

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE CASTLE CAEREINION CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 43 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 discontinue Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School, Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 9AL.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2022.

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council, and the school building is owned by the Diocese of St Asaph, Diocesan Office, High Street, St Asaph, LL17 0RD.

Powys County 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 proposer’s responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council’s website:

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

Admissions

From 1st September 2022, pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Section 86(3).

In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School will be able to apply for a place in any school in accordance with the Council’s Admissions Policy.

Details of nearest alternative schools

The nearest alternative schools for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Schools would be as follows:

| | School Type | Language Category |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Berriew C.P. School | Community Primary | English Medium |
| Welshpool C. in W. School | Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled | English Medium |
| Guilsfield C.P. School | Community Primary | English Medium |
| Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School¹ | Community Primary | Dual Stream |

¹ From 31st August 2022 Llanfair Caereinion Community Primary School will be discontinued and a new dual stream community school for pupils aged 4-18 years of age will operate on the current sites of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.

Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase number of school places at the nearest alternative schools

The expectation is that the number of pupils transferring to each of the nearest alternative schools would be small, and therefore the impact on these schools would not be significant. Therefore, no measures are proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places available on consequence of the proposed discontinuance of Castle Caereinion Church in Wales school.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements will be in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

The Council will provide transport for Church in Wales provision for pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion Church in Wales School who wish to transfer to Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School. This will be provided on a case by case basis using the Council's discretionary powers under Section 6 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

Implementation

The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council.

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School is considered the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal, and are as follows:

- 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

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the publication of this proposal, that is to say by 7th October 2021, any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Interim Chief Education Officer, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG, or by e-mail to school.organisation@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 9th September 2021

Explanatory Note:

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

- The Council's intention is to close Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School on the 31st August 2022.
- From 1st September 2022, pupils currently attending Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Section 86(3). In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Castle Caereinion Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School will be able to apply for a place in any school in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in April 2021. The Council 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/10560/Castle-Caereinion-Church-in-Wales-School>
- Transport arrangements would be made for pupils in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.