

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
15 July 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Martin Weale

If learner entitlements are an important factor to this process, why is it acceptable to move children that are already receiving a higher level of learner entitlement producing children that are all well rounded, lifting the standard at Ysgol Calon Cymru to alternative schools? How is this improving learner entitlement, surely learner entitlements should be looked upon as education standards using standardised judgements by ESTYN and ERW and not subjective and unsubstantiated phone calls to headteachers.

Response

I assume that the question is related to the current consultation on small schools, and in particular Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School. The vision for education in Powys is about improving learner entitlement and experience, aligning with the new curriculum from September 2022 – this is about more than standards of education.

In the last Categorisation exercise in 2019, Llanfihangel Rhydithon was classified as Green, Llanbister and Crossgates were categorised as Yellow.

However, although there is no National Categorisation for schools, the local authority has continued to work closely to support these schools. All three schools are strong schools for standards, provision and leadership and have responded well to the challenges of providing education over the pandemic period. This has reinforced the view of the local authority that the schools are self-improving schools and provide education that is equitable.

In the last Estyn inspection for Llanfihangel Rhydithon in 2019, the school was judged to be good for standards, provision and leadership.

Llanbister Primary School were inspected by Estyn in 2019 and were also judged to be good for standards, provision and leadership.

Crossgates School were inspected in 2016, and were placed in Estyn review. However, within a year they had addressed the recommendations and were removed from any form of follow up.

