



monmouthshire
sir fynwy



OBJECTION REPORT

To establish a New Welsh-medium Primary School
in Monmouth

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1. Introduction

Monmouthshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable school places for children within its County, and in doing so ensure that resources and facilities are efficiently utilised to deliver the education opportunities that our children deserve.

The Council has a responsibility under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 to consult with appropriate stakeholders when considering any significant school reorganisation proposals.

The Council recently engaged in a statutory consultation process relating to the establishment of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Monmouth.

The purpose of undertaking the statutory consultation was to seek the views of our community, key stakeholders and partners on the proposal.

On conclusion of the statutory consultation period, a consultation report was produced to inform interested parties of the outcome of the consultation undertaken and included the Council's response to comments and concerns raised during this consultation.

The consultation report was considered by the Council's Cabinet on 7th June 2023, who agreed to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process by means of the publication of statutory notices.

This Objection Report now represents the council's responsibilities in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 to produce a report that summarises any statutory objections received together with the Council's response to these objections.

2. Distribution of the Consultation Report

The consultation report was published on the Monmouthshire County Council Website [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

The consultees and interested parties listed below were also directly informed of the publication of the consultation report.

- 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
- Town and Community Councils in the Monmouth area
- Assembly Members representing the area served by the school.
- Members of Parliament representing the area served by the school.
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- GAVO
- Teaching trade unions
- Support Staff trade unions
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiaid Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Early Years & Childcare Partnership
- Welsh in Education Forum

The above consultees were directly informed of the decision to proceed with proposals through means of the publication of Statutory Notices, and informed of how they could submit Statutory Objections against proposals.

3. A reminder of our proposal

The Local Authority consulted on the proposal to establish a 3-11 Welsh-medium primary school via a seedling / growth model on the Overmonnow Primary School site from the 1st September 2024. This will be achieved by utilising existing accommodation at the school. There will also be a Local Authority nursery and childcare provision.

4. Background to the Consultation Arrangements

4.1 The consultation period

On 18th January 2023 the Council's Cabinet approved the proposals to commence statutory consultation thereby allowing the Council to engage with key stakeholders on establishing a new Welsh-medium primary school on the Overmonnow Primary School site.

In line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018, the Council produced a consultation document, published on 29th March 2023, which also represented the commencement of the statutory consultation period. The formal consultation period lasted 8 weeks (including 20 school days), concluding on 15th May 2023

The consultation document was distributed / links sent to all statutory consultees as listed on page 4 of this document. The consultation document was also published on the Council's website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

The Council raised awareness of the consultation through means of direct mailshots to all statutory consultees, including parents, staff, and governing bodies of schools affected by the proposal. A marketing campaign was also established, making use of the Council's social media networks throughout the consultation period to advertise the proposals and how consultees could contribute to this process.

Consultees were advised of the following opportunities to respond formally to the consultation proposals:

- Completing the online consultation questionnaire available via [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#)
- Emailing strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

4.2 The Consultation Report

The Council has a responsibility in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to produce a report seeking to inform interested parties of the outcome to the consultation stage of the process by means of:

- Summarising each of the issues raised by consultees
- Responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal, or rejection to the concerns with supporting reasons
- Setting out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

The Council's Consultation Report relating to these proposals was published on 30th May 2023, and all Statutory consultees and interest parties were directly informed of its publication. The consultation report was also published on the Council's website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

On 7th June 2023, the Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report and agreed to proceed with the next stages of the statutory process, by means of publication of the statutory notices that proposed the establishment of a Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth.

5. Statutory Objection Period

5.1 Methodology

On 19th June 2023, the Council entered into the Statutory Objection period through the publication of the Statutory Notices, found under appendix 2 of this report.

The Statutory Notices were published through the following means:

- On the council website at [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#)
- On or near the main entrance of Overmonnow Primary School.
- By electronic distribution to all statutory consultees

Consultees and interested parties were advised that, should they wish to submit a statutory objection against the proposals to establish a new Welsh-medium Primary School, they must do so in writing or by email within the 28 day Statutory Objection period, which concluded on 17th July 2023.

Consultees and interested parties were reminded that concerns raised during the consultation stage of this process would not automatically be carried into the Objection Period and considered as a Statutory Objection unless advised to do so within the Statutory Objection Period.

5.2 Statutory Objections

The Statutory Objection period opened on Monday 19th June 2023 for a period of 28 days, concluding on Monday 17th July 2023. During this time, one statutory objection was received. Details of this statutory objection together with the Council's response can be found within the table below:

Objection number	Objection concern
1.	Further to your letter notifying our Council of the proposed establishment of a Welsh-medium Primary

	<p>School in Monmouth, Wye Valley Community Council's Councillors discussed this proposal at their meeting yesterday.</p> <p>Councillors are aware of the elderly nature of the population in Monmouthshire and the very low numbers of new entrants to the existing schools at Llandogo & Kymin View. This is having an effect on the budgets and staffing of these schools and any new school would reduce the entries even further. Councillors also question what value the new School would have given that Welsh is already being taught as part of the curriculum in both existing schools and there is unlikely to be any interest from surrounding English families.</p> <p>Councillors therefore oppose the planned School.</p> <p>They would be grateful if you could take these views into consideration therefore when making a decision.</p>
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Local Authority Response

The Council fully supports and is committed to the Welsh Government's national strategy Cymraeg 2050 which aims to increase the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050. The establishment of a third Welsh-medium primary school in Monmouthshire is a central element of our Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to enable us to meet our targets. 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. The Council believes it is important that all children have access to Welsh-medium education and are taught wherever possible within their local community.

As with any new school opening in Monmouthshire a new budget will be identified to support the revenue costs and this will not impact on the budgets of existing schools. All the capital funding will be funded via a grant from Welsh Government.

In a Welsh-medium primary school foundation phase pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh and at least 70% of the teaching in Key stage 2 is through the medium of Welsh. In an English-medium school foundation phase pupils are taught through the medium of English. English is the main medium of teaching key stage 2 but Welsh is taught as a second language.

Appendix 1 - List of Consultees to receive the Objection Report

- 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
- Town and Community Councils in the Monmouth area
- Assembly Members representing the area served by the school.
- Members of Parliament representing the area served by the school.
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- GAVO
- Teaching trade unions
- Support Staff trade unions
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiaid Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Early Years & Childcare Partnership
- Welsh in Education Forum

Appendix 2 - Statutory Notice

**MOMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY HALL, RHADYR, USK,
MONMOUTHSHIRE, NP15 1GA**

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE IS GIVEN in accordance with Section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Monmouthshire County Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to establish a new Welsh Medium School to be maintained by Monmouthshire County Council at Rockfield Road, Overmonnow, Monmouth, NP25 5BA for pupils aged 3-11.

Monmouthshire County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response has been published to all statutory consultees and is available via [School Reorganisation - Monmouthshire](#).

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

The proposed new school will be a community school and Monmouthshire County Council will be the admission authority. Applications for places at the new school will be managed and determined in line with the Council's agreed School Admissions Policy.

The admission number for pupils aged 4-11 at the new school in the first year in which the proposals have been implemented is 30. The new school pupil capacity will be 60.

The new school will provide nursery provision to be maintained by Monmouthshire County Council which will provide 30 full time equivalent places.

It is the intention of the Council that transport shall be provided free of charge for pupils to their new school in accordance with the Council policy at that time. The current policy is that pupils are eligible for free home to school transport if they meet the following criteria:

- a) They attend their nearest or catchment area Welsh-medium school and
- b) They live more than one and a half miles from the school for primary or
- c) They live more than two miles from the school for secondary.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by **17th July 2023**, any person may object to the proposals outlined within this notice.

Objections should be sent to the School & Student Access Unit, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA or email to strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Signed

Date: **19th June 2023**

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive
For Monmouthshire County Council

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the notice but is offered by way of explanation)

The new Welsh Medium Primary School will be located on the Overmonnow Primary School site by utilising existing accommodation at the school to create two separate schools. The school will be established using a seedling growth model which means in the first year the school will have pupils in nursery, reception and potentially year 1, a year group will be added each academic year until the reception / Year 1 cohort reaches year 6.

Whilst the Admission Number is published at 30, current projections do not anticipate this number will be met in the short term.

It is also proposed that the new school would have a Local Authority maintained nursery providing early education places for 3 and 4 year olds. We would also establish a Welsh medium non-maintained Cylch Meithrin on the site of the school to provide wrap around childcare for 3 and 4 year olds, as well as Flying Start childcare for 2 year olds.