



Proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Final Updated Impact Assessments

February 2024



Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	2
2 Integrated Impact Assessment	3
3 Equality Impact Assessment	17
4 Community Impact Assessment	24

Proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Draft Impact Assessments

1. Introduction

Powys County Council has consulted 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

In line with the Council's policy, an Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out which incorporates the Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management.

In addition, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) requires local authorities to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment in relation to all school reorganisation proposals. For proposals which affect teaching through the medium of Welsh, local authorities are also required to carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments were provided in draft form during the consultation period and have been updated following the consultation, and again following the objection period. The Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out based on the latest PLASC information available. The Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the affected school.

2. Integrated Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment (IA) below incorporates Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management, supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

Proposal	Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School Proposal
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal	
To close Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School from the 31 st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.	

1. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	Consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code took place from the 12 th of October to the 23 rd of November 2023.

2. Impact on Other Service Areas

Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting?) PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY			
Adult Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	✓
Children's Services	✓	Finance	✓
Commissioning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways, Transportation and Recycling	✓
Digital Services	✓	Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Legal and Democratic Services	✓
		Property, Planning and Public Protection	✓
		Transformation and Communications	✓
		Workforce and OD	✓
Data Protection Impact Assessment			
Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes ✓ No			
Is Powys County Council the data controller? Yes ✓ No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Personal details will be processed in accordance with the Transforming Education Privacy Notice.			

3. Geographical Locations

Llanfyllin



4. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>As part of the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, this proposal represents an effort to ‘reconfigure and rationalise primary provision’ for the pupils of Llangedwyn. Implementation of this proposal would positively contribute to a Powys that uses resources efficiently, and which produces a skilled and well-educated population.</p> <p>Comments received from school staff and governors during the consultation period indicate that implementation of the new Welsh curriculum has been difficult with such a small number of pupils attending Llangedwyn. The development of pupils into skilled and well-educated members of Powys’ population will be more easily achieved at a larger school.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
<p>A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Comments received during the consultation and objection periods state that implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School for whom this is their closest school. This would have a negative environmental impact as more home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest alternative school. However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so the number of pupils impacted by this would be minimal – it is possible that there would be a reduction in travel for some pupils.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		

	In addition, running a single school site is more environmentally friendly than running two, due to a reduction in the use of heating and electricity amongst other factors.			
<p>A healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017: Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would result in closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, with pupils transferring to Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is acknowledged that this could have a negative impact on the mental well-being of pupils, staff, and other stakeholders associated with the school during the transition period, however the long-term aim is to provide improved learning opportunities for all learners.</p> <p>It is recognised that some parents may choose other schools rather than Llanfechain C.in. W School, and there could potentially be an impact on the wellbeing of pupils who are transferring to other schools without their classmates. Comments were received during the Objection Period which support this.</p>	Poor	<p>The intention is that pupils would transfer to Llanfechain, which is currently federated with Llangedwyn, meaning that they are already familiar with this school, its staff, and its pupils through taking part in joint activities. This would help with transition arrangements.</p> <p>Whichever school a parent may choose for their child, the local authority would work with the headteacher of that school to ensure that support is provided during the transition period to enable them to transfer effectively to their new schools.</p> <p>The process is to be concluded as quickly as possible to minimise the period of uncertainty for pupils, staff, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Comments received during the consultation and objection periods indicate an emphasis on the importance of wraparound care for parents, including breakfast and after-school clubs. Activities such as these should be more easily provided at larger schools, where the greater number of pupils generally means that there is a greater level of demand. Easier access to sports clubs, and extra time to socialise with peers, should have a positive impact upon the mental and physical health of pupils.</p>	Neutral
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	There would be an impact on the community of Llangedwyn, as there would no longer be provision in the village, and therefore there could be a potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.	Poor	The Llangedwyn School building is not owned by the Council. Should the school close, the building would be transferred to its owners, who would need to determine its future use, and therefore whether facilities would remain available in Llangedwyn.	Poor

	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School for whom Llangedwyn is the closest school. However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so the number of pupils impacted by this would be minimal.</p> <p>A separate draft community impact assessment has been carried out with input from the school, which concludes that the impact on the village would be minimal, particularly as most pupils that attend the school don't live in Llangedwyn.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation and issues raised during the objection period indicate that the school plays an important part in the community of Llangedwyn. Especially emphasised is the school's connection with the church. Concern was also expressed during the objection period about the potential impact on the village hall.</p>		<p>There is a Village Hall in Llangedwyn which is already used more widely by the local community, so any events/meetings which are currently held at the school could be located there.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which</p>	<p>The aim of implementing the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>The consultation period and the objection period have given an opportunity for those affected by the plans to let the Council know their views. As part of the consultation, the school's Headteacher discussed the proposal with pupils. The feedback received from them was included in the Consultation Report.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		

include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.				
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation. <i>Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards</i>				
<i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	<p>Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>Comments made during the consultation and objection periods indicate that some pupils may move to schools in England should Llangedwyn close, thus reducing the number of pupils accessing Welsh-language lessons. However, the number of pupils at Llangedwyn is very small, so this is unlikely to have a significant impact upon opportunities for Powys pupils to access the Welsh language.</p>	Neutral		
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	<p>Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p>	Neutral		
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would lead to the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School,</p>	Good		

	<p>with pupils transferring to Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>This would result in increasing pupil numbers at Llanfechain C. in W. School, which should enable the school to provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in sport, art, and other extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Comments made during the consultation and objection periods indicate that wraparound care such as breakfast and after-school clubs are very important for parents. Larger schools are generally able to offer a greater number of sports clubs than smaller schools. Should Llangedwyn close, pupils should be able to access sports clubs more easily.</p>			
<p>A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). <i>Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).</i></p>				
Age	<p>The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.</p>	Neutral		
Disability	<p>The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.</p> <p>Comments received during the consultation and objection periods expressed concern about the</p>	Neutral	Support to be provided to pupils with additional learning needs to support their transition to alternative schools.	

	proposal's impact on pupils with additional learning needs in particular.			
Gender reassignment	No impact.	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact.	Neutral		
Race	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups due to their race. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		
Religion or belief	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School, regardless of their religion or belief. Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School is a church school, however the proposal is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is also a C. in W. School, which would ensure continued access to Church in Wales provision.	Neutral		
Sex	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School.	Neutral		
Sexual Orientation	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact.	Neutral		
Socio-economic duty	The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School,	Neutral		

	<p>including any eligible for Free School Meals. PLASC data from January 2023 shows that 23.1% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School were eligible for Free School Meals, so the proposal would impact on some pupils from lower income homes.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school in Llangedwyn. This would mean that pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School would need to travel to Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is possible that this would impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities. However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so the number of pupils impacted by this would be minimal.</p>			
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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

PLASC, consultation responses, consultation report, objections, objection report

5. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
Long Term: Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School are very low and are not expected to increase over the coming years. The aim of the proposal to close the school is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.	Good		
Collaboration: Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.	The consultation period and the objection period have given an opportunity for those affected by the plans to let the Council know their views. This included an opportunity to suggest alternative options for the school.	Neutral		
Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including: Unpaid Carers: Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	The consultation period and the objection period have given an opportunity for those affected by the plans to let the Council know their views. The findings of this exercise will be reported to Cabinet and will be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. All stakeholders have had the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this includes any unpaid carers in the area.	Good		

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<p>Prevention: Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</p> <p>Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>	<p>The aim of the proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal. The intention is that the proposal would maintain or improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p> <p>Comments made by governors and school staff indicate that safeguarding measures have been difficult to uphold in a school as small as Llangedwyn. On occasion, the school has been forced to close where it has had too few staff available to meet safeguarding requirements.</p>	Good		
<p>Integration: Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</p>	No impact.	Neutral		

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Powys County Council Workforce: What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?	Implementation of the proposal would impact on all current staff at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School as there would no longer be a school in Llangedwyn, therefore staff would be subject to a Management of Change process. The current process has been supported by relevant LA teams (e.g. HR). This has included consultation with staff, ensuring that they had an opportunity to give their views.	Poor		Poor
Payroll: How will this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?	Implementation of the preferred way forward could impact on salary arrangements for current staff at Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School.	Neutral		
Welsh Language impact on staff	Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School is an English-medium school, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh-language impact on staff.	Neutral		
Apprenticeships: Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				

6. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Communities	How does the proposal impact on residents and community?	<u>IMPACT</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Llangedwyn	<p>There would be an impact on the community of Llangedwyn, as there would no longer be provision in the village, and therefore there could be a potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. Primary School for whom Llangedwyn is the closest school. However, Llangedwyn is not currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, so the number of pupils impacted by this would be minimal.</p> <p>A separate community impact assessment has been carried out with input from the school, which concludes that the impact on the village would be minimal, particularly as most pupils that attend the school don't live in Llangedwyn.</p> <p>Comments made during the consultation and objection periods indicate that the school plays an important part in the Llangedwyn community for those that live in it, especially regarding its links with the church.</p>	Major	<p>The Llangedwyn School building is not owned by the Council. Should the school close, the building would be transferred to its owners, who would need to determine its future use, and therefore whether facilities would remain available in Llangedwyn.</p> <p>There is a Village Hall in Llangedwyn which is already used more widely by the local community, so any events / meetings which are currently held at the school could be located there.</p>	Major	

7. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks			
Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)
N/A			

8. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners. However, whilst this impact assessment has identified some positive aspects, in particular relating to ensuring the best strategic management of the Powys schools estate, the assessment has also identified some negative aspects; these primarily relate to the impact on the community of Llangedwyn due to loss of educational provision from the village.	

9. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
Feedback received during the consultation period and the objection period has enabled the impact assessment to be further developed.

10. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.
Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.
The impact assessment will be reviewed at all stages of the development.

3. Equality Impact Assessment

Powys County Council

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)



Proposal	To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31st August 2024, with pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School.
Service Area	Schools Service
Date of Assessment	October 2023 Updated December 2023 Updated February 2024

The Equality Act 2010, requires that public sector organisations in the exercise of their functions, pay due regard to the following 'general duty':

- (a) Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
- (b) Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;**
- (c) Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.**

The protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation. This assessment also includes a consideration of impact upon people and communities whose language of choice is Welsh.

The specific regulations for Wales [Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011] require public sector bodies to monitor relevant policy and practises and then assess and report on the impact based upon an analysis of relevant data and evidence.

1. AIM or PURPOSE

The Council has carried out the statutory process on a proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

The proposal is as follows:

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

2. OBJECTIVES

Please state the current business objectives of the change 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. 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

3. BENEFITS and OUTCOMES

i) What are the intended benefits or outcomes from the change proposal?

The benefits of the proposal 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

4. CORPORATE RELEVANCE

How does this change proposal relate to Corporate Improvement Plan?

The proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School is aligned to the Transforming Education Programme and forms part of the Transformation Portfolio, setup to support the priorities and objectives outlined in the Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan.

5. DATA USED

5.1. What data has been used to conduct this assessment?

Tick/shade boxes as appropriate.

Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.	✓
Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.	
Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.	✓
Qualitative data gathered from those that are not currently using the service.	✓
Complaints monitoring against the protected characteristics.	
Wider research reports and findings.	
Relevant service-based Equality Impact Assessment.	

5.2. Are there any gaps in the data?

Yes No

Please state the gaps:

- None

How will the gaps be addressed going forward? N/A

6. DATA ANALYSIS

<p>6.1 Quantitative Summarise the key quantitative data analysis results, providing key headline statistics. Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. statistics generated from a consultation questionnaire.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <p>i) Are certain groups currently underrepresented in service user figures? Will a change affect this?</p> <p>ii) How do satisfaction levels compare across the protected characteristic groups? How will a change affect this?</p>	<p><u>PLASC January 2023</u></p> <p>Based on the information provided in the school’s PLASC return in January 2023, the following pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School belong to the protected characteristic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free school meals: 23.1% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals. - ALN: 38.5% of pupils have additional educational needs. Of these, 15.4% of pupils are on School Action, 15.4% of pupils are on School Action Plus, 0.0% of pupils have statements, 0.0% of pupils have IDPs issued by the School and 7.7% of pupils have IDPs issued by the local authority. - Disabilities: 38.5% of pupils have additional learning needs. - English as an Additional Language: 0.0% of pupils with EAL. - Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 100% of pupils in the school is White British - Looked after Children: 15.4% of pupils are looked after. <p>This information shows that a small number of pupils that belong to a protected characteristic group will be affected by this proposal. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23.1% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are eligible for Free School Meals. This is higher than the Powys average for primary schools (18.8%), however, there are very small numbers of pupils at Llangedwyn, so this percentage translates to very few pupils - 38.5% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School have additional learning needs. This is higher than the Powys average for primary schools (20.9%)
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	<p>The proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School would impact on all pupils currently attending the school, including those pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups.</p>
<p>6.2 Qualitative Summarise the key qualitative data analysis, providing key themes or patterns. Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. protected characteristics focus group on the proposal.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Do certain groups have a different service user experience? How will a change affect this? ii) Have any areas for improvement been communicated by particular groups? Will a change have an impact upon these views? iii) What are the reasons behind some groups not using the service? How will a change affect this position? iv) What has consultation on your proposals revealed about impact on the protected characteristics? 	<p>Consultation has been carried out on the proposal relating to Llangedwyn C. in W. School, which included consultation with pupils. In addition, there has been a 28 day objection period when people could submit written objections if they did not agree with the proposal. This provided qualitative data in respect of the proposal, and information regarding any additional impact on pupils that belong to protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>Comments received during the course of the consultation indicated concern about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs that currently attend the school, and concern about Looked After Children that currently attend the school.</p> <p>Comments expressing concern about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs were also received during the objection period.</p>

7. EqIA RESULT

Based on an analysis of the available qualitative and quantitative data, please tick/shade the appropriate box opposite to provide the EqIA assessment result.

The proposal does not present any adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 10]	
The proposal presents some adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 8]	✓
The proposal presents significant impact on equality [Proceed to question 8]	

8. AREAS for IMPROVEMENT

<p>Please provide detail of weak or sensitive areas of the proposal identified by the assessment.</p> <p>i) Which protected characteristic groups are particularly affected? ii) Will people on low incomes be affected? iii) Will Welsh speakers be affected?</p>	<p>i) Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) attending the school would be affected by the proposal. The proportion of pupils with ALN at the school is higher than the Powys average. Comments received during the consultation expressed concern about the impact on pupils with ALN if they had to move to different schools.</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of Looked After Children currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School who would be affected by the proposal. Comments received during the consultation expressed concern about the impact on these pupils.</p> <p>ii) As indicated above, 23.1% of Llangedwyn pupils are eligible for Free School Meals, which is higher than the Powys average, so it is likely that a number of pupils / families on low incomes would be affected by the proposal.</p> <p>iii) Llangedwyn C. in W. School is an English medium school – therefore the proposal will not directly affect Welsh speakers.</p>
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9. EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT

<p>9.1 Having identified problematic aspects to the proposal, how will this now be addressed?</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close. Whilst the proposal is for pupils to transfer to Llanfechain C. in W. School, it is possible that pupils would choose to transfer to other schools.</p>
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<p><i>i.e. Are you able to involve (in some capacity) people from protected characteristic groups, Welsh Speakers, people on low incomes, to assist you in this process?</i></p> <p>i) Can the impact be mitigated, and how will this be done?</p> <p>ii) Does the proposal require modification to reduce or remove this impact?</p> <p>iii) Should the proposal be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have?</p>	<p>The proposal 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.</p> <p>In particular, some additional travel may be required for them to attend their nearest alternative school. However, 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. Some pupils may choose to transfer to schools that are closer to their homes, which would minimise the impact further.</p> <p>In addition to the impact of additional travel, concern has been raised about the impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups of having to transfer to alternative schools. This includes pupils with additional learning needs. Whilst the Council acknowledges these concerns, all schools are expected to cater to the needs and requirements of learners with Additional Learning Needs, so there is no reason to believe that Llanfechain C. in W. School or any other schools pupils may choose to transfer to would be unable to meet the needs of pupils. Smaller schools with limited resources and personnel may be presented with challenges implementing responsibilities in line with the Equality Act – including providing diverse support systems, accommodations and bespoke services necessary to meet the diverse needs of learners. In addition, social interaction is key to development. In small classes, there are fewer opportunities for learners with ALN to interact with a diverse peer group, and experience role modelling from their peers. In essence, the effectiveness of an educational environment for learners with ALN depends on a holistic approach that includes both class size and the availability of appropriate resources and support.</p> <p>Concern has also been expressed during the consultation and objection periods about the impact on pupils who currently attend the school, who would need to transfer to alternative schools should Llangedwyn close. Whilst the Council acknowledges these concerns, there is no reason to believe that Llanfechain C. in W. School or any other school pupils may choose to transfer to would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected.</p>
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	Having considered the impact on protected characteristic groups, the Council does not consider that the proposals requires modification to reduce or remove the impact on protected characteristic groups.
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9.2 Will the management of the impact as outlined in 9.1, be included in the Service Improvement Plan?

<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date added.....</p> <p>Reference.....</p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please explain why not: Need was not identified at time of writing Service Strategy</p>
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4. Community Impact Assessment – Llangedwyn C. in W. 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 was the closest school for only 17.6% of pupils attending the school. 82.4% of pupils attending the school lived closer to other primary schools.

This information has been updated to reflect the pupils attending the school in January 2024. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	14.3%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	14.3%
Ysgol Meifod	28.6%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	14.3%
Bryn Offa Primary School (Shropshire)	14.3%

Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	14.3%
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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 should they choose to attend their closest school, as there would be a reduction in the distance from their home to school.

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) Issues raised during the consultation period

A number of comments were received during the consultation period which related to the proposal's impact on the community.

These comments are listed in full in the consultation report produced in respect of this proposal, along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

- **Travel implications**
 - Additional travel time/distance
 - Queries about the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

- **Comments about Church in Wales provision**
 - Positive comments about Church in Wales schools / Christian ethos
 - Access to Church in Wales provision will be insufficient if Llangedwyn closes

- **Impact on the community**
 - General concern about the impact on the community
 - The school is an important part of the community
 - Reference to the importance of the school working with the church to the community

xii) Issues raised during the objection period

A number of comments were received during the objection period which related to the proposal's impact on the community.

The objections received are listed in the Objection Report produced in respect of this proposal, along with the Council's response to the points raised. The

following is a summary of the points raised regarding the proposal's impact on the community:

- General concern about the impact on the community
- Concern that families would not want to move to the area
- Concern about impact on links with the Church
- Concern about impact on the Village Hall
- Concern about additional travel for pupils
- Concern about the impact of losing rural schools on rural communities

xiii) 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.