

**POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013
NOTICE OF SCHOOL REORGANISATION PROPOSAL**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 41, 42, 43 and 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (“the Act”) and the School Organisation Code 011/2018 (“the Code”), that Powys County Council of County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG (“the Council”), having consulted such persons as required, proposes the following: -

Phase 1 of the Proposals

From 31 August 2023:

- i. The Council proposes to discontinue the following three schools which are maintained by Powys County Council:
 - Mount Street C.P. Infants School, Rhosferig Road, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NG (“Mount Street Infants School”);
 - Mount Street C.P. Junior School, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7LU (“Mount Street Junior School”);
 - Cradoc Community Primary School, Cradoc, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9LR (“Cradoc C.P. School”).

From 1 September 2023:

- i. The Council proposes to establish a new English-medium community school maintained by Powys County Council for boys and girls aged 4-11 years old (“the New School”), that will operate on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School.

Phase 2 of the Proposals

From 2025/2026:

- i. The Council proposes to make a regulated alteration to transfer the New School to a new building on the former Brecon High School site, Penlan, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9SR.

The proposals will be implemented by Powys County Council.

Powys County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer’s responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council’s website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10327/Mount-Street-Infants-School-Mount-Street-Junior-School-and-Cradoc-C.P.-School>

Admissions

The Council will be the admissions authority for the new school.

Phase 1

The admission number for first time admission to the New School in the first year in which the proposals have been implemented will be 68.

From 1 September 2023:

- Pupils registered at Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, as at the 31 August 2023, will be allocated places at the New School on the site they currently attend;
- Parents may apply for a place at another school and any applications will be considered in accordance with the Council’s admissions process and the Schools Admissions Code.
- Parents applying for a place at the New School for their child for the first time will be able to do so through the Council’s admissions process, which does not take account of the sex, aptitude or ability of the child. Parents will be able to specify which site they wish their child to attend, in line with the information contained within the Council’s Admissions Information and Arrangements Booklet.

Phase 2

When the New School transfers to the new building in Brecon, the Council’s admissions arrangements will reflect the new admission number of the new building and the new catchment area of the school. The new admission number will be recalculated based on the capacity of the new building, however it is anticipated that the new admission number would be 51.

Parents applying for a place for their child for the first time at the New School in its new building in Brecon will be able to apply for a place via the Council’s admissions process, which does not take account of the sex, aptitude or ability of the child.

Language Category

The language category of the New School, as defined by “Defining Schools According to Welsh medium provision” Welsh Government Document No: 023/2007 is Category 5 – Predominantly English medium primary school.

School Capacity

Phase 1

The New School’s capacity will initially be 476 for pupils aged 4 – 11. This will include 129 places at the Mount Street Infant site, 172 places at the Mount Street Junior site and 175 places at the Cradoc site.

Phase 2

Following transfer of the New School to the new school building, it is anticipated that the New School’s capacity would be 360, however this would be confirmed during the design stage.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

Phase 1

Transport arrangements will be provided in accordance with the Council’s Home-to-School Transport Policy, which provides free home to school transport for eligible pupils (i.e. those that live more than 2 miles away) to their nearest suitable school or catchment school.

During Phase 1, transport would only be provided to a pupil’s nearest school site at the New School.

Phase 2

Following transfer of the New School to the new school building in Brecon, free home to school transport will be provided to the new building for eligible pupils who are registered at the school at the time.

For parents applying for a place at the school for their child for the first time, the Council will redefine the new school’s catchment, and transport will be provided to the school for all pupils living within its newly defined catchment.

Details of alternative schools

Phase 1

When the New School is operating across the three current sites, the Council’s expectation is that pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc C.P. School would attend the New School, and would remain on their current sites.

Phase 2

Following transfer of the New School to the new school building in Brecon, the Council’s expectation is that all pupils registered at the school would transfer to the new building.

However, parents may apply for a place at an alternative school should that be their preference.

The alternative schools in the Brecon catchment are as follows:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number¹
Priory C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided Primary	English-medium	21
Llanfaes C.P. School	Community Primary	English-medium	29
Ysgol y Bannau	Community Primary	Welsh-medium	23
Sennybridge C.P. School	Community Primary	Dual Stream	16

¹ Powys County Council Admission Arrangements and Information 2022/23;

Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places at the alternative schools

No measures are proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places available at alternative schools on consequence of the proposed discontinuance of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc C.P. School.

Proposal to close a rural school

Cradoc C.P. School is identified in the School Organisation Code (2018) as a rural school. The proposal to discontinue Cradoc C.P. School is considered the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal. The reasons are as follows:

- To offer enhanced opportunities for pupils from attending one new, larger, school
- To enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range
- To ensure that all staff at the three current schools have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school
- To provide more flexibility and personal development opportunities for staff
- To provide improved transition arrangements for pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School between the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2
- To provide access to 21st Century Schools Funding in order to provide a new building
- To reduce the Council's surplus places in primary schools
- To rationalise the primary school estate
- To realise a financial saving
- Meets all the Critical Success Factors

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the publication of this proposal, that is to say by **4th February 2022**, any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Director of Education, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG, or by e-mail to school.organisation@powys.gov.uk

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

**Lynette Lovell,
Director of Education
For Powys County Council**

Dated this day 7th January 2022

Explanatory Note:

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

- The Council's intention is to close Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School on the 31st August 2023 and establish a new English-medium community primary school from the 1st September 2023 to initially operate on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, before moving to a new building on the former Brecon High School site from 2025/26.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in March 2021. The Council subsequently published a Consultation Report which summarises the issues raised during the consultation period and provides the Council's response to these issues. The Consultation Report is available on the Council's website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10327/Mount-Street-Infants-School-Mount-Street-Junior-School-and-Cradoc-C.P.-School>
- Pupils registered at Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School on the 31 August 2023 will be allocated places at the new school on the site they currently attend; parents applying for a place at the school for their child for the first time will be able to apply for a place via the Council's admissions arrangements, and will be able to specify which site they wish their child to attend (i.e. Brecon or Cradoc). This will not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.
- When the new building opens, the Council's admissions arrangements will reflect the school's new catchment area.
- Information about the Council's admissions arrangements is available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>.
- Transport arrangements will be made for pupils who qualify under the Council's Home to School transport policy.
- During Phase 1, transport would only be provided to a pupil's closest site (i.e. transport would not be provided for a pupil living in Cradoc to attend one of the school's sites in Brecon, and transport would not be provided for a pupil living in Brecon to attend the site in Cradoc.)
- When the new building opens, free home to school transport will be provided to the new building for eligible pupils who are registered at the school at the time. The Council will redefine the new school's catchment, and transport will be provided to the school for all pupils living within its newly defined catchment.
- Information about the Council's home to school transport arrangements is available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3879/Apply-for-school-transport>.