

# 21st Century Schools – Consultation Report

Children and Young People's Summary

## TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif

21st Century Schools



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Hi, I'm **Vision** and this is  
my dog **K9-2.1**  
We're back to talk to you  
about what we found out  
when we asked people  
about the proposal and  
what happens next



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif  
21st Century Schools

## What we'll talk about:

- What this presentation is about?
- What is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme?
- What was the project being proposed?
- Why this school?
- What options were considered?
- Why consult?
- How did we carry out the consultation?
- Implications of COVID19
- Who did we talk with?
- What information did we make available?
- How could you tell us what you think?
  
- Consultation Responses
- What did people say about the proposal?
- What did Scrutiny say about the proposal?
- What did Estyn say about the proposal?
- What were the common themes raised?
- What were the reasonable alternatives?
  
- How did we get you and other pupils involved?
- What were the key policies?
- What are we recommending happens next?
- Who makes the decision and how?
- Where can I find out more?



# Foreword

“Working together to deliver the best outcomes for all our children”

- ✓ We have bold ambitions to provide every learner with the best life chances.
- ✓ As part of this proposal a consultation exercise has been carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.
- ✓ This Consultation Report has been produced to summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period.
- ✓ It aims to support Cabinet in deciding whether to progress with the proposal, make changes or not to progress.

*I hope you find this document informative as a reflection of the activities undertaken to date and an insight into the journey we are on, shaping delivery and placing learning provision at the heart of our communities.*

- **Richard Edmunds**, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services





# Introduction

- What this presentation is about?
- What is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme?

- ✓ Caerphilly Council wants to improve school conditions to raise standards and give every child the best possible start in life.
- ✓ Sometimes schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended or a new school built entirely.
- ✓ The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme is a partnership between the Council and Welsh Government.
- ✓ Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre has been identified as one of the first priority projects in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme.



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif  
21st Century Schools



# Proposal

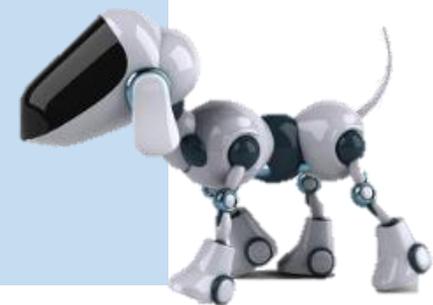
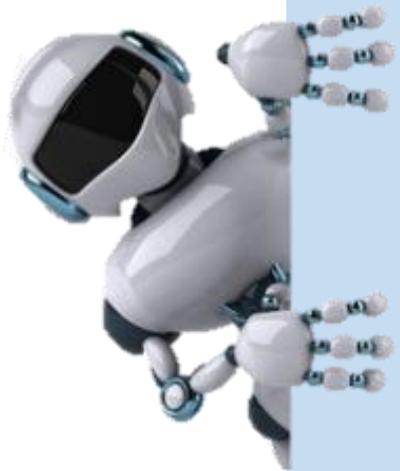
- What was the project being proposed?

We are proposing to:

**Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023.**

- The proposed new building will provide additional facilities to accommodate growing demand for places and provide additional classrooms, specialist intervention areas and outdoor play space
- It is proposed the additional facility will also house a new flexible hall, hydrotherapy pool and soft play facilities to increase provision on site which will also be considered for community use at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.

To ensure that it can cater for the changing and more complex needs of pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) across the Council, both now and in the future and ensure compliance with the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.





# Proposal

- Why this school?

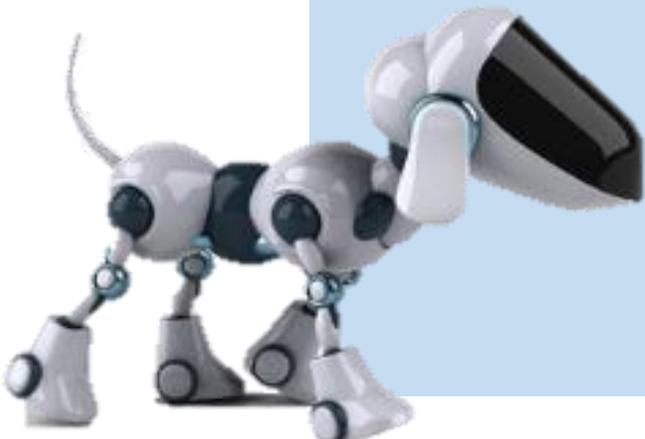
✓ Proposals have been prioritised based on:

- Building condition
- Pupil projections
- Local and national drivers,

**The delivery of the curriculum and the Educational agenda remains at the core.**

- ✓ Trinity Fields is a Special school that cater for those pupils who have the most complex need.
- ✓ All pupils across the Borough are entitled to receive high quality provision that meets their needs, no matter where they live.

We have identified a need to invest in improving our school building at Trinity Fields School, in meeting the demand for specialist education and building upon the excellent practice as identified by Estyn.





# Proposal

- What options were considered?

- ✓ The Council has to consider a number of options for every proposal
- ✓ Each option is scored against a 'shopping' list of criteria to find the one with the best Strategic, Educational, Accessibility, Financial and Environmental Fit

Option	Description
Option 1	Do Nothing
Option 2	Further reconfiguration of the existing school
Option 3	Build a new primary school provision on another site
Option 4	Build a new extension onto the existing school to accommodate an additional 80 places
Option 5	Build a new school on another site to accommodate all identified provision and full cohort of 260 pupils (existing plus additional)



- ✓ **Option 4** being was the preferred option
- ✓ This would provide 263 places in total on the existing school site



# Proposal

- Why Consult?
- Benefits and Disbenefits

- ✓ There are common challenges faced by all Local Authorities when adopting new proposals.
- ✓ Evidence shows that the best way to ensure successful delivery is by setting up projects correctly in the first place.
- ✓ As part of the development of the proposal, a number of benefits and disbenefits were identified as outlined in the Consultation Document.
- ✓ An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment were carried
- ✓ The consultation process was an opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders to understand what they see as positive outcomes and what negative consequences may be delivered.





# The Consultation Process

- How did we carry out the consultation?

- ✓ The Council has to follow a piece of legislation produced by the Welsh Government called the **School Organisation Code 2018** when they want to make any changes to a school.
- ✓ This proposal falls under the heading called making a *'Regulated Alteration to a Special school'*
- ✓ A formal consultation process was followed and a Consultation Document was published in both hardcopy and electronic version

The Consultation period started on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020** and closed midnight on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**



- ✓ The full process was explained in the full Consultation Document  
More information can be found here: [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools)



# The Consultation Process

- Implications of COVID19

Due to the implications of COVID-19 at the time this consultation was due to take place and after taking advice from Welsh Government,

No face-to-face consultation sessions took place with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team to support social distancing and maintain safe working practices for all.

Instead, we :

- Worked closely to help teachers talk to pupils directly
- Used Social media to tell everyone about the consultation
- Used Face-time technology with our Scrutiny Committee
- Produced a [‘Frequently Asked Questions’\\_Webpage](#)





# The Consultation Process

- Who did we talk with?



- ✓ The **School Organisation Code 2018** says that the Council has to write to a number of groups (by letter or email) and tell them about what they would like to do, this includes:

- Parents
- Pupils
- Headteachers, Staff and Governors of the schools affected
- Other neighbouring Local Authorities
- The Welsh Minister
- Local Town and Community Councils
- ESTYN

- ✓ A letter was put together in Welsh and English and sent to all the groups listed in the Code
- ✓ The Council also sent the letter to a few extra groups including Sports Wales and Penallta RFC
- ✓ We also used Social Media and Text Messaging to spread awareness of the consultation





# The Consultation Process

- What information did we make available?

The Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making.

- ✓ The consultation document must be published on a school day
- ✓ Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document
- ✓ With at least 20 of these being school days as defined by **Section 579 of the Education Act 1996**

As part of this proposal, the following documentation was produced:

- Consultation Notification Letter
- Consultation Document
- Child Friendly Consultation Summary
- Consultation Video
- Artist's Impression of proposed new school
- Consultation Response Form (Online)
- Consultation Response Form (Printable PDF)
- Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment





# The Consultation Process

- How could you tell us what you think?



- ✓ Anyone wishing to comment in relation to the proposal could do so in writing by:
  - Completing the online response form on the Council's website
  - Completing a response pro forma and posting it to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Team at Caerphilly
  - Emailing comments to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team at Caerphilly

This consultation was undertaken to capture the views of consultees in relation to the proposal to expand the school. These views have been incorporated into the full Consultation Report, which will be published and considered by Cabinet when determining whether to proceed to the next stage.



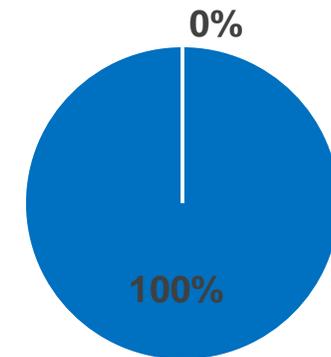
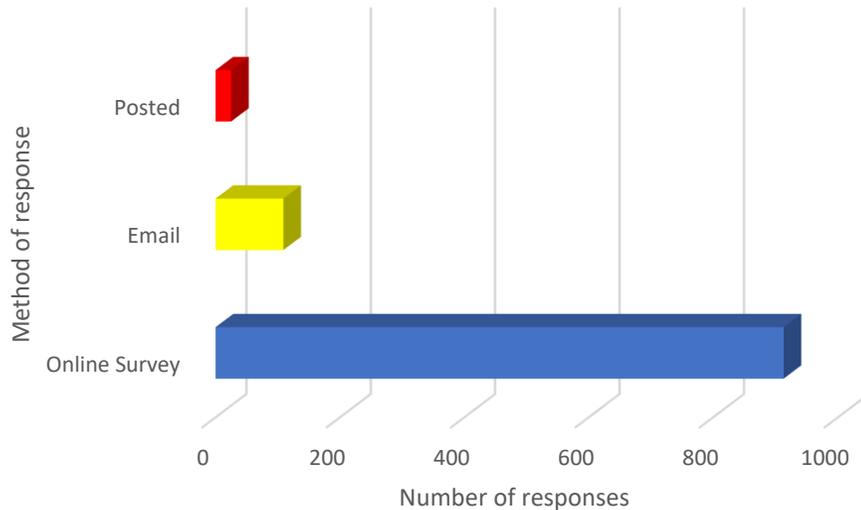
# Consultation Responses

- How did people respond?

✓ **1048** responses were received

- 913 responses received via Online Survey
- 109 responses received via email
- 26 responses received via post

- 0 responses were returned in Welsh
- 1048 responses were returned in English



■ Returns in Welsh ■ Returns in English





# Consultation Responses

- Who responded?

- ✓ As part of **Question 1**, the consultees were asked to identify a category that best described them in relation to the proposal for the school affected.
- ✓ The options provided were selected to demonstrate that the key consultee groups as outlined in the **School Organisation Code** had been engaged with.

- 
- 128 Pupils
  - 85 Parents
  - 45 Staff
  - 9 School Governors
  - 11 Elected Members
  - 727 Other
  - 43 No Comment



12%	8%	4%	1%	1%	74%
Pupils	Parents	Staff Members	School Governors	Elected Members	Other & No Comment

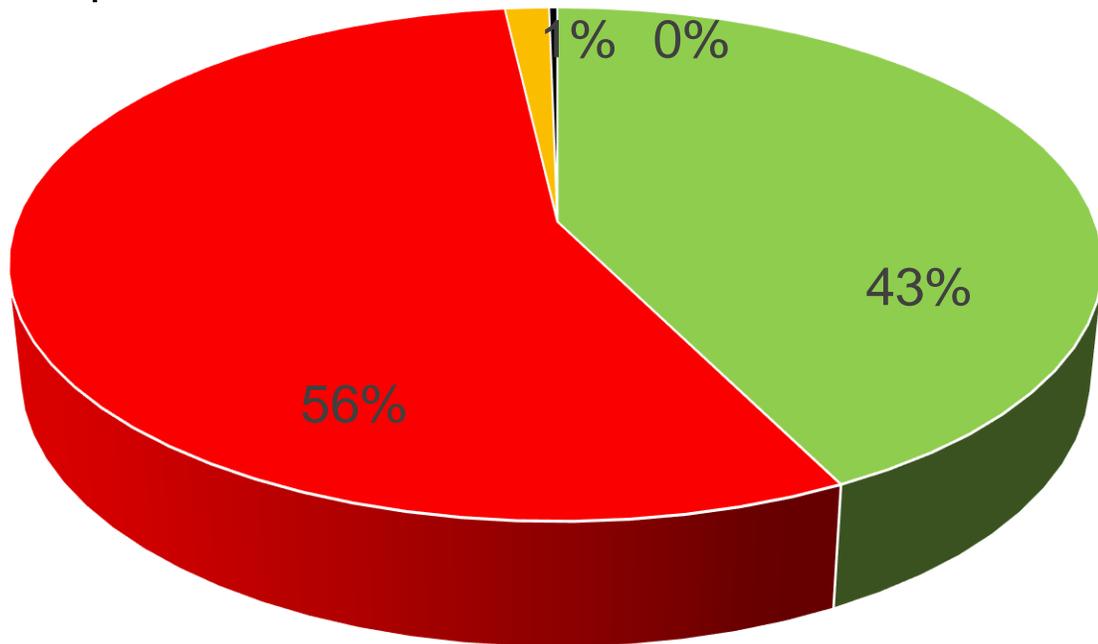


# Consultation Responses

- What did people say about the proposal?

✓ As part of **Question 4** , consultees were asked to indicate which of the following statements most accurately reflected their views about the proposal.

The options available were:



- I support the proposal
- I do not support the proposal
- I do not feel strongly one way or the other
- No Comment Left

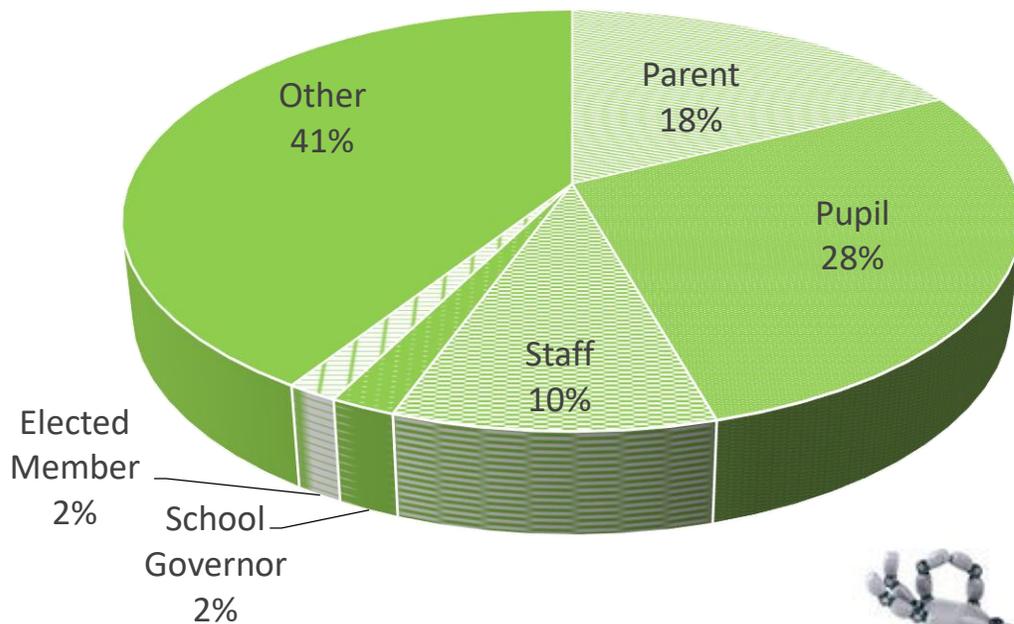




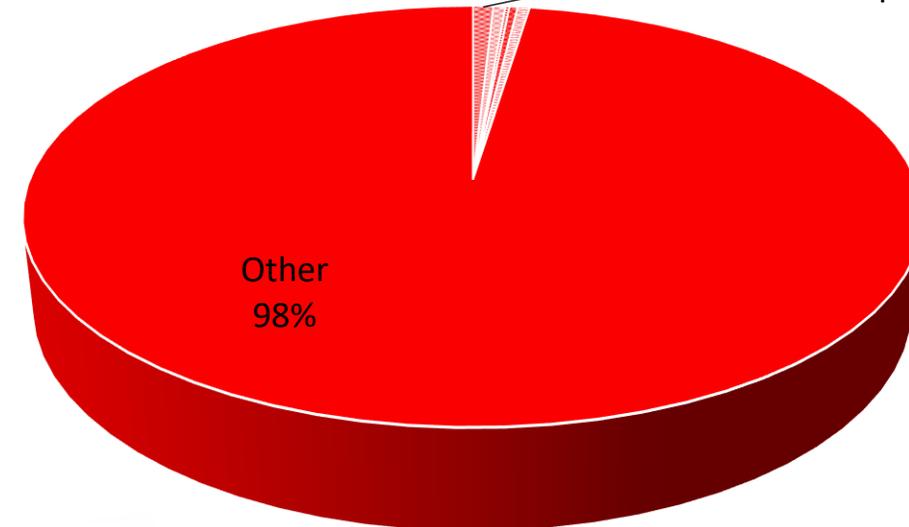
# Consultation Responses

- What did people say about the proposal?

I support the proposal  
by category



I do not support the proposal  
by category



Remaining  
Categories  
make up 2% of  
the responses





# Consultation Responses

- What did Scrutiny say about the proposal?

- ✓ The Council's Education Scrutiny Committee is a consultee for any policy or service developments in relation to Education within the Borough.
- ✓ A digital meeting via Microsoft teams took place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 5.30pm.
- ✓ All consultation documentation was made available to members as part of the agenda reports pack and officers linked to the proposal were available to take questions.
- ✓ The Committee members voted 12 in favour of the proposal for Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre, 1 against and 0 abstention.



A recording of the session is available on YouTube:

[Education Scrutiny Committee Meeting](#)

The agenda item linked to this proposal starts 18 minutes and 50 seconds in to the recording.



- ✓ The [Notice of the Decisions](#) document is also available to view on the Council's website.



# Consultation Responses

- What did Estyn say about the proposal?

- ✓ Under the terms of the **School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013** and the **School Organisation Code 2018**, the Council, as the proposers, is required to send a notification with regards to the consultation to Estyn.
- ✓ Estyn is the education and training inspectorate for Wales and their vision is to improve the quality of education and training and outcomes for all learners in Wales
- ✓ Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal.

In summary

*“Funding has already been allocated for the council’s share of the capital costs of the project and will be jointly funded by Welsh Government as part of their 21st century schools remit.*

*It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal is likely to improve the current educational provision for children and young people with SEN”.*

The full response from Estyn can be found in the full Consultation Report

 **Estyn**





# Consultation Responses

- Clarification

- ✓ When analysing the consultation response comments received as part of the consultation period, there were:
  - General Themes
  - Areas of concern
  - Areas of Agreement
- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the Council provided responses to each of these areas.
- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report





# Consultation Responses

- What were the common themes raised?

✓ As part of **Question 5**, there was a free text box, enabling consultees to provide additional comments on the proposal.

## **General themes that emerged from the consultation:**

- Acknowledgement that the current Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre provides a high standard of support and specialist intervention
- The proposal supports the increasing demand for additional learning needs provision
- Concerns over proposed use of the pitch for education not recreation
- Concerns over the impact on Penallta RFC both through loss of income and mitigation discussions to date
- Concerns over loss of green space and impact on local community
- Concerns over the loss of the green flag status for Ystrad Mynach Park
- Concerns over flooding in the local area and the impact the proposal will have
- Comments about:
  - The expansion of the site, why outwards and not upwards?
  - The impact on traffic flow in the area
  - Whether a new build at an alternative site would be a better option
  - The consultation process being followed





# Consultation Responses

- Areas of widest concern

When analysing the consultation response comments, a number of recurring areas of concern became evident.

➤ **Loss of green space**

199 mentions

*Historical development, Ystrad Mynach Park, Green Flag Status, Community Impact, Rugby Pitch*

➤ **Alternative Location for the school**

188 mentions

*Expand on other pitch on site, Build upwards, New build at other location*

➤ **Flooding**

105 mentions

*Current situation, Impact of proposal*

➤ **Rugby Club**

185 mentions

*Historical Impact, Loss of income, Impact on players, Use of pitches, Centre of Excellence, Mitigation options, Sue Noakes and walking routes*

➤ **Traffic Management**

17 mentions

*Access and parking, Increased traffic, Transportation of pupils, Out of catchment*





# Consultation Responses

Clarification to  
Areas of widest concern

- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

## Loss of green space

- Brownfield sites were used to build the hospital and Centre of Sporting Excellence
- Trinity 1 is equal to 6% of the entire Ystrad Mynach Park
- Green Flag Status for Ystrad Mynach Park will not change as a result of this proposal
- Recreational activities for dog walking, play, picnics and socialising will still be available for everyone at the park
- Trinity 1 is one of five pay-as-you-use sports pitches in the park

- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report

2006 v 2020





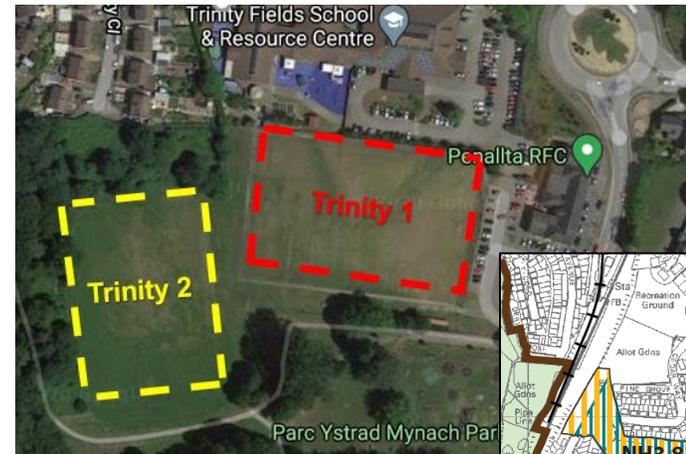
# Consultation Responses

Clarification to  
Areas of widest concern

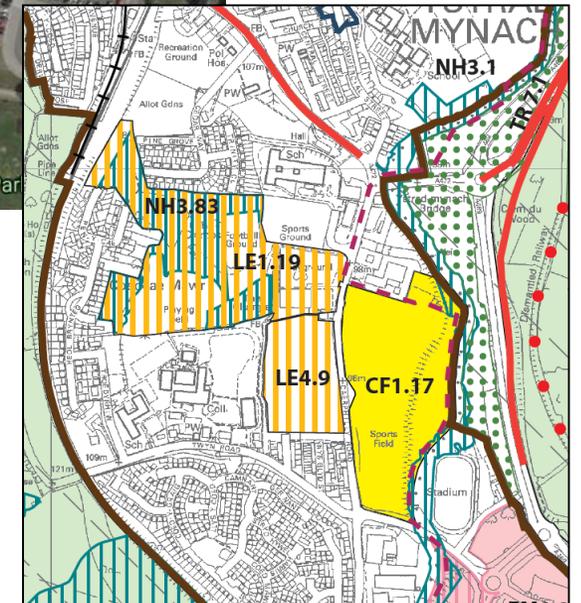
- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

## Alternative Location for the school

- Trinity 2 has been suggested as an alternative
- Trinity 2 also falls within the boundary of Ystrad Mynach Park
- Trinity 2 pitch does not adjoin the school site



- Trinity 2 has controls on the land as identified in the Local Development Plan
- The existing school was not designed to support a first floor



- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report



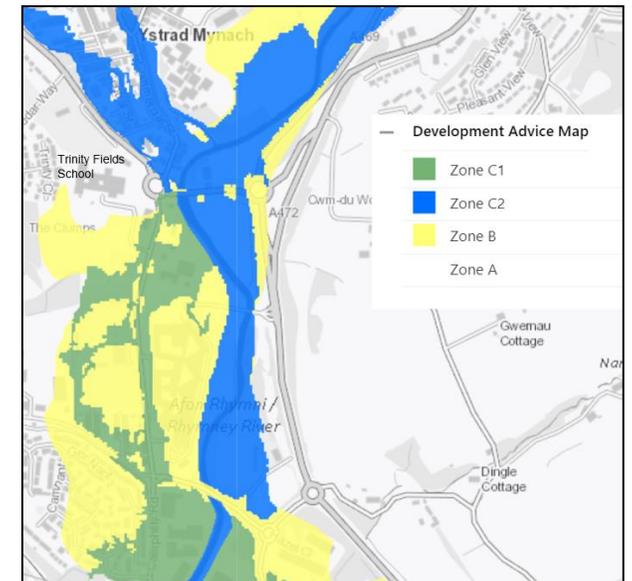
# Consultation Responses

Clarification to  
Areas of widest concern

- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

## Flooding

- Both Trinity 1 (the proposed site) and Trinity 2 are within Zone B on the current Natural Resources Wales Developer Advice Maps for main river flood risk.
- Trinity 1 is at low risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.
- Trinity 2 is at high risk of flooding from surface water and small watercourses.
- The Council upgraded the Pitch drainage in 2013
- The proposed extension will be designed to the current Welsh Government Sustainable Drainage Statutory Guidance (SuDS)



- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report

# Consultation Responses

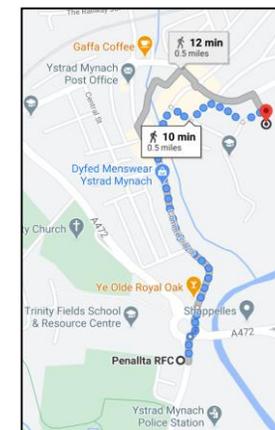
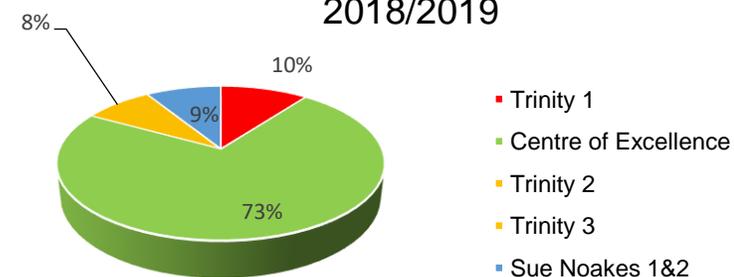
## Clarification to Areas of widest concern

- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

### Rugby Club

- The Council has included the club as one of the consultees for the proposal, and has engaged in discussions with the club since November 2019
  - Over the last 3 years, the usage of Trinity 1 has equated to 10% of recorded paid usage. *(The figures have been calculated based upon records maintained by Parks Services of booked and paid usage for training and matches).*
  - The Council has been working with the club to mitigate the loss of Trinity 1
  - Significant investment in state of the art all-weather 3G provision in the area which is being utilised by the club and the wider community
  - Sue Noakes is within 0.5 miles of the Trinity 1 site
- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report

Penallta RFC Usage  
Paid Bookings 2016/2017 -  
2018/2019





# Consultation Responses

Clarification to  
Areas of widest concern

- ✓ To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

## **Traffic Management**

- As a highway authority, we have a duty to manage the road network to ensure, as far as possible, the safe and convenient movement of traffic, which includes pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
  - The site identified for the expansion of Trinity Fields School is directly adjacent to the existing premises
  - Existing learner travel arrangements will still be in place should the proposal be taken forward
  - All pupils are transported to site at present, 98% of which reside within the catchment area of the school.
  - This proposal will be subject to a full planning application process and a wide range of consultees will be invited to comment, including the Highways Department.
- 
- ✓ The Council responses can be found in the full Consultation Report



# Consultation Responses

- Areas of widest agreement

When analysing the consultation response comments, was a level of agreement with the proposals became evident.

➤ **Growing Demands**

227 mentions

*Projections, Specialist intervention, Standards of support*

➤ **Additional Facilities**

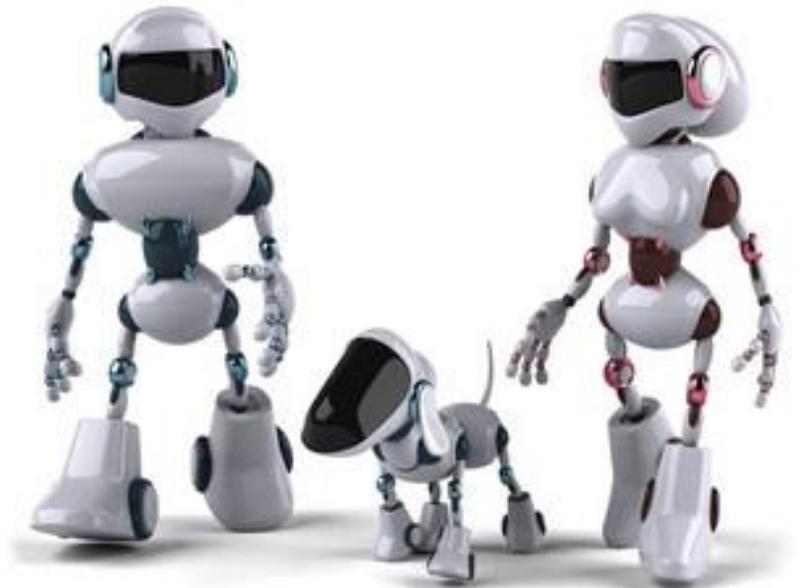
69 mentions

*Need for more facilities, One location, Multiple services*

➤ **Community Use**

40 mentions

*Access to facilities for families, Wider community use*





# Consultation Responses

- Reasonable Alternatives

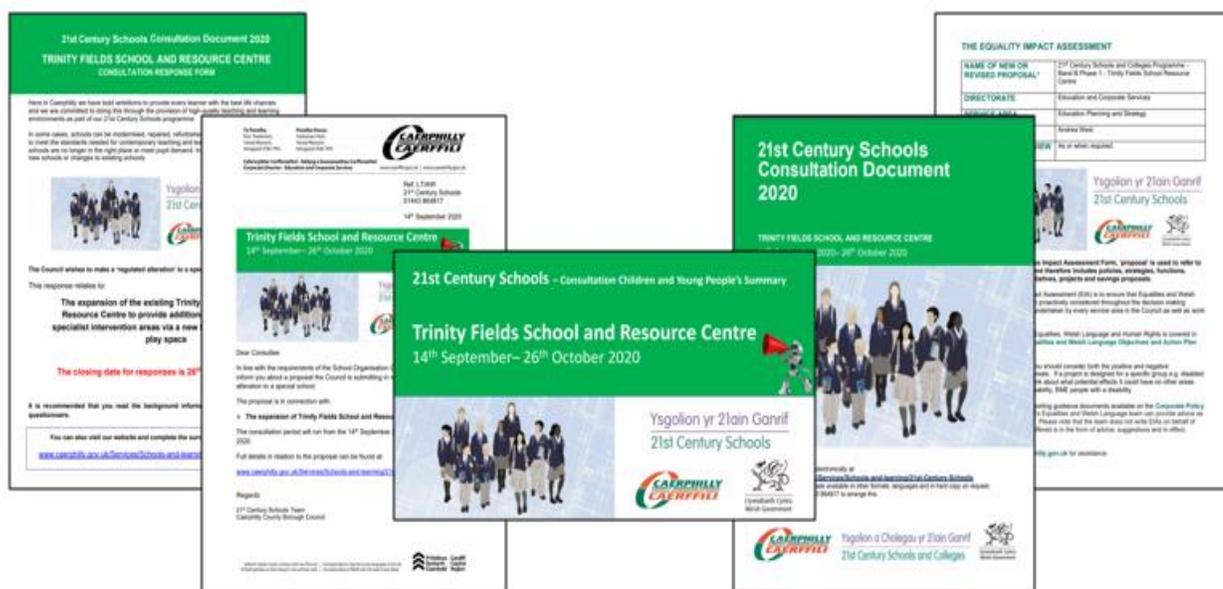
- ✓ Following the consultation period, the Council is required to carry out a further assessment for the proposal.
- ✓ The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.
- ✓ The following alternative options have been raised via Consultees:
  - *Expand the school at the current location but expand upwards instead of outwards making it a multi-story facility*
  - *Expand the school onto an alternative pitch at the current location*
  - *Build a new Trinity Fields school at an alternative location within the borough*
- ✓ Each Option has been considered and an assessment carried out.
- ✓ We looked at the impact on Quality and Standards in Education, the community and effect on different travelling arrangements.
- ✓ Each option was discounted and the assessment and reasons are available in the full Consultation Report



# Pupil Voice

- How did we get you and other pupils involved?

The Council recognises the potential of young people to enrich decision-making processes, to share perspectives and to participate as citizens and facilitators of change.



## Everyday Summary Version

A summary version of the main consultation document was also prepared, published and targeted specifically at children and young people.



## Consultation Video

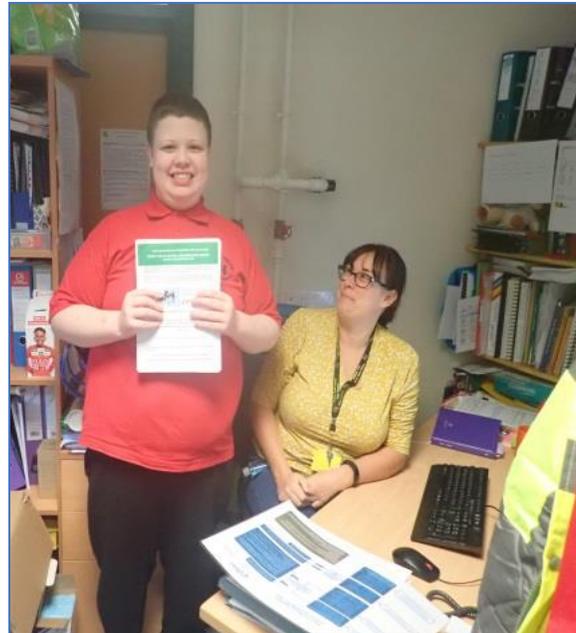
Pupils from the school contributed to the content and participated in the consultation video.



# Pupil Voice

- How did we get you and other pupils involved?

- ✓ Pupils play an active and influential role in shaping the life and work of the school.
- ✓ Suitable arrangements are made to consult and involve pupils throughout the process.



*Images from a Consultation Sessions undertaken with pupils at Trinity Fields School*



# Pupil Voice

- How did we get you and other pupils involved?



Wordcloud generated from key words provided by pupils at Trinity Fields

# Other Considerations

- What were the key policies we needed to think about?



“Our national mission is to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and confidence.”

Kirsty Williams AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

- There are a number of local and national strategies that drive Educational reform

[Welsh Government - Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#)

[Welsh Language Act 1993 / Welsh Language \(Wales\) measure 2011](#)

[Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)

[Welsh Government - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme](#)

[Caerphilly - ‘Shared Ambitions’ Education Attainment Strategy 2019 - 2022](#)





# Next Steps

- What are we recommending happens next?

## Recommendation

In reviewing the proposal to take account of further information that has come forward through the consultation and in consideration of the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the community and travelling arrangements, it is the recommendation of this report that the proposal is progressed as outlined in the Consultation Document, namely:

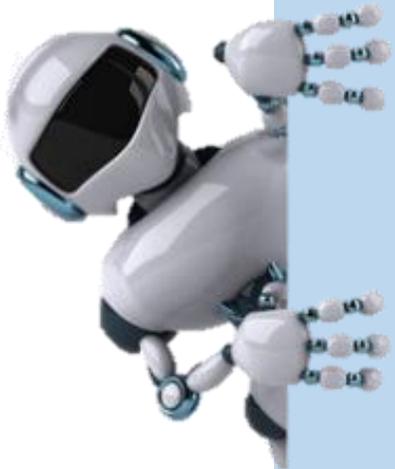
**Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023**





# Next Steps

- Who makes the decision and how?



- ✓ To deliver our reforms across the entire system, we will need a bold commitment to effective collaboration along with integration of services where appropriate.
- ✓ Cabinet Members are asked to note the information contained within the full Consultation Report and to seek members views as to whether
  - to proceed
  - make changes
  - not to proceed....with the proposed expansion of the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre



# Find Out More

- ✓ The purpose of the consultation was to gain views on the proposal to support and invest in the expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre.



- ✓ The Full Consultation Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:
  - Outline the consultation processes undertaken
  - Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement
  - Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees
  - Set out Estyn's response to the consultation in full
  - Respond to issues raised by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons
- ✓ The Consultation report will be published on the Caerphilly 21<sup>st</sup> Century School website with hardcopies available on request.
- ✓ All information is published in Welsh and English.