

## **Bridgend County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 44 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Bridgend County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to make regulated alterations to:

- increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300; and
- relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Under this proposal, Heronsbridge School, which is an English-medium special school that caters for pupils with autism spectrum disorder, severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties at primary, secondary and post-16, is maintained by Bridgend County Borough Council. The school would relocate from its current location at Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF31 3HT, to a new build school on land at Island Farm, Bridgend CF31 3LG. The proposal would mean specialist educational provision at Heronsbridge School would be increased to accommodate 300 pupils. It is proposed to implement the proposal at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Bridgend County Borough Council will be the admission authority. All admissions to Heronsbridge School would be via the Local Authority Panel with representation from Heronsbridge School and the Council's Learner Support Service. Individual pupils can only be considered for placement if they meet initial criteria.

Bridgend 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 the consultees, the proposer's responses and the view of Estyn is available on Bridgend County Borough Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/current-consultations/heronsbridge-school-consultation/>

V1.0

The current number of pupils attending Heronsbridge School is 236. The current number of places at the school is 240. Once the proposal is implemented there will be 300 places for pupils aged 3-19.

The arrangements for school transport will in accordance with Bridgend County Borough Council's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/5632/home-to-school-or-college-transport-policy-v2.pdf>

Within a period of one 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by 27 July 2022 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections must be made in writing to:

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)

C/o Education and Family Support Directorate Support Unit

Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

Bridgend County Borough Council

Civic Offices

Angel Street

CF31 4WB

Or sent via e-mail to: [edsu@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:edsu@bridgend.gov.uk)

Bridgend County Borough Council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their response thereon, before the end of seven days beginning with the day of its determination of the proposal.

Signed:



Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)

Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

30 June 2022

## **Explanatory Note**

This proposal involves enlarging Heronsbridge School to increase the number of places available. The proposal means that Heronsbridge School would transfer to land Island Farm to an enlarged new build special school. The new building would be designed for 300 pupils aged 3-19. The new school would open at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

The school is classed as a local authority maintained special school and has term-time residential boarding provision. Residential provision associated with the school would also be provided on the new site (that is, two four-bedroom houses).

The Council has brought forward this proposal to build a replacement school for Heronsbridge School in order to:

- Increase the number of places for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN);
- Reduce the number of learners sent out of county (this practice is both expensive and imposes often significant travel times on pupils); and
- Provide suitable and sufficient accommodation which meets the needs of our most vulnerable learners.