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Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Sharon James

Fy nghyf / My ref:

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Dear Consultee,

### **Notification of County Council Decision-** **Proposal to discontinue Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled 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 Tremoilet VC Primary School and from the beginning of the Summer term 2019, 29 April 2019, the catchment area of Tremoilet VC Primary School is included within the existing catchment area of Llanmiloe CP School.*

**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 improve the present standards of education, this is confirmed by the Estyn inspection report carried out at the schools affected by this determination.

The local authority worked closely with the Acting Headteacher and respective governing body to ensure a smooth transition to alternative schools.

#### **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 Tremoilet VC Primary School. Projections show that there are sufficient places at Llanmiloe CP School to accommodate current and forecasted pupils which in turn will have a positive impact reducing the surplus places at Llanmiloe CP 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  
Director of Education and Children's Services  
Department for Education and Children,  
Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road,  
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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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### **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

### **Presumption against the closure of rural schools**

The second edition of the School Organisation Code (2018) makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. Tremolet VC 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 Tremolet VC 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 Tremolet VC Primary School.
- Associated effect on education provision at Tremolet VC Primary School due to low pupil numbers.
- Lack of sustainable leadership with no permanent head teacher at Tremolet VC Primary School.
- There is surplus capacity at Llanmiloe Community Primary School to accept all pupils from Tremolet VC Primary School.
- Have a positive impact on reducing the surplus places at Llanmiloe Community Primary School.
- A reduction in the cost per pupil at Llanmiloe CP School if the number of pupils increase.
- 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 Sharon James of this department if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely



Gareth Morgans

**Director of Education and Children's Services**

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