



Ein Cyf / Our ref: O:EducSMT  
Eich Cyf / Your ref:  
Dyddiad/Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: Sue Walker  
Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 01685 724614  
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Dear Parent/Carer

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION RE SCHOOL REORGANISATION**

**On the proposal 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**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 the local authority approved a recommendation to carry out a public consultation beginning on 3<sup>rd</sup> September on the proposal to create a single 3-16 Catholic School within Merthyr Tydfil from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 by discontinuing St Aloysius RC, the federation of St Illtyd's RC, St Mary's RC and also Bishop Hedley RC Schools and creating a single all-through 3-16 Catholic Education School

### **Why are we proposing this change?**

Since 2015, officers from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, in conjunction with officers from the Archdiocese of Cardiff, have been carrying out informal consultation meetings on the future of Catholic education in Merthyr Tydfil. A number of issues were brought to light during this process that need addressing to achieve long-term sustainability for Catholic education within the borough. These included the need to improve the learning environment and ensure there is excellent leadership across the sector. Improving education for all is a priority for the Council; this is reflected in the Council's vision and corporate plan. Furthermore the Council is committed to enhancing the faith offer within the borough and working alongside the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff ensures the sustainability of the offer for future generations not just in Merthyr Tydfil but also neighbouring parishes.

### **The consultation process**

Our consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code 2013 and therefore a range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals.

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**Merthyr Tydfil**  
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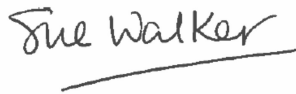
Before any decisions are made the authority needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions known on the proposal. The public consultation will run between Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. You can respond to our proposals at any time during this period.

Parents and Carers of pupils at all schools are invited to attend consultation meetings where you can ask questions about the proposal. We will ask that you complete a consultation response form, as we can only accept views in writing. You can attend any of the consultation meetings which will be held on:-

10<sup>th</sup> September at 3.20pm at St Illtyd's  
10<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00pm at St Mary's  
11<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm at Bishop Hedley  
13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm at St Aloysius

All stakeholders will be able to contribute to the consultation online via <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/creationofsingle3-16catholicschool>. Alternatively, paper copies of the consultation document and response form can be obtained from either school or can be downloaded from the Council website: <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/>.

Yours faithfully



**SUE WALKER**  
**CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING**

**Merthyr Tudful**  
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**Merthyr Tydfil**  
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