

STATUTORY NOTICE

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Directorate, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018) that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (“the Council”), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish and change provision which is recognised by the Council as reserved for children with additional learning needs in the Primary and Secondary Schools listed below.

The proposals will be implemented in two phases and will result in an increase in the capacity for Additional Learning Needs (“ALN”) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (“ASD”) Resource Bases across the County Borough in the schools involved. The proposal is to increase ASD and ALN places from 61 to 86 across the Primary Schools and increase the provision at Secondary Schools from 62 to 80 places in Phase 1 (including 15 Welsh-medium places). The proposals also include the potential to increase places by a further 40 places in Phase 2 (including a Faith Based provision). This will take effect from September 2023 on a phased basis over the next 5 years.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will be the admission authority via the Council’s ALN panel. The new ALN Resource Bases will be for pupils of statutory school age (3-16).

Phase 1

| School | Alteration | Planned Date of Implementation |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community - Secondary Campus | The establishment of 6 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | September 2023 |
| Tredegar Comprehensive School | The establishment of 6 to 8 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as ASD Resource Base | September 2023 |
| Sofrydd Primary School | The establishment of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | September 2024 or September 2025 |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg | The establishment of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | September 2024 |

Phase 2

| School | Alteration | Planned Date of Implementation |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Brynmawr Foundation School | The establishment of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | 2025 - 2029 |
| Cwm Primary School | The establishment of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | 2025 - 2029 |
| Faith Based Primary School in Blaenau Gwent (to be determined) | The establishment, if required, of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | 2025 - 2029 |
| Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community (Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus) | The establishment of 10 places reserved for children with additional learning needs as an ASD/ALN Resource Base | 2025 - 2029 |

The names, addresses and details of the maintaining local authority for each of the schools the subject of these proposals is as follows:

| School | Address | Maintaining Authority |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community | Roseheyworth Road Campus, Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery, NP13 1SR | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Cwm Primary School | Canning Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RD | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community | Secondary Phase, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Sofrydd Primary School | Sofrydd Road, Sofrydd, NP11 5DW | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Tredegar Comprehensive School | Stable Lane, Tredegar, NP22 4BH | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg | Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina, NP13 3DQ | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Brynmawr Foundation School | Clydach Dingle, Brynmawr, NP23 4XT | Foundation School, maintained by Central Government |

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response is available on:-

Outturn report: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/media/gv2jbza2/aln-consultation-outturn-report-for-cabinet-21-6-23.docx>

Estyns Response: [1-estyn-eng.pdf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](#)

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Home to School transport policy. The Council has established a process in order to assess the travel needs of children who may require ALN transport. Pupils requiring ALN transport who live:

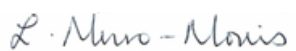
- over 1.5 miles (for those under 8 years of age); and/or,
- over 2 miles (for those aged between 8-16 years of age)

from their nearest suitable ALN provision, will automatically qualify for free home to school transport. *Please note that in instances where the school is a parental choice and not the provision determined by the ALN Panel, no transport will be provided.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, **that is to say by 26th July 2023** any person may object to the proposals.

- Objections by e-mail should be sent to 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.
- Objections in writing should be sent to Joanne Watts, Service Manager for Education Transformation and Business change, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.

Signed



**Interim Corporate Director of Education
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
26th June 2023**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Should this proposal proceed, it will improve the suitability of the learning environment for pupils with ALN. It will also provide access to local provision in mainstream settings for ALN pupils. This will help with individual needs of pupils such as health, safety and welfare issues identified in the application for places in Resource Bases. Places will be available locally for pupils living in Blaenau Gwent; improving learner outcomes and inclusion on a County Borough level. Also the proposal can offer places in Blaenau Gwent for pupils from other Local Authorities, should the need arise and if space is available.

There is a need for ASD/ALN provision in our mainstream schools to support this proposal. Currently provision is full in our ALN resource bases and there will be no growth to support our learners if this proposal does not proceed. Blaenau Gwent already has cross border regional working arrangements in place for places in ALN provision.

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on **Monday 24th April 2023** and concluded on **Tuesday 6th June 2023**.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 phases:

Phase 1

- To recognise the transition group established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community- Secondary Phase as a 6 place RB from September 2023
- To create a 6-8 place ASD Resource Base at Tredegar Comprehensive School from September 2023
- To create a 10 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Sofrydd Primary School from September 2024/25
- To create a 15 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from September 2024

Phase 2

- The development of a Medium-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development in Primary and Secondary Schools. This will include provision at the below schools between 2025 and 2029:
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Brynmawr Foundation School for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Cwm Primary School for 10 pupils
- To create, if required, an ASD/ALN Resource base at a Faith Based Primary school (such as Roman Catholic/Church in Wales Schools) in Blaenau Gwent (yet to be determined) for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus for 10 pupils

The consultation report is available on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's website.

Further information on this proposal can be found here:

[aln-resource-base-consultation-document-fv-17-4-23.pdf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/aln-resource-base-consultation-document-fv-17-4-23.pdf)

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

END OF NOTICE