

# Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Laugharne VCP School

## Objection Report



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Cyngor Sir Gâr  
Carmarthenshire  
County Council



**Governing Body of Laugharne Voluntary Controlled  
Primary School**

**and**

**Carmarthenshire County Council Modernising  
Education Programme**

**Jane Tremlett**, Chair of Governors

**Cllr Glynog Davies**, Carmarthenshire County Council Cabinet  
Member for Education and Young People

# Executive Summary

## The Consultation Period

The Governing Body of Laugharne VC Primary School and Carmarthenshire Council jointly published a proposal to:

- Change the age range of Laugharne VC Primary from 4-11 to 3-11.

The consultation period commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in line with the publication of the proposal and closed on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025. A total of 16 responses were received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation event) in response to the formal consultation.

Following the end of the consultation period, a Consultation Report was prepared summarising the observations received and the Governing Body and Local Authority's responses to these observations. The report was presented to the Governing Body for a decision on whether or not to progress to publish a Statutory Notice. The Governing Body resolved on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to proceed to publish a Statutory Notice.

## Publication of the Statutory Notice

Following Governing Body approval, the Governing Body and Carmarthenshire County Council published the proposal by way of a Statutory Notice on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for 28 days until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

The Statutory Notice proposed to implement the proposal on **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

The table below notes the objections received. It must be noted that of the 4 objections received, they were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Objections Received |         |
| Online survey       | Total 1 |

There were a further 6 responses received, all expressing support for the proposal.

## Responses Received

There was no response received that differed from any of the observations received during the consultation period.

## **The Objection Report**

The objection report summarises the submissions received in objection to the proposal and the Governing Body and Local Authority's responses to these submissions.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes for the objections received are as follows:

### **Concerns**

- Theme 1 – The proposal affects other schools in the area which need to maintain pupil numbers.

### **Support**

- Theme 1 – The proposal is positive for the school and community.
- Theme 2 – Improves access to early years education for children.

## **Next Steps**

The objection report will be presented to the Governing Body which will, in collaboration with Carmarthenshire County Council, determine whether or not to implement the proposal. If it is decided to take the proposal forward, a part-time nursery class will be established at the school from **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

## Summary of objections received and Governing Body and Local Authority responses

| Point Number           | Point Raised   | Governing Body and Local Authority Response  | Number of responses raising this point | % of responses raising this point |
|------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Concerns Raised</b> |  |  |  |                                   |
| 1.                     | <p><b><u>Affects other schools in the area.</u></b><br/>                     Respondents noted that the proposal may impact negatively on other local schools as pupils may be attracted to Laugharne due to the provision of part-time nursery education at the expense of those schools.</p> <p>A concern is expressed that other local schools may be struggling to maintain pupil numbers in order to ensure future viability.</p> | <p>It is recognised that the proposal may have an impact on other schools. However, Ysgol Griffith Jones, St Clears and Tavernspite CP School are already 3-11 schools and may be attracting children from within the Laugharne VCP School catchment area. This means that children from Laugharne have to travel outside of the catchment to access nursery education provision and there is no alternative provision within the community with private providers.</p> <p>Llanmiloe CP School may be affected if children from the area are attracted to Laugharne and remain there when they reach reception age rather than returning to Llanmiloe. It is recognised that Llanmiloe CP School is currently experiencing a falling roll. However, in line with a gap analysis of nursery education provision across the county, the Local Authority is considering further schools which may move to become 3-11 in the future, and it is possible that Llanmiloe could be included in this in the future.</p> | 1                                      | 14%                               |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | Furthermore, part-time nursery education in a 3-11 school is non-statutory and parents can choose whether or not to move their children into the provision at Laugharne VCP School. Parental choice will also become the deciding factor when children enter full-time provision, and they are able to apply to the school of their choice. It should be noted that attending statutory full-time education in a school outside of a pupil's catchment area will not qualify for Local Authority free transport even if the child has attended nursery provision in that school. |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

## Summary of other responses received and Governing Body and Local Authority responses

| Point Number         | Point Raised   | Governing Body and Local Authority Response   | Number of responses raising this point | % of responses raising this point |
|----------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Issues Raised</b> |  |   |  |                                   |
| 1.                   | <b><u>The proposal is a positive opportunity for the school and the community.</u></b> | The Governing Body and Local Authority welcome the view that the proposal is positive for the school and the community. If implemented it will be likely to increase the number of pupils attending the school which will support the school's future sustainability at a time when pupil numbers are falling both at the school and across the Local | 2                                      | 28%                               |

|    |   |   |   |     |
|----|---|---|---|-----|
|    |   | Authority as a whole. The proposal will address an identified gap in nursery education provision within the local area which could be exacerbated by the removal of the Rising 4s policy.   |   |     |
| 2. | <b><u>The proposal improves access to early years education for children.</u></b>   | The Governing Body and Local Authority welcomes these views and agrees that there are benefits to children from attending nursery education provision from the age of three. These include improved cognitive development, earlier development of language and communication Skills, social and emotional development, smoother transition to primary school, early identification of learning needs, improved parental engagement and earlier exposure to Welsh language opportunities and development of Welsh language skills. | 2 | 28% |
| 3. | <b><u>Other responses</u></b><br>One respondent indicated support for the proposal but provided no further detail. Another commented that they would have brought their children to Laugharne VCP School, had the proposal been made in previous years. |   | 2 | 28% |