

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF SCHOOL REORGANISATION PROPOSAL UNDER THE SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") and the School Organisation Code 011/2018 ("the Code"), that Powys County Council of County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG ("the Council"), having consulted such persons as required, proposes the following:-

- i. To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- ii. This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The proposal will be introduced on a phased basis as the pupils joining the school's Reception class in September 2022 move through the school. The phasing of the implementation for each year group would be as follows:

Primary phase:

Reception – September 2022
Year 1 – September 2023
Year 2 – September 2024
Year 3 – September 2025
Year 4 – September 2026
Year 5 – September 2027
Year 6 – September 2028

Secondary phase:

Year 7 – September 2029
Year 8 – September 2030
Year 9 – September 2031
Year 10 – September 2032
Year 11 – September 2033
Year 12 – September 2034
Year 13 – September 2035

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the responses of the Council and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9999/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>

Admissions

The Council will continue to be the admissions authority for the new school. The proposal will not impact on the admissions number for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The admissions number for first time admission to the primary phase would continue to be 30. The admissions number for pupils in Year 7 would continue to be 72.

From 1 September 2022:

- All pupils admitted to the Reception year group would be taught through the medium of Welsh
- All pupils admitted to any other year groups would be able to express a preference for the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream, in accordance with the current arrangements.

This would continue to be the case until the language category of the relevant year has changed, as outlined above.

Parents may express a preference for another school and the Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Language Category

Following full implementation of the proposal, the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as defined by "Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision", Welsh Government Information Document No: 023/2007¹ will be as follows:

- Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1)
- Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)

¹ Available at: <https://gov.wales/defining-schools-according-welsh-medium-provision>

Transport

There will be no change to the transport arrangements for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

Implementation

The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council, in accordance with the phasing outlined above.

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by **Thursday 15th July 2021** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Interim Chief Education Officer, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG or by email to education@powys.gov.uk.

Powys County Council will publish a summary of any such objections made within the objection period (and not withdrawn in writing), together with the Council's observations thereon, within the period set out in the Code.

Lynette Lovell
Interim Chief Education Officer
For Powys County Council

Dated this day 17th June 2021.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of explanation).

- The Council intends to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in December 2020. The Council has subsequently published a Consultation Report, which summarises the issues raised during the consultation period and provides the Council's response to these issues. The Consultation Report is available on the Council's website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9999/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>
- The intention is that the change to the school's language category happens on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.
- All pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
- Following implementation of the proposal, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would develop the skills needed to become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
- The change in the school's language category would be phased in as follows:

Primary phase:

Reception – September 2022
Year 1 – September 2023
Year 2 – September 2024
Year 3 – September 2025
Year 4 – September 2026
Year 5 – September 2027
Year 6 – September 2028

Secondary phase:

Year 7 – September 2029
Year 8 – September 2030
Year 9 – September 2031
Year 10 – September 2032
Year 11 – September 2033
Year 12 – September 2034
Year 13 – September 2035

- Following full implementation of the proposal, the language category of the primary phase would be Welsh-medium (Category 1), and the language category of the secondary phase would be Bilingual (Category 2A).
- The Welsh Government information document "Defining schools according to Welsh Medium provision 023/2007" provides a description of the language categories for schools according to the amount of Welsh used in teaching and learning. The document is available on the Welsh Government's website at: <https://gov.wales/defining-schools-according-welsh-medium-provision>.

- The Welsh Government has recently carried out consultation on updated school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. Information about the consultation is available on the Welsh Government's website at this address: <https://gov.wales/school-categories-according-welsh-medium-provision>. The outcome of this consultation exercise has not yet been published.
- Once the outcome of the Welsh Government's recent consultation exercise on school language categories has been published, the Council will review the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in accordance with the actions required by Welsh Government.
- More information about bilingualism and Welsh-medium education is available on the Council's website at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10742/Destination-bilingual-the-benefits-of-choosing-a-Welsh-medium-education>.
- To support the change to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, the Council would ensure that additional language support is available at the school to support pupils, including immersion provision, additional Welsh language support and opportunities for parents to learn Welsh.
- This proposal would not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.
- There would be no change to the transport arrangements for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy.