

# STATUTORY NOTICE

## TO CREATE A SINGLE 3-16 CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITHIN MERTHYR TYDFIL BY:

1. **DISCONTINUING ST ALOYSIUS RC, THE FEDERATION OF ST ILLTYD'S RC, ST MARY'S RC AND ALSO BISHOP HEDLEY RC SCHOOLS**
2. **CREATING A SINGLE ALL-THROUGH 3-16 CATHOLIC EDUCATION SCHOOL**

**Notice is given** in accordance with section 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the following voluntary aided schools:

- St Aloysius RC Primary School, Cedar Way, Gurnos Estate, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9PA
- St Illtyd's RC Primary School, Rocky Road, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3BT
- St Mary's RC Primary School, Caedraw Road, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8HA; and
- Bishop Hedley High School, Gwaunfarren Road, Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9AN

**Notice is given** in accordance with sections 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish a new Catholic School for young people aged 3 to 16 and would be classified as English Medium, Voluntary Aided. The new school site is yet to be agreed. 'Voluntary Aided' category schools are church schools and the Archdiocese contributes to the building costs and has a substantial influence on the running of the school. The Governing Body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria.

If the current proposal is agreed and implemented the current schools will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The governance structure of the new all through school will start as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. In effect, the 3-16 school will be established in the existing schools and will transfer to the new building when ready.

The primary section of the school will be for 525 pupils, therefore a 2.5 form entry with an admission number of 75 pupils. The secondary section of the school will be for 600 pupils therefore a 4 form entry with an admission number of 120 pupils. Initially, there will be no impact on pupils' journeys as a result of the Proposal and available walking routes to school will remain the same. When the site of the new build is decided parents will be informed about the walking routes.

Merthyr Tydfil 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 to view on Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's website at the following address: <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/3-16-report/?lang=en-GB&>

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Within a period of one 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019, any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to:- Chief Officer (Learning), Learning Department, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Unit 5 Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4TQ.

Signed:  (SUE WALKER, CHIEF OFFICER (LEARNING))

For the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**EXPLANATORY NOTE OF THE PROPOSALS (not part of the Statutory Notice)**- The Council proposes to discontinue St Aloysius RC, the Federation of St Illtyd's RC and St Mary's RC primary schools and also Bishop Hedley High schools to create an 'all through' 3 to 16 school based across the existing sites of the schools. If the current proposal is agreed and implemented the current schools would close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The governance structure of the new all through school would start as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. In effect the 3-16 school will be established in the existing schools and will transfer to the new building when it is ready. Following consultation with the Engineering, Planning, Highways and Road Safety departments, the two sites that will be considered are a new build on land on the west side of the Galon Uchaf road, south of the playing fields or a re-build on one of the Bishop Hedley High School sites. It is estimated that the new school building will be ready by 2023/2024. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is permitted to publish proposals to discontinue a voluntary aided school or foundation school; as are the Governors. As such the formal publication of the closure of the four existing schools may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure. The proposal to establish a new voluntary aided school has been published by the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff in partnership with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.