

Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Ysgol Llanybydder

Consultation Document



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Introduction

This consultation document outlines the Council's proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2026.

The document offers an opportunity for parents/carers, school staff anyone else who has an interest to put forward any comments, observations or alternative options they wish to be considered. Following consultation on the proposed change, the Council will consider whether these proposals should be implemented.

The Consultation Period for the proposal will take place from 4/9/25 to 16/10/25. Any responses received after this date will not be considered as part of the consultation process.

The Consultation process will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government (WG) as set out in the [School Organisation Code \(2018\)](#).

School Subject to Proposal

		Ysgol Llanybydder
School Location		Troed-y-Bryn, Llanybydder, SA40 9RN
Age Range		4-11
School Category (Community [C], Voluntary Aided [VA], Voluntary Controlled [VC])		Community
Language Category		3 (Welsh Medium)
Number of registered Pupils (PLASC 2025)	Nursery Age	2
	Reception – Y.6	56
	Total	58
Number of pupils previously on the register (including Nursery) (PLASC)	January 2024	63
	January 2023	68
	February 2022	68
	April 2021	77
Pupil Projections (excluding Nursery) (2025)	January 2026	54
	January 2027	54
	January 2028	56
	January 2029	53
	January 2030	52
Nursery Capacity 24/25		10
Reception-Y6 Capacity 24/25		90
Total Capacity 24/25		100
Nursery Capacity 25/26		12
Reception-Y6 Capacity 25/26		90
Total Capacity 25/26		102

Cost per pupil (2024/25)	£5,010
School Budget (2024/2025)	£315,646
Estyn Inspection Result (2022)	Inspection report Llanybydder C.P. School 2022 www.estyn.gov.wales
Building Condition Category (2024)	B

(PLASC) - Pupil Level Annual School Census

Building Condition Category Grades	
Grade A	As new condition
Grade B	Sound, operationally safe, and exhibiting only minor deterioration
Grade C	Operational but major repair or replacement needed in short to medium-term
Grade D	Inoperable or serious risk of major failure or breakdown

Background

The proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 has been prepared in response to the Council's Cabinet decision to remove Carmarthenshire's Rising 4s Policy, whereby children were historically eligible to enter full-time primary education at the start of the school term in which they turned four years of age.

Following a period of public consultation held between 19 January 2024 and 1 March 2024, the Council's Cabinet resolved on 25 March 2024 to remove the Rising 4s Policy, which means that, as of 1 September 2025, children will be eligible for full-time school at the start of the term **following their fourth birthday**. From this date, there will be no children in full-time provision who are three years of age.

Children who have turned three are eligible for a minimum of 10 hours per week of non-statutory approved education provision delivered on a part-time sessional basis, either in one of the county's 42 primary schools which are designated as age 3-11 schools and where this provision is maintained by the Council, or a minimum of 10 hours education in approved non-maintained settings such as day nurseries or Cylchoedd Meithrin. Working parents of eligible 3- to 4-year-olds are able to access up to 30 hours funded combined childcare and education via the Welsh Government's Childcare Offer.

One impact of the removal of the Rising 4s Policy is that children will remain in nursery provision and childcare settings for a term longer than previously. In the short term, this might create an additional demand for provision of non-statutory education for a greater number of three-year-old children, and possibly an increased demand for wrap-around care. Ideally, this demand will be met by the non-maintained sector where providers will be able to expand provision to cater for additional numbers of children for either or both of the minimum 10 hours education and for wrap around care.

In communities where this does not happen and where gaps in provision of the education element exist, the Council proposes changes to some of our 4-11 schools to 3-11 schools. This would enable these schools to deliver the minimum of 10 hours non-statutory Early Years education element, and provide greater equity of provision across Carmarthenshire. A 3-11 school receives delegated funding for the provision of 3-year-old education on a part-time basis by the Council.

As such, this proposal aims to address the gap in provision of a minimum of 10 hours non-statutory 3-year-old education in the Llanybydder area by proposing to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11.

The Proposal - Ysgol Llanybydder

The proposal is to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from a 4-11 school to a 3-11 school from September, 2026.

Current Arrangements – Status Quo

Ysgol Llanybydder is a 4-11 Welsh-medium Primary School located in Llanybydder. The school currently has 58 pupils on roll (PLASC 2025).

At present Ysgol Llanybydder is a 4-11 school therefore does not offer part-time non-statutory 3-year-old Early Years education provision. This leads to a gap in the provision of education within the school between the age of 3 and 4.

Early Years education is a non-statutory provision available to 3-year-olds. All 3-year-olds are entitled to a minimum of 10 hours per week Welsh Government funded placement, at a registered setting, through the Early Entitlement Group from the term following their third birthday.

There are various types of Early Years provision available across Carmarthenshire:

- 1 Nursery school
- Nursery/Early Years Classes in 3-11 primary schools
- Provision by the non-maintained sector who are partners in the Early Entitlement Group, such as Early Years Wales, Mudiad Meithrin (MM) and private providers.

Early Years education provision available in proximity to Ysgol Llanybydder is currently provided in neighbouring Carmarthenshire maintained primary schools, namely at Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen 4-11 primary school and Llanllwni Voluntary Controlled (VC) 4-11 primary school via non-maintained providers.

Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen 4-11 Welsh Medium primary school have a non-maintained provider (Cylch Meithrin) on site providing Early Years education provision. Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen is located 5.8 miles from Ysgol Llanybydder.

Similarly, Llanllwni Voluntary Controlled (VC) 4-11 Welsh Medium primary school have a non-maintained provider (Cylch Meithrin) on site providing Early Years education provision and wrap around care on set days. Llanllwni VC school is located 4.3 miles from Ysgol Llanybydder.

In addition, Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn Voluntary Controlled (VC) 3-11 Welsh Medium primary school which is maintained by Ceredigion County Council is located 2.9 miles from Ysgol Llanybydder.

Strengths of the Status Quo

- No change for staff, pupils and the wider community
- No impact on non-maintained providers currently providing Early Years education in the surrounding areas

Weaknesses of the Status Quo

- The school does not offer Early Years education provision, children must travel outside of the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area to access Early Years education provision
- The current arrangements/status quo do not provide Ysgol Llanybydder with equitable Early Years education provision to its neighbouring Carmarthenshire maintained primary schools or neighbouring Council maintained primary school which negatively impacts the school's ability to retain catchment area pupils.
- Some parents/guardians of pupils residing within the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area choose to access other schools with Early Years education provision, negatively impacting Ysgol Llanybydder's admissions
- Some children residing within the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area miss out on the opportunity to access Early Years education provision due to the lack of available provision within the school's catchment area

Benefits and Disadvantages of the proposal:

Benefits	Disadvantages
Addresses the identified gap in Early Years education in the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area	Potential negative effect on providers currently providing Early Years education in neighbouring primary schools
Potentially provides a smoother transition into school, pupils will be familiar with the school environment. This may also mean that children will attend school in their locality and communities. There may also be advantages in terms of sustainability/transport if children can access provision local to their home.	Potential financial risk to the school if demand for Early Years provision fluctuates
Will have a positive impact on reducing surplus places at the school	Increased staff workload in providing Early Years education provision
May attract more pupils to attend the school	Potential reduction in the demand for places at neighbouring schools with Early Years education provision

Expands Welsh Medium Early Years education provision	
Offering early opportunities for immersion in the Welsh language will have a positive impact on children's bilingual and linguistic skills.	

Benefits to accessing Early Years education on a school site

- Early development of foundational skills
- Early identification of learning needs
- Early parental engagement
- Aids transition to primary and lifelong learning

Risk Management:

Risk		Risk Management
1.	Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement the proposal	Follow guidelines set out in the School Organisation Code 2018
2.	Potential detrimental effect on other providers currently providing Early Years education in neighbouring primary schools	Consult with providers during the Consultation Period to gather their views on the proposal and understand the potential impact
3.	The nursery class at the school does not receive sufficient applications	Number of applications cannot be predicted. Ongoing monitoring would be undertaken by the Admissions Team.

Alternative Options considered:

Alternative Option	Description	Reason for discounting
Option 1	Status Quo no change to Ysgol Llanybydder	Does not address the gap in non-statutory 3-year-old Early Years education provision in the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area.
Option 2	Provide Early Years Provision at Neighbouring Schools	Pupils must travel out of catchment to access non-statutory 3-year-old Early Years education provision at other schools. Pupils may not be admitted if there are capacity pressures at the schools.

Specific factors where proposals concern adding nursery classes

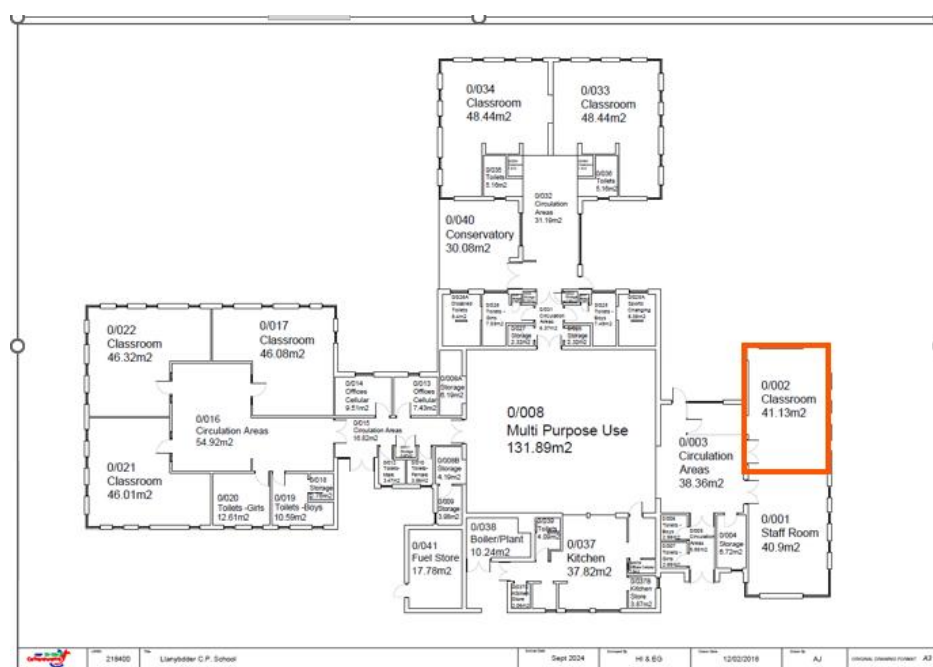
- ***The standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered, both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places.***

Should the proposal proceed and be implemented from September 2026, the school's capacity for the 2026/27 academic year is 12 for Nursery Age and 90 for Reception and above giving a total capacity of 102.

The proposal to change the age range of Llanybydder VC Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 would require the school to reorganise its current class structure to accommodate the additional Nursery pupils. This would generate a School Capacity 90, Nursery Capacity 17, Total Capacity 107 and Admission number of 12.

The school is projected to have 56 pupils on roll (including Nursery) at January 2027, demonstrating that there is likely to be sufficient accommodation and facilities to add nursery places from September 2026.

Llanybydder CP School has sufficient classroom space to accommodate Nursery provision in the school. The Foundation Phase classroom 1/0/002 on the Floor Plan below can accommodate the Nursery pupils. The classroom has space for 17 Nursery Pupils.



It is anticipated that changing the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4–11 to 3–11 and expanding the provision the school offers to include Early Years education will positively impact the school's viability by ensuring it is on par with the provision offered at neighbouring primary schools. Providing Early Years education has the

potential to increase the number of pupils attending the school positively impacting upon the school's viability.

- ***Whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area.***

There is a gap in Early Years education provision within the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area as the school is a 4-11 school and does not offer Early Years education.

- ***The levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character.***

As outlined above, there is a gap in Welsh medium Early Years education provision within the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area as the school is a 4-11 school and does not offer Early Years education.

- ***The extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach.***

Should the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 proceed, this proposal would support the aspiration of the school to develop wraparound care provision alongside Early Years education provision ensuring an integrated approach to education and care.

- ***The effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers.***

In line with the School Organisation Code (2018), the Consultation Document will be shared with key stakeholders who may be impacted by the proposal. This includes but is not limited to:

- the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;
- the governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposals
- in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;
- in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present;

This will ensure that key stakeholders are able to respond to the proposal with any concerns they may have in relation to the impact of the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11. This will allow the Cabinet to consider all views and potential impacts before making a decision on how to proceed.

School(s) likely to be affected by the proposal

In line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018), details are provided below of schools that are likely to be affected by the proposal.

School Name		Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen	Ysgol Gynradd W Rh Llanllwni/ V C Primary School	Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn
School Location		Cwmann, Lampeter, SA48 8ET	Llanllwni, Pencadr, SA39 9DX	Drefach, Llanybydder, SA40 9SX
County		Carmarthenshire	Carmarthenshire	Ceredigion
Age Range		4-11	4-11	3-11
School Category (Community [C], Voluntary Aided [VA], Voluntary Controlled [VC])		Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Controlled
Language Category		3 (Welsh Medium)	3 (Welsh Medium)	3 (Welsh Medium)
Number of registered Pupils (PLASC 2025)	Nursery	12	3	21
	Reception – Y.6	152	34	86
	Total	164	37	107
Number of pupils previously on the register (including Nursery) (PLASC)	January 2024	160	40	119
	January 2023	156	45	118
	February 2022	152	38	118
	April 2021	165	44	121
Pupil Projections (excluding Nursery) (2025)	January 2026	145	33	104
	January 2027	141	36	97
	January 2028	145	37	91
	January 2029	142	38	90
	January 2030	148	35	N/a

School Name	Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen	Ysgol Gynradd W Rh Llanllwni/ V C Primary School	Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn
Nursery Capacity 24/25	18	5	17
R-Y6 Capacity 24/25	160	42	120
Total Capacity 24/25	178	47	137
Nursery Capacity 25/26	17	5	17
R-Y6 Capacity 25/26	160	43	120
Total Capacity 25/26	177	48	137
Cost per pupil (2024/25)	£4,979	£5,305	£4,857
School Budget (2024/25)	£796,632	£212,195	£548,889
Estyn Inspection Result	Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen - Estyn	Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol Llanllwni - Estyn	Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn - Estyn
Building Condition Category (2024)	A	B	A

Quality and standards in education

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires an analysis of the likely impact of the proposals on the quality and standards of education in the school, taking into account the relevant Estyn inspection areas, which are outlined in the following section.

The Council's view is that, were this proposal to proceed, Ysgol Llanybydder would provide education for pupils from 3 – 11 which is of at least equivalent quality to the 4 – 11 provision that is currently provided. Therefore, it is not anticipated that implementation of this proposal would have any negative impact on standards and progress overall.

Current school priorities / Estyn recommendations:

Ysgol Llanybydder was last inspected by Estyn in June 2022 and currently is in “No Follow Up”. This means that the school has met the required standards of the inspection and does not require any additional monitoring or intervention from Estyn.

Estyn Recommendations:

- Provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop their extended writing skills
- Improve the standard of pupils' handwriting and presentation of work

The likely impact of the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 on:

Learning - standards and progress overall:

- It is noted in the inspection report that during pupils' time at the school, most make strong progress in their skills from their starting points. They acquire knowledge, deepen their understanding and develop their skills successfully in an interesting variety of learning contexts.
- Most pupils' speaking skills are developing soundly. By Year 2, most converse confidently in Welsh. The youngest pupils develop their early mark-making skills effectively by drawing pictures and emulating writing letters. As they develop, many write independently for different purposes and begin to use suitable vocabulary and patterns.
- The youngest pupils use simple mathematical equipment well to recognise numbers. As they develop their skills further, they have a sound grasp of number facts and measurement and handle data correctly.
- Nearly all pupils' physical skills are developing well. The youngest pupils practise their skills regularly by making good use of the climbing equipment or using the balance bikes skilfully.
- Learning and progress within the early years is strong and as a result, it is not anticipated that the proposal would have any negative impact should it proceed.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning:

- It is noted in the inspection report that one of the school's strongest features is its homely environment and the kind and gentle way that many of the oldest pupils care for their younger peers. This contributes soundly to the school's inclusive nature and homely ethos. Pupils greet each other and adults respectfully and extend a warm welcome to visitors. They are very proud of their school and enjoy being a part of its community.
- Nearly all pupils show positive attitudes to learning. Most engage enthusiastically in class tasks and work effectively in pairs, groups or by offering support to each other when necessary. They show an interest in their work and are willing to persevere in order to succeed.
- Nearly all pupils feel safe at school and know who to approach for advice if anything is worrying them. They have a sound awareness of how to stay safe online.
- Should the proposal proceed, it is unlikely to have a negative impact as the school already has an effective, strong and inclusive culture, with pupils caring well for their peers.

Teaching and learning experiences:

- Estyn identified that the school provides a learning environment which is supportive and stimulating and develops pupils' enthusiasm towards their learning. All staff work together effectively and motivate and manage pupils' behaviour skilfully. Across the school, the positive environment encourages all pupils to do their best without fear of failure. This, in turn, has a positive effect on pupils' progress.
- Teachers plan valuable and well-organised opportunities to develop pupils' literacy, numeracy and ICT skills constructively across the curriculum. As a result, pupils' standards of oracy and the way in which they apply their numeracy skills in different contexts across the curriculum are developing soundly.
- The principles of the foundation phase have been embedded fully. The learning areas engage pupils' interest and capture their imagination skilfully. Nearly all activities support pupils to learn with increasing independence, gain confidence and foster perseverance while experimenting with different resources. For example, staff provide visual and stimulating resources that promote pupils' literacy and numeracy skills effectively in all areas. Teachers are supported highly effectively by a skilled team of assistants who encourage pupils to learn effectively, particularly in the outdoor area.
- It is unlikely that the above proposal, should it proceed, will have a negative impact, as the learning environment is supportive and stimulating to suit all.

Care support and guidance:

- Estyn identified that staff work together effectively to create a happy and inclusive community in a safe learning environment. The school has a strong culture of safeguarding and the caring ethos towards all pupils is a notable feature of the school. The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils meet requirements and are not a cause for concern.
- The school's arrangements for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) are sound. Individual development plans and one-page profiles include clear targets, which are implemented effectively by teachers and assistants to ensure that pupils make sound progress against their targets. Staff monitor targets regularly and organise beneficial additional support to meet pupils' needs and will have policies in place to support learners within their environments. Staff track the progress of pupils with ALN successfully. They work effectively with a number of specialist agencies, such as language therapists and educational psychologists, who provide pupils with valuable support and guidance.

Leadership and management:

- It is noted in the inspection report that the headteacher has established a robust vision that is based on respect, good behaviour and courtesy. This permeates the school and is completely evident in pupils' learning and social attitudes. This firm foundation supports staff to create a happy and supportive community that motivates pupils to do their best. This, in turn, supports pupils to face the future confidently and with a positive attitude.
- The headteacher ensures that robust self-evaluation arrangements have been established to evaluate learning and provision. Staff use various sources of evidence effectively to gather and collate relevant information about the school's performance. They consider the views of parents, pupils and governors skilfully and include them skilfully when planning priorities for improvement.
- This proposal is likely to lead to an increase in pupil numbers that will have a positive effect on the efficient use of resources to contribute to a sustainable future for the school.

Impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Providing part-time 3-year-old non-statutory Early Years education provision at Ysgol Llanybydder will benefit vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as it enables the early observation and assessment of

learners and supports early identification of needs and timely interventions. There is no identified negative impact.

The potential impact of the proposal on ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education

The Council has no concerns regarding the quality of teaching and learning and the school has the ability to deliver a purposeful curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. Whilst some internal class re-structuring would be required to accommodate additional nursery pupils, this proposal is not anticipated to negatively impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum throughout the foundation stage and/or each key stage of education.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires the Council to take into account the following points in relation to the need for places and impact on accessibility of schools:

- ***The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)***

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022 - 2032 aims to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

This proposal supports Outcome 1 of WESP, i.e 'More nursery age / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh'. Changing the age-range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 will provide Welsh medium part-time 3-year-old education provision at Ysgol Llanybydder, making the Welsh language more accessible in the local community and strengthening the transition between Welsh medium nursery provision and primary education.

- ***How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision***

If the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 proceeds it is anticipated that, it would expand Welsh language provision as it would establish Welsh medium Early Years education in the Llanybydder catchment area.

In addition, it would provide earlier opportunities for Welsh language immersion from the age of 3, thus developing foundational language skills during pupils' formative years and ensuring that they are supported to do so throughout their educational journey. An initial Welsh Language Assessment has been undertaken and is attached to this document in Appendix A. This assessment will be reviewed and updated at key points should the proposal proceed.

- ***Whether the proposal will improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010***

The school has an accessibility plan. However, should a pupil require any adaptations to the school, reasonable adjustments will be made for the pupil in line with established Carmarthenshire County Council School Organisation processes.

Resourcing of education at the School and other financial implications of the proposal

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires relevant bodies to take into account the following points in relation resourcing of education and other financial implications:

- ***What effect the proposal will have on surplus places in the area***

Should the proposal proceed, it is anticipated, that the extension of the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 would positively impact on the removal of surplus places at the school.

- ***The recurrent cost of the proposal over a period of at least 3 years and whether the necessary recurrent funding is available***

Council maintained 3-11 schools receive delegated formula funding for the provision of 3-year-old education on a part-time basis. This equates to 50% of the per capita funding for primary pupils. In 2025-26 this figure is £2044 per pupil on roll at the time of the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) which takes place in the January preceding the following financial year. This is additional funding for a school currently designated as 4-11 and which becomes 3-11.

- ***The sources from which capital funding will be provided***

Should the proposal proceed, it is not expected to require any capital funding.

- ***How any capital receipts or recurrent costs savings will be deployed***

There is no transfer or disposal of land or buildings associated with this proposal.

- ***Additional Transport Costs/Learner Travel Arrangements***

As the provision of early years education is for pupils under compulsory school age, free transport would not be available for pupils.

The proposal may have a positive impact on the travel arrangements of those who currently travel outside of their catchment area to access Early Years Education. Providing Early Years Education in the Ysgol Llanybydder catchment area may encourage more pupils to attend their catchment area school, reducing the requirement to travel out of catchment.

There may be cost implications for additional transport if these children reach the age of eligibility for transport to be provided and if they reside in the school's catchment area and over the two mile limit.

- **Staffing**

The school has sufficient staffing available from its existing complement to meet the needs of the Early Years education provision.

Other general factors

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires relevant bodies to take into account the following points in relation to other general factors:

- ***Impact of the proposal on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds***

Providing part-time 3-year-old non-statutory Early Years education provision at Ysgol Llanybydder will benefit vulnerable groups, including learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and learners from economically deprived backgrounds as it enables the early observation and assessment of learners and supports early identification of needs and timely interventions.

Should this proposal proceed, it is anticipated that learner outcomes will be enhanced as learners are integrated into an appropriate learning environment from an earlier age.

- ***Equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments***

No apparent equality issues have been identified through the Integrated Impact Assessment at this stage and the assessment does not highlight any disproportionate impact on any protected characteristics. Should the proposal proceed, this assessment will be reviewed and updated at key points as necessary.

Admission Arrangements

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Ysgol Llanybydder:

The School Admissions Unit,
Carmarthenshire County Council,
Department for Education and Children,
Building 3,
Spilman Street,
Carmarthen,
SA31 1LE
Tel No: 01267 246449

E-mail: admissions@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Admission to Early Years

Early Years education is a non-statutory provision available to 3-year-olds and an application for admission to provision within a school will have to be made to the correct Admissions authority by the published closing date.

All 3-year-olds are entitled to a minimum of 10 hours per week funded placement, at a registered setting, through the Early Entitlement Group from the term following their third birthday.

Children will normally be admitted to Early Years provision in schools where it is available on a part-time basis at the beginning of the term following their third birthday.

Child's 3 rd Birthday	Admission Term
1 September – 31 December	Spring Term
1 January – 31 March	Summer Term
1 April – 31 August	Autumn Term

Parents / guardians do not have a right of appeal if a place is not offered at an Early Years setting of their choice.

There is no automatic right to continue into full time education if you have been offered a part-time education place. A formal application must be made to the correct admissions authority.

Further information on the School Admissions policy and process can be found on the Council website.

Should this proposal proceed, in line with Welsh Government statutory requirements Admissions would undertake a one-off admissions exercise outside of normal arrangements, to ensure parents within the Llanybydder community have an opportunity to apply for the nursery age places commencing September 2026.

The Consultation Process

The consultation on this proposal will follow guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2018).

Who will be consulted?

A link to the Consultation Document will be provided to the following stakeholders (as determined by the School Organisation Code (2018)):

- *Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals;*
- *in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school;*
- *the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;*
- *any other Council (including those in England, where appropriate) likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated SEN provision any authority placing or likely to place pupils with SEN in it;*
- *the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;*
- *any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;*
- *the governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals;*
- *the governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposals;*
- *the Welsh Ministers*
- *Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;*
- *Estyn;*
- *teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;*
- *the relevant Regional Education Consortium;*
- *the Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;*
- *any community or town council for the area served by/ intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;*
- *in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;*
- *in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present;*
- *in the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;*
- *in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school; and*

- *in the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.*

Consultation with Pupils

Pupils will be provided with a copy of a Children and Young People Consultation Document.

Additionally, there will be an opportunity for the pupils (School Council as a minimum) of the schools subject to the proposals to participate in the consultation process during a session which will be undertaken by an Education Support Advisor.

The information gathered from the consultation with pupils will form part of the Consultation Report which will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

What happens next?

Stage 1. Consultation Period

The consultation period for the proposals starts on 4/9/25 and ends on 16/10/25.

You can submit your views in favour of or against a proposal or to provide alternative suggestions. Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If you wish to object, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. Any responses received after the closing date will not be considered as part of the consultation process.

Considering your views

During the consultation period you can ask questions, express your views or provide alternative options for consideration by no later than 16/10/25 through one of the following methods:

- Completing an online survey using the following link: [SNAP SURVEY](#)
- Sending an email to: MEPConsultations@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- Writing a letter to the following address: Mr Owain Lloyd, Director of Education and Children's Services, County Hall, SA31 1JP
- Or completing a paper copy response form (Appendix A) and returning to Mr Owain Lloyd, Director of Education and Children's Services, County Hall, SA31 1JP or by sending a scanned copy via e-mail to: MEPConsultations@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Please note that you only need to submit your response through one communication method only.

Comments submitted during the consultation period will be recorded and summarised in a Consultation Report.

Following the consultation period, a Consultation Report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website at least 2 weeks prior to the publication of a Statutory Notice.

The Cabinet of Carmarthenshire County Council will consider the Consultation Report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

Stage 2. Statutory Notice Objection Period

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the proposal Carmarthenshire County Council must publish a document known as a "Statutory Notice".

The Statutory Notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website and posted at the schools subject to proposals. Copies of the notice will also be made available to the schools to distribute to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members (the schools may also distribute the notice by email).

The Statutory Notice will set out the details of the proposal and invite anyone who wishes to object or support to do so in writing within a period of 28 days.

If objections are received an Objection Report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues or supportive comments raised and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response.

If no objections are received, the proposal moves straight to determination.

Stage 3. Determination

Carmarthenshire County Council will determine the proposal. This means that it will make a final decision on whether the change proposed goes ahead. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, the County Council will take into account any statutory objections that it received.

Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

All stakeholders will be notified of the County Council decision and publication of the Objection Report within 7 days of the determination.

Statutory Process Timeline

An indicative statutory process timeline is shown below:

Stage	Description	Duration
1	Consultation Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.	September 2025 – October 2025 At least 42 days (including at least 20 school days)
2	Consultation Report A Consultation Report will be taken to the Cabinet for a decision on whether or not to proceed to publish a statutory notice. OR alternatively proposal ends.	January 2026 The Consultation Report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website at least 2 weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice
3	Statutory Notice If the decision is made to proceed then a statutory notice will be published. The notice will outline details of the proposal and be published on the Council's web site and be displayed near the entrance of the school and schools which are subject to the proposals. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to parents, guardians and staff members. The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.	February – March 2026 Minimum 28 days (including at least 15 school days & not including the day of publication)
4	Objection Report If objections are received an Objection Report will be published on the Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the	June 2026

	<p>report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues or supportive comments raised and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response.</p> <p>If no objections are received, the proposal moves straight to determination.</p>	<p>Before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination</p>
5	<p>Determination</p> <p>County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications, in doing so the County Council will take into account any statutory objections received.</p> <p>Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.</p>	<p>June 2026</p> <p>Decision made within 16 weeks of the end of the objection period</p>

Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been undertaken to help us to ensure we have considered how different groups and services could be affected by our proposals, enabling us to strengthen positive aspects and mitigate any potentially negative impacts.

The integrated impact assessment incorporates the requirements of the following Acts into one Impact Assessment:

- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equality Act 2010
- Socio-Economic Duty 2021
- Welsh Language Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) & Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- General Data Protection Regulation.

Appendix A - Response Form

Carmarthenshire County Council is consulting on the proposal to

- change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from a 4-11 school to a 3-11 school from September 2026.

The following response form allows stakeholders to comment on the proposal, the alternative options and to suggest other alternative options.

Consultees can submit their views in favour of or against a proposal.

Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If consultees wish to object, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period.

1. Are you responding as a:

☐ Parent, carer or guardian

☐ Prospective parent, carer or guardian

☐ Governor

☐ Staff

☐ Member of the community

☐ Community Council

☐ Other: Please specify _____

2. Do you support the proposal?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ In part

3. Do you have any comments regarding this proposal that you would like us to consider?

4. Are there any other options that you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Llanybydder?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please outline the alternative option(s):

5. We are required by the Welsh Language Standards to consider the effects of any policy decisions on the Welsh Language.

a. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would this proposal have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

b. How do you think the proposal could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive or more positive effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

c. How do you think the proposal could be formulated or revised so that it would not have adverse effects or have less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

6. At the end of the consultation period, a Consultation Report will be published summarising the issues raised by consultees and the Council's response to those issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the Consultation Report:

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide an e-mail address or postal address and language preference (English/Welsh):

Thank you for completing the response form.

Completed response forms should be sent to:

Mr Owain Lloyd,
Director of Education and Children's Services,
County Hall,
SA31 1JP

or by sending a scanned copy via e-mail to:

MEPConsultations@cararthenshire.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can complete this form online [SNAP SURVEY](#)

Please return your response by 16/10/25

Appendix B - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Proposal & Background

Carmarthenshire County Council is proposing to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 from September, 2026 and this Welsh Language Impact Assessment underpins the Council's proposal.

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) requires public bodies across Wales named in the act to work towards seven well-being goals, including 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'.

Cymraeg 2050 is the Welsh Government's strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and its vision is that the Welsh language belongs to everyone in Wales. The Welsh Government's ambition for increasing the use of Welsh and the number of people who speak the language is also noted, as is the commitment to work towards securing a million Welsh speakers by 2050 and to continue to encourage more people to use and speak Welsh in their everyday lives.

Cymraeg 2050 is the main policy driving the changes to the statutory process around planning Welsh-medium education. The Cymraeg 2050 strategy notes that Welsh-medium immersion education is the principal method for ensuring that children can develop their Welsh language skills, and for creating new speakers. It also highlights the importance of the early years sector as a point of early entry to immersion education, and as a way to increase demand for Welsh-medium education.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022-2032) & Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2023-28)

Carmarthenshire County Council's [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan \(WESP\) 2022 - 2032](#) (WESP), and [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#) directly support the Welsh Government's vision and are the cornerstones of the Council's contribution towards meeting the target outlined in the Welsh Government's strategy. This proposal will ensure that Carmarthenshire County Council can carry out its statutory duties in relation to Welsh-medium education through its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 is clear in its aim and principle of developing our pupils' ability to use both Welsh and English fluently and confidently in a variety of situations. This will enable them to become full members of the bilingual society of which they are a part, fostering pride in the languages, heritage and culture of Carmarthenshire and Wales.

This proposal will contribute to realising the strategic objectives in the Carmarthenshire [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy \(2023-28\)](#) which aims '*To make Welsh the main language of the County and to restore Welsh to a language spoken and used by the majority of inhabitants consistently, and in all aspects of life*'.

The Future Direction of Education Services in Carmarthenshire 2022-2032

[Education Sir Gâr – The Future Direction of Education Service in Carmarthenshire 2022-2032](#) has clear priorities focussed around four key themes, tied into Our National Mission, the four purposes of Curriculum for Wales. Purpose 8 states that Carmarthenshire County Council "*will champion the Welsh Language and pride in Carmarthenshire's unique heritage and culture*".

Curriculum for Wales

The Welsh language is an integral part of [Curriculum for Wales](#) with the aim of ensuring an increase in the number of confident Welsh speakers within the statutory education system, and to ensure that in future, all learners can use Welsh after they have left school. It emphasises the fact that Welsh will remain compulsory up until the age of 16.

Who will this proposal effect directly?

The proposal will have an impact on pupils aged 3 and their families in the Llanybydder area.

This proposal will have a positive impact on children and young people by offering additional choice in terms of Welsh-medium early years education from 3 years old at Ysgol Llanybydder. This in turn, from an early age, will offer children and young people Welsh language skills that they can use in all walks of life and in particular when they leave school and start work.

This proposal will allow Carmarthenshire County Council to increase the provision offered at Ysgol Llanybydder, which will have a positive impact on children and young people in the Llanybydder area, regardless of their background, or language of their family, ensuring that more and more children and young people develop Welsh language skills that can be used in everyday life.

We expect any impact to be positive, due to the following:

- Children and young people can take advantage of Welsh-medium education from 3 years of age
- The aims of this proposal will help Carmarthenshire County Council fulfil its commitments to the Welsh language, Welsh speakers and Welsh speaking communities.

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities?	Final impact (following mitigation methods)
The school's Language Category (formal)	The school's language is defined as Category 3 – Welsh Medium. This category is described as - <i>Welsh is the school's main language of internal communication. Communication with parents and carers is in either English, Welsh or bilingually as needed. This is a school with a strong Welsh language ethos at its core, supporting and enabling learners' Welsh language use in all social context in and outside of school. In a Welsh immersion setting all learners are taught fully in Welsh, with English being used on occasion to ensure understanding during early immersion. From aged 7 onwards at least 80% of learner's school activities (both curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.</i>	Neutral	N/A	N/A

	This proposal would not affect the language of the pupils' education at the school.			
The school's Language Category (informal)	<p>9.83% of statutory aged pupils speak Welsh at home at Ysgol Llanybydder.</p> <p>This proposal could strengthen the opportunities for pupils to use the Welsh language formally and informally with their peers from a younger age.</p> <p>With the change to 3-11 provision, we aim to work with all our partners to promote the benefits of bilingualism to ensure that all parents/carers and families can make an informed decision at the earliest possible time in their child's life.</p>	Positive	N/A	N/A
Information about Welsh language standards at the school	<p><u>Council Input:</u></p> <p>Context</p> <p>Ysgol Llanybydder places a strong emphasis on the development of pupils' Welsh language skills. Following an Estyn inspection in May 2022, it was noted that 'most pupils' speaking skills are developing soundly, with confident use of Welsh observed by Year 2. 'As pupils progress through the school, they continue to develop their oral skills effectively in</p>	Positive	N/A	N/A

	<p>both Welsh and English. By the upper years, most pupils can express themselves using rich vocabulary and demonstrate the ability to discuss complex topics.</p> <p>Pupils' reading and writing skills are also developing well. The youngest pupils recognise letters and sounds correctly and are beginning to read words with increasing confidence. As they move through the school, most read meaningfully in line with their age and ability, using higher-order reading skills such as scanning factual texts to extract relevant information. Similarly, pupils' writing develops progressively; they begin by drawing and making early marks, and by the upper years, most write purposefully in both languages, using features such as similes and idioms and demonstrating an awareness of different genres.</p> <p>Progress since inspection</p> <p>Since the inspection, the school has sustained and strengthened its commitment to promoting the Welsh language. Due to a rise in the number of non-Welsh-speaking pupils, particularly in Years 3–6, improving Welsh oracy has been identified as a key priority for 2024–</p>		
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	<p>25. In response, the school has introduced a number of successful initiatives. These include <i>Cynllun Clonc</i>, which provides targeted oracy development sessions; <i>Tocynnau Iaith</i>, a language reward system designed to encourage the daily use of Welsh; and the re-launch of <i>Criw Cymraeg</i>, a pupil-led group that actively promotes the use of Welsh across the school. These strategies have already resulted in a greater use of Welsh in both formal lessons and informal settings. Staff have been proactive in planning opportunities to develop pupils' confidence and fluency in speaking and listening.</p> <p>Impact of Proposed Change</p> <p>Extending the age range to admit 3-year-olds would have a positive impact on the Welsh language. Early immersion at nursery age is a well-established approach to strengthening bilingual development. Learners would benefit from a longer period of exposure to the language, supporting greater fluency and confidence. This change would provide a strong linguistic foundation that will enable pupils to develop into ambitious, capable, and bilingual learners.</p> <p><u>Ysgol Llanybydder input:</u> The school state that it is deeply</p>			
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	<p>committed to promoting the Welsh language and culture across all aspects of school life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language Support: Additional support is provided for pupils new to the Welsh language through funding from the Welsh Language Development Grant. • Criw Cymraeg: The Criw Cymraeg actively promotes the use of Welsh throughout the school. They organise events such as the 'Dydd Miwsig Cymru' disco to encourage pupils to celebrate Welsh music and language. • Urdd Competitions: The school regularly participates in Urdd competitions, including the Eisteddfod, offering pupils the chance to showcase their talents through the medium of Welsh. • Curriculum Opportunities: Staff carefully plan regular opportunities for pupils to celebrate their Welsh identity, culture, and heritage within the curriculum. Examples include learning about influential Welsh figures like Betty Campbell and exploring traditional tales such as <i>The Legend of the Lady of Llyn y Fan Fach</i>. 		
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	<p>Changing the age-range from 4-11 to 3-11 would provide opportunities for earlier Welsh language immersion from the age of 3. This could strengthen the language skills of pupils as they progress through the school.</p>			
<p>Information about after-school activities which provide additional opportunities to use the Welsh language at school e.g Urdd clubs</p>	<p>The school provides additional opportunities to use in school and outside of the classroom through a range of after-school activities and partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urdd Club: A weekly Urdd Club is held during the Autumn term, providing pupils with the opportunity to use Welsh in a fun and informal setting. • Urdd Residential Visits: The school regularly organises visits to Urdd residential centres, including Llangrannog and Cardiff, offering pupils immersive Welsh-speaking experiences. • Menter Iaith Collaboration: Menter Iaith has worked closely with pupils and staff to develop Welsh-themed playground games, encouraging the use of Welsh during break times. <p>These initiatives enrich pupils' Welsh language skills and promote a strong</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Support for the use of the Welsh language, both inside and outside the classroom, is a key priority within the curriculum.</p> <p>This work is supported with the school's Siarter Iaith journey as well as links with partners such as the Urdd and Menter Iaith.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	Welsh ethos throughout the school community.			
Information about whether the school provides facilities for members of the community to learn Welsh, or facilities for them to engage in activities through the medium of Welsh	<p>The school is committed to supporting the wider community in developing their Welsh language skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has previously hosted Welsh learner courses for parents and members of the community on the school site. • New parents are provided with information and guidance on where they can access 'Learn Welsh' resources to support their language learning journey. • <p>Through these initiatives, the school helps to strengthen the use of Welsh both within the school and in the wider community.</p>	Positive		
Possible effects a policy decision may have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less	<p>This proposal would increase the Welsh-medium Early Years provision and therefore increase the opportunities to use the Welsh language.</p> <p>This proposal does not treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language.</p>	Positive	N/A	N/A

favourably than the English language	<p>Carmarthenshire also recognise the importance of the use of Welsh beyond the classroom. We will, through the council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and by working with our partners, continue to maximise opportunities for all Carmarthenshire pupils and our communities to use Welsh in all aspects of everyday life.</p> <p>The consultation documentation will be bilingual meaning that the public will have the opportunity to read documentation relating to the proposal in Welsh and English and provide a response in their preferred language medium.</p>			
Information on how the proposal aligns with the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and any steps that may need to be taken in the future as a result of the change to continue to comply with the	<p>The vision: The year 2050: <i>The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales. Our vision is to secure favourable circumstances throughout the country that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child and an</i></p>	Positive	N/A	N/A

<p>plan or achieve the plan's targets.</p>	<p><i>education system that provides Welsh language skills for all.</i></p> <p>Welsh Government has approved Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032. It sets out the authority's vision, aim and objectives for developing Welsh-medium education over a ten-year period. The proposal is fully aligned with the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan aims to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.</p> <p>This proposal supports Outcome 1 'More nursery age / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh'. Changing the age-range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 would provide Welsh-medium part-time 3-year-old education provision at Ysgol Llanybydder, strengthening the transition between Welsh medium nursery provision and primary education.</p>			
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	<p>This proposal would provide earlier opportunities for Welsh language immersion from the age of 3, thus developing foundational language skills during pupils' formative years and ensuring that they are supported to do so throughout their educational journey.</p>			
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Conclusion and Summary

Initial assessments indicates a positive impact on the Welsh language as a result of this proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Llanybydder from 4-11 to 3-11 from September, 2026.