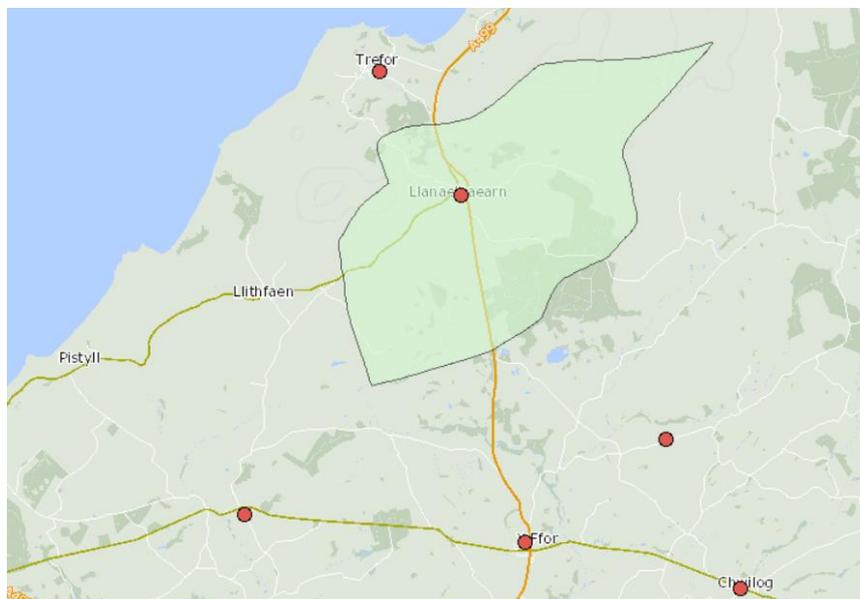


# Appendix D



## Impact Assessments Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

Assessment of the Probable Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education
Assessment of the probable impact on travel arrangements
Assessment of the probable impact on the Community
Language Impact Assessment
Well-being Assessment
Equality Assessment



# **Quality and Standards in Education Assessment Report - Ysgol Llanaelhaearn**

- February 2020

# Contents

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1. INTRODUCTION
2. SUMMARY
3. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION
4. CONCLUSION

## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

On 4th June 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet allowed the Education Department to *'hold formal meetings with the governing body and other relevant stakeholders to discuss a range of possible options for the future of the school'* as a result of the Education Department concerns regarding a significant drop in numbers attending school.

In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 011/2018, which includes 'The presumption against the closure of rural schools', an assessment of the likely impact on quality and standards of education of any reasonable option needs to be undertaken that can address the main challenges the school faces. For the purpose of the Code, Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is designated as a 'Rural School'.

*"This second edition of the Code makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. This requires proposers to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.*

*This does not mean that a rural school will never close but the case for closure must be strong and all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation."*

Source: School Organisation Code 011 /2018

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn, which is between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The School has a Nursery to Year 6 capacity of 53, with 8 pupils aged 3-11 attending the school (September 2019 Census). All pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The number of pupils attending the school have decreased significantly since 2013, when there were over 40 pupils at the school. The 8 pupils now attending are taught in two classes with three pupils in one class and five pupils in the other.

On the 24th June 2019, a meeting was held to review the school's situation, at which a number of options were put forward for consideration for the future of the school. Further meetings were held in September to evaluate the options and identify the options that would be reasonable to try to solve the challenge of low pupil numbers at the school.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet agreed to begin a period of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposed proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and to provide places for pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on 1 September 2020.

A Statutory Consultation was held between 16 December 2019 and 29 January 2020. Eight responses to the consultations were received.

## 2. SUMMARY

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Ysgol Llanaelhaearn was last inspected by Estyn in 2015 where it was concluded that the school's current performance and prospects for improvement were adequate. It is acknowledged that the school has been on a journey of improvement since the inspection period and that several Headteachers have led the school since then.

In 2019 the school was placed in the yellow category in terms of support and the ability of school to improve by the Welsh Government.



### 3. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION

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This assessment has been carried out on two options that would offer advantages to the school's current situation, namely to federate with another school or schools, or closing the school and pupils being educated at an alternative school.

These options, in addition to do nothing and continue the *status quo*, are detailed below.

- *Do nothing – continue with the current structure of the school.*

Retaining the current system would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Head at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend 1 day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be taught by a full-time teacher and a senior assistant.

- *To federalise with another school (s)*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a formal, legal federal model with a neighbouring school or schools. Geographically, the schools that would be reasonable to consider would be one or more of the following; Yr Eifl, Llangybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog, or Pentreuchaf.

This would mean that the schools remain separate but the Governing Bodies are abolished, and a single Governing Body is elected for the Federation. The schools budgets would remain as they are.

Forming a formal federation with another school or schools would strengthen the school's leadership and increase opportunities for pupils to collaborate and socialise with peers.

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This would mean to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and current pupils would transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd (the alternative school).

**Responses to the statutory consultation suggest that some of the parents will choose to apply for their children to transfer to Ysgol Chwilog, rather than attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd. In line with the Authority's admissions policy, parents have a right to apply for a place for their pupils at a school of their choice.**

In their response to the consultation, Estyn noted:

*"The proposer gives purposeful consideration to the effect of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the schools. It refers relevantly to the most recent Estyn inspection reports for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and Ysgol Bro Plenydd, and their categories and support bands. In all of these measures, Ysgol Bro Plenydd is stronger than Ysgol Llanaelhaearn. The proposer comes to the reasonable conclusion that it does not anticipate any negative effects on standards of education, wellbeing, learning experiences and leadership. As a result, there is a strong likelihood that this proposal is at least likely to maintain, if not improve, the existing standards, provision and leadership."*

## DO NOTHING - ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
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Impact Criteria	Description	The impact and status of work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No Change	Neutral
Well-being and attitude to learning	No Change	Neutral
Teaching and learning experiences	No Change	Neutral
Care guidance and support	No Change	Neutral
Leadership and management	No Change	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	No Change	Neutral
Provision that is at least commensurate with what is currently available to learners (including those with ALN)	No Change	Neutral

*The above assessment is based on the information of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn's Estyn report April 2015.*

**FEDERALISATION - ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION**

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
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Impact Criteria	Description	The impact and status of work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No negative impact on these criteria is envisaged through federalisation with a neighbouring school. All of the schools in question are at least in the same category as Llanaelhaearn	Neutral
Well-being and attitude to learning	No negative impact on these criteria is envisaged through federalisation with a neighbouring school. All of the schools in question are at least in the same category as Llanaelhaearn	Neutral
Teaching and learning experiences	The current arrangement of working with Ysgol Chwilog provides pupils with transition experiences and opportunities. A federal model would likely include the same opportunities, with the potential to expand on this.	Positive
Care guidance and support	No negative impact on these criteria is envisaged through federalisation with a neighbouring school. All of the schools in question are at least in the same category as Llanaelhaearn.	Neutral
Leadership and management	Save the Headteacher's time by planning across the federation rather than in individual schools.	Positive
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Provisions for vulnerable groups would not change under a federal model.	Neutral
Provision that is at least commensurate with what is currently available to learners (including those with ALN)	No change as Ysgol Llanaelhaearn will continue.	Neutral

*The above assessment has been based on the information of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn's Estyn report April 2015; Ysgol Bro Plenydd February 2015; Ysgol Chwilog, April 2014; Ysgol Llanybi 2018 and Ysgol Pentreuchaf 2019.*

**TO CLOSE YSGOL LLANAELHAERN AND PUPILS TAUGHT AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL - ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION**

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
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Impact Criteria	Description	The impact and status of work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	'Adequate' was the result of Estyn survey for the standards indicators at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, whilst Ysgol Bro Plenydd was 'Good'. Therefore, based on the information from the last survey (2015) educating the children at Ysgol Bro Plenydd would have a positive effect.	Positive
Well-being and attitude to learning	'Adequate' was the result of the Estyn survey for the wellbeing indicators at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and Ysgol Bro Plenydd during their most recent survey (2015), therefore based on these reports no impact is anticipated.	Neutral
Teaching and learning experiences	'Adequate' was the result of these indicators at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, whilst Ysgol Bro Plenydd was 'Good' according to Estyn in 2015. It is therefore anticipated that this model could have a positive impact on teaching and learning experiences. Education at Ysgol Bro Plenydd would involve teaching in larger groups and with peers to broaden their experiences.	Positive
Care guidance and support	'Adequate' was the result of these indicators at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, whilst Ysgol Bro Plenydd was 'Good' according to Estyn in 2015. It is therefore anticipated that this model could have a positive impact on teaching and learning experiences.	Positive
Leadership and management	During their last Estyn review, in February 2015, Ysgol Bro Plenydd was categorized as 'Good' for all aspects of 'leadership and management'. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn was categorised as 'adequate' with the 'Leadership' area being specifically 'unsatisfactory'. However, the school met its prospects for improvement.	Positive
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Support for vulnerable groups including children with additional learning needs is provided in accordance with the Authority's policy, which is a standard in all Gwynedd schools.	Neutral
Provision that is at least commensurate with what is currently available to learners (including those with ALN)	The alternative school has been categorized as 'A' in terms of condition, compared to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn which is categorised as 'B'.	Positive

*The above assessment has been based on the information of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn Estyn report April 2015, and Ysgol Bro Plenydd, February 2015.*

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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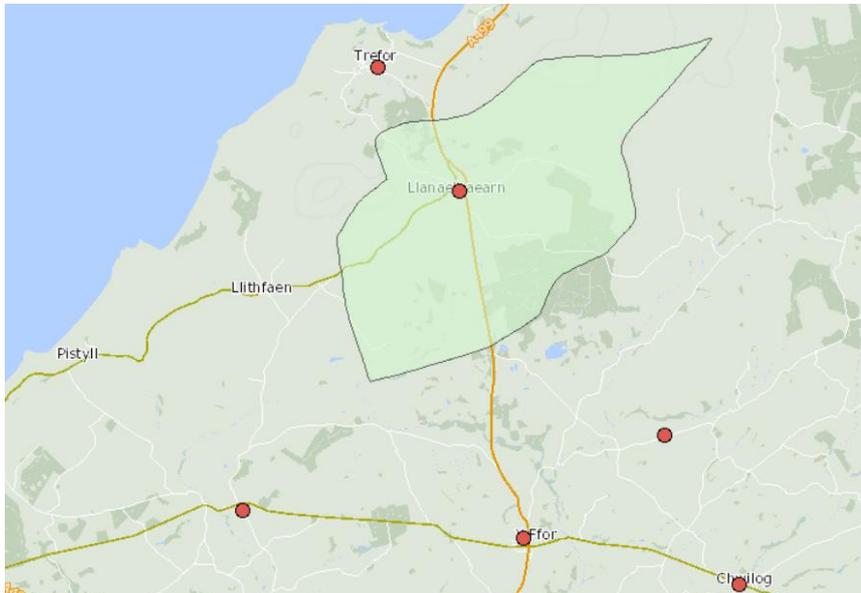
This assessment of the impact on the quality and standards of education demonstrated that introducing either options of federalisation, or closing Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and transferring the children to Ysgol Bro Plenydd is likely to be positive.

It is acknowledged that the low numbers of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn now mean that there is currently a low pupil to teacher ratio, and as a result the children are making good progress.

The information in this assessment on the most recent Estyn inspections on the schools in question indicates that each of the schools has been placed in a category at least equivalent to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and all of the schools placed in the yellow, or green, in terms of the level of Welsh Government support.

The responses received during the consultation do not change the conclusion of this assessment.

Although it is suggested that some parents of present Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils will apply to transfer their children to Ysgol Chwilog, the Council is still of the opinion that Ysgol Bro Plenydd is named as the 'alternative school' for the evident reasons noted in the consultation document. The Authority notes the parents' preference, and they will need to discuss the availability of pupil places at Ysgol Chwilog with the Headteacher.



# **Assessment Report of the likely impact on different travelling arrangements - Ysgol Llanaelhaearn**

- February 2020

## Content

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- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. OPTIONS**
- 3. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS**
- 4. CONCLUSION**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

In accordance with the Schools Organisation Code 011/2018, which includes 'a Presumption Against the Closure of Rural Schools', an assessment is required on the likely impact that any reasonable option proposed to resolve the main challenges facing the school would have on various transport arrangements. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn has been designated as a Rural School for the purpose of the Code.

*"This second edition of the Code makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools, establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. This requires proposers to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal."*

*"This does not mean that a rural school will never close but the case for closure must be strong and all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation."*

Source: The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn, which is between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The School has a Nursery to Year 6 capacity of 53, with 8 pupils aged 3-11 attending the school (September 2019 Census). All pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The number of pupils attending the school have decreased significantly since 2013, when there were over 40 pupils at the school. The 8 pupils now attending are taught in two classes with three pupils in one class and five pupils in the other.

On the 24th June 2019, a meeting was held to review the school's situation, at which a number of options were put forward for consideration for the future of the school. Further meetings were held in September to evaluate the options and identify the options that would be reasonable to try to solve the challenge of low pupil numbers at the school.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet agreed to begin a period of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposed proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and to provide places for pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on 1 September 2020.

A statutory consultation was held between 16 December 2019 and 29 January 2020 and 8 responses to the consultation were received.

### 1.1 Gwynedd Council Transport Policy

The 'Excellent primary education for children in Gwynedd' strategy aims to restrict travel from home to school to a one-way journey of no more than 30 minutes.

Gwynedd Council provides free transport for learners who live two or more miles from the school in their catchment area, or the closest school (not including nursery pupils). Learners who receive a primary education are expected (except for learners with additional learning needs or disabilities), to walk up to two miles to meet any modes of transport provided by Gwynedd Council. The transport policy can be viewed in the Parent's Handbook: (<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Schools-and-learning-documents/Guide-Book.pdf>).

## 1.2 Context of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

On the September 2018 census day, 38 primary age children lived in the catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, 27 of whom attended out-of-catchment schools and 11 of whom attended Ysgol Llanaelhaearn. No children who live outside the Llanaelhaearn catchment area attend the school, as the table below shows:

		Dalgylch Cartref / Home Catchment Area (Medi / September 2018)						Arall	Cyfanswm Ysgol School Total
		Llanaelhaearn	Bro Plenydd	Llangybi	Yr Eifl	Chwilog	Pentreuchaf		
Mynychu Ysgol / School Attending (Medi / September 2018)	Llanaelhaearn	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	Bro Plenydd	6	38	12	-	6	2	13	77
	Llangybi	3	-	29	-	2	1	3	38
	Yr Eifl	-	-	-	58	-	-	1	59
	Chwilog	-	-	1	-	47	-	4	52
	Pentreuchaf	5	5	-	1	3	39	44	97
	Arall	14	6	5	5	12	15		
Cyfanswm Dalgylch Catchment Area Total		39	49	47	64	70	57		

Source: September 2018 Census

## 2. OPTIONS

This assessment has been carried out on two options that would offer advantages over the school's current situation, namely federalisation with another school or schools, or to close the school and for the pupils to be educated at an alternative school.

These options, in addition to doing nothing and continuing with the status quo, have been detailed below.

- *Do nothing - continue with the school's current structure.*

Keeping to the status quo would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Head-teacher for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend one day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be educated by a full-time teacher and an assistant.

**This options would not impact current transport arrangements, as the pupils would continue to be educated at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.**

- *To federate with another School / Schools*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a legal, formal federal model with another nearby school or schools. Geographically, the schools that could reasonably be considered are one or more of the following schools: Yr Eifl, Llangybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog or Pentreuchaf.

This means that the schools would remain separate but the Governing Bodies would be dissolved, and a single Governing Body would be elected for the Federation. The schools' budgets would remain as they are.

Forming a formal federation with another school or schools would strengthen the school's leadership and increase opportunities for pupils to collaborate and socialise with peers.

**This option would have no impact on current transport arrangements, as the pupils would continue to be educated at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.**

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and for the pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This means that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would close, and the existing pupils would transfer to an alternative school.

This model would have an impact on transport arrangements, as the pupils would be educated at an alternative school. Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, is the alternative school that forms part of the proposal. The likely effect of this option on different transport arrangements is detailed in Section 3 of this assessment.

**Since Ysgol Bro Plenydd is 3.6 miles from Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Gwynedd Council would have to provide transport for pupils attending Ysgol Bro Plenydd who live more than two miles from the school, in line with the Authority's Transport Policy.**

### 3. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

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#### 3.1. Location of the alternative school

Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, is 3.6 miles from Ysgol Llanaelhaearn. The school is close to the A499 with access to the school site off this road. This makes it convenient to travel between Llanaelhaearn and Y Ffôr in a car or on public transport.

#### 3.2. Transport options

In line with Gwynedd Council's transport policy, the Authority would arrange for taxis or a mini-bus to transport pupils from the Llanaelhaearn catchment to the alternative school. And, as noted in this policy, learners receiving primary or secondary education (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities) would be expected to walk up to two miles to meet any modes of transport provided by Gwynedd Council along the shortest route.

The shortest route available is the route which is not deemed by the Council to be especially dangerous, after assessing the other routes available for the journey, and these routes would be assessed in line with Gwynedd Council's transport policy.

It is noted that several school buses operate in the area. None of the primary school buses run between Llanaelhaearn and Y Ffôr that could be used for this purpose.

Ysgol Glan y Môr bus travels through both villages. However, it is not customary for primary school children to use secondary school buses.

**TREFOR - YSGOL GLAN Y MÔR** **311**  
 Cerbydau Berwyn - 01286 660 315

Trefor	0810
Llanaelhaearn	0815
Y Ffor	0820
Ysgol Glan Y Mor	0830

Ysgol Glan Y Mor	1525
Y Ffor	1535
Llanaelhaearn	1540
Trefor	1545

**Ysgol Glan y Môr bus timetable**

It is also noted that a service bus has a service between the two villages (timetable below).

Pwllheli - Trefor - Caernarfon		BERWYN / CLYNNOC AND TREFOR														12
Llun i Sadwrn Dim ar Wyliau Cyhoeddus		Monday to Saturday Except Public Holidays														
		of/from 01/04/18														
PWLLHELLI, Gorsaf Bws/Bus Station (C)	....	0740	0840	0940	1040	1140	1240	1340	1440	1550	1640	1740	1825	1945	2115	2240
Pwllheli, Ysbyty Bryn Beryl	....	0745	0845	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1555	1645	1745	1830	1950	2120	2245
Y Ffôr	....	0748	0848	0948	1048	1148	1248	1348	1448	1558	1648	1748	1833	1953	2123	2248
Llanaelhaearn	....	0754	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1604	1654	1754	1839	1959	2129	2254
Llanaelhaearn	0711	0801	0906	1011	1111	1211	1311	1411	1511	1611	1711	1811	1931	2104	2229	....
Y Ffôr	0717	0807	0912	1017	1117	1217	1317	1417	1517	1617	1717	1817	1937	2107	2232	....
Pwllheli, Ysbyty Bryn Beryl	0720	0810	0915	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1620	1720	1820	1940	2110	2235	....
PWLLHELLI, Gorsaf Bws/Bus Station (C)	0725	0815	0920	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1625	1725	1825	1945	2115	2240	....

**Public transport timetable**

**3.3. Financial impact**

Below is a summary of the financial impact on transport arrangements:

Alternative school (option)	Distance from Ysgol Llanaelhaearn (miles)	Transport costs from the centre of Llanaelhaearn village to the alternative school
Minibus / taxi for eight pupils.	3.6	£11,400

	The probable impact on travel arrangements for learners	The assessment of the probable annual financial impact on travel arrangements for the Authority
Do nothing	No change	£0
Federalise formally with another school or other schools	No change	£0
Closing Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and moving the pupils to be educated at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr - transport for eight pupils.	Convene at an agreed place to catch the bus.	£11,400

It is noted that seven pupils who live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area already attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd (2018 data).

If the Ysgol Bro Plenydd catchment area were to be modified to include the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn catchment area in future, then it is anticipated that:

- Transport costs for the current Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils and those pupils that already attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd, would be approximately £19,000 a year.
- The transport costs for all pupils in the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn catchment area, if they all decided to attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd in future, would be approximately £25,000 a year.

### 3.4. Statutory Consultation Responses

There were eight responses to the statutory consultation along with the responses to the children and young people consultation. Many of the responses suggest that many of the parents are likely to apply for their children to transfer to Ysgol Chwilog, rather than transfer automatically to Ysgol Bro Plenydd.

Parents have the right to apply for admissions or transfer for their children to any school, in line with the Authority's admissions policy.

Fair reasons are given for their desire to attend Ysgol Chwilog, as Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils have been attending Ysgol Chwilog for two afternoons on a weekly basis for more than a year, and are already familiar with teachers and other pupils at the school. It is suggested that transferring to Ysgol Chwilog would be less disruptive for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils, and for this reason, the Authority is considering providing transport for present Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils to Ysgol Chwilog or Ysgol Bro Plenydd from 1 September 2020. This would not change the 'Alternative School' as named in the proposal.

It is anticipated that realising this would not lead to an increase in transport costs, as transport can be shared with pupils choosing to attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd. Ysgol Chwilog is located 2.5 miles from Ysgol Bro Plenydd and their start and end times vary.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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There would no impact on current travel and transport arrangements from introducing a model of formal federalisation, as the pupils would continue to be educated at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

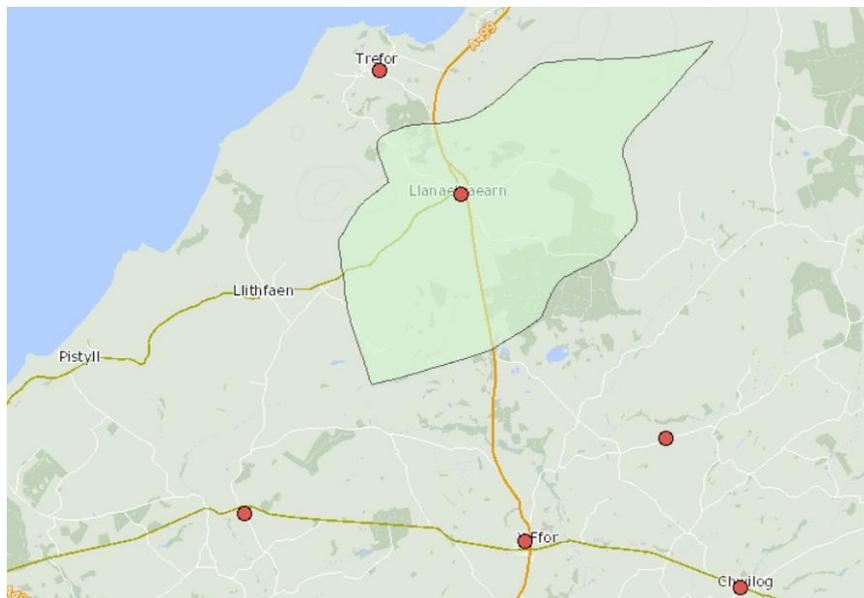
Implementing the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and offering the pupils an education at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, would have some impact on the children's travel arrangements, as it would for the Authority.

In accordance with the most recent data, from September 2018, 38 children live in the catchment area and 27 choose to attend other schools, of whom six already attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd.

This option would involve arranging a bus or taxi for the learners that would drop off the children at the car park at Ysgol Bro Plenydd.

This option would incur additional costs for the Authority. These costs are estimated to be approximately £11,400 to transport the eight existing pupils to Ysgol Bro Plenydd, and up to approximately £25,000 if all the children in the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn catchment area chose to attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd (subject to modifying the catchment areas for the future).

It is not anticipated that transport costs for present Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils to attend Ysgol Chwilog would vary from the estimated Transport costs to Ysgol Bro Plenydd.



# **Ysgol Llanaelhaearn Community Impact Assessment Report**

- February 2020

## Contents

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- 1. PRESENTATION**
- 2. OPTIONS**
- 3. SUMMARY OF THE CATCHMENT AREA**
- 4. CATCHMENT AREA SCHOOL**
- 5. ASESAD O'R EFFAITH DEBYGOL AR Y GYMUNED**
- 6. CONCLUSION**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet authorised the Education Department 'to hold formal meetings with the governing body and other relevant stakeholders to discuss a range of potential options for the school's future' as a result of the concerns of the Education Department regarding a substantial decline in the numbers attending the school.

The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018 includes 'a Presumption against the Closure of Rural Schools'. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn has been designated as a Rural School for the purpose of the Code.

This means, as part of the statutory process, that there is a need to assess the likely impact on the community, in the case of every reasonable option, in accordance with the Schools Organisation Code 011/2018. This assessment derives from Welsh Government national guidance for schools reorganisation, including considerations of the unique needs of rural areas.

*"In some areas, a school may also be the main focal point for community activity, and its closure could have implications beyond the issue of the provision of education. This may be a particular feature in rural areas if school buildings are used as a place to provide services to the local community."*

*"The case prepared by those bringing forward proposals should show that the impact of closure on the community has been assessed through the production of a Community Impact Assessment and how any community facilities currently provided by the school could be maintained."*

Source: The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The school's capacity from Nursery to Year 6 is 53, with 8 pupils between 3 and 11 years of age attending the school (September 2019). All the pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The number of pupils attending the school has fallen substantially since 2013, when over 40 pupils attended the school. The eight pupils who currently attend are educated in two classes, with three pupils in one class and five pupils in the other.

On 24 June 2019, a meeting was held to review the school's situation, at which several options were proposed for consideration of the school's future. Subsequent meetings were held during September to evaluate the options and identify the options that would be reasonable in an attempt to resolve the challenge that is facing the school, namely a low number of pupils.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet agreed to begin a period of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposed proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and to provide places for pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on 1 September 2020.

The statutory consultation was held between the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Eight responses to the consultation were received.

## 2. OPTIONS

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This assessment has been carried out on two options that would offer advantages compared to the school's current situation, namely federalisation with another school or schools, or to close the school and for the pupils to be educated at an alternative school.

Those options, in addition to doing nothing and continuing with the current situation, have been detailed below.

- *Do nothing - continue with the school's current structure.*

Keeping the status quo would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Headteacher for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend one day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be educated by a full-time teacher and senior assistant.

- *Federalisation with another School / Schools*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a legal, formal federal model with another nearby school or schools. Geographically, the schools that could reasonably be considered are one or more of the following schools: Yr Eifl, Llangybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog or Pentreuchaf.

This means that the schools would remain separate but the Governing Bodies would be dissolved, and a single Governing Body would be elected for the Federation.

The schools' budgets would remain as they are, but with prospects to strengthen the school's leadership and increase opportunities for pupils to collaborate and socialise with peers.

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and for the pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This means that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would close, and the current pupils would transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd (the alternative school).

## 3. SUMMARY OF THE CATCHMENT AREA

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### 3.1 The Area

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn between Pwllheli and Caernarfon in Gwynedd. The school's catchment area includes the village and nearby area, located between the catchment areas of Ysgol yr Eifl (Trefor), Ysgol Llangybi, Ysgol Bro Plenydd (Y Ffôr) and Ysgol Pentreuchaf.

The latest data (2011 census) shows that the population of the Llanaelhaearn ward is 1,683.

### 3.2 The Economy

65.9% of people aged between 16 and 74 years old within the Llanaelhaearn ward are economically active, 5.8% of whom are unemployed. 31.4% of people in the same age group are economically inactive, and 17.6% of whom either have a long-term illness or disability.

The type of industry in which the population is active varies in the area, with the highest rate (15.3%) working in the health and social work field.

According to the 'Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014)', the employment rate of the Llanaelhaearn ward, compared to other wards in Wales, is ranked 1095 out of 1909 wards. Therefore, the Llanaelhaearn ward is not within the 50% most deprived in Wales.

In 1974, Antur Aelhaearn was established - a social enterprise aiming to create work locally to keep families and young people in the area, and a number of projects and plans were introduced to the local area. The Antur remains operational to this day and is active working on projects such as the development of a disused chapel.

A number of businesses operate in the village, including a bakery, garage, B&B and a pet grooming business.

### 3.3 Deprivation

The Llanaelhaearn Ward (which is a broader area than the geographical area of the school's catchment area) is in the 40% most deprived wards in Wales (ranked 622 out of 1909 wards).

A number of fields are measured to draw up this general index, including income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment and housing.

Note that the Llanaelhaearn ward is within the 10% most deprived wards in Wales in the 'Housing' field. The indicators of this field are the proportion of people who live in an overcrowded home (bedroom use), and the proportion of people living in homes that do not have central heating.

In addition, the Llanaelhaearn ward is within the 10% most deprived areas in Wales in the 'access to services' field, i.e. deprivation, as people are unable to access the various services considered essential for daily living. The indicators include the average public transport and private travel times to a number of services such as supermarkets, surgeries, primary and secondary schools, post office, public library, pharmacy, leisure centre and private travel time to a petrol station.

Below is a summary of how the Llanaelhaearn area is placed in the context of other areas in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014):

Area	Rank in Wales, out of 1909 areas. 1 = most deprived 1909 = least deprived	Most deprived % in Wales
Employment	1095	
Income	778	Within the 40-50% most deprived
Health	1075	
Education	994	Within the 40-50% most deprived
Housing	88	Within the 0-10% most deprived
Physical environment	1651	
Access to services	15	Within the 0-10% most deprived
Community Safety	1046	

### 3.4 The Community

A number of activities are held in Llanaelhaearn, including;

- Merched y Wawr
- Various courses in the Community Centre
- Playing Field Committee
- Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Aelhaearn
- Aelhaearn Memorial Committee
- Steering Committee
- Community Council

In addition, there are a number of facilities in the village, including St Aelhaearn Church / Cemetery, Surgery, Residential Home for the Elderly, Bakery, Canolfan y Babell, Playing Field, Football Pitch and Antur Aelhaearn. Members of Antur Aelhaearn have also been working on a project to develop the Chapel as a resource for the community, and this is located next to the Community Centre and the re-roofing work has been completed. A garden project is also in the pipeline.

## 4. CATCHMENT AREA SCHOOLS

### 4.1 Context of the schools according to Estyn inspections

As part of Estyn reports, the authors, i.e. the inspectors, will place the schools within their context and will detail their community connections. This is the context given to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn by Estyn inspectors.

#### Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

*"Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn between Pwllheli and Caernarfon in Gwynedd. The school serves the village and nearby area"*

Source: Estyn Report, April 2015

### 4.2 Schools' statistical information

The table below shows the numbers at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and other nearby schools, from nursery to year 6. Also shown in this table is the school's capacity and the number of surplus places. Each of these schools are community schools and they teach through the medium of Welsh.

School	Full Capacity (N – Yr6)	Number on roll September 2019 (N – Yr6)	Number of Surplus Places 2019 (N – Yr6)	Legal Category
Llanaelhaearn	53	8	45	Community school
Bro Plenydd	104	74	30	Community school
Llangybi	80	34	46	Community school
Pentreuchaf	119	98	21	Community school
Yr Eifl	62	56	6	Community school
Chwilog	74	52	22	Community school

Source: September 2019 Census

### 4.3 Information about the location of pupils' dwellings and choice of school

Every school has a specific catchment that it serves and this is important in relation to the Council's admissions and transport policy. Pupils do not have to attend their catchment area school, this is the parents' choice (in accordance with the admissions policy).

In comparison with the other catchment areas in the area, the number of pupils who move out of the school's catchment area is high. The latest data of pupils' homes shows that 39 children lived in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area last year (*September 2018 data*), 11 of whom attended the school. This has now fallen to eight pupils. This means that 72% of children who live in the catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn attend out-of-catchment area schools, according to 2018 data.

Another school in the area where a high number of children attend out-of-catchment area schools is the Ysgol Llangybi catchment area; 38% of children from the Ysgol Llangybi catchment area attended out-of-catchment

area schools in 2018, however, nine children who attend Ysgol Llanybi live outside the school's catchment area. No pupils living outside the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn catchment area attend the school.

		Dalgyrch Cartref / Home Catchment Area (Medi / September 2018)						Arall	Cyfanswm Ysgol School Total
		Llanaelhaearn	Bro Plenydd	Llanybi	Yr Eifl	Chwilog	Pentreuchaf		
Mynychu Ysgol / School Attending (Medi / September 2018)	Llanaelhaearn	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	Bro Plenydd	6	38	12	-	6	2	13	77
	Llanybi	3	-	29	-	2	1	3	38
	Yr Eifl	-	-	-	58	-	-	1	59
	Chwilog	-	-	1	-	47	-	4	52
	Pentreuchaf	5	5	-	1	3	39	44	97
	Arall	14	6	5	5	12	15		
Cyfanswm Dalgyrch Catchment Area Total		39	49	47	64	70	57		

Source: September 2018 Census  
\*the above data is not available for 2019

The above table provides comprehensive information about the location of pupils' homes and their choice of school. The table below summarises how many pupils live in each catchment area, the number who live in the catchment area and attend the school, and the number of pupils who attend the school but live outside the catchment area.

School	Number living in the Catchment Area*	Number of children in the Catchment Area who attend the school*	Numbers who attend the school from outside the Catchment Area*
Llanaelhaearn	39	11	0
Yr Eifl	67	58	1
Llanybi	47	29	9
Bro Plenydd	49	38	38
Chwilog	70	47	5
Pentreuchaf	57	39	58

Source: September 2018 Census

#### 4.4 Summary of the various facilities in the rural communities

The information below has been collected on the areas of the schools that would be affected by any of the models.

	Llanaelhaearn	Trefor	Chwilog	Y Ffôr	Pentreuchaf	Llanybi
Village Hall Community Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chapel/Church	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Transport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shop	✓ (Bakery)	✓	✓ (Butcher)	✓	✓	
Café/Pub		✓			✓	✓
Post Office	✓ (van)	✓	✓ (Village Hall)	✓	✓ (van)	

Surgery/Pharmacy	✓	✓		✓		
Library	✓ (van)	✓ (van)	✓ (van)	✓	✓ (van)	
Children's Playing Field	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank						
Residential Home for the Elderly	✓			GC Houses for the Elderly		
Leisure Centre						
Garage	✓	✓				
Tourism Attraction	✓ (Tre'r Ceiri)	✓				
Cylch Ti a Fi + Cylch Meithrin	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Source: *Headteachers' Questionnaires September 2019*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and the other schools that are a part of this assessment, have 'Friends of the School' that hold fund-raising activities for the benefit of the school and the pupils.

As there is no hall in Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, the school makes regular use of nearby Canolfan y Babel.

It is acknowledged in a community impact questionnaire that members of the community visit Ysgol Llanaelhaearn regularly to assist with the learning experiences, and that the School has a Mini Bus, which enriches the children's experiences by enabling them to visit other schools and sites. Indeed, members of the communities of each of the schools included in this assessment visit the schools to hold activities with the pupils, such as a gardening or reading club.

#### 4.5 Summary of the school's use outside the school's core hours

Currently, the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn school building is not used by the community. A summary of the community or extra-curricular use of the buildings of local schools is seen below:

	Llanaelhaearn	Trefor	Chwillog	Y Ffôr	Pentreuchaf	Llangybi
Play Groups (School holidays)						✓
Aelwyd yr Urdd		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plays						
Voluntary Groups						
Coffee Morning/Evening			✓			
Community Auction						
Community Library						
Choir Practice						
Welsh for Adults						
Town/Community Council Meeting						
Cylch/Nursery School			✓	✓	✓	✓
Sports Club/Activity					✓	✓
After School Club		✓				
Local Interest Club						

Source: *Headteachers' Questionnaires September 2019*

#### 4.6 Summary of activities or groups that the school are regularly involved with:

	Llanaelhaearn	Trefor	Chwilog	Y Ffôr	Pentreuchaf	Llangybi
Ti a Fi Group / Cylch Meithrin			✓	✓	✓	✓
Eisteddfodau (Local/County/National)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Urdd Adrannau		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visits to Glan Llyn / Llangrannog / Cardiff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other activities (sports, clubs)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: Headteachers' Questionnaires September 2019

#### 4.7 If buildings, rooms, facilities or services are provided by the school for the community, where will they be provided if the school is closed?

School	Where will facilities be provided if the school is closed?
Llanaelhaearn	<p>Currently, the community makes no use of the Ysgol Llanaelhaearn school building, therefore, there would be no changes if the school were to close.</p> <p>If use of a community building were required, Canolfan y Babell, a community hall, is located within 50m of the school.</p>

#### 4.8 Information about the distance and travel time to other schools in the catchment area

The table below notes the distance and travel time between schools in the area. We can see that Ysgol yr Eifl is closest to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, with Ysgol Bro Plenydd second closest. The following travel times considers the nature of the roads and the impact that this could have on travel times in a rural area.

School		Chwilog	Bro Plenydd	Llanaelhaearn	Llangybi	Pentreuchaf	Yr Eifl
Chwilog	Miles						
	Minutes						
Bro Plenydd	Miles	2.5					
	Minutes	6					
Llanaelhaearn	Miles	6.1	3.6				
	Minutes	12	6				
Llangybi	Miles	2.9	2.0	3.9			
	Minutes	7	5	9			
Pentreuchaf	Miles	5.5	3.3	4.6	5.3		
	Minutes	11	6	10	11		
Eifl	Miles	7.9	5.3	1.9	5.7	6.3	
	Minutes	16	10	6	12	14	

#### 4.9 Statutory Consultation Responses

Eight responses to the statutory consultation were received. It was suggested in the responses that parents would choose to apply to transfer their children to another school, rather than transfer to the alternative school. There are valid reasons for naming Ysgol Bro Plenydd as the alternative school and in light of the proposal, Ysgol Bro Plenydd's catchment area will include the catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn for the future. The parents' preference to for their children to attend Ysgol Chwilog is for the reason that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils have been

attending Ysgol Chwilog on two afternoons a week for some time, and therefore are already familiar with teachers and other pupils at the school and attending Ysgol Chwilog would reduce the disturbance caused for the children.

Parents have the right to apply for admissions, or to transfer to any school in line with the Authority's admissions policy.

Estyn noted in their response to the consultation:

*"The proposer completed a useful assessment of the community impact of the option. The assessment shows that closing the school would have some negative effect, as the school is involved with its community and uses its community's facilities, such as Canolfan y Babell, on a regular basis. In order to try to mitigate the effect on the community, some potential opportunities are identified to ensure that the community of Llanaelhaearn is aware of the alternative school's activities, and community co-operation will be encouraged between Ysgol Bro Plenydd and the community of Llanaelhaearn, where appropriate."*

## 5. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

In order to assess the community impact of the potential options, it was decided to create criteria in accordance with the recommendations of the community impact considerations of The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018

### MODEL 1 – CONTINUE WITH THE STATUS QUO

Positive	Neutral	Negative
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and Well-being	No change	Neutral
Implications of the change on public transport provisions	No change	Neutral
Impact on facilities / other services provided at the school	No change	Neutral
The impact on broader community safety	No change	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school-age children to leave the community, or would young families be less likely to move to the community	No change	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	No change	Neutral
Detrimental effect on the community's broader economy	No change	Neutral
The general impact on the local community	No change	Neutral

## MODEL 2 - FEDERALISE WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL OR OTHER SCHOOLS

Positive	Neutral	Negative
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and Well-being	No change from the current situation	Neutral
Implications of the change on public transport provisions	No change from the current situation	Neutral
Impact on facilities / other services provided at the school	No change from the current situation	Neutral
The impact on broader community safety	No change from the current situation	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school-age children to leave the community, or would young families be less likely to move to the community	No change from the current situation	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	No change from the current situation	Neutral
Detrimental effect on the community's broader economy	No change from the current situation	Neutral
The general impact on the local community	No change from the current situation, however opportunities are identified for the community of Llanaelhaearn and the other school that would be part of the federal model to come together.	Neutral

### MODEL 3 - CLOSE YSGOL LLANAELHAEARN, AND SEND THE PUPILS TO BE EDUCATED AT YSGOL BRO PLENYDD

Positive	Neutral	Negative
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and Well-being	As the alternative school is more than two miles from Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and the pupils' homes, it is unlikely that they would walk to school.  Nevertheless, the school is located close to the main road between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. It is possible to drop the children off in the car park, be that in a car or taxi / mini bus, and a bus stop (public service bus) is located outside the school's boundary. Therefore, if pupils are less able to walk or cycle, it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulties reaching the school.	Negative
Implications of the change on public transport provisions	Public bus (no. 12) runs between the village of Llanaelhaearn and the alternative school. Some families could be dependent on public transport to reach the alternative school; nevertheless, a substantial impact is not anticipated on the public transport provision as only eight pupils attend this school at present.	Neutral
Impact on facilities / other services provided at the school	The school is used for educational purposes only.	Neutral
The impact on broader community safety	No impact is anticipated on broader community safety	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school-age children to leave the community, or would young families be less likely to move to the community	It is not anticipated that families with young children would leave the community, on the grounds that most children in the catchment area's children already attend other schools.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	As a high number of the catchment area's children already attend other schools, it cannot be concluded that the closure of the school would affect other services.	Neutral
Detrimental effect on the community's broader economy	Again, as the majority of the catchment area's children attend other schools, it is not anticipated that losing the school would affect the community's broader economy.	Neutral
The general impact on the local community	The local school would be further away from homes within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and in terms of deprivation, it means that one of the indicators i.e. 'access to services' will be further away from the village's residents.  As a high number of the catchment area's children already attend other schools, it cannot be concluded that the closure of the school would have a negative or positive impact on the local community.	Negative

## 6. CONCLUSION

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The contents of this report shows that the option to continue with the status quo, or to federate with another school, would not have an impact on the community, as both options mean continuing with a school in Llanaelhaearn, with amendments made to the governance and collaboration with another school under a federal model. This would mean that a school would remain in the Llanaelhaearn community, and would carry out the same activities and use the same facilities as it currently does.

If the option to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and for the pupils to be educated at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr was to be implemented, some elements of community events would be affected.

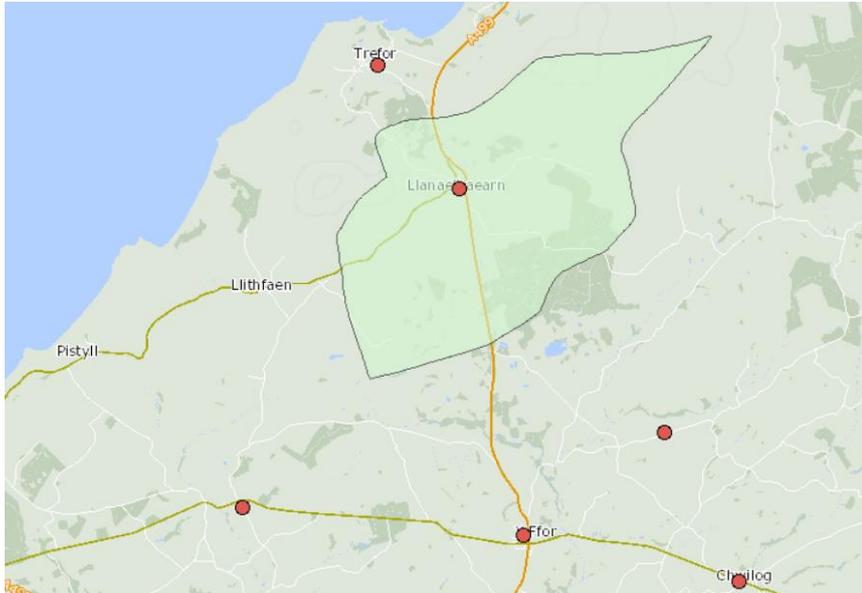
No information was presented during the statutory consultation that changed the conclusion of this assessment.

Although the school building is not used by the community, this assessment shows that the school is involved with its community and uses the community's facilities, such as Canolfan y Babell, on a regular basis. Canolfan y Ffôr is linked to the hall building and Ysgol Bro Plenydd uses this facility. If this option were realised, then Ysgol Bro Plenydd could also be encouraged to make occasional use of the facilities in the village of Llanaelhaearn.

It is not anticipated that closing the school would encourage school-age families to leave the community, as a substantial proportion of the children who live in the school's catchment area already attend other schools. Similarly, it is not anticipated that young families would be less likely to move to the community.

As part of the process, it will be essential to encourage discussions between the alternative school and the parents of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils, so that parents and pupils can use their facilities and participate in after school activities, and to encourage the alternative school to also use the facilities in the community of Llanaelhaearn.

This assessment shows that there will be some negative impact on the community from closing the school. To mitigate the impact on the community, opportunities to ensure that the community of Llanaelhaearn is aware of the activities of the alternative school are noted, and community collaboration will be encouraged between Ysgol Bro Plenydd and the community of Llanaelhaearn, where appropriate.



# Language Impact Assessment Report Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

- February 2020

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<b>4.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet authorised the Education Department '*to hold formal meetings with the governing body and other relevant stakeholders to discuss a range of potential options for the school's future*' as a result of the concerns of the Education Department regarding a substantial decline in the numbers attending the school.

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The school's capacity from Nursery to Year 6 is 53, with 8 pupils between 3 and 11 years of age attending the school (September 2019). All the pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The number of pupils attending the school has fallen substantially since 2013, when over 40 pupils attended the school. The eight pupils who currently attend are educated in two classes, with three pupils in one class and five pupils in the other.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, a meeting was held to review the school's situation, at which several options were proposed for consideration of the school's future. Subsequent meetings were held during September to evaluate the options and identify the options that would be reasonable in an attempt to resolve the challenge that is facing the school, namely a low number of pupils.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet agreed to begin a period of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposed proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and to provide places for pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on 1 September 2020.

The statutory consultation was held between the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Eight responses to the consultation were received.

Supporting and developing the ability of children in Gwynedd to learn and use their language skills is essentially important to the education strategies of the County and this language impact assessment was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Organisation Code 011/2018.

### 1.1 The Situation in Gwynedd

Figures in the 2011 Census note that 65,900 (56%) people aged three years and over can speak, read and write in Welsh. The 2011 Census also notes that 65% speak Welsh which is a reduction since the previous census, when the figure was 69%.

In Gwynedd, as many other Local Authorities in Wales, there is a considerable difference in the percentage of Welsh speakers within different wards. At one extreme, in wards such as Aberdyfi, Tywyn and the Menai ward in Bangor, between 18% and 38% of the population speaks Welsh, while as much as 78% speaks Welsh in the most Welsh-speaking areas e.g. Llanrug.

## 1.2 Language Policy

### **Primary**

The aim of the Language Policy is the same across all the county's primary schools, which is to develop the ability of all pupils to be confident in both languages by the end of KS2. Welsh is the official assessment language in the school at the end of the Foundation Phase. In KS2, the aim is to continue to develop the pupils' grasp of Welsh, giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages.

### **Secondary**

In secondary schools, every pupil who has attained the necessary level, namely level 3+ at the end of KS2 is expected to pursue a Welsh Language Study Programme (First Language) in KS3 in order to ensure appropriate progression and continuation. It is hoped that these pupils can study Welsh and English as subjects until the end of year 11.

Secondary schools build upon the foundations set in primary by ensuring that each pupil continues to develop skills in Welsh and English. Gwynedd does not define secondary schools according to language categories as it is the same expectation in relation to the Language Policy, namely to provide all students in the county with an opportunity to be bilingually proficient.

## 1.3 Educational Background

The 'Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy was adopted by the Council in April 2009. A further higher strategy, 'Strategic Programme – Towards 2025', was developed and supported by the Council in October 2010. This document was prepared as a strategic foundation for steering developments in the field of education and training in Gwynedd for the next 15 years. The programme was presented in the context of policies and plans which were in the pipeline both locally and nationally, to transform the services provided for children, young people and their families. The 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-2020' was published in December 2017 which sets a vision, commitment and direction for ensuring that children and young people attain the highest standards in order to maintain the language, culture and economy locally.

## **2. LINGUISTIC PROFILE OF THE LLANAELHAEARN CATCHMENT AREA**

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### 2.1 The Background of Gwynedd's Language Profile

Nearly three quarters of the County's population were born in Wales (66.8%). 65.4% of the population aged three years and over are Welsh speakers - which is significantly higher than the national average of 19%. On the whole, there is an increase in the number of Welsh speakers and those born in Wales towards the west and moving inland from the most populated areas along the coast. In Gwynedd, the ability to speak Welsh is highest in the Llanrug ward (87.8% speak Welsh) and at its lowest in the Menai area of Bangor (18.6%).

## 2.5 Wards

### 2.2.1 Llanaelhaearn, Abererch, Llanystumdwy and Efailnewydd Wards

The existing catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Ysgol yr Eifl and part of the Ysgol Llangybi catchment area is within the Llanaelhaearn ward (Office for National Statistics). The catchment area of Ysgol Bro Plenydd and part of the ysgol Pentreuchaf catchment area is within the Abererch ward, the catchment area of Ysgol Chwilog and part of the Llangybi catchment area within the Llanystumdwy ward, and the rest of the Ysgol Pentreuchaf catchment area within the Efailnewydd/Buan ward. The linguistic profile of the wards of these schools has been summarised in the following table:

	Llanaelhaearn	Abererch	Llanystumdwy	Efailnewydd/Buan	Gwynedd	Wales
Welsh identity only	1,157 (68.7%)	928 (68.5%)	1,392 (66.9%)	832 (65.3%)	71,931 (59.0%)	1,761,673 (57.5%)
No Welsh identity	460 (27.3%)	337 (24.9%)	580 (27.9%)	371 (29.1%)	42,566 (34.9%)	1,045,775 (34.1%)
Households where at least one person has an alternative first language to Welsh or English	8 (0.5%)	11 (0.8%)	6 (0.3%)	6 (0.5%)	1,463 (1.2%)	42,581 (1.4%)
3+ years old population	1,621 (96.3%)	1,315 (97.1%)	2,017 (97%)	1,231 (96.5%)	117,789 (96.6%)	2,995,841 (96.5%)
Able to speak Welsh	1,197 (73.8%)	1,050 (79.8%)	1,553 (77%)	915 (74.3%)	77,000 (65.4%)	562,016 (19.0%)
No Welsh language skills	315 (19.4%)	185 (14.1%)	347 (17.2%)	260 (21.1%)	31,177 (26.5%)	2,167,987 (73.3%)
Can understand Welsh verbally only	90 (5.6%)	70 (5.3%)	100 (5%)	50 (4.1%)	8,125 (6.9%)	157,792 (5.3%)
Able to speak but unable to read or write in Welsh	98 (6.0%)	80 (6.1%)	76 (3.8%)	58 (4.7%)	6,838 (5.8%)	80,429 (2.7%)
Able to speak and understand Welsh but unable to write in Welsh	45 (2.8%)	42 (3.2%)	64 (3.2%)	41 (3.3%)	3,947 (3.4%)	45,524 (1.5%)
Able to speak, read and write in Welsh	1,049 (64.7%)	926 (70.4%)	1,406 (69.7%)	814 (66.1%)	65,921 (56.0%)	430,717 (14.6%)
Another combination of Welsh language skills	24 (1.5%)	12 (0.9%)	24 (1.2%)	8 (0.6%)	1,781 (1.5%)	73,392 (2.5%)

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

## 2.5 Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is a Welsh Medium School.

The table below shows that the number of pupils who speak Welsh fluently at home is 6, which is 55% of pupils (PLASC 2019).

## Linguistic Information for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

School	Speaks Welsh fluently at home	Does not speak Welsh at home but are fluent in Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home but not fluently	Does not speak Welsh at home and are not fluent in Welsh	Cannot speak Welsh at all	Total
Llanaelhaearn	6 (55%)	1 (9%)	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	0 (0%)	11

Source: Data from Headteachers PLASC January 2019

### 2.4 Nearby schools

As the rest of Gwynedd schools, Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Ysgol yr Eifl, Ysgol Llangybi, Ysgol Pentreuchaf and Ysgol Chwilog are Welsh medium schools. The linguistic data of these schools can be viewed in the table below:

School	Speaks Welsh fluently at home	Does not speak Welsh at home but are fluent in Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home but not fluently	Does not speak Welsh at home and are not fluent in Welsh	Cannot speak Welsh at all	Total
Bro Plenydd	62 (83%)	5 (6%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	4 (5%)	75
Yr Eifl	48 (83%)	2 (3%)	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	4 (7%)	58
Llangybi	21 (57%)	0 (0%)	7 (19%)	2 (5%)	7 (19%)	37
Pentreuchaf	83 (84%)	9 (9%)	3 (3%)	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	99
Chwilog	41 (84%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	49

Source: Data from Headteachers PLASC January 2019

### 2.5 Attainment Level

Schools	% of pupils who have reached the expected level - Welsh (first language)					
	Foundation Phase (Reached level 5+)			KS2 (reached at least level 4)		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Llanaelhaearn	100%	-*	0%	-*	100%	100%
Bro Plenydd	100%	92.3%	100%	100%	90.9%	100%
Yr Eifl	80%	75%	66.7%	62.5%	100%	83.3%
Llangybi	75%	71.4%	66.7%	100%	100%	75%
Pentreuchaf	92.9%	84.2%	83.3%	100%	100%	100%
Chwilog	100%	66.7%	87.5%	100%	100%	100%

\*There were no pupils in the relevant academic year this year.

Source: GwE (September 2019)

We can see a wide range of success when it comes to the academic attainment of schools in the area. Over 75% of KS2 pupils managed to reach the expected level (Welsh - Language) in every school last year, including 100% of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and Ysgol Bro Plenydd. A wide range of

results in the Foundation Phase vary in the Foundation Phase between Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and Ysgol Bro Plenydd.

As part of the work to implement the Welsh Language Charter, all primary school KS2 pupils in Gwynedd complete a language web questionnaire on their use of the Welsh language at school twice a year. The following tables demonstrate the October 2018 statistics on the use of the Welsh language made by pupils with their teachers:

Percentage of children who speak Welsh with their teachers (with the exception of English lessons)					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	96%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	95%	0%	2.5%	0%	2.5%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh with their assistants (with the exception of English lessons)					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	95%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Ysgol Chwilog	95%	0%	5%	0%	0%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh with the rest of the school staff					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	95%	0%	5%	0%	0%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh with children in class					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	40%	60%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	88.5%	11.5%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	83%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	91%	0%	4.5%	0%	4.5%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh with children in the corridor and in the canteen					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	81%	4%	15%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	91%	0%	4.5%	0%	4.5%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh on the school playground					
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Very little	Never
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	46%	31%	11.5%	11.5%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	50%	40%	10%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	77%	18%	0%	0%	5%

Percentage of children who speak Welsh confidently					
	Very confidently	Confidently	Fairly confidently	Not confident	Not at all confident
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	92%	5%	3%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	88%	8%	4%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	82%	13%	5%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%

Percentage of children who think it is important to speak Welsh					
	Very important	Important	Fairly important	Not important	Not at all important
Ysgol Llanaelhaearn	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Bro Plenydd	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Yr Eifl	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Ysgol Pentreuchaf	78%	18%	4%	0%	0%
Ysgol Chwilog	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%

The above information demonstrates that there is a high use of the Welsh Language in schools in the area. On the whole, most pupils in all schools use Welsh when speaking to teachers and staff. We see that there is slightly less informal use of the language - on the playground and with other pupils. That said, the data shows that Welsh is the main social language of schools in the area.

All the children in Llanaelhaearn use Welsh to talk to the teachers, assistants and staff, as do the pupils of Ysgol Bro Plenydd. A higher percentage of children at Ysgol Bro Plenydd make informal use of Welsh - together in the classroom, and on the yard, and it is anticipated that transferring to Ysgol Bro Plenydd is likely to have a positive impact on the language and increases opportunities for the children of Llanaelhaearn to use Welsh when socialising.

Number of responses:

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn: 5

Ysgol Chwilog: 22

Ysgol Pentreuchaf: 60

Ysgol yr Eifl: 26

Ysgol Bro Plenydd: 37

Ysgol Llangybi: *sample too small*

## 2.6 After-school Activities

Currently, no after-school activities are held at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

Here is a summary of what other nearby schools offer after school:

	Llanaelhaearn	Yr Eifl	Chwilog	Bro Plenydd	Pentreuchaf	Llangybi
Play Groups (School holidays)						✓
Aelwyd yr Urdd		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coffee Morning/Evening			✓			
Cylch/Nursery School			✓	✓	✓	✓
Sports Club/Activity		✓			✓	✓

It can be seen in the table above that many schools in the area, including Ysgol Bro Plenydd, hold Urdd clubs after school where pupils can take advantage of them as an additional opportunity to use the Welsh language.

## 2.7 Community Activities

Currently, no community activities are held at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn. The community hall of Y Ffôr is located on the Ysgol Bro Plenydd site and the School is also allowed to use this space. A number of activities are held at Y Ganolfan in Y Ffôr, which includes a hall, a computer room and snooker room.

## 2.8 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Both schools, Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and Ysgol Bro Plenydd, implement the aims of Gwynedd Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020. This includes:

- Setting a strong foundation for the Welsh language at the Early Years stage, ensuring that pupils from a non-Welsh speaking background are given the opportunity to learn Welsh as soon as possible.
- During the Foundation Phase, building on the foundation established at the nursery and reception stages by continuing to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh, and begin the process of developing their English language skills. On a practical level, this means that most schools would start introducing English as a subject during the final term at the end of the Foundation Phase, concentrating on developing reading, speaking and writing skills in that language. Welsh will be the school's official assessment language at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- In KS2, continue to develop the pupils' mastery of Welsh, paying attention to the development of their skills in both languages. Pupils' progress in Welsh and English are assessed at the end of the key stage.

Implementing the proposal would conform with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan in Education 2017-20 objectives.

## 2.9 Additional Evidence

### **Ysgol Llanaelhaearn**

The Estyn report in 2015 states:

*"60% of pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken" and that a "pattern of progress can be seen over the last three years in the percentage of pupils who attained the expected outcome in language at the end of both key stages".*

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Ysgol%20Gynradd%20Gymunedol%20Llanaelhaearn%20eng.pdf>

### **Ysgol Bro Plenydd**

The school website states:

*"Ysgol Bro Plenydd will aim at getting every child to speak Welsh fluently. We will also aim at fostering a feeling of being Welsh and respect towards Welsh in every child."*

The Estyn report in 2015 states:

*"A little over half of the pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes" and "Nearly all pupils use the Welsh language naturally and correctly across the school."*

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Ysgol%20Gynradd%20Gymunedol%20Llanaelhaearn%20eng.pdf>

### **Ysgol yr Eifl**

The Estyn report in 2014 states:

*"Most pupils come from homes in which Welsh is spoken as a first language. No pupils are from an ethnic minority background."*

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Inspection%20report%20Ysgol%20Yr%20Eifl%202014%20.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf.pdf>

### **Ysgol Llanybi**

The Estyn report in 2018 states:

*"Welsh is the main medium of the school's life and work, and English is introduced to pupils in key stage 2."*

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Ysgol%20Llanybi%20en.pdf>

### **Ysgol Pentreuchaf**

The Estyn report in 2019 states:

*"The school has a very strong Welsh ethos. Provision encourages pupils to make full use of the Welsh language in all aspects of school life. Pupils show pride towards the language and a clear appreciation of the culture and history of the local area. During their time at the school, most pupils develop as competent and confident bilingual learners, and make good progress."*

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Ysgol%20Pentreuchaf%20en.pdf> )

### **Ysgol Chwilog**

The Estyn report in 2013 states:

*"Welsh is the school's main language medium and the aim is to ensure that pupils are completely bilingual by the time they transfer to the secondary sector. 89% of pupils speak Welsh at home. There are no pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds at the school at present."*



### 3. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

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#### 3.1 Options

This assessment has been carried out on two options that would offer advantages compared to the school's current situation, namely federalisation with another school or schools, or to close the school and the pupils to be educated in an alternative school.

Those options, in addition to doing nothing and continuing with the current situation, have been detailed below:

- *Do nothing - continue with the school's current situation.*

Keeping the current situation would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Headteacher for Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend one day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be educated by a full-time teacher and senior assistant.

- *To federalise with another School / Schools*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a formal, legal Federation with another nearby school or schools. This means that the schools continue separately but the Governing Bodies would be abolished, and a single Governing Body would be elected for the Federation. Geographically, the schools that would be reasonable to consider would be one or more of the following schools: Yr Eifl, Llangybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog and Pentreuchaf.

The schools' budgets would remain separate.

It is not envisaged that federisation would have an impact on the Welsh language as Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue, with opportunities to strengthen the leadership position, and collaboration opportunities for a school.

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and send the pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This means that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn will close, and the current pupils would transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd (the alternative school).

The table on the following page includes an impact assessment of closing Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and educating pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on the Welsh language compared to the current situation. The table also outlines additional opportunities to strengthen the Welsh language and methods to mitigate any possible negative effect that could arise from the option.

## WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities?	Final impact (following mitigation methods)
<b>The language of the school</b>	Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is a Welsh medium school. The proposal to transfer pupils to Ysgol Bro Plenydd would not impact the language of the children's education as the alternative school is also a Welsh medium school. The proposal could strengthen opportunities for pupils to socialise through the medium of Welsh with their peers.	Neutral No impact on the language of the school	N/A	N/A
<b>Access to Welsh medium education</b>	The alternative school already provides Welsh medium education, therefore, no additional benefit to this can be anticipated.	Neutral No impact on the situation of the language	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-statutory provision</b>	Pupils would have access to a wider range of suitable resources, a higher supply in terms of staffing, and they would be part of a larger peer group of the same age.	Positive	The Local Authority and the Ysgol Bro Plenydd Governing Body could discuss methods to ensure that pupils can participate in extra-curricular activities.	Positive
<b>Before/after school activities</b>	Pupils would have access to a wider range of suitable facilities outside the classroom, there would be more teachers and they would be part of larger peer group of the same age. A larger school offers a wider range of activities. It is possible that some parents will have to travel further (to Ysgol Bro Plenydd) to enable pupils to attend before and after school activities.	Positive More opportunity to use the Welsh language	The Local Authority and the Ysgol Bro Plenydd Governing Body could discuss methods to ensure that after-school activities are available and are as convenient as possible for all pupils.	Positive
<b>Using Welsh in the community</b>	According to the 2011 Census, 74% of the population of the Llanaelhaearn ward were Welsh speakers. The alternative school is also within a ward that has a high percentage of Welsh speakers (80% in the Abererch ward).  Welsh education would continue to be provided to the current pupils of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn at Ysgol Bro Plenydd. Increasing opportunities for pupils to socialise in Welsh and access to more activities could increase the use of the Welsh language outside the school and in the community.	Positive More opportunity to use the Welsh language	The Local Authority and the Governing Body of the alternative school could discuss methods to promote use of the Welsh language as a social medium to arrange activities outside the school.	Positive

## 4. CONCLUSION

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Having considered a range of potential options for the future, a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020, and to teach the pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, from 1 September 2020 was held by the Authority. As part of the statutory consultation process, local authorities are required to prepare a language impact assessment on a school reorganisation proposal - this is the purpose of this document.

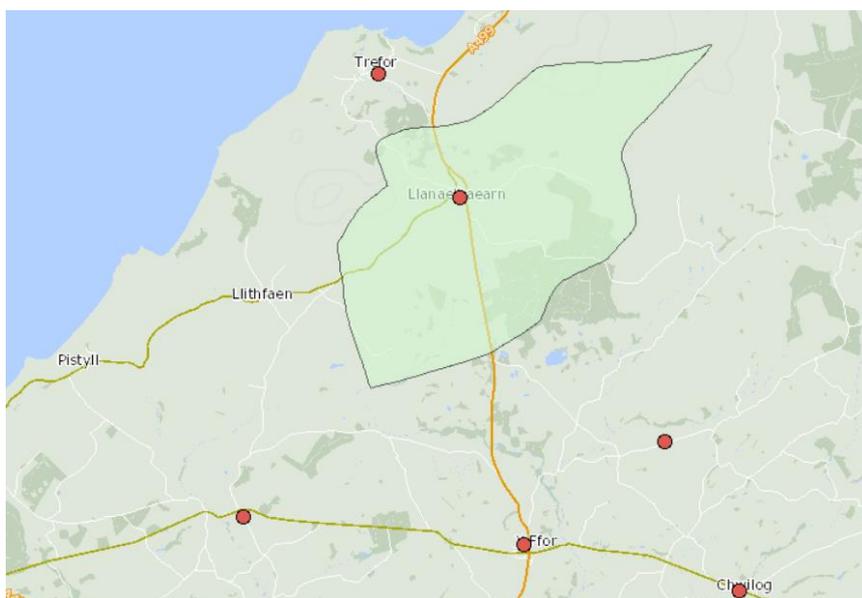
Our expectations are that all of the county's pupils have ability-relevant and well-balanced bilingual skills to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part. Proposals to change local arrangements would have to take full consideration of all linguistic impacts. Supporting and improving the use of the Welsh language as an educational and social language among children will be a key consideration when drawing up proposals within the area.

No change to the linguistic situation of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is anticipated by continuing with the current situation or by federating with another school or schools, as these options do not offer any change in terms of education provision in the village of Llanaelhaearn.

The option of closing the school and sending the pupils to be educated at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils are educated in a Welsh medium school, as they currently are, and at a school where the Welsh language is used socially by pupils. It is noted that the linguistic situation of Ysgol Bro Plenydd is very strong, with 83% of pupils coming from Welsh speaking homes. In comparison, 54% of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn pupils come from Welsh speaking homes.

It has been suggested in the statutory consultation responses that parents are likely to apply to transfer their children to Ysgol Chwilog. Parents have a right to do this, in line with the Authority's admissions policy,.

Having considered the information in this assessment, it was concluded that the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and educating the pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, would not have a negative impact on the language. As already noted, there is a higher percentage of children coming from Welsh-speaking homes at Ysgol Bro Plenydd. As a result, there will be more opportunities for Llanaelhaearn children to use the Welsh language with peers in class, and socially as well. It is recognised that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn has worked hard to develop the bilingual skills of the children and to promote a Welsh culture. Therefore, should this proposal be approved, it is noted that it is important to recognise the need to support and continue with this work.



# **Well-being Assessment Report Ysgol Llanaelhaearn**

- February 2020

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4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

As a Council we are committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwynedd's communities.

The Council's vision is:

*Our vision as a Council is to support all the people of Gwynedd to thrive and live full lives in their community, in a county which is one of the best counties to live in.*

The Council has adopted well-being objectives that complement the national well-being goals and ensure that Gwynedd residents:

- Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life
- Have access to quality homes within their communities
- Earn enough wages to support themselves and their families
- Receive a first class education that will allow them to do what they want to do
- To live with dignity and independence for as long as possible
- Being able to live in a naturally Welsh speaking Society
- Enjoy the beauty of the County's natural environment.

The table below outlines the link between our well-being objectives and the national well-being goals.

<b>We will ensure that the residents of Gwynedd can:</b>	<b>Prosperous</b>	<b>Resilient</b>	<b>Healthier</b>	<b>Equal</b>	<b>Cohesive Communities</b>	<b>A vibrant culture where the Welsh language is thriving</b>	<b>Globally responsible</b>
Enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives							
Live in quality homes within their communities							
Earn a sufficient salary to be able to support themselves and their families							
Receive education of the highest quality which will enable them to do what they want to do							
Live with dignity and independently for as long as possible							
Live in a natural Welsh society							
Take advantage of the beauty of the County's natural environment.							

The Education Department has a role to promote the Act's well-being goals to the county's pupils through its activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty the Council has published well-being objectives that outline how it will improve well-being in the "Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023".

## 1.1 Ysgol Llanaelhaearn Context

On 4th June 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet allowed the Education Department to hold formal meetings with the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and other relevant stakeholders, to discuss a range of possible options for the future of the school.

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn which is between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The school has a capacity of 53 from Nursery to Year 6, with 8 pupils aged 3-11 attending the school (September 2019). All pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The 8 pupils now attending the school are taught in two classes with 3 in the foundation phase and 5 in key stage 2.

Between June and September 2019, a series of meetings were held to review the school's situation, at which a number of options were proposed and assessed for the future.

Having considered and evaluated the 8 options, the Education Department considered in more detail two options, which would offer advantages over the current situation, which are to federalise with another school or schools, or closing the school and pupils to be educated at an alternative school.

Those options, in addition to doing nothing and continuing the status quo, are detailed below.

- *Do nothing - continue with existing school structure.*

Maintaining the current system would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Head at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend 1 day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be taught by a full-time teacher and a senior assistant.

- *To federalise with other school (s)*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a formal, legal federal model with a neighbouring school or other schools. Geographically, the schools that would be reasonable to consider would be one or more of the following; Yr Eifl, Llanybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog, or Pentreuchaf.

This means that the schools remain separate but the Governing Bodies are abolished, and a single Governing Body is elected for the Federation. Schools budgets would remain as they are.

Forming a formal federation with another school or schools would strengthen the school's leadership and increase opportunities for pupils to collaborate and socialise with peers.

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This means that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is closing, and current pupils transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd (the alternative school).

Following detailed consideration of those options, a recommendation was presented to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on the 5th of November 2019, and they agreed to begin a statutory consultation period in accordance with section 48 of the Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 on the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and offer a place for pupils to Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr from 1 September 2020.

A statutory consultation period was held between 16 December 2019 and 29 January 2020. Eight responses to the consultation were received.

## 2. HOW DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES?

Gwynedd Council's well-being objectives were considered when evaluating the options.

<b>Do nothing - continue with the status quo.</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life</b>	No effect
<b>Live in quality homes within their communities</b>	No effect
<b>Earn a sufficient wage to support themselves and their families</b>	No effect
<b>Receive education of the highest quality that will allow them to do what they want to do</b>	No effect
<b>To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible</b>	No effect
<b>Live in a naturally Welsh society</b>	No effect
<b>Take advantage beauty of the County's natural environment</b>	No effect

<b>Federation with other School (s)</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life</b>	No effect
<b>Live in quality homes within their communities</b>	No effect
<b>Earn a sufficient wage to support themselves and their families</b>	No effect
<b>Receive education of the highest quality that will allow them to do what they want to do</b>	No effect. Federating would be a process of formalising the current arrangement of collaboration, and although there will be minor changes such as a single Governing Body, and reducing the administrative burden on the Headteacher, it is presumed that the school would continue with the arrangement of collaborating with Ysgol Chwilog and Garndolbenmaen, or another school if they formed a federation with them.
<b>To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible</b>	No effect
<b>Live in a naturally Welsh society</b>	No effect
<b>Take advantage beauty of the County's natural environment</b>	No effect

<b>Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and pupils to be educated at an alternative school</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life</b>	No effect
<b>Live in quality homes within their communities</b>	No effect
<b>Earn a sufficient wage to support themselves and their families</b>	Introducing this option could result in staff redundancy. A detailed staffing policy has been developed by Gwynedd Council in conjunction with Trade Unions and head teachers. The policy will form the basis of any redundancies arising from any proposal. Clear and open communication will be essential to the successful implementation of any proposals.

<b>Receive education of the highest quality that will allow them to do what they want to do</b>	Ensuring that the pupils receive a first class education will be at the heart of the proposal, ensuring that they receive at least the same quality and standard in the alternative school.
<b>To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible</b>	No effect
<b>Live in a naturally Welsh society</b>	A language impact assessment has been undertaken. Pupils at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn live in a Welsh community and are educated through the medium of Welsh, as Ysgol Bro Plenydd. The linguistic impact assessment notes that the position of the alternative school is very strong, with 83% of pupils coming from Welsh-speaking homes. By comparison, 54% of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn's pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes.
<b>Take advantage beauty of the County's natural environment</b>	No effect

### 3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT?

Aim	Does the proposal contribute to this aim?	Measures to mitigate negative impacts on this aim:
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> An innovative society using resources efficiently and proportionately, educated people, creating wealth and work.</p>	<p>Implementing the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and educate the children at Ysgol Bro Plenydd means that the pupils develop experiences through socialising with other children and will receive a quality education using resources efficiently.</p> <p>This proposal could result in staff losing their jobs.</p>	<p>Staff and Union representatives will be consulted specifically as part of the statutory consultation period. Gwynedd Council has developed a detailed staffing policy, in conjunction with Trade Unions and head teachers. Any redundancies as a result of this proposal will have to be in line with that policy. Clear and open communication will play a central role in implementing any proposals.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> A nation that maintains and enhances biodiversity and healthy ecosystems that support resilience and the ability to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>The proposal is unlikely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> A society where people's physical and mental well-being is as good as possible and people understand what affects their health.</p>	<p>The proposal is unlikely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential irrespective of background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>The education and experiences of the catchment area pupils are at the forefront of the proposal. Our aim is to ensure that pupils achieve their potential regardless of their background.</p>	<p>An equality assessment has been undertaken and it is concluded that implementation of the proposal would not impact on equality, and that all pupils and families have equal opportunity irrespective of their background or socio-economic circumstances. The alternative school operates a robust equality and anti-bullying policy.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Attractive, viable and safe communities with good connections</p>	<p>The community of Llanaelhaearn is strong and active and it is recognised that closing the school would have some negative impact on the community.</p>	<p>An assessment of the likely impact on the community has been undertaken where it is noted that although there is some negative impact on the community, but 7 pupils living in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area already attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd, and therefore there is already contact between the school and the wider area. The assessment also notes that discussions would be held to discuss the possibility that Ysgol Bro Plenydd's community activities includes the community of Llanaelhaearn.</p>

<p><b>A vibrant Wales and culture where the Welsh language thrives</b></p> <p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language and encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and leisure activities.</p>	<p>Implementing this proposal will mean that pupils at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn will continue to be educated in a Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>The language impact assessment notes that there would be no change to this aim by realising the proposal as a result of the Welshness of the Llanaelhaearn area and other nearby areas.</p>
<p><b>Wales is globally responsible.</b></p> <p>A nation that, in doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, is considering whether doing such a thing could contribute positively to global well-being.</p>	<p>The proposal is unlikely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect</p>

#### 4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Sustainable Development Principles	Does the proposal consider the principle?
<p><b>Long term</b></p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs is also important.</p>	<p>There has been a pattern of declining numbers since 2012, with projections showing that numbers will reduce further, and so it shows that the current challenging situation facing the school will be long-term and need to be reviewed as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b>Suspension</b></p> <p>How action to prevent problems from occurring or escalating can help public bodies achieve their objectives.</p>	<p>Pupils' needs will be prioritised at all stages of the process.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Consider how the public body's well-being objectives may affect each of the well-being goals, all of its other objectives, or the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>A critical situation of low numbers at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn has led to a review of the school's position for the future.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Collaboration with any other person (or different departments within the organisation itself) could help the organization meet its well-being goals.</p>	<p>A number of other departments have had input during the process and whilst evaluating the possible options. In addition, relevant stakeholders of the school have been involved in the process.</p>
<p><b>Contents</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area they serve.</p>	<p>The proposal has been subject to public consultation, and consultation for children. The process to date has included local review meetings to engage with the relevant stakeholders of the school. These meetings have involved the Governing Body, staff, and parents of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.</p>

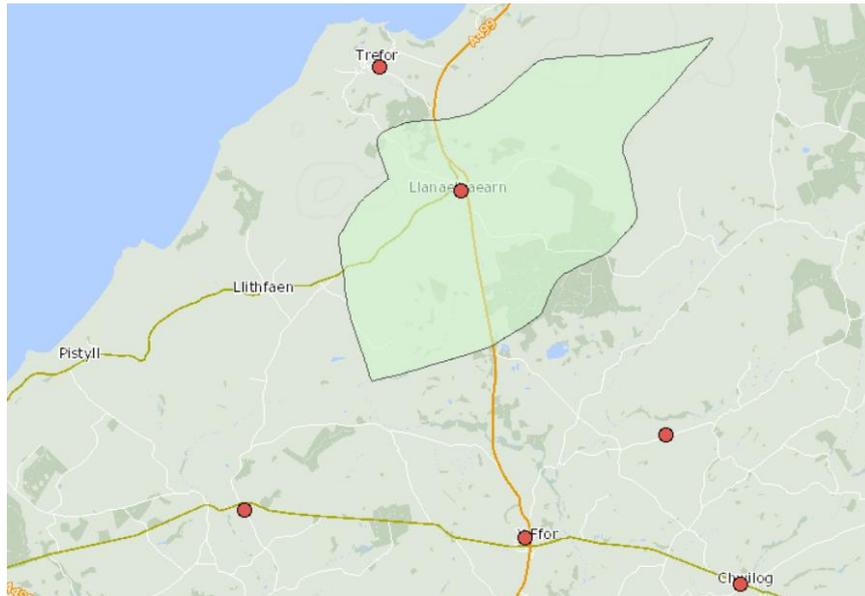
## 5. CONCLUSION

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Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the 7 well-being goals of the Act, together with the Council's well-being objectives were considered and it was concluded that the proposal meets the requirements. This proposal will allow us to respond to and meet the needs of the children today, and also strengthen their future well-being.

It is acknowledged that this proposal leads to the loss of a school in the Llanaelhaearn community, however a large number of the children living within the school catchment area already attend other schools, including the alternative school and therefore some engagement between both communities already exists. Every effort will be made to mitigate the effects on the community by encouraging engagement between the communities. Should the proposal be approved, discussions will be facilitated to discuss the possibility for Ysgol Bro Plenydd's community activities extend to the community of Llanaelhaearn, where appropriate.

The proposal will ensure that the children of the area are educated on a suitable site and in a naturally Welsh society, increasing opportunities for socialising and working with others and giving them a fair chance to flourish among their peers.



# Equality Assessment Report Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

- February 2020

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- 2. OPTIONS**
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Ysgol Llanaelhaearn Context

On 4th June 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet allowed the Education Department to hold formal meetings with the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and other relevant stakeholders, to discuss a range of possible options for the future of the school.

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is located in the centre of the village of Llanaelhaearn which is between Pwllheli and Caernarfon. The school has a capacity from Nursery to Year 6 of 53, with 8 pupils aged 3-11 attending the school (September 2019). All pupils live in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area.

The 8 pupils attending the school are taught in two classes with 3 in the foundation phase and 5 in key stage 2.

Between June and September 2019, meetings were held with the Governing Body and other relevant stakeholders to review the school's position, where a number of options were put forward to consider the future of the school.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet agreed to begin a period of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposed proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and to provide places for pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, on 1 September 2020.

The statutory consultation was held between 16 December 2019 and 29 January 2020. Eight responses received during the consultation.

## 2. OPTIONS

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During the local meetings, a range of options were presented and evaluated for the future of the school.

Following a detailed assessment of 8 options, it was concluded that two options offered advantages compared to the school's current situation.

Those options in addition to doing nothing and continuing the status quo, are detailed below:

- *Do nothing - continue with the current structure of the school.*

Retaining the current system would mean that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would continue in the same way, with the same staffing structure. There would be a Strategic Head at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, Garndolbenmaen and Chwilog who would spend one day a week leading Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

The pupils would continue to be taught by a full-time teacher and a senior assistant.

- *To federalise with other School(s)*

Ysgol Llanaelhaearn would form a formal, legal Federation with one or more neighbouring Schools. This means that the schools remain separate but the Governing Bodies are abolished, and a single Governing Body is elected for the Federation. Geographically, the schools that would be reasonable to consider would be one or more of Yr Eifl, Llangybi, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog and Pentreuchaf schools. The schools budgets would remain separate. Forming a formal federation with another school or schools would strengthen the school's leadership and increase opportunities for pupils to collaborate and socialise with peers.

By introducing a federal model with another school to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, it is not envisaged that the change would have an impact on equality characteristics, mainly as the school would remain in Llanaelhaearn, implementing the same equality and anti-bullying policies.

- *Close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and pupils to be educated at an alternative school*

This means that Ysgol Llanaelhaearn is closing, and current pupils transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd (the alternative school).

Following a more detailed assessment of these options, it is concluded that the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and transfer the pupils to Ysgol Bro Plenydd responded to the main challenges facing the school, namely low numbers of pupils and small classes.

## 2.2 Statutory Consultation

Eight responses were received during the consultation period, including Estyn's comments. In their response, they noted:

*"The proposer notes that Ysgol Bro Plenydd has similar facilities to Ysgol Llanaelhaearn to provide specialist provision that is suitable for pupils with additional learning needs. However, it does not identify clearly enough the effect on SEN pupils and the proposal does not consider accessibility arrangements for disabled pupils."*

*"On the whole, the proposer has given sufficient consideration to the effect and cost of the proposals on pupils' travel arrangements, but not to the accessibility of transport provision for pupils with special needs."*

In response to the observation that there is lack of consideration for disabled pupils, the Authority notes that as is currently the case, Ysgol Bro Plenydd would need to review the Plans of pupils with ALN and then map the needs on the school provision. The Moderation Panel would consider provision for pupils with a Statement or Individual Development Plan (IDP) to ensure suitable provision in the new school. The forum would discuss the IDPs of children who receive the input of the ALN and Inclusion Integrated Team, ensuring continuity of service.

Both sites have been assessed in the same category. Should a person with disabilities make an application for admission or transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd in the future, the Authority would deal with the application in the same way as any other school in Gwynedd.

In response to the observation concerning accessibility of transport provision for pupils with special needs, the Authority notes that any additional transport would be discussed by the Moderation Panel on a case by case basis.

In considering the equality impact of the proposal, Estyn notes:

*"The proposer has conducted an equality impact assessment and asserts reasonably that the proposal should not have a detrimental effect on any particular group. However, the proposer has not given appropriate consideration to the possible disruption for existing pupils."*

In response to the above comment, the Education Department supports a request for transport to Ysgol Chwilog, which would reduce the potential disruption to the current pupils of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn.

### 3. IMPACT OF ANY CHANGE

The Council must have due regard to the impact any changes will have on people with equality characteristics below. What impact will the new policy / service or proposed changes have on these features?

Features	What kind of impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
<b>Race (including nationality)</b>	None	<p>It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on racial grounds. Implementing the option will mean that everyone of any race is treated according to their need. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn, and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that they:</p> <p><i>“...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives.”</i></p>
<b>The Welsh language</b>	None	<p>The children of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn are educated through the medium of Welsh, and this would not change by implementing the proposed option.</p> <p>A Welsh Language impact assessment has been conducted on the proposal.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	None	<p>Change is not anticipated for disabled people.</p> <p>Should the proposal to close Llanaelhaearn school and educate the pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd be approved, the number of disabled pupils attending the schools will need to be monitored. Depending on the disability the schools will have to adapt their plans for giving access to pupils with specific disabilities. As a result, the authority will also need to ensure that relevant departments are aware of changes and obtain the necessary input. An assessment of the accessibility of the proposed site would be undertaken in accordance with specific situations.</p> <p>Both sites fall into the same category in terms of accessibility, but should an individual with disabilities make an application for admission or transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd in the future, the Authority would deal with the application as would any school other in Gwynedd.</p>
<b>Gender</b>	None	<p>It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on the grounds of gender. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that the school:</p> <p><i>“...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives.”</i></p>
<b>Age</b>	Any effect would be minimal (positive or negative)	<p>It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on the basis of age. Implementing the option would mean that everyone of any age is treated the same. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that the school:</p>

		<i>"...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	None	It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on the grounds of sexual orientation. Implementing the option would mean that everyone of any sexual orientation is treated according to their need. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that the school:  <i>"...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>
<b>Religion or belief (or lack of belief)</b>	None	It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on the grounds of religion or belief. Implementing the option would mean that everyone of any religion or belief is treated according to their need. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that the school:  <i>"...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>  Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and all surrounding schools (Yr Eifl, Llanybi, Pentreuchaf, Bro Plenydd, Chwilog) are community schools, and there is no intention to change this.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	None	It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would not affect people on the grounds of gender reassignment. Implementing the option would mean that everyone is treated fairly. Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and its neighbouring schools operate an equalities policy which states that the school:  <i>"...opposes to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	None	Implementing the proposal would not affect any pregnant person, whether staff or parent, as both schools implement the same policy.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	None	The implementation of the proposal would not affect anyone married or in a civil partnership, as both schools implement the same policy.

The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make a positive contribution to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relations in its activities in the areas of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it make an impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
<b>Remove illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	No	Implement the alternative school's equality and anti-bullying policies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment. The Education Department's standard policies are implemented by both schools.
<b>Promote equal opportunities</b>	No	The aim is to promote equal opportunities and promote the alternative school to continue to follow equality policies and procedures.
<b>Encouraging good relationships</b>	Yes	The aim is to promote equal opportunities and promote the alternative school to continue to follow equality policies and procedures.  As some children living in the Llanaelhaearn catchment area already attend Ysgol Bro Plenydd, a link between the school and the Llanaelhaearn community already exists. However, opportunities are promoted for the school to build on links with the Llanaelhaearn community.

## 4. ANALYSING THE RESULTS

4.1 Is the proposal therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty. The alternative school has equalities and anti-bullying policies, as Ysgol Llanaelhaearn currently has.

4.2 Is the proposal therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty. The alternative school has equalities and anti-bullying policies, as Ysgol Llanaelhaearn currently has.

4.3 What should be done?

**Choose one of the following:**

Continue with policy / service as it is sound	✓
Adjust the policy to remove any barriers	
Prevent and remove the policy as the adverse effects are too great	
Continue with policy as any adverse impact can be justified	

4.4 If continuing with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

Although the loss of a local school could have a negative impact on community cohesion, this will need to be mitigated by encouraging links between the alternative school and the local community of Llanaelhaearn.

4.5 Monitoring - what action will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

The school (and their Governing Body) is responsible for implementing its equality policy and the Authority, through its usual support and monitoring procedures, will ensure compliance.

## 5. CONCLUSION

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It is concluded that implementing the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and transfer the pupils to Ysgol Bro Plenydd would not affect equality, whether as a characteristic or a general duty. Robust equality and anti-bullying policies are implemented by the alternative school which would extend to Llanaelhaearn pupils and parents. Should some be identified following the consultation, then the Council will consider the necessary actions.