



**Proposal to close Llanbedr C. in W. School**

**Draft Community Impact Assessment**

**January 2021**

## Draft Community Impact Assessment – Llanbedr C. in W. School

### i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

The closest provider for pupils attending Llanbedr C. in W. School in January 2020 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Crickhowell C.P. School	24.4%
Llanbedr C. in W. School	48.8%
Llangattock C. in W. School	4.9%
Llangynidr C.P. School	14.6%
Deri View Primary School (Out of County)	7.3%

This suggests that 48.8% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 51.2% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools.

### ii) After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school

The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities including the following:

- Puppet Club
- Welsh Club
- Art and Craft Club
- IT and Technology Club
- Gardening Club
- Cookery Club
- Dragon Sports Club
- Storytelling
- STEM Club
- Charity Club
- Show Ground Categories Club
- Recorder and Music Club
- Drama Club
- House Teams Challenges
- Mandarin

- School Council
- Eco Club
- Criw Cymraeg

Whilst some of these clubs are run by staff and governors, some are assisted by older pupils from Crickhowell High School. Many of the clubs are shared with the community. The gardens, ponds and vegetable plots are attended by community members in evening, holidays and during the school week.

**iii) Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides**

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- Tots and Tiddlers Support Group
- Friends of the School and Community Group
- Raven Drama
- Puppet Soup Company
- Faith in Family
- Messy Church
- Family Film Club
- Breakfast Club
- A new library was opened in the school in 2018

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building**

The school building is used by the community to provide the following activities:

- Fell running
- Puppetry and Theatre Crafts Club
- Community Environmental projects
- Charity Bingo and Beetle Drive events
- Auction events
- Pond and garden development
- Vegetable plots and community engagement events

The school also acts a meeting hub for the three parishes of Llanbedr, Patricio and Llangenny which includes Lent lunches, Harvest festival and Easter which are prepared and served by the pupils.

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

- Community Annual Eisteddfod

- Community Harvest Festival
- Community Scarecrow Festival
- Christmas Fayre
- Easter Parade
- Summer Fayre
- Lantern Parade
- Christingle

The opportunities offered by the school for children in the community benefit the whole community. The school also has a highly effective Friends of the School group who work raising funds for the school, charity and community projects.

**vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?**

Should the proposal be implemented, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close and pupils transferring to their nearest alternative schools and there would no longer be a school in Llanbedr.

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Llanbedr, as there would be no provision in the village, and therefore a potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.

As a Church in Wales School, the Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain available to the community in Llanbedr.

There is a village hall located in Llanbedr, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

**vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category**

Should the proposal be implemented, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative Powys schools would be Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Llangattock C. in W. School.

An analysis of pupils attending Llanbedr C. in W. School in January 2020 suggests that the furthest distance to the new school for pupils for whom

Llanbedr C. in W. School is currently the closest school would be 9.2 miles.

Home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport which is in operation at that time. Whilst free transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

**viii) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their closest alternative schools.

**ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues**

- At present, public transport is not a requirement for pupils to attend school, as although some may live further than walking distance by road, there are many cross country and short cycle stretches that families use.
- Many families who attend the school are able to travel safely across the country routes within their journey from home to school. The school has an access gate from the yard to an adjoining field which avoids the roads and is better for the environment.
- If the school was to close, pupils would need transport to attend their alternative schools which would therefore not promote walking to school as there are no safe walking or safe cycle routes.

**x) Additional considerations for rural schools**

The School Organisation Code includes a number of additional considerations that are likely to be relevant when carrying out a community impact assessment for a rural school closure. As Llanbedr C. in W. School is identified as a rural school, these factors are considered below:

- **Whether closure would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community or discourage young families from moving to the community**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of services and activities are provided by the school, including some facilities which

could be attractive to families and which increase the attractiveness of the community to potential young families. It is also suggested that recent housing developments actively targeted this group due to the proximity with the school.

Should there be no school in Llanbedr, it is likely that there would be an impact on the other associated facilities available in the village, which could have an impact on families with school-age children, and which could encourage these families to leave the community or discourage young families from moving to the community.

- **What impact closure might have on other services provided locally, for instance if the school is the only remaining public building in a community**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of services are provided in the school, and it is regularly used as a village meeting place. There is a village hall located in Llanbedr, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

As a Church in Wales School, the Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanbedr.

- **Whether, or not, the school is a real hub of community life, used for other purpose – such as public meetings, local events, fetes surgeries, and other get togethers – which would either cease or be diminished by being required to move elsewhere**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of events take place in the community events and activities take place in the school, as indicated in sections (iii), (iv) and (v) above.

There is a village hall located in Llanbedr, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

In addition, as a Church in Wales School, the Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanbedr.

- **Whether or not the loss of the school, and potentially families, will have a detrimental effect on the wider economy of the community**

It is possible that the loss of the school, and subsequently the loss of families from Llanbedr could have some impact on local business in Llanbedr and the surrounding area should there be less people in the area. Information received from the school suggests that the possible loss of the school would also have an impact on the rural lifestyle, traditions and culture which are central to the area. Implementation of the proposal could eventually lead to a reduction in employment opportunities in the village of Llanbedr.

- **How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils, (particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)**

As indicated in section (viii) above, should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their closest alternative schools.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on pupils' ability to participate in after school activities as there would be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.

- **The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)**

The information received from the school indicates that there is currently extensive use of the Llanbedr building, and significant links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Llanbedr would have a significant effect on the local community.

As a Church in Wales School, the Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanbedr.

There is a village hall located in Llanbedr, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

## **xi) Conclusion**

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Llanbedr. Should there be no school in Llanbedr, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that at least a similar

range of activities would be available for pupils. However, it is acknowledged that pupils would need to travel to the alternative schools, which could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

Should the proposal be implemented, this would mean that there would be no school provision in the village of Llanbedr. The information provided above indicates that there is currently extensive community use of the Llanbedr building, and extensive links between the school and the local community. As a Church in Wales School, the Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanbedr. There is a village hall located in Llanbedr, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could take place at the hall.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Llanbedr is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.