

Proposal to review Primary Education Provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian areas

Consultation Report



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Executive Summary

The Consultation Period

On the 11th January 2021 Carmarthenshire County Council published a proposal to:

- Discontinue Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg from 31st August, 2021.
- From 1st September, 2021 all pupils will be registered at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian operating on both sites (Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian and the former Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg) increasing its capacity to 178 + 17 nursery places.
- Re-designate Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian's catchment area to include that of the former Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg's catchment area as of 1st September, 2021.
- Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian to a new site and increase its capacity to 210 + 30 nursery places as of September 2023, when occupation of the new school is proposed.

The consultation period commenced on 11th January 2021 in line with the publication of the proposal and closed on 16th July 2021 with a total of 476 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation events) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received			
Online Survey	E-mail	Letters	Total
336	62	78	476

It must be noted that 396 of the 476 observations received, were received during the consultation period. One response was received following the end of the consultation period but has been included as part of the consultation process.

Correspondence was received prior to the commencement of the consultation period. However, it was agreed that these could be included as part of the consultation process. A total of 78 letters and 1 e-mail were received at this time and have been included in the above table. Two drawings were also received prior to the commencement of the consultation period and have been included in the summary of responses received and Local Authority related responses. Copies of the drawings submitted by pupils can be found in Appendix B.

Consultation Events

Due to the ongoing implications of the Coronavirus pandemic 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.

Informal

Virtual informal drop-in sessions were held prior to the beginning of the formal consultation period with relevant stakeholders.

Formal

A virtual formal drop-in session was held on **25 January 2021 at 4.30pm for a period of two hours**. The formal consultation drop-in session was attended by 22 stakeholders.

Responses Received

The responses received have been categorised into the following themes:

Supportive

- Theme 1 - No reason
- Theme 2 - Support for the Proposal
- Theme 3 - Childcare Provision
- Theme 4 - Impact on the Welsh Language
- Theme 5 - Effect on Expected Timeline
- Theme 6 - Small School Preference
- Theme 7 - Financial Pressure
- Theme 8 - Name of New School
- Theme 9 - Future Education of Pupils
- Theme 10 - Community Facilities
- Theme 11 - Status Quo
- Theme 12 - Condition & Suitability of Existing School Building

Concerns

- Theme 1 - Community Impact
- Theme 2 - Status Quo
- Theme 3 - Impact on Pupils' Travel Times and Distance
- Theme 4 - Small School Preference
- Theme 5 - No Reason
- Theme 6 - Impact on the Welsh Language
- Theme 7 - Concerns with large school/classes
- Theme 8 - Education Standards
- Theme 9 - Success of Cylch Meithrin Mynyddygarreg
- Theme 10 - Condition and Suitability of current Ysgol Mynyddygarreg School Building
- Theme 11 - Consulting during a pandemic

- Theme 12 - Quality of Consultation Document and Misinformation
- Theme 13 - Financial Pressure
- Theme 14 - Future Choice for a Small School
- Theme 15 - Change in Age Range
- Theme 16 - Impact of the Proposal on the Town and Residents of Kidwelly
- Theme 17 - Transfer to Alternative Schools
- Theme 18 - New School Design
- Theme 19 - New School Name
- Theme 20 - Impact of the Proposal/Rumours
- Theme 21 - Timing of Consultation
- Theme 22 - Contradicts Policy
- Theme 23 - Redundant School Sites
- Theme 24 - ALN Pupils

Overall Summary

Supportive	18%	Not supportive	82%
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Workshops

Following the closure of the consultation period on the 16th July 2021, a workshop was held to analyse the observations received.

Other Submissions Received

Business Plan

In addition to observations received, a Business Plan for Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg was submitted during the formal Consultation Period. The full Business Plan can be seen at Appendix A.

Petition and Facebook Page Statistics

An online petition “Save Our School – Stop the Closure of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg” which was created on 16/01/2021 had received 854 signatures by 10:48 on 21/02/21 and 1027 signatures by 4.00pm on 21/7/21.

A Facebook Page “Mynyddygarreg SOS – Save Our School” also had 314 likes as at 4.00pm on 21/07/21.

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Cabinet (previously known as the Executive Board) who may decide to publish the proposal as consulted upon with

appropriate modifications, to abandon the proposals and retain the status quo or to significantly recast the proposal and reconsult.

Should the Cabinet decide to proceed to publish a Statutory Notice, this will be published in due course.

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.	No reason Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.		46	10%
2.	Support for proposal Respondents recognised the need for investment and the benefits of a new and modern school fit for learning in the 21 st century.	<p>One of the strategic aims of the Modernising Education Programme is to develop infrastructure at all schools that is equipped for learning in the 21st century, facilitating the realisation of core objectives for raising educational standards and sustaining them at high levels of performance.</p> <p>Schools designed to meet current demands are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality and inspirational teaching all of which will be possible through the realisation of this proposal, should it be accepted.</p>	29	6%
3.	Childcare Provision Respondents expressed concern that no plans were in	The Local Authority recognises the importance of the Cylch Meithrin for children's education and	6	1%

	place to move Cylch Meithrin Mynyddygarreg to the proposed new site and that this should be considered at an early stage in the process if possible.	development and is considering the options available for the relocation of the Cylch Meithrin should the proposal be implemented.		
4.	<p>Impact on the Welsh language</p> <p>Respondents noted the need to continue promoting the Welsh language within the community to support its future sustainability within the areas</p>	Supporting the promotion of the Welsh Language within the community to support its future sustainability within the areas is paramount. Ysgol Gwenllian will be in a position to ensure that children from the Mynyddygarreg area have a high-quality Welsh medium education which will ensure that pupils become fully bilingual, not only educationally, but also socially. The school will source opportunities and encourage the use of the language when at home and within the community. The surrounding areas will be given opportunities to become active conduits in all parts of school life, and the school in the life of the communities.	4	1%
5.	<p>Effect on Expected Timeline</p> <p>Respondents questioned the impact of the ongoing consultation on the timeline and the implications of this on the new school development.</p>	The timeline for the proposed new school development is currently being reviewed in consideration of a number of factors inclusive of but not limited to the extension to the consultation period.	3	1%

6.	Small School Preference Respondents appreciated the need for a new school building but hoped that the benefits of a small school and its ethos could be retained.	The Local Authority is of the opinion that the small school ethos could be retained within the new school development and would encourage both schools to work together to strengthen and build on established relationships.	2	0.4%
7.	Financial Pressure Respondents noted that they were fully supportive of the proposal and also commented that small schools are unsustainable due to the high running costs and financial burden placed on them	The support is noted.	2	0.4%
8.	Name of New School Respondents noted the need to incorporate and celebrate both schools and their communities in the new school name.	Whilst the Local Authority supports the idea of the new school having a name which reflects both schools/communities, it does not have the power to enforce this. The name of the new school will be a decision for the school's Governing Body.	1	0.2%
9.	Future Education of Pupils Respondents acknowledged the proposal would support the development of an education model fit for the future. Respondents recognised how investment would improve education facilities for pupils.	If the proposal is accepted, its implementation will support the development of a schools' network that is educationally effective, resource efficient and sustainable for the long term. Most importantly, it will ensure a sustainable model of learning provision which meets the needs and aspirations of all children now and in the future.	1	0.2%

10.	<p>Community Facilities Respondents noted the need to ensure the new school included facilities which could be shared with the community.</p>	<p>The new school development will be designed to facilitate community use. The proposed investment would benefit both communities from the use of shared facilities outside of school hours.</p>	1	0.2%
11.	<p>Status Quo Respondents noted that whilst they were fully supporting the proposal to invest in a new school for Ysgol Gwenllian they were not supporting the closure of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg</p>	<p>As part of its statutory obligation to keep the number and type of school places under review, the County Council has adopted a wide-ranging programme designed to improve school buildings and enhance opportunities for learning. The strategy reflects the vision and policies established by the County Council which embrace the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. If implemented, this proposal will realise this ambition and provide the communities of Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian with 21st Century teaching and learning provision.</p>	1	0.2%
12.	<p>Condition & Suitability of Existing School Building Respondents acknowledged the limitations of extending or adapting the current school building of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg due to the age and location of the building</p>	<p>The support is noted.</p>	1	0.2%

Concerns Raised				
1.	Community Impact Respondents showed concern for the impact of the school closure on the community. Respondents noted that the school had a rich history and is valued by the community and families. A large number of new houses are also expected to be constructed in the next few years which would provide the school with additional pupils.	<p>The Local Authority recognises that a key disadvantage of accepting the proposal includes losing the presence of a school in the community of Mynyddygarreg. However, the Local Authority is of the opinion that the proposal will improve the community of Mynyddygarreg's access to 21st century teaching, learning and community facilities through shared use.</p> <p>The principal purpose of a school is to educate the pupils to the best standards possible and it is not reasonable to expect schools to carry the wider burden of the impact on the community. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they cannot be allowed to compromise the education of children.</p> <p>Whilst, in practice, most parents send their child to their local catchment area school, parents have a right to state a preference for different schools therefore, a large number of new houses does not necessarily attract a large number of new pupils to the catchment area school.</p>	165	35%
2.	Status Quo Respondents noted that both schools should remain open and the current informal federation should be	As part of its statutory obligation to keep the number and type of school places under review, the County Council has adopted a wide-ranging programme designed to improve school buildings and enhance	149	31%

	<p>formalised. Respondents praised the school and the excellent education provision at Ysgol Mynyddygarreg and reiterated that it should not close.</p>	<p>opportunities for learning. The strategy reflects the vision and policies established by the County Council which embrace the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. If implemented, this proposal will realise this ambition and provide the communities of Mynyddygarreg and Kidwelly with 21st Century teaching and learning provision.</p>		
3.	<p>Impact on Pupils’ Travel Times and Distance Respondents noted that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on pupils’ ability to walk to school and current family transport arrangements. Concerns were raised for the safety of pupils walking from the current Ysgol Mynyddygarreg catchment area to the proposed new school site (which involves crossing a busy bypass) and the implication of increased travel on the Carbon Footprint. Respondents noted that this goes against CCC Policy.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the implementation of the proposal may impact on pupils and families’ current transport and travel arrangements. If the proposal is implemented, the distance from Ysgol Mynyddygarreg to the proposed preferred new school site is approximately 2.4 miles. Transport will be provided in accordance with the Council’s School Transport Policy.</p>	121	25%

<p>4.</p>	<p>Small School Preference Respondents noted a preference for small schools and the benefits of this type of provision e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed age classes • Small class sizes • Pupil Teacher Ratio • Familiarity between staff and pupils 	<p>The Local Authority recognises that parents may have a preference for the type of education that they wish for their child to receive.</p> <p>‘Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.’ Admission to School: Information for Parents 2021 - 2022 booklet.</p> <p>Due regard must be given to the potential social and educational benefits available to children through learning and working in partnership with a wider range of peers and staff.</p> <p>Pupils can learn from opportunities of collaboration and building relationships in all class types, be it mixed or single aged groups.</p> <p>A lot of research has been carried out into the impact of class sizes, much of which is contradictory. Andreas Schleicher, Director of Education and Skills at the OECD says: “Everywhere, teachers, parents and policy-makers favour small classes as the key to better and more personalised education and yet, Pisa results show no relationship between class size and learning outcomes, neither within nor across countries.”</p>	<p>96</p>	<p>20%</p>
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5.	<p>No reason Some respondents did not provide a reason for their concerns.</p>		53	11%
6.	<p>Impact on the Welsh Language Respondents expressed concern that the community of Mynyddygarreg would lose its Welsh speaking heritage in a time when WG is promoting the language to encourage more Welsh speakers. Ysgol Mynyddygarreg is the only small Welsh medium school within the area and its closure could result in pupils choosing an alternative English medium school.</p>	<p>As part of the proposal, it is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current Welsh medium language arrangements.</p> <p>If the proposal is implemented, it is the Local Authority's intention that Ysgol Mynyddygarreg pupils transfer to the new school development, where pupils would be able to continue their Welsh medium education journey.</p> <p>The language status of all schools will be reviewed as part of the WESP – and as more schools journey along the language continuum. This review will apply to small English medium schools as well as all other schools.</p>	50	10%
7.	<p>Concerns with large school/classes Respondents noted concerns that pupils would not cope/flourish in a large school and believed that large classes were not good for pupils' education.</p>	<p>Pupils can develop and flourish in all class types. High quality education is currently being provided in very large schools.</p> <p>An Estyn inspection for a new 315 place + 45 nursery place replacement school building in</p>	39	8%

		<p>Carmarthenshire quotes that the school provides a 'homely and inclusive environment' which 'contributes to pupils' sense of pride in their work and belonging to their school. They are happy to attend, behave very well and develop positive attitudes to learning.'</p> <p>The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (Wales) Regulations 2013, impose a limit on class sizes for infant classes i.e. year groups Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.</p> <p>The limit imposed is the maximum of 30 pupils in an infant class at any time while an ordinary teaching session is conducted by a single school teacher (or, where the session is conducted by more than one school teacher, a maximum of 30 pupils for every teacher).</p> <p>All Carmarthenshire County Council Schools are therefore bound legally to keep Infant class sizes to a limit of 30 pupils.</p> <p>Whilst there is no legislation limiting Key Stage 2 classes to 30 or fewer, Welsh Government has a target of ensuring children aged 7 to 11 are taught in classes of no more than 30 children per school teacher.</p> <p>The capacity of schools is determined by applying the Welsh Government's Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales methodology. This method provides a robust and consistent method of</p>		
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		<p>assessing the capacity of schools and subsequently capacity of class sizes. This methodology uses a formula to provide a realistic and consistent assessment of the capacity of all primary schools.</p> <p>The Local Authority aims to have suitably sized classes with no more than two-year groups per class and which do not span the key stages of the curriculum.</p> <p>There are also many advantages to schools with greater numbers of pupils including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economies of scale – e.g. more efficient and effective use of financial resources • Greater opportunity to socialise with a wider range of pupils and better chance to be able to choose their friends and/or have a wider circle of friends • Better chance of being able to participate in a wider variety of sports and cultural teams, with the added incentive of ‘friendly’ competition • More chance of being able to work with pupils of similar ability 		
8.	<p>Education Standards Respondents questioned the difference in education standards of both schools and highlighted that Mynyddygarreg was a green rated school.</p>	<p>The national schools’ categorisation process has been suspended since 2020 and therefore is it not appropriate to comment on historic data.</p>	38	8%

<p>9.</p>	<p>Success of Cylch Meithrin Mynyddygarreg Respondents noted that the Cylch Meithrin is very successful and could support the increase in pupil numbers at the school. Respondents also raised concerns that the Cylch Meithrin would lose its home and the community would lose a valuable service if the proposal to close Ysgol Mynyddygarreg was implemented.</p>	<p>The Local Authority recognises the importance of the Cylch Meithrin for children’s education and development.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Authority acknowledges that the Cylch Meithrin could support pupil numbers, the future sustainability of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg has been considered for several reasons including school budget, building/resources condition and suitability and the proposal to provide a new school for Ysgol Gwenllian which allows the pupils of Mynyddygarreg the opportunity to benefit from this. Therefore, the discontinuation of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg does not rely solely on pupil numbers.</p> <p>The proposed new school development does not include space for the Cylch Meithrin or childcare provision.</p> <p>If the proposal is implemented the Local Authority would work with the Cylch Meithrin to look at the different options available to them.</p>	<p>35</p>	<p>7%</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Condition and Suitability of Current School Buildings Respondents questioned how the Local Authority’s lack of investment had allowed Ysgol</p>	<p>School Governing Bodies have a responsibility in respect of school’s maintenance in addition to the Local Authority’s responsibility.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>6%</p>

	<p>Mynyddygarreg's building condition and suitability to deteriorate to a position where closure is viewed as the preferred option.</p>	<p>Works that are CAPITAL in nature are the responsibility of the Local Authority and any other works required would be REVENUE in nature and therefore the responsibility of the school.</p> <p>The budget for CAPITAL major maintenance work in schools is under severe pressure and urgent works are prioritised on an annual basis across the schools estate.</p> <p>The Executive Board approved a revised Modernising Education Programme and 21st Century Schools Band B on the 18th December 2017 where approval was given to pursue grant funding (from Welsh Government) for a total of 19 individual projects at a total value of £129.5m which included a scheme for Ysgol Gwenllian. Due to the challenges faced at Ysgol Mynyddygarreg it would be unlikely to attract WG funding as it would not be considered strategic enough, considering that a new school for Ysgol Gwenllian was proposed for the area.</p>		
11.	<p>Consulting During a Pandemic Respondents did not believe that consulting during a pandemic was appropriate. They did not feel that requirements imposed by social distancing allowed for a full and transparent consultation. Some</p>	<p>The Local Authority appreciates that the last 21 months have been extremely difficult for families.</p> <p>The Local Authority would like to assure stakeholders that the consultation was prepared and conducted in line with the requirements of Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) and guidance on 'Changes to the School Organisation</p>	25	5%

	<p>respondents mentioned the difficulty they had encountered to join the virtual meetings.</p> <p>Respondents noted the detrimental impact of consulting during a pandemic on stakeholders' mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Code in response to the coronavirus outbreak' published on the 8th January 2021, which allowed for school consultations to continue during this time. This guidance included temporary changes to certain requirements of the School Organisation Code and provided Local Authorities with advice for consulting on school organisation proposals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>Subsequently, on the 16th February 2021 Welsh government published further guidance on consulting on school organisation proposals during the Coronavirus pandemic. In response to this guidance, following a meeting of the Executive Board on the 22nd February 2021 a decision was made to extend the consultation period for the proposal until 1st March 2021.</p> <p>The consultation period was extended further on the 1st March to the 16th July 2021, in response to the Executive Board's consideration of a notice of motion submitted to County Council on 10th February 2021.</p> <p>Due to the ongoing implications of the coronavirus pandemic during the consultation period the Local Authority provided consultees with the opportunity to attend virtual drop-in sessions in place of face to face meetings. This provided consultees with an opportunity to ask questions, express their views and to discuss the proposal with Local Authority officers. Whilst it is accepted that not all</p>		
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		<p>stakeholders would have the means to access a virtual drop-in session all stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to submit their views or ask questions via letter, telephone or email.</p> <p>Whilst the benefits of face to face meetings are recognised, in response to the pandemic the local authority adapted its engagement methods in order to ensure that the consultation was as accessible as possible to all. Many of these tools have proved even more successful than traditional face to face meetings and previous methods used in historic consultations. The Local Authority will continue to adapt its communication methods to meet stakeholder needs.</p>		
12.	<p>Quality of Consultation Document and misinformation</p> <p>Respondents felt that the Consultation Document was biased and included false/misleading information.</p> <p>Respondents did not believe that the Consultation document had considered the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act policy.</p>	<p>The consultation document produced complies with the guidance as set out in the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). All data contained within the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>Whilst the local authority notes the comments made. It must be reiterated that all answers provided in</p>	20	4%

	Respondents criticised the quality and depth of information received from officers in response to queries raised.	response to queries raised via drop-in sessions or alternative methods were based on factual and accurate information.		
13.	<p>Financial Pressure</p> <p>Respondents believed that the proposal was being implemented for financial reasons and to avoid investing in Ysgol Mynyddygarreg. Concern was also expressed that the school's deficit budget was being used as a reason for closure when there were schools in the County in a much larger deficit.</p>	<p>The decision to proceed with a proposal to discontinue Ysgol Mynyddygarreg was made based on a number of individual factors inclusive of pupil numbers and projections, school budget, building/resources condition and suitability and the proposal to provide a new school for Ysgol Gwenllian which allows the pupils of Mynyddygarreg the opportunity to benefit from this.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Executive Board approved a revised Modernising Education Programme and 21st Century Schools Band A and Future Programme on the 18th December 2017 where approval was given to pursue grant funding (from Welsh Government) for a total of 19 individual projects at a total value of £129.5m which included two separate schemes for Kidwelly. Due to the low pupil numbers at Ysgol Mynydd y Garreg, it is unlikely that an application for funding to renovate the school would be successful as this would not be considered to be strategic enough, considering that a further two investment projects were taking place in the area.</p>	20	4%
14.	<p>Future Choice for a Small School</p> <p>Respondents believed that school closure limited</p>	The Local Authority recognises that parents may have a preference for the type of education that they wish for their child to receive.	17	3%

	<p>parents' and pupils' human rights to choose their preferred primary education provision. Many believed that by closing Ysgol Mynyddygarreg the future choice of parents for a small school is taken away.</p>	<p>'Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.' Admission to School: Information for Parents 2021 - 2022 booklet.</p> <p>More information on the Local Authority's admissions policy can be found in Carmarthenshire County Council's Admission to School: Information for Parents 2021-2022 booklet.</p>		
15.	<p>Change in Age Range Respondents felt that the age range of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg should be changed from 4-11 to 3-11 enabling them to offer part-time Nursery provision and increase the number of pupils at the school. This would also align the provision with that of Ysgol Gwenllian.</p>	<p>There is a combination of 3 -11 and 4 – 11 primary schools in authority and a review is currently being undertaken on nursery provision, with a report expected to be submitted to elected members in the next 6 months for consideration.</p> <p>If all schools in the authority were 3 -11 then there would be a risk of non-maintained providers becoming unsustainable. It is important that the authority considers how their policies would impact private providers.</p>	16	3%
16.	<p>Impact of the Proposal on the Town and Residents of Kidwelly Respondents noted concerns with the increased traffic in Kidwelly during drop-off and</p>	<p>As part of the planning process a Traffic Impact Assessment will be undertaken to ascertain the effect of the new school development on the</p>	16	3%

	pick-up times in an already heavily congested town.	surrounding infrastructure. The TIA is a technical analysis of traffic problems and safety issues relating to a new development. The outcome of the assessment will determine what measures will be put in place to ensure that highway improvements if required are put in place.		
17.	<p>Transfer to Alternative Schools</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern that as the proposed site of the new school would not be within walking distance for the residents of Mynyddygarreg, parents could opt to send their children to an alternative school rather than to Ysgol Gwenllian. Some respondents mentioned that they would consider home educating their children.</p>	<p>If the proposal is implemented, it is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and transfer to the new school once it has been completed.</p> <p>However, the Local Authority also recognises that parents have a right to state a preference when choosing a school for their child. Should parents wish to choose an alternative school for their children, they may do so in line with the School Admissions Policy 2022-2023.</p>	13	3%
18.	<p>New School Design</p> <p>Respondents questioned the new school design and facilities in particular why had space not been allocated for the Cylch Meithrin. Concern was also expressed that plans had been amended and that the original plans did</p>	<p>If the proposal is implemented, more detail on the design and facilities of the new school development would be made available to stakeholders as the scheme progresses through its development stages.</p> <p>The new school will be designed to accommodate the required number of pupils and would be suitably funded, resourced and staffed. Since the original</p>	10	2%

	provide a space for the Cylch Meithrin.	<p>school designs were presented a number of years ago, the capacity of the school has been reviewed and updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Local Authority recognises the importance of the Cylch Meithrin for children’s education and development. If the proposal is implemented the Local Authority would discuss the possibilities available to the Cylch Meithrin in terms of future location with the appropriate representative.</p>		
19.	<p>New School Name Respondents noted the importance of ensuring that the new school had a new name to include Ysgol Mynyddygarreg.</p>	<p>Whilst the Local Authority supports the idea of the new school having a name which reflects both schools/communities. It does not have the power to enforce this. The name of the new school will be a decision for the school’s Governing Body.</p>	10	2%
20.	<p>Impact of the Proposal/Rumours Respondents expressed concern that Ysgol Mynyddygarreg had been operating under the threat of closure for many years and that this threat/rumour had affected the school’s ability to attract new pupils.</p>	<p>Whilst the Local Authority recognises the detrimental impact of such rumours - openness and transparency are a key dimension of effective consultation in order for parents to consider what is best for their child in the long term.</p>	4	0.8%
21.	<p>Timing of Consultation Respondents questioned why the proposal to close Ysgol</p>	<p>The timing of implementation of the proposal has been planned to ensure limited disruption and a</p>	4	0.8%

	<p>Mynyddygarreg was incorporated into the proposal at such a late stage in the process when the proposal for a new build for Ysgol Gwenllian could have been progressed without this closure.</p>	<p>smooth transition for pupils of both Ysgol Mynyddygarreg and Ysgol Gwenllian.</p> <p>If the proposal is implemented, on discontinuation of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg, all pupils will be registered at Ysgol Gwenllian which will operate on both sites. This will allow the staff and pupils on both sites to adjust to new ways of working prior to their transition to the new school building.</p>		
22.	<p>Contradicts Policy Respondents noted that the proposal contradicts Welsh Government's policy on the presumption against the closure of rural schools.</p>	<p>The second edition of the School Organisation Code (2018) makes special arrangements for rural schools (defined within the Code), establishing a procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools. This requires proposers to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.</p> <p>A list of Carmarthenshire's rural schools as defined by Welsh Government can be found on page 78 of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>Ysgol Mynyddygarreg is not defined as a rural school by the code.</p>	3	0.6%
23.	<p>Redundant school sites</p>	<p>Should the proposal be adopted, any redundant property will be transferred to the Regeneration Division for the procedures outlined in the Future</p>	3	0.6%

	<p>Respondents questioned what would happen to the former school sites.</p>	<p>Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the Modernising Education Programme policy to be actioned. This policy has been developed to allow the community to be offered the asset in the first instance before placing the site on the open market.</p> <p>Any capital receipts received as a result of the proposal would be re-invested into the Modernising Education Programme.</p>		
24.	<p>ALN Pupils Respondents believed that pupils with ALN would struggle with the change and queried how pupils would be supported. It is believed that small schools were better for pupils requiring one to one teaching.</p>	<p>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. School and classroom size should not be a factor when schools deliver a person-centred approach to children's learning supported by personalised learning packages with individually targeted interventions, strategies and opportunities and the support required for delivery.</p>	2	0.4%

Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn's response to the proposal to review primary education provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian Areas

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Summary/ Conclusion

This proposal is by Carmarthenshire county council. It is to review primary education provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian areas. More specifically the proposal aims to:

- Discontinue Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg from 31st August, 2021.
- From 1st September, 2021 all pupils will be registered at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian operating on both sites (Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian and the former Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg).
- Re-designate Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian's catchment area to include that of the former Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg's catchment area as of 1st September, 2021.
- Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian to a new site and increase its capacity to 210 + 30 nursery places as of September 2023, when occupation of the new school is proposed.

It is Estyn's view that this proposal is unlikely to have an overall adverse impact on the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a seemingly clear rationale for the proposal. It is to reduce the number of surplus places and to improve the condition of the buildings at Ysgol

Gynradd Mynyddygarreg and Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian by combining the two schools and relocating them to a new purpose built school on a different site. It is also intended that the proposal will address budgetary issues.

The council has set out the expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. The advantages centre mainly on the benefits of a new build school, ensuring sufficient Welsh medium provision to meet demand and reducing surplus places. The disadvantages include securing funding and increased travelling time for some pupils.

The council has recognised three risks in relation to the proposal and has identified seemingly suitable counter measures to address these risks. However it doesn't appear to have addressed the risk of having ongoing significant numbers of surplus places at the school. The capacity of the new build on the new site in 2023 will be 240 including nursery age. The pupil projections for both schools together including nursery age for January 2023 is 171 pupils. This will mean surplus places of 69 pupils or 29%. It is not clear how the council intends to address this risk.

The council asserts that 91 pupils living within Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg's catchment area attend other schools and that 192 pupils living within Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian's catchment area attend other schools.

The council has listed a number of other schools affected by this proposal and provided data for these schools including current numbers, projected numbers, capacity and budget. None of these schools are at capacity or projected to be at capacity over the next few years. The council has provided no commentary regarding the impact of the proposal on these schools, however it appears that it will have little impact on addressing the issue of surplus places across the local authority.

The council has considered four alternative options and listed the advantages and disadvantages of each option. It has also listed the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred option. These appear to be reasonable and valid.

The council has stated that transport will be provided in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The distance from Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg to the new proposed site of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian is over one mile. Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian's new school building will be designed to incorporate safe areas for the drop-off and collection of pupils. If the proposal is approved, safe routes to school will be looked at as part of the Transport Impact Assessment for the new school building. This appears to be reasonable.

The council has included a community impact assessment for both schools and identified some areas that need addressing, however it is not clear how the council intends to address the impact on the two communities, for example it has identified that the Mudiad Meithrin currently use the hall at Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg but no alternative facilities in the local area have been proposed.

The council has provided a Welsh language impact assessment and refers to its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). It is intended that the proposal will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Kidwelly and Mynyddygarreg 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. This seems to be relevant and suitable.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The council has considered an evaluation of the present informal federation arrangements and included relevant extracts from the most recent Estyn inspection reports for both schools. It has concluded with a commentary on the impact of the proposal on both schools. This includes a positive impact on teaching and staff welfare and appears to be reasonable and valid.

The council has also provided an equality impact assessment which appears to be generally suitable. However, this assessment refers to the outdated term “DDA compliant.” In addition, there appears to be very little reference in the document as to how the proposal will impact on pupils with SEN.

The council appears to have considered how disruption to learners will be minimised. During the transitional period pupils will remain on their existing school sites under the management of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian until the new build is ready for occupation to accommodate all pupils from Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg and Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian.

Local Authority Response to Estyn’s Observations

As can be seen from Estyn’s observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is unlikely to have an overall adverse impact on the standard of education provision in the area. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The proposer has provided a seemingly clear rationale for the proposal.

The council has recognised three risks in relation to the proposal and has identified seemingly suitable counter measures to address these risks.

The council has considered four alternative options and listed the advantages and disadvantages of each option. It has also listed the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred option. These appear to be reasonable and valid.

Issues raised by Estyn and LA responses

- 1. However it doesn't appear to have addressed the risk of having ongoing significant numbers of surplus places at the school. The capacity of the new build on the new site in 2023 will be 240 including nursery age. The pupil projections for both schools together including nursery age for January 2023 is 171 pupils. This will mean surplus places of 69 pupils or 29%. It is not clear how the council intends to address this risk.*

LA Response

When considering the business case process for application of funding, Carmarthenshire County Council need to demonstrate to Welsh Government the need to provide Ysgol Gwenllian with a new school building of a relevant capacity, which will be fit for purpose for a number of years. The economic appraisal for a new school build is undertaken for a period of 60 years and it is expected that a new school build would be fit for purpose and have a life span of such a time. In considering the “new school factor” that needs to be applied to pupil numbers once a new school is in construction or complete for occupation (which has been demonstrated in a number of new Carmarthenshire schools), the Local Authority has proposed a capacity of 240 to ensure that the new school building is fit for purpose at completion and in the future.

- 2. The council has listed a number of other schools affected by this proposal and provided data for these schools including current numbers, projected numbers, capacity and budget. None of these schools are at capacity or projected to be at capacity over the next few years. The council has provided no commentary regarding the impact of the proposal on these schools, however it appears that it will have little impact on addressing the issue of surplus places across the local authority.*

LA Response

The Local Authority has provided a list of schools that may be affected in compliance with the School Organisation Code 2018 and includes the surrounding catchment area schools to Ysgol Gwenllian and Ysgol Mynyddygarreg. The Local Authority is not proposing that any other school is directly affected as a result of this proposal, however accepts that there may be some indirect implications as a result of parental preference.

With regards to addressing the issue of surplus places across the county, the Local Authority is currently progressing a wholesale review of its Modernising Education Programme which contains all of the county’s schools and will consider issues such as oversubscription and surplus capacity.

- 3. The council has included a community impact assessment for both schools and identified some areas that need addressing, however it is not clear how the council intends to address the impact on the two communities, for example it has identified that the Mudiad Meithrin currently use the hall at Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg but no alternative facilities in the local area have been proposed.*

LA Response

Should the proposal be approved and implemented, the Local Authority will work with the Cylch Meithrin to look at the different options available to them.

4. *The council has also provided an equality impact assessment which appears to be generally suitable. However, this assessment refers to the outdated term “DDA compliant.” In addition, there appears to be very little reference in the document as to how the proposal will impact on pupils with SEN.*

LA Response

The updated term of Equality Act 2010 will be used in all our documentation from this point forwards.

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. The school will continue to support those pupils with special educational needs.

Consultation with the Pupils

Children and Young People Consultation Document

A Children and Young People's version of the Consultation Document was provided to the school to distribute to all pupils.

In addition to the pupil consultation events noted below, pupils' observations were received through the generic consultation and have been included in the summary of responses received and Local Authority related responses which can be found on pages 5-24.

Pupil Consultation Event

School: Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg

Date: 08/02/21

Consultation undertaken by:– Senior Education Consultant

Interviewed: Members of the School Council (conducted on-line)

Observations noted during the Pupil Consultation Event:

A virtual meeting was held with members of the Ysgol Mynyddygarreg School Council on 08.02.21.

In addition to the School Council the Headteacher and members of staff were present.

Almost every pupil had a parent in the same room as them.

The ESA read the pamphlet to everyone ensuring that they understood what was being discussed.

Here is a summary of the pupils' responses:

- Almost everyone had stated that they felt sad that the school was closing and that they did not want this to happen.
- Despite this, one pupil did say that it was a good thing that a new school was being built as the school was old.
- Many of the pupils mentioned the resources that were available in the village e.g. the Community Hall.
- It was said that there were more opportunities in a small school e.g. during the Christmas Show, with no one being left out.
- In the new school, as there would be many more pupils, there would be less support for the pupils in the class as staff would not be able to help everyone.

- Some of them liked the fact that they are able to walk to school to keep fit and that this also helped the environment.
- One pupil stated that it was not the building that made the school but the people within it.
- Some of the pupils had a feeling that there would be more bullying in the new school as there would be more pupils.
- Also, as there would be more pupils in the new school, the opinion of some pupils would not be considered in group work, and their ideas would not be considered in the work.
- One pupil mentioned that pupils from small schools did better educationally than pupils from larger schools. She referred to her brother's experience in secondary school.
- Again they stated that they were sad as they felt that they were one large family together and had more support. The school had been open for a long time with a very successful history.
- Some pupils were sad that they would have different people teaching them and that they were friends with the teachers.
- One pupil stated that she was sad as her mother would lose her job maybe.
- Pupils should have the change to finish their primary education in Ysgol Mynyddygarreg, there would be no chance of this if the school closed.

Considering the benefits of moving:

- More pupils to make new friends.
- One pupil stated that it was good that a new school was being build. She currently has to travel a long way but the new school would be closer.
- Pupils would have an opportunity to mix with older pupils.

Current needs:

- They would like to have a swimming pool with more space on the yard to play.

One thing the council could do to help would be to not close the school.

Message from Steffan (Mynyddygarreg School Council) who could not be present.

"I feel sad that someone would want to close our school, I don't want the school to close. I don't want to travel further to school. I enjoy walking to school and I wouldn't be able to do this at a new school in Kidwelly. I want other children, like me to be able to come to our school - if the school is closed - no children will be able to go to the school again/in the future. Lots of new houses in the village are being built - what if the children who live here -want to come to our school? but they cant as its no longer open?"

I love to play in the park, rugby field and sports court next to the school every day when the weather is nice. Me and my friends have a lot of fun! - we have lots of space to run around and play.

We also use the hall (village hall) to do plays and ymarfer corff as there's lots of room in there. We also go to the church and chapel to sing songs at Christmas and at other times... its nice because all the people who live in Mynyddygarreg come and see us. This wouldn't happen if the school was closed and that's very sad.

I like playing and working with children who are older and younger than me - we all know each other really well and play nice together.

I hope that you can do your best and try hard to keep the school open".

Steffan"

School: Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian

Date: 08/02/21

Consultation undertaken by:– Senior Education Consultant

Interviewed: Members of the School Council (conducted on-line)

Observations noted during the Pupil Consultation Event:

A virtual meeting was held with members of the Ysgol Gwenllian School Council on 08.02.21.

As well as the School Council the Headteacher and members of staff were present.

Almost every pupil had a parent in the same room as them.

The ESA read the pamphlet to everyone to ensure that they understood what was being discussed.

Here is a summary of pupil observations:

- Most pupils were very happy for the opportunity to be taught in a new school.
- More opportunities to make new friends, and an opportunity to be part of sports teams.
- Equal opportunity for everyone with better technology resources for everyone.
- New resources, larger rooms and new reading material.
- An opportunity to have a grassed playing field.
- As the pupils at both schools were already friends through leisure activities, joining both schools would be easy.
- A larger school would give more pupils in the Kidwelly area an opportunity to be taught through the medium of Welsh.
- There would be more room to park in the new school which would be much safer than the current situation in Ysgol Gwenllian.
- It would be good to have our own kitchen on the site to prepare fresh food.

- It will be nice to have everything new.
- We need a large stage to hold concerts in the school.
- It would be beneficial to have a 'Chill Out area' in the new school.

With regards to what they don't like about the current school:

- Not enough space to play/grass on the site.
- Need a larger hall for physical exercise/for assemblies.
- There is no room to do any gardening or grow vegetables.
- Cabins – not much space in them.
- No room for outdoor learning for everyone.
- Mixed year groups in classes.
- The toilets are currently located outside.
- Disabled people cannot easily access the school.
- It can be cold at times.

What could the council do to help:

- "Clatcho bant da'r build newydd" (Get on with the new build) – a quote from one of the older pupils.
- Ensure that the name of the school incorporates the 2 areas of Gwenllian and Mynyddygarreg.

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 Cabinet for consideration.

Change the age range of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg from 4-11 to 3-11	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Seamless transition from nursery into primary school	Reduction in the demand for places at the Cylch Meithrin/childminders/ privately-run nurseries who currently offer this provision
Opportunity for employment at Ysgol Mynyddygarreg	Unemployment due to the lack of demand at the establishments who currently offer this provision
Standardisation of part-time nursery provision in the area	Costly model of provision if there is no uptake
Would attract pupils at an earlier age avoiding them having to attend an alternative school	More pupils at the school would result in the Cylch Meithrin having to vacate the premises

Invest in Ysgol Mynyddygarreg	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Mynyddygarreg would retain a school in the community	Dependent on business case approval to secure funding. Potential for Welsh Government rejection of Business Case due to scope of the project not meeting strategic needs
Would address the poor building condition	Would not address the school's deficit budget
Would provide pupils with a 21 st Century building and facilities	Would not increase the number of Welsh medium school places. Projections show that pupil numbers are not expected to increase beyond the school's current capacity
No statutory process required	There is currently no scheme allocated for Ysgol Mynyddygarreg within the Band B Modernising Education Programme

Change Ysgol Mynyddygarreg into a dual stream school	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Would provide parents with a choice of language medium for their child(ren)	Does not support the LA's approved Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020
Could attract pupils who would otherwise access English medium provision elsewhere	Does not support Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers' aim
More employment opportunities at the school	Significant investment would be required at the school to enable both streams to be taught separately
	Costly model of provision if there is no uptake

Extend the catchment area of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg so that they are able to attract more pupils	
Advantages	Disadvantages
A larger catchment area would have more pupils living within it	Changing a catchment area would not guarantee that pupil numbers would increase at Ysgol Mynyddygarreg. Parents can choose where they send their children and, as long as there was capacity in their chosen school their children would be admitted

	Would result in the catchment area of a neighbouring school or schools being reduced having a knock-on effect on the number of pupils in their catchment area and potentially compromising the school's viability
	Consultation required with neighbouring schools

Make the current Ysgol Mynyddygarreg school building a Hub/Nursery/Ti a Fi facility growing what is already in place	
Advantages	Disadvantages
The community would retain the provision of a Cylch Meithrin	Would require significant investment to make it a suitable building for this provision
Increased employment opportunities.	Would require the community to submit a business case to the Local Authority
The building could be utilised by the whole community	Costly model of provision if there is no uptake

Appendix A

Business Plan



carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg

Cynllun Busnes ar gyfer y Dyfodol

A Business Plan for the Future





Forward

The strength of feeling in Mynyddygarreg is not to be underestimated. After decades of growth in the village, the last amenity is under threat of closure. The community believes the school has a future and has come together to present this Business Plan and show the way forward for the school.

We are supported not only by Ysgol Mynyddygarreg Governors but by Kidwelly Town Council and Ysgol Gwenllian Governors and we hope that our County Council shares our commitment to taking the school forward into the future.

Despite the difficulties presented by Covid, the consultation has been an opportunity to consider the school's issues and find solutions to them. We know that something needs to be done but we do not believe that closing the school is the solution - far from it, that would be a disaster for Mynyddygarreg itself and for the wider issues of Welsh language and culture. The threat of school closure has hung over the village for long enough and it is finally time to give certainty back to the community - when community has never been more important.

The plan demonstrates how we can overcome the challenges of budget and building neglect to continue with the outstanding educational attainment and performance that are a feature of the school.

Summary of Key Points

- Ysgol Mynyddygarreg is categorised as an “excellent” performing school and an exemplar in demonstrating the benefits of the Federation system. Moving to a formal Federation is the next step.
- The school plays a very significant part in the Welsh culture and language of the area and is the hub of the village. If Welsh language is to be promoted then the school needs to remain in the village.
- Growth in housing capacity in Mynyddygarreg has doubled the size of the community in recent decades, particularly for affordable family housing. New development continues and the future LDP adds further capacity. This is attracting increasing numbers of non-Welsh speaking families to the community, and the presence of the school will be the main driving force to ensure that the children, and many of their parents, will be able to take part fully in Welsh social and cultural activities.
- The County Council’s long-standing presumption of closure (as interpreted in the “Modernising Education” strategy since 2005) has prevented the school from benefitting from this local pupil growth, putting a brake on the creation of new Welsh speakers, removing choice for parents, demoralising teachers and falsely undermining the school’s viability. This situation can be corrected, and the Council has the chance here to show that smaller schools – with the right planning – can be part of future plans.



- The new school proposal only increases total Welsh medium capacity by 45 places if Mynyddygarreg school closes. This is not sufficient to allow for future growth in the area's population AND fulfilling the increase in Welsh Medium places and One million Welsh speakers policy.
- The school is situated in the heart of the village surrounded by great facilities on its "campus". The building, however is in a poor state of repair and will require £417,000 to modernise. A grant application to 21st Century Schools, alongside the new school for Gwenllian would cost only £5,800 per annum capital costs to provide a newly refurbished school in the village. For context, the school has already spent £3,600 this year alone on patching the leaking roof. The school outdoor "campus" including "Nature Trail School" would be an asset to the federation.
- The school's Age 4-11 category constrains the school from increasing pupil numbers. The school's on-site Meithrin (age 2-4) currently has 35 children on roll. As Ysgol Mynyddygarreg cannot take them until age 4 the majority of these feeder children have no choice but to move to age 3-11 schools. Once settled in a different school they are unlikely to move again. To compound this problem, any younger siblings take the same limited path.
- Using population numbers, obtained from Freedom of Information, it is calculated that this year there are 11 (out of 22) new pupils age 3 in the catchment that could attend Ysgol Mynyddygarreg later this year if the school offers Age 3 intake. These additional 11 pupils would be on-roll at school full-time next year, with new intakes of 3-year-olds feeding the increased level of actual pupil numbers in subsequent years.
- Using modest scenario figures based on parent pledges and Age 3 intake, the school will be in budget surplus by 2022/23 and could be at full capacity as early 2024.



Ysgol Mynyddygarreg – an Introduction

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg has been the hub of the village since it was built in 1885 but was established even earlier with Sophia’s school - teaching children in a barn at her home in the village. Formerly teaching children from 5-14 and latterly a primary school teaching children from age 4, over 135 years it has been a constant at the heart of the community - an engine driving the Welsh language for multiple family generations.

Its importance to the community cannot be underestimated and smaller community schools form the lifeblood for keeping the language alive.

Located just a few minutes’ walk from the village square, the school has been extended and modernised over the years and now has three classrooms and a multi-use room for lunch and play, plus it is home to the Meithrin, looking after the thriving pre-school population. The school site has an outdoor area for Foundation Phase children with outbuildings for equipment storage and a further area for older children’s play. There is also an outdoor cabin classroom shared by all.

But this school’s facilities don’t end at its boundary walls. Take a school in a village on the edge of a mountain and see what that offers children in terms of curriculum and well-being. Ysgol Mynyddygarreg has its own “campus”, including: A large hall and stage for indoor sport/play and concerts; a new multi-use games area for netball and football; a playing field for school sports; a play park for exercise via leisure; woods and a path to the mountain open spaces for nature (and donkeys). This provision is rarely available elsewhere. It is unique to this setting at no additional cost to the Council’s budget. The image shows these amazing educational opportunities:



Pupils are taught in two mixed age classes (infants and junior) with a teacher and assistant assigned to each. Additional assistants are assigned when a child has additional learning needs. Whole class lessons are prepared with tasks allocated according to age and ability. Teaching themes and mixing of pupil ages, to bring on the most able and talented in reading and maths, are commonplace in schools today and mixed age classes give teachers the flexibility to do this easily. Teaching the same pupils over a number of years develops deeper understanding of pupils' strengths and needs and puts teachers in a better position to support each individuals' learning. They don't have to spend the early weeks of the term getting to know each child and the pupils feel comfortable with the same teacher.

A small school offers a different dynamic – relationships and connection. A culture of caring and socialised nature, allowing the older children to develop in confidence by taking responsibility with the younger pupils and providing greater opportunities for those that would be lost in a larger school. Those children “in the middle” are all afforded more attention and greater support for pupils that need that extra time. Every pupil is known by every staff member, down to their individual characteristics and their social and emotional needs. The school play includes every child.

That caring extends to the community - older and younger children play together, not only in school but outside in the village.

School Performance

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg achieved a score of *Good* at the last Estyn inspection in 2014. The Welsh Government's school categorisation system provides a better indication of current and recent levels of achievement:

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg categories:

2014-2016 Yellow

2017/18 Green

2018/19 Green

2019/20 Green

The school has been coded as *Excellent*.

Welsh Government Policy change has since ended the categorisation process and the latest Estyn inspection is now overdue, having been expected in 2019. However, the school continues to maintain its high standards.

Governance through Federation

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg's excellent performance has benefitted from collaboration known as an 'informal federation' for many years, initially working with Ysgol Trimsaran.

Sharing a **Head Teacher** meant the school went from 0.2 of a Head and, in effect, gained a full-time Head as the administrative costs benefitted from the shared agreement. **Teachers** have enjoyed the development opportunities of any larger school by shared working practices, using peer-reviewing, mentoring, curriculum development, etc. within the

federation. A federation is an ideal opportunity to retain small schools and all their benefits. The traditional argument against small schools, creating pressures on teachers as they struggle alone, are swept away in a federation. Support and collaboration with a larger group of peers allows teachers to develop professionally, bringing more ideas and sharing good practice. **Pupils** of both schools enjoyed joint activities, sharing costs for transport and venues whilst using the facilities offered by the larger new Trimsaran school meant that pupils gained all the benefits of a small school without missing opportunities that can be achieved in a larger setting.

The Federation with Trimsaran School was hailed as an exemplar model of smaller and larger schools working together and even included a visit to the sites by Carmarthenshire Councillors. Since then a number of Federations have been set up in the area.

Since January 2020 Mynyddygarreg School has been in an informal federation with Ysgol Gwenllian. Most of this period has been during Covid-19 lockdown, but that has not prevented the relationships between staff of both schools being developed. Once schools are open normally, the benefits to pupils and teachers from federation will become evident. The school has gained admin support as it now shares admin with Ysgol Gwenllian, allowing parents to contact the school freely throughout the day and strengthening the parent school contact.

The benefits to both schools in progressing from an 'soft' informal federation to a formal Federation were being explored up until March 2020, with both schools almost ready to formalise the arrangement. A Federation is a long-term legal solution in its own right, where two independent schools share a Board of Governors with a mission to share resources to provide a wider pool of human and material resources.

The Building

There has been little or no investment in Ysgol Mynyddygarreg by the County Council over at least the last 10 years. The school building has been neglected under presumption of closure and the staff feel this neglect.

Although the school is a Victorian structure it is not unsound. Heritage buildings do not need to be condemned just because they are old – indeed most of society embraces its older buildings, along with their history and tries to preserve them. Community assets need to be maintained, of course, and allowed to evolve to gain modern equipment and facilities.

The carbon footprint and the financial cost of this rejuvenating approach is much lower than building afresh. £6.5million for a new carbon-intensive primary school compared to £417,000 for a carbon-light refurbishment to future-proof the current school and keep more Welsh language places is a crucial, and insightful, investment in both education and the amenity at the heart of its community.

No detailed conditions survey has been performed by the Council's Property Maintenance Service for over a decade. On request the service quickly supplied their assumed maintenance estimations, via a desktop exercise, which highlights the roof as the major investment requirement; currently scheduled for replacement in 2023. Until 2023 the roof



will continue to be a failure risk, creating more problems for the building and its occupants. The school has already spent £3,600 this year alone on separate roof repairs and numerous emergency patchings over the last 10 years, which have led to the gradual deterioration of the building.

In the absence of accurate and detailed conditions information an independent building survey was undertaken by the school to ascertain the likely cost of transforming the building, both internally and externally, for its long-term future. The Surveyor has indicated that most of the issues stem from the roof problems and once that is repaired (including insulation, soffits, guttering and ceiling repairs, etc) and windows replaced the building would need: Re-plastering (in areas where damp has caused damage); toilet refurbishment; staff room refurbishment; some electrical upgrading; decorating throughout; boundary wall maintenance and outside surface tarmac.

Budget Deficit

The school has a growing budget deficit and there is an assumption that cost is too high for the school to continue.

A large part of the deficit mirrors that of other small schools – years of austerity and chronic underfunding, which hits small schools hardest. Prior to 2010 the school carried a £16,000 surplus, which was gradually eroded as austerity cuts progressed. This scenario is common for many smaller schools.

However, there were two specific instances which added multiple debt to the school's budget:

- A family of 3 moved from school in December only to return again in March. Grants assessment for children on roll is based on PLASC January census and as they were not in school in January the school was not funded for the three who were actually on the register for the bulk of the year. This left a £10,000 gap in the year's planned budget.
- Long term sickness of a teacher where the supply teacher was not covered by the insurance.

Just 3 more pupils would have prevented the school's deficit from growing each year. However, changes this year in the Pupil Deprivation Grant has meant that the school deficit will rise by an additional £10,000. This means we either need another 3 children or we need three existing pupils to be eligible for free school meals (not in our control), so we can get additional pupil deprivation grant. Like all smaller schools, changes in the way funding is allocated can make a difference to whether a school has enough budget for each year. A sum as small as £10,000 can make a real difference to a smaller community school.

Raising the number of pupils at school is the only way to increase the grant so that the school can break even. Currently pupils are not able to start school in Mynyddygarreg until age 4. Many parents whose children attend the on-site Meithrin (which is thriving with 35 children at present) will send their children to other schools with an age 3 start and this badly impacts the numbers attending Mynyddygarreg.



Pupil occupancy rates for schools in the area demonstrates how Age 3 starting boosts pupil numbers on roll. See below:

	Ysgol Mynyddygarreg	Ysgol Gwenllian	Ysgol y Castell	Ysgol y Fro	Ysgol Gwynfryn	Ysgol Pontietts	Ysgol Glan y Fferi	Ysgol Carwe	Ysgol Trimsaran	Ysgol Penbr e	Ysgol Parc y Tywyn
Age	4-11	3-11	3-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	3-11	3-11	3-11
Roll	36	119	233	28	61	37	39	58	190	231	262
Capacity	65%	85%	95%	68%	63%	43%	31%	46%	79%	96%	72%

If Mynyddygarreg was able to take pupils at age 3, we forecast that the increase in funding for additional pupils, plus additional foundation phase grants, would transform the school budget back into long-term surplus.

Under the new school structure currently under consultation Ysgol Mynyddygarreg would have its historical budget deficit erased on entering a Formal Foundation. The assumption is made here that the same clean slate solution would be applied to this alternative proposal i.e. prior deficit would be removed.

Pupil Numbers in a Growing Population

Over the last 30 years the growth of Mynyddygarreg through private housing developments has been significant. In 1990 there were 210 homes in Mynyddygarreg, 4 pubs and a large hotel. In 2021 there are no pubs – they are now homes, and no hotel – it’s site currently on the market for yet another multi-house development.

Housing capacity in the village has doubled with approximately 150 new homes added, with a high proportion of affordable starter homes for young families.

Ribbon development on the main road and 3 private housing developments between 2010 and 2014 (100 homes, 28 and 14 in addition to the tens of self-build homes). A further development of 25 houses just starting.

The housing landscape and demographic of the village has changed; no amenities have been built to sustain the larger and younger community and there has been no strategic planning or investment. *The County’s planning committee supported arguments that the presence of the school supported approval for housing expansion and expanded housing supports the school.* This strategic thinking has not followed-through, Ysgol Mynyddygarreg has been left adrift.

S106 funds arising from the housing developments has mainly been spent in Cydweli (playing field drainage). It was only due to action by the community itself that any funds at all were received, when the last 28 home development in the village was completed. Finally, a badly needed upgrade of the park and MUGA and the school had an outdoor cabin and alterations to the school yard. S106 funding is meant to bolster and create additional amenities in areas which have had a detrimental impact due to additional housing and resulting population growth. Mynyddygarreg, still growing, has had but a fraction of that which should have come to the village and school. The education funding could have been used directly to repair the school but, lacking in strategic thinking, none was spent.

The Local Development Plan settlement areas do not differentiate between Cydweli and Mynyddygarreg and presumed population growth is indicated for the area together. However, the significant majority of housing growth has and is taking place in Mynyddygarreg, not Cydweli. The new LDP proposal sites for Mynyddygarreg will result in further new homes.

Written support for the retention of the school at Mynyddygarreg has been given by the developer of a new 25 home site in the village. They have stated that their homes are designed for the young family demographic. The eleven homes already sold prior to any building work starting bear this out.

School capacity to deal with population growth

The number of places at the proposed new-build school is 240, which is to account for population growth over the next 50 years (quote CCC officer). The current capacity of both schools combined is 195, which leaves only 45 additional places for population growth plus growth in Welsh medium education places, to fulfil local and national drives to achieve one million Welsh speakers. Pupil numbers for Ysgol Gwenllian are already estimated to be near current capacity by 2025 (only 2 years after the new school will open) and combined with numbers for Ysgol Mynyddygarreg will leave only a small total growth capacity for what is already a popular and growing area to live. Closing Mynyddygarreg removes an additional 55 Welsh medium school places when policy dictates we should be creating more.

Community and Culture Ysgol Mynyddygarreg's Place

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act provides a legal framework to understand and consider decision making holistically. This means a community view as a whole and not viewing education as one component that can be removed whilst leaving the rest intact. By taking away a school, the fabric of what binds a community is left to fall. Villages are, by their very nature, dynamic communities that have grown up around the amenities they had, which sadly are mostly gone. Where schools remain, villages retain their sense of community, that binding that people share, allowing them to be something more than just a collection of houses.

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg is such a school - involving pupils within the community, bringing together old and young, not just the parents. The community is like a web with the school at its centre, connected by village identity and by the Welsh language to other components of the village that, lacking its school to maintain the web would probably not thrive:

- Neuadd Village Hall, a base for concerts and plays, involvement in events, carnivals, halloween.
- St Teilos Church – services, Christingle, Harvest
- Horeb Chapel – concerts and services
- Rugby Club – sports and duck racing, barbeques
- Senior Citizens – visiting their lunch clubs and seasonal parties

Welsh Language and Culture

Mynyddygarreg is one of the post-industrial villages that retained its strong links to language and culture. The community has maintained traditions and remains a hub of Welsh language and culture. Annual events in the Welsh language always receive a packed house from far and wide, in addition to the strong Welsh community that is synonymous with the village. “West is Best” originated in Mynyddygarreg and remains the proud anchor for the community.

- Mynyddygarreg hosts the annual Eisteddfod competition in May, a practice run for entrants to the main competition and an important cultural event in the area with entries from all schools, adult categories and the awarding of the Chair (a miniature one crafted by a community member).
- A Welsh cultural event takes place every March with acts like Dewi Pws and Dafydd Iwan gracing the stage. Its popularity brings Welsh speakers from miles but also attracts new people into Welsh culture.

Removal of the Welsh Medium school from the village and the long-term impact that will have on what is one of the county’s largest pockets of Welsh speaking and culture is not a decision that should be taken lightly. The growth of the village has brought many non-Welsh speaking young families to the community and having a Welsh medium village school and a culture that embraces Welsh means there is a great opportunity to increase the number of Welsh speakers.

If, however, there is no school in the village then parents can choose between larger English or Welsh schools in Cydweli and, as they do now, many will opt to select the English medium school because it is easier and the English medium Ysgol Y Castell is closer to Mynyddygarreg. The option of a village school is attractive to people living in a village – and the children will learn Welsh and likely choose Welsh medium secondary education also, firmly embedding them in Welsh language and culture for their future generations. Take away Ysgol Mynyddygarreg and this opportunity to grow new generations of Welsh speakers is forever lost.



Carbon Footprint

Carmarthenshire Council's policies such as Active Travel, Safer Routes to Schools, LDP and Net Zero Carbon by 2030, all aim to decrease carbon footprint and promote eco-friendly lives. This is also enshrined within the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act. Taking a decision in the context of education, without accounting for wider consequences and indeed the wider expense to the Council contradicts those policies.

Retaining Ysgol Mynyddygarreg meets these aims:

- Refurbishing Ysgol Mynyddygarreg keeps an existing building in use and has a lower carbon footprint than new build
- Existing and new home owners in the village can make contributions to Active Travel and Net Zero Carbon by 2030
- Parents will walk children to school, saving approx. 610 car journeys per week travelling to new Gwenllian school
- School transport is not required for pupils to travel to school
- Maintaining the school works towards connected communities as set out in Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

The Proposal

- Establish a new school for Ysgol Gwenllian only (fully supported by Gwenllian Governing body)
 - Survey and properly cost the Ysgol Mynyddygarreg's building for upgrading works. As our independent survey showed, this could be done speedily without causing further delay to the grant application.
 - Establish a business plan for both schools as a Formal Federation on two sites, giving parents the choice of a smaller school setting, which could also benefit pupils that would thrive in a smaller setting but don't really achieve in a larger school.
 - Obtain funding from 21st Century schools for both settings.
 - Reduce starting age to 3 for pupils attending Mynyddygarreg
 - Recognise the essential parts that small schools play in community cohesion, over and above the education of pupils and establish a mechanism for additional funding for this purpose, which would bolster the community asset.
- GIVE CERTAINTY TO THE FUTURE OF YSGOL MYNYDDYGARREG

The Plan

Creating an up-to-date Building

An independent building survey conducted in February 2021 has indicated the worst-case scenario cost to bring Ysgol Mynyddygarreg up to a good standard for the future would be £417,000 (appendix).

The cost of a new school for Gwenllian is £6.5m and for Ysgol y Castell £7.4m, a total of £13.9 million spent on education in Cydweli whilst Ysgol Mynyddygarreg requires a modest investment of £417,000 to allow it to continue providing excellent Welsh Language education in the area.

Welsh Government 21st Century Schools provides 65% funding for schools and the remainder would come from Carmarthenshire Council. The Welsh Government confirm that it is not unusual and perfectly permissible within their grant rules to obtain funding for refurbishment.

$35\% \times £417k = £145k$ over 25 years, which is just £5,800 per year to save the focus of the community for a generation. Put in context, the school has already spent £3,600 this year alone, patching the existing leaking roof.

This is a fraction of the overall cost of investing £13.9million in the area for the two new urban schools and represents a 3% addition to the total grant applications for the two Cydweli schools.

The Mynyddygarreg community deserves a proportionate share of investment. It has borne the majority of new housing and population growth in the area and needs the certainty over the next 25-year period of sufficient Welsh medium school places.

It also makes up for past neglect.

The Business Case to 21st Century Schools Funding for new school for Gwenllian should include £417,000 for repair to Ysgol Mynyddygarreg to retain 55 Welsh medium school places in the growing village.

Addressing Pupil Numbers

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg's capacity is 55 pupils. Over many years pupil numbers have remained fairly stable, at around 38-42 pupils, with estimated pupil numbers at 39 in 2025. A constantly thriving Meithrin, based within the school means that age 4 children have a seamless transition into Foundation Phase; parents need not worry about their child settling in to a different school, a new generation's adoption of Welsh language is automatic and any siblings follow the same path

Children in surrounding schools are able to start pupils at age 3. For a great many local parents this is the time when they will look to take their child out of Meithrin and switch to a nursery place at a different school. Once settled in that school it is difficult to make that change back. As a result, the children in Meithrin do not automatically move on to Ysgol Mynyddygarreg.

A freedom of information request has provided information that there are currently 22 3-4 year olds in Mynyddygarreg catchment, who are unable to attend Ysgol Mynyddygarreg until age 4. Attendance at Welsh or English medium primary education in Cydweli and Mynyddygarreg area is approx. 50% each. Assumption is made that 50% of the 22 would choose English medium, which leaves 11 additional pupils for Ysgol Mynyddygarreg that cannot currently choose Mynyddygarreg due to the age 4 start. With Age 3 start this additional number would take the school up to 50 pupils and although still not at capacity would provide the additional income to create a budget surplus.

If the change is enacted, 3 year olds will have full time care with half day at Meithrin and half at school, all in the same building. An attractive offer for working parents.

A number of years ago the school requested a change to age 3 status so that it could address budget issues. This request was blocked by the Council, stating that there was enough provision elsewhere in the area. This stance has, predictably, undermined the budget position in Mynyddygarreg and very effectively prevented the school from solving the key issue that has now led to threatened closure.

A decision was taken at December 2020 Carmarthenshire Council Executive Board that Swiss Valley school entry age should be lowered to 3 to "bring it into line with others in the area" in direct policy contradiction to the stance taken with Ysgol Mynyddygarreg. It is fully expected that this decision can also be made for Ysgol Mynyddygarreg, allowing the two federated schools to offer the same service of starting at age 3.

The school already has an excellent standard of teaching and leadership and has already proven itself over the last 6 years. ***The certainty against threat of closure of the school and an investment in the fabric of the building would bring additional pupils to the school.***

A Formal Federation with Ysgol Gwenllian

A Federation is about schools pooling resources to improve performance, raise standards of attainment and achieving more for the children, whether that is providing access to opportunities and facilities children would not normally be able to access, or to share resources. This would be a two-way interaction in that, as shown previously, pupils at Ysgol Gwenllian could also benefit from visiting the Mynyddygarreg “campus” including the nature trail.

Both Ysgol Gwenllian and Ysgol Mynyddygarreg have been in an informal federation for the last year. The shared Head has ensured that the schools work closely together and staff have built up a good working relationship. Within the two months pre-COVID the schools shared Vlogging Workshops and competed in Netball and Football tournaments (something that hadn't taken place for many years at Mynyddygarreg due to the numbers being too low to create a team). Once schools can return to normal then they will be sharing more activities and developing their own relationships with each other.

Between January and March 2020 the schools' two governing bodies held a number of meetings to discuss how we could work together. Meetings were somewhat rushed due to County Council timescales relating to the new school, but there was a strong desire to work together. There will be further discussions, outside of false deadlines, which will enable the two schools to enter a formal federation - to the benefit of both schools.

Funding

Funding projections for the next three years are set out below. Due to the complexity of education funding it has only been possible to demonstrate an estimate of funding, so this has been based on the current year spend as the most up-to-date information available. Potential funding for future Pupil Deprivation Grant has not been included, nor has any future estimates for Additional Learning Needs, etc.

County Council funding per pupil for 2020/21 is £3870 per nursery age pupil. By changing the age status of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg from 4 to 3 an additional 11 nursery pupils would attend (as previously calculated as one half of the available 22 3-4 year olds in the catchment area, currently not able to attend Mynyddygarreg). As three year olds attend part time, the figure would be £1935 per pupil. This has been entered into the annual budget for 2022/23 as it is estimated that due to the statutory process lead-time to lower the starting age it is unlikely nursery pupils would start until December 2021.

These additional pupils will create the new higher baseline pupil figure for future years. As most children tend to stay at the same school, we can be confident that once started, these numbers will be maintained for each school year group, bolstering capacity for future years.



			Running total
2021/22			
Funding allocation based on 36 pupils 2020/21	£171,635		
Additional funding for 11 nursery pupils from Jan 2021 50% part time schooling			
Funding for additional primary pupils from Jan 2021 remains the same			
Total Funding for 2021/2022	£171,635		
Total Expenditure based on 20/21	£193,469		
Surplus/deficit	- £21,834.00	-£21,834.00	36 on roll
2022/23			
Funding allocation based on 36 pupils 2020/21	£171,635		
Additional funding for 11 nursery pupils from Jan 2022 50% part time schooling	£21,285		
Funding for 6 additional primary pupils from Jan 2021 (parents already registered and pledged to start)	£23,568		
Formal Federation additional funding	£6,000		
Total Funding for 2022/2023	£222,488		
Total Expenditure based on 20/21	£193,469		
Surplus	£29,019.00	£7,185.00	53 on roll
2023/24			
Funding allocation based on 36 pupils 2020/21	£171,635		
Additional funding for 8 nursery pupils from Jan 2023 50% (reaching school capacity)	£15,480		
Funding for 11 additional primary pupils from Jan 2023 (from nursery;) 6 pupils leaving	£43,208		
Formal Federation additional funding	£6,000		
Total Funding for 2023/2024	£230,323		
Total Expenditure based on 20/21	£193,469		
Surplus	£36,854.00	£44,039.00	55 on roll (capacity)

Assumptions:

Pupil values, income and expenditure for each year are based on the Ysgol Mynyddygarreg 20/21 budget figures for 36 pupils (the most current available data). Additional £6,000p/a formal federation. Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant will also be available for additional pupils that qualify but has not been included in the calculation. Pupil values: Primary £3928; Nursery £3,870 (50%)

Timescales

May 2021 – Commence statutory process for age 3-11 for Ysgol Mynyddygarreg

May 2021 – Discussions recommence with Gwenllian Governors regarding a formal federation.

May 2021- Business Case to Welsh Government 21st Century Schools for new school for Gwenllian and refurbishment of Ysgol Mynyddygarreg

July 2021 – Commence building work on Ysgol Mynyddygarreg as roof repairs are urgently required.

January 2022 – Ysgol Mynyddygarreg starts taking pupils from age 3

Appendix Building Survey Estimates

Ysgol Mynyddygarreg Capital Works

Works Description	Work Type	Rate	Unit	Approx Qty	CAPITAL
External Boundary Walls	Boundary/ Retaining Walls	£800.00	item	100	£20,000.00
Floor replacement to Staff room	Soft wood floor replacement	£190.00	m2	19	£3,610.00
Concrete tiled roof and valleys/ Hips	Roofing, to include trusses, insulation roof coverings, PVC rain water goods, plasterboards, skim and emulsion to ceilings	£225.00	m2	800	£180,000.00
Scaffolding	Scaffolding	£25,000.00	item	1	£25,000.00
Windows	Windows to the School	£20,000.00	item	21	£20,000.00
Damp Walls	Treat Damp walls, render wall finish	£10,000.00	item	1	£10,000.00
Suspended ceiling -classrooms/Multi-Purpose room	replace suspended ceilings	£35.00	m2	200	£7,000.00
Decoration to school	Paint all walls in school	£15,000.00	item	1	£15,000.00
HWS Cylinder storage & control valve	Mechanical	£2,500.00	item	1	£2,500.00
Toilet upgrades 2no Boys and 2no Girls	Refurbishment	£7,500.00	item	4	£30,000.00
Playground Resurfacing	External Works	£25,000.00	item	1	£25,000.00
Kitchen servery area	Kitchens	£25,000.00	item	1	£25,000.00
Oil Line Replacement	Mechanical	£4,000.00	item	1	£4,000.00
Intruder Alarm	Electrical	£5,000.00	item	1	£5,000.00
Distribution Upgrade	Electrical	£15,000.00	item	1	£15,000.00
Rewire/ emergency lighting	Electrical	£30,000.00	item	1	£30,000.00
					£417,110.00

Appendix B

Pupil Submissions

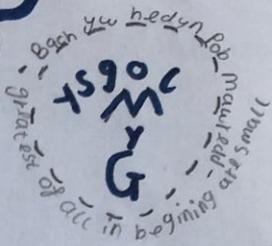


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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council

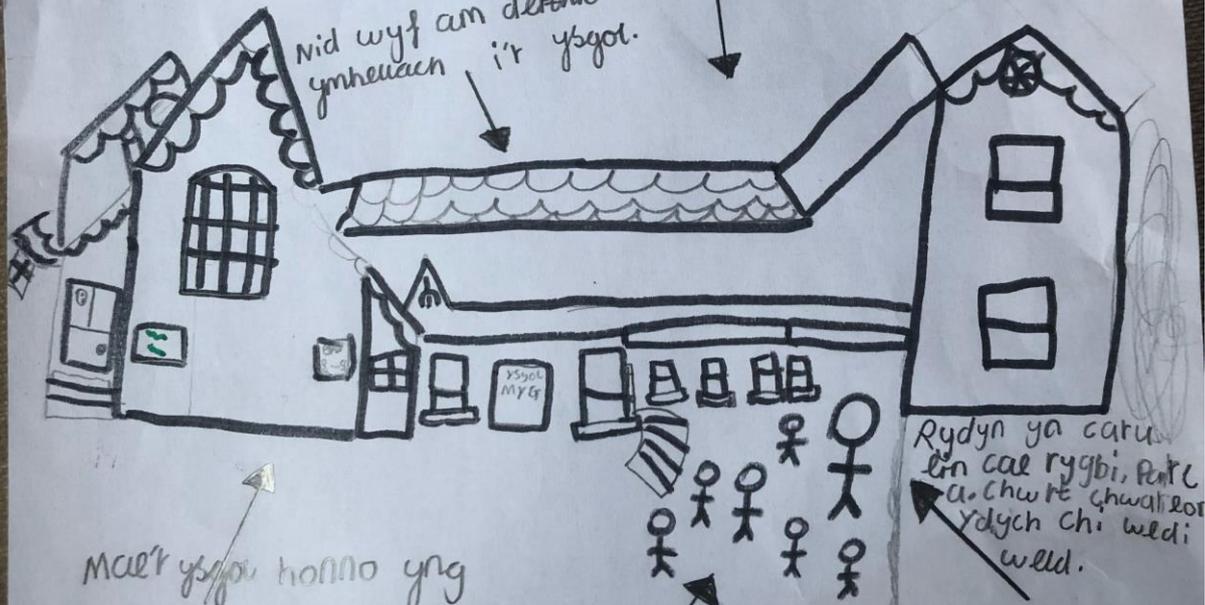


Peidiwch gou ein ysgol



Rwy'n hoffi bod mewn
grŵp oedol cymysg

Nid wyf am deithio
ynheuaen i'r ysgol.

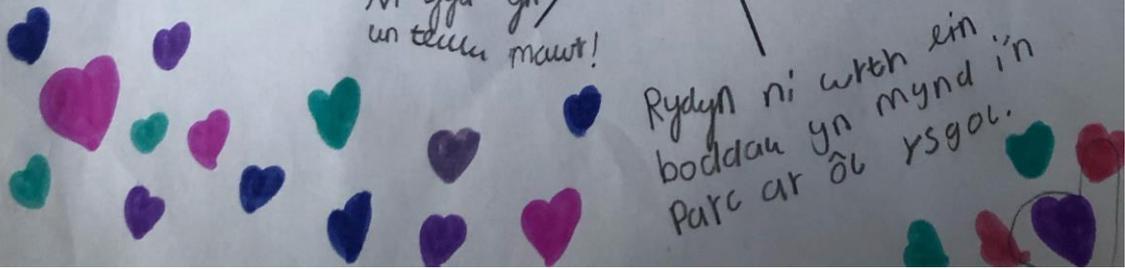


Rydyn yn caru
ein cal rygbi, Parc
a chwre chwalestr
ydych chi weldi
weld.

Mae'r ysgol honno yng
nghanol y gymuned.

Ni gyd yn
un talaen mawr!

Rydyn ni wrth ein
boddau yn mynd i'n
Parc ar ôl ysgol.



Achub yr Ysgol



Fy enw i yw Martha
rwy'n 5 oed.

Dyma fy ysgol.

Peidiwch â chau fy ysgol. Rwy'n caru fy ysgol,
Rwy'n caru fy athrawon, Rwy'n caru fy ffrindiau.
Peidiwch â mynd â ni oddi wrthym ni.