

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGEDWYN CHURCH IN WALES VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED 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 Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Llangedwyn, Oswestry, Powys, SY10 9LD, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Llanfechain, Oswestry, Powys, SY22 6UQ

It is proposed to implement the proposal on the 31st August 2024. 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 Wynnstay Estate.

The school is a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School. The appropriate religious body is the Diocese of St Asaph, Diocesan Office, High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RD.

Powys County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer’s responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council’s website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>

Admissions

From 1st September 2024, pupils currently attending Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School will be admitted to Llanfechain Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Llanfechain, Oswestry, SY22 6UQ.

Parents may express a preference for an alternative school via the in-year transfer process. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Section 86(3).

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

Details of nearest alternative schools

The proposal is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School. The details of this school are as follows:

| | School Type | Language Category |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Llanfechain C. in W. School | Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary | English-medium |

Pupils could also choose to transfer to a number of other schools which are closer to their homes. The details of these schools are as follows:

| | School Type | Language Category |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School | Community Primary | Dual stream |
| Ysgol Llanfyllin | Community Primary | Dual stream |
| Ysgol Meifod | Community Primary | English-medium |
| Ysgol Bro Cynllaith | Community Primary | English-medium |
| Bryn Offa CE Primary School (Shropshire) | Church of England | English-medium |
| Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire) | Community Primary | English-medium |

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

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

However, it is recognised that should all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School transfer to Llanfechain Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, there could be some pressure on places at the school in the short term. If needed, the Council would discuss with the school's governing body to understand how the pupils could be accommodated.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy. This is as follows:

'Home to school transport will be provided for learners who ordinarily reside in Powys to attend their nearest suitable school or catchment school.'

A 'catchment' school means the nearest school within a geographic area.

To be eligible for free home to school transport, the learners' nearest school or catchment school must be:

- *The nearest to the learners' home address and if so,*
- *They are more than 2 miles from their home address for primary school (aged 4-11)'*

In addition, the Council will provide transport for pupils for whom Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School is currently the closest school to Llanfechain Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

In future, transport arrangements for any new pupils living in the area currently served by Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School would be in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Llangedwyn Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled 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 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

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the publication of this proposal, that is to say by **7th February 2024**, any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Director of Education and Children, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG, or by e-mail to transforming.education@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 and Children
For Powys County Council**

Dated this day 10th January 2024

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 Llangedwyn C. in W. Voluntary Controlled Primary School on the 31st August 2024.
- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Voluntary Controlled Primary School will be able to attend Llanfechain C. in W. School. Alternatively, parents may express a preference for another school, and 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 Llangedwyn C. in W. School will be able to apply for a place in any school in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
- Transport arrangements would be made for pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. In addition, transport would be provided for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school to Llanfechain C. in W. School. In future, transport arrangements for any new pupils in the area currently served by Llangedwyn C. in W. School would be in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in October 2023. 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/14855/Llangedwyn-Church-in-Wales-School>