

**Formal consultation to increase the capacity and
age range of**

St Joseph's RC Primary School

CONSULTATION RESPONSE REPORT



***'Dyn ni'n tyfu gyda'n gilydd mewn cariad Duw wrth i ni weddio, dysgu
a chwarae'***

'We grow together in God's Love as we pray, learn and play'

NOVEMBER 2018

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1. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to establish a 32 place Early Years Unit at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. The unit would provide 32 children with half day (16 am and 16 pm) placements. It is proposed that the changes take effect from 1st September 2019.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an education establishment that currently offers primary education to pupils aged 4 to 11. It is a high-achieving school and has been recently judged as 'Good' at a recent inspection by Estyn. The school would like to extend its age range to provide a year of nursery education to pupils from the age of 3 and would therefore like to open a nursery class within the existing building to provide early years teaching following The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Statutory Consultation for this proposal took place from Monday 3rd September 2018 – Sunday 14th October 2018.

What is this Consultation Response Report for?

The feedback from the consultation period has been collated and summarised and this Consultation Response Report [the Report] was presented to the Governing Body on 6th November 2018 for consideration.

Within 13 weeks (maximum) of the end of the consultation period, the Head Teacher is required to publish a Consultation Response Report which:

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

The Report might also make recommendations – for example, to the Local Authority's executive or the Governing Body about how to proceed.

The Report will be published electronically on both the School and the City of Cardiff Council websites. In addition, hard copies will be available on request. This **will** take place before any proposal is published. The school will advise the following groups of the availability of the Report:

- Pupils, parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools which are subject to the proposals;
- Consultees who had requested notification.
- All of the other organisations/ bodies who they consulted with.

All consultees were advised that they could submit views either in favour of or against a proposal during the consultation period, however it **should be noted** that unfavourable comments made would not be treated as formal objections at this stage, and that if they wish to object, that they need to do so in writing during the 'statutory objection period' (within the 28 day period after the issue of the statutory notice, which is issued if and only after the School/ Governing Body decides to proceed with a proposal).

If consultees submit a request during the objection period that a response submitted at consultation stage should be treated as an objection, this **should** normally be accepted. Those responsible for publishing proposals **will** make every effort to ensure that those who have expressed opposition or concern during the consultation period are aware that statutory notices have been published.

If after consideration of this report, the Governing Body wishes to progress with this proposal, a Statutory Notice must be issued. The published proposals/ statutory notice **must** all contain the following information:

- the name of the persons or body publishing the proposal;
- the planned date of implementation
- details of how to obtain a copy of the Consultation Report;
- the date by which objections should be sent and the address to send them to, including the relevant email address.

2. DETAILS OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultees- who did we consult with?

In accordance with the Consultation Report issued on 3rd September 2018, we consulted with the following:

- Teachers, staff and the Governing Body of St Joseph's RC Primary School
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending St Joseph's RC Primary School;
- Pupils of St Joseph's RC Primary School;
- The City of Cardiff Council
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan.
- The Headteacher and Governing Body of Allensbank Primary School, Gladstone Primary School, Gabalfa Primary School and Whitchurch Primary School.
- The Headteacher and Governing Body of Cathays High School and Whitchurch High School and Corpus Christi High School.
- The Welsh Ministers
- Ward Councillors, Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff at St Joseph's RC Primary School;
- The Central South Wales Consortium;
- Local Authority Transport departments;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cardiff;
- South Wales Police Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- The independent childcare providers: Bluedoor Nursery, Mrs B's nursery, Acorn Nursery, Little Cherubs Nursery
- Cardiff Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership

Consultation Response Form

Copies of the Consultation Report which included the consultation response form were issued to all consultees. A copy of the response form is included at **APPENDIX 1** for ease of reference.

Consultation Drop in Sessions

There were two opportunities to meet with governors and school staff to discuss the proposal on WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER AT 9.15am and at 3.30pm where staff and members of the Governing Body were available to discuss the proposal and answer any questions.

School Council

The school council held 2 meetings during the consultation period to discuss the proposal.

PACT Meetings (Partnerships & Communities Together)

The Vice Chair of Governors raised the nursery proposal at 3 local PACT meetings; on 17th July, 11th September and 23rd October. One PACT meeting took place during the consultation period.

3. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Consultation Response Forms

Completed questionnaire forms were received from parents and other family members, grandparents, prospective parents and grandparents, members of staff and governors. A schedule of responses to the Consultation Document is included at **APPENDIX 2**.

A total of 78 questionnaire responses were received and can be summarised as follows:

Q1 - Are you in favour of introducing nursery class teaching at St Joseph's?

- There were 78 responses in total, of which 99% (77) were in favour of the proposal and 1% (1) not being in support of the proposal.

Q2- Do you use any existing nursery or play group provision?

- 15% (12) of respondents currently use an existing nursery or play group provision. Half of these (6) using nearby Allensbank Primary Nursery or a private nursery.

Q3- If you have a nursery aged child would you use the proposed nursery at St Joseph's?

- 67% (52) responded favourably to Q3 in that that if they had a nursery aged child they would use the proposed nursery at St Joseph's. There were no negative responses and 33% (26) said that the question did not apply to them.

Q4- Please tick the boxes that best describe you:

- 90% (70) of respondents currently have children attending St Joseph's Primary, with 3 of these also being staff members and 3 governors. 3% (2) identified as Governors with 7% (6) being in the 'other' category. This comprised mostly local residents.

Q5- In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please tick the box(es) that most apply to you:

- 78 people responded to Q5 with many ticking multiple roles, so 111 answers were recorded. The role of people responding to the consultation was as follows:
 - 59% (66) parent/carers of children at St Joseph's, 10 of these were also a Parent/carer who is considering sending their child to the nursery, 10 local residents, 7 members of the community and 3 staff members
 - 4 additional respondents were Parents/carers considering sending their child to the nursery, with 13% (14) in total
 - 9 other respondents confirmed that they were local residents or members of the local community, giving a total of 24% (27)
 - 1 as 'other' (Governor)

Q6- How much, if at all, would the proposals affect your ability to access nursery provision for your child/children? The proposals would...

- 60% (47) indicated when asked that the proposals would make things a lot easier for them. One comments emphasised the importance of continuity of education thereby avoiding having to resettle children in a different school for Reception class. *"My two eldest in yr 2&3. It would be convenient to place my daughter in sept 19 in st joseph's nursery and she can continue her school years all the way through to year 6. My husband's eldest 3 has attended St Joseph's and we'd continue to recommend the school."*

- 26% (20) of people said that this question was not applicable to them, 13% (10) saying it would make little difference, no one saying it would make things more difficult and just 1%- 1 respondent saying that they didn't know.

Some of the additional comments received on the forms include:

- "It would be a fantastic provision and I am sure welcomed by parents who have nursery aged children. A few queries: 1) space- classroom & outdoors?, 2) safety children/ parents in and out of the site during the conventional school day. We don't have other access door, eg: many other nursery provisions within schools seem to have a separate entry door?"
- "I am a parent of a child who will turn 3 in March 19. It will be very convenient to us because we live just a few yards away."
- One local resident was concerned about Increased Traffic. This was the 1 respondee who was not in support of the proposal.

Consultation Drop in Sessions

There were NO attendees recorded at either drop in session on Wednesday 26th September. The morning session was hosted by Alex Riordan (HT) and Governor Representatives – Simon Lawrence (Vice Chair), Sian Diaz and Mike Worthington. The afternoon session was hosted by Alex Riordan (HT) and Governor Representatives – Nicola Walsh, Sian Diaz and Mike Howells (Chair).#

Estyn Response

The school received a formal response from Estyn which is included in full at **APPENDIX 3**.

Key Comments from the response are as follows:

- St Joseph's RC Primary is one of the very few schools in the catchment not admitting three-year-old pupils. If this proposal is successful it would mean that there is provision in the catchment for three year old children in a faith school.
- It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standards of education in the area (should the school and relevant bodies be able to fund and staff the proposal).
- The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits in relation to offering a continued education provision from Nursery to Year 6 at St Joseph's but does not explain how the proposal fits with the local authority's plans for 3-year-old provision.
- The proposal includes information on the number of nursery place available at schools serving the area, and number of children attending these in April 2017. This data indicates that there are sufficient places in nursery classes serving the Gabalfa area and that nearly all schools with nursery provision have spare places but there is no opportunity for children to attend a nursery/early years unit with a faith-based setting in their local area.
- The proposal also considers the probable positive impact on parents' time and the ease on logistical difficulties caused by transporting children between different providers. It also identifies the possible impact on the environment with fewer car journeys to and from different schools and providers for parents dropping off siblings
- The proposal identifies some potential disadvantages of the proposal and suggests solutions. For example, the proposal could result in potential increased traffic congestion around the school site at drop off/pick up times. In response, the proposal notes most of the pupils walk to school or use public transport and school start times would be staggered to ease the flow of traffic. Furthermore, the Governing Body will work with the Council to develop a Travel Plan to minimise potential disruption.
- The proposal identifies a few possible risks associated with the proposal. These are mainly due to the proposal being developed on the assumption that any minimal funding required for the nursery would be provided by the Council/Diocese. The proposal also identifies a further risk that the

expected number of pupils entering the early year's unit does not materialise. While the proposal identifies these risks it does not offer solutions.

- The most recent Estyn inspection report in May 2017 found that the school had a large deficit, which placed a considerable constraint on future spending decisions. In light of the deficit, the report recommended that the school further reduced the deficit budget. The proposer does not consider how the proposal impacts on this recommendation or future spending decisions.
- The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at St Joseph's RC Primary School. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes.
- The proposer has not commented on the school's outcomes when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.
- The proposal has not considered the most recent Estyn inspection reports of other nursery settings in the north Cardiff area.

School Council

The School Council is made up of pupil representatives from each year group. Mrs Tuff (Year 2 teacher led the discussions over 2 meetings. The School Council discussed the following:

- Why is Nursery Education important? (In their words)
 - So they can learn and play
 - Make new friends
 - being safe
 - working with adults
 - excellent outdoors
 - having fun

They then made a list of the positive and negative impacts of having nursery provision (their words).

Positive:

- We have the room as we lost the other year 6 class
- Walk to school can be bigger
- More teachers
- Won't have to change school to come to Reception
- Mrs Riordan
- Will earn more money (the school will get more funds)
- Updated website (To include all)
- They will have uniform (So the same as the rest of the school to feel included)
- More places for Nursery children in Cardiff
- Catholic School
- St Joseph's more popular
- Help brothers and sisters who already come to this school.

Negative:

- Not as much space - lose IT room
- Classes will have to move
- Traffic congestion
- Gates being opened and shut at different times of the day

They then discussed the negative points and decided that:

- We could accommodate for the ICT equipment
- Teachers don't mind moving classrooms
- That from our previous discussion, a lot of the Nursery would either walk or already come with siblings so not really much traffic congestion.
- We didn't really get a solution for the gates as not sure on the timings of the half days and which way they would be allowed into school for each session.

PACT Meetings

The three PACT meetings at which the proposal was raised, reached an audience of 15, 19 and 16 residents.

Local residents generally expressed no strong views for or against the proposal. One Heathfield Road resident did raise concerns about the potential for increased traffic congestion along Heathfield Road in general and at the school's Heathfield Road entrance in particular. The consideration of drop-off and collection times to avoid overlap with general school start / finish times were possible was noted.

The following additional responses were received:

Response from Councillor Ashley Wood (Councillor for Gabalfa ward *Welsh Liberal Democrat Group*).

An email response was received from Cllr Wood on behalf of the councillors for Gabalfa Ward.

The following comments were submitted which are addressed in detail in Section 4:

- We have no concerns that the school is capable of operating a nursery effectively and deliver high educational standards.
- We have some concerns that the current nursery provision in the vicinity is not currently at capacity. This proposal could see an increase in surplus places, which can have a financial impact on providers and more generally the tax payer who subsidises places whether used or not.
- Whilst the information provided in the consultation refers to the impact on traffic volumes within the vicinity of the school, noting a small increase in travel to the site, this has not considered the context of the perceived deficiencies of the existing travel arrangements. This is evidenced by the congestion and related traffic issues often reported by residents on Heathfield Road and immediate vicinity attributed to parents dropping off and picking up pupils from the school.
- Residents have expressed concerns to us that any increase in capacity of the school would have a further detrimental effect.

Response from Emma Garson at UNISON.

An email response was received from Emma Garson, Branch Secretary UNISON Cardiff Council. The following question was asked:

- I would like to ask if the nursery provision will be staffed with current school staff or will new appointments be necessary?

Response from the Parish Office of St Mark's Church, North Road.

An email response was received from Parish Office. The following statement was made:

- I sent this on to the Vicar and the Curate who possibly got back to you but they didn't see a problem with what you propose.

4. ANALYSIS OF ISSUES RAISED AND PROPOSED MITIGATION

All of the responses received within the consultation period to 14th October have been reviewed and carefully considered.

The key issues raised by the consultation process, the school response and proposed mitigation measures are detailed in the table below:

REF	ISSUE	ISSUE RAISED BY	SCHOOL RESPONSE	PROPOSED MITIGATION
1	The proposal would generate increased traffic	Local Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up until September 2018, the school was a single form entry school in all years apart from Year 6 which was dual form entry. In the school year 17/18, the number on roll at the school was circa 240. The school had been around this capacity for the last 6 years. This number dropped in September 18 to 210 due to the loss of the previous Year 6. The nursery would bring the total number on roll back to around 240 however, with separate am and pm sessions of up to 16 children, the total number of children present in school at any one time would be around 225. The nursery proposal would therefore not increase numbers overall beyond around 225, however the number of pick ups and drop offs would increase through the day with the morning session pick up at 11.30am and the afternoon session drop off at 12.50pm. We have a current travel plan in place to help manage transport efficiently, improve access by all means of travel for employees, visitors and students, encourage sustainable transport – walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing reduce car use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school already has a current Travel Plan which it is working with. This plan is currently being updated for 2018 2019 in conjunction with our School Council, the School Eco Council our JRSO & Sustrans We have been working with Sustrans for a while and are still working them to encourage walking to school – they have recently provided the school with scooter and bike racks which are very well used by pupils. We are working towards Sustrans vision which is to create a healthy, clean and prosperous place where people can choose to travel safely and conveniently by foot or bike. We are working with our families to make it easier for them to walk and cycle to school The school and its Governing Body will work with the Council to develop an updated Travel Plan which will include the nursery proposal to minimise potential disruption to neighbouring residents. The morning session pick up at 11.30am will be limited to parents/carers picking up via the St Mark's entrance for safety and security and therefore not causing any disruption to residents around Heathfield Road. The number of additional pupils will be a maximum of 16 pupils. However it is anticipated that some parents will already have pupils in school, so these will not all be additional parents. The afternoon session drop off will be via the main Heathfield Road entrance for safety and security due to lunchtime at the school with children using the outdoor spaces near St Marks. Again, The number of additional pupils will be a maximum of 16 pupils. However it is anticipated that some parents will already have pupils in school, so these will not all be additional parents.
2	Will there be adequate space- classroom & outdoors?,	Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that the nursery will utilise the current Reception Class area with Reception then using Year 1, Year 1- Year 2 and so on. The current Reception area has separate toilet facilities, cloakroom and outside place and can be accessed directly from the St Mark's car park (see mitigation measures at 1 above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation required

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nursery will also have use of the main outdoor space at the school at scheduled times. 	
3	Concern over safety children/ parents in and out of the site during the conventional school day. We don't have other access door, eg: many other nursery provisions within schools seem to have a separate entry door?	Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the response at 1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the response at 1 above
4	Need to explain how the proposal fits with the local authority's plans for 3-year-old provision.	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Welsh Assembly Government is currently working to encourage the use of Foundation Phase Nursery Provision. Cardiff Council is currently running a pilot scheme offering 30 hours of government-funded childcare that includes Foundation Phase Nursery Provision (12.5 hours) for three and four year olds of working parents for up to 48 weeks of the year and 17.5 hours through Child Care providers. The pilot is being trialled across 10 Cardiff Wards and the remaining wards across Cardiff will be phased in throughout 2018/19 and be Cardiff wide by 2020 This offer will make taking up nursery provision a lot easier for working parents and will encourage other parents back into work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nursery proposal fits within the LA's plans for 3-year-old provision by providing a further choice for parents/ carers in the surrounding areas and will also offer a faith based nursery.
5	Assumption that any minimal funding required for the nursery would be provided by the Council/Diocese.	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding required for this proposal is being provided by the Welsh Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation required.
6	What if the expected number of pupils entering the early year's unit does not materialise?	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The responses received during the consultation process show that there is already a demand for a nursery at the school. If the school does not attract the total numbers (16 am & 16 pm) within the first year of operation, the Governing Body will review the statistics and consider the long term position of the nursery offering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the governing body are currently working on a marketing strategy for the nursery to ensure that if the proposal is approved, the community and surrounding areas are aware that places will be available for September 2019 and that parents/carers will be able to apply directly to the school.
7	School has large financial deficit	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estyn comment reflects the status of the School's budget deficit at the date of the last inspection in May 2017. Through careful financial management the School's budget deficit was eliminated by the end of the 2017 / 18 Financial Year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School does not have a budget deficit. No mitigation required.

8	Need to consider the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estyn's inspection in 2017 reported that the school's senior leadership team meet frequently to review progress towards school priorities. • These meetings, together with regular staff meetings, focus clearly on improving standards and provision. • The school has a sound performance management system that links suitably to school priorities. • As a result, many staff have received training that has contributed positively to improving the standard of pupils' skills, for example in ICT, and increasing the level of challenge in the work that teachers provide for more able pupils. • The governing body works closely with senior staff to ensure effective school management. • Governors know the school and the community it serves well. They are supportive of the school and fulfil appropriately its statutory duties. • School outcomes 2017 are good. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected outcome Outcome 5+ in all areas of learning is above the national, LA and CSC performance at 100%. • This has been a trend for the last 3 years. • Efsm gap is less than CSC and LA in Outcome 5. • The gender gaps are less in PSCWD, LLD and FPOI is less at Outcome 5+ • The school exceeded the targets set in Outcome 5 in all areas of learning. • Outcome 6 performance was similar to the LA at, CSC and Wales averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school was very pleased with ESTYN report on provision and they reported that the school has 'good leadership and management' • The school is continuing to deliver to improve standards. • We have an experienced set of governors , with understanding and experience of education and Foundation phase and a strong, Head Teacher • Estyn reported that the – 'Head teacher has a clear vision for the school's future' • The school also has an experienced new senior leadership team which will strengthen the performance of the school. • This structure will not be affected by the nursery offering, but will assist to develop and deliver the provision effectively.
9	No comment on the school's outcomes when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At St Joseph's last year there was no EFSM gap at the end of Foundation Phase. EfsM pupils out performed LA, CSC and Wales at O5+ • End of Year 2 NRT reading results are good for the FSM pupils as scores indicate that 100% pupils who took test attained a standardised reading score of 95+, 66% pupils who took test attained a standardised procedural score of 95+ and 66% pupils who took test attained a standardised reasoning score of 95+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mitigation required

10	Proposal has not considered the most recent Estyn inspection reports of other nursery settings in the north Cardiff area.	Estyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal brings further opportunity for those to have continuity in their schooling from nursery to Year 6 in the same setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal is set up a Faith based Nursery to serve our immediate area (walking distance). As such we feel providing an opportunity that is not available in the local Wards. No mitigation required
11	Concerns that the current nursery provision in the vicinity is not currently at capacity. This proposal could see an increase in surplus places, which can have a financial impact on providers and more generally the tax payer who subsidises places whether used or not.	Councillor Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We only see the demand for nursery places rising over the coming years as with the 'Childcare Offer' being rolled out across the city by 2020, this scheme will make it easier for working parents to access nursery places, which are currently not being taken up due to financial and logistical reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation required
12	The information provided in the consultation has not considered the context of the perceived deficiencies of the existing travel arrangements. This is evidenced by the congestion and related traffic issues often reported by residents on Heathfield Road and immediate vicinity attributed to parents dropping off and picking up pupils from the school. Residents have expressed concerns to us that any increase in capacity of the school would have a further detrimental effect.	Councillor Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the response provided at Item 1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the mitigation proposed at Item 1 above
13	Will the nursery provision will be staffed with current school staff or will new appointments be necessary?	Unison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision will be made at the appropriate time on whether we will employ a dedicated nursery teacher or whether the nursery will come under the remit of Mrs Wheeler, reception teacher and use a level 3 HLTA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation required

5. ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Gabalfa/ Heath area of central/ north Cardiff is extremely densely populated and we believe that our Reception class figures for the last 3 years (included below) shows that there is a definite need for a faith based nursery at St Joseph's. Historically our Reception children transfer from other Nurseries to start school at St Joseph's, but we know that our parents who are very supportive of the nursery, with siblings of children all ready in our school eager to come to the nursery.

Dates	Number of Reception pupils
September 2018	26
September 2017	26
September 2016	26

The decision will be made at the appropriate time on whether we will employ a dedicated nursery teacher or whether the nursery will come under the remit of Mrs Wheeler, reception teacher and use a level 3 HLTA.

We can also confirm that we will take up opportunities for other nursery providers, ie: St Phillip Evans to share their good practice nursery planning with us to ensure that our offering is as robust as possible.

Estyn 2017 commented on why they thought the school's current performance is good:

- Most pupils make strong progress as they move through the school – this would be enhanced further by expanding the school to provide education from 3-11 (rather than 4-11)
- Nearly all pupils feel safe in school and have a good understanding of how to stay safe online
- The school provides an effective range of stimulating learning experiences that motivate and engage all pupils
- The school provides a good range of intervention and support programmes to meet the needs of individual pupils
- All staff have high expectations of what pupils should achieve
- All staff manage pupils' behaviour well and, as a result, pupils are highly motivated to learn
- The school is a friendly and safe community that promotes pupils' health and wellbeing successfully
- The school has a very caring and welcoming ethos

They also confirmed that the school's prospects for improvement are good because:

- Following a prolonged period of staffing instability, the newly appointed headteacher has a clear vision for the school's future
- Within a few months, lines of communication have improved, and staff, parents and governors work well together
- The newly restructured leadership team meet frequently to review progress towards school priorities

- Leaders take strong account of national priorities, including improving pupils' literacy and numeracy skills, wellbeing and digital competence
- The school has developed effective systems to evaluate the quality of its work
- Staff nurture strong relationships with parents, who are very supportive of the school
- Leaders use staff expertise well to benefit the pupils

We have a strong school which is performing well and we believe that a nursery provision will only add to our offering for the education of our young people.

6. GOVERNING BODY SUPPORT

This document was presented to the Governing Body on Tuesday 6th November 2018.

Governors reviewed the report and considered the issues raised, the school's response to these issues and also the mitigation measures proposed.

Governors were pleased with the overall consultation response and welcomed all comments received from consultees, both positive and negative.

After consideration of all issues, Governors agreed that the proposal would benefit the school in a positive manner and would enable the school to offer a faith based nursery provision to children in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Governors agreed to go ahead with the proposal in its present form.

7. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This Report was presented to the Governing Body for review and consideration on 6th November 2018 and was approved. The report will be issued and a statutory notice issued. The table below shows the process timetable for this proposal

Stage of Process	Period	Relevant Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation Period 	42 days (Inc 20 schools days)	[3 September 2018 –14 October 2018]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Consultation period a report outlining the details of the consultation, any responses received and the Governing Body's response to these has to be prepared. This report has to be considered by the Governing Body ahead of any decision to progress/abandon the proposal 	14 days	15th October-28th October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation report considered by the Governing Body and published on School website. 		12th November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a decision is made to progress the proposal the next step is the publication of a Statutory Notice. The Notice must be published on a school day and run for 28 days including 15 school days during which time objections to the proposal can be made. 	28 days (Inc 16 school days)	13th November 2018- 10th December 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there are no objections the Governing Body determines the proposal and publishes a decision notice. Determination by the Governing Body 		12th December 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governing Body will then have to publish a summary of any objections received within the objection period (objection report), together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days of the end of the objection period. 	Within 28 days	6th Jan 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there are objections the Governing Body must submit all papers including the objection report to the local authority within 35 days of the end of the objection period. 	Within 35 days	20th Jan 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority has 16 weeks from the end of the objection period to determine a proposal. 	16 weeks	25th March 2019

Stage Completed 

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

Consultation period

The consultation period for these proposals finished on 14th October 2018

This Consultation Response Report will be published on the School and City of Cardiff Council websites after 12th November 2018. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request.

Statutory Notice

The Statutory Notice would be published on the School and City of Cardiff Council websites and posted at or near the main entrance to the school on Tuesday 13th November. Copies of the notice would be made available to distribute to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email). The notice sets out the details of the proposals and invites anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within the period specified.

Determination of the proposals

The Governing Body will determine the proposal and may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so the Governing Body will take into account any statutory objections received.

Decision Notification

Following determination of the proposal all interested parties will be informed of the decision which will be published electronically on both the School and City of Cardiff Council's websites.

Responses received from consultees who are opposed to the proposal will be considered as part of the Consultation Response Report, but will **not** be treated as statutory objections. Objections could only be registered following publication of a **Statutory Notice**.

APPENDIX 1

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Your views matter, please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- Completing and returning the accompanying questionnaire to the address given at the bottom of the form.
- Or if you prefer you can e-mail your views to: stjosephsprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Question 1: Are you in favour of introducing nursery class teaching at St Joseph's?

☐ I am in favour of the proposal of a nursery

☐ I am not in favour of the proposal of a nursery

If you are not in favour of the proposal, please let us know your concerns:

Question 2: Do you use any existing nursery or play group provision?

☐ Yes - please can you state the name and venue?

☐ No

Question 3: If you have a nursery aged child would you use the proposed nursery at St Joseph's?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 4: Please tick the boxes that best describe you:

I have children attending St Joseph's Primary ☐

I am a staff member at St Joseph's Primary ☐

I am a governor at St Joseph's Primary ☐

Other, please describe ☐

Question 5: In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please tick the box(es) that most apply to you:

Parent/carer of a child attending St Joseph's ☐

Parent/carer who is considering sending their child to the nursery ☐

Local resident/ close neighbour ☐

Member of the local community ☐

Member of school staff ☐

I run a business in the local community ☐

Other (please specify) ☐

Question 6: How much, if at all, would the proposals affect your ability to access nursery provision for your child/children? The proposals would...

☐ make it easier

☐ make little difference overall

☐ make it more difficult

☐ Don't know

Your name:

Address:

E-mail Address

Date:

Please tick the box below if you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation Report

☐

Please return this form to St Joseph's RC Primary School, 204 North Road. Gabalfa. Cardiff. CF14 3BL.

APPENDIX 2

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATION FORM RESPONSES

Ref	Question 1			Question 2			Question 3				Question 4					Question 5								Question 6						Comments Made	
	In Fav	Not in Fav		Yes	No		Yes	No	n/a		Children	Staff	Gov	Other		Parent at	Parent Consider	Res	comm	staff	bus	other		Easier	little diff	more diff	don't know	n/a			
1	1				1		1				1					1												1			
2	1				1				1		1					1									1						
3	1				1				1		1					1		1	1									1		Would be a fantastic provision and. A few queries: 1) space-classroom & outdoors?, 2) safety children/parents in and out of the site during the conventional school day.	
4	1			1			1				1					1	1								1					Blue Door, my son turns 3 December 19	
5	1				1				1		1		1			1										1					
6	1				1				1		1					1												1			
7	1				1		1				1					1									1						
8	1				1		1				1					1										1					
9	1				1		1				1					1	1	1							1						
10	1				1		1				1					1									1						
11	1			1			1				1					1									1						Allensbank nursery
12	1				1				1		1					1									1						
13	1			1					1		1					1									1						Allensbank nursery
14	1				1		1				1					1									1						
15	1				1		1				1							1							1						
16	1			1			1				1					1									1						Allensbank nursery
17	1				1		1				1					1												1			
18	1				1		1				1					1									1						
19	1				1		1				1					1									1						
20	1				1		1				1					1	1	1								1					
21	1				1		1				1					1									1						
22	1			1			1				1					1												1			
23	1				1		1				1					1		1	1						1						
24	1				1		1						1					1										1			Neighbour
25	1				1		1				1					1	1								1						Parent considering in future
26	1				1				1				1					1										1			Retired resident
27	1				1		1				1					1	1								1						
28	1				1				1		1					1										1					
29	1				1		1						1				1								1						I am a parent of a child who will turn 3 in march 19. It will be very convenient to us because we live

[illegible]

56	1			1		1				1					1								1							Allensbank nursery
57	1				1		1			1					1	1							1							
58	1				1				1		1				1												1			
59	1				1		1				1				1									1						
60	1				1		1				1					1								1						
61	1				1				1		1					1									1					
62	1				1		1				1					1								1						
63	1				1		1				1					1								1						
64	1				1		1				1					1								1						
65	1				1		1				1					1								1						
66	1			1					1		1		1			1											1			Blue Door & Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
67	1			1					1		1					1											1			Blue Door & Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
68	1			1			1				1					1								1						Allensbank Nursery
69	1				1				1		1					1											1			
70	1				1				1				1										1				1			
71	1				1				1				1					1									1			Local Resident
72	1				1		1				1					1								1						
73	1				1				1		1					1		1	1								1			
74	1				1				1		1		1			1		1	1								1			
75	1				1		1				1					1								1						
76	1				1		1				1					1								1						
77	1				1				1		1					1										1				
78		1			1				1				1					1									1			Increased Traffic
TOTALS	77	1	78	12	66	78	52	0	26	78	70	3	5	6	84	66	14	19	8	3	0	1	111	47	10	0	1	20	78	
%	99%	1%		15%	85%		67%	0%	33%		90%	4%	6%	7%		59%	13%	17%	7%	3%	0%	1%		60%	13%	0%	1%	26%		

100%

100%

100%

APPENDIX 3

ESTYN RESPONSE



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Estyn response to the proposal to increase the capacity and the age range of St Joseph's RC Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11

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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (and the Council of the City and County of Cardiff).

The proposal is to increase the capacity and the age range of St Joseph's RC Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 as from the September 2019.

Summary

St Joseph's RC Primary is one of the very few schools in the catchment not admitting three-year-old pupils. If this proposal is successful it would mean that there is provision in the catchment for three year old children in a faith school.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standards of education in the area (should the school and relevant bodies be able to fund and staff the proposal).

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW
Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446
ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

<p>Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.</p>	<p>Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.</p>
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Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits in relation to offering a continued education provision from Nursery to Year 6 at St Joseph's but does not explain how the proposal fits with the local authority's plans for 3-year-old provision.

The proposal includes information on the number of nursery place available at schools serving the area, and number of children attending these in April 2017. This data indicates that there are sufficient places in nursery classes serving the Gabalfa area and that nearly all schools with nursery provision have spare places but there is no opportunity for children to attend a nursery/early years unit with a faith-based setting in their local area.

The proposer clearly identifies the following expected benefits from this proposal:

- the establishment of the only early year's provision within a faith-based setting for local families;
- continuity of provision reflecting the ethos and culture of a faith school;
- good use of spare capacity within the building following a reduction in the number of classes;
- ease of transition for a nursery-aged child going into the reception class;
- early identification of vulnerable groups so that the needs of children can be identified as early as possible;
- opportunity for children to attend nursery at the same site as their older siblings;
- continuity and progression across the foundation phase; and
- additional nursery places for English-medium within the local area.

The proposal also considers the probable positive impact on parents' time and the ease on logistical difficulties caused by transporting children between different providers. It also identifies the possible impact on the environment with fewer car journeys to and from different schools and providers for parents dropping off siblings.

The proposer includes purposeful information about the availability of accommodation. The proposal clearly states that there would be no disruption to the running of the school or danger to the wellbeing of learners during the establishment of the nursery as no building works are proposed.

The proposal identifies some potential disadvantages of the proposal and suggests solutions. For example, the proposal could result in potential increased traffic congestion around the school site at drop off/pick up times. In response, the proposal notes most of the pupils walk to school or use public transport and school start times would be staggered to ease the flow of traffic. Furthermore, the Governing Body will work with the Council to develop a Travel Plan to minimise potential disruption.

The proposer has also identified appropriately the possible negative impact of the current proposal, on demand for places at other local schools and privately run nurseries or childminders who currently provide the provision in the area.

The proposal identifies a few possible risks associated with the proposal. These are mainly due to the proposal being developed on the assumption that any minimal funding required for the nursery would be provided by the Council/Diocese. The proposal also identifies a further risk that the



expected number of pupils entering the early year's unit does not materialise. While the proposal identifies these risks it does not offer solutions. The most recent Estyn inspection report in May 2017 found that the school had a large deficit, which placed a considerable constraint on future spending decisions. In light of the deficit, the report recommended that the school further reduced the deficit budget. The proposer does not consider how the proposal impacts on this recommendation or future spending decisions.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at St Joseph's RC Primary School. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. However, the proposer has not commented on the school's outcomes when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals. The proposal has not considered the most recent Estyn inspection reports of other nursery settings in the north Cardiff area.

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs. The proposal also includes suitable arrangements for consultation.