EDUCATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 2025

PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH NURSERY PROVISION AT YSGOL GYMRAEG COED-Y-GOF

12 MAY 2025 – 1 JULY 2025

This document can be made available in Braille.
A summary version of this document is available at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals
Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.
Please contact us at schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk or on 029 2087 2720 to arrange this.

CREU·G WIR·IN·THESE·STONES
FEL·GW·YDR·HORIZONS
OF·WRNAIS·AWEN·SING

STRONGER FAIRER GREENER

CARDIFF
CAERDYDD

Table of Contents

Introduction

- What is this booklet about?
- What are we proposing to do?

Consultation

- Views of children on the proposed change
- How you can find out more and let us know your views?
- Your views are important to us

Explanation of terms used in this document

Why are we proposing these changes?

- Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024-2033
- Cardiff's Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme 2024 – 2033
- Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Primary schools and nursery classes serving the area

- Welsh-medium
- English-medium

Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Nursery Provision

Establishing local demand for places

- Take up of nursery class places
- Take up of primary school places

Proposed establishment of nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Quality and Standards

- Estyn
- Central South Consortium

Condition and Suitability of School Buildings

- Condition and Suitability gradings

How would the proposed nursery provision be accommodated

What are the benefits of establishing nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Additional support for pupils

- How would support for pupils with additional learning needs be affected?
- How would pupils known to be eligible for Free Schools Meals be affected?
- How would pupils with English as an Additional Language be affected?
- How would Minority Ethnic pupils be affected?

How would standards at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof be affected by the change?

- Learning standards and progress overall
- Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- Teaching and learning experiences
- Care, support and guidance
- Leadership

Impact on other schools

Impact on Early Years Provision

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

Risks

Alternatives considered

Admission Arrangements

Human Resources Matters

Funding of proposed change

Transport Matters

Learner Travel Arrangements

Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

Equalities

Community Impact

Frequently Asked Questions

Next Steps

Next steps, how to make your views known and feedback form

- Key Dates
- Consultation period
- Statutory Notice
- Determination of the proposals
- Decision Notification

Your views are important to us

Appendix 1

INTRODUCTION

What is this booklet about?

This booklet is for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and anyone who has an interest in education in Cardiff.

It sets out details of proposed changes to Welsh-medium maintained nursery provision serving Ely, Fairwater and Pentrebane, and parts of Llandaff, St Fagans, Radyr and Morganstown.

It will be of particular interest to parents/ carers of children attending or expecting to attend Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

We want everyone to understand what is being proposed, so you can tell us what you think about the changes.

What are we proposing to do?

The Council is seeking the views of the community on proposals to:

- Extend the age range of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof from age 4 – 11 to age 3 – 11 by establishing a Welsh-medium nursery unit as part of the school.

The proposed change would take effect from September 2026.

Consultation

The consultation process must follow the Welsh Government guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

As part of the consultation, we are asking people what they think about the changes we are proposing. There are a number of ways for people to tell us their views.

Table 1 below sets out who the Council is consulting:

Table 1: Groups the Council is consulting with	
Children and young people	Welsh Ministers
Parents/carers	Police & Crime Commissioner
School staff	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES)
School Governing Bodies	Welsh Language Commissioner
Local residents	Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)
Local Members/Constituency and Regional Members of the Senedd (MS) /Members of Parliament (MPs)	Trade Unions
Diocesan Directors of Education	Childcare providers
Neighbouring Authorities	Mudiad Meithrin
All Cardiff schools	Wales Pre-School Providers Association
Estyn	Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club
Communities First Partnership	National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) Cymru
Early Years Wales	PACEY Cymru
Play Wales	Menterau Iaith
Community Councils	Future Generations Commissioner
Children's Commissioner	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Voluntary Sector organisations	Cardiff and Vale College
St David's College	Welsh Education Forum (WEF)

Views of children on the proposed change

Cardiff is committed to being a child-friendly city where children are able to inform decisions that affect their lives and the services they access.

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, that suitable arrangements are made to consult with pupils.

The Council will consult with pupils in Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof in an age-appropriate way, and the information gathered in this session will be included in the final consultation report considered by the Council.

How you can find out more and let us know your views?

- This consultation document is available on the Cardiff Council website at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals
- If you are unable to access the information on-line, you can request that a printed copy of this consultation document is posted to you. You can request this by e-mailing schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk or by telephoning 029 2087 2720.

- We will advise families with children on roll at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and those with children of pre-school age in the local area how they can access a copy of the document.
- We will hold public meetings and drop-in sessions for anybody to attend where the changes we are proposing will be explained. You will have an opportunity to ask questions as part of these sessions. Both in-person and online sessions will be offered.
- Council officers will meet with the Governing Body and staff of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.
- You can also write to the Council to tell us what you think

The dates of the consultation meetings are set out below:

Table 2: Consultation Meeting Dates

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Drop-in session	Thursday 22 May 2025 1:30pm – 3:30pm	Ely and Caerau Hub
Drop-in session	Friday 06 June 2025 10am – 12 noon	Fairwater Hub
Drop-in session	Wednesday 18 June 2025 8:45am – 9:45am	Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof
Drop-in session	Wednesday 25 June 2025 10am – 12 noon	Radyr Hub
On-line drop-in session	Thursday 12 June 2025 10:30am – 12:30pm	Teams
On-line drop-in session	Thursday 19 June 2025 1:30pm – 3:30pm	Teams
Public meeting	Tuesday 10 June 2025 6pm – 7:30pm	Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Your views are important to us

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have suggested in this document.

You can do this by:

- attending an in-person public meeting or drop-in session. You do not need to pre-book for these sessions. Just attend the venue at the date and time specified
- attending an online drop-in session. Please contact us via e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk confirming which session you would like to attend, and we will provide a link and instructions on how you can access the meeting
- completing the electronic response form which you can find at: www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals

- printing and completing the consultation response form, which you can find at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals and returning the form by post to School Organisation Planning Team, Room 463, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW

- writing to the School Organisation Planning Team by e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk or by post to Room 463, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW. This can include requesting an officer call back if you have a specific question that you feel you would like further information about.

Please note that all comments sent in writing or by e-mail must contain the full name and postal address of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 1 July 2025.

Unfortunately, we will not be able consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Explanation of terms used in this document

Admission Number – all maintained schools admit pupils up to at least their Published Admission Number (PAN). The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group between Reception Year and Year 6.

ALN (Additional Learning Needs) – Some children have additional learning needs. This may be due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or behavioural problems. (ALN is sometimes referred to as Special Educational Needs).

Capital funding for schools – money used to build new school buildings or improve existing facilities.

Classroom – a room within a school of sufficient size for teaching.

Classbase – a classroom within a school that is used for teaching and is where a group of children are usually based.

Community School – a primary or secondary school where the Council arranges school admissions.

Catchment area – an area that a community school would normally serve. In Cardiff, children living within this area have higher priority for admission to the school than children outside of this area.

Form of Entry (FE) – a Form of Entry (FE) refers to a class of 30 children in each year group between Reception Year and Year 6. A 2FE school is therefore two classes of 30 children in each year group. Schools with Forms of Entry that are not whole numbers ordinarily operate mixed-age classes.

Free School Meals (FSM) – all primary school children in Wales can now access universal free school meals. However, eligibility for Free School Meals (eFSM) is still recorded where possible, as it is a way to identify social deprivation and used to determine funding allocations and grants for both schools and families. A child may be eligible for Free School Meals if their parent receives certain types of income support or credits, or if they are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act.

Local Authority – an organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.

Maintained nursery– a nursery that is funded and run by the Local Authority.

Non-maintained nursery – a privately funded nursery setting that is not run by the Local Authority e.g. Cylch Meithrin.

Number on Roll data – the number of pupils at a school (not including nursery pupils).

PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) **–** In January of every year, the Welsh Government collects information from schools. This includes the number of pupils at each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity, and data on Welsh language, Additional Learning Needs, first language and pupils who have Free School Meals.

Surplus places – empty/unfilled places in a school.

Statutory Notice – a statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council Cabinet to proceed with a proposal following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

Voluntary Aided School – a primary or secondary school that normally has a religious character with church majority governance and where the Governing Body of the school is the admissions authority.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) – a statutory plan that each Council in Wales must prepare, stating how it will improve the planning of Welsh-medium education and improve standards in Welsh-medium education, with targets set and agreed by Welsh Ministers.

Why are we proposing these changes?

Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024 – 2033

In June 2022, the Council published its 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' document, setting out the key themes and commitments for the next five years.

Consistent with the priorities in Cardiff's 'Stronger, Fairer Greener', the Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024–2033 has been developed to strengthen and improve Cardiff's education system, supporting the goals of 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener'. The strategy provides a long-term vision for the organisation of education over the next nine years, aligning with national priorities and Cardiff's commitment to equitable, aspirational, and sustainable education.

You can find details of the Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024–2033 at Education Investment Strategy 2024 to 2033

The Council recognises the need for schools to work together within a cohesive system, with adequate funding and strong partnerships to enhance learning opportunities. Schools must support the development of the education workforce and secure efficiencies where possible through securing best value, minimising duplication and reducing energy consumption.

The Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024–2033 is supported by the Cardiff Education: Collaboration and Federation Strategy, which focuses on collaboration between schools and partners to achieve the educational goals set out in Cardiff 2030.

Cardiff's Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme 2024-2033

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme 2024-2033 sets out the need for strategic investments that align with local and national goals to improve educational outcomes.

The investment principles within the programme include:

(i) Alignment with local and national education policies agendas to improve education outcomes
(ii) Targeting investment through maintenance or new build to improve the condition of the estate.
(iii) Ensuring sustainable levels of surplus.
(iv) Delivering an appropriate level of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision.
(v) Meeting legislative requirements
(vi) Maximising "invest to save" strategies to reduce reliance on borrowing.
(vii) Following a thorough options appraisal process to support decision making.

Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

In 2017 the Welsh Government published its 'Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers' strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language. This sets out the long-term approach to achieving a target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Local authorities are required to publish a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), setting out a ten-year target for increasing Year 1 learners educated in Welsh.

Each local authority must set its target in line with the range provided by the Welsh Government in order to contribute toward the overall national target.

Cardiff's goal, set by the Welsh Government, is for 25 - 29% of Year 1 pupils to be taught in Welsh by 2031. In 2023/24, 17.6% of Reception pupils were in Welsh-medium education. To meet this goal, an increase of 7.4% - 11.4% is needed.

Currently, 18% of Reception age school places are in Welsh-medium or bilingual schools. As school intakes are expected to drop, a higher percentage of pupils could be placed in Welsh-medium schools.

For the 2025/26 intake (about 3,800 pupils), 24% of places could be offered through Welsh-medium education, exceeding the current 17.6% enrolment.

In January 2024, 18.5% of nursery aged children in Cardiff were receiving Welsh-medium education, although this varies across the city.

Cardiff remains committed to its 25 - 29% target but must account for challenges such as lower birth rates and uncertainties in school admission trends post-pandemic.

The Council is implementing a workplan to address each of the WESP outcomes.

Outcome 1 of the WESP sets out the Council's intention to increase the number of nursery children/ three-year-olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.

Outcome 2 of the WESP sets out the Council's intention to increase the number of Reception Class children/ five-year-olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.

You can find details of Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan at Cardiff Welsh in education strategic plan.pdf

Primary schools and nursery classes serving the area

Welsh-medium

Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof is a two Form of Entry (FE) Welsh-medium primary school in the Pentrebane area of Cardiff, serving pupils aged 4 - 11. The school shares a site and a main building with Pentrebane Primary School, a 1FE English-medium primary school with nursery, serving pupils aged 3 – 11.

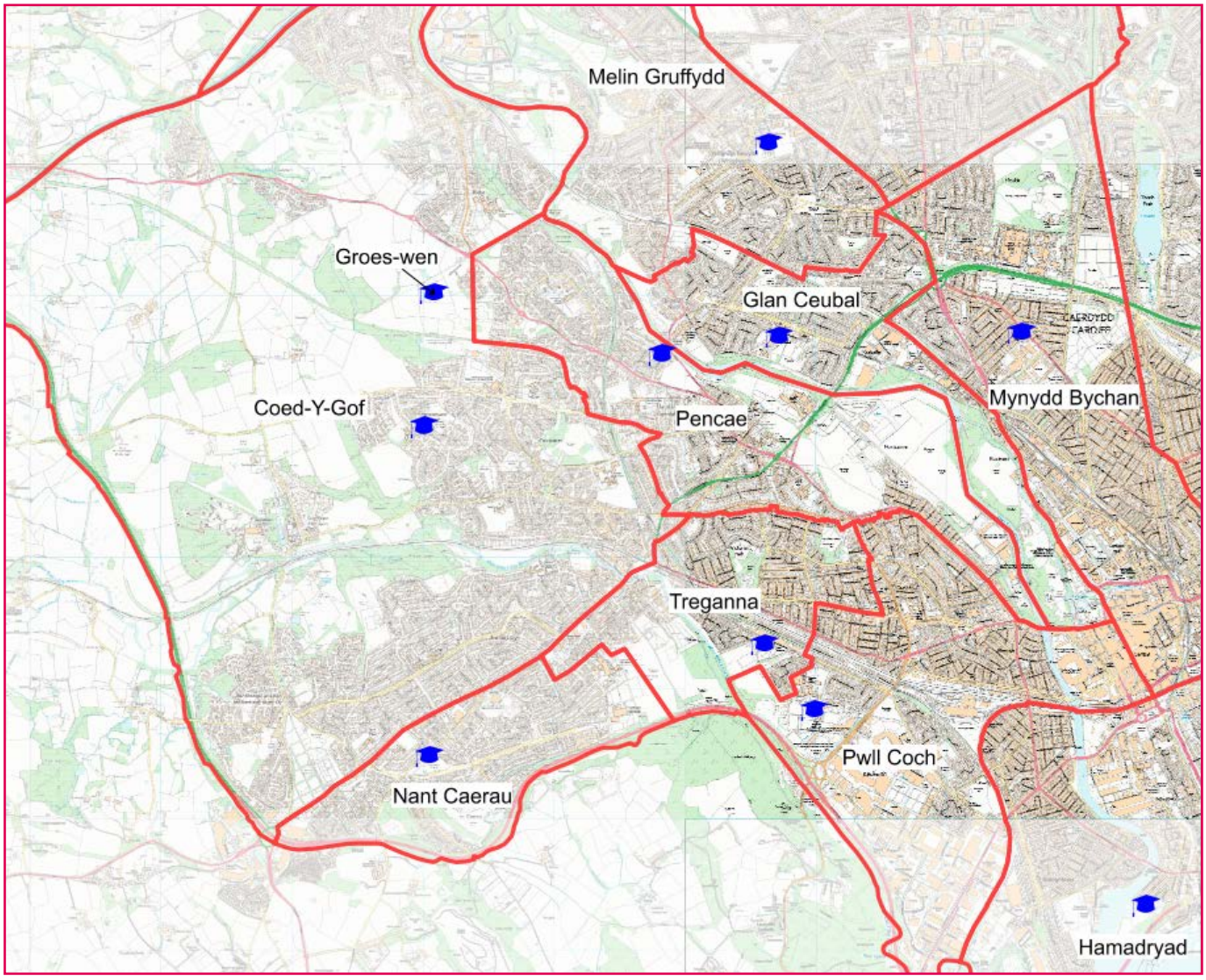
The Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof catchment area serves Ely, Fairwater and Pentrebane, and parts of Llandaff, St Fagans, Radyr and Morganstown.

The Welsh-medium primary schools catchment areas of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna, Ysgol Pencae, Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd and Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School lie adjacent to the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

The area is also served by Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School, a dual language primary school, and by the Ely & Caerau Children's Centre, which includes a Welsh language nursery class.

Of the above-named schools, Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and Ysgol Pencae do not have a nursery class on-site.

Welsh-medium schools serving the area

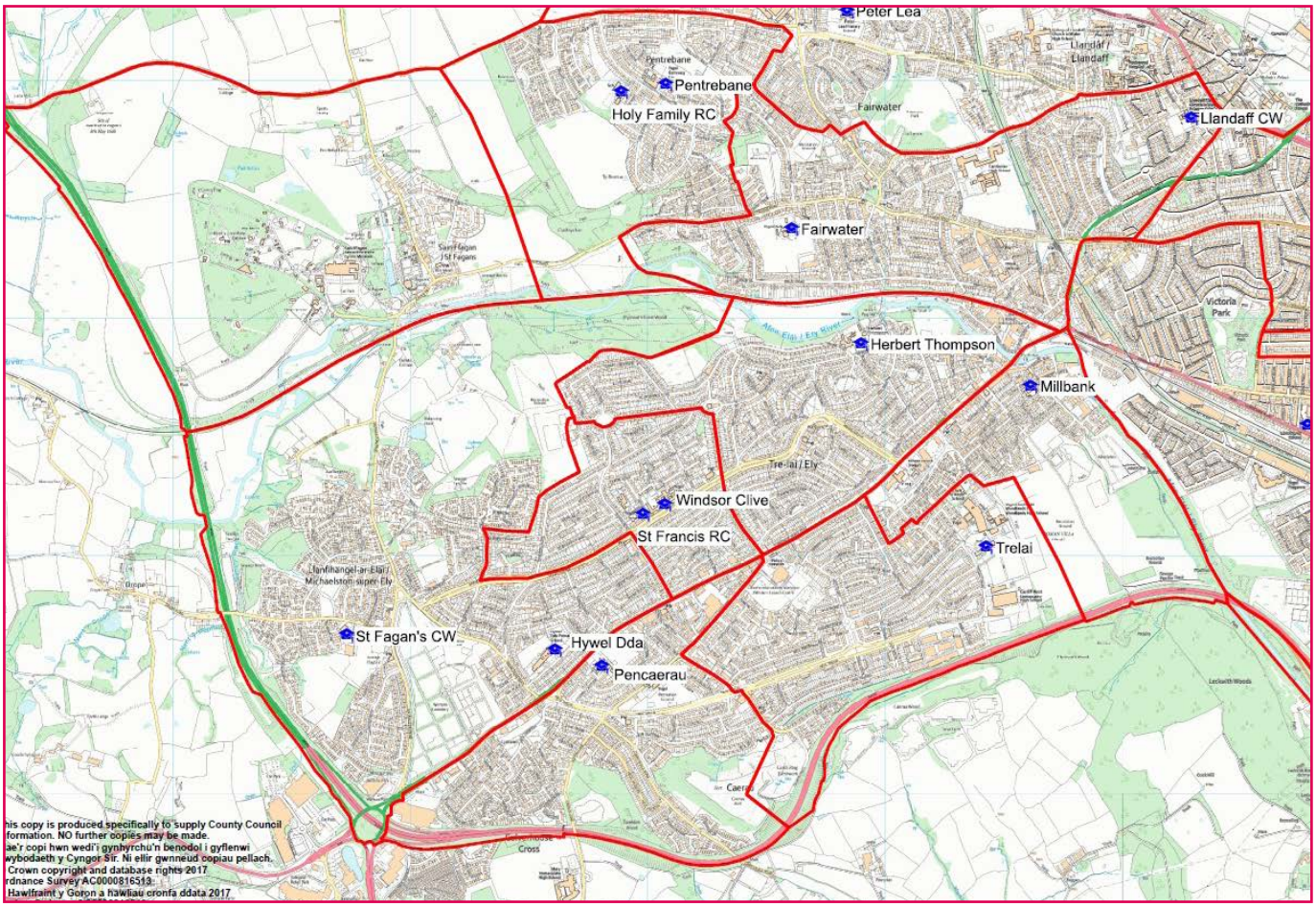


English-medium

The following English-medium primary schools are located within and serve parts of the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof: Hywel Dda Primary School, Herbert Thompson Primary School, Windsor Clive Primary School, Fairwater Primary School, Pentrebane Primary School, Peter Lea Primary School, Radyr Primary School, Bryn Deri Primary School, Llandaff CiW Primary School, Holy Family RC Primary School, St Fagans CW Primary School, St Francis RC Primary School.

Of the above-named schools, Fairwater Primary School, Llandaff CiW Primary School and Holy Family RC Primary School do not have a nursery.

English-medium schools serving the area



Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof is a Welsh-medium primary school located at Beechley Drive, Pentrebane, Cardiff, CF5 3SG.

The school shares a site and part of its buildings with Pentrebane Primary School.

The capacity of a primary school is the number of places available in all age groups from Reception Year to Year 6, for children aged four to eleven. Many schools also have places in nursery classes.

The Admission Number of a school is the number of pupils that can be admitted in each year group at that school.

The capacity and admission number of a school are based on how classrooms and other spaces in the school are used for teaching and learning.

Table 3 below provides details of places available at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

Name of school	Current Published Capacity (age 4 – 11)	Places per year group (age 4 – 11)	Nursery Places	Language medium and Category of School
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	389	60	0	Welsh-medium community primary school

Nursery Provision

Children in Cardiff can attend a part-time nursery place in school from the start of the term after their third birthday. They must attend the nursery class for at least five half days a week.

There are no catchment areas for nursery classes.

Nursery classes accommodate a 'Rising 4' cohort in the autumn term and admit a further cohort of children in January (those that reached the age of 3 in the autumn term) and another cohort in April (those who reached the age of 3 in the spring term).

The Council reviews demographic data, recent take up of places and admissions preference data where available to inform the number of nursery places to be funded in each school term. Where schools have a large nursery floor area, but places have not been taken up, the Council consolidates the number of places funded at a level broadly balanced with local take-up.

Nursery class places are ordinarily in blocks of 8 part-time (4 Full Time Equivalent) places allowing schools to plan budgets and staffing requirements.

Establishing local demand for places

The Council has analysed the recent take up of nursery class and primary school places at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, in its catchment area, and at neighbouring schools and catchment areas.

Separate analyses have been undertaken for placements of children entering primary education, and those taking up nursery class places.

These analyses can be seen at Appendix 1 at page 34.

Take up of nursery class places

A number of school census (PLASC) analyses have been undertaken to consider the demand for and take up of Welsh-medium nursery class places of children who live within the catchment area of, or in close proximity to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof. The analysis focused on the 'Rising 4' age nursery children' (those who would transfer to Reception class in the following year).

Analysis in January 2024 found that:

- A lower proportion of children in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof take up places in Welsh-medium nursery classes than in neighbouring catchment areas.
- Over half of the children from the Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof catchment area who attend a Welsh-medium nursery setting attend Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School.
- There were 23 'Rising 4' nursery class children for whom Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be the nearest Welsh-medium nursery class, if a class was established at the school.
- There were 18 'Rising 4' children living within one mile of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof who were enrolled in a Welsh-medium nursery class, accounting for 18% of pupils within that 1-mile area.

Take up of primary school places

For many years, more children living within the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof have taken up places in Reception classes at Welsh-medium schools than the school's Published Admission Number of 60 places. In past years, when there were higher intakes to schools overall, more than 80 pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof were choosing to attend Welsh-medium schools.

However, a significant proportion of these children have taken up places at alternative schools, including schools that are closer to their home address and schools that offer nursery education. Children who attend a school with a nursery class often take up a Reception class place at the same school.

The number of children choosing Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof as their first preference for a place in Reception has been less than 30 pupils in the most recent intakes, as shown in the table below.

Table 4: Number of children choosing Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof as their first preference for a place in Reception, by the closing date

Intake year	2023 - 24	2024 - 25	2025 - 26
Number of 1st preferences	13	11	18

More children who live within the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof take up a Welsh-medium Reception place at an alternative Welsh-medium school than the number of children who take up a place at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

As the number of pupils taking up places in primary schools has fallen city-wide, more children are able to gain admission to other schools closer to home. Consequently, intakes to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof have fallen. Considering the recent take-up of primary school places at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, one option would be to consolidate the school at a reduced capacity to remove surplus places. However, a permanent reduction in capacity would not be in line with the Council's commitment to grow Welsh-medium nursery and primary education.

Analysis of children taking up a Reception class place in the past three intakes found that:

- Over half of pupils stating a first preference for admission to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof Reception class were enrolled in nursery classes at Pentrebane Primary School or Ely & Caerau Children's Centre.

- Ten pupils stating a first preference for admission to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof were enrolled in other Welsh-medium provision, three pupils were in English-medium provision, whilst a further six pupils did not attend a nursery education class.

Proposed establishment of nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

The proposed establishment of a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof is in line with the Council's policy of providing a part time place for children within a 2-mile radius of a child's home.

An analysis of nursery class placements was included in the previous section, Establishing local demand for places (page 14).

The data shows that a number of children living in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof have enrolled at an alternative Welsh-medium school, although this could be considered their local school.

Whilst some families may continue to state a preference for an alternative school, it is reasonable to conclude that there is sufficient population local to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof to support the establishment of a nursery class. This would in turn help to sustain the school and support future growth.

Currently Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof only serves children aged 4-11 years and therefore receives no funding for nursery. Families local to the school or living in the catchment area who want their children to attend maintained nursery provision take up places in a wide range of other nursery school settings.

Families living in close proximity to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof were previously eligible to access nursery education at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen, a non-maintained provider that shares the school site. However, following the establishment of Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School, maintained nursery places are now available within 2 miles of their home addresses. Therefore, these families are no longer eligible for a funded education place at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen.

Establishing a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would directly support the growth of Welsh-medium education and would align with the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both the Bilingual Cardiff 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP.

There is already Flying Start provision on site at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen. Establishing Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school to be more sustainable.

It would therefore be reasonable to establish a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof to develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of 3.

The January 2024 'Rising 4' cohort data, showed that there were 18 children in Welsh-medium education living within 1 mile of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof. There were 23 children for whom Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be the closest Welsh-medium nursery provision.

As birth rates and pupil populations are relatively static at present, a similar level of demand is forecast in future years. When accounting for the 'Rising 3' age group, who are eligible for places in the spring and summer terms, the local demand for Welsh-medium nursery places is approximately 28 – 36 children.

As nursery class places in Cardiff are ordinarily funded in multiples of 8 places, it is proposed that the nursery class would initially operate at 24 part-time places but with sufficient capacity for expansion.

The Council would keep parental preferences and the take-up of places under review.

Whilst intakes to schools are at a static or reducing level, establishing a new nursery class would inevitably impact the number of pupils taking up a place at other schools. The number of places proposed is based on the historic pattern of provision and take up of places in the area. This will ensure that the number of places required matches demand without impacting the viability of existing provision.

The provision of 24 part-time places would allow for the Council to assess the demand for places at the respective nursery classes and to balance places accordingly. This would ensure an overall sufficiency of places for the area.

The Council would consolidate the number of places provided at other nursery classes in 2026/27, balancing the existing provision by the equivalent number of places. This would reduce the number of unfilled nursery places funded at other local schools to ensure no additional revenue expenditure is incurred for the funding of the nursery places at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

In the event that there is no need for further nursery places, the proposals would also afford the option of using the space to provide community activities, should Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof wish to do so.

Quality and Standards

The Council works closely with two organisations to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

Estyn inspects quality and standards in schools and other education providers in Wales.

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) is the regional School Improvement Service for the five councils of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Estyn

Schools are inspected by Estyn as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils.

An Estyn inspection in May 2018 judged wellbeing and attitudes to learning, care support and guidance at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof as good, standards, teaching and learning experiences and leadership and management were judged as adequate and needing improvement.

A follow up Estyn Monitoring visit in December 2019 judged the school to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the May 2018 inspection. The school was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. There were no further monitoring activities in relation to the inspection.

Central South Consortium

The following information has been provided by the Central South Consortium regarding quality and standards at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof:

- The school is led by a dedicated and effective headteacher with a clear strategic vision. She is supported by good deputy who shares the vision.
- The school has faced a very challenging time recently with compulsory redundancies. The headteacher led the staff through the process extremely professionally.
- The leadership structure ensures that responsibilities are clear, and that staff have the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Leaders have high expectations of all pupils.
- The headteacher is passionate about developing the school as a community school in order to raise the profile and status of the school in the local community.
- There are purposeful processes in place for monitoring and evaluating standards and provision. There is a calendar of self-evaluation activities throughout the year which are shared with staff and the whole process has strengthened under the guidance of the headteacher, is more consistent, thorough and effective with the outcomes used to shape the priorities in the school improvement plan.
- The quality of learning and teaching across a school in general is good. Any inconsistencies are addressed, with support given to individual staff members by the deputy headteacher when required. Accountability at all levels is improving.
- The school continues to develop strategies to promote literacy and as a result learners are more confident in their use of Welsh both orally and in writing.
- The school provides a balanced and broad curriculum with the skills beginning to embed throughout the curriculum.
- The external areas are developing well with a focus on a learning environment that promotes independent learners.
- The school provides staff with a range of professional learning activities linked to the priorities in the school improvement plan.
- The headteacher supports the work of the cluster and prioritises sessions to develop the cluster curriculum through collaborative working.
- The school continues to develop a curriculum that is inclusive and learning activities are designed to promote equity to ensure all learners, including vulnerable learners, have access to all experiences where appropriate.
- Effective systems are being implemented to monitor the progress of vulnerable learners, and most are making the expected progress as bespoke and effective interventions are provided. Attendance continues to be a strategic focus, especially FSM pupils.

Condition and Suitability of School Buildings

All schools in Cardiff are given a Condition rating from A (performing as intended / operating efficiently) to D (life expired / risk of imminent failure)

Schools in Cardiff are also given a Suitability rating from A (good – facilities suitable for teaching, learning & wellbeing) to D (bad – building seriously inhibit the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum).

Table 5 Condition and suitability gradings

Grading	Condition	Suitability
A	Good and operating efficiently	Good. Facilities suitable for teaching, learning and wellbeing in school
B	Satisfactory but with minor deterioration	Satisfactory. Performing as intended but does not effectively support the delivery of the curriculum in some areas
C	Poor with major defects	Poor. Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation
D	End of Life; life has expired or risk of imminent failure	Very poor. Buildings seriously inhibit the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum

The Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof buildings are considered to be generally in satisfactory condition although areas warrant attention.

The overall condition classification in April 2020 was assessed as C+ for condition and B for suitability.

How would the proposed nursery provision be accommodated

The nursery class would be established within existing buildings, requiring minimal adaptation and resourcing to extend the age range.

There is a double demountable unit located in a secure area with Reception and Year 1 with suitable facilities including shared areas and external entrance and exits for drop off and pick which could accommodate nursery provision at the school.

What are the benefits of establishing nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof?

The establishment of nursery provision at the school would provide a consistent approach to teaching and planning and would contribute to raising standards across the school.

The following benefits would be expected to result from the establishment of nursery provision at the school:

- Additional Welsh-medium nursery places serving local families;
- Removing the need to travel to alternative sites for siblings of primary and nursery age, and in turn impacting positively on parents' time and reducing the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative childcare provider may cause;
- Continuity of provision to support and embed the ethos and culture of the school;
- Supporting the development of strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity;

- Ease of transition for a nursery-aged child when promoting to Reception class (where Reception admission application has been successful);
- Earlier identification of vulnerable groups and learning needs;
- By having an early years unit within the school, pupils' well-being and learning would be advantaged;
- Continuity and progression between Early Years and Foundation Phase would be secured, enhancing the opportunity to appropriately address individual developmental and cultural needs.

Additional support for pupils

Table 6 below shows the percentages of:

- pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- pupils receiving Free School Meals
- pupils with English as an Additional Language
- Minority Ethnic pupils

Table 6: The percentage of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof with Additional Learning Needs, known to be eligible for Free School Meals; with English as an Additional Language and identified as Minority Ethnic pupils

School	% of Pupils with a statement of ALN	% of Pupils with an IDP	% of Free School Meals Pupils- 3 year average	% of Pupils with English as an Additional Language	% of Minority Ethnic Pupils
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	*	8.2%	37.8%	-	13.4%
Cardiff average	0.6%	4.5%	29%	18.9%	39.3%
Wales average	1.0%	3.7%	22.9%	7.1%	13.3%

Source: My Local School YSGOL GYMRAEG COED Y GOF (2024)

How would support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs be affected?

A child has Additional Learning Needs if they have a learning difficulty which requires additional learning provision to be made for them. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021 (the ALN Code) and regulations came into force on 1 September 2021 to ensure children and young people can access additional support to meet their needs that is properly planned for and protected, with learners at the heart of the process.

Some of the funding that a school receives is based on the learning needs of pupils in the school. This helps the school provide extra support for pupils with additional needs.

The school would continue to provide support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs as required.

There is no information available that suggests that the proposal would have a negative effect on how pupils with Additional Learning Needs would be supported.

How would pupils known to be eligible for Free School Meals be affected?

Some of the funding that a school receives is based on the number of pupils in the school known to be eligible for Free School Meals. All schools in Cardiff would receive funding for these pupils.

Pupil population data confirms that 39.1 % (PLASC 2024) of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof are known to be eligible for receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), compared with 12.9 % for Welsh-medium primary schools at a citywide level.

There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on pupils who are known to be eligible to receive Free School Meals.

How would pupils with English as an Additional Language be affected?

No pupil attending Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof has been recorded as new to English.

Pupils that require this support can be supported in any school in Cardiff.

There is also no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on how children with English as an additional language are supported.

The school would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil.

How would Minority Ethnic pupils be affected?

There are a total of 10 different ethnicities recorded at the school with 85.8% (PLASC 2024) of pupils recorded as White British.

There is also no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on provision for any ethnic group.

How would standards at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof be affected by the change?

Learning standards and progress overall

The Council has made a clear commitment to continuing the investment in, and improvement of, Cardiff schools to make sure every child has the best possible start in life.

The Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to make sure that standards in schools are high, that teaching is good, and that leadership and governance is strong.

Establishing a nursery unit within the school would supports pupils' well-being and learning.

The Council does not expect the proposal to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education, the delivery of the Foundation Phase or each key stage of education at the school.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

The school is committed to nurturing both the well-being and academic growth of pupils. The school believes that a positive school environment is essential for fostering a passion for learning and ensuring every child thrives.

Well-being is a cornerstone of the school's philosophy. The school has created a supportive atmosphere where children feel safe, respected, and valued. The dedicated staff are trained to address the emotional and social needs of learners, promoting resilience and positive mental health.

The school offers various initiatives, such as a nurture class, mindfulness activities, whole-school approach to well-being, play therapy, music therapy, ELSA support and regular physical exercise, to help children develop healthy habits and emotional intelligence.

Attitudes to learning are equally important and the school aims to inspire curiosity and a lifelong passion for knowledge.

The school continues to develop a curriculum that is inclusive and learning activities are designed to promote equity to ensure all learners, including vulnerable learners, have access to all experiences where appropriate and includes the input of all stakeholders in a meaningful way. Pupils have input into the line of inquiry being studied and parents are welcomed into school to share and celebrate their children's learning.

By prioritising well-being and fostering positive attitudes towards learning, the school strives to create a vibrant community where every child can excel academically, socially, and emotionally.

Teaching and learning experiences

The school provides a balanced and broad curriculum which adheres to the principles of the Curriculum for Wales, allowing pupils to become healthy, individual capable learners who can contribute fully within the community.

The curriculum is designed to be engaging and inclusive, catering to different learning styles and abilities and follows an inquiry-based learning approach. This approach fosters the pupil's curiosity, problem solving skills, resilience and independence. There is direct access to a forest school and extensive school grounds which form a crucial element of the curriculum offer, encouraging pupils to explore and solve problems in natural settings, building confidence and adaptability. The curriculum is designed to ensure that the most engaging and current concepts are included and addressed. This sparks curiosity about the world, promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of their environment.

The headteacher supports the work of the cluster and prioritises sessions to develop the cluster curriculum through collaborative working.

Establishing nursery provision at the school would allow for continuity of provision to support and embed the ethos and culture of the school.

Introducing the Welsh language at the age of 3 would enhance the literacy and numeracy development of pupils.

Care, support and guidance

The school has a suitable range of policies and provision in place to promote pupils' health and wellbeing.

The school leadership is committed to fostering a school community in which learning is valued, and pupils achieve their potential in a happy and safe environment in which they show respect and tolerance for others.

The Council would continue to work with the leadership of the school to make sure everyone at the school understands their responsibility for helping to improve and sustain care, support and guidance.

Leadership

The school is led by a dedicated and effective headteacher with a clear strategic vision who is supported by a good deputy headteacher who shares the vision.

There are purposeful processes in place for monitoring and evaluating standards and provision. The quality of learning and teaching across a school in general is good with any inconsistencies addressed and support given to individual staff members by the deputy headteacher when required.

Accountability at all levels is improving.

A range of professional learning activities linked to the priorities in the school improvement plan are provided for staff.

The Council would continue to work with the leadership of the school to make sure everyone in the school understands their responsibility for helping to improve and sustain high performance. It would support the school to have good relationships with parents and other partners so that pupils receive a high-quality education.

The proposed change would be planned carefully so that the school leadership and governance are not disrupted, which could have a negative impact on educational outcomes.

Impact on other schools

Proposals brought forward must ensure that the growth of schools is sustainable, whilst the potential negative impact on other schools is minimised.

It is expected that the establishment of nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would support an increase in the take up of primary school places at the school.

As there is no projected increase in intakes to primary education in the next three years, the establishment of a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be expected to reduce intakes to other schools within both the English-medium sector and the Welsh-medium sector.

Tables 7 and 8 below set out how the number of pupils enrolled at local schools, in Reception Year to Year 6, may be affected by the proposed changes.

The figures for 2019/20 to 2023/24 are the recent number of pupils enrolled. The figures for 2024/25 to 2028/29 are the forecast number of pupils enrolled.

Table 7: Number of pupils enrolled at local schools if the proposals were not implemented

School	Recent number of pupils enrolled					Forecast number of pupils enrolled				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	309	278	268	248	212	187	174	152	139	124
Pentrebane Primary School	191	184	179	168	162	153	141	135	135	135
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	54	107	160	213	266
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	203	197	195	198	192	196	197	198	201	201
Ysgol Pencae	208	205	202	206	198	207	206	206	206	206

*School NOR projections based on the size of respective school catchment populations, and extrapolation of historical transition patterns between school years.

Should a nursery class be established at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, analyses indicate that the greatest impact on nursery intakes may be at Ely & Caerau Children's centre, Pentrebane Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School.

Furthermore, a number of the nursery classes in alternative schools were fully subscribed for 'rising 3' admissions at a later stage, including Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna and Ysgol Glan Ceubal. The establishment of nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof may reduce intakes to some schools but would therefore support future growth in the number of learners able to access Welsh-medium education both in the area local to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and also in the areas served by these schools.

As few families transfer to an alternative Welsh-medium primary school following enrolment in a school-based nursery class, each of the above schools may also, therefore, have a reduction in the number of children requiring a place at entry to Reception Year.

As Ysgol Pencae, which serves a catchment area adjoining that of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, does not have a nursery class, children enrolling in its Reception class transfer from a number of other local nurseries. Intakes to Ysgol Pencae have remained at high levels even as overall intakes citywide have fallen and it is not anticipated that there would be an impact on intakes to Ysgol Pencae.

Table 8: Number of pupils enrolled at local schools if the proposals were implemented from September 2026

The figures for 2019/20 to 2023/24 are the recent number of pupils enrolled. The figures for 2024/25 to 2028/29 are the forecast number of pupils enrolled.

Table 8:										
School	Recent number of pupils enrolled					Forecast number of pupils enrolled				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	309	278	268	248	212	187	174	152	159	168
Pentrebane Primary School	191	184	179	168	162	153	141	135	130	125
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	54	107	160	203	246
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	203	197	195	198	192	196	197	198	201	201
Ysgol Pencae	208	205	202	206	198	207	206	206	206	206

Tables 9 and 10 below set out how the number of pupils enrolled in nursery classes in local schools may be affected by the proposed changes.

Table 9: Number of 'Rising 4' nursery class pupils enrolled at local schools if the proposals **were not** implemented										
School	Recent number of pupils enrolled - 'Rising 4' pupils					Forecast number of pupils enrolled - 'Rising 4' pupils				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ely & Caerau Children's Centre	64	55	85	57	59	52	66	66	66	66
Pentrebane Primary School	30	34	26	41	28	27	36	36	36	36
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	45	56	64	64	64
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	24	43	26	36	35	23	27	25	25	25

Table 10: Number of 'Rising 4' nursery class pupils enrolled at local schools if the proposals **were** implemented										
School	Recent number of pupils enrolled - 'Rising 4' pupils					Forecast number of pupils enrolled - 'Rising 4' pupils				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	20	24
Ely & Caerau Children's Centre	64	55	85	57	59	52	66	63	61	60
Pentrebane Primary School	30	34	26	41	28	27	36	33	27	30
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	45	56	58	54	52
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	24	43	26	36	35	23	27	25	25	25

It is anticipated that there would be no direct impact on the number of nursery class places taken up at other schools.

Impact on Early Years Provision

Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen, on the shared site with Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, provides wrap-around childcare and holiday club childcare to nursery and primary school age learners as well as providing Welsh-medium Flying Start places for learners aged 2-3.

It is anticipated the proposed establishment of a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would mean that fewer children travel out of the area to access nursery education provision and linked wrap-around childcare.

It is therefore anticipated that the proposals would have a positive or neutral impact on local wrap-around childcare providers, such as Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen, to meet the demand from local families.

The proposals may result in fewer children from the area local to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof taking up places in Welsh-medium nursery education at schools in neighbouring areas and in turn may therefore reduce take up of wrap-around childcare serving those schools. As some of these places may be backfilled with other applicants it is not possible to identify childcare settings that may be negatively impacted with any level of certainty.

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

- There is a potential impact on the take up of places at neighbouring Welsh-medium schools. However, this is expected to be short term as the number of pupils attending Welsh-medium provision is targeted to grow as part of the development of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

- There is the potential for a small increase in the numbers of vehicles at the school for pick-up and drop-off. The combined school site has had previous issues with congestion at the side entrance on Lime Grove where there is now a School Street. The timings of the School Street restrictions are currently 8.30 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 3.30pm to suit current school day times and deter pick up and drop off on this road. The proposed nursery session timings would need to be identified, and an assessment made regarding whether the School Street timings would need to change. A revision to times would need advance notice to implement a Traffic Regulation Order.

Risks

- There is a risk that an increase in the number of pupils who wish to take up Welsh-medium nursery places does not happen. The Council will keep its projections under review and would respond to any such changes in demand if required.

Alternatives considered

Alternative options to establishing Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof:

- Do nothing

- Increase the number of Welsh-medium nursery places at existing provisions.

However, establishing a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would directly support the growth of Welsh-medium education and would align with the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both the Bilingual Cardiff 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP.

There is already Flying Start provision on site at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen. Establishing Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school to be more sustainable.

Admission Arrangements

There are no plans to change the Council's policy on the admission of children to school as a result of this proposal.

Attendance at a Nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a Reception class place in the same school.

Detailed information regarding admission arrangements is contained in the Council's Admission to Schools booklet, and this information can also be viewed on the Council's website www.cardiff.gov.uk

Human Resources Matters

The proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would require the Governing Body to consider the workforce requirements in readiness for the change.

The Governing Body would be encouraged to undertake this work in line with the School Organisation Planning HR Framework. HR People Services would provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Body for the workforce planning process and consequential recruitment processes if required.

HR People Services would provide advice, support and guidance to Governing Bodies if their staffing requirements are impacted by the result of the proposals to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

Funding of the proposed change

The newly established nursery provision will make use of existing spaces previously used for Foundation Phase activities. Minimal additional funding is needed for any necessary upgrades to these facilities.

Additional resources for children enrolled at the nursery would be funded by the Governing Body of the school.

Establishing nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof is not expected to affect the overall city-wide funding for nursery places. Parental preference data and PLASC analysis are currently used, and will continue to be used, to determine the appropriate number of funded nursery places in each provision.

Should the proposal to establish a nursery class initially operating at 24 part-time places be implemented, the Council would reduce the number of unfilled nursery places funded at other local schools by 24 part-time places.

The Council will continue to review the demand for places and, should a greater number of children require nursery places, reflecting an increase in the population, further changes to realign provision may be required.

Transport Matters

Overall, extending the age range of a school to include a nursery class supports families to make fewer journeys to separate locations for nursery education and primary education. An improved distribution of nursery class places in each language medium should therefore have a net reduction in the number of journeys and the number of polluting journeys made by families.

Provision of a 24 part-time place nursery for a comparatively large catchment area would be anticipated to have a small increase in the numbers of vehicles at the school for pick-up and drop-off. Some nursery pupils may be in a vehicle with siblings already at the primary school.

Provision of the nursery may influence parents' choice to enrol at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and remain at this site rather than transfer to another school. This would further increase numbers travelling to the site but may also reduce the number of children travelling to alternative Welsh-medium nurseries reflecting the distance from Pentrebane to other Welsh-medium nurseries.

The combined school site has had previous issues with congestion at the side entrance on Lime Grove where there is now a School Street. The timings of the School Street restrictions are currently 8.30 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 3.30pm to suit current school day times and deter pick up and drop off on this road. The proposed nursery session timings would need to be identified and assess whether the School Street timings would need to change. A revision to times would need advance notice to implement a Traffic Regulation Order.

The need for other traffic restrictions for parking and loading or road safety measures to supplement the existing zebra crossing are not anticipated but would be monitored and assessed.

Learner Travel Arrangements

There are no plans to change the Council's transport policy for school children.

The Council's transport policy for school children can be viewed on the Council's website www.cardiff.gov.uk/schooltransport

Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

It is expected that the proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language.

The establishment of a Welsh-medium nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would directly support the growth of Welsh-medium education and aligns with the outcomes, aims and aspirations of both Bilingual Cardiff's 5-year Strategy and Cardiff Council's 10-year WESP plan.

The proposal would increase parental choice in the area and support the increased provision of Welsh-medium education.

It would make Welsh language education more accessible for local families and be a more attractive option to parents in the area by reducing travel time, costs, provide the potential for improved wraparound services for working parents, and would work to embed the school within the local community.

Flying Start provision has already been established on site at Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen. The establishment of Welsh-medium nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would make Welsh-medium education more accessible to the immediate community and attract a wider range of families to the school, thus supporting the school moving forward to be more sustainable.

The proposals would also afford Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof the option of considering whether it wishes to offer wrap around childcare provision from the site in conjunction with local partners or use the space to provide community activities in the event there is no need for further nursery places.

It is proposed that the Welsh-medium nursery class would initially operate at 24 part-time places but with sufficient capacity for expansion.

The school is part of a pilot project, which is a joint initiative between Bilingual Cardiff and the WESP team to support Welsh-medium schools experiencing reduced intakes to Reception class. The project aims to promote Welsh language education within the community through open days, community events, promotional leaflets etc. to make parents aware of the provision available.

In the event of the proposal being implemented, parental preferences and the take-up of places at the Welsh-medium nursery unit will be kept under review and the number of places increased as required.

An initial Welsh Language Assessment has been carried out and is available to view at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals

This assessment will be reviewed and updated after the consultation and at key points if the proposal were to proceed.

Equalities

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public services to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that looks at a policy, project or scheme to make sure it does not discriminate against anyone based on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation).

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available to view at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals

This assessment will be reviewed and updated after the consultation and at key points if the proposal were to proceed.

Community Impact

A Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact that proposed changes could have on the local community. When considering the potential for impact on the wider community as a result of a proposal, the following are taken into account: Public Open Space, parkland, the current use of school facilities by the community, noise and traffic congestion. Officers will work with schools and any community group to make sure that the proposal avoids negative impacts if possible.

The school offers a range of community activities. It is not thought that there would be a negative impact on any of these activities as a result of the proposal.

An initial Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available to view at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals

This assessment will be reviewed and updated after the consultation and at key points if the proposal were to proceed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Welsh-Medium education?

Welsh-medium education has a very simple aim, to enable children to become fully fluent in both English and Welsh while teaching all the other subjects across the curriculum.

Young children learn languages remarkably easily. It's by making the most of this potential that Welsh-medium education has become so popular.

Why do people choose Welsh-medium education?

Research shows that it's by far the best way we have to get children to be bilingual in both English and Welsh.

Being bilingual has many advantages. It's very useful as a skill in the workplace. The ability to speak Welsh is either an essential or a desirable skill for a growing number of jobs.

The Welsh Government has also committed to developing a bilingual Wales through its Welsh-language strategy 'Cymraeg 2050' with a vision for reaching a million speakers by 2050. There is more demand today than ever before for bilingual skills in a variety of fields such as health, education, leisure, childcare, retail, and public services.

We don't speak Welsh at home - would that make my child stand out?

Not at all. Over 70% of children in Welsh-medium education in Cardiff do not speak Welsh at home. And for some of those, a language other than English is the main language of the home.

Enrolling from a non-Welsh speaking background is absolutely normal and the areas of learning within Curriculum for Wales are designed with that in mind.

Welsh-medium schools do not expect that children speak Welsh when they start, but will help those children to become fluent in Welsh before the end of their first year

Does Welsh-medium education have lower standards for English?

Children leaving Welsh-medium primary schools are expected to reach exactly the same standard of English as those in English-medium primary schools. And in secondary schools children in Welsh-medium education sit exactly the same GCSEs and A-levels as those in English-medium schools.

How can I help my child with homework if I don't speak Welsh?

As most children don't speak Welsh at home, Welsh-medium schools are very experienced in supporting both pupils and parents.

For younger pupils, homework instructions will be given in writing in both English and Welsh.

At a later age, children will be able to explain their work to their parents themselves. In fact, research suggests that dealing with their work in two languages can actually help children understand the subject that they are studying.

The education website Hwb also gives access to a range of nationally provided digital learning tools and resources www.hwb.wales.gov.uk

What would the proposal mean for children currently attending Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof?

Children currently attending Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would remain at the school. Some changes to the existing the accommodation would be required in order to provide appropriate facilities for the proposed nursery provision but the school would continue to be able to deliver the full curriculum.

When would the nursery provision open?

If the proposal is agreed, it is proposed that children would be admitted to the nursery from September 2026. However, this is subject to the necessary statutory processes.

What is Cardiff Council's policy on admissions to nursery places?

Children are entitled to a part time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday. Nursery places are not allocated on a catchment area basis. Wherever possible places are offered in a local community nursery school or nursery class within two miles of a child's place of residence. If places are unavailable in local community nursery schools or nursery classes in the language medium applied for, parents may apply for nursery education place funding with a recognised provider.

Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place in the same school, and therefore a new application must be made for reception class places.

Would nursery children have to wear a school uniform?

Decisions regarding school uniform are made by the School Governing Body.

Would wrap round care be available?

Cwtch Childcare Pentrebaen, on the shared site with Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, provides wrap-around childcare and holiday club childcare to nursery and primary school age learners as well as providing Welsh-medium Flying Start places for learners aged 2-3.

Would the nursery sessions be morning or afternoon?

The timing of the nursery sessions has not been finalised however the preferred time is 9am – 11:30am.

Can I learn Welsh alongside my child?

Some parents, after choosing a Welsh-medium school for their child, decide to learn Welsh as well.

It's a great opportunity to learn together, to practice your language skills with each other and spend quality time together. Welsh for Adults courses are available throughout Cardiff and are suitable for learners at all levels.

For further information, please visit www.learnwelsh.cymru

Next steps, how to make your views known and feedback form

Key Dates

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet. The consultation report will be available for anyone to view/download on the Council website. You can also get a copy by using the contact details in this document.

If the propsal is agreed to proceed following consultation, there are a number of further stages that the Council would have to go through before a final decision is made.

These stages are set out in Table 11 below:

(This timetable may be subject to change)

Statutory Process	Timescale
Consultation Period	12 May 2025 – 1 July 2025
Consultation report considered by the Council Cabinet and published on the Council website	September 2025
Expected date for start of Objection Period, when statutory notice has been issued (when formal objections can be made)	September/October 2025
Expected date for end of Objection Period	October/November 2025
Final decision (determination) by the Council's Cabinet	January 2026
Objection report published on the Council website and notification of Cabinet's decision	January 2026

Consultation period

The consultation period for these proposals starts on 12 May 2025 and ends on 01 July 2025.

See page 6 for further details of how to respond and make your views known.

The Council will publish a consultation report on its website. The report must be published at least two weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice.

You can also ask for a hard copy of the report.

The report will go over the issues raised during the consultation period and give the Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether to go ahead with the proposed change to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof. If the Cabinet decide to continue with the change the Council must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. This is an official statement saying that the changes are proposed to go ahead.

Statutory Notice

A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. The approval to publish a statutory notice must be given by the Council's Cabinet. This would only be considered after the Cabinet have received a report on all the consultation responses. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Council would publish the statutory notice on its website. Copies of the notice would also be put up at or near the main entrance to the school/site affected by the notice.

Schools that are affected would also be given copies of the notice to give out 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 asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council within the dates given on the notice.

Determination of the proposals

Cardiff Council's Cabinet would determine the proposal to establish nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof. This means they will make a final decision on whether the change goes ahead. The Cabinet may decide to approve or reject the proposal, or they may approve the proposal with some changes (modifications). The Cabinet will take any objections received in the Objection Period into account when making this decision.

The Local Authority has 16 weeks from the end of the objection period to determine the proposal.

Decision Notification

After determination of the proposal, all interested parties would be informed of the decision. Decisions will also be published on the Council's website.

Your views are important to us

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have suggested in this document.

You can do this by:

- attending an in-person public meeting or drop-in session. You do not need to pre-book for these sessions. Just attend the venue at the time and date specified (details on page 6).
- attending an online drop-in session. Please contact us via e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk confirming which session you would like to attend, and we will provide a link and instructions on how you can access the meeting (details on page 6).
- completing the electronic response form which you can find at: www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals
- printing and completing the consultation response form, which you can find at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ysgolcoedygofproposals and returning the form by post to School Organisation Planning Team, Room 463, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW
- writing to the School Organisation Planning Team by e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk or by post to Room 463, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW. This can include requesting an officer call back if you have a specific question that you feel you would like further information about.

Please note that all comments sent in writing or by e-mail must contain the full name and postal address of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 01 July 2025.

Unfortunately, we will not be able consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Appendix 1

Take up of Welsh-medium primary and nursery places

Establishing local demand for places

In order to calculate the likely demand for school places, historic trends specific to well established school catchment areas have been used.

The geographical units that are most suitable to analyse the demand for Welsh-medium nursery and primary school places are the discrete catchment areas of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna.

The Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof catchment area includes Ely, Fairwater and Pentrebane, and parts of Llandaff, St Fagans, Radyr and Morganstown. As the catchment area extends beyond two miles of the school site, some primary-age learners within its catchment area are therefore supported by the Council to travel to school with free home to school transport.

Take up of primary school places (age 4-11)

The below table indicates the take up of places at Welsh-medium primary schools in South West Cardiff.

Table 1: Number on Roll and total surplus capacity - Reception to Year 6 Welsh-medium (PLASC January 2024)

Primary School	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total (NOR)	Published Capacity	Surplus	% Surplus
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	18	29	34	29	38	25	39	212	389	177	46%
Ysgol Gynradd Groeswen Primary School	14	2	2	-	-	-	-	18	60	42	70%
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	30	29	29	26	28	26	24	192	207	15	7%
Ysgol Pencae	28	29	30	30	29	30	22	198	186	-12	-6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	86	85	82	81	75	81	84	574	630	56	9%
Total	**176**	**174**	**177**	**166**	**170**	**162**	**169**	**1194**	**1472**	**278**	**18.9%**
Total places (PAN)	**240**	**225**	**225**	**210**	**210**	**210**	**210**				
Surplus places per year group	**64**	**51**	**48**	**44**	**30**	**48**	**41**				
% Surplus per year group	**27%**	**23%**	**21%**	**21%**	**14%**	**23%**	**20%**				

Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School was established in 2023/ 2024 to serve the initial phases of the Plasdŵr housing development of up to 7,000 homes. The phased arrangements allowed for pupils to be admitted to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in the first year of establishment, with a reduced Published Admission Number in Years 1 and 2.

Table 2 below indicates the recent and projected take up of Welsh-medium places of pupils' resident within the above school catchment areas.

The take up of Welsh-medium places at entry to primary education by children resident within the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof has, for many years, exceeded the school's Published Admission Number of 60 places. Analysis of school census data confirms that a significant proportion of children resident within its catchment area have taken up places at alternative schools including schools that are in closer proximity to their home address and schools that offer nursery education

The take up of places at Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau, in table 1, broadly aligns with the number of children within each school's catchment area taking up a place at any Welsh-medium primary school, in table 2.

The take up of places at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof is significantly lower than the number of children within its catchment area taking up a place at any Welsh-medium primary school. Conversely, the take up of places at Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna is significantly higher than the number of children within its catchment area taking up a place at any Welsh-medium primary school.

Table 2: Recent and projected take up of Reception places in Welsh-medium community schools of pupils' resident in the catchment areas (PLASC January 2024)

Catchment Area	Places	PLASC data					Projected demand, reflecting population data				
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	60	80	64	72	70	63	68	68	69	63	67
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	30 (from 2023/24)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	30	34	15	30	25	23	25	21	24	21	22
Ysgol Pencae	30	26	29	21	26	31	30	30	27	27	28
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	90	52	66	49	64	52	64	67	59	52	59
Total	**210/240**	**192**	**174**	**172**	**185**	**169**	**186**	**186**	**179**	**163**	**176**
Surplus Places	**-**	**18**	**36**	**38**	**25**	**71**	**54**	**54**	**61**	**77**	**64**
% Surplus	**-**	**9%**	**21%**	**22%**	**14%**	**42%**	**29%**	**29%**	**34%**	**47%**	**36%**

Table 3 confirms that a significant proportion of children resident in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof have taken up places at alternative schools including schools that are in closer proximity to their home address. The below table summarises the number of children within the area taking up a place in any Welsh language provision. Each of these schools, with the exception of Ysgol Pencae, offers nursery education.

Table 3: Enrolled Welsh-medium or Dual Language school of 455 primary-age pupils resident in the catchment area of Ysgol Coed-Y-Gof (PLASC January 2024)		
Welsh-medium/ Dual language School attended	Number of pupils in Welsh-medium/ Dual Language school	% of 455 pupils in Welsh-medium/ Dual Language school
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	188	41 %
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	10	2 %
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	48	11 %
Ysgol Pencae	27	6 %
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	64	14 %
Other Welsh-medium schools	**118**	**26%**
Total pupils	**455**	

As the number of pupils enrolling in primary education has fallen, the ability of children to gain admission to other preferred schools has increased. This pattern correlates with the fall in intakes to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof since 2019/20, when 49 pupils were enrolled in Reception class.

Whilst enrolment in a nursery class has no bearing on the decision-making process for admission to primary education, school admissions data and school census data confirms that few families opt to transfer to an alternative Welsh-medium primary school following enrolment in a nursery class.

School Admissions preference data – admission to Reception class

Analysis of school admissions data for those pupils stating a first preference for admission to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof Reception class in the past three intakes (2023, 2024 and 2025) indicates that children were transferring from the following nursery classes:

- 15 pupils were enrolled at Ely & Caerau Children's Centre
- 8 pupils were enrolled at Pentrebane Primary School
- 3 pupils were enrolled at other English-medium primary schools
- 6 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau
- 2 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School

- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal
- 1 pupil was enrolled at a Welsh-medium non-maintained nursery setting
- 6 pupils were not enrolled in any nursery provision.

Take up of nursery class places (age 3-4)

A number of school census (PLASC) analyses have been undertaken to consider the demand for and take up of Welsh-medium nursery class places of children who live within the catchment area of, or in close proximity to, Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof.

The number of places provided by a nursery class reflects the number of terms that pupils are eligible for a place.

All children are eligible for a minimum of three school terms (the 'Rising 4' cohort. Children born in the Autumn term or Spring term are eligible for admission in the following term, and are therefore eligible to attend nursery for five terms or four terms respectively

Table 4 confirms the number of pupils in both nursery age classes ('Rising 3' and 'Rising 4') who are resident in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof and attend a Welsh-medium nursery class or dual language nursery class.

Table 4: Enrolled nursery school of pupils resident in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof (PLASC January 2024)

Nursery School Attended	No. of pupils
Ely and Caerau Children's Centre (Welsh-medium stream)	5*
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	4
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen	25
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth	4
Ysgol Gymraeg Hamadryad	2
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	7
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	4
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	9
Ysgol Y Berllan Deg	1
Total	**61**

*Language medium as recorded in admissions preference record; language of instruction not recorded on PLASC

Whilst the primary school catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof serves a wide geographical area, residence within the catchment area of a school is not relevant to the admissions arrangements for nursery classes. Priority within the admissions arrangements for nursery classes is based on age and on proximity of the home address to the relevant nursery class.

Further census proximity-based analysis has been carried out on the 'Rising 4' cohort of pupils in January 2024 i.e. those of nursery age and who would promote to Reception class in the following September.

Nearest school analysis

School Census analysis of 'Rising 4' nursery age children enrolled in any Welsh-medium nursery class, for whom Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be the nearest school, indicates:

- 13 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School
- 3 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal
- 2 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna
- 2 pupils were enrolled at Ely & Caerau Children's Centre
- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch
- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau
- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Y Berllan Deg.

Overall, there were 23 'Rising 4' children enrolled in any Welsh-medium nursery class, for whom Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be the nearest school.

One-mile walking distance analysis

School census analysis of 'Rising 4' nursery age children resident within one mile of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, enrolled in any nursery class, indicates:

- 31 pupils were enrolled at Peter Lea Primary School
- 27 pupils were enrolled at Pentrebane Primary School
- 24 pupils were enrolled at other English-medium primary schools or nursery classes
- 10 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School
- 3 pupils were enrolled at Ysgol Glan Ceubal
- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna
- 1 pupil was enrolled at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau
- 3 pupils were enrolled in other Welsh-medium provision

Overall, there were 18 'Rising 4' children resident within one mile of Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof enrolled in Welsh-medium primary education, accounting for 18% of pupils within that area.

Summary of 'local' demand for Welsh-medium nursery places

The above analyses of nursery class placements indicates that a number of children have enrolled at an alternative Welsh-medium school to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, although this could be considered to be their local school.

Whilst some of these may have continued to state a preference for an alternative school, it is reasonable to conclude that there is sufficient population local to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof to support the establishment of a nursery class. This would in turn help sustain the school and support future growth.

Furthermore, a number of the nursery classes in alternative schools were fully subscribed for 'rising 3' admissions at a later stage, including Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna and Ysgol Glan Ceubal. This meant that some children in relative close proximity to those schools were unable to gain admission to the nursery classes at those schools. The establishment of nursery provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would therefore support future growth in the number of learners able to access Welsh-medium education both in the area local to Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof but also in the areas served by these schools.

The establishment of a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof would be expected to reduce intakes to other schools within both the English-medium sector and the Welsh-medium sector. The above analyses indicates that the greatest impact on nursery intakes, should a nursery class be established at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof, may be at Ely & Caerau Children's Centre, Pentrebane Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School.

The expectation is that school places at Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School will be largely occupied with pupils from the Plasdŵr development as construction of the site progresses.

It would therefore be reasonable to establish a nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed- Y-Gof initially operating at 24 part-time places but with sufficient capacity for expansion, and to keep parental preferences and the take-up of places under review.