



Proposal to close Llangedwyn School

Draft Community Impact Assessment

September 2023



Draft Community Impact Assessment – Llangedwyn School

i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

The closest provider for the 17 pupils that were attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2022 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	17.6%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	35.3%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	11.8%
Ysgol Meifod	11.8%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	5.8%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	5.8%
Bryn Offa Primary School (Shropshire)	5.8%
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	5.8%

This suggests that Llangedwyn is the closest school for only 17.6% of pupils attending the school. 82.4% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools.

ii) After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school

- After School Club

iii) Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides

- Little Hedgehogs Stay and Play
- Venue for Church Council Meetings

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

- None

v) Other links between the school and the community

- Links with St Cedwyn's Church. E.g. services in the church, visits from church members, activities in the church.
- Children meet with Jubilee Club (over 60's group)
- Campaigning for purchase of Sycharth Castle
- Community coffee mornings
- School field used by Football Club and for Car Boot sales
- Recycling site for Crisp packets

vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?

The school has indicated that while some services are provided at and by the school, there is a Village Hall in Llangedwyn which is used more widely by the local community than the school building.

vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

- The majority of pupils in attendance at Llangedwyn C. in W. School live closer to other schools, with only 17.6% of Llangedwyn pupils being able to call Llangedwyn their nearest school.
- Information from the schools suggests that most pupils travel to Llangedwyn from out of catchment.

viii) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process.

The proposal is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is federated with Llangedwyn C. in W. School, which would help with the transition arrangements and would help to ensure parents' and pupils' engagement.

ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues

As mentioned above, Llangedwyn is currently not the closest school for the majority of its pupils. Closure of Llangedwyn school may result in greater numbers of pupils walking or cycling to school, with the distance to their provision having decreased.

x) **Additional considerations for rural schools**

The School Organisation Code includes a number of additional considerations that are likely to be relevant when carrying out a community impact assessment for a rural school closure. As Llangedwyn C. in W. School is identified as a rural school, these factors are considered below:

- **Whether closure would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community or discourage young families from moving to the community**

The school has indicated that several families of pre-school aged children may choose to move elsewhere should Llangedwyn be closed.

The school has also indicated that fewer families may choose to move to the village should the school be closed.

- **What impact closure might have on other services provided locally, for instance if the school is the only remaining public building in a community**

Llangedwyn has a Village Hall which the school has indicated is more widely used by the community than the school. Therefore, some of the services offered by the school in the local community may be moved to the Village Hall.

- **Whether, or not, the school is a real hub of community life, used for other purpose – such as public meetings, local events, fetes surgeries, and other get togethers – which would either cease or be diminished by being required to move elsewhere**

Information received from the school suggests that while a small number of services are run from the school building, there is also a Village Hall in Llangedwyn which is used more widely by the local community.

- **Whether or not the loss of the school, and potential families, will have a detrimental effect on the wider economy of the community**

The school has indicated that due to the size and nature of the village, there is virtually no local economy based in Llangedwyn, and what there is, is not dependant on the school or the families that attend.

- **How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils, (particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process.

The proposal is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is federated with Llangedwyn C. in W. School, which would help with the transition arrangements and would help to ensure parents' and pupils' engagement.

It is acknowledged that there could be an impact on pupils' ability to participate in after school activities, however Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils that attend.

- **The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)**

The information received from the school indicates that while the school offers some local services, in particular linking with the Church, what services are on offer could be relocated to the Village Hall in Llangedwyn, which is already used more widely by the local community.

Based on information provided by the school, the fact that the majority of pupils that Llangedwyn is not the closest school for the majority of pupils that currently attend, combined with the low pupil numbers, means that the closure of the school would not have a significant impact economically, culturally, or socially on the village of Llangedwyn.

xi) Conclusion

Should Llangedwyn C. in W. School close, there would be an impact on the village of Llangedwyn as there would no longer be a school in the village. However, the impact of school closure on the village would likely be minimal, particularly as most pupils that currently attend the school don't live in Llangedwyn.

In addition, information received from the school indicates that whilst there are links between the school and the community, community use of the school

building is minimal. There is a Village Hall in Llangedwyn which is already used more widely by the local community, so any events / meetings etc which are currently held at the school could be located to the Village Hall.