



**Proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and  
Llanfechain C. in W. School**

**Draft Community Impact Assessment**

**March 2021**

## 1.1 Llangedwyn 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 Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 was as follows:

| School                                     | % of Pupils |
|--|-------------|
| Ysgol Llanfyllin                           | 11.1%       |
| Llangedwyn C. in W. School                 | 38.9%       |
| Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School        | 22.2%       |
| Ysgol Bro Cynllaith                        | 16.7%       |
| Bryn Offa Primary School (Out of County)   | 5.6%        |
| Weston Rhyn Primary School (Out of County) | 5.6%        |

This suggests that 38.9% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 77.8% 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:

- Coding Club
- Sports Clubs
- Knitting Club
- Chess Club
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club

The current provision is limited because of COVID – there have been discussions to offer a greater number of clubs in the future, to include eco-club, music club, gardening club and craft club.

### 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:

- Mother and Toddler Group – Little Hedgehogs
- After School Club – 5 nights a week
- Welsh for Parents sessions

There are also plans to run a digital skills drop in sessions following parental demand during the COVID lockdown.

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

The school building and grounds are used by the community to provide the following activities:

- Church meetings
- Community events for local businesses
- Fortnightly car boot sales during the summer months
- School grounds used for community summer fair

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

The school has close links with Llangedwyn Church, with the school holding its annual nativity play there and making crafts for the Church's annual Harvest Festival.

**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, then the intention is that all existing Llangedwyn C. in W. pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school, and Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close.

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

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Llangedwyn were the school to close. There would be a potential loss of community facilities and services provided by the school.

Llangedwyn Memorial Hall is situated in the centre of Llangedwyn village, and is used for events, meetings, concerts, classes and most

other types of functions. The Hall is not linked to the school and therefore would continue to be available for community events should there be no school in Llangedwyn.

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

Closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School would result in additional travel and travelling time for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school. However, as indicated in (i) above, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest school for only 38.9% of current pupils. For the remainder of pupils, there would be a reduction in travel distance and time for those pupils should they transfer to their closest schools.

For those pupils, for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school, there are a number of other schools located within 5 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School. These are:

| <b>School</b>                  | <b>Distance from Llangedwyn C. in W. School by road (miles)</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Ysgol Bro Cynllaith            | 3.6 miles   |
| Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School | 3.7 miles   |
| Llanfechain C. in W. School    | 4.4 miles   |
| Llansantffraid C. in W. School | 4.5 miles   |
| Ysgol Llanfyllin               | 4.8 miles   |

Should Llangedwyn C. in W. School close, the additional travel distance and time for pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school would be minimal.

**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 new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by the headteacher and class teachers.

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

Should the school close, although the Local Authority would provide transport for pupils, if a parent needed to attend the new school they would struggle to get there in a timely manner if relying on current public transport options.

#### **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 Llangedwyn 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**

The majority of pupils that attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore it does not appear that the school is primarily serving the Llangedwyn community.

Should there be no school in Llangedwyn, it is possible that some families would be discouraged from moving to the village, however there are a number of other schools located within a few miles of Llangedwyn, which offer more services for families, which would continue to be available to any families moving to the area.

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

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. However, there is also a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llangedwyn.

- **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**

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school, in particular the school grounds. There is also a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llangedwyn, however it is unclear whether outdoor events could be accommodated at the Hall.

- **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 could impact on the local economy. In particular, there would be a reduction in employment opportunities in the village, and there could be an impact on local businesses in the village of Llangedwyn and the surrounding area.

- **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)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils. However, this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by headteacher and class teachers.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on some 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. However, the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore there would be a reduction in travel time / distance for them, should they transfer to their closest schools.

- **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 some community use of the Llangedwyn C. in W. building and school grounds, and links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Llangedwyn would impact on the local community.

There is a community hall in Llangedwyn – Llangedwyn Memorial Hall. This would continue to be available should there be no school in Llangedwyn, and community events could be held here.

## 1.2 Llanfechain 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 Llanfechain C. in W. School in January 2020 was as follows:

| School                                   | % of Pupils |
|--|-------------|
| Guilsfield C.P. School                   | 2.3%        |
| Llandysilio C. in W. School              | 4.5%        |
| Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School          | 2.3%        |
| Llanfechain C. in W. School              | 38.6%       |
| Ysgol Llanfyllin                         | 25.0%       |
| Llangedwyn C. in W. School               | 9.1%        |
| Llansantffraid C. in W. School           | 9.1%        |
| Ysgol Bro Cynllaith                      | 2.3%        |
| Ysgol Meifod                             | 4.5%        |
| Bryn Offa Primary School (Out of County) | 2.3%        |

This suggests that 38.6% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 61.4% 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:

- Music Club
- Coding Club
- Gardening Club
- Sports Clubs
- Gymnastics Club

- Dance Club
- Ball Skills Club
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club

**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:

- Mother and Toddler Group – Little Stars
- After School Club – 5 nights a week
- Friday Night Football – community football club run in conjunction with the school

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

There are plans to run a digital and Welsh skills drop in sessions in response to parental demand during Covid lockdowns, and this would entail use of the school building.

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

The school has links with St Garmon’s Church, Llanfechain. For example, pupils attend the annual Harvest Service, and other activities at St Garmon’s Church.

The school also has links with Llanfechain village hall, and the school’s Christmas play is held there.

**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, then the intention is that all existing Llanfechain C. in W. pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school, and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close.

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

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Llanfechain were the school to close. There would be a potential loss of community facilities and services provided by the



school. However, there is a village hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available should there be no school in the village.

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

Closure of Llanfechain C. in W. School would result in additional travel and travelling time for pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school. However, as indicated in (i) above, Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest school for only 38.6% of current pupils. For the remainder of pupils, there would be a reduction in travel distance and time for those pupils should they transfer to their closest schools.

For those pupils, for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school, there are a number of other schools located within 5 miles of Llanfechain C. in W. School. These are:

| <b>School</b>                  | <b>Distance from Llanfechain C. in W. School by road (miles)</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Llansantffraid C. in W. School | 2.3 miles  |
| Ysgol Llanfyllin               | 3.5 miles  |
| Llangedwyn C. in W. School     | 4.4 miles  |

Should there be no school in Llanfechain, the additional travel distance and time for pupils for whom Llanfechain is currently the closest school would be minimal.

**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 new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by the headteacher and class teachers.

The Council's preferred option is to initially retain the Llanfechain site as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until an extension to the Llansantffraid building has been completed. This would provide a period of transition for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.

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

Should the school close, although the Local Authority would provide transport for pupils, if a parent needed to attend the new school they would struggle to get there in a timely manner if relying on current public transport options.

**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 Llanfechain 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**

The majority of pupils that attend Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore it does not appear that the school is primarily serving the Llanfechain community.

Should there be no school in Llanfechain, it is possible that some families would be discouraged from moving to the village, however there are other schools located within a few miles of Llanfechain, which offer more services for families, which would continue to be available to any families moving to the area.

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

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. However, there is also a Village Hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llanfechain.

- **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**

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. There is also a Village Hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available to hold some community activities should there be no school in Llanfechain.

- **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 could impact on the local economy. In particular, there would be a reduction in employment opportunities in the village, and there could be an impact on local businesses in the village of Llanfechain and the surrounding area.

- **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)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils. However, this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by headteacher and class teachers. The Council's preferred option is to initially retain the Llanfechain site as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until an extension to the Llansantffraid building has been completed. This would provide a period of transition for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on some 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. However, the majority of pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore there would be a reduction in travel time / distance for them, should they transfer to their closest schools.

- **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 community use of the Llanfechain C. in W. building and school grounds, and links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Llanfechain would impact on the local community.

There is a Village Hall in Llanfechain which would continue to be available should there be no school in Llanfechain, and community events could be held here. There is also a village playing field, which would also continue to be available for the community.

### **1.3 Conclusion**

A range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and there are links between both schools and their respective communities.

Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is acknowledged that this would impact on both communities. However, there is a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, and a Village Hall in Llanfechain, both of which would continue to be available should there be no schools in the two villages, and where community activities and events could be held.

Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, additional travel would be required for those pupils for whom these are currently the closest schools. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy, 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. However, the majority of pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools. For these pupils, transferring to their closest schools would lead to a reduction in travel distance / time.

**Note: This draft Community Impact Assessment does not include information relating to Llansantffraid C. in W. school as it is not proposed to close the school.**