

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 42 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:-

- i. To make a regulated alteration to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, School Road, Abercraf, SA9 1XD.
- ii. This will be introduced on a phased basis from 1st September 2023, building on the Welsh-medium pilot class which currently operates at the school.

This means that:

- From 1st September 2023, all pupils admitted to the school in the Reception year group will be able to express a preference for the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream.
- In addition, pupils attending the Welsh-medium pilot class which is currently operating at the school will attend the school’s Welsh-medium stream from September 2023.
- It is expected that a full Welsh-medium stream (from Reception to Year 6) will operate at the school from September 2026.
- An English-medium stream will continue to operate at the school alongside the Welsh-medium stream.

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the responses of the Council and the views of Estyn is available on the Council’s website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13703/Ysgol-y-Cribarth>.

Admissions

The Council will continue to be the admissions authority for the school. The proposal will not impact on the admissions number for Ysgol y Cribarth. The admissions number for first time admission to the school would continue to be 21.

From 1 September 2023:

- All pupils admitted to the school in the Reception year group will be able to express a preference for the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream.

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

Language Category

Following implementation of the proposal, the language category of Ysgol y Cribarth, as defined by “Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision”, Welsh Government Information Document No: 023/2007¹, would be Category 2 – Dual Stream Primary School.

Based on the new Welsh language categories introduced by the Welsh Government in 2023², the school is currently categorised as T2 – Transitional, to reflect the pilot Welsh-medium provision which is currently operating in the school. Following full implementation of this proposal, the expectation is that the English-medium stream at the school would meet the definition for a Category 1 English-medium school, and the Welsh-medium stream at the school would meet the definition for a Category 3 Welsh-medium school.

Transport

Transport for pupils attending Ysgol y Cribarth will be provided in accordance with the Council’s Home-to-School Transport Policy.

¹ Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/defining-schools-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

² Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/school-categories-according-to-welsh-medium-provision>

Pupils living in the area served by Ysgol y Cribarth are currently eligible for transport to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr. Should the Council proceed with formally establishing a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, it is acknowledged that it would take some years for this provision to become fully embedded. During this time, pupils living closer to Ysgol y Cribarth would continue to be able to access transport to Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr to access Welsh-medium provision in a designated Welsh-medium school. Once Ysgol y Cribarth has a full Welsh-medium stream providing education from Reception to Year 6, any new pupils who live closer to Ysgol y Cribarth would only be eligible for free home-to-school transport to Ysgol y Cribarth.

Implementation

The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council on a phased basis, starting in September 2023

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by **Wednesday 17th May 2023** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Director of Education and Children, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG or by email to transforming.education@powys.gov.uk.

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

Lynette Lovell
Director of Education and Children
For Powys County Council

Dated this day 19th April 2023.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

- The Council intends to formally introduce a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, Abercraf. The Welsh-medium stream would be introduced on a phased basis, building on the Welsh-medium pilot class which currently operates at the school. An English-medium stream would continue to operate at the school alongside the Welsh-medium stream.
- The rationale for the proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in December 2022. The Council has 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/13703/Ysgol-y-Cribarth>
- The intention is that the proposal would be implemented on a phased basis, starting in September 2023, building on the Welsh-medium pilot class which currently operates at the school.
- Following implementation of the proposal, pupils choosing to attend the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth would develop the skills needed to become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
- More information about bilingualism and Welsh-medium education is available on the Council's website at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10742/Destination-bilingual-the-benefits-of-choosing-a-Welsh-medium-education>.
- Transport for pupils attending Ysgol y Cribarth would continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- Pupils living in the area served by Ysgol y Cribarth are currently eligible for transport to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr. Should the Council proceed with formally establishing a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, it is acknowledged that it would take some years for this provision to become fully embedded. During this time, pupils living closer to Ysgol y Cribarth would continue to be able to access transport to Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr to access Welsh-medium provision in a designated Welsh-medium school. Once Ysgol y Cribarth has a full Welsh-medium stream providing education from Reception to Year 6, any new pupils who live closer to Ysgol y Cribarth would only be eligible for free home-to-school transport to Ysgol y Cribarth.
- This proposal would not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.