

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON COMMUNITY PRIMARY 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon Community Primary School (“Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School”), Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5TW.

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

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council.

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/10580/Llanfihangel-Rhydithon-C.P.-School>

Admissions

From 1st September 2022, pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would be as follows:

| | School Type | Language Category | Admission Number ¹ |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Crossgates C.P. School | Community Primary | English medium | 30 |
| Llanbister C.P. School | Community Primary | English medium | 7 |
| Ysgol Cefnlllys | Community Primary | English medium | 37 |
| Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School | Voluntary Controlled Primary | Dual stream | 28 |
| Knighton C. in W. School | Voluntary Controlled Primary | English medium | 34 |

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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

¹ Powys Schools – Powys County Council Admission Arrangements and Information 2022/23

Alongside this proposal, the capacity of Llanbister C.P. School has increased from 45 to 73 following the addition of a third classroom, which provides additional school places at Llanbister C.P. School. The school's admission number as indicated above does not reflect this increase in capacity. This will be updated in future versions of the Council's Admission Arrangements and Information document.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

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

Implementation

The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council.

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. 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 **18th November 2021**, any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Director of Education, 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,
Director of Education
For Powys County Council**

Dated this day 21st October 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the 31st August 2022.
- From 1st September 2022, pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. 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/10580/Llanfihangel-Rhydithon-C.P.-School>
- Transport arrangements would be made for pupils in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.