

Appendix B



Statutory Consultation Responses Ysgol Llanaelhaearn

Statutory Consultation Responses

The proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020, and to provide education for learners at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr from 1 September 2020.

Responses to the Statutory Consultation to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020, and offer a place for the pupils at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr from 1 September 2020.

(Statutory Consultation Period 16 December 2019 - 29 January 2020)

8 written responses were received during the statutory consultation period

	Comments	Gwynedd Council Response
1.	A wish for the children to attend Ysgol Chwilog	
1.1	I would like to see the present school children have the option of moving to Ysgol Chwilog, and transport being arranged for those children.	<p>Gwynedd Council notes the comments.</p> <p>There are valid reasons for naming Ysgol Bro Plenydd as the alternative School, and these are detailed in the consultation document.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the children of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn already attend Ysgol Chwilog for specific sessions, and that transferring to a school where they already know the teachers and other pupils is likely to reduce the disruption that transferring to a new school would have on current pupils.</p> <p>For the above reasons, subject to the availability of places at Ysgol Chwilog, the Education Department has no objection to the current pupils of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn receiving transport to Ysgol Chwilog.</p>
1.2	I fully support the parents' request for the pupils to attend Ysgol Chwilog after the closure of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and that they receive transport. And children who start school from September 2020 will ONLY get transport to school and not those who previously moved school.	
1.3	I would like the children to go to Chwilog Primary school instead of Y Ffôr and get transport to get there.	
1.4	We want XX to go to Ysgol Chwilog from September 2020 and have transport arranged to take the children every day.	
1.5	I would like XX to be placed at Ysgol Chwilog and transport to be provided to and from school.	
1.6	I would like XX to attend Ysgol Chwilog as he already goes there now with Ysgol Llanaelhaearn and has settled in well. Us as parents wouldn't want to separate the children. I would also like transport as I don't drive.	

1.7	I would wish for my children to go to Chwilog as my son XX will be going to Ysgol Glan y Môr in 2021 and as settled and don't want him to change from schools in his last years. My children have made friends and know the teachers and very happy at Chwilog.	
2.	Estyn Summary	
2.1	Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.2	As the proposer is proposing to close a rural school, it has identified clearly the reasons for the proposal and the careful considerations behind it. It also identifies other benefits, such as the positive effect in terms of cost-effectiveness to the education authority and reducing the number of surplus places.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.3	It identifies the key challenges that the school faces and how it will address them through the proposal to close the school.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.4.	The proposer identifies clearly the expected advantages and disadvantages in comparison with the status quo. It considers other possible options and has given appropriate reasons why these have been disregarded.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.5	The proposal gives appropriate consideration to provision for the Welsh language. It refers to implementing the local authority's Language Policy. It appears that there will be no negative effect on Welsh language provision for these pupils.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.6	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.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.

2.7	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>Relevant to accessibility considerations, 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.</p>
2.8	The proposer has identified the disadvantages of this proposal, including relocating pupils, staff redundancies, dissolving the governing body and an increase in transport costs.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.9	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.	<p>Gwynedd Council notes the comments.</p> <p>In response to the comment, the Authority notes that should a pupil fail to use normal transport, any additional transport would be discussed by the Moderation Panel on a case by case basis.</p>
2.10	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.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.11	It is likely that the option to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn will solve the vulnerable situation in terms of the lack of robust leadership arrangements at the school. Implementing this option would also be likely to improve pupils' social and educational experiences by providing opportunities for pupils to be taught in peer groups with much smaller age ranges.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.

2.12	The proposer also identifies the wider variety of facilities that would be available, in addition to better access to resources and staffing. It refers to the fact that schools with a higher number of pupils are able to provide a more robust structure for planning and delivering the curriculum.	Gwynedd Council notes the comments.
2.13	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.	<p>A number of responses to the consultation were received (including the consultation with children) noting the wishes of the parents of current pupils for their children to attend Ysgol Chwilog and receiving transport to that effect.</p> <p>As stated in the consultation document, there is a clear rationale for naming Ysgol Bro Plenydd as the alternative school.</p> <p>However, the Authority is of the opinion that the pupils of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn have gained positive experiences as a result of arrangements for working with Ysgol Chwilog, and as the relationship already exists, any opportunity to minimise disruption to existing pupils must be considered. For this reason, the Education Department is supporting an application for transport to Ysgol Chwilog for the pupils who would be on roll at Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020.</p>