

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Miss Isabelle Mariani

Fy nghyf / My ref:

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Line:

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Dyddiad/Date: 09/04/2019

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Dear Consultee,

**Notification of County Council Decision -
Proposal to discontinue Maesybont Primary School**

On 4 April 2019, with responsibilities delegated to the Executive Officer by Carmarthenshire County Council, the decision was made to approve the following proposal:

On the last day of the Spring term 2019, 28 April 2019, the authority discontinues Maesybont Primary School and from the beginning of the Summer term 2019, 29 April 2019, the catchment area of Maesybont Primary School be re-designated and included within the existing catchment area of the nearest primary school to the pupils' home address. The distance from home to the nearest primary school to be assessed on the same basis as the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Objections to the proposal- No objections were received.

This proposal was considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and noted that no objections had been received in respect of the proposal during the statutory objection period.

In determining the proposal the Executive Officer took into account the following factors as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 as follows:

Quality and standards in education

It is the authority's opinion that this proposal will maintain and/or improve the present standards of education, this is confirmed by the Estyn inspection reports carried out at the schools affected by this determination.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

In approving this proposal, the Executive Officer has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future. It was noted that there is a high level of surplus places at Maesybont Primary School. The local authority is satisfied that there are sufficient surplus places at neighbouring schools to accommodate demand.

Resourcing of education

In reaching this decision a number of factors have been taken into account, in particular the low pupil numbers, the lack of permanent leadership and associated effect on education provision coupled with the high cost of running the school.

GARETH MORGANS B Ed. M. Sc

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant
Adran Addysg a Phlant, Adeilad 2, Parc Dewi Sant,
Heol Ffynnon Job, Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin. SA31 3HB
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*Mae Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn croesawu
gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg
Carmarthenshire County Council welcomes
correspondence in Welsh or English*



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Presumption against the closure of rural schools

The second edition of the School Organisation Code (2018) makes special arrangements in regards to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. Maesybont Primary School has been designated as a rural school which required the Local Authority to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal.

The implementation of the proposal to discontinue Maesybont Primary School is seen as the most appropriate response to address the reasons identified in formulating the proposal due to the following factors:

- Significant surplus places at Maesybont Primary School
- Associated effect on education provision at Maesybont Primary School due to low pupil numbers.
- Lack of sustainable leadership with no permanent head teacher at Maesybont Primary School.
- Supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Primary Education Footprint Principles.

Referral of local authority decisions to the Welsh Ministers

Should any of the following bodies believe that an incorrect decision has been made by the local authority then under section 54 of the 2013 Act they may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration:-

- Another local authority affected by the proposals;
- The appropriate religious body;
- The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A further education institution affected by the proposals.

Please contact Isabelle Mariani of this department if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely,



Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

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