



Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion

Consultation Document

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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 01686 611553, or e-mail transforming.education@powys.gov.uk

Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion

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Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion. The proposal is as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium.
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

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/14816/Ysgol-Bro-Caereinion>

A 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 **30th November 2023**.

3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team
Powys County Council
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Llandrindod Wells
Powys
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E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01686 611553

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 option outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen early in 2024.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, 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 make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium.
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

1. BACKGROUND

Ysgol Bro Caereinion was established in September 2022 following the merger of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. It is a 4-18 dual stream school that operates from the buildings of the two previous schools, in Llanfair Caereinion in North Powys.

The school's primary phase primarily serves the town of Llanfair Caereinion, whilst the secondary phase serves a wider catchment area. In particular, the Welsh-medium secondary provision at the school has historically been the main Welsh-medium provision in this part of North Powys, serving the towns of Newtown and Welshpool as well as the traditional Llanfair Caereinion catchment.

The following is a summary of key data relating to Ysgol Bro Caereinion:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹	Rural School? ²
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	Community Middle School (All-through) School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual stream	Primary phase: 27 Secondary phase: 114	No

Current pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion are as follows³:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Welsh-medium	12	7	11	7	14	11	12	42	35	30	36	40	14	21	292
English-medium	0	7	6	8	5	8	16	25	43	45	35	38	13	8	257

¹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

² 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.

³ Provided by the school – 6th September 2023

Total	12	14	17	15	19	19	28	67	78	75	71	78	27	29	549	

When Ysgol Bro Caereinion was established, a commitment was made to move the school along the language continuum in the future, to meet the aspirations in the Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision for learners in the area, and to meet the objective set out in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to ‘improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’ by ‘moving schools along the language continuum’.

Since the Council carried out the statutory process to establish Ysgol Bro Caereinion, there has been a reduction in the number of English-medium pupils in the school’s catchment, which would significantly change the pupil profile of Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the future. The school has recognised this, and has recently contacted the Council to request that consideration is given to the school’s future language category.

To do this the Council has explored options in respect of the school’s future language category. This has included the following steps:

- Initial discussions with representatives of Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Options appraisal exercise
- Options appraisal considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board
- Recommendation considered and agreed by Cabinet

The recommendation agreed by Cabinet on the 26th September 2023 was to commence consultation on the following:

‘To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium

This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and year 7 in September 2025.’

2. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

2.1.1 Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, 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 was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, and was approved in April 2020, before being updated following the Council elections held in May 2022, and relaunched in July 2022.

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 addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. One of the Strategic Aims is to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stage'. Within this aim, the Strategy sets out a Strategic Objective to 'Move schools along the language continuum.'

2.1.2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 was approved by the Cabinet and the Welsh Government in July 2022. The Plan was prepared in accordance with Welsh Government requirements, and sets out the Council's plans to develop Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, with the aim of increasing the number of Powys pupils accessing Welsh-medium education.

The WESP includes an overview of the challenges of delivering equitable Welsh-medium provision in Powys, as outlined in the Vision for Developing Fully Bilingual Learners in Powys, which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020:

- Not all parts of Powys have easily accessible primary or secondary education through the medium of Welsh – currently there is no provision in the Presteigne, Crickhowell or Gwernyfed areas.
- Many schools that do provide a dual-stream approach do not deliver enough of their curriculum in Welsh to satisfy their learners. Provision is patchy, and unequal in too many of the secondary schools. It is common for under half of

the curriculum to be available in their language of choice for learners in the Welsh stream of secondary education from year 7.

- The choice of subjects taught through the medium of Welsh becomes smaller as the learner gets older, and at post-14 the provision is very poor or non-existent. This includes deficiencies in the provision by the Further Education provider. In some secondary Welsh streams, fewer than 5 GCSE subjects are delivered through the medium of Welsh, and in one case only one non-language course is taught in Welsh.
- There is evidence that some parents in Powys avoid choosing an education through the medium of Welsh because they are concerned that the progression available for their child within the authority will be limited.
- At a time when bilingual/Welsh education has grown across Wales and is often a showcase sector for other counties, Powys has been stagnant, and in some key indicators the local authority has been going backwards. This has happened despite commitments made in the Powys Welsh in Education Strategic Plans over recent years.
- Powys has a smaller percentage of its children learning through the medium of Welsh than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the wider population. It is believed to be the only authority in Wales where this is the case.

The WESP includes a commitment to implement a programme of transformational change to address these challenges and improve access to Welsh-medium education in Powys, in order to increase the percentage of Powys pupils accessing Welsh-medium education, to include the following:

- Ensuring that more parents and families are aware of the benefits of Welsh-medium education and bilingualism from birth, are signposted to Welsh-medium provision with clear progression routes throughout all key phases of education
- Ensuring that there is access to Welsh-medium early years and primary provision in all 13 localities in Powys by:
 - Establishing new Welsh-medium early years provision (Cylchoedd Ti a Fi and Cylchoedd Meithrin)
 - Supporting English-medium/bilingual early years providers to move along the language continuum
 - Establishing new Welsh-medium primary schools
 - Supporting dual-stream/English-medium primary schools to move along the language continuum so that they can provide Welsh-medium immersion education until the age of seven or eleven
- Establishing Welsh-medium secondary provision in at least 3 localities in Powys. In the context of the Welsh Government's 'Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision' that was published in December 2021, this is defined as provision which meets the definition for a Category 3 Welsh-medium secondary school.
- Providing high-quality 'trochi' (immersion) provision to support pupils who move into Powys and don't have Welsh-language skills, and also for pupils

who choose to move from an English-medium stream/school within Powys to Welsh-medium education

- Providing high-quality provision for learners with ALN through the medium of Welsh
- Developing the workforce to ensure that there's a good supply of childcare staff, schools staff and authority staff able to provide their services through the medium of Welsh

2.2 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 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, as outlined in the Strategy:

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 21st 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 £3,512 to £11,689 in the primary sector and from £4,439 to £6,243 in the secondary sector in 2022-23.

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 past has left a legacy in Powys.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN YSGOL BRO CAEREINION

Ysgol Bro Caereinion was established as a dual stream all-age school, reflecting the language categories of the previous primary and secondary school in Llanfair Caereinion. However, the strength of Welsh-medium provision at the school was recognised throughout the proposal. In particular, it was acknowledged that the secondary Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion was central to the Council's aspiration to provide access to enhanced Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in the area.

Throughout the statutory process to establish Ysgol Bro Caereinion, comments were received which suggested that the Council should be proposing to establish a new **Welsh-medium** all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, not a **dual stream** school. Whilst the Council proceeded with the proposal to establish a new dual stream school, a Welsh language vision for Ysgol Bro Caereinion was developed by the school's temporary governing body, which set out its plans to develop Welsh-medium education at the school. This was approved by the temporary governing body, and has subsequently been adopted by Ysgol Bro Caereinion's new governing body.

Conversations about the school's language provision going forward have taken place recently, linked to the introduction of new Welsh language categories by the Welsh Government. As part of these conversations, representatives from the school have explained that the current dual stream model is causing some challenges.

These challenges are as follows:

3.1 Changes in English-medium pupil numbers

The English-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion mainly serves the town of Llanfair Caereinion and pupils from English-medium feeder primary schools in the surrounding area. However, there have been significant changes in the catchment in recent years which have impacted on the number of pupils accessing English-medium primary provision in the catchment, which would potentially impact on the number of pupils accessing English-medium secondary provision at the school in future years.

These include the following:

- Ysgol Meifod, an English-medium primary school which was previously part of the Caereinion catchment, has recently moved to the Llanfyllin catchment
- Castle Caereinion C. in W. School, an English-medium primary school which was previously part of the Caereinion catchment, closed in August 2022.
- Both of the dual stream primary providers in the catchment (Ysgol Bro Caereinion and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan) have seen an increase in pupils choosing Welsh-medium provision, and as a result, a decrease in pupils choosing English-medium provision.

The changes above mean that, currently, the only English-medium pupils expected to transfer to Ysgol Bro Caereinion's English-medium secondary provision are those attending Ysgol Rhiw Bechan and Ysgol Bro Caereinion. However, the number of English-medium pupils at both these schools has decreased.

Current Welsh-medium and English-medium primary pupil numbers at the schools that feed Ysgol Bro Caereinion as follows⁴:

Ysgol Bro Caereinion

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	12	7	11	7	14	11	12	74
English-medium	0	7	6	8	5	8	16	50
Total	12	14	17	15	19	19	28	124

Ysgol Cwm Banwy

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	5	7	8	5	8	8	3	44
English-medium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	7	8	5	8	8	3	44

Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	29	32	31	39	24	24	17	196
English-medium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	32	31	39	24	24	17	196

Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	19	18	11	13	15	7	14	97
English-medium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19	18	11	13	15	7	14	97

⁴ Teacher Centre, 13th September 2023. Ysgol Bro Caereinion data provided by the school, 6th September 2023

Ysgol Pontrobert

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	14	7	14	8	12	6	5	66
English-medium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	7	14	8	12	6	5	66

Ysgol Rhiw Bechan

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	12	21	16	12	11	12	5	89
English-medium	5	4	4	8	9	11	14	55
Total	17	25	20	20	20	23	19	144

TOTAL

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium	91	92	91	84	84	68	56	566
English-medium	5	11	10	16	14	19	30	105
Total	96	103	101	100	98	87	86	671

3.2 Financial challenges

Ysgol Bro Caereinion is funded as two separate streams in the Council's funding formula for schools. Projections for financial year 2024-25 are that it will be funded for 238 pupils in the English stream (57 primary, 181 secondary) and 262 pupils in the Welsh stream (74 primary, 188 secondary).

Both streams are small, which presents challenges in terms of the curriculum offer that the school is able to provide, particularly at GCSE level. For all small secondary phase schools / streams, there is a tension between the funding provided for curriculum delivery (based on pupil numbers) and the breadth of curriculum that the school would like to offer.

The current projections for the school show that the school is projected to be in a deficit position by 31 March 2027.

3.3 No access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision

In contrast to the rest of Wales, pupils in this part of North Powys are currently unable to access designated Welsh-medium secondary provision. This situation does not meet the Council's aspirations as outlined in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), nor does it meet the aspirations of the Council's Strategy

for Transforming Education in Powys. For many years, the Council has aspired to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in this area, however this has not yet been realised.

3.4 Impact on pupil numbers transferring to secondary Welsh-medium provision

The lack of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area has had a notable impact on pupil numbers transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in recent years.

Whilst historically, the Welsh-medium secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion has served a wide catchment area, including the towns of Newtown and Welshpool as well as the traditional Llanfair Caereinion catchment, the proportion of pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng in Welshpool transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion has been relatively low in recent years, with pupils choosing to transfer to other schools instead, or choosing to transfer to English-medium secondary provision.

The decrease in pupils transferring to the school's Welsh-medium secondary provision has impacted on Ysgol Bro Caereinion's ability to maximise its Welsh-medium offer, and on the Council's ability to offer access to comprehensive Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils in this area.

4. THE BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposals, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English, which brings many recognised benefits.

Between 60% and 75% of the world's population is bilingual, and international research has shown that there are many benefits associated with being bilingual. These include the following:

- Children exposed to different languages become more aware of different cultures, other people and other points of view
- Bilingual children tend to be better than monolinguals at 'multitasking' and focusing attention
- Generally, bilingual people find it easier to learn other languages
- Research suggests that learning another language can delay the onset of dementia

In Wales, being bilingual in Welsh and English brings further benefits when seeking employment, as employers are increasingly looking for people who are able to work in Welsh and English.

Welsh-medium education is the best way to ensure young people become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. Most pupils that access Welsh-medium education don't speak Welsh when they start school, however they are immersed in the Welsh

language when they start in school, becoming fully bilingual, and able to communicate fluently in Welsh and English.

More information about bilingualism and Welsh-medium education is available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10742/Destination-bilingual-the-benefits-of-choosing-a-Welsh-medium-education>

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options have been identified to address the challenges caused by the school's current dual stream structure:

Option	Description
1	<p><u>Status quo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ysgol Bro Caereinion continues to operate as a dual stream school - Welsh-medium and English-medium provision continues to be available to pupils in all year groups
2	<p><u>Change the language of the school's primary provision</u></p>
2a	<p>Change the school's primary provision to Welsh-medium only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All primary aged pupils at the school would access Welsh-medium provision - At the end of the primary phase, parents / pupils could choose either Welsh-medium or English-medium provision
2b	<p>Change the school's primary provision to English-medium only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All primary aged pupils at the school would access English-medium provision - At the end of the primary phase, parents / pupils could choose either Welsh-medium or English-medium provision
3	<p><u>Change the language of the school's secondary provision</u></p>
3a	<p>Change the school's secondary provision to Welsh-medium only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary provision would continue to be provided via a dual stream arrangement, with Welsh-medium and English-medium provision available to primary pupils - Secondary provision would only be available in Welsh - Pupils educated through the medium of English in the primary phase would either need to transfer to Welsh-medium secondary provision, or to alternative English-medium schools
3b	<p>Change the school's secondary provision to English-medium only</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary provision would continue to be provided via a dual stream arrangement, with Welsh-medium and English-medium provision available to primary pupils - Secondary provision would only be available in English - Pupils educated through the medium of Welsh in the primary phase would either need to transfer to English-medium secondary provision, or to alternative schools where Welsh-medium secondary provision is provided
4	<u>Change the language of the whole school</u>
4a	Change the language of provision across the whole school to Welsh-medium only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All provision at the school would be through the medium of Welsh - Pupils wishing to access English-medium provision would need to transfer to alternative schools
4b	Change the language of provision across the whole school to English-medium only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All provision at the school would be through the medium of English - Pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision would need to transfer to alternative schools

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, they have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred option for Ysgol Bro Caereinion is as follows:

Option 4a: Change the language of provision across the whole school to Welsh-medium only

The reasons for this are:

- Would enable the school to operate more efficiently
- More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh
- Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the longer term
- Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision
- Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area
- Meets the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys
- Would meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP
- Potential financial saving to the authority

6. IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

There are a number of possible implementation options in order to take forward the preferred option for Ysgol Bro Caereinion identified above. These are as follows:

Option 5A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the change in language provision to Welsh-medium in all years on one date - This would mean that from a set date, all provision at the school would be Welsh-medium; pupils wishing to access English-medium provision would need to transfer to alternative schools - Additional Welsh language support would be provided alongside the change e.g. Trochi provision, Welsh language training for staff / parents
Option 5B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the change in language provision on a phased basis, starting with Reception, followed by Year 1 the following year, Year 2 the year after etc. - This would take up to 14 years to implement throughout the school (to year 13) - Additional Welsh language support would be provided alongside the change e.g. Trochi provision, Welsh language training for staff / parents
Option 5C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the change in language provision on a phased basis starting with Reception and Year 7 at the same time. This would mean that only Welsh-medium provision would be available in Reception and Year 7 during the first year, then Year 1 and Year 8 the following year etc. - This would take up to 7 years to implement throughout the school - Additional Welsh language support would be provided alongside the change e.g. Trochi provision, Welsh language training for staff / parents
Option 5D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the change in language provision to Welsh-medium in the primary phase on one date, and the secondary phase on a phased basis, starting from Year 7 - This would take up to 7 years to implement throughout the school, however it would be implemented across the whole primary phase immediately - This would mean that from a set date, all primary provision at the school would be Welsh-medium; pupils wishing to access English-medium provision would need to transfer to alternative schools - Additional Welsh language support would be provided alongside the change e.g. Trochi provision, Welsh language training for staff / parents

SWOT analyses have also been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in [Appendix C](#) of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred implementation option is as follows:

Option 5C:

- Implement the change in language provision on a phased basis starting with Reception and Year 7 at the same time. This would mean that only Welsh-medium provision would be available and Reception and Year 7 during the first year, then Year 1 and Year 8 the following year etc.
- This would take up to 7 years to implement throughout the school
- Additional Welsh language support to be introduced alongside the change in language category e.g. Trochi, additional Welsh language support

The reasons for this are:

- Would shorten the transition period to a new delivery model compared with some other options
- Limited impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – current pupils would be able to continue to access this provision throughout the primary or secondary phase, depending on which year group they are in.
- Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly
- Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning to take place to support the change
- Would ensure that designated Welsh-medium secondary provision is available more quickly, thus meeting the aspiration on the Council's WESP

7. IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the preferred option identified in section 5 above and the preferred implementation option identified in section 6, the preferred option for Ysgol Bro Caereinion is as follows:

Change the language of provision across the whole school to Welsh-medium

- The change in language provision to be introduced on a phased basis, year by year, starting with Reception and Year 7 at the same time.
- Eventually, all pupils at the school would attend Welsh-medium provision, ensuring that all pupils would be fluent in Welsh and English.
- Additional Welsh language support would be provided alongside the change e.g. Trochi provision, Welsh language training for staff / parents

In order to take forward this preferred option, the Council is consulting on the following proposal:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

The proposal is further explored in the following section.

PART B – THE PROPOSAL

9. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals to move Ysgol Bro Caereinion along the language continuum. The proposal is as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium.
- This will be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

This would mean that:

- Welsh-medium provision would be phased in gradually year by year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025
- Eventually, all pupils at the school would attend Welsh-medium provision, ensuring that all pupils would be fluent in Welsh and English
- Additional Welsh language support to be introduced alongside the change in language category e.g. Trochi, additional Welsh language support

10. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to move Ysgol Bro Caereinion along the language continuum for the following reasons:

- Would enable the school to operate more efficiently
- More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh
- Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the longer term
- Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision
- Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area
- Meets the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys
- Would meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP
- Potential financial saving to the authority
- Would shorten the transition period to a new delivery model compared with some other options
- Limited impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – current pupils would be able to continue to access this provision throughout the primary or secondary phase, depending on which year group they are in.
- Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly
- Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning to take place to support the change
- Would ensure that designated Welsh-medium secondary provision is available more quickly, thus meeting the aspiration of the Council's WESP

11. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal for Ysgol Bro Caereinion are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently - More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh - Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the longer term - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area - Meets the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys - Would meet the aspirations of the Council’s WESP - Potential financial saving to the authority - Would shorten the transition period to a new delivery model compared with some other options - Limited impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – current pupils would be able to continue to access this provision throughout the primary or secondary phase, depending on which year group they are in. - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly - Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning to take place to support the change - Would ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision is available more quickly, thus meeting the aspiration on the Council’s WESP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils wishing to access English-medium provision would need to attend alternative schools - Additional travel for pupils wishing to access English-medium provision - Possible impact on pupils numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion should pupils choose to access alternative English-medium provision - Impact on non-Welsh speaking staff at the school - May be unpopular with some in the local community - Some pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school may need to transfer to alternative provision if they wished to continue to attend English-medium secondary provision - Possible impact on non-Welsh speaking staff in the longer term

12. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are risks associated with the proposal to move Ysgol Bro Caereinion along the language continuum.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigating Actions	Residual Risk Rating
Parents don't want their children to attend a Welsh-medium school, so choose for them to move to alternative schools	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change to be phased in to minimise the impact on current pupils - Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process 	Low
Parents choose for their children to attend other schools instead of Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the future, which would impact on the school's budget and increase surplus places	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotional campaign to help parents understand the benefits of a bilingual education and the support available, e.g. Trochi 	Low

13. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

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

Formal Consultation	19 th October 2023 to 30 th November 2023
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	January / February 2024

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	February 2024
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	March / April 2024

If Cabinet approves implementation:

The English stream starts to be phased out year by year, starting with Reception and Year 7	September 2025
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PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

14. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion

Should the proposal be implemented, the change in the school's language category would be phased in gradually, starting with the Reception and year 7 class in September 2025.

For pupils currently accessing secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, there would be no change – they would continue to receive the same provision throughout their time at the school.

For pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, there would be no change – they would continue to be able to access this provision throughout their time at the school.

The greatest impact would be on pupils currently attending English-medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, as implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no English-medium secondary provision available at the school in year 7 from September 2025 onwards. Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in year 6 at the school would still be able to access English-medium secondary provision at the school, however the provision would be phased out by the time pupils currently in year 5 or below reached the secondary phase, however they would be able to continue to access English-medium provision throughout the primary phase.

Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in year 5 or below would either need to transfer to alternative schools to access English-medium secondary provision, or would need to transfer to Welsh-medium provision before they reach the secondary phase.

To support implementation of the proposal, it is proposed that additional support is provided in the form of late immersion ('Trochi') provision. This is a model that has been used successfully in Powys and in other authorities to enable pupils to transfer from English-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision. The 'Canolfan Drochi' immersion centre will be located at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, providing a 10-week course of intensive Welsh teaching to enable pupils to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream. Courses can be offered at a primary level (year 2-5) or at transition (year 5-7) according to need.

Should pupils choose to attend alternative schools, additional travel would be required for pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Caereinion is currently the closest school. The Council's Home to School Transport Policy states that if pupils are eligible for free home to school transport, the Council will provide this to their closest or catchment school. If pupils live closer to Ysgol Bro Caereinion but choose

alternative schools instead, then they won't be able to access free school transport and would need to make their own transport arrangements.

Attending schools further away could also impact on pupils' ability to access after-school activities.

ii) Pupils attending other primary schools in the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment

Most primary schools in the Llanfair Caereinion cluster are Welsh-medium. Should the proposal be implemented, these pupils would continue to be able to access secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however the expectation is that the Welsh-medium provision offered would be more comprehensive than what is currently available as the school would be single stream. It is therefore anticipated that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on these pupils, as they would be able to access fully Welsh-medium provision, which is not currently available in the area.

Ysgol Rhiw Bechan is a dual stream school, and is the only other school in the area which provides primary education through the medium of English. The proposal would have a greater impact on English-medium pupils at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, as implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no English-medium secondary provision available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in year 7 from September 2025 onwards. Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in year 6 at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan would still be able to access English-medium secondary provision at the school, however the provision would be phased out by the time English-medium pupils currently in year 5 or below reach the secondary phase.

Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan in year 5 or below would either need to transfer to alternative schools to access English-medium secondary provision, or would need to transfer to Welsh-medium provision before they reach the secondary phase.

To support implementation of the proposal, it is proposed that additional support is provided in the form of late immersion ('Trochi Pontio') provision. This is a model that has been used successfully in Powys and in other authorities to enable pupils to transfer from English-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision. The 'Canolfan Drochi' immersion centre will be located at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, providing a 10-week course of intensive Welsh teaching to enable pupils to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream. Courses can be offered at a primary level (year 2-5) or at transition (year 5-7) according to need.

iii) Pupils attending other schools not in the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment

Primary Schools

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would have a significant impact on pupils attending primary schools not in the Bro Caereinion catchment. It is possible that some pupils could choose to attend English-medium primary provision at other schools in the area, such as Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, Ysgol Meifod and Berriew C.P. School, instead of attending Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is not anticipated that the number of pupils would be large, and therefore the impact on pupils at the alternative schools would be minimal.

Secondary Schools

It is possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to changes for other secondary providers in the local area.

Pupils that would previously have accessed English-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion could choose to access English-medium secondary provision at other schools in the area, such as Newtown High School, Welshpool High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin.

In addition, pupils that would previously have chosen to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at other dual stream schools in the area, such as Llanidloes High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin, may decide to choose to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, as it would provide an enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision compared with the dual stream providers in the area.

Whilst it is anticipated that the impact of these potential changes on pupils at the other schools would be minimal, it is possible that a reduction in Welsh-medium pupils choosing to attend other dual-stream schools could reduce their delegated funding, which in turn could impact on the breadth of Welsh-medium provision available for Welsh-medium pupils at those schools.

15. IMPACT ON STAFF

There are a significant number of staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion who are bilingual and currently teach and work through the medium of Welsh and English. There are, however, a number of teaching and support staff across both the primary and secondary sites who currently work solely in the English stream or work predominantly through the medium of English.

Should the proposal be implemented, audit work would be undertaken with all staff to understand their current Welsh Language levels and to prioritise staff to be supported to develop their Welsh Language skills.

The proposal to introduce the change on a phased basis does give time for staff to attend appropriate courses to support their development in this area. Human Resources would be involved in supporting consultation with every member of staff and to support the transition to work through the medium of Welsh. Where this is not possible the management of change process would support staff in seeking other employment opportunities or redeployment.

16. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposal would not result in changes to governance arrangements at the school.

17. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

i) Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

The Council would expect supporting Ysgol Bro Caereinion to move along the Welsh language continuum to have a positive impact on provision, standards and pupil progress overall. As the change is phased in, the Council would expect that implementation would lead to more effective and efficient use of resources as the school would no longer need to duplicate provision, which, in turn, would ensure improved opportunities for learners across all ages.

It is anticipated that supporting the school to move along the Welsh language continuum would have a positive impact on provision, standards and progress overall for all pupils, including pupils belonging to specific groups such as English as an Additional Language, eligible for Free School Meals, Looked After Children, Additional Learning Needs. One learning continuum would be implemented across all age ranges, meaning that pupil literacy progress could be monitored and supported more effectively throughout their school career. This would be particularly beneficial for pupils belonging to specific groups such as those outlined above. There would be improved opportunities for all staff to work more collaboratively and share best practice and specialisms and expertise, ensuring that pupils can be more effectively supported throughout their time in the school.

It is also anticipated that supporting the school to move along the language continuum would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, in particular Welsh language skills, as it would enable all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. Operating as a single stream school would enable the school to target support across all phases of education more effectively.

Whilst the intention is that pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it is possible that some would choose to transfer to alternative English-medium providers, in particular Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, Ysgol Meifod or Berriew C.P. School for primary provision, and Welshpool High School, Ysgol Llanfyllin or Newtown High School for secondary provision. The Council's view is that pupils transferring to these schools to access English-medium provision would continue to receive education of equivalent quality to that provided at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

ii) Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Supporting the school to move along the language continuum would mean that eventually, all pupils would receive a fully Welsh medium education. This would

mean that all pupils would be taught together, ensuring improved cohesion across the school and impacting positively on pupil well-being.

In the secondary sector, classes are taught in English or in Welsh, however, class sizes are small and the school currently has to prioritise core subjects and this limits options available to pupils. Supporting the school to move along the language continuum would mean that eventually, all pupils would receive a fully Welsh-medium education. This would allow for more subjects to be offered through the medium of Welsh, increasing the opportunities for pupils to engage in learning that interests them, and this would also have a positive impact on pupil well-being.

iii) Teaching and learning experiences

Quality of teaching

The Council would expect that supporting the school to move along the language continuum would lead to improvements in the quality of teaching at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, due to the improved Welsh medium professional development and collaboration opportunities that could be offered to staff, for example collaborating with other Welsh-medium schools in other local authorities and educational regions to share best practice in pedagogy.

It could also enhance teachers' ability to build systematically on pupils' existing knowledge, understanding and skills and provide pupils with a suitably wide range of experiences to develop their interest and literacy skills across a range of subjects and areas of learning.

The proposed change would enable teachers to focus on delivering education in one language medium. It would allow for more subjects to be available through the Welsh language as there would no longer be a need to offer subjects in both languages.

The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

It is anticipated that changing the school's language category would have a positive impact on the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum at the school. Should this be implemented, the school would no longer need to duplicate provision, which should have a positive impact on the curriculum that could be provided, ensuring that the curriculum meets the requirements of the new curriculum for Wales, as outlined in 'Our National Mission'.

The provision of skills

It is anticipated that supporting the school to move along the language continuum would have a positive impact on the literacy skills of all pupils, through improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources across all age ranges, and through the ability to target across all phases of education.

In particular, the change would have a positive impact on Welsh language skills, as all pupils would eventually be taught through the medium of Welsh, enabling all pupils to become bilingual in Welsh and English. The change would also enable the school to enhance Welsh language skills in formal teaching activities and in informal situations.

iv) Care, support and guidance

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

Operating as a single language stream school would enable the school to improve its tracking and monitoring of pupils throughout their school careers.

The Council would expect that supporting the school to move along the language continuum would enable the school to further enhance its provision to prepare pupils, including those with special educational needs, to become active citizens, for example by making decisions about the life and work of the school.

It would also support how well the school's provision helps pupils to develop their understanding of the Welsh language and culture, the local community and the wider world.

v) Leadership and Management

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

It is anticipated that supporting the school to move along the language continuum would lead to improvements in terms of leadership and management at the school. The proposed change would help the school to establish a clear, strategic rationale for the curriculum in terms of its benefits for pupils in preparing them to learn throughout their lives and to play a full part in society. It would also support the extent to which leaders and managers are purposeful and successful in meeting the national priority of providing purposeful opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills in formal and informal situations.

Operating as a single stream school would enable the school to operate more efficiently, and leaders and managers would have more time to focus on developing effective provision across the school.

Professional learning

Supporting the school to move along the language continuum could provide improved professional learning opportunities for staff through greater opportunities for collaboration with other Welsh-medium schools across Wales.

Use of Resources

Should the change be implemented, the school would eventually become a single stream Welsh-medium school and would be funded as such. As a Welsh-medium school, the school would be able to operate more efficiently, as there would be no need to duplicate provision.

vi) Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Ysgol Bro Caereinion is already an all-age school, which provides enhanced opportunities to support pupils belonging to vulnerable groups, by providing opportunities to provide continuity in the support provided to vulnerable pupils throughout their time in school. This would continue to be the case should the school move along the language continuum.

It is noted that should the school move along the language continuum, there could be a negative impact on pupils with ALN who are from families where very little or no Welsh is spoken. This would require the school to provide an enhanced level of support to these pupils in order to meet their needs. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would not change to Welsh-medium overnight. There would be a period of transition for pupils with SEN/ALN that are already in the school.

vii) Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

It is anticipated that changing the school's language category would have a positive impact on the ability to deliver the full curriculum in the foundation phase and each key stage of education, as there would no longer be a requirement to duplicate provision in two streams.

It is possible that there could be some challenges during the transition period as the school would need to accommodate decreasing numbers of English-medium pupils, however should the change to the school's language category be implemented, the Council would continue to support the school throughout the transition period to ensure that an appropriate curriculum is provided to pupils in all key stages.

18. 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 current accommodation at Ysgol Bro Caereinion has sufficient capacity to accommodate the school's current existing and projected pupil numbers. The vast

majority of pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would continue to attend the same school, so there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation.

The current trend in the Bro Caereinion catchment has been a reduction in the number of pupils choosing to access English-medium provision. The Council's expectation is that this would continue in the future, therefore the expectation is that demand for English-medium provision would continue to decrease.

However, it is possible that some pupils could choose to access alternative English-medium provision instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school, in the short term in particular. Should this happen, pupils would need to transfer to alternative English-medium providers, such as Welshpool High School, Newtown High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin for secondary provision, and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, Ysgol Meifod and Berriew C.P. School for primary provision. Whilst there is currently pressure on places at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, there are English-medium places available at other providers. Quality of accommodation at these providers is at least equivalent to the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

It is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, particularly in the secondary sector, as the school would be the only provider in the area offering full Welsh-medium secondary provision, offering pupils a clear defined progression route from Welsh-medium primary into Welsh-medium secondary. The school would also be the area's first designated Welsh-medium secondary school which may attract more pupils from a larger geographical area. Ysgol Bro Caereinion has sufficient places available to accommodate any increased demand for Welsh-medium provision which could occur.

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

The intention would be to introduce the change in language category on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, with additional Trochi support provided to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school to transfer to Welsh-medium provision. It is therefore anticipated that pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion. There is sufficient capacity to accommodate the current existing and projected demand for the school.

The current trend in the Bro Caereinion catchment has been a reduction in the number of pupils choosing to access English-medium provision, and an increase in the number of pupils choosing to access Welsh-medium provision. The current proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium is consistent with this. The Council's expectation is that this would continue in the future, therefore the expectation is that demand for English-medium provision would continue to decrease.

There is sufficient capacity to accommodate the existing and projected demand for places at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. In addition, there are places available at alternative English-medium primary and secondary providers in the local area to accommodate any pupils wishing to access English-medium provision at alternative schools.

The school does not have a religious character – this would continue to be the case following any change to the language category.

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

The plan is to introduce the proposed change to the school’s language category on a phased basis with additional support provided to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school to transfer to Welsh-medium provision, ensuring that current pupils would continue to be able to access the school. There would be no impact on journeys to school or journey times for pupils that would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion following any change to the school’s language category. This would include any SEN pupils..

Should pupils choose to attend English-medium provision in other locations, there would be an increase in journeys / journey times for these pupils, including any SEN pupils.

In respect of primary provision, the nearest alternative English-medium provision to Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Caereinion	Approx. travelling time to alternative school
Ysgol Meifod	5.7 miles	12 minutes
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	6.0 miles	12 minutes
Berriew C.P. School	8.0 miles	15 minutes

In respect of secondary provision, the nearest alternative English-medium provision to Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Caereinion	Approx. travelling time to alternative school
Welshpool High School	9.9 miles	19 minutes
Newtown High School	12.4 miles	28 minutes
Ysgol Llanfyllin	12.8 miles	22 minutes

The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Ysgol Bro Caereinion to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. Analysis has shown that the distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for primary pupils or one hour for secondary pupils.

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

There is currently no evidence of a need for additional places in the future, however it is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in the number of Welsh-medium primary pupils transferring to the school to access Welsh-medium secondary provision. There is capacity within the school to accommodate any increase in demand.

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

Any change to the school's language category would not impact on access for disabled pupils in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

19. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

The intention is to introduce the change on a phased basis starting with Reception and Year 7, and moving through the school each year as pupils move through the school. Trochi support would also be provided to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision to transfer to Welsh-medium provision. The intention is that all current pupils would continue to attend the school, therefore there would be no impact on surplus places.

It is possible that there could be some impact on pupil numbers in the longer term should pupils choose to attend alternative English-medium provision instead of choosing to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is also possible that additional pupils may choose to attend the school, particularly in the secondary phase, following a change in the language medium. Pupil numbers and capacity levels at the school will continue to be monitored.

ii) Do the proposals form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for the Future and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

The current plans in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category are not part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment Programme. However, the need for investment in Ysgol Bro Caereinion's buildings is recognised, particularly to support the school's strategic role as a provider of

Welsh-medium secondary provision. This will be reflected in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which is due to be developed in 2023/24.

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 additional recurrent costs associated with changing the school's language category.

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

The intention is to introduce the change to the school's language category on a phased basis as pupils move through the school. It is not anticipated that additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of the change.

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

There are no capital costs associated with changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

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

It is estimated that changing the school's language category would eventually result in annual revenue savings to the Council of £383k per annum once the school is fully single stream. This figure excludes general pupil number fluctuations over the 7-year period of phasing as these would be taken account of as part of the annual budget process. There would be a saving of £34k in the first year, and there would be further annual savings as the phasing takes place based on current pupil projections. Single-stream schools are a more cost effective delivery model.

It is not anticipated that there would be an impact on transport costs, and there would be no capital costs as a result of changing the school's language category.

Based on current assumptions around pupil numbers, the school could temporarily reduce by a class in the Primary phase for one year in the middle of the phasing and the formula funding would reflect this. As this would be a temporary drop due purely to the pattern of pupil number changes (as currently projected) in each stream, it would seem reasonable that the school would not be expected to reduce teachers / classes, unless pupil number projections at that time showed a permanent reduction. It is proposed that transformation funding would be made available to support the school with this during that year, should the current pupil number projections be realised. This would need to be reviewed closer to the time to assess whether that additional support would still be required.

These savings are estimated based on current intake projections for both streams. The actual savings realised will be dependent on actual intakes each year and no estimates have been made in relation to an increase / decrease in intake each year. Costings have been based on the school maintaining the total projected intake (both streams) in 2025-26 for future years as the change is implemented.

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

The current projections for the school show an estimated surplus of £103k carry forward at the end of 2023-24 financial year, decreasing to a projected deficit of (£635k) by 31 March 2027.

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

It is intended that any savings would be reinvested into the schools system. This will be a decision made as part of the authority's annual budget setting process.

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?

Changing Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category would not result in any capital receipts.

20. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN RESPECT OF PROPOSALS TO CHANGE LANGUAGE MEDIUM

i) The extent to which existing provision by the local authority of education in the medium of English and/or Welsh exceeds or falls short of demand or projected demand from parents for that type of provision, and the contribution the proposal would make to remedying that situation

There is currently no dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area currently served by Ysgol Bro Caereinion and its feeder schools. However, there have been numerous calls for the establishment of this type of provision in the area over a number of years, suggesting that the current provision available does not meet the expectations of some parents and other stakeholders. Implementing the proposed change to the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion would ensure that this type of provision was available.

Implementing the proposed change would mean that education through the medium of English would no longer be available in Llanfair Caereinion. The proposed change would also ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be

fully bilingual, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The current trend in the Bro Caereinion catchment has been a reduction in the number of pupils choosing to access English-medium provision. The Council's expectation is that this would continue in the future, therefore the expectation is that demand for English-medium provision would continue to decrease. The proposal to change the school's language category reflects this trend.

Should pupils not want to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, there are other English-medium providers available in the area.

ii) The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion is fully aligned with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-32 and would make a significant contribution to implementation of the targets outlined in the WESP.

In particular, the WESP includes a commitment to 'Establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in at least 3 localities in Powys' and the following commitments:

'Complete the statutory processes required to provide access to secondary provision which meets the definition of the 'Welsh-medium' category in 2 further locations in Powys. This will focus on the newly established Ysgol Bro Caereinion and the Ysgol Calon Cymru area.'

The WESP also includes a commitment to 'Supporting dual-stream/English-medium primary schools to move along the language continuum so that they can provide Welsh-medium immersion education until the age of seven or eleven', and includes a commitment to developing more Welsh-medium provision in a number of catchment areas, including Llanfair Caereinion.

In addition, changing the school's language category would meet the Council's objective to 'Move schools along the language continuum' as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

21. IMPACT ON SECONDARY AND SIXTH FORM PROVISION

i) Whether proposals will lead to an improvement in the educational or training achievements of persons who are above compulsory school age but below the age of 19

Should the proposal be implemented, post-16 provision would continue to be available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Eventually, this provision would only be available through the medium of Welsh, however this change would not take effect for a number of years. It is not anticipated that the proposal would have a negative

impact on the educational or training achievements of persons above compulsory school age at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

- ii) Whether proposals will contribute to an appropriate range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses, as required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for 14-19 year old learners**

Changing the school's language category would enable the school to operate more efficiently, as there would be no need to duplicate provision in Welsh and English. Eventually, it is anticipated that this would enable the school to offer an improved range of courses for pupils of all abilities. The change would also enable the school to develop enhanced partnership arrangements with other Welsh-medium providers, which would further enhance the opportunities available to learners.

- iii) Whether proposals are likely to lead to an increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age, taking into account transport issues and costs to the learner and others, the affordability of such costs, and the likelihood of learners being willing to travel**

Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion would continue to provide access to learning beyond compulsory school age in Llanfair Caereinion, therefore there would be no impact on transport or cost to the learner.

It is not anticipated that there would be a significant impact in participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age. In the longer term, changing the school's language category to Welsh-medium would enable the school to develop enhanced partnership arrangements with other Welsh-medium providers, which would further enhance the opportunities available to learners, and could result in increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age.

- iv) The extent to which proposals contribute to the 14-19 agenda taking account of the views of regional 14-19 networks**

In the short term, it is not anticipated that changing the school's language category would impact on the range of relevant courses and qualifications available. However, the change would enable the school to operate more efficiently, as there would be no need to duplicate provision in Welsh and English. Eventually, it is anticipated that this would enable the school to offer an improved range of courses for pupils of all abilities.

In the longer term, changing the school's language category to Welsh-medium would enable the school to develop enhanced partnership arrangements with other Welsh-medium providers, which would further enhance the opportunities available to learners.

v) The effect of proposals on 11-16 provision in schools

Should the proposal be implemented, provision would continue to be available for 11-16 year olds through the medium of Welsh. This would be introduced on a phased basis.

Operating as a single stream school would enable the school to operate more efficiently, as there would be no need to duplicate provision in Welsh and English. It is anticipated that this would strengthen the provision and delivery of the Curriculum for Wales for 11-16 year olds, by enabling the school to focus on delivering education through one language medium. This could have a positive impact on the range of courses available for pupils.

vi) How proposals would affect the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions and private training organisations

Post-16 provision would continue to be available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. It is not anticipated that the proposal would impact on the viability of the provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion or other providers.

vii) How proposals might affect the sustainability or enhancement of Welsh medium provision in the regional 14-19 network and wider area and promote access to availability of Welsh medium courses in post-16 education

It is anticipated that eventually, changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion would enhance the Welsh-medium provision available for 14-19 year olds in the school. The proposed change would enable the school to operate more efficiently, which could enable an enhanced range of courses to be offered.

Learners would continue to be able to access at least the same range of Welsh-medium courses as what is currently available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and through the North Powys Learning Pathways offer, in accordance with the requirements of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009.

viii) The extent to which proposals will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for post-16 organisation

The proposed changes would provide improved opportunities for pupils to develop bilingual skills in Welsh and English, providing them with Welsh language skills which will support them in their future careers.

ix) How proposals might affect discretionary transport provision a local authority may provide to learners above compulsory school age

Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion would not affect discretionary transport provision provided to learners above compulsory school age.

22. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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

The Council's view is that implementation of the preferred option would not have a negative impact on the educational attainment of children from economically deprived backgrounds. Implementation of the proposal would mean that all pupils attending the school would be able to participate in a fully bilingual curriculum from the beginning of their education, ensuring that they become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.

Implementation of the preferred option would also mean that pupils in the area would be able to access fully Welsh-medium secondary provision, which is not currently available. This would include any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently accessing Welsh-medium primary provision. This would ensure that they would be able to access more comprehensive Welsh-medium provision, which would enable them to retain and develop their Welsh language skills throughout their secondary education.

ii) Land and Buildings

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

As the proposal relates to change of language category and would not change the accommodation at the school, there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation for pupils.

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

No building work would be necessary to be able to proceed with the proposal.

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

There would be no requirement for transfer or disposal of land.

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?

Ysgol Bro Caereinion is not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the implementation of the proposal.

iii) Walking routes to school

Should the proposal be implemented, walking routes would be the same as the current walking routes to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

iv) School Admissions

Admissions for Ysgol Bro Caereinion and other schools pupils may wish to access should the proposal be implemented are administered by the Council. Should the current proposal be implemented, admissions 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>

New pupils wishing to attend the school or any other schools, or pupils wishing to transfer to alternative schools, would need to apply for a place in accordance with the Council's admissions arrangements.

v) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-32 sets out the Council's aim to provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys.

Implementation of the proposal would ensure that all pupils in Llanfair Caereinion would be able to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school, ensuring that they develop bilingual skills in Welsh and English, and that pupils in the surrounding area could access full Welsh-medium secondary provision. This would lead to an increase in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education, therefore contributing to the Council's targets to increase the number of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh, and the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Following full implementation of the proposal, there would be improved Welsh-medium opportunities for learners from attending a fully Welsh-medium school, including improved opportunities for pupils to use the Welsh language throughout the school,

23. EQUALITY, COMMUNITY AND WELSH LANGUAGE 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:

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposal be implemented, the medium of instruction of Ysgol Bro Caereinion would change to Welsh-medium. This would be phased in, year on year, starting with Reception and Year 7 pupils.

There would be an impact on existing pupils accessing English-medium provision in the primary phase, who would either need to transfer to the Welsh-medium provision or transfer to alternative schools.

However, the proposal aims to improve the educational opportunities offered to all pupils in the area, including pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups, by providing access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision.

It is noted that there could be concern about the impact of the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium on any pupils with additional learning needs attending the school, including any pupils currently attending the school that would be affected by the change, and pupils attending the school in the future. To mitigate this concern, the school may need to provide enhanced support to pupils with ALN as needed in order to meet their needs. The consultation period will provide an opportunity for any concerns about the impact on pupils with ALN to be raised, and these will be considered as the process moves forward.

It is not considered that the proposal requires modification to reduce or remove the impact.

It is not considered that the proposal should be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have.

ii) Impact on the community

As the proposal only relates to changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it is not anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be significant. Primary and secondary provision would continue to be available in Llanfair Caereinion, and community facilities associated with the school would continue to be available.

The greatest impact would be on pupils currently attending English-medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and other schools in the catchment, as implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no English-medium secondary provision available at the school in year 7 from September 2025 onwards. Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in year 6 would still be able to access English-medium secondary provision at the school, however the provision would be phased out by the

time pupils currently in year 5 or below reached the secondary phase, however they would be able to continue to access English-medium provision throughout the primary phase.

It is acknowledged that the proposal would lead to additional travel for pupils wishing to access English-medium education.

iii) Impact on the Welsh language

Implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language, as in time, it would ensure that all pupils in the Llanfair Caereinion catchment would access Welsh-medium education, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, leading to an increase in the number of pupils able to use the Welsh language confidently, and contributing to the Welsh Government's Strategy to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050. It would also provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area, which is currently unavailable, which would meet the aspirations of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

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 Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Governors at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Parents of pupils attending all feeder schools for Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and all feeder schools for Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Other schools which could be affected
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire and regional Members of the Senedd for the area
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Mid Wales Education Partnership
- The Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership
- NPTC College
- Welsh Language Commissioner

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people's national participation standards⁵.

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 19th October 2023 and will end on the 30th November 2023.

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 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

⁵ <https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards>

Consultation will start on the 19th October 2023 and will end on the 30th November 2023. 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 early in 2024.

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 March / April 2024.

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/14816/Ysgol-Bro-Caereinion>

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

All correspondence should be received by the **30 November 2023**.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01686) 611553.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Information about schools likely to be affected by the proposals is provided below.

As well as Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it is possible that other secondary schools in the local area could be affected by the change, including Welshpool High School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Newtown High School and Llanidloes High School, as they could either receive or lose pupils.

In addition, it is possible that some primary pupils in the Llanfair Caereinion area may choose to attend alternative English-medium provision. The closest English-medium provision would be Ysgol Meifod, Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, and Berriew C.P. School.

1. Ysgol Bro Caereinion

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ⁶	Rural School? ⁷
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	Community Middle School (All-through) School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual stream	Primary phase: 27 Secondary phase: 114	No

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁸

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Welsh-medium	12	7	11	7	14	11	12	42	35	30	36	40	14	21	292
English-medium	0	7	6	8	5	8	16	25	43	45	35	38	13	8	257
Total	12	14	17	15	19	19	28	67	78	75	71	78	27	29	549

⁶ Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

⁷ 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.

⁸ Provided by the school – 6th September 2023

ii) **Historical pupil numbers⁹**

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	195	185	174	173	166	162	156	N/A
Caereinion High School	494	495	487	456	447	459	440	N/A
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	572
Total	689	680	661	629	613	621	596	572

iii) **Projected pupil numbers¹⁰**

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Ysgol Bro Caereinion Primary Phase	142	136	123	121	114
Ysgol Bro Caereinion Secondary Phase	429	418	401	393	388
Total	571	554	524	514	502

These projections are based on the current provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and do not reflect any changes should the proposals be implemented, as it is currently unknown whether or not pupils would choose to transfer to alternative English-medium provision, or whether there would be an increase in demand for Welsh-medium secondary provision at the school.

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Bro Caereinion Primary Phase	195	124 (63.6%)	71 (36.4%)

⁹ PLASC

¹⁰ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates. Based on PLASC 2022 as projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

Ysgol Bro Caereinion Secondary Phase	603	425 (70.5%)	178 (29.5%)
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ii) Building condition

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Ysgol Bro Caereinion Primary Phase	C Poor	B Good	Yes
Ysgol Bro Caereinion Secondary Phase	C Poor	C Poor	Yes

Quality and standards of education

i) Estyn

There has been no Estyn inspection of Ysgol Bro Caereinion since the school was established.

The outcomes of the last inspections of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School are as follows:

	Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School
Date of Inspection	January 2018
Standards	Good
Well Being and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate
Care, Support and Guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Outcome	The school will produce an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

	Caereinion High School
Date of Inspection	November 2013
Standards	Adequate
Well Being	Adequate
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Adequate

Care, Support and Guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate
Outcome	<p>The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school's progress.</p> <p>Outcome of Estyn review 2018:</p> <p>The school was judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection, and was removed from the list of schools requiring significant improvement.</p>

Equalities information¹¹

i) National identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused	Total pupils
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	42.5%	11.9%	0.0%	0.0%	43.9%	1.0%	0.3%	0.0%	572

ii) Ethnic Group

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained	Total pupils
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	95.6%	4.4%	0.0%	572

iii) English as an Additional Language

	NOR	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	572	0.2%	0.2%

iv) Free School Meals

¹¹ PLASC 2023

	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM	Eligible for Transitional Protection	Total pupils	% Eligible for FSM
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	491	53	28	572	14.2%

v) **Looked after children**

	Looked after children
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	0.0%

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

	None	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP	Total Pupils	% ALN
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	82.5%	11.7%	3.1%	0.5%	2.1%	572	17.5%

2. Alternative Primary Providers

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹²	Rural School? ¹³
Ysgol Meifod	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English-medium	11	Yes
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual Stream	21	Yes
Berriew C.P. School	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English-medium	15	Yes

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹⁴

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Meifod	6	8	7	9	11	13	8	62
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	15	17	25	20	20	20	23	159
Berriew C.P. School	15	15	13	16	14	16	10	99

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹⁵

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Ysgol Meifod	75	85	73	79	82	75	70	64

¹² Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Teacher Centre – 28th September 2023

¹⁵ PLASC

Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	166	169	172	171	167	168	162	169
Berriew C.P. School	79	83	74	84	88	86	89	100

iii) Projected pupil numbers¹⁶

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Ysgol Meifod	67	67	64	60	57
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	136	138	136	129	126
Berriew C.P. School	95	98	103	102	97

These projections are based on the current provision and do not reflect any changes should the proposals in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion be implemented, as it is currently unknown whether pupils would choose to transfer to alternative English-medium provision.

Building Capacity and Condition

iii) Capacity

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Meifod	77	62 (80.5%)	15 (19.5%)
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	146	159 (108.9%)	-13 (-8.9%)
Berriew C.P. School	106	99 (93.4%)	7 (6.6%)

iv) Building condition

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Ysgol Meifod	C	C	Yes
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	B	A	Yes

¹⁶ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates. Based on PLASC 2022 as projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

Berriew C.P. School	B	B	Yes
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Quality and standards of education

ii) Estyn

Area	Ysgol Meifod
Date of inspection	April 2016
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Next steps	Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Area	Ysgol Rhiw Bechan
Date of inspection	September 2015
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Adequate
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good

Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Next steps	Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. LA to monitor school progress.

Area	Berriew C.P. School
Date of inspection	September 2019
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Adequate and needs improvement
Leadership and management	Adequate and needs improvement
Next steps	Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn to review the school's progress. Removed from Estyn monitoring in February 2021.

Equalities information¹⁷

i) National identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused	Total pupils
Ysgol Meifod	35.9%	34.4%	0.0%	0.0%	21.9%	4.7%	0.0%	3.1%	64
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	43.2%	8.9%	0.0%	0.0%	36.1%	2.4%	9.5%	0.0%	169

¹⁷ PLASC 2023

Berriew C.P. School	42.0%	21.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100
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ii) **Ethnic Group**

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained	Total pupils
Ysgol Meifod	90.6%	6.3%	3.1%	64
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	93.5%	3.6%	3.0%	169
Berriew C.P. School	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%	100

iii) **English as an Additional Language**

	NOR	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Ysgol Meifod	64	3.1%	3.1%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	169	1.8%	1.8%
Berriew C.P. School	100	3.0%	1.0%

iv) **Free School Meals**

	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM	Eligible for Transitional Protection	Total pupils (R – Yr 6)	% Eligible for FSM
Ysgol Meifod	52	12	0	64	18.8%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	134	8	6	148	9.5%
Berriew C.P. School	93	7	0	100	7.0%

v) **Looked after children**

Looked after children	
Ysgol Meifod	0.0%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	0.0%
Berriew C.P. School	0.9%

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

	None	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP Sch	IDP LA	Total Pupils	% ALN
Ysgol Meifod	76.6%	17.2%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	64	23.4%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	72.8%	18.3%	2.4%	1.2%	5.3%	0.0%	169	27.2%
Berriew C.P. School	79.0%	16.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	1.0%	100	21.0%

3. Alternative Secondary Providers

General information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹⁸	Rural School? ¹⁹
Welshpool High School	Community Secondary School School building owned by Powys County Council	English-medium	203	No
Newtown High School²⁰	Community Secondary School School building owned by Powys County Council	English-medium	236	No
Ysgol Llanfyllin	Community Middle School (All-Age) School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual stream	146	No
Llanidloes High School	Community Secondary School School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual stream	117	No

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers²¹

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Welshpool High School	122	137	129	142	143	73	49	795
Newtown High School	176	157	177	172	204	31	25	942

¹⁸ Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ Newtown High School operates from two campuses – one in Newtown and one in Presteigne. The data includes both campuses.

²¹ Teacher Centre – 28th September 2023

Ysgol Llanfyllin	128	105	102	99	131	61	49	675
Llanidloes High School	125	137	120	135	110	50	47	724

ii) **Historical pupil numbers²²**

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Welshpool High School	900	887	859	860	884	847	807	797
Newtown High School	1,091	1,063	1,042	1,014	1,036	1,034	1,012	965
Ysgol Llanfyllin	832	808	748	695	720	634	652	780
Llanidloes High School	528	527	545	586	597	649	688	707

iii) **Projected pupil numbers²³**

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Welshpool High School	784	768	771	767	750
Newtown High School	955	921	875	841	812
Ysgol Llanfyllin	635	637	626	631	610
Llanidloes High School	711	742	736	753	765

These projections are based on the current provision and do not reflect any changes should the proposals for Ysgol Bro Caereinion be implemented, as it is currently unknown whether pupils would choose to remain at Ysgol Bro Caereinion or transfer to alternative schools, or whether there would be an increase in pupils choosing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the future.

Building Capacity and Condition

v) **Capacity**

²² PLASC

²³ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates. Based on PLASC 2022 as projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Welshpool High School	1181	795 (67.3%)	386 (32.7%)
Newtown High School	1448	942 (65.1%)	506 (34.9%)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	916	675 (73.7%)	241 (23.3%)
Llanidloes High School	692	724 (104.6%)	-32 (-4.6%)

vi) **Building condition**

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Welshpool High School	C	C	Yes
Newtown High School	C	B	Yes
Ysgol Llanfyllin	C	B/C	Yes
Llanidloes High School	C	B	Yes

Quality and standards of education

iii) **Estyn**

Area	Welshpool High School
Date of inspection	February 2017
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good

Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Next steps	Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Area	Newtown High School
Date of inspection	May 2015
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Adequate
Learning experiences	Adequate
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support and guidance	Adequate
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate
Next steps	<p>Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn to monitor progress.</p> <p>School found to have made insufficient progress by Estyn – placed in special measures in February 2018.</p> <p>Removed from special measures in October 2021.</p>

There has been no Estyn inspection of Ysgol Llanfyllin since the school was established, however the last Estyn inspection for Llanfyllin High School is shown below.

Area	Llanfyllin High School
Date of inspection	February 2016
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Unsatisfactory
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Unsatisfactory
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate
Next steps	<p>School requires significant improvement. Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn to monitor progress.</p> <p>Removed from monitoring and significant improvement in December 2018.</p>

Area	Llanidloes High School
Date of inspection	April 2016
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Adequate

Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Next steps	Draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. LA to monitor progress.

Equalities information²⁴

i) National identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused	Total pupils
Welshpool High School	35.2%	25.3%	0.2%	0.2%	31.0%	8.0%	0.0%	0.1%	797
Newtown High School	51.9%	20.7%	0.1%	0.0%	19.1%	8.0%	0.0%	0.1%	965
Ysgol Llanfyllin	39.7%	24.2%	0.0%	0.4%	33.3%	2.1%	0.0%	0.3%	780
Llanidloes High School	44.0%	13.6%	0.0%	0.0%	37.2%	4.8%	0.4%	0.0%	707

ii) Ethnic Group

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained	Total pupils
Welshpool High School	88.7%	11.2%	0.1%	797
Newtown High School	87.6%	12.3%	0.1%	965
Ysgol Llanfyllin	94.5%	5.5%	0.0%	780
Llanidloes High School	93.4%	6.6%	0.0%	707

²⁴ PLASC 2023

iii) English as an Additional Language

	NOR	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Welshpool High School	797	7.3%	4.3%
Newtown High School	965	9.8%	2.9%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	780	1.2%	1.0%
Llanidloes High School	707	3.1%	1.0%

iv) Free School Meals

	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM	Eligible for Transitional Protection	Total pupils	% Eligible for FSM
Welshpool High School	643	123	31	797	19.3%
Newtown High School	741	174	50	965	23.2%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	659	79	42	780	15.5%
Llanidloes High School	589	68	50	707	16.7%

v) Looked after children

	Looked after children
Welshpool High School	1.1%
Newtown High School	1.1%

Ysgol Llanfyllin	1.4%
Llanidloes High School	0.6%

vi) Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

	None	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP Sch	IDP LA	Total Pupils	% ALN
Welshpool High School	82.3%	11.0%	5.9%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	797	17.7%
Newtown High School	73.0%	22.8%	3.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	965	27.0%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	84.6%	11.4%	2.1%	0.8%	1.0%	0.1%	780	15.4%
Llanidloes High School	80.9%	7.2%	4.7%	1.4%	5.7%	0.1%	707	19.1%

APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS – LANGUAGE OPTIONS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

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

Option 1: Status quo

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No impact on pupils, parents or staff - No impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion - No need for a statutory process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not enable Ysgol Bro Caereinion to operate more efficiently - Some pupils do not become fully bilingual - Does not provide access to fully Welsh-medium provision - Does not meet the aims and objectives of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys - Would not increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities to develop the Welsh-medium provision at the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing numbers of pupils choose to transfer to other schools

Option 2A: Change the school's primary provision to Welsh-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal impact on pupils accessing English-medium secondary education - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently to some extent, by avoiding the need to duplicate provision in the primary phase - All primary aged pupils would study through the medium of Welsh and would develop bilingual skills - Pupils would choose whether to access Welsh-medium or English-medium provision after having access fully bilingual provision in the primary phase which could lead to an increase in the number of pupils choosing Welsh-medium education in the secondary phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible impact on non-Welsh speaking staff currently employed in the primary phase - Possible impact on pupils numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the long term – pupils wanting to access English-medium provision might attend alternative schools - May be unpopular with some members of the local community - Pupils would still be able to choose English-medium provision in the secondary phase, which could result in them losing their fluency in Welsh - If the change results in an increase in pupils choosing to continue to choose Welsh-medium provision after the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the long term, more opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh - Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh - Small potential financial saving to the authority in the long term 	<p>primary phase, English-medium pupil numbers would reduce and it would become more difficult for the school to provide appropriate provision for English-medium pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Would not meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP - The secondary phase would still operate as a dual stream school, which could cause challenges in ensuring a Welsh-medium ethos - Further statutory processes would be required to make any changes to language provision in other years in the future
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support - Opportunity to offer support to enable staff to develop their own Welsh language skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in English-medium pupil numbers from Year 7 onwards, which would cause further challenges for the school

Option 2B: Change the school's primary provision to English-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently to some extent, by avoiding the need to duplicate provision in the primary phase - Small potential financial saving to the authority in the long term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary aged pupils in Llanfair Caereinion would not have the opportunity to choose Welsh-medium education and become fully bilingual. - Reduction in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision at the school in the future, which would impact on the provision that could be offered. - Potential that pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision would increasingly choose alternative schools, which would impact further on Welsh-medium pupil numbers and provision at Bro Caereinion - Would be unpopular with members of the local community - Would not provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP - The secondary phase would still operate as a dual stream school, which could cause challenges in ensuring a Welsh-medium ethos
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at the school, which would cause further challenges for the school in creating a Welsh ethos and offering full Welsh-medium provision

Option 3A: Change the school's secondary provision to Welsh-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No impact on primary aged pupils - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate provision in the secondary phase - More Welsh-medium opportunities could be provided in the secondary phase - Could lead to an increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the primary phase - Would provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area - Potential financial saving to the authority - Would meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely that pupils that have accessed English-medium primary provision would transfer elsewhere for secondary provision - Disruption for pupils accessing English-medium provision at the school as they would need to transfer out of the all-age school to access English-medium secondary provision - Possible impact on non-Welsh speaking staff working in the secondary phase - May be unpopular with some members of the local community - Pupils would still be able to choose English-medium primary provision, and would leave the primary phase without fully bilingual skills
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support - Opportunity to offer support to enable staff to develop their own Welsh language skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils that have accessed English-medium provision the primary phase would transfer to alternative English-medium secondary provision

Option 3B: Change the school's secondary provision to English-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No impact on primary aged pupils - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate provision in the secondary phase - Potential financial saving to the authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision would need to attend alternative schools - Disruption for pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school as they would need to transfer out of the all-age school to access Welsh-medium secondary provision - Would be very unpopular in the local community - Likely to lead to a result in a decrease in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh - Would not provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Would not meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to increase the Welsh-medium provision available at other dual stream secondary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant reduction in secondary pupil numbers at the school, which would lead to questions about the school's future

Option 4A: Change the language of provision across the whole school to Welsh-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently - More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh - Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the longer term - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area - Meets the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys - Would meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP - Potential financial saving to the authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils wishing to access English-medium provision would need to attend alternative schools - Additional travel for pupils wishing to access English-medium provision - Possible impact on pupils numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion should pupils choose to access alternative English-medium provision - Impact on non-Welsh speaking staff at the school - May be unpopular with some in the local community
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change in language category e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support - Opportunity to offer support to enable staff to develop their own Welsh language skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on pupil numbers in the short term
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Option 4B: Change the language of provision across the whole school to English-medium only

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate provision - Potential financial saving to the authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision would need to attend alternative schools - Would be very unpopular in the local community - Likely to lead to a result in a decrease in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh - Would not provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision - Would not meet the aspirations of the Council's WESP
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to increase the Welsh-medium provision available at other dual stream secondary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant reduction in pupil numbers at the school, which would lead to questions about the school's future.

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme • The option must align with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2022-32
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the option
5 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council's forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

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 2A	Option 2B	Option 3A	Option 3B	Option 4A	Option 4B
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	?	x	?	x	✓	x
2 – Value for money	?	?	x	?	x	✓	x
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
4 – Supply side capacity and capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x

5 – Potential affordability	?	✓	?	✓	?	✓	x
Total ✓	2	3	1	3	0	5	0
Total x	1	0	3	0	4	0	5
Outcome	Discount	Possible	Discount	Possible	Discount	Preferred	Discount

APPENDIX C – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS – IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified in section 6 are provided below:

Option 5A: Implement the change in language provision to Welsh-medium in all years on one date

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quickest implementation option - Would meet the Council's aspiration to provide access to dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision more quickly - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would impact on all current English-medium pupils who would need to transfer to alternative provision to continue to access English-medium provision - Significant reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the short term - Impact on non-Welsh speaking staff – there would be minimal opportunity for staff development - May be unpopular with some members of the local community -
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change in language category e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the short term

Option 5B: Implement the change in language provision on a phased basis, year by year, starting with Reception.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – provision would continue until pupils left school - In the long term, would enable the school to operate more efficiently - Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lengthy transition period for the school - It would be many years before the phasing was introduced in the secondary phase, so it would be many years before there was access to Welsh-medium secondary provision - The school would have to deal with a decreasing English-medium stream over many years
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change in language category e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support 	
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Option 5C: Implement the change in language provision on a phased basis, year by year, starting with Reception and Year 7 at the same time.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would shorten the transition period to a new delivery model compared with Option 5B - Limited impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – current pupils would be able to continue to access this provision throughout the primary or secondary phase, depending on which year group they are in. - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly - Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning to take place to support the change - Would ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision is available more quickly, thus meeting the aspiration on the Council’s WESP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school may need to transfer to alternative provision if they wished to continue to attend English-medium secondary provision - Possible reduction in secondary pupil numbers in the short term should English-medium pupils choose to transfer to different schools - Possible impact on non-Welsh speaking staff in the longer term
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change in language category e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support 	

Option 5D: Implement the change in language provision to Welsh-medium in the primary phase on one date, and the secondary phase on a phased basis, starting from Year 7

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would shorten the transition period to a new delivery model - Would enable the school to operate more efficiently more quickly - All pupils in the primary phase would be taught through the medium of Welsh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils currently attending English-medium provision in the primary phase would need to either transfer to Welsh-medium provision or move to a different school

<p>immediately, meaning that they would become fluent in Welsh and English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would allow time for any necessary staff development in respect of secondary staff - Potential financial saving to the authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in primary pupil numbers in the short term should English-medium pupils choose to transfer to different schools - Impact on non-Welsh speaking staff in the primary phase - More disruption to current pupils compared with option 5A, 5B and 5C
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to offer complementary provision to support the change in language category e.g. Trochi, Welsh language support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible decrease in pupil numbers in the primary phase should parents choose alternative provision

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

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

4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives •
5 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

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 5A	Option 5B	Option 5C	Option 5D
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	✓	?	✓	✓
3 – Potential achievability	x	✓	✓	?
5 – Potential affordability	?	?	✓	✓
Total ✓	2	2	4	3
Total x	1	0	0	1
Outcome	Discount	Possible	Preferred	Possible

APPENDIX D – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO CAEREINION.

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion. The proposals are as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium.
- This will be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14816/Ysgol-Bro-Caereinion>. 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 **30th November 2023**. 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', please specify: _____

2. If you are associated with a school, please specify which school you are associated with:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ysgol Bro Caereinion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feeder school of Ysgol Bro Caereinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Another school | <input type="checkbox"/> | No association |

If you are associated with a feeder school, or another school, please specify which school:

3. Please provide your postcode: _____

Impact on people with protected characteristics

6. Do you have any comments or concerns about the impact of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Copy of Consultation Report

7. 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:

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.

8. 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		

9. 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

10. 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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11. 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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12. 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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13. 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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14. 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		

Part 4 - Impact on the Welsh language (Optional)

We are required by the Welsh Language Standards to consider the effects of any policy decisions on the Welsh Language. Please note these questions are optional.

- In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?**

2. How do you think the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion 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?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 30th November 2023**

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

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk