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Dear Parent / Guardian,

**Notification of County Council Decision –  
Proposal to discontinue Ysgol Llansteffan**

On Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the decision was made by Carmarthenshire County Council to approve the following proposal:

***To discontinue Ysgol Llansteffan from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 and to re-designate and include the catchment area of Ysgol Llansteffan within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Llangain from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026.***

**Objections to the proposal**

198 objections were received.

This proposal was considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and noted that 198 objections had been received in respect of the proposal during the statutory objection period.

The Objection Report for the above proposal is available to view on Carmarthenshire County Council's website by following the link below:

[Objection Report](#)

In determining the proposal, the County Council took into account the following factors as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 as follows:

**Quality and standards in education**

The Local Authority's view is that Ysgol Llangain would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Ysgol Llansteffan, so it is not anticipated that implementation of this proposal, would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall. It is important to note that Ysgol Llangain is part of the same federation with the same leadership.

The Local Authority will work closely with the Headteacher and respective governing body to ensure a smooth transition to alternative schools.

## **Need for places and the impact of accessibility of schools**

In approving this proposal, Carmarthenshire County Council has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future. There is a high level of surplus places at Ysgol Llansteffan due to low pupil numbers. There are sufficient places at Ysgol Llangain to accommodate current and forecasted pupils which, in turn, will have a positive impact in reducing the surplus places at Ysgol Llangain.

## **Resourcing of education**

In reaching this decision a number of factors have been taken into account, in particular the low pupil numbers and projections, the deficit budget and the high budget share per pupil.

## **Presumption against the closure of a rural school**

The second edition of the Code (2018) makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. Ysgol Llansteffan has been designated as a rural school which required the Local Authority to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal.

The implementation of the proposal to discontinue Ysgol Llansteffan is seen as the most appropriate response to address the reasons identified in formulating the proposal due to the following factors:

- There are significant surplus places at Ysgol Llansteffan due to the falling roll over a number of years and only 8 pupils registered at the school at the January 2025 census point. The Local Authority acknowledges that this number has increased to 16 as of the January 2026 census point.
- Pupil projections remain low for the school.
- The school is currently in a deficit budget.
- The school's budget share per pupil is £18,545. This is £13,065 or 238% higher than the Carmarthenshire County Council primary school average of £5,480 for 2025-26.
- Have a positive impact on reducing the surplus places at Ysgol Llangain.
- Supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Primary Education Footprint Principles.

## **Referral of local authority decisions to the Welsh Ministers**

Please note that the information below is not applicable to parents / guardians but has been provided for completeness.

Should any of the following bodies believe that an incorrect decision has been made by the Local Authority then, under section 54 of the 2013 Act, they may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration:-

- Another Local Authority affected by the proposals;
- The appropriate religious body;
- The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A further education institution affected by the proposals.

Please contact the MEP Team if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Modernising Education Programme Team