

Appendix C – Draft Community Impact Assessment



Draft recommendation to close the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon

Draft Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

1. Introduction

The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) has been reviewing the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon, Llanwrtyd Wells in accordance with the School Transformation Policy during 2015.

The SORP's draft recommendation is to close the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon, Llanwrtyd Wells from the 31st August 2016, with Ysgol Dolafon becoming an English-medium School with effect from the 1st September 2016. Welsh-medium provision for pupils from the Llanwrtyd Wells area would be provided at Builth Wells CP School. Free transport would be provided for qualifying pupils.

In accordance with the Authority's School Transformation Policy (2014), Cabinet is required to consider a draft impact assessment assessing equality issues, impact on the community and on the Welsh-language when determining whether or not to proceed with the formal statutory process.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced separately. This document considers the impact on the Community and on the Welsh language. The Assessments have been carried out based on the guidelines provided in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2013).

2. The Affected Communities

2.1 Llanwrtyd Wells

Llanwrtyd Wells is a small town of around 850 residents¹ which is located between Builth Wells and Llandovery. Llanwrtyd Wells originally grew as a spa town in the 18th Century, however it is now better known for the eccentric

¹ 2011 Census information for the Llanwrtyd Wells Community Council area, taken from <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/statistics/view-statistics-about-your-area/detailed-census-information/>

events held in the town, such as the World Bog Snorkelling Championships and the Man v Horse Marathon.

English is the main language spoken in the area, however according to the 2011 Census, 30% of residents have one or more skills in Welsh. 2% of residents belong to ethnic groups other than White.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 ranks areas known as Local Super Output Areas (LSOA) in terms of deprivation, where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. The Llanwrtyd Wells LSOA is ranked as follows²:

Local Super Output Area (LSOA)	WIMD Rank 2014
Llanwrtyd Wells	1053

Ysgol Dolafon opened as a new school in February 1990. It is a dual stream school, where pupils are either taught through the medium of Welsh or English. The majority of pupils come from the town of Llanwrtyd Wells, but others come from the surrounding rural communities of Tirabad, Abergwesyn, Cefn Gorwydd and Beulah. The school is part of a community facility sharing a library and a large hall.

2.2 Builth Wells

Builth Wells has a population of around 2568³. The town is located in Mid Powys. Builth Wells is well known throughout Wales and beyond due to the Royal Welsh Showground, located on the outskirts of Builth Wells, which hosts a number of events during the year. The largest of these is the Royal Welsh Show, which is held every July.

English is the main language spoken in the area, however according to the 2011 Census, 23% of residents have one or more skills in Welsh. 2% of residents belong to ethnic groups other than white.

There are 2 Local Super Output Areas within the town of Builth Wells. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks them as follows, where 1 is the most deprived LSOA and 1909 is the least deprived⁴:

Local Super Output Area (LSOA)	WIMD Rank 2014
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² <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2014>

³ 2011 Census information for the Builth Wells Community Council area, taken from <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/statistics/view-statistics-about-your-area/detailed-census-information/>

⁴ <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2014>

Builth 1	1143
Builth 2	1805

Builth Wells CP School is a dual stream primary school where pupils are either taught through the medium of Welsh or English. The school moved to its current building approximately 15 years ago. The majority of pupils come from the town of Builth Wells itself, however the catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream is larger, and includes the rural area surrounding Builth Wells.

2. Community Impact Assessment

2.1 Impact on pupil travel

The home addresses of the 9 children that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon in January 2015 were analysed by the council's Research and Information Unit. Ysgol Dolafon was the closest Welsh-medium provision for all 9 of these pupils, and the average one way journey to school per child was 2.80 miles.

If there were no Welsh-medium provision in Ysgol Dolafon, the next closest Welsh-medium provision for these pupils would be as follows:

Closest school	Number of Pupils
Builth Wells CP School	5
Ysgol Rhys Pritchard, Llandovery	4

If there were no Welsh-medium provision in Ysgol Dolafon, and the pupils transferred to their closest Welsh-medium provision, the average one way journey to school would be 10.02 miles.

Should the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon close, there would be an increase in travel for Welsh-medium pupils from the Llanwrtyd Wells area.

The governors of Ysgol Dolafon have expressed concern about the possibility that young children would be transported to Builth Wells on the same school transport as high school aged pupils.

2.2 Extra-curricular activities provided by the schools

Ysgol Dolafon

The following clubs are provided by the school outside school hours:

- Breakfast Club (daily)
- After-school Club (daily)

The following extra-curricular activities are provided by the school:

Hockey; School Choir; Band Dolafon; Chess and other board games; Rugby; Club Dolafon; Gardening; Craft Club

Builth Wells Primary School

The following clubs are provided by the school outside school hours:

- Clwb Bore Da – Breakfast Club (daily)
- Busy Bees – After-school Club (daily)

The following extra-curricular activities are provided by the school:
Football; Art Club; Nature Club; Netball; Hockey; Clwb yr Urdd; Clwb Cymraeg; Dawnsio Gwerin; Enterprise Club; Rugby; Running Club; Lively Literacy; Choir; Recorders; Film Club; Computer Club

2.3 Community Use of the School Building

Ysgol Dolafon

A parent and toddler group and a Cylch Ti a Fi meet at the school.

In addition, the school's facilities are used by the community regularly for the following activities:

Badminton (Twice weekly); Short Mat Bowls (Weekly); Football (Weekly)

Builth Wells CP School

The school's facilities are used by the community for the following activities:

Dance classes; Exercise classes; Cake decorating; Young Farmers Club rehearsals; Cylch Meithrin meetings; community group meetings.

In addition, the school's facilities are used for Friends of the School events, which are attended by the community.

2.4 Other links with the community

Ysgol Dolafon

The school has strong links with the community, which includes the following:

Open the Book (Church Led Assembly); Work with the Heritage Centre; Festival Committee; Green Events; Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod; World Alternative Events; Grapevine (Community magazine which publishes the school Newsletter monthly)

Builth Wells CP School

The school has strong links with the community, which includes the following:

Links with St Mary's Church and Alpha Chapel; School Choir perform and community events; Participation in community events eg Remembrance Day, Mayor's Civil Service, Noson Garolau; Use of the Wyeside Arts Centre; Forest Schools; individuals from the town are asked to judge at the school Eisteddfod.

2.4 Support to Parents and Pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon

Parents of Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Ysgol Dolafon would be provided with a copy of Builth Wells CP School's prospectus, which provides information about the school and outlines all available extra-curricular clubs and after school care available.

Parents and pupils would be invited to visit the school. This would give them an opportunity to meet the school staff and get to know the school before joining the school. The school would like to offer pupils the opportunity to come to school to spend a morning or afternoon with their new class. This would enable the pupils to meet their peers and start building up friendships, and would ease transition to the school.

Parents would also be provided with links to the school website, as well as the school's Twitter and Facebook accounts, which would provide further information about the school and would enable them to become engaged with Builth Wells CP School.

2.5 Conclusion

Should the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon close, the authority accepts that there would be additional travel for pupils in the Llanwrtyd Wells area wishing to access Welsh-medium provision.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, a wide range of activities are offered by both schools, including a breakfast club and after-school provision at both. As Builth Wells is a larger school than Ysgol Dolafon, it is no surprise that a greater number of extra-curricular activities are available at the school. However, as many of these are offered after school, it would be more difficult

for pupils from the Llanwrtyd Wells area to access these activities as they would be reliant on home to school transport.

As the proposal does not involve closure of Ysgol Dolafon, it is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact on the facilities available to the community of Llanwrtyd Wells.

3. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

3.1 Background information

Information from the 2011 Census shows that 30% of the Llanwrtyd Wells Community Council area have one or more skill in Welsh, whilst 23% of the Builth Wells Community Council area have one or more skill in Welsh⁵.

However, whilst a greater proportion of Llanwrtyd Wells residents have one or more skills in Welsh, this is not reflected in the number and proportion of Welsh-medium pupils in the two primary schools.

The following tables provide information about the total number of pupils that have been attending the two schools over the last 4 years, and the number and percentage of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh in each year, based on PLASC information:

Ysgol Dolafon

	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013	January 2012
Welsh-medium stream	9 (13%)	8 (11%)	20 (29%)	11 (15%)
English-medium stream	63 (87%)	62 (89%)	49 (71%)	61 (85%)
Total	72	70	69	72

Builth Wells CP School

	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013	January 2012
Welsh-medium stream	120 (43%)	121 (41%)	122 (41%)	125 (41%)
English-medium stream	162 (57%)	171 (59%)	179 (59%)	175 (58%)
Total	282	292	301	300

⁵ 2011 Census information for the two Community Council areas, taken from <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/statistics/view-statistics-about-your-area/detailed-census-information/>

3.2 Standards in Welsh

The following tables provide information about Standards in Welsh First Language at Ysgol Dolafon and Builth Wells CP School for the last 3 years.

Whilst this is useful as background information, the small number of Welsh-medium pupils in each year group at Ysgol Dolafon means that it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this information with regard to standards in Welsh at the two schools.

i) End of Foundation Phase

Ysgol Dolafon

	2013	2014	2015
Total number of learners assessed in Language, Literacy and Communication Skills in Welsh	0	2	2
Number of pupils that achieved Level 5+	N/A	2	2
% of pupils that achieved Level 5+	N/A	100%	100%

Builth Wells CP School

	2013	2014	2015
Total number of learners assessed in Language, Literacy and Communication Skills in Welsh	14	17	19
Number of pupils that achieved Level 5+	12	15	18
% of pupils that			

achieved Level 5+	85.7%	88.2%	94.7%
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i) End of Key Stage 2

Ysgol Dolafon

	2013	2014	2015
Total number of learners assessed in Welsh First Language	1	1	2
Number of pupils that achieved grade 4+	1	1	1
% of pupils that achieved grade 4+	100%	100%	100%

Builth Wells Primary School

	2013	2014	2015
Total number of learners assessed in Welsh First Language	18	11	14
Number of pupils that achieved grade 4+	14	9	13
% of pupils that achieved grade 4+	77.8%	81.8%	92.9%

3.3 Welsh language activities provided by the schools

Ysgol Dolafon

Due to the fact that a significant proportion of the staff of Ysgol Dolafon are Welsh-speaking, the majority of the extra-curricular activities offered by the school take place bilingually. These include the following:

Breakfast Club; After School Club; Hockey; Choir; Band Dolafon; Rugby; Club Dolafon; Gardening Club; Craft Club

The school hosts a Cylch Ti a Fi.

The school takes part in the annual Llanwrtyd Eisteddfod.

Builth Wells CP School

Many of the school's extra-curricular activities are provided bilingually when they are run by staff who are fluent Welsh speakers. These include the following:

Netball; Football; Hockey; Clwb yr Urdd; Dawnsio Gwerin; Enterprise Club; Rugby; Running Club; Choir; Recorders

Cylch Meithrin hold their meetings at the school. Whilst the actual Cylch Meithrin is not held on the school site, there are close links between the Welsh-medium stream and the Cylch, with the nursery/reception teacher visiting the Cylch on a regular basis.

Urdd fund-raising events such as bingo are held in Welsh.

Welsh-speaking individuals from the community visit the school to judge the school eisteddfod or to take part in the Reading Buddies system at the school.

3.4 Conclusion

The Authority acknowledges that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon would make it more difficult for pupils in the Llanwrtyd Wells area to access Welsh-medium education, and additional travel would be required for pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision elsewhere. However, free home to school transport would be provided to pupils.

The proposal provides positive benefits for Welsh-medium education as Welsh-medium pupils would be in larger classes which would enable them to learn from a greater number of pupils. In addition, they would be in classes that have a smaller age range, which would provide further benefits to them. The Authority's view is that the proposal will also provide additional opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils to use their Welsh and to take part in activities such as those provided by the Urdd.

Whilst Welsh-medium pupils would be leaving Llanwrtyd Wells to access Welsh-medium provision elsewhere, they would continue to live in the town and surrounding areas, and would continue to be able to participate in Welsh language activities in the local community.