

## STATUTORY NOTICE

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Directorate, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN.**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (Version 2 2018) that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to alter Pen y Cwm Special School, Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6AN for boys and girls aged 3-19 so as to extend the capacity of the school. The school is currently and will continue to be maintained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The school will have no denominating religious character.

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

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-extend-the-capacity-at-pen-y-cwm-special-school/>

It is proposed to implement part 1 of the proposal on 1st September 2026. Part 1 is the proposal by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School from 175 to 205 places, with effect from [1<sup>st</sup>] September 2026. Part 1 also includes formal recognition of the Post 16 Provision at Unit 4 Festival Site and of additional classrooms developed in the main school building.

Part 2 of the proposal, which is the proposal to further increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 205 to 250 places will be implemented in preparation for the academic year 1<sup>st</sup> September 2030/31. There are two options being considered by the Council to facilitate the extended capacity. The first option involves the Council remodelling an existing learning environment to create additional classroom spaces and further associated facilities i.e. toilets. The other option would be to build an extension to the current provision.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will be the admission authority via the Council's Additional Learning Needs (ALN) panel. The new school's pupil capacity will be 205 pupils of statutory school age (4-16) from the start of the 2026/27 academic year and 250 pupils of statutory school age (4-16) from the start of the 2030/31 academic year. The school also has a Post 16 provision up to the age of 19 years old.

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

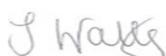
- over 1.5 miles (for those under 8 years of age); and/or,
- over 2 miles (for those aged between 8-16 years of age)

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

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, that is to say by **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026** any person may object to the proposals. Objections by e-mail should be sent to [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk).

Objections in writing should be sent to: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Directorate, Resources and Planning Team, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN.

Signed



**Head of Resources and Planning**  
**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pen y Cwm is a Special School catering for learners across the 3-19 age range, with a wide range of disabilities and difficulties ranging from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Visually Impaired (VI), Hearing Impaired (HI) pupils. All Pupils have an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The school provides accessible accommodation and facilities for those who have a physical disability alongside their learning difficulty.

The school population has grown significantly since the last consultation undertaken in 2021. This means that the special school has already saturated the 10% capacity margin. As a result, the Council needs to expand the capacity further to 205 places with effect from the 2026/27 academic year and then to 250 places with effect from the 2030/31 academic year. Major investment by the Council in the form of ALN grants has already improved flexible space, and specialist areas. However, each of the phases (Foundation Phase/Primary/Secondary/Post 16) are still compromised in terms of flexibility and space, which was also why it was necessary to relocate the Post 16 provision.

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025** and concluded on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 parts:

- **Part 1**, to increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 175 to 205 places in preparation for the 2026/27 academic year. This will also involve:
  - Retrospectively acknowledging the Post 16 provision at Unit 4 Festival Site in Ebbw Vale (including 3 classrooms, sensory room, common room, life skills room, meeting room, catering/dining area, toilets and hygiene facilities)
  - Retrospective acknowledgement of additional classrooms developed in the main school building.
- **Part 2**, to further increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 205 to 250 places in preparation for the 2030/31 academic year. This will involve continuing with the development of the long-term plan to secure additional capacity including either a new build provision on the land adjacent to the school or remodelling the existing school building to accommodate the increased capacity.

The consultation report also known as the Outturn report is available on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's website.

Further information on this proposal can be found here:

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-extend-the-capacity-at-pen-y-cwm-special-school/>

**END OF NOTICE**