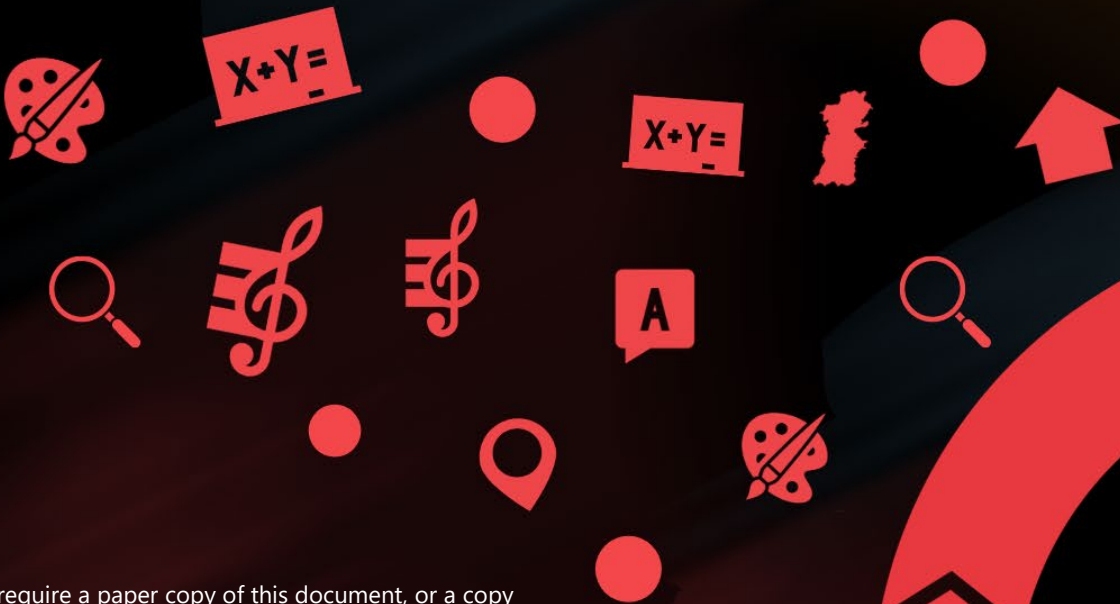




**Proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in
W. School**
Consultation Document



If you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the Transforming Education Team on 01597 826618, or e-mail school.organisation@powys.gov.uk.

Consultation on the closure of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School

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Consultation on the closure of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools

2. How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on our website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10560/Castle-Caereinion-Church-in-Wales-School>

A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document. Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

All responses must be received by the **2nd June 2021**.

3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01597 826618

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposal. This is expected to happen in the summer of 2021.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published, and there would be a period of 28 days for people to submit objections. The Cabinet would then need to consider another report summarising any objections received and decide whether or not to proceed with implementation.

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

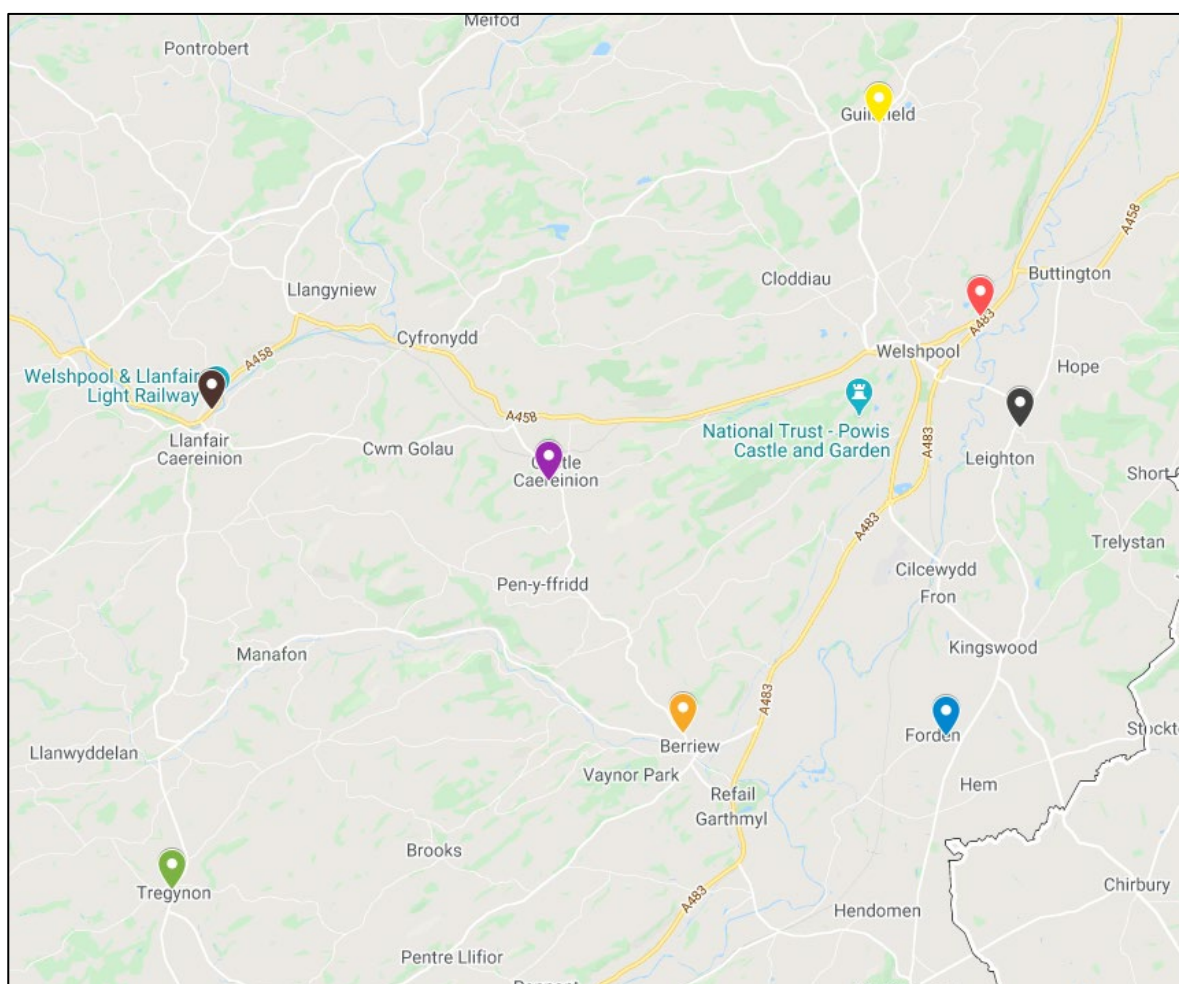
Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposal:

- **To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.**

1. BACKGROUND

Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School is an English-medium Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales primary school located in the village of Castle Caereinion, in the Llanfair Caereinion catchment area in North Powys.

The following map shows the location of the school, and other schools in the area:



Key: Purple – Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, Orange – Berriew C.P. School, Red – Welshpool C. in W. School, Brown – Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School, Blue – Forden C. in W. School, Grey – Leighton C.P. School, Yellow – Guilsfield C.P. School, Green – Ysgol Rhiw Bechan

The following is a summary of key data relating to the school:

School name and location	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number	Rural School ¹
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9AL	Voluntary Controlled Primary School building owned by the Diocese of St. Asaph	English-medium	8	Yes

Current pupil numbers² at the school are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	4	3	5	4	4	3	0	23

In April 2020, the Council approved a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which sets out a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of the objectives included in the strategy is to ‘improve learner entitlement and experience’ and it also includes an objective to ‘rationalise primary provision’.

The Council has carried out an options appraisal exercise to identify a preferred option for Castle Caereinion C. in W. School

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Options appraisal exercise
- Recommendation considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board

On the 9th February 2021, the Council’s Cabinet considered a report in respect of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, and agreed to commence consultation on the following:

‘To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.’

¹ Annex F of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2018) (<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition-pdf>)

² Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

2. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

Powys is a large, rural authority. Covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales, it contains only 4.2% of the population, making it the most sparsely populated county in Wales. Delivering services across such a large, sparsely populated area is challenging and expensive.

Whilst there has been some school reorganisation activity in Powys over recent years, the county's schools' infrastructure largely remains similar to that which was in place 20 years ago.

The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 40% of the primary provision in the county. 21 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 4% by 2025.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there was 18% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

iv) Building condition

Whilst the Council has invested in its school's estate through the 21st Century Schools Programme and the Asset Management Plan, building condition remains an issue across Powys, with associated maintenance costs.

v) Financial pressures

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,127 to £7,877 in the primary sector.

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

Although there have been some developments in terms of the schools' infrastructure over recent years, the Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years has left a legacy in Powys, and there has been a reluctance to embark on large scale reorganisation of education provision since then.

3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 2019, Powys Education Services were inspected by Estyn. The report published by Estyn following the inspection outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

Following publication of the inspection report, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years.

The Vision Statement is as follows:

All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.

In order to achieve the vision and guiding principles, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience' and this aim includes an objective to 'rationalise primary provision'.

The current proposal in respect of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is in line with these priorities.

4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN CASTLE CAEREINION

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Castle Caereinion C. in W. School:

i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers³ at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Caereinion C. in W. School	4	3	5	4	4	3	0	23

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are projected to remain below 30 for the foreseeable future.

The school's low pupil numbers have also resulted in a high number of surplus places at the school. Based on current pupil numbers, there is currently 68.9% surplus capacity at the school.

ii) High budget per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school's budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £6,919. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Castle Caereinion is ranked the 5th highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.⁴

iii) Issues with the building

Whilst the school building was assessed to be in good condition by the Welsh Government's condition survey carried out in 2009, it is an old fashioned building, and there are concerns regarding its suitability to deliver education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum, and which meets the Council's vision statement, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

The Council recently commissioned an updated condition survey of the school building. This was carried out in the autumn term 2020. The survey assessed the condition of all three blocks at the school as condition C.

iv) Combined age classes

The small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with Key Stage 2 in one class and Foundation Phase in another

³ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

⁴ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

class. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged.

v) Leadership

Following a long period of instability during which leadership arrangements for the school were by other schools in the local area, the school now has its own standalone headteacher. However, the headteacher has a significant teaching commitment, which limits the time available to focus on leadership of the school.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options have been identified for Castle Caereinion C. in W. School:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Welshpool Church in Wales School
3	Merge with Welshpool Church in Wales School to establish a new school on two sites
4	Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Welshpool C. in W. School
5	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites
6	Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Berriew C.P. School
7	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Berriew site
8	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Castle Caereinion site
9	Close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors, and the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements was also considered. These can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C of this document.

6. PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the SWOT analyses, the assessment against the Critical Success Factors and the consideration of the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements, the preferred option is as follows:

Option 9: Close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools.

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

This is the basis for the current proposal on which the Council is consulting. The proposal is further explored in the following section. The reasons why the other options considered have not been taken forward are summarised in Appendix D of this document.

PART B – THE PROPOSAL

7. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

8. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to close Castle Caereinion C.in W. School for the following reasons:

- To address the issue of low pupil numbers
- To reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- To realise a financial saving to the Council
- To enable pupils to attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- To enable pupils to attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- To enable pupils to attend schools with better quality accommodation
- The proposal meets all of the Critical Success Factors

9. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools- Revenue saving to the Council- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently the closest school- Additional travel costs- Pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion School would have to transfer to alternative provision- Loss of provision from Castle Caereinion- Impact on the current staff of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School- Impact on the Castle Caereinion community- Reduction in C. in W. provision

10. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C.W. School and transfer pupils to alternative schools.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Period of uncertainty for Castle Caereinion C. in W. School if a statutory process is carried out and implemented which might have a negative effect on standards at the school	Medium	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the school and governing body to ensure that standards and performance do not deteriorate during the transition period
Uncertainty for staff during any transition period might result in some staff leaving	Medium	Medium	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments

11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	14 th April 2021 to 2 nd June 2021
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	July 2021

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	September 2021
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	November 2021

If Cabinet approves implementation:

School closes	31 st August 2022
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PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. It is acknowledged that this would have an impact on pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, as they would need to transfer to an alternative school. Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work closely with the current school and the alternative schools to ensure a smooth transition.

As Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative provision, additional transport would be required for pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently the closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on pupils' ability to access after-school activities, and that there could be increased travelling times to school for some pupils.

ii) Pupils attending other nearby primary schools

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close and pupils currently attending the school would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. This would mean that pupils would transfer to other schools in the local area.

As pupils would transfer to alternative schools, the proposal could impact on pupils at the schools pupils may choose to transfer to, as those schools would receive additional pupils. However, the total number of pupils at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a significant impact on pupils attending other nearby primary schools. The numbers admitted to each school would be in line with the admissions number for each school.

13. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposal be implemented, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close. A staff redundancy process would be necessary for staff currently employed at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. This would be conducted in line with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. All cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

14. IMPACT ON NURSERY / EARLY YEARS PROVISION

In September 2017, the Council changed the age of admission to primary schools in Powys from “at the start of the term in which they attain their fourth birthday” to “at the start of the school year following his/her fourth birthday”. Following this change, there are no nursery aged pupils attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

Funded early years provision is provided for pupils at a number of locations across Powys, however no funded early years education is available at Castle Caereinion.

Funded early years provision is available at a number of providers in the local area. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, these providers would continue to be available, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would impact on access to nursery / early years provision.

Information about the funded early years providers in the local area is provided below⁵:

Berriew Preschool and Toddler Group

Berriew Preschool and Toddler Group is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of Berriew C.P. School. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting is very welcoming and has a popular outdoor area and sensory garden.

There are 16 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Happitots (Welshpool C. in W. School)

Happitots is a non-maintained school run setting which operates from the site of Welshpool C. in W. School. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting operates from within the new school building.

There are 32 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Park Lane Nursery

Park Lane Nursery is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from a building in the centre of Welshpool. They also provide the

⁵ All information correct as of Summer Term 2021/22

Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting has good access to outdoor areas.

There are 16 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Open Door Family Centre

Open Door Family Centre is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of the former Welshpool C. in W. School. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting provides an extremely welcoming, child centred and rich environment that supports children to play and learn successfully.

There are 16 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Little Acorns (Formerly Footsteps Day Nursery)

Little Acorns is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of the former Welshpool C. in W. School. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education at this provider is good, however the, sufficiency of accommodation at this provider has been rated by Estyn as adequate. The setting provides an outdoor play area providing children with opportunities.

There are 16 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Ysgol Feithrin Y Trallwng

Ysgol Feithrin Y Trallwng is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting is welcoming, stimulating and child friendly.

There are 16 ten hours Welsh-medium early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Cylch Meithrin Llanfair Caereinion

Cylch Meithrin Llanfair Caereinion is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from a site in Llanfair Caereinion. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting is maintained effectively with outdoor resources being used regularly.

There are 16 ten hours Welsh-medium early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Brookfield Day Nursery

Brookfield Day Nursery is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from a site in Garthmyl. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting provides an extremely welcoming, child centred and rich environment that supports children to play and learn successfully.

There are 16 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

15. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposal would result in the closure of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and the Governing Body of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would be dissolved.

16. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

i) Standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, Berriew C.P. School

and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School were categorised as Amber in the latest school categorisations carried out in 2019, whilst Welshpool C. in W. School was categorised as Yellow. Guilsfield C.P. School was classified as a Green school.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Based on PLASC 2020 information, there are no Looked after Children at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. There are a small number of pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, a small number of pupils that are eligible for Free School Meals, and a small number of pupils that have Additional Learning Needs. However, it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

This is also the case in respect of the impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. Pupils would transfer to larger schools, which would provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources, and which have an improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupils' wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Castle Caereinion C. in W. School to alternative schools. It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to different schools, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However, alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. It is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative provision would be excessive.

In the longer term, the intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning as they would transfer to larger schools with larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

ii) Teaching and learning experiences

Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. It is likely that pupils would transfer to larger schools, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils, and that the alternative schools would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school, which impacts on some aspects of the curriculum. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available at Welshpool C. in W. School, ensuring that denominational provision would continue to be available to those pupils who wished to access it.

The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at these schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

iii) Care support and guidance

Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. In respect of Berriew C. P. School, whilst an issue in respect of car parking arrangements at the school was identified previously, this has been addressed. In respect of Welshpool C. in W. School, the school moved into a new building in January 2021. Safeguarding is a key consideration when designing new schools, therefore the expectation is that the safeguarding arrangements here would be improved compared with the current arrangements at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

iv) Leadership and management

Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

Permanent leadership arrangements are in place at Berriew C.P. School, Welshpool C. in W. School and Guilsfield C.P. School, therefore the Council's view is that leadership and management at the alternative schools would be at least as good as the current arrangements at Castle Caereinion, whilst there are currently temporary leadership arrangements in place at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School.

The alternative schools which pupils may transfer to are all larger than Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, therefore the headteachers of these schools would have more time available to focus on leadership and management.

Professional learning

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities. Staff currently employed at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would be subject to a management of change process.

Use of resources

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is projecting to be in a cumulative surplus budget position over the coming years. Whilst there are no concerns about the use of resources within the school, there are concerns about use of resources overall within the Powys schools infrastructure. As indicated on page 8 above, one of the main challenges facing the Powys schools infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county. Castle Caereinion C. in W. school is among the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil at the school is higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

Closure of the school would reduce the number of schools in Powys, and would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

Should the emerging preferred option be implemented pupils would transfer to larger schools, ensuring more effective use of the Council's resources.

In addition, larger schools often have more resources available in terms of number of staff and educational resources, therefore pupils would benefit from the opportunity to access these resources.

v) Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on any pupils belonging to vulnerable groups currently attending the school, including any pupils with SEN, and that in the short term, these pupils would need to transfer to alternative schools.

Based on January 2020 PLASC information, 16.7% of pupils at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School were on School Action, and 12.5% of pupils were on School Action Plus. There were no statemented pupils.

Whilst the preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to alternative schools, there is no reason to believe that the schools to which they might transfer would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with SEN, and their families.

vi) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in the foundation stage and each key stage, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

Should the proposal be implemented, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

As pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would transfer to alternative schools, there would be an increase in pupil numbers at the alternative schools. However current pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion school are small, and the number of pupils likely to transfer to each year group is low, therefore the impact on alternative schools is not likely to have a significant impact on their ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and in each key stage of education.

In some schools, it is possible that an increase in pupil numbers would improve their ability to deliver the curriculum, however depending on the class structure and current breakdown of pupils, it's possible that some schools would need to make adjustments to their class structure in the short term to accommodate any additional pupils.

vii) Impact on other schools

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Berriew C.P. School. However it is possible that pupils would choose to attend Welshpool C. in W. School as the nearest Church in Wales school, or Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School, as other nearby schools.

Whilst it is possible that this could have some impact on the schools pupils may wish to transfer to, particularly in the short term when they receive additional pupils, the total number of pupils at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on quality and standards in education (to include standards; wellbeing

and attitudes to learning; teaching and learning experiences; care support and guidance and leadership and management) at each of the schools pupils may transfer to. In some cases, it is possible that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on quality and standards in education at the alternative schools, as it would lead to an increase in pupil numbers and the opportunity to provide enhanced opportunities to pupils.

17. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY OF PLACES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

i) Will the alternative provision have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers?

The following table shows the number of spaces available and the building condition of schools providing English-medium education located within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School:

School	Capacity ⁶	Current pupil numbers ⁷	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Berriew C.P. School	106	85	21	19.8%	B	B
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School ⁸	195	161	34	17.4%	B/C	B
Welshpool C. in W. School	356	254	102	28.7%	A	A
Leighton C.P. School	91	71	20	22.0%	B/C	B
Guilsfield C.P. School	157	137	20	12.7%	B	B
Ysgol Meifod	77	81	-4	-5.2%	B	C
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	146	135	11	7.5%	B	A

⁶ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

⁷ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

⁸ The Council has recently published a Statutory Notice proposing to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School with Caereinion High School to establish a new all-age school in the existing buildings from September 2022.

This suggests that there are sufficient places available within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School to accommodate all current and projected pupils at the school.

The condition of the nearest school, Berriew C.P. School is equivalent to the condition of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. In addition, Welshpool C. in W. School has recently moved to a brand new building, which provides access to a condition A building.

ii) Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and designated religious character?

As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there is sufficient English-medium capacity within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School to accommodate the school's current and projected pupil numbers.

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school. As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there are places available at Welshpool C. in W. School, would enable pupils to access a school of the same religious character, should they wish to continue to attend a Church in Wales school.

iii) What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?

As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there are alternative primary places available at other schools within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. Should Castle Caereinion C. in W. School close, it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

iv) Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?

As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there is sufficient English-medium capacity within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School to accommodate the school's current and projected pupil numbers.

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school. As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there are places available at Welshpool C. in W. School, which would enable pupils to access a school of the same religious character, should they wish to continue to attend a Church in Wales school.

Information about projected pupil numbers for other nearby schools is provided in Appendix A. This suggests that there is unlikely to be a need/demand for additional places in the area in the next few years.

- v) **Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?**

Implementation of the proposal would mean that pupil would attend their nearest alternative school.

The latest Welsh Government School Premises Return 2020, indicates that these schools are either compliant, or partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 with all of the schools having statutory Accessibility Plans in place.

18. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- i) **What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?**

Implementation of the preferred option would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.

- ii) **Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?**

The review of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School does not form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

However, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys identifies a number of issues relating to the overall Powys schools' estate, including a high proportion of small schools, a high number of surplus places and issues with building condition. The Strategy includes a strategic objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', which aims to address these issues, to ensure better strategic management of the Powys school estate. The review of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is being carried out in order to meet this objective.

- iii) **What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?**

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £32,300 per annum as detailed in (iv) below. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

- iv) **Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?**

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £32,300 per annum, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils would go to the next nearest school.

v) What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option. As indicated in the table in section 17(i) above, there are sufficient places at schools located within 10 miles of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School to accommodate all current and projected pupils.

viii) What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs)

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £58,100. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £90,400 offset by estimated additional transport costs of £32,300.

vii) Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is not currently forecasting a cumulative deficit budget.

viii) Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?

Any savings would be reinvested in the Council's corporate budget and any reinvestment in the schools' system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

ix) Will the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is not owned by the Council, therefore the Council would not receive any capital receipts following any sale of the site.

19. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

i) Impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, however it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Based on PLASC figures from January 2020, 4.2% of pupils attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School was eligible for FSM, therefore it is likely that the proportion of children from economically deprived backgrounds is minimal.

x) Land and Buildings

Comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred

Information about the quality of accommodation at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and other schools to which pupils may transfer is provided in Appendix A.

Information on any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

No building works are necessary as there is sufficient capacity at alternative schools for existing Castle Caereinion C. in W. School pupils.

Details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals

Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school and the building is owned by the Diocese of St Asaph. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close the school, the buildings / land currently used by the school would be transferred back to the Diocese of St Asaph who would need to determine their future use.

Is the school / schools involved subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land?

Castle Caereinion C.W. School is not subject to any trust or charitable interest which might be affected in relation to the use or disposal of the land.

xi) Walking routes to school

Should the proposal be implemented, walking routes which are currently established for Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would no longer be required.

For those pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently the closest school, additional travel would be required to access alternative provision. For these pupils, it is unlikely that walking or cycling to the alternative school would be possible.

xii) School Admissions

Should the proposal be implemented, admissions to any alternative school in Powys would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>

xiii) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The proposal is to close an English-medium primary school. The proposal is not linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The proposal would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

i) Whether the establishment of multi-site schools might be considered as a means of retaining buildings, or the reasons for not pursuing this option

A range of options have been considered in respect of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, these are outlined in section 5 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School are very low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

ii) Whether alternatives to closure, such as clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools, might be considered or the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative

Federation of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School with Welshpool C. in W. School is one of the options considered in section 5 of this document. An assessment of this option has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with this option.

Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School are very low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years. Becoming part of a federation with another school would not address this issue.

iii) Whether the possibility of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource could be explored

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing building as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

Pupil numbers at the school are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years.

iv) The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Castle Caereinion. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Castle Caereinion community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Castle Caereinion, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village.

An initial draft community impact assessment has been carried out, with input from the school, to identify the potential impact on the community. This will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

xiv) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new school. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils, however this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by new headteacher and class teachers.

21. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposal. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10560/Castle-Caereinion-Church-in-Wales-School>

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposal be implemented, Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would close, and pupils transfer to their nearest alternative school.

This would have a significant impact on pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend that school, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend their nearest alternative school.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposals would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the school, there is no reason to believe that the nearest alternative schools would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils belonging to Ethnic Groups other than White British, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and Looked After Children.

ii) Impact on the community

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Castle Caereinion. Should there be no school in Castle Caereinion, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that at least a similar range of activities would be available for pupils. However, it is acknowledged that pupils would need to travel to the alternative schools, which could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

Should the proposal be implemented, this would mean that there would be no school provision in the village of Castle Caereinion. The information provided above indicates that there is currently extensive community use of the Castle Caereinion building, and extensive links between the school and the local community. As a Church in Wales School, the Castle Caereinion School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Castle Caereinion. There is a village hall located in Castle Caereinion, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

PART D – CONSULTATION DETAILS

Who will we consult with?

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code, which include the following:

- Parents, carers and guardians at Castle Caereinion C.W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Castle Caereinion C.W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Castle Caereinion C.W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Castle Caereinion C.W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The prospective candidates for Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire and prospective candidates for Members of the Senedd for the Mid and Wales West region
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- ERW
- The Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people's national participation standards⁹.

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 14th April 2021 and end on 2nd June 2021.

The statutory process

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

⁹ <https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards>

Consultation will start on the 14th April 2021 and end on the 2nd June 2021. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

It is important to note that responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, and that only objections can be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal, or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by the Cabinet in the summer of 2021.

ii) Statutory notice

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, statutory notices would be published after the Cabinet meeting. There would then be a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the local authority's determination. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered as objections and included in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period would not be counted as objections. Should stakeholders wish their consultation responses to be considered as objections, they would need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period.

A further report would be presented to the Council's Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by the end of 2021.

iii) Implementation

If the Council's Cabinet were to approve the proposal, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date.

How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form is attached to this document. An online version is also available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10560/Castle-Caereinion-Church-in-Wales-School>

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

Completed forms and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

*Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells,
LD1 5LG*

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received by the **2nd June 2021**.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01597) 826618.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Key data about the affected schools is provided below:

1. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Rural School? ¹⁰
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	8	Yes

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹¹

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	4	3	5	4	4	3	0	23

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹²

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	42	47	44	40	31	30	24

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)¹³

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	20	21	19	19	19

¹⁰ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) (<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

¹¹ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

¹² PLASC 2020

¹³ Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates. These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2020 information, therefore include a projection for January 2021. PLASC 2021 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2021 are not yet available.

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)¹⁴**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Castle Caereion C. in W. School	23	24	22	N/A	N/A

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

The following table provides information about the current capacities of school and the capacity:

	Current Capacity ¹⁵	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Castle Caereion C. in W. School	74	23 (31.1%)	51 (68.9%)

ii) **Building condition¹⁶**

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Castle Caereion C. in W. School	B Good	B Good	Yes – Community Centre

Quality and Standards of Education

i) **Estyn**

	Castle Caereion C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	November 2016
Standards	Adequate, needs improvement

¹⁴ Powys Finance Projections based on actual pupil numbers – November 2020

¹⁵ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

¹⁶ Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate, needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate, needs improvement
Follow up activity	School to draw up action plan, Estyn to review progress. Update on the 27 th June 2018. The schools is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.

ii) School Categorisation

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	N/A	C	Amber

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	£173,000	£6,919	£9,000	£0
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

i) National identity (Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	20.8%	41.7%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	8.3%	12.5%	0.0%

ii) **Ethnic Group**
(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	79.2%	8.3%	12.5%

iii) **English as an Additional Language**

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	8.3%	4.2%

iv) **Free School Meals¹⁷**

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	4.2%

v) **Pupils in care¹⁸**

	Number of pupils in care
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	0%

vi) **SEN/ALN¹⁹**

¹⁷ PLASC 2020

¹⁸ PLASC 2020

¹⁹ PLASC 2020

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Castle Caereinion C. in W. School	16.7%	12.5%	0%

2. Other schools that could be affected

Should the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School be implemented, pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school.

The expectation is that the number of pupils transferring to each school would be small, and therefore the impact on these schools would not be significant. However, information about schools to which pupils may transfer is provided below:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number
Berriew C.P. School	Community Primary	English Medium	15
Welshpool C. in W. School	Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled	English Medium	51
Guilfield C.P. School	Community Primary	English Medium	22
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School²⁰	Community Primary	Dual Stream	27

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers²¹

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Berriew C.P. School	13	14	13	6	13	11	15	85
Welshpool C. in W. School	32	32	39	42	31	33	45	254

²⁰ The Council has recently published a Statutory Notice proposing to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School with Caereinion High School to establish a new all-age school in the existing buildings from September 2022.

²¹ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

Guilfield C.P. School	24	9	23	24	21	24	12	137
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	13	21	17	27	23	31	29	161

ii) **Historical pupil numbers²²**

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Berriew C.P. School	84	89	79	83	74	84	88
Welshpool C. in W. School	112	121	137	136	137	130	116
Guilfield C.P. School	164	143	146	145	151	139	147
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	202	209	195	185	174	173	166

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)²³**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Berriew C.P. School	90	90	93	91	100
Welshpool C. in W. School	256	242	236	240	235
Guilfield C.P. School	133	143	139	142	137
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	159	153	144	139	133

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)²⁴**

²² PLASC 2020

²³ Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates

²⁴ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – November 2020

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Berriew C.P. School	85	84	87
Welshpool C. in W. School	254	248	254
Guilfield C.P. School	137	137	125
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	161	147	131

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity:

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Berriew C.P. School	106	85 (80.2%)	21 (19.8%)
Welshpool C. in W. School	356	254 (71.3%)	102 (28.7%)
Guilfield C.P. School	157	137 (87.3%)	20 (12.7%)
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	195	161 (82.6%)	34 (17.4%)

ii) Building condition

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of all schools.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Berriew C.P. School	B	B	Yes
Welshpool C. in W. School	A	A	Yes
Guilfield C.P. School	B	B	Yes

Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	B/C	B	Yes
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Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Berriew C.P. School
Date of Inspection	September 2019
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning Experiences	Good
Care, Support and Guidance	Adequate and Needs Improvement
Leadership and Management	Adequate and Needs Improvement
Outcome	<p>School to draw up action plan, Estyn to review progress.</p> <p>Update on the 15th February 2021. The schools is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.</p>

	Welshpool C.I.W School
Date of Inspection	N/A
	Estyn have not completed an inspection since the school opened.

	Guilsfield C.P School
Date of Inspection	May 2015
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Good

Learning Experiences	Adequate
Teaching	Adequate
Care, Support and Guidance	Good
Learning Environment	Adequate
Leadership	Adequate
Improving Quality	Adequate
Partnership Working	Good
Resource Management	Adequate
Outcome	<p>School to draw up action plan, Estyn to review progress.</p> <p>Update on the 7th October 2017. The schools is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.</p>

	Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School
Date of Inspection	January 2018
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning Experiences	Good
Care, Support and Guidance	Good
Leadership and Management	Good
Outcome	The School will produce and action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

ii) School Categorisation²⁵

²⁵National Categorisation Model 2019

	Standards Group	Support Capacity
Berriew C.P. School	C	Amber
Welshpool C. in W. School	B	Yellow
Guilsfield C.P. School	A	Green
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	C	Amber

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil²⁶ (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Berriew C.P. School	£335,000	£3,806	£19,000	£8,000
Welshpool C. in W. School	£1,126,000	£4,504	£220,000	£1,000
Guilsfield C.P. School	£523,000	£4,117	£29,000	£12,000
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	£629,000	£3,790	£42,000	£22,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

i) National identity (Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied / Refused
Berriew C.P. School	47.7%	15.9%	0.0%	0.0%	15.9%	3.4%	17.0%

²⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

Welshpool C. in W. School	28.7%	28.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	17.5%	18.2%
Guilsfield C.P. School	28.6%	21.8%	0.7%	0.0%	27.2%	1.4%	20.4%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	23.5%	16.9%	0.0%	0.0%	47.0%	0.6%	12.0%

ii) Ethnic Group

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
Berriew C.P. School	79.5%	3.4%	17.0%
Welshpool C. in W. School	61.5%	20.3%	18.2%
Guilsfield C.P. School	75.5%	3.4%	21.1%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	84.3%	4.2%	11.4%

iii) English as an Additional Language

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Berriew C.P. School	1.1%	0.0%
Welshpool C. in W. School	21.7%	19.2%
Guilsfield C.P. School	1.4%	0.0%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	0.0%	0.0%

iv) Free School Meals²⁷

²⁷ PLASC 2020

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Berriew C.P. School	10.2%
Welshpool C. in W. School	26.6%
Guilsfield C.P. School	6.1%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	14.5%

v) **Pupils in care²⁸**

	Number of pupils in care
Berriew C.P. School	0.0%
Welshpool C. in W. School	1.4%
Guilsfield C.P. School	0.7%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	0.0%

vi) **SEN/ALN²⁹**

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Berriew C.P. School	18.2%	4.5%	0%
Welshpool C. in W. School	14.7%	19.2%	2.1%
Guilsfield C.P. School	4.1%	4.8%	0%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	15.1%	6.0%	0%

²⁸ PLASC 2020

²⁹ PLASC 2020

APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the four options are provided below.

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - There would be no additional transport costs - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion would continue to be low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum

Option 2: Federation with Welshpool Church in Wales School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - There would be no additional transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Castle Caereinion pupils would continue to attend school in the same location - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion would continue to be low - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still be required to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant difference in the size of the two schools
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Castle Caereinion site - Threat to Welshpool C. in W. School, who have been operating over 3 sites over several years pending the move to their new building

Option 3: Merge with Welshpool Church in Wales School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Castle Caereinion - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Both schools would lose their identity - Would impact on staff at Welshpool C. in W. School, who have already been through a reorganisation process in the last few years. - Significant difference in the size of the two schools – would have a disproportionate impact on Welshpool C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Castle Caereinion site

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Threat to Welshpool C. in W. School, who have been operating over 3 sites over several years pending the move to their new building
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Option 4: Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Welshpool C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Minimal impact on staff at Welshpool C. in W. School - Welshpool C. in W. School would retain its identity - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Castle Caereinion - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Castle Caereinion school would lose its identity
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Threat to Welshpool C. in W. School, who have been operating over 3 sites over several years pending the move to their new building

Option 5: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - More opportunities could be provided to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Castle Caereinion site - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would also impact on the staff of Berriew C.P. School - Both schools would lose their current identities
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Castle Caereinion site - Possible tension between Church in Wales provision and C.P. status - May not be acceptable to the Berriew community due to previous shared headteacher arrangements.

Option 6: Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Berriew C.P. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Castle Caereinion - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Berriew C.P. School would retain its identity - Potentially would not impact on staff at Berriew C.P. School - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Castle Caereinion site - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would lose its identity - Would be no access to C. in W. School provision locally
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be acceptable to the Berriew community due to previous shared headteacher arrangements.
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Option 7: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Berriew site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location - Would address the issues with the Castle Caereinion school building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion School would have to transfer to a new location - Loss of provision from Castle Caereinion - Impact on the Castle Caereinion community - Would impact on Berriew staff as well as Castle Caereinion staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Current capacity of Berriew school may not be able to accommodate all pupils - Both schools would lose their identities - There would be no access to C. in W. School provision locally should the new school be a C.P. School
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would need to review the capacity of the current Berriew C.P. School – additional capacity may be required - Possible tension between C.P. and C. in W. provision

Option 8: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Castle Caereinion site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Berriew C.P. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Berriew School would have to transfer to a new location - Less convenient location for the majority of pupils - Current Berriew pupils may live closer to other schools - Loss of provision from Berriew - Impact on the Berriew community - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion building - Would impact on Berriew staff as well as Castle Caereinion staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Both schools would lose their identities - Castle Caereinion School is too small to accommodate the merged school - Significant investment would be needed in the Castle Caereinion site to accommodate Berriew pupils.
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant investment would be needed in Castle Caereinion to accommodate Berriew pupils - Unlikely that the Castle Caereinion site would be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required – a new site may be required - Possible tension between C.P. and C. in W. provision

Option 9: Close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation 	<p>School is currently the closest school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Castle Caereinion - Impact on the current staff of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School - Impact on the Castle Caereinion community - Reduction in C. in W. provision
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely to be the least popular option locally - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning

3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8	Option 9
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	x	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	x	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4
Total x	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	2	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible option	Discount	Preferred option

APPENDIX C – IMPACT OF EACH OPTION ON RURAL SCHOOLS CRITERIA

The likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
Option 1: Status Quo – continue as a standalone school	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to attend the current provision at Castle Caereinion.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.
Option 2: Federation with Welshpool C. in W. School	<p>The impact on quality and standards would be minimal. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would continue to operate as a stand alone school, however the school would be federated with Welshpool C. in W. school, meaning that one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools. There would also be the potential for shared leadership across the two schools.</p> <p>Establishment of the federation could lead to opportunities to share staff / resources across the federation, which would have a positive impact on quality and standards.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion.</p> <p>However, one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.</p>	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.

<p>Option 3: Merge with Welshpool C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites</p>	<p>Welshpool C. in W. School was established in 2017 following the amalgamation of 4 nursery and infant schools in Welshpool. The school is currently operating across three sites, pending a move to a new building in 2021.</p> <p>Merging Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and Welshpool C. in W School would mean that Welshpool C. in W School would need to undergo a further management of change process, having already undergone numerous changes over the last few years. The Council’s view is that this would threaten the quality of provision at Welshpool C. in W. School.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the new governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Welshpool site as the much larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Castle Caereinion site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 4: Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Welshpool C. in W. School</p>	<p>Welshpool C. in W. School was established in 2017 following the amalgamation of 4 nursery and infant schools in Welshpool. The school is currently operating across three sites, pending a move to a new building in 2021.</p> <p>Retaining the Castle Caereinion site as part of Welshpool C. in W School would lead to further change for the Welshpool C. in W. School community, which has already undergone numerous</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Welshpool C. in W. School, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Welshpool site as the much larger site, which could lead to a</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

	changes over the last few years. The Council's view is that this would threaten the quality of provision at Welshpool C. in W. School.	reduction in activity on the Castle Caereinion site.	
Option 5: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff.</p> <p>Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and Berriew C.P. School are both in the amber support category based on the 2019 categorisations, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Berriew site as the larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Castle Caereinion site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
Option 6: Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Berriew C.P. School	Implementation of this option would result in closure of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, however provision would continue on the current site. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and	Provision would continue to be available in Castle Caereinion. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Berriew C.P. School, therefore there could be a	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools</p>

	<p>Berriew C.P. School are both in the amber support category based on the 2019 categorisations, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p> <p>The school would be a larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff, which could have a positive impact on the opportunities available for pupils and staff.</p> <p>Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites.</p>	<p>perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Berriew site as the larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Castle Caereinion site.</p>	<p>in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 7: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Berriew site</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff.</p> <p>All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Castle Caereinion as there would be no provision in Castle Caereinion.</p> <p>However, merging with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Castle Caereinion community to be involved in the process of establishing the new</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	<p>improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p> <p>Castle Caereinion C. in W. School and Berriew C.P. School are both in the amber support category based on the 2019 categorisations, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p>	<p>school, would aid community involvement in the new school.</p>	
<p>Option 8: Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Castle Caereinion site</p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff. All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p> <p>However, it is unlikely that the Castle Caereinion site would be able to accommodate all pupils, therefore there would be a negative impact on the quality of provision should all pupils be taught in the current Castle Caereinion building.</p>	<p>There would be a positive impact on the Castle Caereinion community as this option would retain provision in Castle Caereinion and would lead to an increase in pupil numbers, safeguarding provision in the village for the future.</p> <p>However, there would be a negative impact on the Berriew community as there would no longer be provision in Berriew. Whilst merging the two schools to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Berriew community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school to aid community involvement in the new school, however as Berriew is the larger village with a larger school, it is likely that the Berriew community</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Berriew C.P. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

		would consider this option to be disproportionate.	
Option 9: Close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Berriew C.P. School. The nearest alternative Church in Wales provision would be Welshpool C. in W. School. Some pupils may also choose to attend Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School or Guilsfield C.P. School as other nearby schools.</p> <p>The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall. The overall aim of the proposal is to improve learning opportunities for pupils. Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, Berriew C.P. School and Llanfair</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Castle Caereinion as there would be no provision in Castle Caereinion.</p> <p>As a Church in Wales School, The Castle Caereinion School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Castle Caereinion.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion C. in W. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	Caereinion C.P. School were categorised as Amber in the latest school categorisations carried out in 2019, whilst Welshpool C. in W. School was categorised as Yellow. Guilsfield C.P. School was classified as a Green school.		
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APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	Status Quo – continue as a standalone school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion would continue to be low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil
2	Federation with Welshpool C. in W. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Castle Caereinion would continue to be low - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still be required to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil - Significant difference in the size of the two schools
3	Merge with Welshpool Church in Wales School to establish a new school on two sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Castle Caereinion - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Both schools would lose their identity - Would impact on staff at Welshpool C. in W. School, who have already been through a reorganisation process in the last few years. - May not be attractive to Welshpool C. in W. School - Significant difference in the size of the two schools – would have a disproportionate impact on Welshpool C. in W. School

4	Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Welshpool C. in W. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Castle Caereinion - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Castle Caereinion building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Castle Caereinion school would lose its identity - May not be attractive to Welshpool C. in W. School
5	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Castle Caereinion site - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Would also impact on the staff of Berriew C.P. School - Both schools would lose their current identities - May not be attractive to Berriew C.P. School
6	Close Castle Caereinion, but retain the site as part of Berriew C.P. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Castle Caereinion site - Castle Caereinion pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion school building - Castle Caereinion C. in W. School would lose its identity - Would be no access to C. in W. School provision locally - May not be attractive to Berriew C.P. School
7	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Castle Caereinion site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Castle Caereinion C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion School would have to transfer to a new location - Loss of provision from Castle Caereinion - Impact on the Castle Caereinion community - Would impact on Berriew staff as well as Castle Caereinion staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Current capacity of Berriew school may not be able to accommodate all pupils - May not be acceptable to Berriew school

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both schools would lose their identities
8	Merge with Berriew C.P. School to establish a new school on the Castle Caereinion site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Berriew C.P. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Berriew School would have to transfer to a new location - Less convenient location for the majority of pupils - Current Berriew pupils may live closer to other schools - Loss of provision from Berriew - Impact on the Berriew community - Would not address issues with the Castle Caereinion building - Significant investment would be needed in Castle Caereinion to accommodate all pupils - Would impact on Berriew staff as well as Castle Caereinion staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - May not be acceptable to Berriew school - Both schools would lose their identities

APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE CASTLE CAEREINION C. IN W. SCHOOL

Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposal:

- To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation>. This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposal. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **2nd June 2021**. All responses must be received by this date.

For information on how the Transforming Education Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the Transforming Education privacy notice, which is available via the following link:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9803/Transforming-Education-Privacy-Notice>

Part 1 – About You

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent, carer or guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prospective parent, carer or guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of the community | <input type="checkbox"/> | Organisation e.g. Community Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

If you said 'Other' or are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Castle Caereinion C. in W. School | <input type="checkbox"/> | Another school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association | | |

If you are associated with another school, please specify which school: _____

3. Please provide your postcode: _____

Impact on the Welsh language

7. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

8. How do you think the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive / more positive effects, or so that it would not have adverse effects / less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Copy of Consultation Report

9. At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report, summarising the issues raised in the consultation responses received and providing the Council's response to these issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

Yes

No

If you answered 'Yes', please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)

We want to ensure that we include all sectors of the community in our consultation, and are requesting that you provide this information to enable us to identify whether the consultation has been inclusive. However, these questions are optional.

10. How old are you?

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74
<input type="checkbox"/> 75-84	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

11. What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Fluid
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

12. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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13. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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14. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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15. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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16. What is your ethnic group?

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black, African or Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 2nd June 2021.**

Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk