

Proposal to reconfigure nursery provision in Ammanford town area

Objection Report



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1. Executive Summary

This report summarises the statutory consultation and objection period relating to the proposal to discontinue Ammanford Nursery School and extend the age range of Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to 3-11.

Objections focused on the quality of provision at Ammanford Nursery, community impact, childcare and equity concerns, and the suitability of alternative arrangements, while supportive comments highlighted consistency, sustainability and Welsh language development.

Evidence considered within the report indicates that the proposal aligns with county wide early years policy changes and that both alternative schools have the capacity and standards needed to provide part time nursery education. This report sets out the full analysis to support Cabinet and County Council in determining whether the proposal should be implemented from 1 September 2026.

2. Background

The proposal to reconfigure nursery provision in the Ammanford town area was 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.

Currently, a small number of children in the Ammanford area receive their non statutory early years education at Ammanford Nursery School, which is the only maintained nursery school in the county. Children are admitted to the 3 to 5 age range school in the term following their third birthday and were historically able to attend on a full time basis. This changed to part time provision only from January 2026. All other nursery provision in maintained schools throughout Carmarthenshire is on a part time basis.

The Consultation Process

In line with Welsh Government guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code (2018) Carmarthenshire County Council undertook a statutory consultation on the proposal to reconfigure nursery provision in the Ammanford town area between 4 September 2025 and 16 October 2025. The County Council's proposals within the consultation document were as follows:

1. Discontinuing Ammanford Nursery School

Whilst also,

2. Extending the age range at Ysgol Bro Banw from 4-11 to 3-11
3. Extending the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman from 4-11 to 3-11

to accommodate pupils from Ammanford nursery school

This statutory consultation received a total of 121 responses. The overall balance of sentiment was strongly weighted towards opposition to the discontinuation of Ammanford Nursery School, with a number of respondents expressing concerns about the potential loss of a dedicated early years setting, the impact on working families, and the effect on community cohesion and Welsh language opportunities.

Nevertheless, a smaller proportion of responses expressed support or partial support for the proposals, particularly the extension of age ranges at alternative schools. Positive themes included the potential for greater flexibility in early years provision, improved continuity for children moving into primary education, and the opportunity to align local provision with broader county or national policies. Some respondents also noted possible financial efficiencies and the chance to modernise or streamline services.

A summary of the responses received were published in a consultation report on Carmarthenshire County Council's website on 26 January 2026 and considered by Cabinet members. In line with the School Organisation Code (2018) all stakeholders were notified of the report's publication electronically.

Following consideration of the consultation report on 26 January 2026, the Council's Cabinet approved the proposals and agreed to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice.

3. The Objection Period

In accordance with Welsh Government requirements set out in the School Organisation Code (2018), the objection period provided stakeholders with the opportunity to submit objections to the proposal.

The Statutory Notice on the proposal was published on 10 February 2026 for a period of 28 days until 10 March 2026.

The document was issued electronically to all stakeholders and published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website, with hard copies available on request and displayed on the school(s) fence and gates. It outlined the details of the proposal and explained how objections could be submitted.

4. Analysis of Responses Received

In total, 29 observations were received in response to the Statutory Notice, of which 25 objected to the proposal and 4 supported it.

All 29 observations were submitted before the end of the objection period, which includes 4 objections submitted prior to the objection period formally commencing, which have been included in the analysis for completeness.

The table below notes the objections received.

Objections Received	
Online survey	13

Email	12
Letter	0
Total	25

The table below notes the supportive comments received, which were all received prior to the end of the objection period.

Supportive Comments Received	
Online survey	4
Email	0
Letter	0
Total	4

5. The Objection Report

This objection report summarises the submissions received in objection or support to the proposal and the Local Authority's responses to these submissions.

The themes for the objections or supportive comments received are as follows:

Concerns

- **Theme 1 – Positive Estyn Report for Ammanford Nursery**
- **Theme 2 – Impact of Ammanford Nursery closure on the community**
- **Theme 3 – Concerns regarding the proposed alternative options**
- **Theme 4 – Impact on staff and the local economy should Ammanford Nursery close**
- **Theme 5 – Impact on children's development and wellbeing if Ammanford Nursery closes**
- **Theme 6 – Financial and childcare concerns for families**
- **Theme 7 – Publicising the Consultation Process**
- **Theme 8 – Deprivation and Equity concerns**

Supportive Comments

- **Theme 1 – Need for Consistency and Fairness**
- **Theme 2 – Sustainability of the Early Years Provision**
- **Theme 3 – Support for Early Years Providers**
- **Theme 4 – Strengthening Welsh Language Development**

6. Summary of Objections Received and Local Authority Responses

The table below notes the themes of the objections received and the Local Authority's responses to those themes. Each theme's total reflects how many distinct respondents raised that issue.

Concerns Raised			
Point Number	Point Raised	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
1.	Positive Estyn Report for Ammanford Nursery	12	41%
<p>Summary of Responses Received</p> <p>Several respondents highlighted the positive Estyn inspection report for Ammanford Nursery as a central reason for opposing the proposed closure. They emphasised that the findings demonstrate high quality teaching, care, leadership, and overall provision, which they believe reflect a strong, well established setting deserving continued support. Respondents argued that closing a nursery with such clear, independently verified strengths would be unjustified and counterproductive, noting that external recognition and strong standards further reinforce the value and effectiveness of the current provision.</p>			
<p>Local Authority Response</p> <p>We acknowledge that Ammanford Nursery received a recent positive Estyn inspection report, which reflects the hard work, dedication and care shown by the staff and acting leadership. The proposal being consulted upon is not a reflection on the quality of education at the nursery. The proposal to discontinue Ammanford Nursery is being driven by strategic and county wide policy changes, not by concerns about standards.</p>			

In March 2024, Carmarthenshire's Cabinet agreed to remove the Rising 4s Policy, meaning children will no longer start full time school in the term in which they turn four. They will remain in nursery provision for longer, and this required the Council to evaluate all 4–11 schools and nursery arrangements across the county. Ammanford Nursery's previous model of full time nursery education for three year olds was inconsistent with all other maintained settings in Carmarthenshire.

Extending the age range at Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to 3–11 provision would ensure that the Ammanford area is aligned with the wider county strategy. This model offers several advantages, including:

- Consistent access to part time early years education across Carmarthenshire
- Improved continuity between nursery and primary phases
- Strengthened safeguarding, pastoral care and transition arrangements
- Long term sustainability in line with national policy.

The proposal to close Ammanford Nursery is therefore a structural change to early years provision and not a reflection of the school performance.

Both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman have also had recent positive Estyn inspections, and the Council's view is that both schools already provide education at least equivalent in quality to that offered at Ammanford Nursery. The Local Authority is therefore assured that children transferring to these settings would continue to receive high quality early years education.

This proposal would ensure that:

- Children remain with their peers in a familiar area
- Early years provision is delivered on school sites with strong safeguarding and pastoral systems
- Pupils have access to wider experiences available in 3–11 schools

This proposal highlights several challenges associated with maintaining a standalone nursery, including:

- Limited resources and staffing flexibility
- Additional financial pressure
- Less continuity between nursery and primary phases
- Limited professional development opportunities compared with larger schools

For these reasons, while the strengths of Ammanford Nursery are fully recognised and valued, the proposal reflects the need to deliver a coherent, equitable and sustainable early years system across the county, in line with national expectations and long term strategic planning.

2.	Impact of Ammanford Nursery closure on the community	12	41%
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Summary of Responses Received

Concern was raised about the negative impact that closing Ammanford Nursery would have on the local community. Many highlighted that the nursery functions as an important community hub and long standing community asset, contributing to social cohesion and providing a trusted, stable environment for families across the area. Several objections stated that the nursery’s loss would place additional pressures on the community, including reduced access to reliable early years provision, fewer local support networks for parents, and broader social and economic consequences for the town. Several respondents stressed that the nursery’s presence strengthens the local economy and supports workforce stability, arguing that its closure would undermine community wellbeing and remove a valued institution with deep historical ties to Ammanford.

Local Authority Response

We recognise the important role that Ammanford Nursery plays within the local community, and we fully appreciate why many people feel strongly about the potential impact its closure may have on families and the wider area. The longstanding presence of the nursery, together with the relationships it has built over time, means that any proposed change can naturally lead to concern. We understand these feelings and have carefully considered all views expressed during the statutory objection period.

If the proposal proceeds, both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman already offer breakfast clubs and after school provision, meaning that the wrap around services currently accessed by families will continue to be available within the same locality. This ensures continuity for families and helps maintain the level of community support they currently rely on.

The community impact assessment undertaken as part of the statutory process noted that there would be:

- No change to community safety

- No change to transport
- No change to walking distances
- No loss of wider community services, as these do not operate from the nursery

The Ammanford Nursery building will remain in active use. Under the proposal, it will be utilised by Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to accommodate nursery age pupils. This ensures:

- No empty or underused building within the community
- Continued staff presence on the site

By retaining the building as an education facility and ensuring that early years provision continues within the same geographical footprint, the proposal maintains the community’s access to local services and retains the presence of education professionals and families in the area.

3.	Concerns regarding the proposed alternative options	11	38%

Summary of Responses Received
 Concerns were raised about the proposed alternative options, questioning whether settings such as Ysgol Bro Banw or Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman could match the quality, stability, and specialist early years provision currently offered at Ammanford Nursery. Many felt there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the alternatives are viable or adequately resourced, raising doubts about their ability to meet children’s developmental, wellbeing, and additional learning needs. Respondents also highlighted fears about future instability, reduced access to reliable childcare, and potential negative impacts on families particularly rural, working, and farming families if they were required to rely on less suitable, part time, or unfamiliar provision.

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority carefully evaluated a range of alternative options before bringing forward the current proposal. This assessment considered educational standards, strategic alignment, financial sustainability, staffing arrangements, building usage, and long term operational viability across the Ammanford area.

Following this analysis, the Authority concluded that the preferred option is the only one that fully meets the educational, strategic and policy requirements for early years provision across Carmarthenshire.

The preferred model ensures:

- Equity and consistency across all Carmarthenshire 3–11 schools, addressing the long standing inconsistency created by Ammanford Nursery being the only standalone nursery school in the county.
- Stronger continuity and transition, enabling children to move smoothly from nursery into the primary phase within a single school community.
- Alignment with the revised early years structure arising from the removal of the Rising 4s policy, ensuring that provision reflects current national expectations.
- More efficient use of staffing and resources, reducing unnecessary duplication across multiple sites and supporting long term sustainability for Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman.

Should the proposals proceed, early years provision would be delivered by qualified early years practitioners, as is the case across all 3–11 Carmarthenshire schools. The larger staff teams in both schools will provide opportunities for enhanced professional collaboration, peer support, and shared expertise. This can strengthen curriculum delivery and ensure continuity as children transition from nursery to primary.

Both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman have recently been inspected by Estyn and are judged to be “No Follow Up” schools, demonstrating that they meet the required standards and do not require additional monitoring. Their inspection findings highlight strong pastoral care, positive relationships, and supportive school environments all of which are essential foundations for children’s early development and wellbeing.

The proposal ensures that nursery age children will continue to receive part time early years education in familiar surroundings. Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman would utilise the current Ammanford Nursery building, and Ysgol Bro Banw’s infants site already

operates within the same area. This means children remain within the same community, with minimal changes to travel or environment.

Both schools have robust systems in place to identify additional needs early, monitor progress, and provide purposeful support programmes. Estyn reports for both settings highlight strong pastoral care, positive behaviour, and warm, supportive relationships, all of which directly benefit young children’s wellbeing. The presence of an ALN inclusion unit at Ysgol Bro Banw further strengthens local specialist support.

The preferred option is therefore the only one that fully meets educational, strategic, financial and operational requirements while maintaining high quality early years provision for children in the Ammanford area.

Having considered all available alternatives, the Local Authority is satisfied that the preferred option is the only one that delivers a coherent, resilient and sustainable early years model while maintaining high quality provision for children in the Ammanford area.

4.	Impact on staff and the local economy should Ammanford Nursery close	9	31%
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Summary of Responses Received

It was noted that closing Ammanford Nursery could have significant negative consequences for staff and the wider local economy, including the loss of skilled early years practitioners, potential redundancies, and the destabilisation of a high performing specialist workforce. They also feared reduced local employment opportunities and knock on effects on families’ ability to work, alongside broader economic pressures linked to the loss of established childcare provision. Although not the most frequently cited theme, those who raised it believed the closure could have far reaching implications for staff wellbeing, workforce stability, and the economic resilience of the Ammanford community.

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority recognises that changes to educational provision can have implications for staff and the broader local economy.

Decisions of this nature are not taken lightly, and we fully acknowledge the concerns raised regarding job security, workforce stability, and potential economic effects on the Ammanford area.

Our priority is always to minimise disruption and to support our staff through any period of change. In line with our Model Redundancy / Surplus Staffing Policy for Schools, we are committed to doing everything we can to avoid compulsory redundancies. This includes exploring all possible redeployment opportunities within the wider schools' network and the local authority, offering voluntary redundancy or early retirement where appropriate, and working closely with trade unions throughout the process.

However, while we will make every effort to redeploy affected staff, we cannot completely rule out the possibility of redundancies. Where redeployment is not feasible, we will follow a fair and transparent process and will support those affected.

The Local Authority understands the uncertainty this creates for staff and their families, and we are committed to providing clear communication, timely updates, and access to support services throughout the process. Our HR team will work closely with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to ensure that all staff are treated with dignity and respect throughout the process.

Any changes at the alternative school would be managed through the governing body in line with school staffing regulations and HR policies and would also be subject to appropriate consultation with affected staff and unions.

In relation to concerns regarding the local economy, this proposal does not remove the Ammanford Nursery building from community use. Instead, should the proposal proceed, the building will continue to be used by Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to accommodate additional nursery pupils, which means:

- No empty building affecting local footfall or community confidence
- Continued staff presence on the site
- Ongoing maintenance, utility use and local economic activity.

As a result, the proposal maintains the building's contribution to the local economy and avoids the negative impacts often associated with unused public assets.

The proposal acknowledges that changing from full time early years provision to part time (as required by national policy) may create new opportunities for private childcare providers, who can offer wrap-around care.

This has the potential to:

- Strengthen local childcare businesses
- Support employment within the early years sector
- Increase economic sustainability for providers who deliver wrap-around services

This broader early years model supports a more balanced and resilient local childcare economy.

The community impact assessment noted that the Ammanford Nursery building was not used for wider community services beyond childcare provision therefore:

- No community organisations will lose a base
- No community sector jobs are at risk
- No economic activity linked to community uses will be affected

In summary, while the Local Authority acknowledges the concerns about staffing and the local economy, the evidence indicates that the proposal maintains an active educational presence on the site, supports the sustainability of local early years provision, and offers a managed and responsible approach to staff change. The Local Authority remains committed to minimising disruption, supporting employees, and safeguarding the long-term resilience of early years services in the Ammanford area.

5.	Impact on children’s development and wellbeing if Ammanford Nursery closes	7	24%
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Summary of Responses Received

There were concerns that closing Ammanford Nursery would negatively affect children by disrupting their emotional and social development, removing access to high quality specialist early years provision, and reducing the stability and continuity of care they currently receive. They also felt that the change would limit the early identification of developmental or additional learning needs and could undermine children’s wellbeing by forcing them to transition into unfamiliar or part time settings before they are ready.

Local Authority Response

Ensuring that children's development, wellbeing, and emotional security are protected is one of the most important considerations within this proposal. The consultation document provided detailed evidence showing that the proposals are not expected to have a negative impact on children's learning, wellbeing or development, and may in fact offer additional developmental benefits.

Should the proposal proceed, pupils will remain with the same peer groups and within an area they already know well. This supports emotional security and continuity. Because the alternative schools are located within half a mile of the current nursery, pupils' daily routines and sense of place will remain stable.

The Estyn reports for Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman both inspected recently highlighted:

- Strong, positive relationships between staff and pupils
- Safe, nurturing, and inclusive school environments
- Pupils who feel safe, well supported, and have positive attitudes to learning

These are essential foundations for wellbeing and early development, and the council's assessment concludes that transferring children into such environments will not negatively affect their wellbeing.

There are several developmental advantages of providing early years education on a 3–11 school site:

- Better continuity between nursery and primary phases
- Stronger emotional security, as children stay in the same school community
- Earlier identification of learning and wellbeing needs
- Earlier parental engagement with the school.

This integrated model supports children's cognitive, social and emotional development by ensuring that the same staff teams, pastoral systems and support frameworks remain in place throughout their early years and primary education.

Based on the evidence available, the Local Authority is satisfied that children's wellbeing, development and emotional security will be safeguarded, and that the transition into 3–11 schools will provide a stable, nurturing and developmentally supportive environment for all children in the Ammanford area.

6.	Financial and childcare concerns for families	5	17%
<p>Summary of Responses Received</p> <p>Worries were raised regarding the financial pressures and childcare difficulties families would face if Ammanford Nursery were to close. Several highlighted that the nursery’s full time, high quality, and reliable provision is essential for working parents, particularly those in rural or shift based employment, and that alternative part-time or less flexible options would create substantial childcare gaps. These gaps could increase costs for families who would need to seek additional paid childcare, as well as place added pressure on parents’ ability to maintain work or training commitments. Concerns were also expressed that the closure could disproportionately affect families facing deprivation or inequity, making childcare less affordable and potentially reducing access to early years education for those most in need.</p>			
<p>Local Authority Response</p> <p>The Local Authority fully recognises that changes to early years provision can affect families’ routines, childcare arrangements and financial circumstances. These concerns have been carefully considered as part of the statutory process. The evidence demonstrates that the proposal will not reduce the funded childcare or early years education entitlements available to families, nor require additional costs for parents as a result of the change.</p> <p>Under national early years arrangements, all three year old children are still entitled to a minimum of 10 hours per week of funded early years education in a registered setting. Working parents of eligible 3 to 4 year olds can continue to access up to 30 hours of funded childcare and education through the Welsh Government Childcare Offer. This is available regardless of whether the child attends Ammanford Nursery, a 3–11 school nursery class, or a childcare provider. This means parents are not financially disadvantaged by the proposed change.</p> <p>A key concern raised is whether parents will lose access to essential childcare services currently running at Ammanford Nursery. It is confirmed that:</p> <p>Both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman already offer breakfast clubs and after school clubs that are comparable to those provided at Ammanford Nursery.</p>			

Should the proposal proceed the current nursery building will remain open as a facility to provide early years provision it will be used by Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to accommodate nursery pupils which means that:

- No loss of local provision
- No need for families to travel further
- No disruption to familiar buildings, routes or routines

It is also important to note that from January 2026, Ammanford Nursery itself moved from full time to part time early years education, in line with national policy. As a result, the proposal does not introduce a new reduction in hours; it aligns existing provision with the countywide model adopted across Carmarthenshire.

The change to part time education may create new opportunities for the non-maintained childcare sector, including private and voluntary providers who offer wraparound care. This supports a more balanced and sustainable local childcare market and may increase the availability of flexible options for families.

Based on the evidence available, the Local Authority is satisfied that the proposal maintains families' access to funded childcare and early years education, secures continuity of wraparound provision within the local area, and does not place additional financial burden on parents.

7.	Publicising the Consultation Process	4	14%
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Summary of Responses Received

Many noted that the consultation was not properly publicised, resulting in families and community members being unaware of the process or unclear on how to participate. Concerns were raised that the content of the consultation or community feedback was not properly represented in the final proposal whilst some objectors referred more broadly to issues around the consultation approach, including concerns around communication, fairness, and process integrity.

Local Authority Response

The consultation process followed guidelines set out in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) and included a detailed timeline, stakeholder list, and multiple ways for consultees to respond at each stage of the process. The consultation document clearly stated that the consultation period ran from 4 September to 16 October 2025, and that all responses would be summarised in a consultation report. It also explained the subsequent objection and determination stages, ensuring that stakeholders understand how decisions are made.

All proposals and supporting evidence were made available to stakeholders, and all feedback received was conscientiously considered before any decisions made.

The LA is committed to clear, transparent, and meaningful consultation, as required by the Code.

Concerns about the thoroughness of decision making are understandable. The consultation document showed that the council had already carried out:

- a Community Impact Assessment
- an Integrated Impact Assessment
- assessment of Welsh language impact
- analysis of capacity, standards, journey times and financial implications.

Rationale for closure - it must be noted that the proposal is not financially driven but stems from the Council's decision to remove the Rising 4s Policy in March 2024. This change means children will start full time school the term after their fourth birthday, creating a need to review nursery provision for consistency across Carmarthenshire. Ammanford Nursery is currently the only standalone nursery school in the county, and its full time model differs from all other school based nursery provision in Carmarthenshire. The proposed changes aim to standardise provision, improve continuity of education, and align with national priorities such as the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Curriculum for Wales.

In summary, the consultation process is designed to be open and inclusive, and the rationale for closure is based on policy changes and educational priorities rather than purely financial considerations.

8.	Deprivation and Equity concerns	4	14%
<p>Summary of Responses Received</p> <p>Concerns were raised that closing Ammanford Nursery would disproportionately affect children and families already experiencing deprivation, reducing equitable access to high quality early years provision. One respondent highlighted deprivation and equity concerns, noting that the nursery currently provides an essential, stable service for vulnerable and low income families who may struggle to access or afford alternative childcare. Others echoed that the specialist full time provision supports children who are more likely to face socio-economic barriers, and that the proposed alternatives may exacerbate inequalities by offering fewer hours, less accessibility, or reduced support for those most in need. Overall, objectors argued that the closure risks widening existing inequalities and undermining fair access to early education in the community.</p>			
<p>Local Authority Response</p> <p>The Local Authority recognises the importance of ensuring that any changes to early years provision do not disadvantage children or families who may already face socioeconomic challenges. These considerations have been central throughout the statutory assessment process.</p> <p>The consultation document confirmed that the proposal is not likely to have a negative impact on vulnerable groups, including children from economically deprived backgrounds. This is because pupils will benefit from the wider staffing, resources and support systems available within larger 3–11 primary school environments. These settings provide enhanced opportunities for early identification of learning or wellbeing needs, which is particularly beneficial for disadvantaged learners.</p> <p>Both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman have strong existing systems for monitoring pupil progress, identifying additional needs early, and implementing timely interventions. Staff at both schools work closely with families and provide effective pastoral care, ensuring that children from all backgrounds receive the support they require. These arrangements will continue to safeguard equitable access to education and wellbeing support.</p> <p>This means that children from all backgrounds, including those who may be more vulnerable, will continue to receive appropriate care and educational support.</p>			

The proposal does not reduce access to early years provision. Instead, it ensures that part time nursery education is available:

- In both Welsh medium and English medium language categories
- In schools with adequate capacity and strong standards
- Within the child's existing community, and
- Aligns with the broader Carmarthenshire early years strategy

Both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman will offer part time early years places consistent with national requirements, maintaining equitable access for families in the Ammanford area.

By accessing nursery provision on a primary 3-11 school site, children will experience:

- earlier identification of learning and wellbeing needs
- stronger transition into full-time schooling
- a consistent, nurturing school environment

This early integration benefits all pupils but provides advantages for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, who often benefit most from early, high quality educational experiences.

In summary, the Local Authority's assessment concludes that the proposal supports equity rather than undermines it. The model provides continued access to high quality early years provision, strengthens developmental and pastoral support for vulnerable learners, and ensures that all children in the Ammanford area can benefit from consistent and sustainable early years education within a 3–11 school structure.

7. Summary of Supportive Comments Received and Local Authority Responses

The table below notes the themes of the supportive comments received and the Local Authority's responses to those themes. Each theme's total reflects how many distinct respondents raised that issue.

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments				
1	Need for Consistency and Fairness		1	3%
<p>Summary of Responses Received Supportive comments received raised important issues around consistency and fairness in early years provision, noting that all children should receive consistent opportunities regardless of the setting they attend. Comments referenced improved consistency in the quality of teaching, standards and curriculum experiences across the county when provision is aligned with other schools.</p>				
<p>Local Authority Response The Local Authority notes the supportive comments and agrees that ensuring equity for all children is a key consideration in bringing forward these proposals.</p> <p>The decision to discontinue Ammanford Nursery reflects the need to achieve consistent, county wide arrangements for nursery education following the removal of the Rising 4s policy. The previous situation where Ammanford Nursery was the only maintained</p>				

nursery school offering full-time provision for 3-year-olds created an inequitable system that differed from all other 3–11 primary schools in Carmarthenshire, which provide part-time nursery education only. This inconsistency can disadvantage children and families in other areas and affect the sustainability of non-maintained providers who operate on a part time model.

This proposal ensures that Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman are brought in line with the wider structure of early years provision across the county, promoting fairness, parity of access, and a more coherent system for families. Should the proposal proceed, it would also provide continuity for children, reduce duplication of provision, and support a more sustainable and equitable model for the future.

2	Sustainability of the Early Years Provision	1	3%
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Summary of Responses Received

Views were expressed in relation to the importance of creating a sustainable Early Years provision within the Ammanford area, ensuring a long term sustainable option.

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority acknowledges the supportive comments regarding the importance of creating a sustainable Early Years provision within the Ammanford area.

Transitioning to a consistent part time nursery model delivered through Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman will support a more sustainable and balanced system, ensuring that early years provision is delivered in line with county wide practice. This approach also strengthens the long term viability of local non maintained providers, who currently face challenges in delivering wrap around care where full time education is offered.

3	Support for Early Years Providers	1	3%
<p>Summary of Responses Received Supportive comments emphasised that aligning Ammanford’s nursery provision with the wider county structure would create a fairer and more consistent early years landscape, helping to strengthen sustainability for local early years providers.</p>			
<p>Local Authority Response The supportive comments for early years providers are noted. The Local Authority recognises that a sustainable mixed economy model of provision where maintained and non maintained settings work alongside each other is essential for ensuring high quality, flexible childcare and early education for families.</p> <p>The proposal to standardise provision to part time education across Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman will help create a fairer and more sustainable operating environment for local providers, enabling them to grow and continue meeting childcare demand.</p>			
4	Strengthening Welsh Language Development	1	3%
<p>Summary of Responses Received Supportive comments highlighted that restructuring provision in Ammanford would strengthen children’s Welsh language development by offering more consistent, continuous, and high quality bilingual early years education. They noted that aligning the nursery provision with primary schools would create a smoother progression for pupils, enabling children to build Welsh language skills more naturally from the earliest stages.</p>			

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority acknowledges the supportive comments regarding the strengthening of the Welsh language. The LA shares this view and acknowledges the importance of providing high quality Welsh medium early years education in line with both local and national ambitions.

Should the proposal proceed, extending the age range of both Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman and Ysgol Bro Banw to include 3 year old part time provision will offer children earlier access to Welsh medium learning opportunities. This supports the development of strong early linguistic foundations and ensures a more seamless transition from nursery to primary education.

The proposal also contributes directly to the aims of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022–2032, which seeks to increase the number of children receiving their education through the medium of Welsh and to support national targets toward reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

8. Alternative Options

The table below notes an alternative option received for consideration during the objection period and the Local Authority's analysis and response to that alternative option.

Option: Propose developing Ammanford Nursery by introducing wraparound care to align with Welsh Governments 30hrs of childcare offer	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Supports working families	Does not align with the LA strategic aim for consistent 3-11 provision across Carmarthenshire primary schools
Builds on the Nursery's existing high quality provision	High costs associated with maintaining separate nursery school
Provides stability for vulnerable and disadvantaged families	Permanent Leadership sustainability
Protects unique and well used community resource	Limited opportunities for professional collaboration and curriculum continuity
	Potential barriers to expanding local non maintained childcare providers
	Does not address identified gaps in educational continuity
	Could Delay or undermine county wide implementation of the Rising 4s policy
Opportunities	Threats
Opportunity to strengthen local childcare	Financial unsustainability of maintaining a standalone nursery
Ability to offer a comprehensive, integrated early years hub	Ongoing risk linked to lack of permanent leadership
	Potential to undermine equity and consistency across the county
	Could limit growth of local non-maintained childcare providers
	Increased pressure on recruitment and retention of specialist staff
Likely impact on quality and standards in education	

Enhancing Ammanford Nursery rather than closing it could have a mixed impact on the quality and standards of education. On one hand, it would build on the nursery's already strong Estyn inspection indicating good standards and secure practice. It would also avoid the disruption of transition for young children, supporting continuity in their wellbeing and early learning experiences. However, this option also carries risks, the nursery currently lacks permanent leadership, which weakens long term strategic direction and sustainability; and remaining as a standalone setting would limit access to the broader staffing, curriculum expertise, and collaborative professional environment available in 3–11 schools, which the Council identifies as offering wider learning experiences and shared expertise. Overall, quality could be maintained or enhanced with significant investment, but risks remain if leadership and resource limitations are not addressed.

Likely impact on the community

Enhancing Ammanford Nursery rather than closing it could help maintain a valued and familiar community hub, preserving the breakfast and after-school provision that many families rely on and addressing community concerns about the social and economic impact of closure, including worries about deprivation, equity, and the loss of a trusted local resource. However, while this option would support continuity and cohesion in the short term, it may not fully resolve the longer term structural and sustainability issues identified in the consultation, leaving uncertainties for the community if leadership or funding challenges persist.

Likely effect of different travel arrangements

The impact on travel arrangements would be minimal. All settings, Ammanford Nursery, Ysgol Bro Banw, and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman are located within half a mile of each other.

Reason for discounting

This option was discounted because it does not align with the Council's aim to create consistent 3–11 early years provision across Carmarthenshire, leaving Ammanford Nursery as the only standalone nursery and maintaining existing inequities. The nursery also lacks a permanent headteacher, raising concerns about long term sustainability even if enhanced, and retaining it would continue issues such as limited professional collaboration and weaker continuity between nursery and primary phases.

9. Key Findings

The key findings from the observations analysis and supporting evidence are summarised below:

A total of 25 objections and 4 supportive comments were received during the Statutory Notice period.

Objections primarily focused on the value of Ammanford Nursery as a longstanding, high quality provision, the potential impact on childcare arrangements, concerns about community cohesion, and issues relating to children's wellbeing, equity, and access.

Supportive comments highlighted the benefits of ensuring greater consistency and fairness in early years provision across Carmarthenshire, as well as improving long term sustainability in the area.

Evidence indicates that Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman both have the capacity, standards, and systems to deliver high-quality 3–11 early years provision, supported by their recent positive Estyn inspection outcomes.

The proposal is based on strategic and county wide changes linked to the removal of the Rising 4s Policy and is not a reflection of the quality of education at Ammanford Nursery.

Assessments carried out as part of the statutory process found no significant negative impact in relation to travel, access, community safety, or children's development and wellbeing.

10. Conclusion

This objection report provides a factual summary of the objections and supportive comments received, along with the Local Authority's responses based on the evidence and assessments undertaken. It is presented to support the Council in its consideration of the proposal to reconfigure nursery provision in the Ammanford area. The purpose of this report is to ensure that members have a clear and balanced overview of all views expressed before determining whether the proposal should be implemented from 1 September 2026.

11. Recommendation

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the objections received, the supportive comments submitted, and the evidence presented throughout this report, it is recommended that approval be granted to implement the proposal to discontinue Ammanford Nursery School and extend the age range of Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman to 3–11 without amendment. There are no related proposals that would prevent or undermine implementation.

The findings demonstrate that the proposal directly aligns with county wide early years policy changes arising from the removal of the Rising 4s policy and addresses the longstanding inconsistency created by Ammanford Nursery being the only standalone nursery school in Carmarthenshire.

Evidence presented confirms that both Ysgol Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman have the capacity, standards, safeguarding arrangements, and pastoral systems required to deliver high quality part time early years provision, with recent Estyn inspections verifying strong practice across both settings.

Assessments undertaken as part of the statutory process identified no significant negative impact on children's development, wellbeing, access, travel, or community safety, and confirmed that early years provision would continue to be delivered within the same locality, including the ongoing educational use of the current nursery building.

While the concerns raised by objectors have been carefully considered, the proposal offers a coherent, equitable and sustainable model for early years education in the Ammanford area.

Having considered all evidence and the full range of feedback, the Local Authority recommends that the proposal detailed in the Statutory Notice be implemented.

12. Next Steps

The objection report will be presented to the Cabinet and then ultimately to the County Council, who will determine whether or not to implement the proposal from 1 September 2026 to:

1. Discontinuing Ammanford Nursery School

Whilst also,

2. extending the age range at Ysgol Bro Banw from 4-11 to 3-11
3. extending the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman from 4-11 to 3-11

to accommodate pupils from Ammanford nursery school.

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.