

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF SCHOOL REORGANISATION PROPOSAL UNDER THE SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 41, 43 and 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") and the School Organisation Code, that Powys County Council of County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG ("the Council"), having consulted such persons as required, proposes the following:-

From 31 August 2022:

- i. The Council proposes to discontinue the following two schools which are maintained by Powys County Council:
 - Llanfair Caereinion Community Primary School/Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0SF ("Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School");
 - Caereinion High School, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0HW.

From 1 September 2022:

- i. The Council proposes to establish a new bilingual community school maintained by Powys County Council for boys and girls aged 4-18 years old, that will operate on the current sites of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.

From the 1st September 2022, pupils currently attending Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School and those admitted during the 2021-22 school year will be able to attend a new bilingual community school for pupils aged 4-18 years old, which will be maintained by Powys County Council. The new school will operate from the sites currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the responses of the Council and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9789/Llanfair-Caereinion-C.P.-School-and-Caereinion-High-School>

Admissions

The Council will be the admission authority for the new school. The admission number for first time admission to the primary phase at the new school in the first year in which the proposals have been implemented is 27. The admission number for pupils in Year 7 at the new school in the first year in which the proposals have been implemented is 101.

From 1 September 2022, pupils will be admitted to the new 4-18 school in accordance with the Council's admissions arrangements, which do not take account of the sex, aptitude or ability of the child. The following arrangements will apply:

- Pupils currently in Reception – Year 5 at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and those admitted to those year groups during the 2021-22 school year will be admitted to the Primary Phase Campus;
- Pupils currently at Caereinion High School and those admitted to year 7 and above during the 2021-22 school year will be admitted to the Secondary Phase Campus;
- Pupils entering Year 7 from other primary schools in the catchment area from the 1st September 2022 onwards will be required to apply for places at the secondary phase of the new school in accordance with the Council's Admissions arrangements.

Parents may express a preference for another school and the Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Language Category

The language category of the proposed new school, as defined by "Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision" Welsh Government Information Document No: 023/2007 is as follows:

- Primary Phase – Dual Stream
- Secondary Phase – Bilingual Category 2B

School Capacity

The new school's capacity will be 798 (+ 0 nursery places). This will include 195 places (+ 0 nursery places) at the Primary Phase Campus and 603 at the Secondary Phase Campus.

Implementation

The proposals will be implemented by Powys County Council.

Transport

Transport arrangements will be in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School is considered the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal, and are as follows:

- To improve educational outcomes
 - More opportunities for staff to move between key stages, to further develop expertise in specific areas
 - Opportunities for pupils in all key stages to benefit from staff expertise in specific subject areas
 - Improved curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for pupils in all key stages
- To improve educational provision
 - Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils in all key stages
 - Opportunity to improve the range and quality of facilities and learning resources available to the benefit of pupils in all key stages
 - Improved opportunities for continuity of support for vulnerable groups of pupils
 - Improved opportunities for more able and talented pupils
- To improve leadership and management
 - Opportunity for high quality, robust leadership across all key stages
 - Improved opportunities for the headteacher to distribute key leadership tasks to a greater number staff across all phases of education
 - Improved opportunities for the governing body to have strategic oversight of education for pupils from 4 – 18
- To improve efficiency in the delivery of education
 - Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff
 - Potential for sharing of resources across all key stages
- To provide more seamless transition between key stages
 - Opportunity to provide seamless progression between each phase of education
 - Improved opportunities for continuity of support for vulnerable groups of pupils throughout their school careers

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by **23rd March 2021** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Interim Chief Education Officer, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG or by email to education@powys.gov.uk.

Powys County Council will publish a summary of any such objections made within the objection period (and not withdrawn in writing), together with the Council's observations thereon, within the period set out in "the Code".

Lynette Lovell
Interim Chief Education Officer
For Powys County Council

Dated this day 23rd February 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of explanation).

- The intention of the Council is to close Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School on the 31st August 2022 and open a new school for 4-18 year old pupils on the current sites of the two schools on the 1st September 2022.
- This will not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.
- Transport arrangements will be made for pupils who qualify under the Council's school transport policy.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a consultation document circulated in October 2020.
- The Temporary Governing Body of the new school will be established prior to the implementation date and will be responsible for; the appointment of Headteacher, naming of the new school, establishing the vision and ethos, making organisational arrangements including curriculum, admissions and accommodation and have the responsibility for the opening of the new school until such time as the new governing body is in place.