

Proposal to federate Ysgol Gynradd Llangain, Ysgol Gynradd Llansteffan and Ysgol Gynradd Bancyfelin

Consultation Report



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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Executive Summary

The Consultation Period

On the 22nd February 2021 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to:

- Federate Ysgol Gynradd Llangain, Ysgol Gynradd Llansteffan and Ysgol Gynradd Bancyfelin from 1st September 2021.

The consultation period commenced on 22nd February 2021 in line with the publication of the proposal and closed on 4th April 2021 with a total of 8 responses received (excluding the responses received from the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Email	Total
7	1	8

It must be noted that of the 8 observations received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

Consultation Event

Due to the ongoing implications of the Coronavirus issue we were advised to postpone all events where there was interaction between staff, parents and the wider community and as a result virtual drop-in sessions were held via Microsoft Teams.

Formal drop in sessions were held virtually on **15th and 16th March 2021 for Governors, Staff and the Public**. The formal consultation drop in sessions were attended by 21 stakeholders in total.

Responses Received

This proposal has been prepared in line with Welsh Government's "Federation Process of Maintained Schools in Wales for Governing Bodies and Local Education Authorities" guidelines and hopes to strengthen the already successful relationship between the three schools.

Supportive

- Theme 1 – No reason
- Theme 2 – Governance Structure

Concerns

- Theme 1 – Carbon Footprint and Site Locations

Unsure

- Theme 1 – No Reason
- Theme 2 – Model of Provision

Overall Summary

Supportive	50%	Not supportive	25%	Unsure	25%
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Workshops

Following the closure of the consultation period on the 4th April 2021 a workshop was held to analyse the observations received.

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Executive Board Member for Education & Children's Services who will determine the proposal. They may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, they will take into account the consultation report and any observations that were received.

Decision Notice

Following determination of the proposal 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.

Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments Raised				
1.	<p>No reason Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>	The support was noted.	3	38%
2.	<p>Governance Structure Consider changing and reducing the number of Governors to allow a fairer representation.</p>	The maximum number of governors that can be had on a federation of 3 community schools is 20. The Local Authority and community governor positions could be reduced to 3 each (1 per school catchment area) or even fewer and the parent governor positions could be reduced to one per school. That is all possible within the governance regulations. However, it is not possible to combine teacher and staff governor categories, and there is also no allowance to have 3 teachers and/or 3 staff governors on the new GB, even if the other categories were reduced.	1	13%

Concerns Raised				
1.	Carbon Footprint and Site Locations Concerns were raised regarding the carbon footprint of the villages if the schools were to close and concerns were raised where the federation will be located.	The proposal is to federate the three schools and there will be no impact on current arrangements inclusive of travel and transport. All three schools will remain on their current school sites.	2	25%
Unsure				
1.	No reason Some respondents did not provide a reason for their concerns.	The response was noted.	1	13%
2.	Model of Provision Respondents asked for clarity on the reasons for federation and how federation would impact on staffing and school budgets.	By entering into a federation, the three schools can work together under shared leadership to utilise their strengths to improve standards across the federation and together address areas in need of improvement. By federating under one governing body, the climate of trust, openness and willingness to work together that already exists can be enhanced. The way in which an individual school's budget is calculated is not affected by federation – each school in the federation should continue to receive its own budget based on the number of registered pupils at the school plus any other factors. However, schools will be able to pool or share their budgets.	1	13%

Consultation with the Pupils

Schools: Ysgol Gynradd Llangain, Ysgol Gynradd Llansteffan
and Ysgol Gynradd Bancyfelin

Date: 25th March 2021

Consultation undertaken by: Educational Support Adviser

Interviewed: Representatives from the three schools
(conducted on-line due to coronavirus)

What the children like about their individual schools:

- *Near the beach*
- *Good friends*
- *Small school (everyone knows each other and supports each other)*
- *Everyone's friendly*
- *Its in the village where I live*
- *Playtime and lots of play equipment*
- *Everyone's kind*
- *Like the teachers*
- *We have lots of space*
- *Lots of trips (outside of Covid time)*

What was good about federating the 3 schools:

- *Kind teachers*
- *More friends*
- *More opportunities – sport, trips, work*
- *We will do more across Teams together*
- *Know more children when we go to Bro Myrddin/QE High*
- *Maybe we could do J2Stars across the 3 schools*

Any Concerns:

- *Will the teachers change in our schools?*
- *Travelling between 3 schools*

Any further comments?

No further comments were raised.

Alternative Options

During the formal consultation period stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to submit alternative options for consideration. The alternative options (not already considered in the consultation document) received are noted below and will be presented to the Executive Board member for consideration.

Federate Llangain and Llansteffan only	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Less travel time for the Headteacher	Potential loss of experienced staff from the 3 schools in the current informal federation
More time for Headteacher in each of the 2 schools	Loss of opportunities for staff and pupils from the 3 schools
	Loss of leadership from the single school
	Loss of opportunity to share facilities

10 Year Plan meeting for all three schools	
Advantages	Disadvantages
An opportunity to discuss benefits and opportunities	Potential unrealistic expectations
An opportunity to plan the vision for the future	
An opportunity to discuss with Local Authority officers.	