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15/06/2026

Gofynner am / Please ask for: MEP Team
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Dear Stakeholder,

Notification of County Council Decision
Proposal to Change the Age Range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Ysgol Y Ddwylan from 1 September 2026

On 10 June 2026, Carmarthenshire County Council determined to approve the following proposal:

To change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Ysgol Y Ddwylan from 1 September 2026 and provide 11 nursery places from 1 September 2026.

Objections to the proposal

Two objections were received.

In reaching its decision, the County Council has had regard to the School Organisation Code (2018) issued under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and has considered the relevant factors set out therein. The Council noted that two objections had been received during the statutory objection period.

The Council carefully considered the content of the objections received and the Local Authority's response as set out in the published Objection Report. The Council is satisfied that the issues raised in the objections have been appropriately addressed and that they do not outweigh the benefits of the proposal.

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

[Objection Report](#)

Consideration of Factors under the School Organisation Code (2018)

In determining the proposal, the County Council has had regard to the factors set out in paragraphs 1.3 to 1.6 of the School Organisation Code (2018), including in particular the following:

Quality and Standards in Education

The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on the quality and standards of education, including the delivery of the Foundation Phase and subsequent key stages at the school. It is anticipated that the proposal will maintain, and potentially enhance, current standards of educational provision within the school and the wider area.

Estyn has advised that the proposal is *“likely to deliver Welsh-medium provision for 3–11 year olds at a standard at least equal to its existing 4–11 offer”*. This supports the view that the proposal will sustain high-quality teaching and learning and provide continuity in pupils’ educational experiences from an earlier age.

The extension of the age range is expected to strengthen progression and transition between early years provision and the Foundation Phase, supporting improved learner outcomes over time. The Council is satisfied that the proposal will maintain high standards of education and support improved outcomes for learners.

Need for Places and the Impact on Accessibility of Schools

In approving the proposal, the Council believed that the change in age range would improve the capacity for children in the local community and also align Ysgol Y Ddwylan with other schools in the area in line with the Removal of the Rising 4s Policy.

The proposal will provide additional Welsh-medium nursery places to meet local demand and support parental choice within the catchment area.

It will enable children to access nursery provision within their local school, reducing the need for travel to alternative settings. This is expected to have a positive impact on accessibility, minimise journey times, and reduce logistical pressures on families.

The co-location of nursery and primary provision is also likely to improve continuity of provision and ease transition for learners, particularly for families with siblings attending the same school.

Resourcing of Education

The proposed extension of the school’s age range will provide a more coherent and effective framework for the delivery of education, enabling the school to build upon existing strengths and deliver continuous provision across a broader age range.

The proposal will support the efficient and effective use of staffing, accommodation, and learning resources, ensuring that these are maximised to support improved outcomes for all learners.

The Council has confirmed that Ysgol y Ddwylan will continue to be funded in accordance with the Authority’s Fair Funding Policy. The school will receive resources on the same basis as other schools within the county, with funding determined primarily by pupil numbers. This approach ensures that the proposal is financially sustainable and does not adversely impact on the resourcing of education provision at the school or elsewhere.

Impact on the Welsh Language

In determining the proposal, the County Council has had regard to paragraph 1.4 of the School Organisation Code (2018), including the requirement to consider the impact of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision and its alignment with the Authority’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.



The proposal will increase access to Welsh-medium nursery provision within the local area by extending provision at Ysgol y Ddwylan from 4–11 to 3–11. This is expected to support the uptake of Welsh-medium education at an earlier stage and strengthen progression into statutory education through the medium of Welsh.

The Council has considered the likely impact of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision in the wider area and is satisfied that it will have an overall positive effect on the Welsh language and that the proposal is consistent with the objectives set out in the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Determination

Having had regard to the factors set out in the School Organisation Code (2018), and for the reasons outlined above, the County Council has determined to approve the proposal.

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