



Proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Consultation Document

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Consultation on the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

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Consultation on the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith on the 31st August 2025, Powys based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys.

2. How to respond to the consultation

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

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/17192/Ysgol-Bro-Cynllaith>

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 **14th November 2024**.

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 2025.

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

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from the 31st August 2025, Powys based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys.

1. BACKGROUND

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a community primary school located in the village of Llansilin in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys.

The following map shows the location of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and nearby schools in Powys:



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

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹	Rural School ²
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llansilin, Nr. Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7QD	Community Primary School building owned by the council	English-medium	7	Yes

¹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2025-26

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>) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies. Whilst Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not included in the list of 'rural schools' which is included in the Code, the Council's view is that the school should be included, therefore the Council will treat Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as a school identified as a 'rural school'.

Current pupil numbers³ at the school are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

The following steps have been undertaken:

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

On the 17th September 2024, the Council's Cabinet considered a report in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, and agreed to commence consultation on the following:

'To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from the 31st August 2025, Powys based pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys.'

³ Teacher Centre, September 2024

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.

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 ALN/SEN provision

Within Powys, pupils with additional learning needs / special education needs (ALN/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

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, 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 updated following the Council elections held in May 2022.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform 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'. This is being taken forward in the form of catchment reviews, the first of which is a review of the Llanfyllin catchment.

The current proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is in line with these priorities.

4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED AT YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers⁴ at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

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

ii) High primary budget share per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2024-25, the school's budget share per pupil was £8,000. This is significantly higher than the Powys primary school average of £4,799.78. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is ranked the 3rd highest primary school in Powys by budget share per pupil.

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 and have opportunities to work collaboratively with pupils of similar ability.

⁴ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options have been identified for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
3	Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites
4	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
5	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
6	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys – this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils

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, the consideration of the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community, and travelling arrangements, the preferred option for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is as follows:

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers
- 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31st August 2025, with Powys based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys

8. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith for the following reasons:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers
- 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site

9. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers- 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school- Additional travel costs- Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision- Loss of provision from Llansilin- Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith- Impact on the Llansilin community

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation - Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages - Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys - Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site 	
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10. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Period of uncertainty for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith 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
Pupils may choose to transfer to schools located out of Powys / Wales instead of attending alternative schools in Powys	Medium	High	Transport to be provided to alternative schools in Powys

11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

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

Formal Consultation	3 rd October 2024 to 14 th November 2024
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	January 2025

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	January / February 2025
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	April / May 2025

If Cabinet approves implementation:

School closes	31 st August 2025
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PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys – this would be Ysgol Gyradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils. It is acknowledged that this would have an impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, 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 the alternative schools to ensure a smooth transition.

As Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative provision, additional transport would be required for pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith 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 pupils' ability to access after-school activities, and that there could be increased travelling times to school for some pupils.

Whilst the Council's proposal is for pupils transferring to their nearest alternative school in Powys, the closest school for many pupils would be in Shropshire. Should pupils choose to transfer to these schools, they would no longer be taught in Wales, so they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum, and they would not have the opportunity to learn Welsh.

However, Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school whilst Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school, so pupils transferring to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would be able to access Welsh-medium education at the school. Trochi support would be available to pupils wishing to transfer to Welsh-medium provision.

ii) Pupils attending Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close and pupils currently attending the school would transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys – this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils.

The proposal could impact on pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant as the school would receive additional pupils. It is possible that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would need to make some adjustments to its class structure to accommodate additional pupils, particularly given that the school is a dual stream school, and depending on

whether pupils wished to join the school's Welsh-medium stream or its English-medium stream.

iii) Pupils attending other schools

Whilst Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would be the closest school in Powys for the majority of pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, some pupils may choose to transfer to other schools, including schools located in Powys and schools located in Shropshire. Therefore, the proposal could also impact on pupils at these schools as they would receive additional pupils.

However, the total number of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is relatively small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a significant impact on pupils attending neighbouring schools. The numbers admitted to neighbouring schools would be in line with the admissions number for each school.

13. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close. A staff redundancy process would be necessary for staff currently employed at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. 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

In September 2017, the Council changed the age of admission to primary schools in Powys from "at the start of the term in which they attain their fourth birthday" to "at the start of the school year following his/her fourth birthday". Following this change, there are no nursery aged pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Funded early years provision is provided for pupils at a number of locations across Powys. This includes provision on a number of school sites, however there is no provision in Llansilin. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils in the Llansilin area would continue to be able to access the current providers in the area.

There is a Mother and Toddler's Group which meets in the Llansilin Memorial Hall which adjoins the school. This group could continue to meet in the Hall should the school close.

15. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposal would result in the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would be dissolved.

16. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

16.1 Standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and Powys-based pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys. For most pupils, this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant was inspected by Estyn in June 2022. The inspection outcome was strong across all of the inspection areas.

The Council's view is that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, therefore 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. Based on PLASC information from January 2023, there are no Looked after Children or pupils for whom English is an Additional Language at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. There are a number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and a number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, however the number of pupils belonging to these groups is small. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

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.

ii) 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to an alternative school. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However, it is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative schools would 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 larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

16.2 Teaching and learning experiences

i) Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

ii) The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council's view is that Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. 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.

iii) The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

16.3 Care support and guidance

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. These areas were seen as strengths in the Estyn inspection of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in June 2022.

16.4 Leadership and management

i) Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

There is currently an acting headteacher at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. This arrangement has been put in place for two academic years and has been put in place to secure leadership at the school, following the unsuccessful recruitment of a permanent headteacher. It is the Council's view that leadership could be secured following transformation in the cluster. Estyn highlighted strengths and had no cause for concern in leadership during the inspection of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in June 2022.

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is larger than Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, and therefore the headteacher would have more time available to focus on leadership and management. At Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, the headteacher has to balance a large teaching commitment alongside leadership and management duties. For one day per week, the headteacher is the only teacher at the school.

ii) Professional learning

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact positively on professional learning opportunities for staff currently working in Ysgol Bro Cynllaith should they not be able to secure alternative employment.

However, should they secure alternative employment in a larger school, it is likely that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on their professional learning, as it is likely the alternative employment would be in a larger school, with a larger group of staff, meaning that the opportunities to share professional learning and lead on professional development would increase.

iii) Use of resources

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £20.6k at the end of financial year 2024-25 reducing to £6.7k by the end of 2025-26. The school is finding it increasingly challenging to balance in-year due to the combination of the low pupil numbers and high inflation on running costs they are currently 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 high proportion of small schools in the county coupled with significant surplus places, resulting in higher premises related costs per pupil. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is amongst the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil is higher than the Powys primary average.

Closure of the school would reduce the overall number of schools and the number of surplus places in Powys. This would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

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.

16.5 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) / Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any vulnerable pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, including any pupils with ALN/SEN.

Based on PLASC information from January 2024, the proportion of pupils with ALN / SEN at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was as follows:

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	State-ment	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	88%	8%	0	0	0	4%	12%

Whilst the preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to alternative schools, there is no reason to believe that the schools to which they might transfer would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and the receiving school to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with ALN/SEN, and their families.

16.6 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 preferred option be implemented, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. This means that implementation of the proposal would result in an increase in pupil numbers at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. It is possible that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would need to make some adjustments to its class structure to accommodate additional pupils, particularly given that the school is a dual stream school, and depending on whether pupils wished to join the school's Welsh-medium stream or its English-medium stream.

It is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools rather than Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. However, the number of pupils transferring to any other 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.

16.7 Impact on other schools

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. This means that implementation of the proposal would result in an increase in pupil numbers at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. It is possible that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would need to make some adjustments to its class structure to accommodate additional pupils, particularly given that the school is a dual stream school, and depending on whether pupils wished to join the school's Welsh-medium stream or its English-medium stream.

It is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools rather than Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. Whilst it is possible that this could have some impact on receiving schools, particularly upon receiving additional pupils in the short term, the total number of pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is relatively small. Therefore, it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the quality and standards in education (to include standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning, teaching and learning experiences, care support and guidance, and leadership and management) at neighbouring schools. In some cases, it is possible that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on quality and standards in education at the alternative schools, as it would lead to an increase in pupil numbers and the opportunity to provide enhanced opportunities 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 their closest alternative schools in Powys. For most pupils, this will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant:

School	Capacity ⁵	Current pupil numbers ⁶	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	85	35	29%	A Good	A Good

The school's current class structure is as follows⁷:

School	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
KS1E	3	7	5					15
KS1W	12	2	8					22
KS2E				5	9	4	5	23
KS2W				6	5	4	9	24
Total	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant's current PAN is 15, which is based on the published capacity figure of 108. Following a review of capacity in June 2024, the school's capacity has increased to 120 with a PAN of 17. The PAN is whole school not per stream.

Should all current pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith transfer to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, pupil numbers at the school would be as follows, based on current pupil numbers at the two schools⁸:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total

⁵ Capacity agreed with the school in July 2024

⁶ Teacher Centre, September 2024

⁷ Teacher Centre, September 2024.

⁸ Teacher Centre, September 2024.

Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26
TOTAL	18	11	19	13	20	10	19	110

Whilst this information shows that the year groups would be above the revised PAN of 17 in a number of year groups, the Council would work with the school / governing body to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wishing to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

As Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, the school may need to review its class structure should implementation of the proposal result in an increase in English-medium pupils at the school.

Combined pupil projections for the two schools are as follows⁹:

	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	86	86	78	78	74
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24
TOTAL	113	112	102	105	98

This suggests that total pupil numbers across the two schools are expected to decrease over the next 5 years.

Alternative provision is also available at a number of other schools which are located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and the building condition of these schools:

School	Capacity ¹⁰	Current pupil numbers ¹¹	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	85	35	29%	A Good	A Good

⁹ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC Jan 2023

¹⁰ Powys – Condition Survey Oct 2023 return to Welsh Government. Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant capacity increased following discussion with the school in July 2024.

¹¹ Teacher Centre, September 2024

Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	43	4	9%	C Poor	B Satisfactory
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	106	-1	-1%	B Satisfactory	C Poor
Ysgol Llanfyllin (All-through)	1102	774	320	30%	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/ Poor

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, there are sufficient places at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to accommodate Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's current and projected pupil numbers. Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, so it may be that the school would need to review its class structure depending on whether pupils chose to attend the school's English-medium or Welsh-medium stream.

Additional English-medium C.P. provision is also available at other providers in the area, such as Ysgol Llanfyllin.

Church in Wales provision is currently available in the area at Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, however it is acknowledged that there is currently pressure on places at both these schools. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a C.P. school. There are sufficient places available in the area for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to attend alternative C.P. provision.

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

There are alternative primary places available at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close. It is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for ALN/SEN pupils.

One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

17.4 The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school, and all pupils at the school are currently taught in English. Should the Council proceed with the preferred option, pupils would transfer to alternative school. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, which is a dual stream school, so pupils would be able to express a preference for either the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream. It is therefore possible that pupils would choose to transfer to the school's Welsh-medium stream, which would result in an increase in the number of pupils taught through the medium of

Welsh. If pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wanted to attend the Welsh-medium stream, the Council would offer trochi provision to support them with this choice, and information about Welsh-medium education would be shared with parents, to encourage pupils to choose Welsh-medium provision.

The Council's aim is to support all schools to move along the language continuum, including Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

17.5 How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision and in the case of the latter, set out why provision will be reduced.

The proposal would not expand or reduce Welsh language provision as Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school. Should the Council proceed with the preferred option, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, which is a dual stream school, so pupils would be able to express a preference for either the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream.

If pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wanted to attend the Welsh-medium stream, the Council would offer trochi provision to support them with this choice.

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith does not form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Investment Programme.

However, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys identifies a number of issues relating to the overall Powys schools' estate, including a high proportion of small schools, a high number of surplus places and issues with building condition. The Strategy includes a strategic objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', which aims to address these issues, to ensure better strategic management of the Powys school estate. The review of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is being carried out as part of a wider review of the Llanfyllin catchment in order to meet this objective.

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 £70.8k per annum. This has been included in the revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

There would be a further £10.6k annual revenue saving in respect of the rent to the village hall once the lease had been surrendered.

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

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £70.8k per annum, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils will go to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

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 preferred option. However it is possible that there would be capital costs should there be insufficient places at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to accommodate all pupils wishing to transfer to the school.

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 £77k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £145.8k and estimated additional transport costs of £70.8k, with a minimal £2k estimated saving in respect of catering.

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

The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £20.6k at the end of financial year 2024-25 reducing to £6.7k by the end of 2025-26. Thereafter the school is projecting a deficit position based on current funding levels.

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 that annual 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?

If the proposal is implemented, the Council would apply its Asset Management Policy, which outlines the process for dealing with surplus buildings. This includes consideration of whether the building could be utilised by the community or by other services within the Council. If neither of these are possibilities, then the Council has the option of selling the building/site.

Any capital receipts received from sale of the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith site would be reinvested into the Transforming Education programme in order to improve the educational provision across Powys.

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy, however it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Based on PLASC information from January 2024, 11.1% of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were eligible for Free School Meals.

19.2 Land and Buildings

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

Information about the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and other schools pupils may choose to transfer to is provided in Appendix A. The quality of accommodation at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is rated as condition B, which is better than the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

ii) Information about any building works necessary to ensure that transferred pupils can be accommodated

It is not anticipated that any building works would be necessary to accommodate pupils transferring from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

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

The Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building is owned by the Council, therefore no transfer or disposal of buildings is necessary.

- iv) **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.**

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not subject to any trust which may be affected in relation to the use or disposal of land.

There is currently a lease arrangement in place in respect of the Llansilin village hall which commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the building. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual closure of the school, there would be a need to negotiate a termination of the lease. It is acknowledged that this would impact on the village hall.

19.3 Walking routes to school

Should the proposal be implemented, walking routes which are currently established for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would no longer be required.

For those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school, additional travel would be required to access alternative provision. For these pupils, it is unlikely that walking or cycling to the alternative school would be possible.

19.4 School Admissions

Should the proposal be implemented, admissions to nearest alternative schools in Powys would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>.

If all pupils transferred to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, it is recognised that pupil numbers in some year groups would be higher than the Pupil Admission Number. The Council would work with the governing body of the school to address any issues.

19.5 Home to School Transport

Transport will be provided in accordance with the Home to School Transport Policy.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

- i) **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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, these are outlined in Appendix B 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are low and have decreased in recent years. The latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

ii) 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

Federation of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is one of the options considered in Appendix B of 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are low and have decreased in recent years. The latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. Becoming part of a federation with another school would not address this issue.

iii) 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Pupil numbers at the school are low and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

iv) 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 Llansilin. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llansilin community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Llansilin, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village.

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

v) 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 proposal, 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.

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/17192/Ysgol-Bro-Cynllaith>

A summary of the assessments is provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and Powys based pupils would attend nearest alternative schools in Powys.

This would have a significant impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, 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 alternative schools, being larger than Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, should be able to deliver the new curriculum more effectively, offer more extra-curricular activities for pupils, and also offer a greater amount of wraparound care to support parents. Therefore, the negative impacts of additional travel are likely to be mitigated by the benefits of attending a larger school. In addition, there is no reason to believe that alternative schools would not be equipped 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

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Should there be no school in Llansilin, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that at least a similar range of activities would be available for pupils. However, it is acknowledged that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the

closest school for almost all current pupils. Should the school close, additional travel would be required to enable pupils to access their closest school.

Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and there could also be an impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc. This could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

The information received by the school suggests that there are extensive links between the school and the local community, and that many community activities are arranged in the school which are accessed by the community. It is therefore acknowledged that closure of the school could have an impact on the community in terms of the services and activities available.

There is a Memorial Hall in Llansilin which would continue to be available to the community should the school close. However, the school has indicated that closure of the school would make it virtually impossible for the hall to continue. Concern has also been expressed about the impact on other business in the village, such as the community shop and the local pub.

The information received from the school indicated that closure of the school would have a significant impact on the local community.

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The Senedd Members for Montgomeryshire and for the Mid & West Wales region
- The MP for Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Mid Wales Education Partnership
- The Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 3rd October 2024 and will end on the 14th November 2024.

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

Consultation will start on the 3rd October 2024 and will end on the 14th November 2024. 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 2025.

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 the end of May 2025 at the latest.

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/17192/Ysgol-Bro-Cynllaith>

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 **14th November 2024**.

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. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹²	Rural School? ¹³
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	Community Primary School building owned by the Council	English-medium	7	Yes

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹⁴

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹⁵

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	32	29	30	26	26	23	27	25

iii) Projected pupil numbers¹⁶

¹² Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

¹³ 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. Whilst Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not included in the list of 'rural schools' which is included in the Code, the Council's view is that the school should be included, therefore the Council will treat Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as a school identified as a 'rural school'.

¹⁴ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

¹⁵ PLASC

¹⁶ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 and Birth Rates. 2024 projections are not yet available.

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity and surplus capacity:

	Capacity ¹⁷	Currently Filled ¹⁸	Surplus Capacity ¹⁹
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	54	26	28 (52%)

ii) Building condition²⁰

	Condition	Suitability
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	C Poor	B Satisfactory

Quality of Education

i) Estyn

	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Date of Inspection	December 2023
Recommendations	<p>R1 – Address the safeguarding issue that was raised during the inspection</p> <p>R2 – Strengthen procedures to monitor and track pupil progress to evaluate more effectively the standards they achieve</p> <p>R3 – Improve the standards of pupils' writing across the school</p>

¹⁷ MSCW Capacity from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2023

¹⁸ Based on current pupil numbers – June 2024

¹⁹ Based on current pupil numbers – June 2024

²⁰ Welsh Government Return June 2023

	R4 – Provide appropriate challenge and regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills
Follow up activity	Estyn Review. 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.

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil²¹

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£200,000	£8,000	£7,000	£18,000

Home to school travel

i) Closest school

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 27 pupils that were attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith according to the PLASC 2023 information. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

Closest School	Pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	96.3%
Trefonen Primary School (Shropshire)	3.7%

Based on this information, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the closest school for 96.3% of the school's pupils on roll in January 2023.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the closest school for all of the pupils that were on roll in January 2023 would be as follows:

²¹ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2024/2025.

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llansilin
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	7.4%
Selattyn CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	37.0%
Trefonen Primary School (Shropshire)	51.9%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	3.7%

If there were no school in Llansilin, the closest Powys school for the pupils that were on roll in January 2023 would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llansilin
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	85.2%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	14.8%

ii) Average travel distance

The average travel distance for all pupils on roll in January 2023 at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to the school was 1.40 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2023 to their closest alternative school would be 4.77 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2023 to their closest alternative school in Powys would be 6.64 miles.

iii) Furthest travel distance

Of the pupils that attended Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in January 2023, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was the closest provider was 3.62 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the furthest distance to the closest alternative school would be 5.66 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the furthest distance to the closest alternative school in Powys would be 9.01 miles.

Equalities information

i) Free School Meals²²

	TP% Eligible	eFSM% Eligible	Total FSM % Eligible
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0.0%	12.0%	12.0%

ii) Children looked after²³

	% of children looked after
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0

iii) SEN/ALN²⁴

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	88%	8%	0	0	0	4%	12%

iv) EAL²⁵

	% of EAL pupils
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0

v) NI & Ethnicity²⁶

National Identity

²² PLASC 2024

²³ Teacher Centre, 5th January 2024

²⁴ PLASC 2024

²⁵ PLASC 2024

²⁶ PLASC 2024

	British	English	Irish	Scotish	Welsh	Other	Not provided
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	44.0%	0%	0%	0%	48.0%	0%	8.0%

Ethnic Group

	% White British	% Other Known Ethnicity	% Not provided
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	96.0%	0.0%	4.0%

2. Other schools that could be affected

2.1 Powys schools

Should the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith be implemented, the proposal is that pupils would transfer to alternative schools in Powys. For almost all pupils, this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, however some pupils in the current catchment of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith may be closer to Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ²⁷	Rural School? ²⁸
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	Community Primary	Dual Stream	15	Yes
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided Church in Wales	English-medium	15	Yes

Pupil Numbers

ii) Current pupil numbers²⁹

²⁷ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2025-26

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ Teacher Centre, 30th September 2024

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	14	15	12	18	16	16	17	108

ii) **Historical pupil numbers (R – Yr 6)³⁰**

	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	75	71	75	73	76	79	84
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	100	108	110	104	110	112	103

iii) **Projected pupil numbers³¹**

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	86	86	78	78	74
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	98	94	87	82	78

Building Capacity and Condition

iii) **Capacity**

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity and surplus capacity:

³⁰ PLASC

³¹ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 and Birth Rates. 2024 projections are not yet available.

	Capacity ³²	Currently Filled ³³	Surplus Capacity ³⁴
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	84	36 (30%)
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	108	-3 (-2.9%)

iv) **Building condition³⁵**

	Condition	Suitability
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	B	A
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	C	C

Quality of Education

Estyn

	Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
Date of Inspection	June 2022
Recommendations	<p>R1 – Improve pupils’ extended writing skills</p> <p>R2 – Improve the quality and consistency of teachers’ feedback to ensure that pupils know what to do to improve their work</p> <p>R3 – Sharpen strategic planning to drive priorities</p>
Follow up activity	The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

³² MSCW Capacity from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2023

³³ Based on current pupil numbers – September 2024

³⁴ Based on current pupil numbers – September 2024

³⁵ Welsh Government Return October 2023

	Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) to develop pupils' skills across the curriculum in a modern way, to be disseminated on the Estyn website.
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Llansantffraid C. in W. School	
Date of Inspection	November 2022
Recommendations	R1 – Increase opportunities for pupils to extend their writing independently
Follow up activity	The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Financial information

Cost per pupil³⁶

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	£502,000	£6,198	£4,000	£59,000
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	£435,000	£4,307	£11,000	£70,000

Equalities information

i) Free School Meals³⁷

	TP% Eligible	eFSM% Eligible	Total FSM % Eligible
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³⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2024/2025

³⁷ PLASC 2024

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	7.7%	13.5%	21.2%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	9.8%	1.6%	11.5%

vi) Children looked after³⁸

	% of children looked after
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	0%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	0%

vii) SEN/ALN³⁹

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	90.5%	6.0%	1.2%	0%	2.4%	0%	9.5%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	94.2%	0%	0%	0%	5.8%	0%	5.8%

viii) EAL⁴⁰

	% of EAL pupils
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	0%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4.9%

³⁸ Teacher Centre, 5th January 2024

³⁹ PLASC 2024

⁴⁰ PLASC 2024

ix) NI & Ethnicity⁴¹

National Identity

	British	English	Welsh	Other	Not provided
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	16.7%	28.6%	53.6%	0.0%	1.2%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	93.2%	1.0%	0.0%	5.8%	0.0%

Ethnic Group

	% White British	% Other Known Ethnicity	% Not provided
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	91.3%	8.7%	0.0%

2.2 Schools located outside Powys

Whilst the proposal is that Powys based pupils transfer to their closest schools in Powys, it is acknowledged that the closest alternative school for most pupils would be located outside Powys, in particular Selattyn C of E School and Trefonen Primary School, both of which are located in Shropshire, and therefore some pupils may choose to transfer to these schools.

The Council doesn't have access to the same data about these schools as it does for Powys schools, however the following table provides a summary of data for these two schools⁴².

	Selattyn C. of E. School	Trefonen Primary School
Local authority	Shropshire	Shropshire
Age range	5 to 11	5 to 11

⁴¹ PLASC 2024

⁴² From <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk>. Accessed 30th September 2024.

Phase of education	Primary	Primary
School type	Voluntary controlled school	Voluntary controlled school
Gender of entry	Mixed	Mixed
Ofsted rating	Good (Last inspection: 7 November 2019)	Good (Last inspection: 2 May 2019)
Religious character	Church of England	Church of England
Diocese	Diocese of Lichfield	Diocese of Lichfield
Nursery provision	No Nursery Classes	No Nursery Classes
School capacity	91	157
Number of pupils	81	127
% of pupils eligible for free school meals	7.4%	7.9%

APPENDIX B – SWOT ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

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

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llansilin – There would be no additional transport costs – No requirement for a reorganisation process – No change for staff – No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low – Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Would not lead to a financial saving – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – 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 small school

Option 2: Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llansilin – There would be no additional transport costs – More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would still be taught separately – Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Would not lead to a financial saving – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith school building – Would not address the high budget per pupil

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools are different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The school would continue to be a small school

Option 3: Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llansilin – More opportunities could be provided to the pupils – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school – Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain on the Llansilin site – Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately – Would not reduce surplus places – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Both schools would lose their identity – Would also impact on the staff of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for the headteacher. 	<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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would retain provision in Llansilin – More opportunities could be provided to the pupils – There would be no additional transport costs – Could provide a financial saving to the Council – Minimal impact on staff at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would retain its identity – Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain at the Llansilin – Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately – Would still need to maintain the Llansilin building – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would lose its identity – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites – More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff – Opportunity for increased leadership time for headteacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Limited availability of places at the closest alternative schools – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire – If pupils chose to attend schools in England, they would not benefit from the Curriculum for Wales – Loss of children out of county would mean they wouldn't have the opportunity to use the Welsh Language
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys – this would be Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Would address the issue of low pupil numbers – 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum – Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities – Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation – Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages – Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community – Possible impact on Welsh language ethos of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils could choose to transfer to their closest schools in England

<p>- Opportunity to offer Trochi provision to enable pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</p>	<p>instead of their closest school in Powys</p>
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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 2020-2032, 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 2020-2032 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 ● 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	Option 6
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	?	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	1	2	4
Total x	3	3	3	3	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Preferred

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 a standalone school</p>	<p>There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision in Llansilin.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>
<p>Option 2: Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</p>	<p>There would be very little impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Llansilin. Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low, however, more opportunities may be provided for collaboration between the schools.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>
<p>Option 3: Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin, as both sites would be retained as part of the merger.</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 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 the quality and standards</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin. However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there may be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make-up of the new governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, so no additional transport would be required.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

	are at least as good as the current provision.		
Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin, as the site would remain in use as part of the new operating model.</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>Provision would continue to be available in Llansilin. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the larger Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llansilin site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	<p>The nearest Powys school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.</p> <p>If pupils moved to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, they would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire. Should they transfer to these schools, they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin as there would no longer be any provision in Llansilin.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</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> <p>Some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire should the council proceed with the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>

<p>Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys</p>	<p>Following the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in August 2024, the nearest Powys school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.</p> <p>If pupils moved to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, they would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire. Should they transfer to these schools, they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin as there would no longer be any provision in Llansilin.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</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> <p>Some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire should the council proceed with the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>
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APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low – Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Would not lead to a financial saving – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not address the high budget per pupil – The school would continue to be a small school
2	Federate Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would still be taught separately – Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Would not lead to a financial saving – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith school building – Would not address the high budget per pupil – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools are different language categories – The school would continue to be a small school
3	Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain on the Llansilin site – Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately – Would not reduce surplus places – Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Both schools would lose their identity – Would also impact on the staff of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools have different language categories – It would be difficult to ensure equal opportunities to all pupils due to the age range of pupils in mixed age classes

4	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small numbers would remain at the Llansilin – Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately – Would still need to maintain the Llansilin building – Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building – Would not reduce surplus places – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would lose its identity – May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – The schools have different language categories – It would be difficult to ensure equal opportunities to all pupils due to the age range of pupils in mixed age classes
5	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Limited availability of places at the closest alternative schools – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community – Pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire – If pupils chose to attend schools in England, they would not benefit from the Curriculum for Wales – Loss of children out of county would mean they wouldn't have the opportunity to use the Welsh Language
6	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school – Loss of provision from Llansilin – Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Impact on the Llansilin community – Impact on Welsh language ethos of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith on the 31st August 2025, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/17192/Ysgol-Bro-Cynllaith>. 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 **14th November 2024**. 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"/> Pupil | <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"/> Ysgol Bro Cynllaith | <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: _____

5. Are there any other options you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith?

Please outline any alternative options below, including a description of the option(s) you think the Council should be considering:

Impact on people with protected characteristics

6. Do you have any comments or concerns about the impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Copy of Consultation Report

- 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?**

Under 16

16-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75-84

85+

Prefer not to say

- 9. What is your gender?**

Male

Female

Gender Fluid

Non-Binary

Gender neutral

Prefer not to say

- 10. Can you understand, speak, or write Welsh?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

- 11. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

- 12. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?**

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

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

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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith 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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith 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 14th November 2024.**

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

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