

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposal to change the nature of provision at

**Ysgol Rhys Prichard**

*Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential*

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education & Children's Services



**EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani**  
[www.sirgar.llyw.cymru](http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru)

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## **School Modernisation Section**

**Sara Griffiths**, Modernisation Team Manager

If you require this information in large print, Braille or on audiotape please contact the Department for Education & Children

**Email:** [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01267 246476

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plans the Local Authority launched [Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) and our vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire. To achieve this, we will deliver significant growth in Welsh medium education to increase the number of children and young people who become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

With this in mind, the Local Authority has a responsibility to provide its communities with the best education and opportunities possible and believes that this can be achieved through set objectives. Carmarthenshire County Council are fully supportive of the aim that all pupils are able to speak, read and write in both Welsh and English fluently by the end of Key Stage 2 and will provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual nature of the County.

The Local Authority not only supports this vision, but are wholly supportive of a bilingual Wales. On the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 the Welsh Government published "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" with the aim of reaching a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. The document considers three key themes:

- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers;
- Increasing the use of Welsh; and
- Creating favourable conditions, infrastructure and context

all of which we must consider in our own locality where our education system can support, develop and sustain bilingualism.

In order to support Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and national policies in moving the county's schools along the Welsh language continuum, this consultation document sets out proposals with regards to the change in nature of provision at **Ysgol Rhys Prichard**.

Consultation will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government as set out in the [School Organisation Code 2018](#) and will involve identified interested parties. The information set out in this document is intended to clarify the proposals for your school and support the consultation process.



**Gareth Morgans**

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

## Glossary of Abbreviations

<b>ALN</b>	Additional Learning Needs
<b>AN</b>	Admission number
<b>CCC</b>	Carmarthenshire County Council
<b>CP</b>	Community Primary
<b>DS</b>	Dual Stream
<b>EM</b>	English medium
<b>Estyn</b>	Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales
<b>FTE</b>	Full Time Equivalent
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>MCSW</b>	Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales
<b>MEP</b>	Modernising Education Programme
<b>NOR</b>	Number on Roll
<b>PLASC</b>	Pupil Level Annual School Census Data
<b>PT</b>	Part time
<b>WESP</b>	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
<b>WG</b>	Welsh Government
<b>WM</b>	Welsh medium

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## 1. Introduction / Background / Rationale for Change

### Current provision / Status Quo / Background

Ysgol Rhys Prichard is a transitional (working towards Welsh medium) 4-11 primary school located on the outskirts of Llandovery and serves the town and the surrounding rural area.

Over the last 5 years there has been a sustained increase in the number of pupils choosing to enter the Welsh medium stream and a fall in the number of pupils choosing to enter the English stream.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and believes that providing bilingual opportunities has a role to play in this. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020's objective of **ensuring "that all pupils are able to speak, read and write the Welsh language fluently by the end of Key Stage 2 in accordance with their expected stage of development."** The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.

### Rationale for Change

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The Local Authority has a vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire. To achieve, this we will, in accordance with 'Cymraeg 2050 : A Million Welsh Speakers':

**"Ensure significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace"**

As a result, the Local Authority are currently developing a scheme to provide Ysgol Rhys Prichard with a new school building suitable for teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which will accommodate current and future demand for Welsh medium education and multilingual opportunities in line with the new curriculum to be launched in 2022.

In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it is an objective of the Local Authority to **"support current dual stream and transitional schools to become Welsh medium schools."**

Due to the increasing demand for Welsh medium education places in the Llandovery area, it is the Local Authority's proposal to:

- from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 that the nature of provision of the school changes to Welsh medium.

Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh therefore ensuring the ability to communicate through the medium of both Welsh and English languages. Support will be provided where needed to all pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil.

This proposal will serve to implement the 7 outcomes noted below as specified by WG in 'Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan'

- Outcome 1: More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school
- Outcome 3: More students aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 study subjects through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning
- Outcome 5: More students who have higher language skills in Welsh
- Outcome 6: Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)
- Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuing professional development

In addition this proposal will link to Welsh Government Policies as stated below:

- Rewriting the Future
- Successful Futures
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Welsh Government's Draft Strategy (a million Welsh speakers by 2050); and
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Programme

## 2. Bilingualism

### 2.1 Advantages of Bilingualism

#### What does being bilingual mean?

The ability to live your everyday life using two languages.

Being able to switch from one language to another fluently and confidently at any given time.

#### The advantages of being bilingual

##### Education

- Bilingual children tend to be more successful in education. They tend to perform better in tasks.
- Bilingual people find it easier to learn additional languages.
- Children in Welsh medium education do just as well, if not better, in English as children in English medium education.

Evidence:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/default/files/documents/English%20in%20key%20stages%202%20and%203%20-%20June%202014.pdf>

##### Career

- Speaking two languages is an extra skill to put on your application form and CV.
- Bilingual people earn an average of 11% more income.
- Employers need bilingual workforces in Wales, because services need to be offered bilingually in accordance with the Welsh Standards Paper.

Evidence: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/welsh-speakers-more-likely-top-6335953>



## Nigel Owens

“ Without my Welsh education in School I would not have had all the opportunities to present and perform and I would not have been encouraged to start as a referee at 16 years old.

I carry Welsh with me wherever I referee in the world. Before each game I listen to Welsh music. I'm lucky enough to have two languages and Welsh is an important part of who I am. ”



## Alex Jones

“ Having a bilingual education has been pivotal to me in so many ways. It meant that I had twice as many opportunities, it doubled my capacity to learn other languages, it enhanced my ability to communicate and therefore make friends, and most importantly, it gave me a strong sense of belonging and of our heritage. Starting out as a broadcaster in Welsh gave me the vast experience I needed to move forward to my dream job. Without a bilingual education, I'd be in a very different place. ”



## Health

- Research shows that being bilingual delays the onset of Dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer disease.

Evidence: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3033609/>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/12005837/Bilingual-people-twice-as-likely-to-recover-from-a-stroke.html>

## Life

- Speaking two languages widens your horizons.
- Being able to speak Welsh gives you access to many aspects of Welsh culture, history and identity.

- Speaking Welsh can provide a key to rich community life.
- Being able to speak Welsh gives you a strong sense of identity and belonging.
- Being able to switch from one language to the other with confidence gives the individual self-confidence and pride.
- Speaking many languages can make people more tolerant towards other cultures.

Evidence: [http://www.assembly.wales/NAfW%20Documents/paper\\_3\\_-\\_prof.\\_colin\\_baker.pdf%20-%202002092010/paper\\_3\\_-\\_prof.\\_colin\\_baker-English.pdf](http://www.assembly.wales/NAfW%20Documents/paper_3_-_prof._colin_baker.pdf%20-%202002092010/paper_3_-_prof._colin_baker-English.pdf)

## 2.2 Common parental concerns

### **'How can I help my child with homework if I don't understand much Welsh myself?'**

Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what your child is being asked to do at home. The schools themselves will be happy to provide educational advice and the parents evening will be in your chosen language.

Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within your child's reach.

Developing increasingly as independent learners, you may find that your child is happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.

### **'Will pupils who struggle with Welsh medium education have to move to an English medium school?'**

It is the Local Authority's desire that all pupil receive the opportunity to become bilingual in both Welsh and English languages. In Welsh medium schools, pupils will receive their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction. Sufficient support will be provided to all pupils as required through a range of mechanisms and tailored to the individual's needs.

### **'The children will be confused and their English will suffer.'**

On average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. Also, as a child explains homework in English to the parent, their own

understanding is reinforced. Ask your child to describe what he/she is doing in his own words.

On average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who attend Welsh medium education get an A\* to C grade in both Welsh and English.

### **'Will my child's thinking be affected by being bilingual?'**

The answer is "yes", and probably for the better. The presence of two languages in the operating system of the brain is likely to produce a more richly-fed thinking engine (Baker, 2000:66-67).

### **'Will my child be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh?'**

School and staff are fully committed to providing the necessary support to all pupils and parents through a wide range of mechanisms: open door policy; homework provided bilingually; support by The Athrawon Bro Service; bilingual school website etc. Staff are also required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil.

### **'Should the Welsh language be forced?'**

International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. This is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.

### **'Will learning through the medium of Welsh affect later life opportunities?'**

Yes, but probably for the better. It is the belief of the department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill and possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.

### **'Does learning through the medium of Welsh segregate English speaking pupils/families?'**

On the contrary, learning through the medium of Welsh provides all children with opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school. In Welsh medium schools, children receive their education principally through the medium of Welsh with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium of instruction. Learning through the medium of Welsh also helps family/community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.

### **'Will children with additional learning needs be able to learn through the medium of Welsh?'**

Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases, this is achieved, with all children benefitting. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. There will be rare instances, however where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.

## **2.3 Carmarthenshire Language Learning Centres**

Due to the nature of the county we need to provide a language service to all latecomers so that they can become fully assimilated into our bilingual communities and are steeped in Welsh language and culture. In order to achieve this, we need to address the importance of dedicated facilities to support latecomers to a level where they can easily integrate into the day to day timetable in Welsh medium schools. Thorough research shows that this can be more easily achieved through intensive language courses. Language centres are the vehicles needed to ensure that this becomes a reality. As alluded to above, the language centres will also provide language support for parents and pupils and will also have provision for professional learning and Welsh for Adults.

## 2.4 Bilingualism in Carmarthenshire

Further information can be found using the following links:

- **Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go!**

<http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf>

Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.

- **Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf>

This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.

- **Welcome to Wales    Welcome to Carmarthenshire    Welcome to Welsh**

<http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf>

This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.

### 3. The Consultation Process

The consultation on this proposal will follow guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2018).

#### Who will be consulted?

This document will be sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary)	Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Governors and Parents/Guardians	Diocesan Director of Education Church in Wales and RC
Local County Councillors	Estyn
Community Councillors	Regional Transport Consortium
Assembly Member (AM) / Regional Members / Members of Parliament (MP)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools
Welsh Ministers	Local Police and Crime Commissioner
Communities for Work +	SEN Partners
Communities for Work	All relevant unions
Legacy	Fusion
LA Special Educational Needs Division	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Families First Carmarthenshire	Child Care / Early Years
Flying Start	Public Services Board
Welsh Language Commissioner	

**Copies of the consultation document will be sent to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the surrounding catchment area schools.**

## Consultation Period

The consultation period for this proposal starts on 20 May 2019 and ends on 30 June 2019.

Consultees can submit their views in favour of or against a proposal. Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If consultees wish to object, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period outlined on page 16.

### Considering your views

During the consultation period you can ask questions and express your views by writing a letter to the address below or by completing an online survey using the following link:

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=155299365177>

Letters should be sent to the following address by no later than noon on 30 June 2019.

Mr Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services,  
Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB  
Or E-mail to: [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

### Drop in Session

There will be an opportunity to attend a drop in session to ask questions and discuss the proposal at the following location:

Location	Date	Time
Ysgol Rhys Prichard School Hall	3 June 2019	5 – 7 pm

### Consultation with Pupils

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Ysgol Rhys Prichard to participate in the consultation process during a session which will be conducted at the school.

The information gathered from the consultation with pupils will form part of the consultation report which will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration following the consultation period.



## Consultation Report

A consultation report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website at least 2 weeks before a decision is made on whether or not to proceed to publish a statutory notice. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposal and details of consultation undertaken with the pupils.

The Executive Board of Carmarthenshire County Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the Executive Board decides to continue with the proposal Carmarthenshire County Council must publish a statutory notice.

## Statutory Notice

The statutory notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website and posted at Ysgol Rhys Prichard. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email).

### Statutory Objection Period

The statutory notice will set out the details of the proposal and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within a period of 28 days. If objections are received an objection report will be published on the Carmarthenshire County Council website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response to those objections.

## Determination of Proposal

Carmarthenshire County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, the County Council will take into account any statutory objections that it received.

### Decision Notification

Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will



be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

## The Statutory Process Time-Table

The statutory process and timetable will be as follows:

20 May 2019	Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.
30 June 2019	Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education and Children.
10 September 2019	<p>A Consultation Report will be taken to the Executive Board and published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website at least 2 weeks before a decision is made on whether or not to proceed to publish a statutory notice. OR alternatively proposal ends.</p> <p>If the decision is made to proceed then a statutory notice will be published. The notice will outline details of the proposal and be published on the Council's web site and be displayed near the entrance of the school and schools which are subject to the proposals. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to parents, guardians and staff members.</p> <p>Following publication there will be a 28 day period during which time formal written objections will be invited.</p> <p>The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.</p>
October 2019	End of formal 28 day notice period for objections. County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications, in doing so the County Council will take into account any statutory objections received.
February 2020	<p>Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal.</p> <p>Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.</p>

## 4. School (s) affected by this proposal

School Name	Ysgol Rhys Prichard	Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen	Ysgol Llangadog	Ysgol Dolafon Powys CC	Sennybridge CP Powys CC	
<b>School Location</b>	SA20 0HY	SA48 8ET	SA19 9HP	LD5 4RD	LD3 8RS	
<b>County</b>	<b>Carmarthenshire</b>			<b>Powys</b>		
<b>Age Range</b>	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	
<b>School Category</b> (Community [C], Voluntary Aided [VA], Voluntary Controlled [VC])	Community	Community	Community	Community	Community	
<b>Language Medium Category (PLASC)</b>	Welsh Medium	Welsh Medium	Welsh Medium	English Medium	Dual Stream	
<b>Number of registered Pupils (January 2018 )</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	21	12	8	7	14
	<b>Reception – Y.6</b>	183	131	92	58	125
	<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Number of pupils previously on the register</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	199	144	93	67	121
	<b>January 2016</b>	167	120	93	77	122
	<b>January 2015</b>	189	116	92	72	112
	<b>January 2014</b>	177	102	100	70	110

<b>Pupil Projections</b>	<b>January 2019</b>	197	154	92	63	147
	<b>January 2020</b>	197	153	85	59	144
	<b>January 2021</b>	200	153	89	63	147
	<b>January 2022</b>	197	153	95	60	145
	<b>January 2023</b>	198	151	91	55	145
<b>Capacity (including nursery)</b>	222	166	116	69	102	
<b>Cost per pupil (2018/19)</b>	£3,516	£3,580	£3,260	£4,302	£4,014	
<b>School Budget</b>	£717k	£512k	£326k	£266,461	£516,509	
<b>School Categorisation (2018)</b>	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Amber	
<b>Estyn Inspection Result LINK</b>	<a href="#">Estyn</a>	<a href="#">Estyn</a>	<a href="#">Estyn</a>	<a href="#">Estyn</a>	<a href="#">Estyn</a>	
<b>Building Condition Category</b>	B	A	C	B	C	

## 5. The Proposal - Ysgol Rhys Prichard

### The Proposal

The proposal is to change the nature of provision of Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh medium.

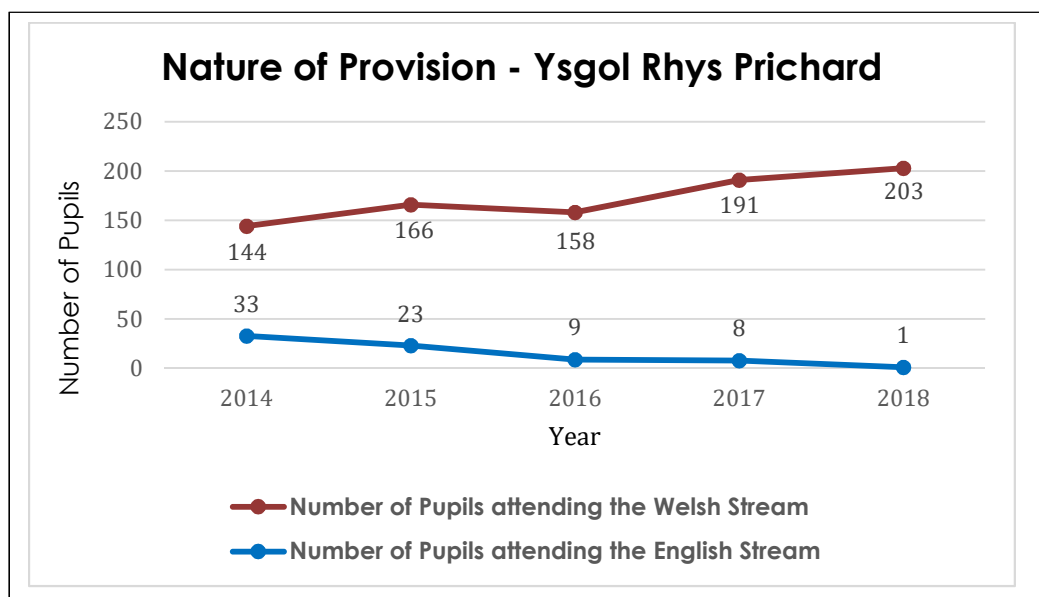
### Background

Ysgol Rhys Prichard is a transitional working towards Welsh medium (former dual stream) 4-11 primary school located on the outskirts of Llandovery and serves the town and the surrounding rural area.

### Rationale for Change

Over the last 4 years there has been a sustained increase in the number of pupils choosing to enter the Welsh medium stream and a fall in the number of pupils choosing to enter the English stream.

The chart below shows the number of pupils within the language streams at Ysgol Rhys Prichard between January 2014 and 2018 (PLASC).



As can be seen from the chart there was only 1 pupil attending the English stream in January 2018.

## Whole School English / Welsh Split – Ysgol Rhys Prichard

		Foundation Phase Part Time	Foundation Phase Full Time	Key Stage 2	Total
<b>2018</b>	English Medium	0	1	0	1
	Welsh Medium	0	99	104	203
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>2017</b>	English Medium	0	0	8	8
	Welsh Medium	0	95	96	191
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>2016</b>	English Medium	0	1	8	9
	Welsh Medium	0	81	77	158
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>2015</b>	English Medium	0	0	23	23
	Welsh Medium	0	87	79	166
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>2014</b>	English Medium	0	0	33	33
	Welsh Medium	0	83	61	144
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>177</b>

### (January PLASC Data)

As can be seen from the table above, the number of pupils attending the English stream has declined substantially from 33 in 2014 to 1 in 2018.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of the proposal

### Advantages

- Increased opportunities for access to Welsh medium education from the start of their education.

- Ensures that the school can accommodate future demand for Welsh medium school places.
- Providing pupils with linguistic choice.

### Disadvantages

- Statutory process required to implement the proposal
- Potential local community resistance to the proposal

### Risks and Counter Measures

Risk		Counter Measure
1.	Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement process.	- Follow guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018
2.	Failure to gain approval of business cases	- Follow guidelines as set out in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Funding Programme business case guidance 2018

### Financial Implications – Revenue

Ysgol Rhys Prichard is funded in accordance with the County Council's Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new school's pupil numbers and facilities.

### Admission Arrangements

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Ysgol Rhys Prichard Primary School.

The School Governance and Admissions Unit,  
 Carmarthenshire Local Authority,  
 Department for Education and Children,  
 Block 2,  
 Main Building,  
 St. David's Park,  
 Carmarthen. SA31 3HB

Tel No: 01267 246449

E-mail: [admissions@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## Alternative Options Considered

In developing a preferred option the Authority considered a range of alternative options.

### Option 1 – Status Quo (school remains unchanged)

Advantages	Disadvantages
No change for stakeholders	Does not meet the aims of WESP
No statutory process required	Does not support Welsh Government aim of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050

### Option 2 – Change the nature of Foundation Phase provision only (Welsh Medium Foundation Phase and Dual Stream Key Stage 2)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Increases opportunity to become a bilingual learner	Requires Statutory Process
Parental choice of language medium remains in Key Stage 2	Missed opportunity to provide a Welsh medium school / education
Supports the aims of the County's WESP	
Provides pupils with linguistic choice	

### Option 3 – Change the nature of provision of the whole school to Welsh medium (Welsh Medium Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Maximises opportunity to become a bilingual learner	Requires Statutory Process
Meets the aims of WESP	
Provides pupils with linguistic choice	

## New proposed school building for Ysgol Rhys Prichard

Within Carmarthenshire Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools band A funding envelope of £86.7m we are proposing to relocate Ysgol Rhys Prichard from its current site to the former Ysgol Pantycelyn secondary school site. The proposal will increase capacity to 240 pupil places with provision for an external cylch meithrin integrated into the new school building (the cylch meithrin is currently occupying a small mobile situated next to the dining school building).

This project will offer improved primary education provision as well as excellent community facilities making the school a community hub for the town of

Llandovery. Relocating the school provides an excellent opportunity to develop a true community school with improved facilities which are not available at the current Ysgol Rhys Prichard school site.

It is proposed that the new school site will enhance primary provision and include the following facilities which are not available at the current Ysgol Rhys Prichard school site;

- Large Hall which can be shared with the local community
- Rugby pitch
- Enhanced external areas with outdoor play
- MUGA – Multi Use Games Area
- Existing swimming pool (adjacent to school building)
- Opportunity to include an area for community enterprise
- Hard/Soft play areas
- Provision for Cylch Meithrin integrated into the new school building
- Separate Cylch Meithrin play area

The proposal will also include site improvements to meet current standards:

- The entrance to the building will be re-designed to improve access and provide a focal point for the school
- Enhanced parking and drop off points with staff and visitor parking provision with bus bays and segregation of pedestrians and vehicles on site
- Canopied Areas
- Improved pupil safety – Secure by Design

## **Capital Receipts**

Any capital receipts received as a result of this proposal will be re-invested into the Modernising Education Programme.

## **Additional Learning Needs Provision**

There will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional learning needs at the school. However when the new school building has been completed, the improved facilities will directly enhance teaching and learning for all learners including those from more vulnerable groups including ALN learners.

## **School Catchment Area**

There will be no change to the current school catchment area.



## Secondary School Transfers

There will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education.

## 6. Evaluation of Present Arrangements

### Quality and standards in education

#### Standards

Nearly all pupils make good progress throughout the Foundation Phase in each area of learning and make excellent progress in Welsh as noted by Estyn.

By the end of key stage 2, most pupils write clearly and interestingly in a wide range of forms and for a variety of purposes in both languages as reported by Estyn.

#### Teaching and learning experiences

In general, the quality of teaching is good. In most cases, it succeeds in engaging pupils and develops their skills, knowledge and understanding firmly as they move through the school.

The school provides a wide range of stimulating learning experiences, which engage pupils' interest in lessons and through external visits. These visits to the community and further afield makes a positive contribution towards enriching pupils' experiences.

Schemes of work throughout the school are comprehensive and purposeful for developing pupils' literacy, numeracy and information technology skills. Staff plan activities to respond to most pupils' needs.

Provision for developing Welsh is a clear strength as the school is transforming linguistically. Provision offered to pupils in the Foundation Phase is very effective and this develops clearly as pupils move through to key stage 2. The emphasis given to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig is also one of the school's obvious strengths.

They plan a range of interesting and appropriate activities and the good quality of learning strategies contributes effectively towards pupils' outcomes.

#### Care support and guidance

The school has sound procedures for tracking pupils' progress and teachers use the information that results from this effectively to identify pupils who need extra support. The teachers provide robust individual education plans for those who need it. Teachers plan the next steps to the pupils carefully and provide bespoke intervention programs for those who need it. The school has effective arrangements for promoting healthy eating and drinking. This has a positive effect on pupils' understanding of issues related to their health and well-being.

## **Leadership and Management**

The headteacher has succeeded in creating a clear vision that is firmly sealed at high expectations. This vision is shared successfully with all the school's partners, ensuring a sound understanding of the overall objectives of the school. It places a strong emphasis on improving the standards and wellbeing of pupils who have begun to have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning in a short period of time. The school's performance management procedures are comprehensive and have now been extended to include the assistants.

## **Impact of the proposal**

Should the proposal be implemented all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh ensuring that the school is moving along the Authority's WESP in accordance with WG Strategic Plans.

This proposal will ensure that all pupils will gain the opportunity to become bilingual citizens being confident in both Welsh and English equally.

## 7. Appendix A- Community Impact Assessment

### **Catchment Area Analysis – January PLASC 2018 Data**

Each school has an area that it serves, referred to as the catchment area. Each school is expected to accommodate pupils from within its catchment area and schools must have regard for this ongoing demand.

Most parents send their child to their local school but parents have a right to state a preference for other schools.

### **Pupils attending the school from inside / outside the catchment**

Based on January PLASC 2018 data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Rhys Prichard catchment area indicated that of the 204 pupils on roll, 182 lived within the catchment area, whilst the remaining 22 were from outside the catchment area.

### **Pupils living in the catchment area attending other schools.**

Based on January PLASC 2018 data, 36 pupils lived within the Ysgol Rhys Prichard catchment area attended other schools.

### **Other facilities the school accommodates e.g youth club / play group**

The school accommodates Community Council meetings as and when required. There is a Cylch Meithrin on the current school site occupying a small cabin adjacent to the school dining block. When the school re-locates to the former Ysgol Pantycelyn school site the Cylch will be integrated into the school building offering seamless transition from early years to KS1 and KS2.

### **Other facilities or services the school provides e.g. after school clubs / community library**

The school currently hold a breakfast club for pupils during the weekdays between 8-8.45am.

The pupils also benefit from several after school clubs, which are held on various nights of the week between 3:40pm and 5:15pm.

When the school re-locates to the former Ysgol Pantycelyn school site there will be a bigger hall available to offer varied after school clubs for both the pupils and community as noted below:

- Karate Club
- Tennis Club
- Badminton Club
- School Concerts and Shows
- Eisteddfod for the area
- Côt Meibion Llandovery – Rehearsal
- YFC (Young Farmers Club) – Drama / Rehearsal
- Ballet Club – Concerts (due to stage facility in hall)
- Llandovery Floral Art Shows
- Ad Hoc Concerts for the Llandovery Area

Re-locating the primary school will create a central hub for the pupils and community of Llandovery.

### **Community Impact**

If approved, the proposal will allow increased opportunities for access to Welsh medium education pupil places within the Llandovery area, in line with national and local policies. The new school building will incorporate space for an external cylch meithrin which will allow early years' pupils with access to nursery provision within a school environment which will strengthen relationships and links between the external provider and the school and will ensure a smooth transition between facilities.

## 8. Appendix B- Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Carmarthenshire County Council's vision is to provide a service, which will ensure access to high quality learning opportunities for all children, young people and adults, this enabling the achievement of their full potential within the context of the unique bilingual nature of the county.

This proposal supports the Council's vision and aims for Welsh medium education as set out in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017 – 2020. The proposal will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Llandovery area and will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.

### **Standards**

In Foundation Phase, pupils are assessed in different areas of learning. Based on 2018 data, 81% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 5 in 'Language, Literacy and Communication (in Welsh)', whilst 19.1% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 6. In Key Stage 2, pupils are assessed in each of the core subjects. Based on 2018 data, 89.7% of pupils achieved at least Level 4 in Welsh first language whilst 17.2% achieved at least Level 5.

### **After school activities which provide additional opportunities to use the Welsh language**

The pupils benefit from several after school clubs, which are held on various nights of the week at the school.

## 9. Appendix C- Equalities Impact Assessment

### Carmarthenshire County Council Assessing Impact

#### The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies and strengthens the law, removes inconsistencies and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with it. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the 'general duty'), replacing the separate duties on race, disability and gender equality. This came into force on 5 April 2011.

#### What is the general duty?

The aim of the general duty is to ensure that public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities. The duty ensures that equality considerations are built into the design of policies and the delivery of services and that they are kept under review. This will achieve better outcomes for all.

The duties are legal obligations. Failure to meet the duties may result in authorities being exposed to legal challenge.

Under equality legislation, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, as well as to promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 introduces a new public sector duty which extends this coverage to age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision making process. It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duties

are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act and it is therefore wise also to consider the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

### **Carmarthenshire's approach to Equality Impact**

In order to ensure that the council is considering the potential equality impact of its proposed policies and practices, and in order to evidence that we have done so, every proposal will be required to be supported by the attached Equality Impact Assessment. Where this assessment identifies a significant impact then more detail may be required.

### **Reporting on assessments**

Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

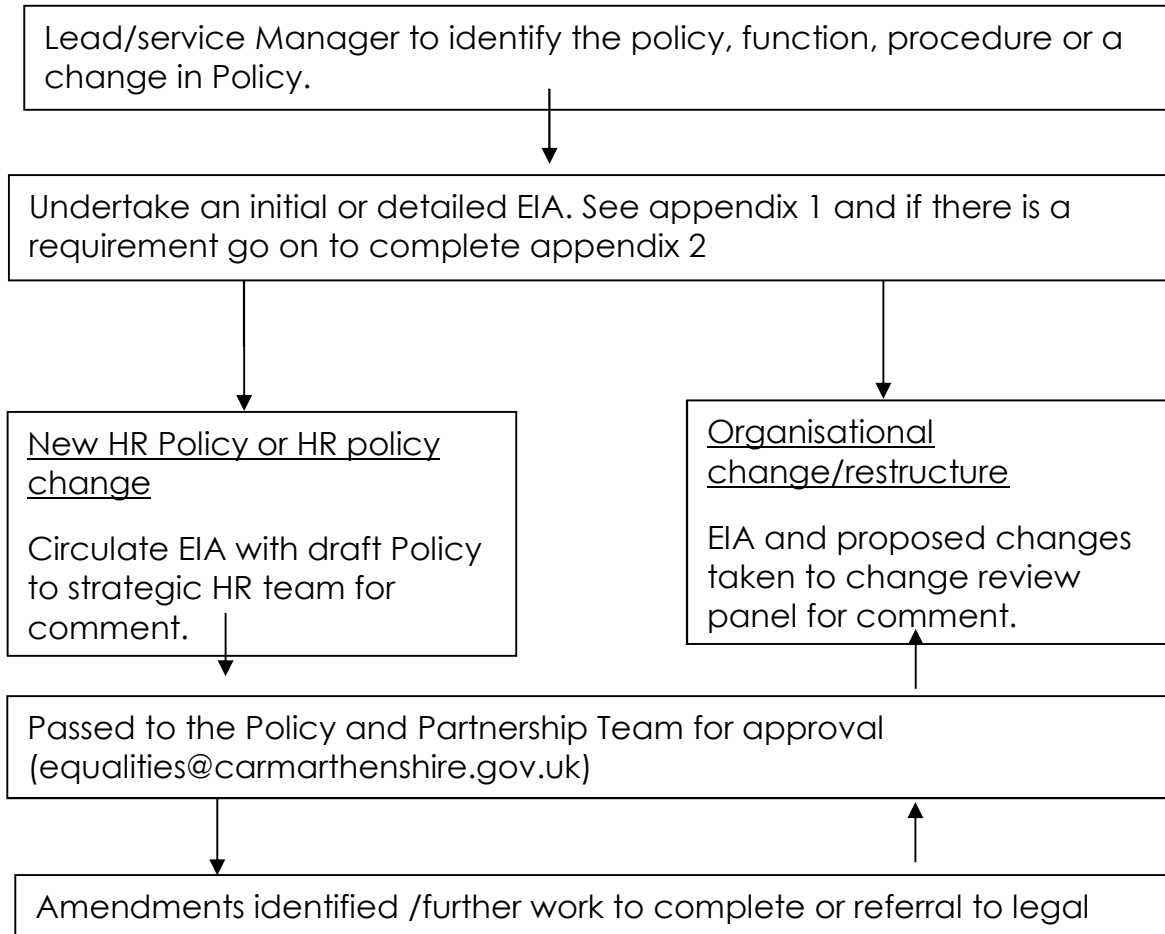
### **Initial and Detailed Equality Impact Assessments**

The initial EIA (appendix 1) is a simple and quick method of assessing the effect of a policy, function, procedure, decision including financial cuts on one or more of the protected characteristics.

The Service Manager responsible for the relevant new or revised policies, functions, procedures and financial decisions must undertake, at least, an initial EIA and where relevant a detailed Equality Impact Assessment (appendix 2); EIA must be attached as background paper with reports to Executive and Scrutiny.



## **Equality impact assessment – Process to follow where HR implications have been identified**



# Initial Equalities Impact Assessment Template

## Appendix 1

<b>Department:</b> Education & Children	<b>Completed by (lead):</b> Sara Griffiths	<b>Date of initial assessment:</b> February 2019 <b>Revision Dates:</b> February 2020
<b>Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)</b>	The scheme is to re-locate Ysgol Rhys Prichard to the former Ysgol Pantycelyn School site with investment to provide a school building with 21 <sup>st</sup> Century facilities and excellent outdoor areas. As part of this scheme, the proposal is to increase the capacity of the school to 240 with provision for the external Cylch Meithrin to be integrated into the school building.	
<b>Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?</b>	School Re-organisation Proposal – Modernising Education Programme	
<b>What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme</li> <li>• Modernising Education Programme</li> <li>• School Organisation Code 2018</li> <li>• PLASC Data 2018</li> </ul>		

<b>1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.</b>	This proposal will increase the number of Welsh medium places available at Ysgol Rhys Prichard and follow the objectives and actions as set out in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The scheme will provide the pupils and staff of Ysgol Rhys Prichard with a new school building and facilities which are suitable for teaching and learning in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. Providing space to accommodate an external nursery will also strengthen the relationship between nursery providers and the school and will help to ensure a smooth transition between facilities.		
<b>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have "due regard" to the need to:-</b>	<b>2. What is the level of impact on each group/ protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty? Please indicate</b>	<b>3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?</b>	<b>4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?</b>

<p><b>(1)</b> eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;</p> <p><b>(2)</b> advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and</p> <p><b>(3)</b> foster good relations between different groups</p> <p>(see guidance notes)</p>		<p><b>high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.</b></p>	<p><b>Risks</b></p>	<p><b>Positive effects</b></p>	
<p><b>Protected characteristics</b></p>	<p><b>Age</b></p>	L		<p>The proposal will provide nursery age pupils with access to nursery provision within a school building.</p>	
	<p><b>Disability</b></p>	L		<p>The new school building will be fully DDA compliant ensuring full accessibility for all.</p>	
	<p><b>Gender reassignment</b></p>	N	Neutral		
	<p><b>Race</b></p>	N	Neutral		
	<p><b>Religion/Belief</b></p>	N	Neutral		
	<p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	N	Neutral		

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	N	Neutral		
<b>Sex</b>	N	Neutral		
<b>Welsh language</b>	L		The increase in capacity will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Ysgol Rhys Prichard area in line with national and local policies.	
<b>Any other area</b>	L		The increase in capacity of the school will not have an effect on schools surrounding the Ysgol Rhys Prichard catchment area.	

**5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?**

YES

NO

	<p>The Project Officer has liaised with the Headteacher, Staff and Parents of Ysgol Rhys Prichard with regards to the proposal. Local members have also been fully informed of the scheme. Consultation has been undertaken with the Community Council, Cylch Meithrin and local residents regarding the location of the new school building.</p>	
<p><b>6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any?</b> Ensure that all key stakeholders are fully informed throughout the statutory process.</p>		
<p><b>7. Procurement</b></p> <p>Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal, service. N/A</p> <p>Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice.</p>		
<p><b>8. Human resources</b></p> <p>Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service? As there will be an increase in capacity, additional staffing may be required. However, this will be addressed as the scheme progresses and Human Resources will be fully consulted.</p>		
<p><b>9. Based on the information in sections 2 and 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment?</b> (recommended if one or more H under section 2)</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Approved by:</b> Head of Service</p>	<p>Simon Davies</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> February 2019</p>

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