

**POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013
NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANBEDR CHURCH IN WALES VOLUNTARY AIDED
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 Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School, Llanbedr, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1SR.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2022. The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council.

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council, and the school building is owned by the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Centre, Cathedral Close, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9DP.

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/10568/Llanbedr-Church-in-Wales-School>

Admissions

Pupils currently attending Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school to attend from the 1st September 2022 via the in-year transfer process. 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 Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School will be able to apply for a place at any school in accordance with the Council’s Admissions Policy.

Llangattock Church in Wales School is a Voluntary Aided Primary School and is therefore responsible for its own admissions arrangements. Any pupils wishing to transfer to Llangattock Church in Wales Primary School would need to apply to the school for a place in accordance with the school’s admissions policy.

Details of nearest alternative schools

The nearest alternative schools for pupils currently attending Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School would be as follows:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number¹
Crickhowell C.P. School	Community Primary	English-medium	33
Llangattock C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided Primary	English-medium	20
Llangors C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Primary	English-medium	25
Llangynidr C.P. School	Community Primary	English-medium	21
Deri View Primary School²	Community Primary	English-medium	47
Llanvihangel Crucorney C.P. School	Community Primary	English-medium	11

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

¹ Powys Schools – Powys County Council Admission Arrangements and Information 2022/23; Monmouthshire Schools – Monmouthshire County Council School Admissions Policy 2022/23

² Monmouthshire County Council has recently completed the statutory objection period to discontinue Deri View Primary School from the 31 August 2023 and establish a new English-medium community school for pupils aged 3-18 years of age which will operate on the current site of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny, NP7 6EP.

No measures are proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places available at alternative schools on consequence of the proposed discontinuance of Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

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

The Council will also provide transport for pupils currently attending Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School who wish to access Church in Wales school provision at Llangattock Church in Wales Voluntary Aided 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.

If there is no place available at Llangattock Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School, the Council will use its discretionary powers, as outlined above, to provide transport for pupils currently attending Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School to their next nearest Church in Wales school, if they wish to access Church in Wales school provision.

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Llanbedr Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School is considered the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal. The reasons are as follows:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Financial 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
- Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate
- 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 **16th December 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 18th November 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 Llanbedr C. in W. Voluntary Aided Primary School on the 31st August 2022.
- Pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. Voluntary Aided Primary School will be able to express a preference for an alternative school to attend from 1st September 2022 via the in-year transfer process. 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School will be able to apply for a place in any school in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy. As Llangattock C. in W. School is a Voluntary Aided School, pupils wishing to transfer to the school would need to apply to the school for a place in accordance with the school'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/10568/Llanbedr-Church-in-Wales-School>
- Transport arrangements would be made for pupils in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy. Transport will also be provided to enable pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. Voluntary Aided Primary School to continue to attend a Church in Wales school if that is their preference.