



Cyngor Bwrdd



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Current provision is below: The County Borough currently has 2 special schools which are:

- **Pen y Cwm Special School**

The Proposal and what it will look like

Overview: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to increase the capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and ASD Resource Bases across the County Borough in both primary and Secondary settings. This will take effect from September 2023 on a phased basis over the next 5 years.

In primary settings the spaces will increase from **61 to 86 places** and in Secondary settings it will increase from **62 to 80 places**.

Phase one will also include 15 spaces for Welsh-medium schools So how will this look?

- recognise the transition group established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community-Secondary Phase as a 6 place Learning Resource Base from September 2023
- create 6-8 places for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Tredegar Comprehensive School from September 2023
- create 10 places for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Additional Learning Needs at Sofrydd Primary School from September 2024/25
- create 15 places for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Additional Learning Needs at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from September 2024

We are also looking to increase places by 40 in phase 2 of the proposal which will include Faith Schools

So, what is Phase 2?

- create an Autism Spectrum Disorder and Additional Learning Needs Resource Base at Brynmawr Foundation School for 10 pupils
- create an Autism Spectrum Disorder and Additional Learning Needs Resource Base at Cwm Primary School for 10 pupils
- create, if required, an Autism Spectrum Disorder and Additional Learning Needs Resource base at a faith based primary school in Blaenau Gwent (yet to be determined) for 10 pupils
- create an Autism Spectrum Disorder and additional learning needs Resource Base at Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus for 10 pupils

What does it currently look like? There are 7 bases currently and the places within those bases are currently full and demand is increasing which are reported to the Council.

We feel by putting Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases into mainstream schools there will be noŵu

Benefits of the Proposal: This proposal would ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils - particularly those with the greatest level of need, to be educated locally. The proposal promotes an inclusive approach within Education, ensuring access to high quality specialist education facilities and support for pupils with ALN within the County Borough. Should nothing change, the Council will be unable to meet the needs of all learners particularly those with ASD and ALN within Blaenau Gwent.

Expected Benefits and Advantages (when compared with the status quo):

- Pupils are accessing suitable and appropriate provision within their locality.
- Pupils are accessing suitable and appropriate provision in terms of protected characteristics e.g., faith or language.
- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for ALN provision.
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for pupils with ALN.
- The structure will build confidence and self-esteem in pupils, parents, and staff.
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school to resources bases.
- Reduce the costs of out of county placements for pupils, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate.
- Improve access to and facilities for pupils who meet the criteria for ALN provision across the county borough.
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement; and reduced travel time and carbon footprint for pupils

Disadvantages:

- Potential parental concerns in relation to placement in Resource Bases; and
- Pupil numbers in schools identified as potential bases may grow if there is any inward migration into the area.
- Improve access to and facilities for pupils who meet the criteria for ALN provision across the county borough.
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement; and reduced travel time and carbon footprint for pupils

How you can have your say Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comments on the proposal to extend the Capacity for pupils in Resource Bases across the County Borough. You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views:
This can be done in 2 ways:

- 1. Via the link provided: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/d1daqu>**
- 2. Send by mail to Joanne Watts, Service Manager for Education Transformation and Business Change Education Transformation Team, Education Department, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB**

Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday 6th June 2023

