

Department for Education and Children

**Future Primary Education Provision for Children
Residing in the Rhydymerau Area**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



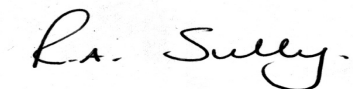
Foreword

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 embraces the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. In our drive to continually improve on the services made available to all learners, we must maximise the finite resources available to the Council, and continue to work in partnership with all those who have a contribution to make to the process of learning and the well being of both children and their families. Schools of the future will need to serve as a focus for a wide range of services dedicated to serving the needs of the community through a joined up approach.

Carmarthenshire is blessed with many very able teachers but the continuing changes to the curriculum places a heavy demand on their skills to meet the wide ranging demands of all children. Although the processes of learning, and skills of teaching, are extremely important, deep subject knowledge on the part of the teacher is essential if learners with their various gifts in different areas are to discover and develop their talents to the full.

Schools designed to meet current demands are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality and inspirational teaching. In the planning of new provision it will be important to ensure that our schools are properly equipped to enhance opportunities for social inclusion, sustainable development, equal opportunities and bilingualism. In practical terms we need to ensure that provision reflects the changing patterns of population, with schools based in the right location with accommodation and facilities fit to serve the needs of all learners in the twenty first century.

Consultation will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties. The information set out in this document is intended to clarify the proposals for your school and support the consultation process.



Robert A Sully
Director – Department for Education & Children

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1. Introduction

The Authority has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in the area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

As part of this process the Council has published its vision on how it sees the future for all of the primary schools in the County and this includes consulting on the future shape of education in the Rhydcymerau area. The proposals for change included in this document are in line with that long-term objective.

This document seeks to stimulate the process of consultation by explaining the Authority's preferred option for the future provision of primary education for the pupils of Rhydcymerau Primary school. The document also highlights why other options considered are not the preferred option as well as offering an opportunity for consultees to put forward any comments, observations or alternative proposals they wish to be considered.

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties.

It is intended that the formal changes be implemented as from the end of the summer term 2012 with the transitional arrangements applying as indicated below.

The main purpose of this document and the consultation meetings, which will be held in Rhydcymerau Primary on the 20th October 2011, is to provide information and to gather the views of identified interested parties. You may wish to make use of the attached sheet included in **Appendix B** of this document for any response.

2. Summary Proposal

2.1 Summary Proposal

Whilst care should be taken to read in full the detail provided below of the Authority's Proposal the following provides a brief summary of the main points:-

- (i) as of the beginning of the autumn Term 2012 the present catchment area of Rhydcymerau will be included with the existing catchment area of Llansawel Primary School.
- (ii) that as from autumn term 2011, transitional arrangements apply in respect of those pupils who are on the register of Rhydcymerau Primary as at January 2011, to attend Llansawel Primary School or nearby suitable school as agreed by the LA.

3. Detailed Proposal

In spite of its best endeavours, Rhydcymerau Primary school has found itself facing no pupil numbers on roll as at September 2011 and with no apparent prospect of reversing that trend based on the current pupil projections.

Officers of the Authority have met with the school during the early part of the spring term and discussed the options for addressing the situation.

That process has led to the Authority adopting the following proposal as its preferred option for the future provision of primary education in the area:-

3.1 Catchment Area

3.1.1 Primary

That as from 1 September 2012, the catchment area of Rhydcymerau be re-designated and included within the existing catchment area of Llansawel Primary School.

3.1.2 Secondary

It is not proposed to change the arrangements in respect of Secondary education.

3.2 Transitional Arrangements

To assist the process of change the Authority following discussion with the Governing Body has made the following arrangements:-

- (i) Pupils who were registered at Rhydcymerau Primary School as at January 2011 and who also reside within the catchment area of the current Rhydcymerau Primary to be provided with the option of attending Llansawel Primary School or nearest suitable school as agreed by the LA; subject to parental preference.
- (ii) that the Authority meets the cost of conveying those pupils specified above for the period of time they remain and continue to reside within the catchment area.
- (iii) that it is not proposed to change the arrangements in respect of Secondary education.

3.3 Transport

Except for the special provision made for those pupils specified in 3.2 above assistance with home to school transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy as will exist at the time.

The current policy states that pupils will qualify for assistance if they are of statutory school age and reside over two miles from the school. The policy also allows for applicants who do not qualify for assistance with the provision of transport under the Council's policy to have the individual circumstances of their case considered. This would include an appeal on the grounds of safety.

3.4 Transport Impact Assessment

As there are no pupils attending or forecast to attend the school, there will be a nil effect on travel times and distances.

3.5 Community Impact Assessment

The primary school is located on a sloping site on the edge of the rural village of Rhydcymerau some 5 miles from the town of Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire. The school serves the village and immediate rural area which are neither prosperous or economically disadvantaged.

Rhydcymerau and the surrounding village sit within the Wards of Llanybydder (2543) and Cynwyl Gaeo (1554) with a combined population of 4097. Cynwyl Gaeo ward is ranked 61 out of 112 within Carmarthenshire for deprivation with Llanybydder ranking 81 out of 112 (1 being most deprived) an average total of 59% of the combined Ward's population can speak, read and write through the Medium of Welsh.

As no pupils currently attend the school and the community do not utilise the school's facilities it can be proven that the community will not be disadvantaged by this proposal.

Rhydcymerau school does not offer after school clubs but it does provide a breakfast club.

The village school has contributed greatly over the years to support and nurture the pupils and sense of community for the area.

3.6 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

The Authority is satisfied that the education provision is comparable at the designated school, there is no change in secondary provision and all pupils from the community registered at the school have already moved to other schools.

3.7 Redundant Buildings

Should a proposal be adopted which would lead to the school building no longer being used then the County Council Policy, approved on the 12 April 2006, in relation to buildings not being required for educational purposes, will apply.

In essence this allows the community to make a case to the council for the retention of the building as a community resource.

3.8 Financial

Funding for pupils attending another Carmarthenshire school as a result of this proposal will be provided in accordance with the Council's Fair Funding Scheme.

Any savings arising from the re-organisation proposal or disposal of assets will be re-invested in the Modernising Educational Programme (MEP).

3.9 Timing of Implementation

Any change will be implemented as from 1 September 2012.

Accordingly the Authority's proposal is therefore that any changes to the current arrangements be implemented as from the end of the summer term 2012.

3.10 Process

Details of the process which would apply to any proposed re-organisation, are given in Section 7 below.

4. Why is Change Being Considered?

In considering future provision in the area there are a number of factors in relation to the current situation, which need to be considered. These include the following:-

4.1 Educational Provision

The primary school is located in the rural village of Rhydcymerau some 5 miles from the town of Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire. The school serves the village and immediate rural area. The school caters for pupils from 4 - 11 years of age. Under the new arrangements for categorisation of schools according to linguistic provision, Ysgol Rhydcymerau categorised itself in Category WM (Welsh Medium).

As part of a national programme of school inspection, Estyn commissions reviews of all schools. The latest was undertaken in February / March

2005 and consultees may access the findings either via the Estyn website at www.estyn.gov.uk or you may request a copy from the Local Education Authority (for which a charge in respect of photocopying may be made).

The main findings of the report

The inspectors reported that Rhydcymerau Primary was a happy school. The head teacher and staff worked hard to raise the pupils' self respect and self-esteem as they endeavoured to move the school forward and raise standards.

Pupils' standards of achievement in the six areas of learning are as follows:

Key Question	Grade	Inspection Judgements
How well do learners achieve?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	4	Some good features but shortcomings in important areas
How effective are leadership and strategic management?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings

NB: The five-point grading scale used to represent the main judgements in this report is as follows:

1. Good with outstanding features.
2. Good features and no important shortcomings.
3. Good features outweigh shortcomings.
4. Some good features but shortcomings in important areas.
5. Many important shortcomings.

4.2 Building Facilities

The following information was taken from the most recent property building survey carried out at the school:-

The main school building, Block 1, is a traditional Victorian school with rendered masonry walls and slate roofing, having small extensions at the front and side accommodating the entrance and toilet facilities.

A mobile classroom, Block 2, occupies the back of the site and to the rear of the site near the brook is a toilet facility, Block 3, of masonry walls and a slate roof, having a lean-to extension on the south side.

Access for wheelchair disabled and the partially sighted is not practicable due to the changes in level and the location of outside toilets.

In 2009 as part of the National 21st Century School Programme of all schools in Wales on behalf of the Authority Rhydcymerau Primary scored the following ratings:

Condition: C rating – Poor (Major deterioration) with all school blocks reported to be in a poor condition in need of maintenance and new fabrics.

Suitability: C rating – Poor (Teaching methods inhibited) It was noted that the school had no hall space, no library or toilets within the main school building block and that there was limited classroom space within the school due to the classroom being used as a dining area during lunch times.

4.3 Costs

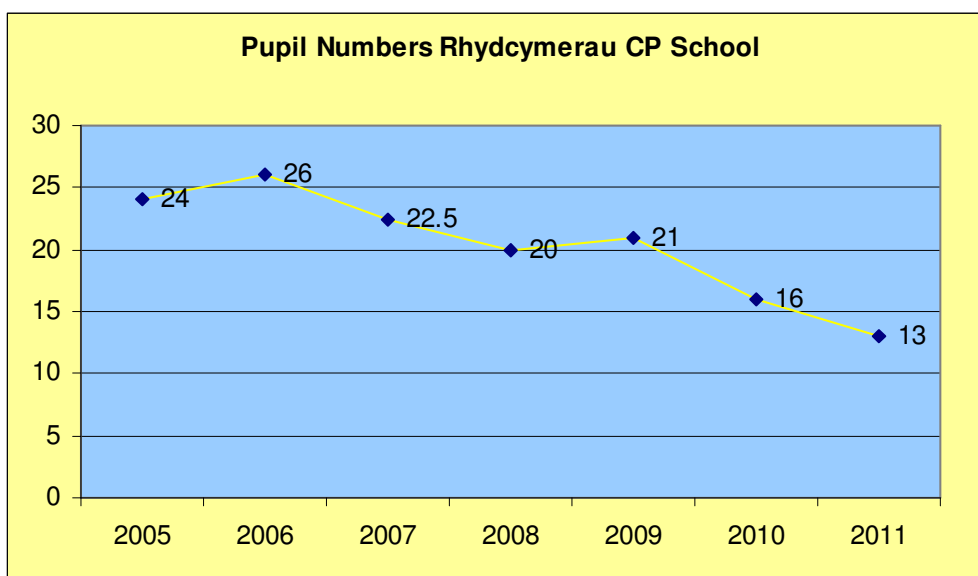
Based on 2011/12 data the budget cost per pupil is £8,326 which is £4,724 above the county average of £3,602. The cost per pupil at the school is therefore 131% of the county average.

4.4 Pupil Numbers

4.4.1 Current Trends

Rhydcymerau Primary school pupil numbers have decreased from 26 pupils on roll in January 2006 to 13 pupils in January 2011 and to no pupils in September 2011. Projected pupil numbers over the next five years based on the January 2011 PLASC pupil data indicate that there will be no reverse in the trend. The following table and graph shows the downward trend in pupil numbers from January 2005 to January 2011.

Rhydcymerau	3yrs (PT)	3yrs	4yrs (PT)	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	11yrs	Total	Total (FTE)
Jan-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	7	0	13	13
Jan-10	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	6	2	0	16	16
Jan-09	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	5	2	6	0	21	21
Jan-08	0	0	0	2	2	2	5	4	4	1	0	20	20
Jan-07	1	0	0	3	2	7	3	3	1	3	0	23	22.5
Jan-06	0	2	0	2	7	4	4	1	3	3	0	26	26
Jan-05	0	0	0	5	4	5	1	6	3	0	0	24	24



4.4.2 Capacity

The methodology for the calculation of school capacities was changed in 2008 following the implementation of new Welsh Government guidelines "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" (MCSW). Prior to 2008, the More Open Enrolment methodology was used. Surplus places for Rhydcymerau Primary school are shown in the following table:

	MOE			MCSW			
	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011
Capacity	52	52	54	51	51	51	51
Pupil No	24	26	22.5	20	21	16	13
Surplus / Over Capacity	28	26	31.5	31	30	35	38
% Surplus Capacity	54%	50%	58%	61%	59%	69%	75%

4.4.3 Surplus Places

As can be seen from the school capacity table the school has been undersubscribed for a number of years, this pattern has continued over the years however in 2010 the surplus places increased significantly. This pattern continued in 2011 when the surplus capacity was 75% and currently as there are no pupils at the school the surplus capacity at the school is 100%.

4.4.4 Revenue Cost Efficiencies

Should this proposal be implemented there is potential revenue savings in the region of £91,621 per annum. These savings would be re-invested within the education service.

4.4.5 Parental Choice

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

Most parents send their child to their local school but parents have a right to state a preference for other schools. Based on January 2011 pupil address data taken from PLASC, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for the Rhydcymerau catchment area indicated that of the 13 pupils on roll, 10 pupils lived within the catchment area whilst the remaining 3 were from outside the catchment area.

4.5 Summary

A synopsis of these issues has been provided in 3.0 above with further information provided in Appendix A.

The main difficulties which the school faces emanate from low pupil numbers and more recently no pupils.

When there are low pupil numbers, it is difficult for a school to provide the resources and breadth of curricular educational, social and life experiences which pupils need and deserve. When only one teacher is employed it is difficult to provide and deliver a broad curriculum within a multi age class structure.

The buildings are in need of investment to bring them up to the Carmarthenshire standard. To modernise the buildings and to provide the facilities which the Council would wish to provide in accordance with the Foundation Phase Guidance would be considerable cost and could not be justified having regard to the low pupil numbers.

It is felt that retaining the situation is unfair to pupils and staff as it does not represent the best use of scarce resources.

With no prospect of there being a significant increase in pupil numbers for the foreseeable future it is not possible to sustain the current arrangements.

5. Options Considered

In arriving at a preferred option the following options were considered

5.1 Option 1 - Status Quo – Maintain school in its present format

The Authority has a responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in an area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

Maintaining the status quo would not be considered the best option due to continuing fall in pupil numbers at the school with future projections over the next five years showing no reverse in the trend.

5.2 Option 2 - Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Llansawel Primary School

Details of the provision at Llansawel Primary School are included in **Appendix A**. The school would offer similar provision, with both schools being categorised as Welsh Medium.

The Authority would be satisfied that the standard of education and linguistic option for the provision through Welsh Medium provided at Llansawel Primary School would be suitable and appropriate for the age range and needs of the children.

Adopting this option as the preferred solution for all pupils residing in the catchment area would involve increased journey times and distances for the pupils within the catchment area.

Llansawel Primary school currently has a surplus capacity of 85% to accommodate additional pupils wishing to attend the school from the existing Rhydcymerau catchment area.

The Authority sees this as the preferred option to designate the Llansawel catchment area to cater for the whole of the current Rhydcymerau catchment as reorganisation of the Cynwyl Gaeo schools (now known as Cwm Cothi) has been identified by the Authority in its Strategic Outline Programme as a long term solution for schools in the area.

5.3 Option 3 - Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary school and Provide for Pupils at Carreg Hirfaen Primary

This option has been discounted on the basis that Carreg Hirfaen Primary school has been identified as needing a new building due to the amount of investment needed to the current school site to bring it up to a standard which is fit for purpose for the 21st Century.

It would not be considered appropriate therefore to relocate the pupils who reside in the Rhydcymerau catchment area to a school which requires significant investment which could result in pupils being moved twice during their primary education.

5.4 Option 4 – Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Llanllwni VC Primary School

This option was discounted due to the geographical location of Llanllwni VC Primary School away from Rhydcymerau Primary School which would make increased travel, distance and time in comparison with the Llansawel option.

5.5 Option 5 – Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide fro Pupils at Llanybydder Primary School

This option was discounted due to the geographical location of Llanybydder Primary school away from Rhydcymerau Primary School which would make increased travel, distance and time in comparison with the Llansawel option.

5.6 Option 6 - Federation

With the prospect of no pupils, any arrangement would need to address and fund provision at multiple sites in terms of staff resources and expertise, physical resources and be able to fund and promote the social and learning opportunities across the age range.

Such an arrangement would be difficult to sustain and could still lead to duplication in terms of resources, both human and otherwise.

For these reasons the option of providing a federated framework arrangement is not seen as the best option for securing a long term solution to the needs of all of the pupils who live within the catchment area of Rhydcymerau.

6. Conclusion

The Authority greatly appreciates and values the contribution which the governors and staff of Rhydcymerau Primary have made to the lives of pupils and the areas they serve.

The Authority considers however that in spite of the best efforts of the school, with no pupils, continuing provision at Rhydcymerau is not sustainable educationally or financially.

Accordingly having considered the various options available and having informally discussed these issues with the school, the Authority's preferred option for the provision of a sustainable framework of primary education in the area remains as detailed in 3.0 above. The main issues to be addressed are:-

- (i) Continuing provision at Rhydcymerau is not sustainable
- (ii) As from September 2012 that the catchment area of Rhydcymerau be allocated to Llansawel Primary and that the transitional arrangements apply as outlined above.

7. Consultation Process

Having detailed in this document the preferred proposal and the alternative options considered the Authority wish to receive your views on its preferred proposal.

Detailed below are the processes by which you can put forward your views to the Authority and how those views will be considered.

7.1 Consultation Meeting

There will be a period from 20th October 2011 to 18th November 2011 when you can express your views. Meetings will be held at the school at 4pm on 20th October with staff, governors and other interested parties. This is an opportunity to ask for more information and to make your views known.

Secondly you can express your views by writing a letter or alternatively completing the attached response form in **Appendix B** which should be received by the Director of Education & Children's Services (Mr. R. A. Sully) by no later than noon on 18th November 2011, at the following address:

Mr. R.A. Sully, Director - Department for Education & Children,
Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen SA31 3HB
or E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

7.2 Who Else Will Be Consulted?

This document has been sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Ysgol Rhydcymerau	Governors, Ysgol Rhydcymerau
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership	Community Councillors
County Councillors	Welsh Language Board (WLB)
Assembly Member (AM)	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	GMB Union
UNISON	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire
Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G)	LEA Special Educational Needs Division
Director of Education – Ceredigion County Council	Director of Education – Powys County Council
Diocesan Director of Education	SWAMWAC Authorities

7.3 Considering Your Views

The consultees views will be considered by the Executive Board of Carmarthenshire County Council. It is then for the Executive Board to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the Executive Board decide to continue with the proposal the Authority will then be required to publish a Statutory Notice as outlined in the timetable below.

7.3.1 Statutory Notice

The Statutory Notice will be published in the local press as well as posted in the named and neighbouring schools and within the locality to ensure that all those substantially affected have the opportunity to comment or object to the proposal.

Once notices are published there is a one month period to respond in writing. This is the statutory period for objections, and any objections to the proposal can be sent in writing to the Director of Education & Children's Services.

It is important to note however that only these written objections submitted during the one month statutory notice period will be considered should it be necessary for the Welsh Government to determine the proposal.

Consultees are advised to ensure that any observations or correspondence to the LA during the initial consultation period will need to be resubmitted in writing during the one month statutory period for objections as detailed on the Statutory Notice.

7.4 Determination of Proposal

If there are no objections to the proposal then the matter will be decided by the Executive Board of the Authority and the proposal implemented at the end of the Summer Term 2012, together with the transitional arrangements.

Should there be objections then the matter will be referred to, and decided by Welsh Ministers.

7.5 Consultation Process Time- Table

The consultation process and timetable will be as follows:-

5th October 2011	Issue invitation to consultation meeting to identified interested parties.
20th October 2011	Issue of this Consultation Document to identified and other interested parties.
20th October 2011	Consultation meetings with Staff & Governors at 4pm
18th November 2011	Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education and Children
23rd November 2011	Decision to proceed to publish Statutory Notice. OR alternatively proposal ends. If the decision is made to proceed then a Statutory Notice will be issued. The Notice will outline details of the proposal and be published in the Carmarthen Journal newspaper and be displayed near the entrance of the School. Following publication there will be a one month period during which time formal written objections will be invited. The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.
23rd December 2011	End of formal one month objection period. If there are no objections then the Authority will advise the Welsh Government that it will proceed to implement the proposal. If objections are received they are forwarded to the Welsh Government, where the responsible minister will consider them and decide whether to accept, reject or modify the proposal.
30th March 2012	Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal.

8. Appendix A General information

To assist consultees in considering the various options some general information is provided in relation to each option

Option 1 – Status Quo – Maintain School in its Present Format

1.1 Standards

As outlined previously, the school was last inspected as part of the Estyn School Inspection Programme in February / March 2005 (See paragraph 4.1)

1.2 Pupil Numbers and Capacity

The school had 13 pupils on roll as at January 2011 with no pupils forecast to be attending the school by September 2011 resulting in a surplus capacity of 100%. Pupil projections suggest that pupil numbers are likely to continue at current levels for the foreseeable future. This disparity between the supply of, and demand for pupil places is not sustainable in the long term.

1.3 Welsh Language provision

The school categorises itself as a Welsh medium (WM) primary school.

1.4 Location to other primary schools

As identified in section 3 above the nearest Welsh Medium Carmarthenshire primary schools are Llansawel Primary, Carreg Hirfaen, Llanllwni VC Primary and Llanybydder Primary.

1.5 Secondary School Transfers

Entry to secondary school will remain as it is currently with priority given to those children who reside within the catchment area of the secondary school.

1.6 Management and Organisation

There is currently one Acting Headteacher at the school and 4 support staff (Caretaker / Lunchtime Supervisor / Cleaner / Admin).

1.7 Buildings

The building is a traditional Victorian building which is in need of repairs. As reported in a recent condition survey undertaken as part of the National 21st Century School Programme of all schools in Wales,

Rhydcymerau Primary was described as poor in both condition and suitability with significant repairs needed to the three school blocks. In particular it was noted that the school had no hall, no toilets to the main school building and had limited classroom space due to it being shared with a dining area during lunch times.

1.8 Resources

The pupil costs based on January 2011 data when there were 13 pupils on roll was more than double the county average. There are currently no pupils at the school and this trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future which does not indicate good value for money.

Option 2 – Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Llansawel Primary School

1.9 Standards

Llansawel Primary was last inspected as part of the Estyn School Inspection Programme in May 2007 and standards in the six areas of learning were as follows:

Key Question	Grade	Inspection Judgements
How well do learners achieve?	3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings
How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings
How effective are leadership and strategic management?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings
How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings
How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	2	Good features and no important shortcomings

NB: The five-point grading scale used to represent the main judgements in this report is as follows:

1. Good with outstanding features.
2. Good features and no important shortcomings.
3. Good features outweigh shortcomings.
4. Some good features but shortcomings in important areas.
5. Many important shortcomings.

It would not be appropriate to make a direct comparison between the schools' standards based on this summary assessment alone. This information is provided for information only.

1.10 Pupil Numbers and Capacity

At present Llansawel Primary has capacity for 60 pupils. The table below provides an analysis of the implications of Option 2 on capacity and pupil numbers.

School		Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017
Llansawel	Pupil Number	9	8	7	6	7	8
Rhydcymerau	Pupil Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total combined projected numbers		9	8	7	6	7	8
Llansawel	Capacity (MCSW)	60	60	60	60	60	60
Llansawel	Surplus Places	51	52	53	54	53	52
Llansawel	% Surplus Places	85%	87%	88%	90%	88%	87%

The information identifies that there is enough capacity in Llansawel Primary to cater for any pupils wishing to attend Rhydcymerau in the future.

1.11 Welsh Language Provision

There would be no implications on Welsh language provision as the language provision at Llansawel Primary school is Welsh Medium as is Rhydcymerau Primary.

1.12 Location to other primary and secondary schools

The distance between Rhydcymerau Primary and Llansawel Primary is 3.8 miles.

The Authority's Home to School Transport Policy would apply.

1.13 Secondary School Transfers

There will be no change for pupils who reside in the Rhydcymerau catchment area as they will still be entitled to secondary provision as it currently stands.

1.14 Management and Organisation

The management of Llansawel would not be likely to change from its current format: Pupil data based on PLASC January 2011 figures attending the schools.

Spring Term 2011			
Class	Llansawel	Rhydcymerau	Total
Reception	2	0	2
Year 1	0	0	0
Year 2	0	0	0
Year 3	2	2	4
Year 4	2	2	4
Year 5	2	2	4
Year 6	1	7	8
Total	9	13	22

The table indicates that there would be no impact on the maximum class sizes of 30. There would not be a requirement for additional teaching staff.

With the current and projected pupil numbers at Llansawel the County Council regards the school to be viable for the foreseeable future.

1.15 Buildings

In a recent condition survey undertaken as part of the National 21st Century School Programme of all schools in Wales, Llansawel Primary was reported as having a condition rating of C – with works needed to the external fabrics and a suitability rating of B – reasonable. There is a hall in the village of Llansawel therefore the school building is not used by the community.

1.16 Resources

Based on the 2011/12 Fair Funding Scheme, the budget cost per pupil is £14,711 which is significantly higher than the county average of £3,602, any additional pupil attending the school as a result of this proposal will have a beneficial impact in reducing the cost per pupil further.

1.17 Special Needs

Provision for pupils with special education needs at Rhydcymerau is currently provided within the mainstream setting. There are no specialist designated units or classes within Llansawel school.

1.18 Breakfast and After School Club

Llansawel Primary School provides a Breakfast Club. A breakfast club was being provided at Rhydcymerau with no after school clubs.

5.3 Option 3 - Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Carreg Hirfaen Primary

This option has been discounted on the basis that Carreg Hirfaen Primary school has been identified as needing a new building due to the amount of investment needed to the current school site to bring it up to a standard which is fit for purpose for the 21st Century.

It would not be considered appropriate therefore to relocate the pupils who reside in the Rhydcymerau catchment area to a school which requires significant investment which could result in pupils being moved twice during their primary education.

5.4 Option 4 - Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Llanllwni Voluntary Controlled Primary

This option was discounted on the basis of the location of Llanllwni VC school away from Rhydcymerau catchment area.

5.5 Option 5 – Discontinue Provision at Rhydcymerau Primary School and Provide for Pupils at Llanybydder Primary School

This option was discounted due to the location of Llanybydder Primary school away from Rhydcymerau catchment area

5.6 Option 6 - Federation

With the prospect of no pupils, any arrangement would need to address and fund provision at multiple sites in terms of staff resources and expertise, physical resources and be able to fund and promote the social and learning opportunities across the age range.

Such an arrangement would be difficult to sustain and could still lead to duplication in terms of resources, both human and otherwise.

For these reasons the option of providing a federated framework arrangement is not seen as the best option for securing a long term solution to the needs of all of the pupils who live within the catchment area of Rhydcymerau.

9.0 Appendix B Comment Form

Please provide us with your comments on the proposals regarding future provision for primary pupils residing in the Rhydcymerau catchment area.

Your comments:

Do you have any other issues that you wish to bring to our attention?

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Position / _____

Category of _____

Respondent _____

(E.g. parent) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date _____

Please note that unless you indicate otherwise your comments will be open to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Please detach this form and return to: Mr. R. A. Sully, Director of Education & Children's Services, Building 2, St David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen. SA31 3HB or E-mail to DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk no later than **18th November 2011**.