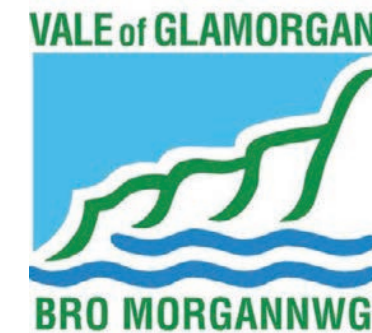


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# Whitmore High School

Design & Access Statement  
26W006-ATK-X-XX-RP-A-X-2000

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# Document History

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# 1. Executive summary

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application, submitted on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, for:

‘ Construction of a replacement secondary school building at the site of the existing Whitmore High School and the demolition of the existing secondary school building upon completion along with associated playing fields/pitches, Caretakers House, parking, coach drop-off, and associated works.’

The existing school was constructed in 1966 and is beyond economical repair and will be demolished after the new school is completed. The proposed development will cater for mixed sex pupils between the ages of 11 – 18. It will cater for 1,100 places, of which 200 are sixth form.

The proposal supports the Vale of Glamorgan Council's commitment to establishing mixed sex education in Barry as well as establishing modern, high quality learning environments that meet the school's aspirations.

The application proposal consists of:

- A three storey secondary school building including facilities for sixth form pupils;
- Indoor sports facilities that will be considered for community use;
- Landscape design for learning, social and informal use; and
- An all-weather pitch and games court that will be considered for community use.
- Note: the site boundary contains a replacement caretaker's house, subject to a separate planning application. The position and size is included within this proposal

The design has been developed in parallel with the proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg (YGBM), to fulfil the aspiration of the Vale of Glamorgan's 21st Century Schools. The programme demonstrates the Council's approach to sustainable development, contributing to The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to address social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing. Education is a key contributor to improving these with high standards of modern learning environments, supporting pupils to achieve their best potential. The programme takes a long-term view of need, considering projected growth and Welsh Language Strategy.













## 2. Introduction & Context

## 2.1. Introduction

This Design and Access Statement relates to a full planning application for the redevelopment of Whitmore High School, Barry. It should be read in conjunction with all other drawings and documents submitted as a part of the application.

The planning application is submitted by DPP and Atkins on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan 21st Century Schools Team. The application is for replacement facilities for the existing secondary school catering for 11-18 year olds.

## 2.2. Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to provide details of the proposed scheme, including an appraisal of the development against the relevant design guidance. A summary of the scheme evolution is provided to demonstrate how the proposal has been shaped by an in-depth options appraisal process and by input from key stakeholders. The statement also provides details of the scheme's accessibility and shows that the proposed scheme will be fully accessible and inclusive, both internally and externally.

## 2.3. Proposal Overview

The proposal is for the construction of a new-build secondary school (approx. 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>) and associated sports provision. A replacement caretaker's house is also included, but subject to a separate application.

Following completion of the new buildings, there will be a demolition package and external play areas will be created, including all weather pitch and car parking. The existing school will remain live throughout the duration of the project with the proposed start on site in late Summer 2019. Following completion of the new build the existing buildings will be demolished with staff and pupils moving in

## 2.4. Vale of Glamorgan Schools

Vale of Glamorgan council has 56 schools, primarily Nursery, Primary, and Secondary schools. Other schools include a 3-19 Welsh Medium School, and a Special School. Whitmore High School is one of five Community English Medium Secondary Schools which deliver secondary education to 11-18year olds within Barry.

Whitmore High has several feeder primary schools within the local area: All Saints Church of Wales, Barry Island, Colcot, Gladstone, High Street, Rhws, and Romily. Whitmore's catchment area extends from Culverhouse Cross in the North to the coastline in the South, and from the A4231 in the East to the A4226 in the West.

Vale of Glamorgan Council's 21st Century Schools project is a long term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and diocesan authorities. It aims to transform teaching and learning throughout the County, and to provide learners with the best life and work chances and an opportunity for them to reach their potential. It is the ambition for each school to raise attainment, aspirations, opportunities and outcomes for all within the community, by creating a centre of excellence for inclusive teaching and learning.

The schools within the county have been divided into Bands for development. Band A improvements received £31.849m from the council and the Welsh Government and are due to be completed in 2019.

The second wave of investment for the Band B improvements is due to commence in April 2019, with a proposed investment of £142.417m. This project, Whitmore High School is within the Band B tranche of investment. It is one of two mixed sex 11-18 English Medium Comprehensive Schools, that will receive funding, the other being Pencoedtre High school within Barry.

# Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif

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## 21st Century Schools



## 2.5. Barry Secondary Learning Community (BSLC)

### 2.5.1. Background

The establishment of mixed-sex secondary school provision in Barry has been debated since public consultation was undertaken in 2013 to determine the extent of local support for co-education. In March 2014, the Council's Cabinet considered a report addressing the projected shortfall in the number of Welsh medium Secondary School places by September 2020 and requested work to be carried out to ensure there would be future accommodation. Despite an initially separate approach to co-education and Welsh medium expansion, it became evident a coordinated approach was necessary and resulted in the creation of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

21st Century Schools is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government; the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA); Local Authorities; colleges and diocesan authorities. The programme was launched in March 2010 to address the projected shortfall in the number of English and Welsh medium Secondary School places by September 2020. Band A of the programme for the transformation and enhancement of a number of schools was approved by Welsh Government in December 2012 and will conclude in 2019. Following this, a comprehensive community engagement strategy was devised and implemented for Band B, the second wave of investment to address investment objectives for:

- growth in demand for Welsh medium education;
- reductions of surplus capacity and inefficiency in the system;
- expansion of schools in areas of increased demand for educational services;
- improved condition of educational assets; and
- making assets available for community use where demand exists.

### 2.5.2. Proposals

In August 2018, the Welsh Government approved the outline case for the Band B project 'Transforming English and Welsh Medium Education in Barry.' This Schools Investment and Reorganisation Programme will involve re-organisation of Secondary Schools in Barry to create the 'Barry Secondary Learning Community' (BSLC) involving:

1. Part refurbishment and extension of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg; and
2. Building of the new Whitmore High School.

In addition, on 7th January 2019, the Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet agreed to deliver an enhanced 21st Century Schools Programme following confirmation of increased funding from Welsh Government. This is to fund the new school planned for Pencoedtre High School, instead of the proposed refurbishment and extensions.

Prior to commencement of these projects, the following groups were consulted according to the community engagement strategy:

- Staff and governors;
- Parents and pupils;
- Community and Town Councils;
- Local Councillors, Ministers and AM's/MP's;
- Directors of Education and Central South Consortium Joint Education Service;
- Vale of Glamorgan Youth Forum and Youth Cabinet.

Amalgamation of Secondary School education in the new BSLC, allows a shared vision and leadership whilst minimising the number of transitions between schools; maximise the benefits of continuous transition; and offer greater potential to improve levels of achievement for all pupils.

The programme demonstrates the Council's approach to sustainable development, contributing to The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to address social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being. Education is a key contributor to improving these with high standards of modern learning environments, supporting pupils to achieve their best potential. The programme takes a long-term view of need, considering projected growth and Welsh Language Strategy. Furthermore, creation of two new mixed-sex schools to replace aging single-sex schools shows a collaborative and inclusive approach aligning well with the Well-being Act's key objectives.

The programme is also reflective of commitments in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), ensuring demand for Welsh medium education is met in the long-term to contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Furthermore, the Council have committed to part of the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 with a vision of achieving 'Strong Communities with a Bright Future' which is reflective of the Well-being of Future Generation's Act. Outcome 3 'An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale' offers objectives contributing to the 21st Century Schools programme; specifically, by raising achievement.



## 2.6. The Site & Surrounding Context

### 2.6.1. Surrounding Context

Whitmore High School, formerly Barry Boys School which converted to a Comprehensive School in 1966, is located on the North Western fringe of the town of Barry, adjacent to A4226 (Port Road West) which connects Barry to Bonvilston and Cardiff International Airport (CWL). The A4226 bounds the site to the North West, and Colcot Sports Centre and 3G pitches bound it to the North. To the South and South East, the site is bounded by Ysgol Gymreag Bro Morgannwg and Barry Hospital.

The land across the A4226 is primarily residential, with two and three storey detached and semi-detached housing being the norm. Opposite the school is a large Tesco supermarket which is accessed from Stirling road. To the North East of the supermarket is Barry Emergency Services Station, housing both the Fire and Ambulance services. The emergency station's forecourt is directly opposite the vehicle entrance to the school site.

The A4226 is a busy 40mph road that runs along the northern boundary of Barry. It has a shared pedestrian and cycle path along its length. There are several controlled crossing points in close proximity to the school, as well as several bus stops.

The school site is accessed from the A4226, however vehicles, travelling north are prevented from turning right into the school, across the lane of oncoming traffic. A one-way traffic system is in operation within the school, and vehicles exit via a signal-controlled junction, opposite Stirling road.

On the North East boundary of the site is a footpath that runs between the school and the sports pitches of Colcot sports centre, it then skirts the boundary of the Barry Hospital and emerges on the A4050, Colcot Road. It is noted that there are no significant Heritage Designations in close proximity to the site.

### 2.6.2. Application Site

The site is of an irregular rectangular form. Whitmore High School is the sole occupier.

The school is comprised of various separate buildings that have been developed over several decades. The majority of the buildings are housed in the Northern-most corner. Surrounding the buildings is a series of tarmacked areas, forming both play areas and parking facilities for the school. The rest of the site, to the South, is given over to grassed playing fields.

It is envisioned that the proposed new school will be built to the South of the site, on the existing playing fields. This location was agreed following an extensive options scoping exercise and will allow the existing school to function normally while the new school is being built. Once constructed, the new building will be occupied, and the existing school will be demolished and redeveloped into sports facilities.



WHS from the South - with Bro Morgannwg in the foreground



WHS from the North



