



Proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W.
School
Consultation Document



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

If you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the Transforming Education Team on 01686 611553, or e-mail transforming.education@powys.gov.uk

Consultation on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School

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Consultation on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

2. How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on our website:

<http://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>

A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document.

Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

All responses must be received by the **23rd November 2023**.

3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01686 611553

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposals outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen early in 2024.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published, and there would be a period of 28 days for people to submit any

objections. The Cabinet would then need to consider another report summarising any objections received and decide whether or not to proceed with implementation.

Orange – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Red – Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant Primary School, Yellow – Ysgol Pennant, Purple - Ysgol Llanfyllin

The following is a summary of key data relating to the school:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹	Rural School ²
Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School, Llangedwyn, Oswestry, SY10 9LD	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales In a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School School building owned by the Wynnstay Estate	English-medium	6	Yes

Current pupil numbers³ at the school are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C in W. School	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	10

In April 2020, the Council approved a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which sets out a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. The Strategy was updated and relaunched in July 2022, along with a Work Programme for Wave 2 of the Programme, which includes a commitment to restart and conclude the review of the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment, which commenced in 2020.

In September 2023, the Council's Cabinet considered a paper which outlined the findings of the review and presented an indicative preferred way forward for the area. This included the possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, however this would be subject to the Statutory Process as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

The Council has subsequently carried out an options appraisal exercise to identify a preferred option for Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

¹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

² Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

³ Teacher Centre, 11th October 2023

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Options appraisal exercise
- Recommendation considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board
- Recommendation considered by the Cabinet

On the 10th October 2023, the Council's Cabinet considered a report in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, and agreed to commence consultation on the following:

'To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.'

2. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

Powys is a large, rural authority. Covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales, it contains only 4.2% of the population, making it the most sparsely populated county in Wales. Delivering services across such a large, sparsely populated area is challenging and expensive.

The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council, as outlined in the Strategy:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 43% of the primary provision in the county. 15 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 5% by 2026.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there was 14% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

iv) Building condition

Whilst the Council has invested in its schools' estate through the 21st Century Schools Programme and the Asset Management Plan, building condition remains an issue across Powys, with associated maintenance costs.

v) Financial pressures

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,512 to £11,689 in the primary sector in 2022-23.

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

The Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the past left a legacy in Powys.

3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 2019, Powys Education Services were inspected by Estyn. The report published by Estyn following the inspection outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

Following the publication of the inspection report, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020, and was updated and relaunched in July 2022.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years.

The Vision Statement is as follows:

All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.

In order to achieve the vision and guiding principles, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience' and this aim includes an objective to 'rationalise primary provision'.

The current proposal in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School is in line with these priorities.

4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN LLANGEDWYN

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School:

i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers⁴ at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C in W. School	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	10

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and the latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

ii) Highest budget share per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2023-24, the school's budget share per pupil during 2023-24 was £12,625.92. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,729. Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School is ranked the highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.⁵

iii) Combined age classes

The small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with foundation learners in one class, and older learners in another. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A number of options have been identified which could potentially provide a solution. These are listed in the following table:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School
2	Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

⁴ Teacher Centre, 11th October 2023

⁵ Section 52 Budget Statement 2023/2024

3	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School
4	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School
5	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors, and the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements was also considered. These can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C of this document.

6. PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the SWOT analyses, the assessment against the Critical Success Factors and the consideration of the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements, the preferred option is as follows:

Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend Llanfechain C. in W. School

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School
- Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building
- Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of a larger cohort of pupils
- Pupils would transfer to a school they are already familiar with
- Pupils would continue to access Church in Wales provision

This is the basis for the current proposal on which the Council is consulting.

The proposal is further explored in the following section. The reasons why the other options considered have not been taken forward are summarised in Appendix D of this document.

PART B – THE PROPOSAL

7. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

8. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School for the following reasons:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School
- Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building
- Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of a larger cohort of pupils
- Pupils would transfer to a school they are already familiar with
- Pupils would continue to access Church in Wales provision

9. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School- Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools- Revenue saving to the Council- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building- Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of a larger cohort of pupils- Pupils would transfer to a school they are already familiar with- Pupils would continue to access Church in Wales provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School is currently the closest school- Additional travel costs- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School would have to transfer to alternative provision- Loss of provision from Llangedwyn- Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School- Impact on the Llangedwyn community- Loss of C. in W. provision from Llangedwyn

10. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Period of uncertainty for Llangedwyn C. in W. School if a statutory process is carried out and implemented which might have a negative effect on standards at the school	Medium	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the school and governing body to ensure that standards and performance do not deteriorate during the transition period
Uncertainty for staff whilst the process is ongoing	Medium	Medium	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments

11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	12th October 2023 to 23 rd November 2023
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	January / February 2024

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	February 2024
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	March / April 2024

If Cabinet approves implementation:

School closes	31 st August 2024
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PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is acknowledged that this would have an impact on pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, as they would need to transfer to an alternative school. Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work closely with the current school and Llanfechain C. in W. School to ensure a smooth transition.

As Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, additional transport would be required for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on the ability of these pupils to access after-school activities, and that there could be increased travelling times to school for some pupils. However, Llangedwyn is currently not the nearest school for the majority of its pupils, so this should not impact on many pupils.

ii) Pupils attending Llanfechain C. in W. School

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close with its pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. The proposal could impact on the pupils at Llanfechain as the school would receive additional pupils. However, the total number of pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W School is small, therefore whilst it is not anticipated that this would have a significant impact on pupils attending Llanfechain, it is acknowledged that it would increase the school's pupil numbers to near its capacity.

iii) Pupils attending other schools

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, with its pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. However, the families of some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative schools. The proposal could impact on the pupils of these alternative schools, as the schools would receive additional pupils. However, the total number of pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W School is very small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a significant impact on pupils of other schools.

13. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposal be implemented, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close. A staff redundancy process would be necessary for staff currently employed at Llangedwyn C. in W. School. This would be conducted in line with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. All cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

14. IMPACT ON NURSERY / EARLY YEARS PROVISION

As there is no nursery or early years provision at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, there would be no impact on nursery or early years provision in the area. Pupils in the Llangedwyn area would continue to be able to access the current providers in the area.

15. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposal would result in the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon, of which Llangedwyn is a part, would need to be dissolved. This would mean that the federation's governing body would be dissolved, and a new governing body would need to be established for Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

The following section mainly considers the impact on quality and standards in education should pupils transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, however it is acknowledged that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools. The Council would expect that the quality and standards of education at these schools would be at least equivalent to that at Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

16.1 Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. The preferred option in this case is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. As Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are already part of Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon, pupils already have strong connections across the two schools and take part in collaborative activities. The Council's view is that Llanfechain C. in W. School would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, so it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional

Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. There are a number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals, a number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, and a number of Looked after Children at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, however the number of pupils belonging to these groups is very small. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils. There are currently no pupils for whom English is an Additional Language at Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

This is also the case in respect of the impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. Pupils would transfer to a larger school, which would provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources, and which have an improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

16.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupils' wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Llangedwyn C. in W. School to Llanfechain C. in W. School. However, Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools are currently federated, so Llangedwyn pupils are familiar with staff and pupils at Llanfechain C. in W. School, and are familiar with attending the school building to take part in joint activities. This should minimise the impact on pupil well-being.

It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to other schools instead of transferring to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

Closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School could result in additional travel for some pupils, particularly those for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school. However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so many of the school's pupils are already choosing to travel further to school. It is evidenced above that the additional travel time to alternative provision would likely not be excessive.

In the longer term, the intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning as they would transfer to a larger school with a larger cohort of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

16.3 Teaching and learning experiences

16.3.1 Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

16.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

The Council's view is that Llanfechain C. in W. School would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Llangedwyn C. in W. School. Pupils would be transferring to a larger school, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils. Pupils would also be able to work in groups of similar ability pupils.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school, which impacts on some aspects of the curriculum. Llanfechain is also a C. in W. School, ensuring that denominational provision would continue to be available to those pupils who wished to access it.

16.3.3 The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

16.4 Care, support and guidance

16.4.1 Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring, the provision of learning support, personal development, or safeguarding for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. This is due to the two schools being federated, with a shared headteacher across both sites. As a result, similar systems are employed across the federation.

16.5 Leadership and Management

16.5.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self evaluation processes and improvement planning

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

The headteacher of Llangedwyn C. in W. School is also headteacher of Llanfechain C. in W. Primary, therefore there would be no change in leadership and permanent leadership arrangements are already in place at Llanfechain C. in W. School. The Council's view is that leadership and management at Llanfechain C. in W. School would be at least as good as the current arrangements at Llangedwyn.

16.5.2 Professional learning

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities. Staff currently employed at Llangedwyn C. in W. School would be subject to a management of change process.

16.5.3 Use of Resources

The school is currently projecting a carry forward deficit of £31k at the end of financial year 2023-24 rising to a cumulative deficit of £177k by 31 March 2026. Finance and school improvement officers are working with the school to identify ways to reduce the deficit, but this is increasingly challenging due to the combination of low pupil numbers and high inflation on running costs that the school is experiencing. When small schools encounter any unexpected pressures such as long-term sickness or building maintenance issues, then the risk of falling into a deficit is higher as they have more limited scope to reduce costs in other areas to compensate.

One of the main challenges facing the Powys schools' infrastructure is the proportion of small schools in the county coupled with significant surplus places, resulting in higher premises related costs per pupil. Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the smallest school in the county in terms of numbers on roll, and the budget share per pupil at the school is therefore higher than any other Powys primary school.

Should the preferred option be implemented, pupils would transfer to a larger school, ensuring a more effective use of both schools' and the Council's resources.

16.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Implementation of the emerging preferred option would impact on any vulnerable pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, including any pupils with ALN/SEN.

Based on PLASC 2023 data, 15.4% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School were on School Action, 15.4% of pupils were on School Action Plus, and no pupils were statemented.

Whilst the emerging preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to an alternative school, there is no reason to believe that Llanfechain C. in W. School would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with ALN/SEN and their families.

16.7 Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

Should the emerging preferred option be implemented, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore Llangedwyn C. in W. School would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

This would also result in an increase in pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School, which would improve this school's ability to deliver the curriculum in all key stages. However, depending on the school's class structure and current breakdown of pupils, it is possible that some adjustments would need to be made to the school's class structure to accommodate additional pupils.

It is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools rather than Llanfechain C. in W. School. However, the number of pupils transferring to any school is likely to be very small, so it is not anticipated that this would impact on the ability of these schools to deliver the full curriculum to pupils.

17. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY OF PLACES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

17.1 Will the alternative provision have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers?

The preferred option is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Capacity ⁶	Current pupil numbers ⁷	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	42	5	10.6%	C Poor	B Satisfactory

The estimated pupil forecast (live birth data)⁸ for Llanfechain is as follows:

⁶ MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

⁷ Teacher Centre 11th October 2023

⁸ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC and Birth Rates. Projections are based on PLASC 2022 as projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Llanfechain C. in W. School	38	39	40	28	30

This information shows that Llanfechain C.in W. School would be slightly over-capacity if all Llangedwyn pupils transferred to the school. Should this be the case, the Council would discuss with the school’s governing body to understand how the pupils could be accommodated at the school. However, pupil numbers at Llanfechain are forecasted to decrease over the next few years.

Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are both rated as ‘C’ for building condition and ‘B’ for building suitability. This means that the standard of accommodation at Llanfechain is of at least equivalent standard to that at Llangedwyn.

17.2 Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and (if relevant) designated religious character?

As indicated in section 10.1, Llanfechain C. in W. School would be slightly over-capacity if all Llangedwyn pupils transferred to the school. Should this be the case, the Council would discuss with the school’s governing body to understand how the pupils could be accommodated at the school, to ensure that pupils wishing to access Church in Wales provision can do so.

Both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are English-medium schools.

17.3 What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?

It is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision at Llanfechain C. in W. School would be excessive. This includes journeys for ALN/SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes. It’s unlikely that pupils would be able to walk to school should they transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School as this would be further away than 2 miles from their homes.

18. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18.1 What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?

Implementation of the preferred option would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.

18.2 Do the proposals form part of the local authority’s 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

The review of Llangedwyn C. in W. School does not form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Investment Programme.

However, the review of the Llanfyllin/North Welshpool catchment area carried out recently identified that there are capacity issues in terms of Church in Wales places at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, and that a replacement school building would need to be provided in the area in the future to accommodate projected pupil numbers.

To achieve this, should there be no school in Llangedwyn in the future, the Council would then work with Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and the Diocese of St Asaph to explore the possibility of initially merging the two schools at their existing locations, alongside investigating possible sites for a new school building. However, these developments would be subject to further statutory proposals and Cabinet decisions, and capital investment processes.

18.3 What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the potential increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £34.6k per annum based on current prices. This has been included in the revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

18.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £34.6k per annum, based on current prices and pupils' home location.

18.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding available?

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option.

18.6 What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs)

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £56.4k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of £91.0k and estimated additional transport costs of £34.6k.

18.7 Without the proposals, would the affected schools face budget deficits?

The school is currently projecting a carry forward deficit of £31k at the end of financial year 2023-24 rising to a cumulative deficit of £177k by 31 March 2026.

18.8 Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?

Any savings would be available for reinvestment as part of the Council's corporate budget process and any reinvestment in the schools system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

18.9 Will the proceeds from sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?

Llangedwyn C. in W. School building is not owned by the Council, therefore the Council would not receive any capital receipts following any sale of the site.

19. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

19.1 Impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. The proposal is that all pupils currently attending the school would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which would mitigate the impact on pupils, including those from economically deprived backgrounds, as they are already familiar with Llanfechain C. in W. School, however it is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to other schools.

Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on the ability of these pupils to access after-school activities, and that there could be increased travelling times to school for some pupils. This could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds. However, Llangedwyn is currently not the nearest school for the majority of its pupils, so this should not impact on many pupils.

Based on PLASC 2023 data, 23.1% of pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School were eligible for FSM, therefore there will be some children from economically deprived backgrounds that may be affected.

19.2 Land and Buildings

Comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred

Information about the quality of accommodation at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is provided in Appendix A.

Information about any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

Llanfechain C.in W. School would be slightly over-capacity if all Llangedwyn pupils transferred to the school. Should this be the case, the Council would discuss with the school's governing body to understand how the pupils could be accommodated

at the school. However, pupil numbers at Llanfechain are forecasted to decrease over the next few years.

Details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals

Any sites which are surplus following implementation of the proposal would be transferred back to their owners.

Whether the school / schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School is owned by the Wynnstay Estate. Should the school close, the building would be handed back to the Estate, who would be responsible for disposal of the site.

19.3 Walking routes to school

Should the proposal be implemented, it is unlikely that pupils transferring to Llanfechain C. in W. School would be able to walk to school, unless this was their closest school. Llangedwyn C. in W. School is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so the majority of pupils currently attending the school would not be able to walk to school.

19.4 School Admissions

Should the proposal be implemented, admissions to alternative schools would be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available online at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>.

19.5 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The proposal is to close an English-medium primary school. The proposal is not linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The proposal would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

20.1 Whether the establishment of multi-site schools might be considered as a means of retaining buildings, or the reasons for not pursuing this option

A range of options have been considered in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, these are outlined in section 4 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are very low, and are projected to continue to decrease over the coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

20.2 Whether alternatives to closure, such as clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools, might be considered or the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative

Llangedwyn C. in W. School is already part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School, known as the Federasiwn Dwy Afon. Continuing to operate as part of this federation is one of the options considered earlier in this document. An assessment of this option has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with this option.

Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are very low, and are projected to continue to decrease over the coming years. Clustering, collaboration or federation would not address this.

20.3 Whether the possibility of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource could be explored

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing building as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

Pupil numbers at the school are very low, and are projected to decrease further over the coming years.

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

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village.

A draft community impact assessment, with input from the school, has been carried out. This has been published as part of the consultation documentation. This would be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and would be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils; however, this could include effective transition arrangements with the receiving school to ensure pupils transition is positive.

The preferred option is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School which would provide continuity for pupils and their families and would ease transition arrangements, and would support parents' engagement with the school.

21. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposal. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposal be implemented, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.

This would have a significant impact on pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend that school, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend their nearest alternative school.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposal would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the school, it is to be noted that Llangedwyn is currently not the nearest school for the majority of pupils that attend provision there. Therefore the impact of additional travel is likely to be minimal. In addition, there is no reason to believe that Llanfechain C. in W. School would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils eligible for Free School Meals, and Looked After Children.

ii) Impact on the community

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.

PART D – CONSULTATION DETAILS

Who will we consult with?

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code, which include the following:

- Parents, carers and guardians at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire and Members of the Senedd for the Mid & West Wales region
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Mid Wales Education Partnership
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people's national participation standards⁹.

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 12th October 2023 and will end on the 23rd November 2023.

The statutory process

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

⁹ <https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards>

Consultation will start on the 12th October 2023 and will end on the 23rd November 2023. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

It is important to note that responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, and that only objections can be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal, or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by the Cabinet early in 2024.

ii) Statutory notice

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, statutory notices would be published after the Cabinet meeting. There would then be a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the local authority's determination. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered as objections and included in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period would not be counted as objections. Should stakeholders wish their consultation responses to be considered as objections, they would need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period.

A further report would be presented to the Council's Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by April / May 2024.

iii) Implementation

If the Council's Cabinet were to approve the proposal, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date.

How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form is attached to this document. An online version is also available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

Completed forms and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

*Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells,
LD1 5LG*

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received by the **23rd November 2023**.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01686) 611553.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Key data about the affected schools is provided below:

1. Llangedwyn C. in W. School

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹⁰	Rural School? ¹¹
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales In a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School School building owned by the Wynnstay Estate	English medium	6	Yes

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹²

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C in W. School	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	10

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹³

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	31	26	28	31	18	23	17	13

iii) Projected pupil numbers¹⁴

¹⁰ Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

¹¹ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

¹² Teacher Centre, 11th October 2023

¹³ PLASC

¹⁴ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates. Based on PLASC 2022 as projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	15	16	13	8	8

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)¹⁵**

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	13	12

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

	Current Capacity ¹⁶	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	47	10	37 (78.7%)

ii) **Building condition¹⁷**

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory	No

Quality and standards of education

i) **Estyn**

	Llangedwyn C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	January 2020
Standards	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good

¹⁵ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school. Provided by the Finance team in August 2023

¹⁶ MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

¹⁷ Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate and needs improvement
Follow up activity	<p>The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will review the school's progress.</p> <p>Outcome of Estyn review 2021:</p> <p>The school is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.</p>

Financial information

Cost per pupil¹⁸

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	£164,000	£12,625.92	£12,000	£0
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,729	N/A	N/A

Equalities information

i) National identity¹⁹

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	69.2%	15.4%	0%	0%	15.4%	0%	0%	0%

¹⁸ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/24

¹⁹ PLASC 2023

ii) **Ethnic Group²⁰**

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	100%	0%	0%

iii) **English as an Additional Language²¹**

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	0.0%	0.0%

iv) **Free School Meals²²**

	% Eligible for FSM
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	23.1%

v) **Looked after children²³**

	Looked after children
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	15.4%

vi) **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)²⁴**

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	15.4%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%

2. Other schools that could be affected

The proposal is to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. Information about Llanfechain C. in W. School is provided below.

²⁰ PLASC 2023

²¹ PLASC 2023

²² PLASC 2023

²³ PLASC 2023

²⁴ PLASC 2023

Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative schools, the numbers would be very small, and therefore the impact on these schools would not be significant.

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ²⁵
Llanfechain C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales. In a federation with Llangedwyn C. in W. School. School building owned by the Diocese.	English medium	6

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers²⁶

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfechain C. in W. School	6	1	3	7	3	13	9	42

ii) Historical pupil numbers²⁷

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Llanfechain C. in W. School	40	44	39	39	44	39	36	34

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)²⁸

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Llanfechain C. in W. School	38	39	40	28	30

²⁵ Powys Schools – Powys County Council Admission Arrangements and Information 2024/25

²⁶ Teacher Centre, 11th October 2023

²⁷ PLASC

²⁸ Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2022 & Birth Rates. Projections are based on PLASC 2022 as the projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

Should the proposal be implemented, it is likely that there would be an increase in pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School. This is not reflected in the current projections for Llanfechain C. in W. School. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it is currently unknown whether pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School or would transfer to alternative schools closer to their homes.

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)²⁹

	January 2024	January 2025
Llanfechain C. in W. School	44	49

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

	Current Capacity ³⁰	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	42 (89.4%)	5 (10.6%)

ii) Building condition

	Condition	Suitability
Llanfechain C. in W. School	C Poor	B Satisfactory

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Llanfechain C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	13/07/2016
The School's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good
How good are outcomes?	Good

²⁹ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school

³⁰ MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

How good is provision?	Good
How good are leadership and management?	Good
What happens next?	School to produce an action plan to show how it will address the recommendations

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil³¹

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Llanfechain C. in W. School	£230,000	£6,983	£22,000	£0

Equalities Information

i) National identity³²

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused
Llanfechain C. in W. School	73.5%	11.8%	0%	0%	8.8%	5.9%	0%	0%

ii) Ethnic Group³³

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Refused/Information not yet obtained
Llanfechain C. in W. School	94.1%	5.9%	0%

iii) English as an Additional Language³⁴

	% EAL

³¹ Section 52 Budget Statement 2023/2024

³² PLASC 2023

³³ PLASC 2023

³⁴ PLASC 2023

Llanfechain C. in W. School	0.0%
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iv) Free School Meals³⁵

	% Eligible for FSM
Llanfechain C. in W. School	8.8%

v) Pupils in care³⁶

	Number of pupils in care
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0%

vi) SEN/ALN³⁷

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	School IDP	LA IDP
Llanfechain C. in W. School	11.8%	0%	2.9%	5.9%	0.0%

³⁵ PLASC 2023

³⁶ PLASC 2023

³⁷ PLASC 2023

APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified in section 5 are provided below:

Option 1: Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn - There would be no additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils - Would retain Church in Wales places in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. School would continue to be very low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a very small school

Option 2: Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn - Would build on the federation which is already in place - There would be no additional transport costs - All staff would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school - Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location - Would retain Church in Wales places in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on the site at Llangedwyn - Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Additional costs associated with establishing a new school would be incurred by the Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More officer support would be required to support the establishment of new school - Both schools would lose their individual identities
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to develop a new school identity - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 3: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn - Would build on the federation which is already in place - There would be no additional transport costs - Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location - Minimal impact on staff employed at Llanfechain School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Llangedwyn - Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Would not reduce surplus places - Negative impact on staff employed at Llangedwyn School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 4: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn - Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of larger cohorts of pupils - Pupils would transfer to a school they are already familiar with - Continued provision of Church in Wales education in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of primary provision from the Llangedwyn area - Impact on the current staff employed at Llangedwyn - Reduction of Church in Wales places in the area - Llanfechain C. in W. School would be at or slightly over-capacity if all pupils from Llangedwyn transferred to the school – capacity is currently 47 with 39 on roll.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to explore linkages between Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some families may be choose other schools that offer non-denominational provision, meaning that some pupils may not benefit from a Church in Wales provision

Option 5: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn - Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of larger cohorts of pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school - Loss of primary provision from the Llangedwyn area - Impact on the current staff employed at Llangedwyn - Reduction of Church in Wales places in the area
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families may choose for their children to transfer to a number of

	<p>different schools, which could be more difficult in terms of transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some families may choose other schools that offer non-denominational provision, meaning that some pupils may not receive Church in Wales provision
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2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 ● The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning ● The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The option must be achievable within current legislation ● The option must be operationally achievable ● The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue ● The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	?	?	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	4	4
Total x	3	4	3	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Possible

APPENDIX C – IMPACT OF EACH OPTION ON RURAL SCHOOLS CRITERIA

The likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
<p>Option 1: Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School</p>	<p>There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p>
<p>Option 2: Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llangedwyn, building upon the federation which is already in place.</p> <p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range age classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location, thus there would be no additional transport costs.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 3: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llangedwyn, building upon the federation which is already in place with Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal. Provision would continue to be available in Llangedwyn. However, the site would be</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p>

<p>Llanfechain C. in W. School</p>	<p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range age classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>managed by Llanfechain C. in W. School, so there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in the management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the larger Llanfechain site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llangedwyn site.</p>	<p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 4: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School</p>	<p>Pupils would transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is a larger school where they would be part of larger cohorts of pupils. This would also have a positive impact on the pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School as it would result in an increase in pupil numbers at that school.</p> <p>It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils would attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llangedwyn as there would be no provision in Llangedwyn.</p> <p>The Llangedwyn school building is not owned by the Council. Should the school close, the building would be transferred back to its owners, who would need to determine its future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain available to the community in Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, particularly those for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school.</p> <p>However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, so many of the school's pupils are already choosing to travel further to school.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to</p>

			School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.
Option 5: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils would attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Llangedwyn.	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llangedwyn as there would be no provision in Llangedwyn.</p> <p>The Llangedwyn school building is not owned by the Council. Should the school close, the building would be transferred back to its owners, who would need to determine its future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain available to the community in Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.</p>

APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	Status quo – continue as part of a federation with Llanfechain C. in W. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School would continue to be very low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address the high budget per pupil
2	Merge with Llanfechain C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn would continue to be low - Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Additional costs associated with establishing a new school would be incurred by the Council - More officer support would be required to support the establishment of the new school - Would not lead to a financial saving
3	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain C. in W. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on the Llangedwyn site - Llangedwyn pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Would not reduce surplus places
5	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not promote access to alternative Church in Wales provision - Transition would be more difficult for pupils – pupils are already familiar with Llanfechain C. in W. School.

APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE LLANGEDWYN C. IN W. SCHOOL

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposal is available on the Council's website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation>. This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposal. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **23rd November 2023**. All responses must be received by this date.

For information on how the Transforming Education Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the Transforming Education privacy notice, which is available via the following link:
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9803/Transforming-Education-Privacy-Notice>

Part 1 – About You

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent, carer or guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prospective parent, carer or guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of the community | <input type="checkbox"/> | Organisation e.g. Community Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

If you said 'Other' or are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Llangedwyn C. in W. School | <input type="checkbox"/> | Another school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association | | |

If you are associated another school, please specify which school:

3. Please provide your postcode: _____

7. At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report, summarising the issues raised in the consultation responses received and providing the Council’s response to these issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

Yes No

If you answered ‘Yes’, please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)

We want to ensure that we include all sectors of the community in our consultation, and are requesting that you provide this information to enable us to identify whether the consultation has been inclusive. However, these questions are optional.

8. How old are you?

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34
<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64
<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-84	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

9. What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Fluid
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

10. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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11. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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12. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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13. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

14. What is your ethnic group?

White

Asian

Black, African or Caribbean

Mixed

Gypsy/Traveller

Other

Prefer not to say

Part 4 – Impact on the Welsh language (Optional)

We are required by the Welsh Language Standards to consider the effects of any policy decisions on the Welsh Language. Please note these questions are optional.

15. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

16. How do you think the proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive / more positive effects, or so that it would not have adverse effects / less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 23rd November 2023.**

Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk