



Lynette Lovell
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Phlant
Director of Education and Children

Atebwch os gwelwch yn dda /Please reply to:

Gwasanaeth Ysgolion / Schools Service
Cyngor Sir Powys / Powys County Council
Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys LD1 5LG

All Stakeholders

*Os yn galw gofynnwch am / If calling please ask for
Tîm Trawsnewid Addysg / Transforming Education Team
Ffôn / Tel: 01686 611553*

E-bost / Email: transforming.education@powys.gov.uk

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 29 February 2024

Dear Stakeholders,

Proposal to discontinue Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Decision Letter

As you will be aware, the Council recently published a Statutory Notice proposing to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16 objections were received to this proposal. The Council has prepared and published an Objection Report, which outlines the objections received and provides the Council's response to the issues raised. This is available on the Council's website at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>.

Paper copies are available by contacting the Council using the contact details above.

On the 27th February 2024, the Council's Cabinet considered the Objection Report, and agreed to proceed with the proposal to discontinue Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Having considered the issues raised in the Objections received, the Council's view is that this proposal is the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal, which were outlined in the Consultation Document published in respect of the proposal.

With reference to the relevant sections 1.3 to 1.14 of the School Organisation Code, the reasons for proceeding with implementation of the proposal are as follows:

1.3 Quality and standards in education

- Pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School which would provide education which is at least of equivalent quality as that provided in Llangedwyn C. in W. School.
- Pupils would transfer to a larger school, which would provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources.
- Pupils would transfer to a larger school, which would be able to offer a wider range of extra-curricular activities.

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- It is Estyn's view that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards in terms of education provision in the area.

1.4 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

- There are sufficient school places in the area to accommodate the school's current and projected pupil numbers.
- The quality of accommodation at Llanfechain C. in W. School is at least equivalent to the quality of accommodation at Llangedwyn C. in W. School.
- Pupils wishing to continue to attend a Church in Wales school would be able to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.
- There are alternative places available to pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School within a reasonable distance of their homes.

1.5 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

- Implementation of the proposal would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.
- The proposal would lead to better strategic management of the Powys school estate.
- The proposal would result in an annual saving to the Council.

1.6 Other general factors that should be taken into account

- The proposal will impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School as they would have to transfer to an alternative school. However, it is not anticipated that the proposal will have a negative impact on their educational attainment.
- It is acknowledged that the proposal will impact on pupils with additional learning needs currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. Support will be provided for any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending the school in accordance with the needs of the individual pupil(s), to ensure their successful transition to an alternative school.
- The Llangedwyn School building will be returned to its owners, who would determine its future use.

1.7 Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

- Whilst implementation of the proposal will lead to the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, there is sufficient capacity in nearby schools to ensure continued access to English medium education for pupils.
- Pupils wishing to continue to attend a Church in Wales school would be able to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.
- A Community Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the proposal and whilst this did conclude that closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School would have some negative impact on the community, on balance, it was considered that discontinuing Llangedwyn C. in W. School was the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal.
- A number of reasonable alternative options were identified when developing the proposal. These were considered in the Consultation Document which was published in respect of this proposal. The proposal to discontinue Llangedwyn C. in W. School with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School was considered the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal.

- The proposal will result in more consistent opportunities for children in the catchment area.
- The proposal supports the aims of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

1.8 Presumption against the closure of rural schools

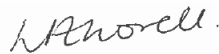
Llangedwyn C. in W. School is identified as a rural school, of which there is a procedural presumption in the School Organisation Code (2018) against its closure.

Whilst implementation of the proposal will lead to the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, this is seen as the most appropriate response to address the reasons identified in formulating the proposal due to the following factors:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building
- Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of a larger cohort of pupils
- Pupils would be able to transfer to a school they are already familiar with
- Pupils would be able to continue to access Church in Wales provision.

Following the Cabinet's decision to proceed with implementation of the proposal, the Council will work with the school to support the transition of pupils to Llanfechain C. in W. School or other schools from September 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Lynette Lovell
Director of Education and Children

