



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CONSULTATION REPORT

Change the age range of Durand Primary School from
3-11 years to 4-11 years

Monmouthshire County Council

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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 has recently engaged in a statutory consultation process relating to the proposals to discontinue the Local Authority nursery provision at Durand Primary School, and instead provide early years provision for families through means on a non maintained setting.

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

This consultation report now represents the council's responsibilities in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 to produce a report seeking to inform interested parties of the outcome to the consultation 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.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

This consultation report has been published on the Monmouthshire County Council Website and is available [HERE](#). We have also directly informed the following consultees and interested parties of the publication of this document.

- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of Durand Primary School
- The Governing body of Durand Primary School
- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of schools and settings considered to be affected by the proposal
- The governing body of any schools considered to be affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of schools affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- Local Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- 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

In addition to the above list, all parties responding to the consultation who requested notification of the report's publication have been informed accordingly

3. BACKGROUND

The Council is committed to improving the educational achievement and attainment for all children and young people in the county through the provision of an inclusive education system that places the learner at the centre.

The Council strives to provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. Investing in all our children's learning and development, ensuring they have the environments, skills and support to flourish and be prepared for the work of the future and meet the demands of a rapidly changing world environment.

Through our work with schools, settings, parents and key partners, we seek to:

- Secure equality of access to education for all children and young people
- Deliver a high quality and inclusive curriculum for all learners
- Educate our children and young people in their local communities whenever possible
- Support children and young people and their families to enable them to live a happy and fulfilling life
- Provide meaningful opportunities for learners to access support when they need it and return to their community school as soon as they are able
- Meet the needs of children and young people now and be suitably adaptable to meet changing needs in the future.

The aims above link directly to our Directorate core values, which aspire to ensure that all our children and young people will:

- **Be ready for school** - through engagement with our Early Years and Flying Start programmes.
- **Be in school** - supported by our Access and Education Welfare teams.
- **Be well behaved** - through support from our Behaviour and Inclusion teams.
- **Be well taught** - by the teachers and teaching assistants in our schools.

Over the last five years, we have made progress towards fulfilling this commitment for the majority of our children and young people. Education remains a top priority for the Council, and it is committed to delivering improved performance in educational provision in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government policy and objectives.

4. OUR CURRENT PROVISION

Monmouthshire County Council currently has 43 settings providing early education, made up as follows:

- 13 LA maintained nurseries within our primary schools
- 30 approved non-maintained settings

The majority of our LA nurseries are situated within one of the four main towns – Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth; whereas, in the smaller villages and rural areas, early education is mostly provided by non-maintained settings.

There are no catchment areas for early education, parents can choose the provision that best meets their needs.

5. A REMINDER OF THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The Childcare Offer for Wales was introduced in 2017 and was fully rolled out in September 2020. This is a Welsh Government initiative offering up to 30 hours a week of funded early education and childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds from eligible families. These 30 hours a week consist of at least 10 hours of early education and up to 20 hours of childcare.

To be eligible for the Childcare Offer, both parents must:

- Be employed and earn at least equivalent to 16 hours a week at National Minimum Wage but no more than £100,000 per annum; or
- Be on Statutory Pay and Leave (Sick, Maternity, Paternity, Parental, Bereavement or Adoption Leave); or
- Be enrolled on a further or higher education course that is at least 10 weeks in length.

Since the full rollout of the Childcare Offer, we have seen an upward trend towards parents choosing to access their early education in non-maintained settings rather than LA maintained school nurseries, as they can access early education and wrap around childcare at the same setting.

Overall, take up of early education in Monmouthshire is high and has been consistently more than 90% of the eligible population.

6. A REMINDER OF THE PROPOSAL

The Council has entered into statutory consultation processes concerning proposals to change the age range of Durand Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years.

This proposal would mean that the current Local Authority maintained school nursery would close, and funded early education will be provided by an approved non-maintained setting operating from the school site.

There is already a non-maintained setting on site of Durand Primary School offering wrap around childcare for children attending the school nursery. The proposed closure of the nursery at Durand Primary School will allow the existing non-maintained setting to extend their provision and offer early education places in the mornings and afternoons, in addition to wrap around childcare. This will provide more flexibility for families.

It will also result in financial savings for Durand Primary School and enable them to focus on pupils of statutory school age.

7. WHY DID WE CONSULT ON THESE PROPOSALS?

The Council entered into statutory process regarding these proposals with the following principles in mind:

1) Our Statutory duties

Monmouthshire County Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure that all children aged 3 and 4 years can access their entitlement to a minimum of 10 hours a week of funded early education. There is also a duty on local authorities to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, provision of childcare that is sufficient to meet the requirements of working parents.

One of the ways to fulfil both statutory duties is to develop more non-maintained childcare settings that are also approved to offer early education. This facilitates parents accessing their full entitlement of 30 hours funded early education and childcare in one setting.

2) Responding to parental demand

Take up of early education is relatively high in Monmouthshire, with more than 90% of eligible children accessing their entitlement to early education in their pre-school year within a Monmouthshire setting.

Prior to the introduction of the Childcare Offer for Wales, take up of early education was shared equally between LA maintained school nurseries and approved non-maintained settings. Since the full rollout of the Childcare Offer for Wales in September 2020, we have seen a notable decline in the number of families accessing their early education in a LA maintained school nursery, compared with an increase in the number of families accessing their early education in an approved non-maintained setting.

The change in parental demand for early education across the two types of provision is illustrated in the following table:

Number of children accessing early education in the summer term						
	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025

LA maintained school nursery	587	481	476	470	469	445
Non-maintained approved setting	633	565	620	634	680	698
TOTAL	1220	1046	1096	1104	1149	1143

** There are no figures for 2020 due to Covid restrictions.*

In response to this demand, we need to increase the number of non-maintained settings approved to provide early education. We also need to consider the financial implications on schools who are operating with significant numbers of surplus places in their nursery class.

3) Quality teaching and learning environments

The Council has committed to ensuring that it offers excellent teaching and learning environments to our children and young people, so that they stand the best chance of achieving excellent outcomes that will set them up for their journey through life.

Approved non-maintained early education settings receive specialist support and training from the Education Achievement Service (EAS) and the Local Authority Early Years team. This has resulted in our non-maintained settings successfully implementing the Non-Maintained Curriculum for Wales and offering high quality provision. This can be evidenced in recent Estyn and CIW joint inspection reports, where our settings have received more than 25 judgements of excellent over the last 6 years and 7 settings have been asked to produce a best practice case study.

Due to financial constraints, many of our LA school nurseries have a HLTA rather than a teacher leading their nursery class. These individuals haven't necessarily received any formal training in child development, whereas childcare staff are required to have a level 2 or level 3 qualification in Childcare, Play and Learning Development (CCPLD), and the majority of our approved settings have a leader with a level 5 Childcare qualification.

Non-maintained settings are required to operate with a minimum ratio of one member of staff for every 8 children. The recommended ratio for school nurseries is one member of staff for every 10 children; however, this ratio isn't compulsory.

Taking all of this into account, the school has asked us to consider changing the age range of Durand Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and replace the school nursery with a non-maintained setting approved to provide funded early education and wrap around childcare.

8. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Methodology

On 21st January 2026 the Council's Cabinet approved the proposals to commence statutory consultation thereby allowing the Council to engage with key stakeholders on proposals to close the local authority nursery at Durand Primary School

In line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018, the Council produced a consultation document, published on 29th January 2026, which also represented the commencement of the statutory consultation period. The formal consultation period lasted 6 weeks (including 20 school days), concluding on 13th March 2026.

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 available [HERE](#) .

The Council raised awareness of the consultation through means of direct mailshots to all statutory consultees, including parents, staff, and governing bodies of schools and settings 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 opportunity to respond formally to the consultation proposals by:

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

9. FORMAL RESPONSES TO PROPOSALS

The formal consultation process was open for a period of 6 weeks (including 20 school days) between the period of 29th January and 13th March 2026. All relevant consultees were informed of this window and reminded of the opportunity to have their say, either through means of completing the online survey or by emailing the dedicated email address.

9.1 Summary of consultation results

The Council received a total of 14 formal responses to the proposals outlined within this report. A profile of the respondents can be found in the table below:

Respondent category	Number of responses
Parent / Carer	11
Governor	
Staff	
Governor	
Parent / Carer	
Community / Member of Public	2
Town / County Councillor	
Other Organisations	1
Total responses	14

N.B. The above table reflects the number of formal responses received to this consultation, through means of a formal response to this consultation.

Feedback to this consultation from ESTYN and the Education Achievement Service are not included in the numbers above and are published separately within this report.

During the consultation window, the Council asked consultees via the published online survey whether they agreed with the proposals put forward as part of this statutory process. The responses to this question are shown in the table below:

Consultee response	Number of responses
Agree with proposals	11
Disagree with proposals	1
Agree with some aspects of the proposals	2
Total responses	14

11 out of the 14 respondents (79%) supported the proposal with a further 2 (14%) supporting aspects of the proposal. Only 1 respondent (7%) disagreed with the proposals.

They key themes taken from the feedback received from respondents who are fully supportive of the proposals are detailed below:

Respondent	Summary of consultee comment
1	A view that the provision proposed within this consultation is necessary, with the non maintained setting able to offer more flexibility to support working families within the area
2	An overwhelming view that the current non maintained setting is excellent and can only benefit families if it were able to operate full time.
3	A view that the current provision offered by the non maintained setting is far superior to the provision currently on offer through the local authority nursery
4	A view that non maintained settings are able to access financial support (grants) that a local authority nursery cannot, which can only benefit the children

Local Authority response

The Council is pleased to receive these comments of support towards the proposals to discontinue the local authority nursery at Durand Primary School, allowing the current non maintained setting to deliver their provision on a full time basis.

The feedback received from the majority of respondents reflects the key reasons for why the local authority has developed these proposals, including providing more flexibility for working parents as well as improved educational opportunities for our Early Years learners. Since the full rollout of the Childcare Offer for Wales in September 2020, there has been a notable decline in the number of families accessing their early education in a LA maintained school nursery, compared with an increase in the number of families accessing their early education in an approved non-maintained setting. This would suggest that the proposals being put forward as part of this consultation are reflective of the wider demands from families across the county.

2 out of the 14 respondents (14%) supported aspects of the proposal

A summary of the feedback received from respondents that supported aspects of the proposal along with the Councils response is provided below:

Respondent	Summary of consultee comment
1	No strong objection towards the proposals being put forward, however, a view that the current provision offering wrap around care works very well and therefore reassurance needed that the full 30 hours provision will be available in the same setting.

Council Response

The current arrangements at Durand Primary School are that eligible children are able to access education provision at the nursery run by Durand Primary School. Parents / Carers are then able to access wrap around child care on the site of Durand Primary School delivered by the non maintained setting.

Proposals put forward as part of this consultation are that the nursery run by Durand Primary School would cease to exist, and that the non maintained setting would expand to offer eligible families with up to 30 hours provision, delivering both the educational and child care requirements.

Respondent	Summary of consultee comment
2	No strong objection towards the proposals put forward, but a concern that the local authority hasn't appropriately considered the impact that proposals would have on Welsh medium provision within the area, alongside appropriate mitigations

Council Response

The Council is committed to supporting the growth in Welsh medium education across the County In line with its agreed Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). We are very grateful to receive feedback during these consultation processes, particularly where there are potential concerns around impact on Welsh medium Education. The feedback received as part of this consultation has been used to update our integrated impact assessment (appendix 1).

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin is the Welsh medium primary school responsible for providing Welsh medium provision to both School age and Early years learners in the South of the county. The School has received significant investment over recent years to extend and improve the provision that it is able to offer, and is now fully equipped to be able to provide early years education and wrap around child care through its Ty A Fi, School nursery and Clych Meithrin. This provision enables eligible families to receive their full 30 hours support funded via the Child care offer. It has been very pleasing to note the increasing number of families accessing this Welsh medium provision, and the impact that this has evidently had on those transitioning into statutory education at the school.

The proposals concerning Durand Primary are not considered to have a negative impact on Welsh medium education within the area. Families are currently able to access full day provision at Durand Primary school via the School nursery and wrap around child care provided by the non maintained setting on site. The proposals formed as part of this consultation are for the local authority nursery to close, and for the non maintained setting to deliver the educational aspects as well as the childcare. This provides the consistency and flexibility that the families require, and mirrors existing provision available at other schools within the cluster.

1 out of the 14 respondents (7%) did not support the proposal. A summary of the concerns raised have been included below alongside the Council's response:

Respondent	Summary of consultee comment
1	A view that whilst providing families with full day childcare is important, preference would be for the educational aspects to be delivered by a teacher / school rather than a non maintained setting
Council response	
<p>We understand the concerns raised by the respondent regarding the proposals for the educational aspects being delivered by the non maintained setting as opposed to the school themselves.</p> <p>The Council would like to offer reassurance that children accessing their 30 hours provision through non maintained settings across the county receive a high standard of provision. Approved non-maintained early education settings receive specialist support and training from the Education Achievement Service (EAS) and the Local Authority Early Years team. This has resulted in our non-maintained settings successfully implementing the Non-Maintained Curriculum for Wales and offering high quality provision. This can be evidenced in recent Estyn and CIW joint inspection reports, where our settings have received more than 25 judgements of excellent over the last 6 years and 7 settings have been asked to produce a best practice case study.</p> <p>We understand that parents will have a preference for which nursery / setting that they would like their child to attend. Within the Caldicot cluster, there will continue to be local authority maintained nurseries available for families to choose should this be their preference. Such nurseries include those at Dewstow, Magor and Undy Primary Schools, as well as Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin</p>	

10. VIEWS OF DURAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Council have held engagement sessions with staff and governors of Durand Primary School concerning proposals to discontinue the local authority maintained nursery.

The Council have received unanimous support from the Headteacher and governing body towards the proposals put forward, and they very much look forward to

continuing to work closely with the non maintained setting should proposals move to implementation.

11. VIEWS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICE RESPONSE

The proposed closure of the nursery at Durand Primary School will allow the existing non maintained setting to extend their provision and offer early years education places in the morning and afternoons, in addition to the wrap around childcare. This will provide more flexibility for families. It will also result in financial savings for Durand Primary School and enable them to focus on pupils of statutory school age.

The non maintained settings in MCC have successfully implemented the Non Maintained Curriculum for Wales and offer high quality provision. Recent Estyn and CIW reports prove this.

We would be in favour of the proposal due to the above advantages of having a non-maintained setting as I believe it would be more beneficial for the community and provide improved provision for children in the early years.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Council would like to thank the Local Authority School Improvement Service (LASIS) for responding to this consultation. The views of our partner School Improvement Service are hugely important to the Council when undertaking School Organisation proposals, and its pleasing to note the evident support of these proposals concerning Durand Primary School and the benefits that they will bring.

12. ESTYN RESPONSE

In line with the School Organisation Code Wales, the Council is required to consult with ESTYN on any school reorganisation proposals that requires statutory consultation process. The response received from Estyn to this consultation is published below, alongside the Councils response:

ESTYN RESPONSE

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to

Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is Estyn's view that the proposals are likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for the proposal, citing a shift in parent and carer preference in favour of non-maintained nursery education providers who can offer wraparound childcare on the same site. The proposal includes data that reflects this trend across the authority. The data provided also reflects that pupil numbers in Durand Primary School's nursery class have been relatively stable for the last four years, however surplus places have remained significantly high over recent years and therefore, the proposer's reference to school financial pressure associated with surplus places appears to be reasonable and proportionate.

The local authority includes a suitably detailed description of the proposal along with the projected timetable for statutory procedures and implementation. The local authority proposes to close its nursery class and to allow funded early education by an approved non-maintained setting to operate on the school site. The non-maintained provider currently offers wraparound provision on site. The proposal does not consider a need for any interim arrangements should the proposal go ahead and that there will be limited disruption to pupils. This appears to be reasonable.

The local authority sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo, highlighting improved flexibility for working families along with access to more specialist early years support from regional partners and opportunities to widen provision in the future. This appears to be reasonable.

The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why these have been discounted. Associated risks have been highlighted however these appear to be minimal.

The proposal acknowledges that the local authority does not provide transport for nursery age pupils and as such, there will be no impact on existing travel arrangements or accessibility of provision.

The local authority provides sufficient detail to suggest that surplus places will be reduced should the proposal go ahead. Although the proposal doesn't outline specific financial detail regarding savings by the school or costs to the non-maintained provider in hiring the premises, the proposal does anticipate a positive impact on the school's financial position and this appears to be appropriate.

The proposal does not anticipate any negative impact on Welsh medium provision as a result of this proposal and this appears to be reasonable. The local authority has not provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

The local authority describes the purpose of Community Impact Assessments in section 14.1 but has not provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The local authority considers the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards of education appropriately and has included relevant information from the most recent Estyn report for the school. The local authority perceives that there will be a positive impact on the standards and the quality of teaching for pupils attending the non-maintained setting due to statutory requirements for higher adult to pupil ratios, early years qualifications for staff and the delivery of the non-maintained curriculum for Wales. The proposer anticipates there will be no impact on the school's curriculum for 4–11 year-olds. These appear to be reasonable statements.

The proposer considers that the wellbeing of pupils will be improved as a result of fewer transitions for younger pupils between nursery provision and wraparound care. The proposal states that the school and non-maintained provider will continue to be supported by the local authority and regional partners to provide high quality care, support, and guidance for vulnerable pupils and pupils with Additional Learning Needs as well as support to ensure continued effective leadership in both settings. This appears to be reasonable.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Council would like to thank ESTYN for their very much supportive response towards our proposals to close the local authority maintained nursery at Durand Primary school.

The proposals that the Council has put forward for the non maintained setting to deliver the full day provision are highlighted to be reasonable proposals, alongside the benefits that this will bring to families within the area

The Council has taken the view that the proposals put forward as part of this consultation are unlikely to have a negative impact on Welsh medium education, and this is considered to be a reasonable view by ESTYN. However, we acknowledge the concern that a Welsh Language Impact Assessment / Community Impact Assessment has not been provided. The Council can confirm that a Community Impact Assessment was completed and published alongside the consultation document on the launch of this consultation. This Community Impact included a section that considered possible impact on Welsh language.

The Community Impact assessment has been updated following feedback received during this consultation, and an updated version available under appendix 1 of this report.

13. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL

In line with the School Organisation Code Wales (2018) the Council is required to carry out a further assessment on the proposal and alternative options, taking account of information received during the consultation process.

The Council consulted on a preferred option to close the school nursery at Durand Primary School and enable funded early education to be provided by an approved non-maintained setting operating from the school site.

A reminder of the options considered and are provided below:

Option 1 – Do nothing and maintain the status quo. This would mean that Durand Primary School would continue with its current age range of 3-11 years offering 30 part time nursery places (mornings only) and a non-maintained setting would offer wrap around childcare in the afternoons.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Consistency for children and families	The school nursery would be unable to offer early education for rising 3s once their morning session was full
Nursery children are on the school roll	Sustainability of non-maintained setting is at risk if they can only offer part time places
Early education and childcare can be accessed on the same site	School nursery and non-maintained setting would have to share the same space with no break between sessions
	Different staff would be offering the early education from the wrap around childcare, resulting in more daily transitions for young children

Option 2 – Change the age range of Durand Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and replace the school nursery with a non-maintained setting approved to provide funded early education and wrap around childcare.

Strengths	Weaknesses
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More flexibility for working families, as they can access early education and childcare in one setting	Children will not join the school roll until their Reception year
Children will receive their early education in a setting with a higher level of support from the EAS and the LA	Families looking for a school nursery place may choose to send them to one of the other schools in the locality
There is the option for the setting to expand this provision to include after school care, holiday provision and Flying Start childcare	

Option 3 – End the lease agreement with Little Gems to enable Durand Nursery to offer 60 part time places (morning and afternoon sessions), with no wrap around childcare available on site.

Strengths	Weaknesses
There would be sufficient places in the school nursery to accommodate rising 3s	Financial implications on school budget to run with significant surplus places
Nursery children are on the school roll	Limited options for working families who require wrap around childcare
	More daily transitions for young children who require wrap around childcare and have to be transported to a different setting to access this provision

Whilst continuing with existing arrangements is considered to be an option, the large majority of respondents (79%) have voted in favour of proposals to close Durand nursery and extend the provision of the non maintained setting currently providing wrap around child care.

The staff and governing body of Durand Primary School are also supportive of proposals, and feedback received from ESTYN is also favourable.

In light of the above, our preferred option remains to be option 2 above. The feedback received during the consultation stage recognises the benefits of this proposals, including increased flexibility to support working families as well as improvements in the quality of provision that the children are likely to receive.

14. IMPACT OF PROPOSALS

14.1 Quality and Standards in Education

As part of the consultation process the Council assessed the impact of the proposal on the quality and standards of Education. Following the outcome of the consultation and taking into consideration the feedback that has been received, we remain confident that there will be an overall positive impact on the quality and standards of education.

All approved non-maintained settings receive support from both the Local Authority and the regional consortia the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to help ensure they operate effective management and teaching practices. Monmouthshire has a good track record of delivering quality early education.

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 schools or non-maintained settings in the Caldicot cluster. The approved non-maintained setting that is proposed to replace Durand Nursery will receive the appropriate level of challenge and support to ensure that high-quality learning is achieved.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Children's wellbeing is paramount and will impact on their attitude to learning. Consistency of staff, learning environments, session structure and expectations are all factors that can affect a child's wellbeing. Reducing the number of transitions for a child is likely to have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

The proposal should not impact negatively on wellbeing and attitudes towards learning at any of the affected schools or non-maintained settings.

Teaching and learning experiences

Teaching and learning at approved non-maintained settings will follow the Welsh Government 'Curriculum for Funded Non-Maintained Nursery Settings'. *This curriculum aspires to create in children positive dispositions towards learning which, if nurtured, will last a lifetime and provide the firm foundation which all our children need to support them in realising the four purposes of Curriculum for Wales (Curriculum for Funded Non-Maintained Nursery Settings, 2022, p.3).*

For those children currently attending Durand Primary School Nursery, the proposals are likely to have a hugely positive impact on their teaching and learning

experiences, as the Curriculum for Funded Non-Maintained Nursery Settings has been designed by professionals specifically to meet the needs of pre-school children.

The proposal will not impact the teaching and learning experiences at the other affected schools or non-maintained settings.

Care support and guidance

Durand Primary School will continue to be supported by the local authority and the Education Achievement Service to provide high quality care, support, and guidance, as will the proposed non-maintained setting.

There will be no change in care support and guidance at the other affected schools or non-maintained settings.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management teams of Durand Primary School and the proposed non-maintained setting will continue to receive support and guidance from the local authority and Education Achievement Service to ensure best practice in leadership and management is maintained.

There will be no change to the quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers at the other affected schools and non-maintained settings.

14.2 Impact on the Community

During the consultation stage of this process, the Council completed and published to consultees an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Following the consultation stage of this process and considering the feedback received, this Integrated Impact Assessment has been updated and is available under appendix 1 of this document. The consensus drawn from the reassessment is that there will be a positive impact on the community and that there are appropriate measures in place to mitigate any possible impact on Welsh medium education.

14.3 Impact on Travel arrangements

The proposals put forward by the Council are relevant for children that are below statutory school age. As home to school transport is not provided for children that are below statutory school age, there will be no impact on travel arrangements.

14.4 Impact on existing learners

Should proposals proceed to implementation, the local authority maintained nursery at Durand Primary School would cease to operate from 31st August 2026, with the non maintained setting providing full day provision from 1st September 2026.

Children who are expected to start Durand Nursery in September 2026 will be given the opportunity to transfer across into the provision provided by the non maintained setting, so that they are able to continue to receive provision on the same site. Alternatively, parents / carers will have the opportunity to apply for alternative local authority nurseries within the cluster.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS

The consultation stage of this process has allowed the opportunity to significantly challenge and test our preferred option:

In line with the School Organisation Code (November 2018), the consultation report is able to make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet on how proposals should proceed. The options available are:

- 1) To publish the proposals as consulted on
- 2) To publish the proposals as consulted on with any appropriate modifications.
- 3) To abandon the proposals and maintain the status quo.
- 4) To significantly recast the proposals and reconsult

The consultation responses have evidenced that the majority of respondents are supportive of the proposals to close the local authority nursery at Durand Primary School. The consultation saw 2 respondents (14%) agreeing with aspects of the proposals, and 1 respondent (7%) disagreeing with proposals. However, this report has evidenced that the Council has been able to provide sufficient mitigations against any concerns highlighted during this consultation process. It is therefore recommended that the preferred option is considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the next stages in this statutory process:

1) To publish the proposal as consulted on – change the age range of Durand Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years. The school nursery will close and funded early education will be provided by an approved non-maintained setting operating from the school site.

Appendix 1 - List of Consultees with whom we consulted

- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of Durand Primary School
- The Governing body of Durand Primary School
- Parents, carers/guardians and staff members of schools and settings considered to be affected by the proposal
- The governing body of any schools considered to be affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of schools affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- Local Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- 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

