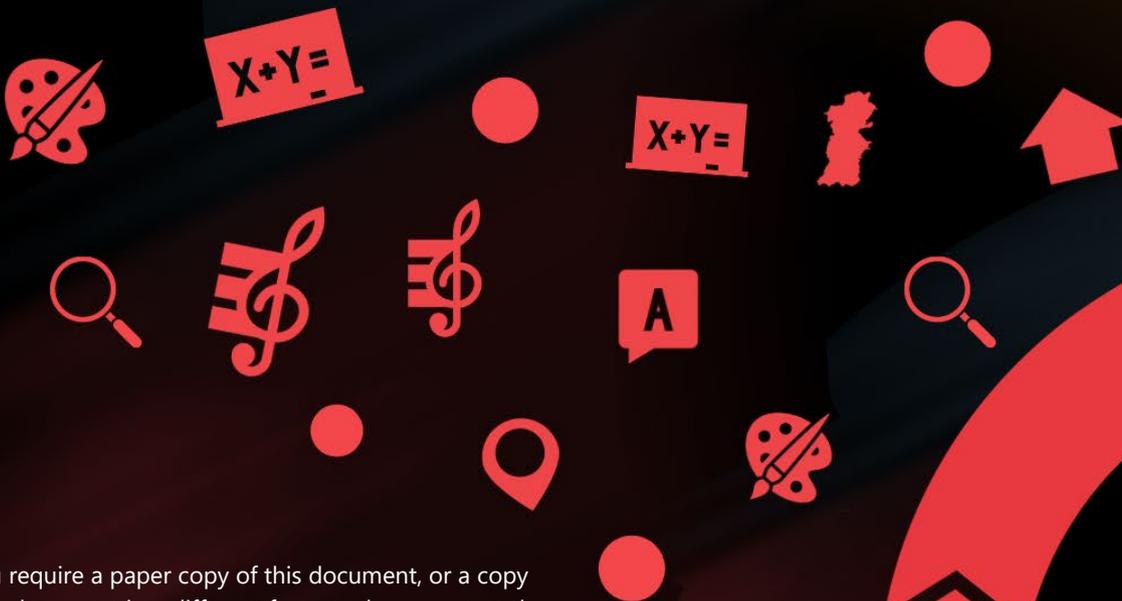




**Proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon  
C.P. School**  
Consultation Document



If you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the Transforming Education Team on 01597 826618, or e-mail [school.organisation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@powys.gov.uk).

# Consultation on the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School

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# Consultation on the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School

## OVERVIEW

### 1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools

### 2. How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on our website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10580/Llanfihangel-Rhydithon-C.P.-School>

A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document. Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

All responses must be received by the **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**.

### 3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team  
Powys County Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

E-mail: [school.consultation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultation@powys.gov.uk)

Phone: 01597 826618

### 4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposal outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen in the summer of 2021.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice would be published, and there would be a period of 28 days for people to submit objections. The Cabinet would then need to consider another report summarising any objections received and decide whether or not to proceed with implementation.

## PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

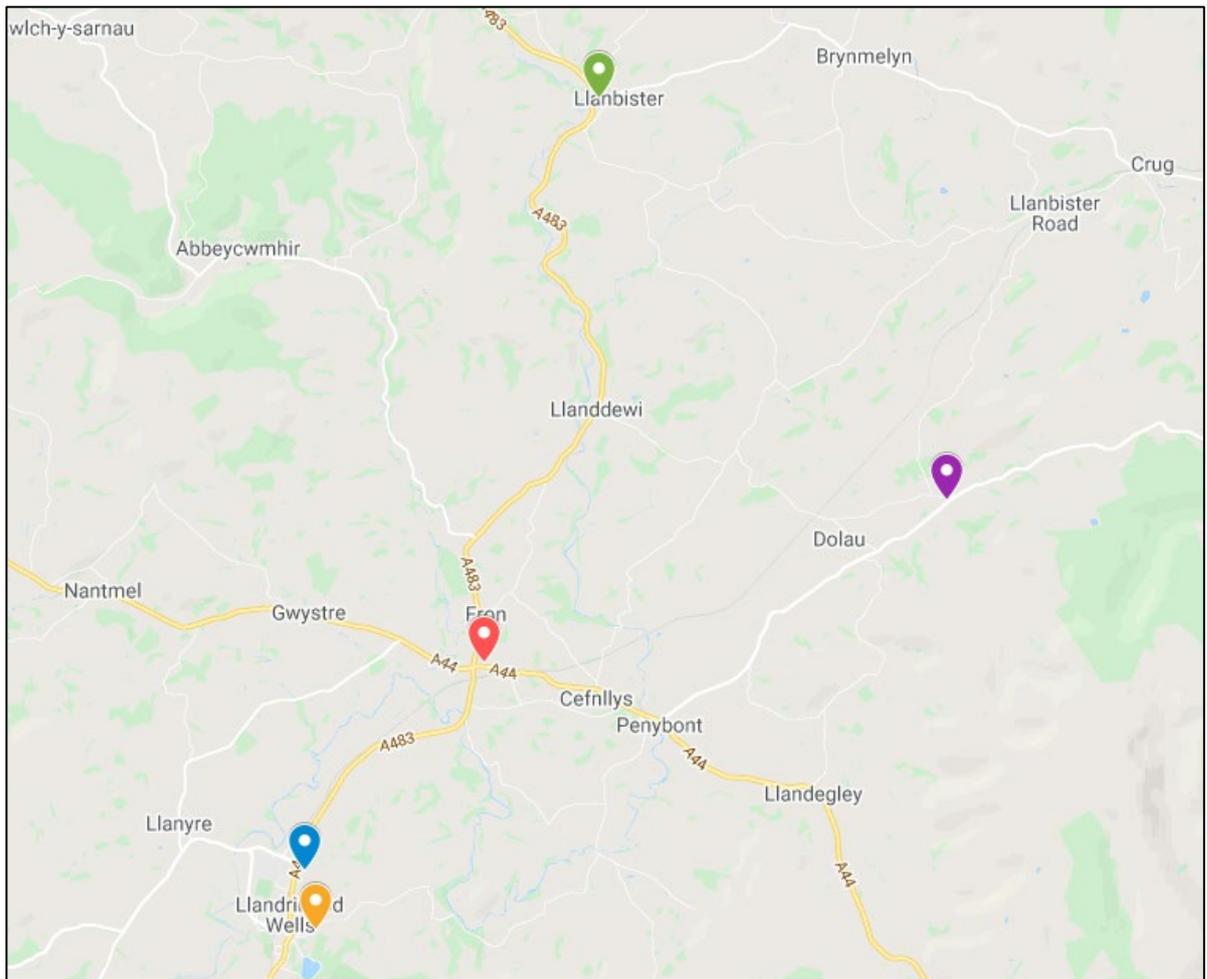
Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposal:

- To close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools

### 1. BACKGROUND

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is an English-medium community primary school located in the village of Dolau in the Llandrindod Wells catchment area in Mid Powys. The school primarily serves the village of Dolau and the surrounding area.

The following map shows the location of schools in the area:



**Key:** Purple – Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, Green – Llanbister C.P. School, Red – Crossgates C.P. School, Blue – Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School, Orange – Ysgol Cefynlllys

The following is a summary of key data relating to the school:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Rural School <sup>1</sup>
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5TW</b>	Community Primary  School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	5	Yes

Current pupil numbers<sup>2</sup> at the school are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	7	10	2	8	5	0	5	37

In April 2020, the Council approved a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which sets out a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to ‘improve learner entitlement and experience’ and it also includes an objective to ‘rationalise primary provision’.

The Council has carried out an options appraisal exercise to identify a preferred option for Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Options appraisal exercise
- Recommendation considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board

On the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Council’s Cabinet considered a report in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, and agreed to commence consultation on the following:

*‘To close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools’.*

<sup>1</sup> Annex F of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2018) (<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

## **2. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS**

Powys is a large, rural authority. Covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales, it contains only 4.2% of the population, making it the most sparsely populated county in Wales. Delivering services across such a large, sparsely populated area is challenging and expensive.

Whilst there has been some school reorganisation activity in Powys over recent years, the county's schools' infrastructure largely remains similar to that which was in place 20 years ago.

The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council:

### **i) High proportion of small schools**

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 40% of the primary provision in the county. 21 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

### **ii) Decreasing pupil numbers**

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 4% by 2025.

### **iii) High number of surplus places**

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there was 18% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

### **iv) Building condition**

Whilst the Council has invested in its school's estate through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and the Asset Management Plan, building condition remains an issue across Powys, with associated maintenance costs.

**v) Financial pressures**

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,127 to £7,877 in the primary sector.

**vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education**

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

**vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer**

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

**viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision**

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

**ix) Historical lack of political decision making**

Although there have been some developments in terms of the schools' infrastructure over recent years, the Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years has left a legacy in Powys, and there has been a reluctance to embark on large scale reorganisation of education provision since then.

### 3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 2019, Powys Education Services were inspected by Estyn. The report published by Estyn following the inspection outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

Following publication of the inspection report, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years.

The Vision Statement is as follows:

***All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.***

In order to achieve the vision and guiding principles, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience' and this aim includes an objective to 'rationalise primary provision'.

The current proposal in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is in line with these priorities.

#### 4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN DOLAU

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School:

##### i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers<sup>3</sup> at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	7	10	2	8	5	0	5	37

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this. Whilst an increase is projected over the next couple of years based on information held by the Council's Finance Team, they are expected to remain low for the foreseeable future.

##### ii) High budget share per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school's budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £6,304. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llanfihangel Rhydithon is ranked the 8<sup>th</sup> highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil<sup>4</sup>.

##### iii) Temporary leadership arrangements

Leadership at the school is provided by the headteacher of Llanelwedd C. in W. School, as part of a long term temporary arrangement. This is a part time arrangement, with a teacher in charge responsible for the school whilst the acting headteacher is not on the site. This limits the time available to focus on leadership of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

##### iv) Combined age classes

The small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with Key Stage 2 in one class and Foundation Phase in another class. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged.

#### 5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options have been identified for Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School:

<sup>3</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

<sup>4</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Crossgates C.P. School
3	Federation with Llanbister C.P. School
4	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites
5	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites
6	Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Crossgates C.P. School
7	Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Llanbister C.P. School
8	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crossgates site
9	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site
10	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbister site
11	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site
12	Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors, and the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements was also considered. These can be found in Appendix B and Appendix C of this document.

## 6. PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the SWOT analyses, the assessment against the Critical Success Factors and the consideration of the likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements, the preferred option is as follows:

### **Option 12: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with permanent leadership arrangements
- Meets all of the critical success factors

This is the basis for the current proposal on which the Council is consulting. The proposal is further explored in the following section. The reasons why the other options considered have not been taken forward are summarised in Appendix D of this document.

## PART B – THE PROPOSAL

### 7. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools

### 8. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for the following reasons:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with permanent leadership arrangements

### 9. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</li><li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li><li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li><li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li><li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li><li>- Pupils would attend schools with permanent leadership arrangements</li><li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Dolau site</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li><li>- Additional travel costs</li><li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li><li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li><li>- Impact on the current staff of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</li><li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li></ul>

## 10. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
Period of uncertainty for Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School if a statutory process is carried out and implemented which might have a negative effect on standards at the school	Medium	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the school and governing body to ensure that standards and performance do not deteriorate during the transition period
Uncertainty for staff whilst the process is ongoing	Medium	Medium	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments

## 11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	July 2021

### **If Cabinet decide to proceed:**

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	September 2021
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	November 2021

### **If Cabinet approves implementation:**

School closes	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022
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## **PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL**

### **12. IMPACT ON PUPILS**

#### **i) Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. It is acknowledged that this would have an impact on pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, as they would need to transfer to an alternative school. Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work closely with the current school and the alternative schools to ensure a smooth transition.

As Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative provision in Powys, the move to any alternative school would require additional transport for pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on pupils' ability to access after-school activities, and that there could be increased travelling times to school for some pupils.

#### **ii) Pupils attending other nearby primary schools**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close and pupils currently attending the school would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. This would mean that pupils would transfer to other schools in the local area.

As pupils would transfer to alternative schools, the proposal could impact on pupils at the schools pupils may choose to transfer to, as those schools would receive additional pupils. However, the total number of pupils attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a significant impact on pupils attending other nearby primary schools. The numbers admitted to each school would be in line with the admissions number for each school.

### **13. IMPACT ON STAFF**

Should the proposal be implemented, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close. A staff redundancy process would be necessary for staff currently employed at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. This would be conducted in line with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. All cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

## **14. IMPACT ON NURSERY / EARLY YEARS PROVISION**

In September 2017, the Council changed the age of admission to primary schools in Powys from “at the start of the term in which they attain their fourth birthday” to “at the start of the school year following his/her fourth birthday”. Following this change, there are no nursery aged pupils attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

Funded early years provision is provided for pupils at a number of locations across Powys, however no funded early years education is available at Dolau. Cylch Meithrin Dolau meets on the site of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, however no funded provision is available here. This provision is currently not registered with Care Inspectorate Wales.

Funded early years provision is available in the local area at Little Acorns, which is located at Crossgates C.P. School. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, this provider would continue to be available, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would impact on access to funded early years provision.

Information about Little Acorns is provided below<sup>5</sup>:

### **Little Acorns (Crossgates)**

Little Acorns is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of Crossgates C.P. School. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. Standards of nursery education and sufficiency of accommodation at this provider are good. The setting has a caring and nurturing ethos. The setting is currently in the process of building new accommodation.

There are 24 ten hours early years education places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

## **15. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Implementation of the proposal would result in the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and the Governing Body of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would be dissolved.

## **16. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

### **i) Standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning**

#### **Standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to

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<sup>5</sup> All information correct as of Summer Term 2021/22

alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School.

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P School is currently in the green support category based on the 2019 categorisations whilst Crossgates C.P. School is in the yellow support category. However, there are no concerns in relation to quality and standards at Crossgates C.P. School, and it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall.

Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys. These schools are all in the yellow support category based on the 2019 categorisations, therefore there are no concerns about the provision pupils would receive should they transfer to these schools.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Based on PLASC 2020 information, there are no pupils eligible for Free School Meals, Looked after Children or pupils for whom English is an Additional Language at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. There are a number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, however the number of pupils belonging to this group is small. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

This is also the case in respect of the impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. Pupils would transfer to larger schools, which would provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources, and which have an improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

### **Wellbeing and attitudes to learning**

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupils' wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to alternative schools. It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to different schools, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However, alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. It is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative provision would be excessive.

In the longer term, the intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning as they would transfer to larger schools with larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

## **ii) Teaching and learning experiences**

### **Quality of teaching**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at Crossgates C.P. School or the other schools named above, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

### **The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

The Council's view is that Crossgates C.P. School and the other schools named above would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. Crossgates and the other schools are larger schools, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils, and that the alternative schools would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

### **The provision of skills**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at Crossgates C.P. School or the other schools named above, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

**iii) Care support and guidance**

**Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. It is anticipated that the arrangements at Crossgates C.P. School and the other schools named above would be at least equivalent to the arrangements at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

**iv) Leadership and management**

**Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

Crossgates C.P. School has a permanent headteacher, whilst Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. has a long term shared temporary headteacher arrangement. Whilst Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School was categorised as Green in the latest categorisations carried out in 2019 and Crossgates C.P. School was categorised as Yellow, both have been categorised as having an improvement capacity of B. In addition, Crossgates C.P. School is larger than Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, therefore it is expected that the headteacher would have more time available to focus on leadership and management.

The Council's view is that should the preferred option be implemented, leadership and management at the alternative school would be at least as good as the current arrangements at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

This would also be the case for any pupils transferring to the other schools named above, all of which were categorised as Yellow in the latest categorisations carried out in 2019.

### **Professional learning**

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities. Staff currently employed at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would be subject to a management of change process.

### **Use of resources**

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is projecting to be in a cumulative surplus budget position over the coming years. Whilst there are no concerns about the use of resources within the school, there are concerns about use of resources overall within the Powys schools infrastructure. As indicated on page 5 above, one of the main challenges facing the Powys schools infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is among the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil at the school is higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

Closure of the school would reduce the number of schools in Powys, and would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

Should the emerging preferred option be implemented pupils would transfer to larger schools, ensuring more effective use of the Council's resources.

In addition, larger schools often have more resources available in terms of number of staff and educational resources, therefore pupils would benefit from the opportunity to access these resources.

### **v) Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on any pupils belonging to vulnerable groups currently attending the school, including any pupils with SEN, and that in the short term, these pupils would need to transfer to alternative schools.

Based on January 2020 PLASC information, 3.0% of pupils at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School was on School Action, and 3.0% of pupils were on School Action Plus. There were no statemented pupils.

Whilst the preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to alternative schools, there is no reason to believe that the schools to which they might transfer would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with SEN, and their families.

**vi) Impact on the schools' ability to deliver the full curriculum in the foundation stage and each key stage**

Should the preferred option be implemented, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

As pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would transfer to alternative schools, there would be an increase in pupil numbers at the alternative schools. However current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small, and therefore the number of pupils likely to transfer to each year group is low, therefore the impact on alternative schools is not likely to have a significant impact on their ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and in each key stage of education.

In some schools, it is possible that an increase in pupil numbers would improve their ability to deliver the curriculum, however depending on the class structure and current breakdown of pupils, it's possible that some schools would need to make adjustments to their class structure in the short term to accommodate any additional pupils.

**vii) Impact on other schools**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

Whilst it is possible that this could have some impact on the schools pupils may wish to transfer to, particularly in the short term when they receive additional pupils, the total number of pupils at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is relatively small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would have a

negative impact on the quality and standards in education (to include standards; wellbeing and attitudes to learning; teaching and learning experiences; care support and guidance and leadership and management) at each of the schools pupils may transfer to. In some cases, it is possible that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on quality and standards in education at the alternative schools, as it would lead to an increase in pupil numbers and the opportunity to provide enhanced opportunities to pupils.

## 17. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY OF PLACES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

- i) **Will the alternative provision have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers?**

The following table shows the number of spaces available and the building condition of schools providing English-medium education located within 10 miles of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School:

School	Capacity <sup>6</sup>	Current pupil numbers <sup>7</sup>	Available spaces	Filled capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Crossgates C.P. School	210	131	79	62.4%	B	A
Llanbister C.P. School	45	61	-16	135.6%	C	B
Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School	189	208	-19	110.1%	A	A
Ysgol Cefnlllys	258	218	40	84.5%	B	B
Franksbridge C.P. School	44	42	2	95.5%	B	B

This suggests that there are sufficient places at Crossgates C.P. School to accommodate all current and projected pupils at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School although a number of the other nearby schools are at or over capacity.

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

<sup>7</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

The condition of the Crossgates building is assessed as condition B. This is the same as the condition of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building, therefore pupils would be able to continue to access accommodation which is of at least equivalent quality as the current accommodation at Llanfihangel Rhydithon.

**ii) Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and designated religious character?**

As indicated in the table in section (i) above, there is sufficient English-medium capacity within 10 miles of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to accommodate the school's current and projected pupil numbers.

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is a community primary. As indicated in the table in section 11.1 above, the majority of the other schools in the area are also community primary schools, ensuring that pupils could continue to access community primary provision should there be no school in Dolau.

**iii) What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?**

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is the closest school for only 48.5% of current pupils. As indicated in the table in section 10.1 above, there are alternative primary places available at other schools within 10 miles of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

Should there be no school in Dolau, there would be a reduction in travel time / distance for pupils attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for whom this isn't currently the closest school should they transfer to their closest school.

**iv) Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?**

Information about projected pupil numbers for other nearby schools is provided in Appendix A. This suggests that total pupil numbers at Crossgates C.P. School, Ysgol Cefnlllys and Knighton C. in W. School are not expected to increase over the coming years. Pupil numbers at Llanbister C.P. School are expected to increase over the coming years.

**v) Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?**

Implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils would attend their nearest alternative school. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School, however a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys.

The latest Welsh Government School Premises Return 2020 indicates that these schools are either compliant, or partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 with all of the schools having statutory Accessibility Plans in place.

## **18. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **i) What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?**

Implementation of the preferred option would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.

### **ii) Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?**

The review of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School does not form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

However, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys identifies a number of issues relating to the overall Powys schools' estate, including a high proportion of small schools, a high number of surplus places and issues with building condition. The Strategy includes a strategic objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', which aims to address these issues, to ensure better strategic management of the Powys school estate. The review of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is being carried out in order to meet this objective.

### **iii) What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?**

There are no recurrent costs associated with this proposal.

### **iv) Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?**

It is not anticipated that additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of the change, it is assumed that the current bus would be used at no additional cost to the Authority.

### **v) What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?**

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option. As indicated in the table in section 17(i) above, there are sufficient places at schools located within 10 miles of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to accommodate all current and projected pupils.

**vi) What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs)**

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £59,000 per annum. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on schools' delegated funding of over £52,000 and savings on catering costs of around £7,000.

**vii) Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?**

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not currently forecasting a cumulative deficit budget.

**viii) Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?**

Any savings would be reinvested in the Council's corporate budget and any reinvestment in the schools' system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

**ix) Will the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?**

Any capital receipts received from sale of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School site would be reinvested into the Schools Transformation programme in order to improve the educational provision across Powys.

## **19. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**i) Impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds**

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy,

however it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Based on PLASC figures from January 2020, no pupils attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School were eligible for FSM, therefore it is likely that the proportion of children from economically deprived backgrounds is minimal.

**ii) Land and Buildings**

**Comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred**

Information about the quality of accommodation at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools to which pupils may transfer is provided in Appendix A.

**Information on any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated**

No building works are necessary as there is sufficient capacity at alternative schools for existing Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School pupils.

**Details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals**

Any sites which are surplus following implementation of the proposal would be disposed of in accordance with the Council's asset management policy.

**Is the school / schools involved subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land?**

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals.

**iii) Walking routes to school**

Should the proposal be implemented, walking routes which are currently established for Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would no longer be required.

For those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school, additional travel would be required to access alternative provision. For these pupils, it is unlikely that walking or cycling to the alternative school would be possible.

**iv) School Admissions**

Should the proposal be implemented, admissions to nearest alternative schools in Powys would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>.

**v) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)**

The proposal is to close an English-medium primary school. The proposal is not linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The proposal would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

**20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES**

**i) Whether the establishment of multi-site schools might be considered as a means of retaining buildings, or the reasons for not pursuing this option**

A range of options have been considered in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, these are outlined in Appendix C of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

**ii) Whether alternatives to closure, such as clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools, might be considered or the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative**

Federation of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School with Crossgates C.P. School and Llanbister C.P. School are two of the options considered in section 4 of this document. An assessment of these options has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with this option.

Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years. Becoming part of a federation with another school would not address this issue.

**iii) Whether the possibility of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource could be explored**

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing building as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

Pupil numbers at the school are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years.

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

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Dolau. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Dolau community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Dolau, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village.

An initial draft community impact assessment has been carried out, with input from the school, to identify the potential impact on the community. This will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

**v) 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 meetings with new headteacher and receiving schools to ease transition into their new school.

## **21. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposal. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10580/Llanfihangel-Rhydithon-C.P.-School>

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

**i) Equalities impact assessment**

Should the proposal be implemented, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would close, and pupils transfer to their nearest alternative school.

This would have a significant impact on pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, including any pupils belonging to the

protected characteristic groups that attend that school, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend their nearest alternative school.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposal would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the school, there is no reason to believe that the nearest alternative schools would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils belonging to Ethnic Groups other than White British, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and Looked After Children. The number of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is very small.

## **ii) Impact on the community**

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. Should there be no school in Dolau, 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 for pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school, additional travel would be required to enable pupils to access their closest school. This could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

The information received by the school suggests that there are extensive links between the school and the local community, and that many community activities are arranged in the school which are accessed by the community. It is therefore acknowledged that closure of the school could have an impact on the community in terms of the services and activities available.

Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it is anticipated that facilities and services would be provided in the community hall should there be no school in Dolau. However, the school has indicated that the loss of income provided by the school to the community hall could have a significant impact on the ability for the hall to continue to run.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Dolau 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.

## **PART D – CONSULTATION DETAILS**

### **Who will we consult with?**

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code, which include the following:

- Parents, carers and guardians at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The prospective candidates for Member of the Senedd for Brecon and Radnorshire and the prospective candidates for Members of the Senedd for the Mid & West Wales region.
- The MP for Brecon and Radnorshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- ERW
- The prospective candidates for Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people's national participation standards<sup>8</sup>.

### **The consultation period**

The consultation period will commence on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

### **The statutory process**

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. The process is summarised below:

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<sup>8</sup> <https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards>

## **i) Consultation**

Consultation will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and end on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

It is important to note that responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, and that only objections can be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal, or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by the Cabinet in summer of 2021.

## **ii) Statutory notice**

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, statutory notices would be published after the Cabinet meeting. There would then be a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the local authority's determination. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered as objections and included in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period would not be counted as objections. Should stakeholders wish their consultation responses to be considered as objections, they would need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period.

A further report would be presented to the Council's Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by the end of 2021.

## **iii) Implementation**

If the Council's Cabinet were to approve the proposal, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date.

## How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form is attached to this document. An online version is also available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10580/Llanfihangel-Rhydithon-C.P.-School>

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

Completed forms and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

*Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG*

*E-mail: [school.consultation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultation@powys.gov.uk)*

All correspondence should be received by the **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01597) 826618.

## APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Key data about the school is provided below:

### 1. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School

#### General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>9</sup>	Rural School? <sup>10</sup>
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	5	Yes

#### Pupil numbers

##### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>11</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	7	10	2	8	5	0	5	37

##### ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>12</sup>

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	38	29	31	35	35	29	33

##### iii) Projected pupil numbers<sup>13</sup>

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P.</b>	34	32	36	34	33

<sup>9</sup> Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22

<sup>10</sup> Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

<sup>11</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

<sup>12</sup> PLASC

<sup>13</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates. These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2020 information, therefore include a projection for January 2021. PLASC 2021 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2021 are not yet available.

School					
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iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>14</sup>**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	37	38	44	N/A	N/A

**Building Capacity and Condition**

i) **Capacity**

The following table provides information about the current capacity of the school:

	Current Capacity <sup>15</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	36	37 (102.8%)	-1 (-2.8%)

ii) **Building condition**

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school:

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	B Good	B Good	Yes – community hall

**Quality and standards of education**

i) **Estyn**

The following table summarises the last Estyn inspections of the school:

	Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School
Date of Inspection	March 2019

<sup>14</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the schools – November 2020

<sup>15</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Follow up activity	School will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations.

## ii) School Categorisation

The latest categorisations of the three schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System for 2019 are as follows:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	N/A	B	Green

## Financial information

### Cost per pupil<sup>16</sup>

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	£208,000	£6,304	£7,000	£0
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

<sup>16</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/21

## Equalities information<sup>17</sup>

### i) National identity

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	21.2%	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	3.0%	27.3%	0.0%

### ii) Ethnic Group

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019)

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	72.7%	0.0%	27.3%

### iii) English as an Additional Language

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	0.0%	0.0%

### iv) Free School Meals

	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	100.0%	0.0%

### v) Looked after children

	Looked after children
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	0.0%

<sup>17</sup> PLASC 2020

vi) **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

	None	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	% ALN
<b>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</b>	93.9%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	6.1%

**2. Other schools that could be affected**

Should the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School be implemented, pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school.

The expectation is that the number of pupils transferring to each school would be small, and therefore the impact on these schools would not be significant. However, information about schools to which pupils may transfer is provided below:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>18</sup>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	30
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	7
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	37
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary School building owned by the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon	Dual stream	27
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary School building owned by the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon	English medium	38

**Pupil Numbers**

<sup>18</sup> Powys Schools – Powys County Council Admission Arrangements and Information 2021/22

i) Current pupil numbers<sup>19</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	13	18	18	22	17	18	25	131
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	5	13	10	9	13	5	6	61
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	25	29	31	28	34	41	30	218
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	30	27	36	29	30	32	24	208
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	21	22	28	32	25	32	28	188

ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>20</sup>

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	152	157	150	167	149	150	143
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	37	36	31	38	41	51	61
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	250	275	300	280	251	242	232
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	211	203	195	196	207	201	209
<b>Knighton C. in W.</b>	231	242	242	240	226	225	207

<sup>19</sup> Powys Schools - Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

<sup>20</sup> PLASC 2020

School							
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iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>21</sup>

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	141	135	136	134	130
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	73	80	89	88	92
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	209	200	180	171	167
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	210	215	207	203	201
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	198	192	189	193	189

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>22</sup>

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	131	122	120	N/A	N/A
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	61	60	60	N/A	N/A
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	218	216	203	N/A	N/A
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	208	207	198	N/A	N/A
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	188	181	170	N/A	N/A

**Building Capacity and Condition**

i) Capacity

<sup>21</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates. These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2020 information, therefore include a projection for January 2021. PLASC 2021 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2021 are not yet available.

<sup>22</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – November 2020

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity:

	<b>Current Capacity<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>Currently Filled</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	210	131 (62.4%)	79 (37.6%)
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	45	61 (135.6%)	-16 (-35.6%)
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	258	218 (84.5%)	40 (15.6%)
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	189	208 (110.1%)	-19 (-10.1%)
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	264	188 (71.2%)	76 (28.8%)

## ii) Building condition

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school.

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Access to hall on site</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	B	A	Yes
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	C	B	Yes
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	B	B	Yes
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	A	A	Yes
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	B	B	Yes

<sup>23</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

## Standards of Education

### i) Estyn

	<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	November 2016
<b>Standards</b>	Adequate
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Adequate
<b>Learning Experiences</b>	Adequate
<b>Teaching</b>	Adequate
<b>Care, Support and Guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Adequate
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Adequate
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Adequate
<b>Outcome</b>	School to draw up action plan to address recommendations. Estyn to review the school's progress.  Removed from Estyn Monitoring in June 2018.

	<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	November 2019
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	Good
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good
<b>Outcome</b>	School to draw up action plan to address recommendations.

	<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	October 2016
<b>Standards</b>	Adequate
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Adequate
<b>Learning Experiences</b>	Adequate
<b>Teaching</b>	Unsatisfactory
<b>Care, Support and Guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Unsatisfactory
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Unsatisfactory
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Adequate

<b>Outcome</b>	School placed into special measures. School will draw up an action plan, which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn to monitor progress each term.  Removed from Special Measures in February 2018.
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<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	October 2013
<b>Standards</b>	Adequate
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Good
<b>Learning Experiences</b>	Adequate
<b>Teaching</b>	Good
<b>Care, Support and Guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Adequate
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Good
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Adequate
<b>Outcome</b>	School to draw up action plan to address recommendations. Estyn to monitor progress.  Removed from Estyn Monitoring in November 2014.

<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	November 2019
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	Good
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good
<b>Outcome</b>	School to draw up action plan to address recommendations.

ii) **School Categorisation<sup>24</sup>**

	<b>Standards Group</b>	<b>Support Capacity</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	N/A	Yellow

<sup>24</sup> 2019

<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	N/A	Yellow
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	N/A	Yellow
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	N/A	Green
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	N/A	Yellow

### Financial information

#### i) Cost per pupil<sup>25</sup> (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)

	<b>Budget share per school</b>	<b>Budget share per pupil</b>	<b>Notional SEN budget</b>	<b>Non ISB funds devolved to the school</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	£584,000	£4,057	£39,000	£21,000
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	£288,000	£4,717	£12,000	£0
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	£798,000	£3,872	£104,000	£52,000
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	£855,000	£4,130	£73,000	£49,000
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	£751,000	£4,082	£43,000	£10,000
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

### Equalities Information

#### i) National identity

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2019)

	<b>British</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Irish</b>	<b>Scottish</b>	<b>Welsh</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Not supplied / Refused</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	26.6%	22.4%	0.0%	2.1%	31.5%	2.1%	14.5%

<sup>25</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	36.1%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	36.1%	0.0%	21.3%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	66.8%	19.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%	7.8%	0.0%
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	23.0%	30.1%	0.0%	0.0%	30.1%	3.3%	13.4%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	28.0%	29.5%	0.0%	0.0%	19.3%	2.9%	20.3%

**ii) Ethnic Group**

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019)

	<b>White British</b>	<b>Other known ethnicity</b>	<b>Information not yet obtained</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	82.5%	2.1%	15.4%
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	78.7%	0.0%	21.3%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	90.1%	9.9%	0.0%
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	80.4%	6.2%	13.4%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	77.8%	3.9%	18.4%

**iii) English as an Additional Language**

	<b>% EAL</b>	<b>% EAL A/B/C</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	2.1%	0.7%
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	8.6%	5.6%

<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	3.9%	2.9%

iv) **Free School Meals<sup>26</sup>**

	<b>Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	15.4%
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	1.6%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	24.6%
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	26.3%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	6.3%

v) **Pupils in care<sup>27</sup>**

	<b>Number of pupils in care</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	3.5%
<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	3.3%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	2.2%
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	0.5%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	0.0%

vi) **SEN/ALN<sup>28</sup>**

	<b>School Action</b>	<b>School Action Plus</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>Crossgates C.P. School</b>	9.8%	3.5%	0.0%

<sup>26</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>27</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>28</sup> PLASC 2020

<b>Llanbister C.P. School</b>	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Ysgol Cefnlllys</b>	17.7%	8.2%	3.0%
<b>Ysgol Trefonnen C. in W. Community School</b>	23.0%	3.3%	0.5%
<b>Knighton C. in W. School</b>	12.1%	5.8%	0.5%

## APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS

### 1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified in section 5 are provided below:

#### Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- No requirement for a reorganisation process</li> <li>- No change for staff</li> <li>- No impact on pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Would not provide permanent leadership arrangements</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- Ability to recruit/secure new headteacher in small school</li> </ul>

#### Option 2: Federation with Crossgates C.P. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would continue to attend school in the same location</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still be required to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice</li> <li>- Opportunity to secure permanent leadership through shared leadership across the federation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Dolau site</li> <li>- May not be attractive to Crossgates C.P. School</li> </ul>

### Option 3: Federation with Llanbister C.P. School

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would continue to attend school in the same location</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon</li> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still be required to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice</li> <li>- Opportunity to secure permanent leadership through shared leadership across the federation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Dolau site</li> </ul>

### Option 4: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership arrangements on the Dolau site</li> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain at Llanfihangel Rhydithon</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Would also impact on staff at Crossgates C.P. School</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools – would have a disproportionate impact on Crossgates C.P. School</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llanfihangel Rhydithon site</li> </ul>

**Option 5: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership arrangements on the Dolau site</li> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Would also impact on staff at Llanbister C.P. School</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which</li> </ul>

- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff	meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llanfihangel Rhydithon site
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**Option 6: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Crossgates C.P. School**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership arrangements on the Dolau site</li> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> <li>- Minimal impact on staff at Crossgates C.P. School</li> <li>- Crossgates C.P. School would retain its identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would lose its identity</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llanfihangel Rhydithon site</li> </ul>

**Option 7: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Llanbister C.P. School**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Dolau</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would provide permanent leadership arrangements on the Dolau site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would lose its identity</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location</li> <li>- Minimal impact on staff at Llanbister C.P. School</li> <li>- Llanbister C.P. School would retain its identity</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llanfihangel Rhydithon site</li> </ul>

**Option 8: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crossgates site**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li> <li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li> <li>- Would impact on Crossgates staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Dolau site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible reduction in staffing requirements at the new school</li> </ul>

**Option 9: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Crossgates C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Crossgates C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Current Crossgates pupils may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Crossgates</li> <li>- Impact on the Crossgates community</li> <li>- Would impact on Crossgates staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Would not be acceptable to Crossgates school</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Dolau school is too small to accommodate the merged school</li> <li>- Significant investment would be needed in the Dolau site to accommodate Crossgates pupils</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Crossgates site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significant investment would be needed in the Dolau site to accommodate Crossgates pupils</li> <li>- Unlikely that the Dolau site would be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required – a new site may be required</li> </ul>

**Option 10: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbister site**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li> <li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li> <li>- Would impact on Llanbister staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Investment would be needed in the Llanbister site in order to accommodate Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Dolau site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment would be needed to the Llanbister site to accommodate Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils.</li> <li>- The Llanbister site may not be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required</li> </ul>

**Option 11: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanbister C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Current Llanbister pupils may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llanbister</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanbister community</li> <li>- Would impact on Llanbister staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not be acceptable to Llanbister school</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Investment would be needed in the Dolau site to accommodate Llanbister pupils</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Llanbister site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment would be needed to the Llanfihangel Rhydithon site to accommodate Llanbister pupils.</li> <li>- The Llanfihangel Rhydithon site may not be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required.</li> </ul>

**Option 12: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</li> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Pupils would attend schools with permanent leadership arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional travel costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li> <li>- Impact on the current staff of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School</li> <li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Dolau site</li> </ul>	

## 2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme</li> </ul>
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning</li> <li>• The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning</li> </ul>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> <li>• The option must be operationally achievable</li> <li>• The option must be physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue</li> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council</li> </ul>

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets    ? – Could meet    x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10	Option 11	Option 12
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	x	✓	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓
<b>Total ✓</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	4
<b>Total x</b>	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	2	2	0
<b>Outcome</b>	Discount	<b>Possible</b>	Discount	Discount	Discount	<b>Preferred</b>						

## APPENDIX C – IMPACT OF EACH OPTION ON RURAL SCHOOLS CRITERIA

The likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
<b>Option 1: Status Quo – continue as a standalone school</b>	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to attend the current provision at Dolau.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Dolau.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend school in Dolau.
<b>Option 2: Federation with Crossgates C.P. School</b>	<p>The impact on quality and standards would be minimal. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to operate as a stand alone school, however the school would be federated with Crossgates C.P. School, meaning that one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools. There would also be the potential for shared leadership across the two schools.</p> <p>Establishment of the federation could lead to opportunities to share staff / resources across the federation, which would have a positive impact on quality and standards.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Dolau.</p> <p>However, one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint activities would take place on the Crossgates site as the larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Dolau site.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend school in Dolau.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

<p><b>Option 3: Federation with Llanbister C.P. School</b></p>	<p>The impact on quality and standards would be minimal. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to operate as a stand alone school, however the school would be federated with Llanbister C.P. School, meaning that one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools. There would also be the potential for shared leadership across the two schools.</p> <p>Establishment of the federation could lead to opportunities to share staff / resources across the federation, which would have a positive impact on quality and standards.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Dolau.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current Dolau site.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p><b>Option 4: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff.</p> <p>Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Dolau.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current Dolau site.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

		on the Crossgates site as more pupils attend this site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Dolau site.	
<b>Option 5: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites</b>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff.</p> <p>Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Dolau.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current Dolau site.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<b>Option 6: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Crossgates C.P. School</b>	<p>Implementation of this option would result in closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, however provision would continue on the current site.</p> <p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P School is currently in the green support category based on the 2019 categorisations whilst Crossgates C.P. School is in the yellow support category. However, there are no concerns in relation to quality and standards at</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Dolau. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Crossgates C.P. School, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Crossgates site as more pupils attend this site, which could</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current Dolau site.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

	<p>Crossgates C.P. School, and the Council's view is that provision for pupils would be at least equivalent to the current provision.</p> <p>In addition, the school would be a larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff, which could have a positive impact on the opportunities available for pupils and staff. Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites.</p>	<p>lead to a reduction in activity on the Dolau site.</p>	
<p><b>Option 7: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Llanbister C.P. School</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this option would result in closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, however provision would continue on the current site.</p> <p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P School is currently in the green support category based on the 2019 categorisations whilst Llanbister C.P. School is in the yellow support category. However, there are no concerns in relation to quality and standards at Llanbister C.P. School, and the Council's</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Dolau. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Llanbister C.P. School, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Llanbister, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Dolau site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current Dolau site.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

	<p>view is that provision for pupils would be at least equivalent to the current provision.</p> <p>In addition, the school would be a larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff, which could have a positive impact on the opportunities available for pupils and staff. Whilst pupils would continue to attend separate sites, therefore would not benefit from all being taught together, this option would provide additional opportunities for staff expertise and resources to be shared across both sites.</p>		
<p><b>Option 8: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crossgates site</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff.</p> <p>All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Dolau as there would be no provision in the village.</p> <p>However, merging with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Dolau community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school, and would aid community involvement in the new school.</p> <p>Should the school close, the Council would need to determine</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for whom this is currently the closest school.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

		<p>the future use of the building. Should the Council declare the building to be surplus to requirements and seek to sell the building, this would mean that the school's facilities would no longer be available to the community.</p> <p>The school is co-located with a community hall. Should the school close, the community hall would continue to be available for community activities. Whilst the proposal would not impact on the community hall, it is acknowledged that the potential loss of income to the hall from school activities no longer needing to take place could impact on the community hall.</p>	
<p><b>Option 9: Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site</b></p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff. All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p>	<p>There would be a positive impact on the Dolau community as this option would retain provision in Dolau and would lead to a significant increase in pupil numbers, safeguarding provision in the village for the future.</p> <p>However, there would be a negative impact on the Crossgates community as there would no longer be provision in Crossgates. Whilst merging the two schools to establish a new school would</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Crossgates C.P. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	<p>However, it is unlikely that the Dolau site would be able to accommodate all pupils, therefore there would be a negative impact on the quality of provision should all pupils be taught in the current Dolau building.</p>	<p>provide opportunities for the Crossgates community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school to aid community involvement in the new school, however as Crossgates is the larger village with a significantly larger school, it is likely that the Crossgates community would consider this option to be disproportionate.</p>	
<p><b>Option 10: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbister site</b></p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff. All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p> <p>However, it is unlikely that the Llanbister site would be able to accommodate all pupils, therefore there would be a negative impact on the quality of provision should all pupils be taught in the current Llanbister building.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Dolau as there would be no provision in the village.</p> <p>However, merging with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Dolau community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school, and would aid community involvement in the new school.</p> <p>Should the school close, the Council would need to determine the future use of the building. Should the Council declare the building to be surplus to requirements and seek to sell the building, this would mean that the</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for whom this is currently the closest school.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

		<p>school's facilities would no longer be available to the community.</p> <p>The school is co-located with a community hall. Should the school close, the community hall would continue to be available for community activities. Whilst the proposal would not impact on the community hall, it is acknowledged that the potential loss of income to the hall from school activities no longer needing to take place could impact on the community hall.</p>	
<p><b>Option 11: Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site</b></p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff. All pupils would attend one site, which would provide further benefits to pupils from being part of larger cohorts of pupils, and improved opportunities to share staff expertise.</p> <p>However, it is unlikely that the Dolau site would be able to accommodate all pupils, therefore there would be a negative impact on the quality of provision should</p>	<p>There would be a positive impact on the Dolau community as this option would retain provision in Dolau and would lead to an increase in pupil numbers, safeguarding provision in the village for the future.</p> <p>However, there would be a negative impact on the Llanbister community as there would no longer be provision in Llanbister. Whilst merging the two schools to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Llanbister community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school to aid community involvement in the new</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School. As the school already serves a very large, rural catchment area, it is likely that this would result in very long journeys to school for pupils.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	all pupils be taught in the current Dolau building.	school, however as Llanbister School is larger, it is likely that the Llanbister community would consider this option to be disproportionate.	
<b>Option 12: Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</b>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, the closest alternative school would be Crossgates C.P. School.</p> <p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P School is currently in the green support category based on the 2019 categorisations whilst Crossgates C.P. School is in the yellow support category. However, there are no concerns in relation to quality and standards at Crossgates C.P. School, and the Council's view is that provision for pupils would be at least equivalent to the current provision.</p> <p>In addition, Crossgates C.P. School is a larger school, with a larger number of pupils and a larger team of staff, which could</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Dolau as there would be no primary provision in Dolau.</p> <p>Should the school close, the Council would need to determine the future use of the building. Should the Council declare the building to be surplus to requirements and seek to sell the building, this would mean that the school's facilities would no longer be available to the community.</p> <p>The school is co-located with a community hall. Should the school close, the community hall would continue to be available for community activities. Whilst the proposal would not impact on the community hall, it is acknowledged that the potential loss of income to the hall from school activities no longer needing to take place could impact on the community hall.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C. in W. School for whom it is currently the closest school. However, the analysis of pupil travel distances carried out suggests that Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is the closest school for only 48.5% of current pupils.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events. This would impact on pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school.</p>

	<p>have a positive impact on the opportunities available for pupils and staff.</p> <p>Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, a small number of pupils would live closer to other schools, in particular Llanbister C.P. School, Knighton C. in W. School and Ysgol Cefnlllys. These schools are all in the yellow support category based on the 2019 categorisations, therefore there are no concerns about the provision pupils would receive should they transfer to these schools.</p>		
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**APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD**

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Would not provide permanent leadership arrangements</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
2	Federation with Crossgates C.P. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still be required to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
3	Federation with Llanbister C.P. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still be required to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
4	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain at Llanfihangel Rhydithon</li> </ul>

	sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Would also impact on staff at Crossgates C.P. School</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools – would have a disproportionate impact on Crossgates C.P. School</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
5	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Would also impact on staff at Llanbister C.P. School</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
6	Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Crossgates C.P. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would lose its identity</li> <li>- Significant difference in the size of the two schools</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
7	Close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, retain the site as part of Llanbister C.P. School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would continue to be low, according to projections</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Llanfihangel Rhydithon building</li> <li>- Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would lose its identity</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>

8	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crossgates site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li> <li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li> <li>- Would impact on Crossgates staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
9	Merge with Crossgates C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Crossgates C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Crossgates C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Current Crossgates pupils may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Crossgates</li> <li>- Impact on the Crossgates community</li> <li>- Would impact on Crossgates staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Would not be acceptable to Crossgates school</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Dolau school is too small to accommodate the merged school</li> <li>- Significant investment would be needed in the Dolau site to accommodate Crossgates pupils</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
10	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbister site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Dolau</li> <li>- Impact on the Dolau community</li> <li>- Would impact on Llanbister staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment would be needed in the Llanbister site in order to accommodate Llanfihangel Rhydithon pupils</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>
11	Merge with Llanbister C.P. School to establish a new school on the Dolau site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanbister C.P. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Current Llanbister pupils may live closer to other schools</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llanbister</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanbister community</li> <li>- Would impact on Llanbister staff as well as Llanfihangel Rhydithon staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Would not be acceptable to Llanbister school</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Investment would be needed in the Dolau site to accommodate Llanbister pupils</li> <li>- Does not meet the Critical Success Factors</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

### PROPOSAL TO CLOSE LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON C.P. SCHOOL

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. The proposal is as follows:

- To close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation>. This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposal. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**. All responses must be received by this date.

For information on how the Transforming Education Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the Transforming Education privacy notice, which is available via the following link:  
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9803/Transforming-Education-Privacy-Notice>

#### Part 1 – About You

**1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:**

- |                          |                           |                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent, carer or guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prospective parent, carer or guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Governor                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of staff                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of the community   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Organisation e.g. Community Council   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                                 |

If you said 'Other' or are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Please specify which school you are associated with:**

- |                          |                                    |                          |                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School | <input type="checkbox"/> | Another school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No association                     |                          |                |

If you are associated another school, please specify which school:

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Please provide your postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_





**Impact on the Welsh language**

7. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

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8. How do you think the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive / more positive effects, or so that it would not have adverse effects / less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

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**Copy of Consultation Report**

9. At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report, summarising the issues raised in the consultation responses received and providing the Council's response to these issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

Yes

No

If you answered 'Yes', please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

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**Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)**

We want to ensure that we include all sectors of the community in our consultation, and are requesting that you provide this information to enable us to identify whether the consultation has been inclusive. However, these questions are optional.

**10. How old are you?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34
<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64
<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-84	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

**11. What is your gender?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Fluid
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

**12. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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**13. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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**14. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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**15. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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**16. What is your ethnic group?**

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black, African or Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.**

*Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG*

*E-mail: [school.consultation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultation@powys.gov.uk)*