [strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Completion of the questionnaire will enable us to undertake detailed analysis of the feedback we receive from consultees.

Comments must be submitted to the Authority by the consultation closing date.

**Important:** This consultation will not make any assumptions, so whether you are for or against the proposed changes, please take this opportunity to have your say.

If you have any questions on the proposals please contact the Access Unit on 01633 644508 or by emailing [strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk).

It is important to note that any unfavourable comments made during the consultation period will not be treated as objections to the proposals but will be accepted as adverse comments. Objections to the proposals can only be accepted after the consultation period has concluded and should the Council determine to proceed with the proposals by way of publishing statutory notices.

If you wish to object, you will need to do so in writing should the Council enter into a statutory objection period. If consultees submit a request during the objection period, asking for a response submitted at the consultation stage to be treated as an objection this will be accepted.

#### 4.2 CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The views of children and young people are extremely important to the Council and therefore children and young people will be provided with opportunities to contribute to this consultation process. The Council has produced a summary version of this consultation document, which will be made accessible for all children and young people affected by this proposal.

The Council also intends to hold sessions with the relevant school councils and individual learners where this is felt to be appropriate and practicable. Consultation with children and young people will be supported by key professionals and their views captured and considered in any reports that may determine our way forward.

#### 4.3 CONCLUSION OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Once the opportunity to respond to the proposal outlined within this consultation document has closed. The Council's Cabinet will then be provided with a consultation report analysing the views shared by consultees during the formal consultation process and determine whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposal. A copy of the consultation report will be published at least two weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice.

If the decision is taken by the Council's Cabinet to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice will be published. The statutory notice period will last for 28 days from the date of publication to enable consultees to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposal.

The Council's Cabinet will then consider the responses received during the statutory notice period in the form of an objection report, and make the final decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal. The proposed timetable for decision making following the formal consultation process is:

Stage of process	Key date
Cabinet consider the results of the consultation and determines whether to proceed with proposal	July 2023
Council publish statutory notice and enter into objection period	September 2023
Cabinet consider the objection report and determine whether or not to implement the proposal	November 2023
Implementation of Proposal	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2024



## 12. STAFFING

If the proposal is agreed in order to establish the new school we will need to follow processes to ensure everything is in place including employment and leadership policies and procedures.

The protection of employment policy for schools confirms that the temporary governing body would firstly appoint a headteacher and then staff. The temporary governing body would need to consider the timescales for the appointment of a headteacher in order that an appropriate staffing structure can be created and recruitment to take place.

The Council would advocate the adoption of Monmouthshire County Council's human resource policies as these have been subject to consultation with trade union representatives.

## 13. COMMUNITY IMPACT / EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 13.1 COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Community Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of its decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help the Council to consider the impact of its decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The Community Impact Assessment process ensures that the Council's decision making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Monmouthshire are fully considered in Council business. By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community.

### 13.2 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce. The Council will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-beliefs, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents, or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and can be found at [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation)

#### 14. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT

The proposal supports all of the targets set out in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan. If the proposal were to be implemented Welsh Language provision would be expanded by establishing a seedling primary school in Monmouth town, which would serve the wider Monmouth area including Raglan, Usk, Trellech and Llandogo.

It is evident from the information provided above that the proposal would have a positive impact on Welsh Language provision within the area and in particular Monmouth. Currently pupils living in Monmouth wanting to access Welsh Medium Education would have to do so by travelling long distances to Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni in Abergavenny.

#### 15. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Monmouthshire County Council will be responsible for admissions to the new seedling school and they will be undertaken in line with the School Admission Policy.

Applications for admission to all community primary schools will be assessed in accordance with Monmouthshire County Council's school admissions policy.

Parents / carers will have the opportunity to complete an application online and can express up to three preferences. The Local Authority operates an equal preference scheme, which means that all preferences are considered equally in line with the Local Authority's oversubscription criteria, and not on the basis of the order in which they are listed on the application form.

##### Admission to Reception - September 2024

The application process opens on the 8th November 2023 and the closing date is midnight on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Decisions for in-time applications will be issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### 16. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Home to school transport will be provided in line with the current policy which states pupils who attend their nearest or catchment primary school and reside more than 1.5 miles away will be eligible.

Pupils currently receiving free home to school transport to existing provision who will be residing in the catchment area for the seedling school will not lose their entitlement to free home to school transport. Home to school distances and the new catchment areas will be relevant for applications to start the new school with effect from September 2024.

Further details of the home to school transport policy can be found on the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-transport-home-to-school>

## 17. OTHER INFORMATION

Further Information and regular up-dates on this proposal can be found on the following webpage:

[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation)

Frequently asked questions will be up-loaded weekly and put onto the Monmouthshire County Council Website.

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18.APPENDIX 1 - PROPOSED CATCHMENT AREAS

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## 19. APPENDIX 2 - ESTYN REPORTS

The most recent Estyn inspection reports are shown below for the schools likely to be affected by the proposals:

Overmonnow Primary School	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	November 2018
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Raise standards further by making full use of available teaching and learning time in all lessons
	R2 Maximise the use of resources, including sharing the expertise of all teaching and support staff throughout the school
	R3 Improve pupils' punctuality
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No Follow-up
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Inspection%20report%20Overmonnow%20C.P.%20School%202019.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Inspection%20report%20Overmonnow%20C.P.%20School%202019.pdf</a>

Osbaston Primary School	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	September 2019
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Improve pupils' mathematical reasoning skills and their abilities to use numeracy skills across the curriculum
	R2 Ensure that all teaching meets the standards of the school's best practice
	R3 Provide regular opportunities for pupils to take part in physical education lessons
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No follow-up
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/202108/Inspection%20report%20Osbaston%20CIW%20Primary%20School%202019.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/202108/Inspection%20report%20Osbaston%20CIW%20Primary%20School%202019.pdf</a>

Kymin View Primary School	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	May 2016
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Raise the standards of extended writing, handwriting and presentation in key stage 2
	R2 Improve outcomes for more able pupils in all year groups
	R3 Improve the quality of marking and feedback to pupils
	R4 Ensure that all teachers' assessments are accurate
	R5 Refine self-evaluation processes to identify accurately the most significant areas for improvement
	R6 Ensure that improvement plans have specific and measurable targets
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No follow-up
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Kymin%2520View%2520Primary.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Kymin%2520View%2520Primary.pdf</a>

**Llandogo Primary School****Date of Inspection:** October 2013**Recommendations:**

R1 Raise standards of achievement in the core areas of learning in both the Foundation Phase and key stage 2 to ensure that all pupils, especially the more able, reach their full potential

R2 Improve standards in writing across the curriculum, particularly in relation to extended writing in key stage 2

R3 Raise standards in Welsh second language

R4 Ensure that planning procedures are rigorous and consistent, particularly in relation to the planning of key skills across the curriculum

R5 Address the shortcomings identified in teaching

R6 Improve procedures in assessment for learning, marking and reporting to parents

R7 Develop self-evaluation procedures to ensure sustained improvement

R8 Improve communication with all partners.

**Follow-up:** Estyn Monitoring**Link to report:** [https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Inspection%20report%20Llandogo%20C.P.%20School%202013%20%2528English%20only%2529\\_0.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf](https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Inspection%20report%20Llandogo%20C.P.%20School%202013%20%2528English%20only%2529_0.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf)**Cross Ash Primary School****Date of Inspection:** June 2016**Recommendations:**

R1 Raise standards of Welsh oracy in key stage 2

R2 Provide opportunities for pupils to apply their literacy and numeracy skills more independently and creatively in work across the curriculum

R3 Strengthen the Welsh dimension

R4 Ensure that statutory requirements for collective worship are met

R5 Improve the strategic analysis of school data to plan provision to meet the needs of all groups of pupils

**Follow-up:** No follow-up**Link to report:** [https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Cross%20Ash%20C.P.%20School\\_0.pdf](https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Cross%20Ash%20C.P.%20School_0.pdf)**Raglan Primary School****Date of Inspection:** November 2016**Recommendations:**

R1 Improve outcomes in mathematics and science for more able pupils in key stage 2

R2 Improve attendance rates

R3 Provide further opportunities for pupils in key stage 2 to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum

R4 Ensure that teachers' written feedback to pupils is effective in bringing about improvements

R5 Develop the role of the governing body more fully in holding the school to account

R6 Ensure that the school's self-evaluation procedures involve staff, governors and parents more fully

**Follow-up:** Estyn Review**Link to report:** <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Raglan%20CIW%20V.C.%20Primary%20School.pdf>

Usk Primary School	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	April 2018
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Provide pupils with opportunities to develop their independent learning skills and resilience to ensure that they remain focused on their learning
	R2 Improve spelling in key stage 2
	R3 Raise standards in handwriting and presentation in key stage 2
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No follow-up Estyn Case Study
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Usk%2520CIW%2520Primary%2520School.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Usk%2520CIW%2520Primary%2520School.pdf</a>

Trellech Primary School	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	April 2015
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Raise standards in Welsh second language
	R2 Extend pupils' ability to take responsibility and to contribute to decision-making in the school
	R3 Extend opportunities for pupils to experience the wider curriculum and to learn more about the history and culture of Wales
	R4 Ensure that the small number of pupils in intervention groups attend the daily act of collective worship so the school meets all statutory requirements
	R5 Track decisions and action points derived from management meetings more systematically
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No follow-up
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Inspection_report_Trellech_CP_School_2015_English_only.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Inspection_report_Trellech_CP_School_2015_English_only.pdf</a>

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	February 2017
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Ensure that teachers provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills, to enable them to take more responsibility for their own learning
	R2 Ensure that teachers' feedback enables pupils to understand exactly what they need to do in order to improve their skills
	R3 Address the safety concern that was raised during the inspection
<b>Follow-up:</b>	No follow -up Estyn case study
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Ysgol%2520Gymraeg%2520y%2520Fenni%2520eng_0.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Ysgol%2520Gymraeg%2520y%2520Fenni%2520eng_0.pdf</a>

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	October 2017
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
	R1 Share best practice in teaching across the school
	R2 Develop opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills more frequently in other areas of the curriculum in key stage 2
	R3 Ensure opportunities to develop pupils' ICT skills in key stage 2



Follow-up:	No follow-up
Link to report:	<a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Ysgol%2520Gymraeg%2520y%2520Ffin%2520en.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Ysgol%2520Gymraeg%2520y%2520Ffin%2520en.pdf</a>

## 20. APPENDIX 3 - LIST OF CONSULTEES

- Parents, (and where possible perspective parents) carers/guardians and staff members of schools affected by the proposal
- The governing body of any school affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of schools affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- All MCC Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- All MCC Libraries
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- MCC Youth Service
- GAVO
- Monmouthshire Governors Association
- Teaching trade unions
- Support Staff trade unions
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Consortium
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Early Years & Childcare Partnership
- Welsh in Education Forum



PROPOSAL – *Open a seedling Welsh Medium Primary School*  
YOUR VIEWS

We would like your views on the above proposal. Please complete this pro-forma and return it to the address at the bottom, alternatively it can be handed in at the consultation event or there is an on-line response pro-forma available at [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/school-reorganisation)

Access Unit, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA  
or email [strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk).

Please tick the box if you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report.