

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE IRFON VALLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 43 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 discontinue Irfon Valley Community Primary School, Garth, Llangammarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4AT, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on the 31st August 2024. The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council.

The school is currently maintained and owned by Powys County Council.

The school is a Community Primary School.

Powys County 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 proposer’s responses and the views of Estyn are available on the Council’s website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14958/Irfon-Valley-C.P.-School>

Admissions

From 1st September 2024, pupils currently attending Irfon Valley Community Primary School will be able to express a preference to attend an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Irfon Valley Community Primary School will be able to apply for a place at any school in accordance with the Council’s Admissions Policy.

Details of nearest alternative schools

The proposal is for pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools. The details of these schools are as follows:

School Name	School Type	Language Category
Builth Wells C.P. School	Community Primary School	Dual stream
Ysgol Dolafon	Community Primary School	English-medium
Llanelwedd C. in W. School	Church in Wales Primary School	English-medium
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	Church in Wales Primary School	English-medium

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

No measures are currently proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places available at alternative schools on consequence of the proposed discontinuance of Irfon Valley Community Primary School.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy. This is as follows:

'Home to school transport will be provided for learners who ordinarily reside in Powys to attend their nearest suitable school or catchment school.'

A 'catchment' school means the nearest school within a geographic area.

To be eligible for free home to school transport, the learners' nearest school or catchment school must be:

- *The nearest to the learners' home address and if so,*
- *They are more than 2 miles from their home address for primary school (aged 4-11)'*

Proposal to close a rural school

The proposal to discontinue Irfon Valley Community Primary School is considered the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal. The reasons are as follows:

- Would address the issues of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend a larger school where they would be part of a larger cohort of pupils

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the publication of this proposal, that is to say by **1st March 2024**, any person may object to the proposal.

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 e-mail 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 2nd February 2024

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 Irfon Valley C.P. School on the 31st August 2024.
- From 1st September 2024, pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School would be able to express a preference for an alternative school. The Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- In future, any new pupils living in the area currently served by Irfon Valley C.P. School would be able to apply for a place in any school in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
- Transport arrangements would be made for pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in October 2023. 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/14958/Irfon-Valley-C.P.-School>.