



Eich cyf / Your
ref:

Fy nghyf / My
ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 14/10/2026

Gofynnwr am / Please ask for: MEP Team

Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct

Line:

E-bost / E-mail:

MEPConsultations@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Dear Stakeholder,

Notification of County Council Decision
Proposal to discontinue Ysgol Y Fro

On 14 October 2026, the decision was made by Carmarthenshire County Council to approve the following proposal:

To discontinue Ysgol Y Fro from 31 December 2026, to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Dderwen and re-designate and include the catchment area of Ysgol Y Fro within the existing catchment areas of Llangunnor Primary School, Llanddarog VC Primary School, Ferryside VC Primary School, Gwynfryn Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian, Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg and Ysgol Y Castell from 1 January 2027.

Objections to the proposal - 22 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 22 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 Local Authority's view is that Ysgol Y Dderwen would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Ysgol Y Fro, so it is not anticipated that implementation of this proposal, would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall. Estyn responded that this proposal is likely to maintain the standard of educational provision and standards for pupils in the area.

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 capacity at Ysgol Y Fro due to low pupil numbers. There are sufficient places at Ysgol Y Dderwen to accommodate current and forecast pupils.

It is important to note that there are currently no pupils enrolled at Ysgol Y Fro and all pupils previously registered at Ysgol Y Fro have transferred to other local schools. As a result, the implementation of the proposal to discontinue the school will not require the transfer of any existing pupils and will not result in direct disruption to learners' education. The Authority has taken this factor into account in reaching its determination.

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.

Impact on the Welsh Language

In determining this 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 contribution to the objectives set out within the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The County Council notes that all pupils who previously attended Ysgol Y Fro transferred to alternative schools prior to the determination of this proposal and that access to Welsh-medium education continues to be available through Welsh-medium and dual-stream schools within the local area. The Council is satisfied that learners will continue to have access to appropriate Welsh-medium educational pathways and opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills.

Having considered the available evidence, the Council concludes that the proposal will not have a detrimental impact on opportunities for children and young people to receive education through the medium of Welsh. Welsh-medium provision remains accessible, and the proposal does not materially reduce the ability of the Authority to deliver the objectives of its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Consequently, the Council considers that the proposal is consistent with the continued promotion of Welsh-medium education and supports the wider ambitions of Cymraeg 2050 by maintaining opportunities for learners to access Welsh-medium provision and to develop their Welsh language skills.

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 and requires proposers to demonstrate a strong case for closure, supported by a thorough assessment of all viable alternatives. Ysgol Y Fro 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 Y Fro 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 Y Fro due to the falling roll over a number of years and only 15 pupils registered at the school at the January 2026 census point. The Local Authority acknowledges that this number has reduced to zero pupils on roll as of September 2026.
- Pupil projections remain low for the school.
- The school is currently in a deficit budget.
- The school's budget share per pupil is £11,326. This is £5,357 higher than the Carmarthenshire County Council primary school average of £5,969 for 2026/27.
- Supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Primary Education Footprint Principles.

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 Modernising Education Programme Team if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Modernising Education Programme Team