

# CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



## Report to the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	28 March 2023
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Beca Brown
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gwern ap Rhisiart, Assistant Head of Education Department: Primary Sector
<b>Title of Item:</b>	Issuing a statutory notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 August 2023 and offer a place for the pupils in Ysgol Bontnewydd from 1 September 2023 onwards.

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### DECISION SOUGHT:

- (1) To approve commencing a process to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 August 2023.
- (2) To issue a statutory notice, allowing a statutory objection period of 28 days in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance of the School Organisation Code 011/2018 on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 August 2023, and provide a place for the pupils in Ysgol Bontnewydd from 1 September 2023 onwards.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Based on the PLASC January 2023, Ysgol Felinwnda is the smallest school in the county, with only 8 learners. Consequently, the Education Department is submitting this report to Cabinet requesting permission to hold a statutory objection period on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the reasoning behind the recommendation and seek approval to conduct a statutory objection period on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 August 2023 and offer a place for the children in Ysgol Bontnewydd from 1 September 2023 onwards.

## 2. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Council has been implementing the 'Primary Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy since it was adopted by the Full Council in April 2009. It is noted in the strategy that there is a need to ensure a way of giving attention to the situation of some vulnerable schools.

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2.2 At its meeting on 18 December 2018, the Cabinet approved the principles of "Fit for Purpose Education" which now provides a basis to realise the Education Department's vision and develop the system to ensure a high-quality education for the children and young people of Gwynedd for the twenty first century. These principles work towards rationalising age-ranges within primary classes and ensuring sufficient non-contact time for headteachers to focus on leadership matters in the primary schools.

### 3. THE CURRENT SITUATION AT YSGOL FELINWENDA

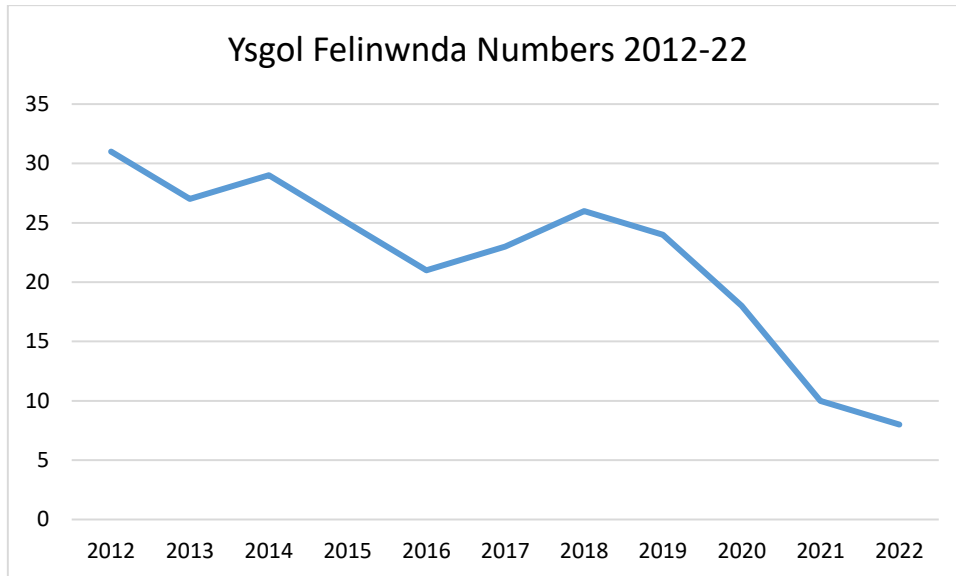
3.1 Ysgol Felinwnda is located near the villages of Saron and Dinas on the outskirts of Caernarfon and serves the nearby villages and areas. It provides education for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years. Children are admitted to the nursery class on a part-time basis in the September following their third birthday, and on a full-time basis in the September following their fourth birthday.

#### 3.2 Number of learners

The table and graph below show the reduction seen in the numbers of learners at Ysgol Felinwnda over the past 10 years:

Year	Number of learners at Ysgol Felinwnda
2012	31
2013	27
2014	29
2015	25
2016	21
2017	23
2018	26
2019	24
2020	18
2021	10
2022	8

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As can be seen, the number of pupils at the school has reduced substantially since 2018 and has been vulnerable for some time.

### 3.3 Broad age range within small classes

According to the CYBLD in January 2013, 8 learners were recorded at Ysgol Felinwnda, which is the lowest number of learners at any school in Gwynedd. The learners are taught in two small multi-age classes with one class for year 1-3 learners and another for year 4-5. There are no nursery age, reception class, or year 6 pupils at the school:

	Year								Total
	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Felinwnda	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	8
Classes	Class					Class			

### 3.4 Projections

The table below shows the current position of the school and the projected numbers over the next 3 years:

Capacity (N-Yr6)	Numbers January 2023 (N-Yr6)	Surplus Places	Projections September 2023	Projections September 2024	Projections September 2025	Average Numbers 2023-2025
61	8	87%	8	5	3	5

As can be seen from the projections, it is likely that the numbers at the school will continue to reduce to levels that are even more vulnerable than the current situation over the next few years.

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## 3.5 High percentage of surplus places

Based on the figures for January 2023, there were over 87% of surplus places at the school (a total of 53).

## 4. FINANCE

4.1 The following table shows the financial allocation of Ysgol Felinwnda for 2022-23:

	School's Financial Allocation 2022-23	Cost Per Head 2022-23	Safety Net 2022-23
Ysgol Felinwnda	£138,226	£14,643	£54,924
Gwynedd Schools Average	£478,000	£4,509	£34,456*

\* Average of the 21 primary sites in the safety net.

## 4.2 Cost Per Pupil

The total allocation for the 2022-23 financial year (based on the numbers in September 2021) is £138,226, which means that the cost per head at Ysgol Felinwnda is £14,643 (2022-23). The county average for the cost per pupil in the same year is £4,509, which means that the cost per head at Ysgol Felinwnda is over 3 times more than the county average.

## 4.3 Safety Net

Ysgol Felinwnda receives a sum of £54,924 for 2022-23 through the minimum staffing policy (which guarantees at least a headteacher and teacher at every school, and a headteacher and assistant at schools with fewer than 15 learners).

## 4.4 Future challenges

Ysgol Felinwnda is facing a challenge to set a balanced budget for 2023-24 since the school will receive an allocation based on the number of learners, and this, along with a protected sum allocated to them will enable them to employ a headteacher and assistant only.

For 2023-24, Ysgol Felinwnda can make extensive use of balances to be able to continue with the current staffing arrangement for another year. However, it will not be possible for the arrangement to continue for 2024-25, since they will not have remaining balances and therefore, it would be mandatory to implement a staffing structure of headteacher and assistant for the whole range of learners at Ysgol Felinwnda. Consequently, sharing a headteacher with Ysgol Llandwrog, as currently happens, would be impossible, and the teacher employed at Ysgol Felinwnda would face compulsory redundancy.

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## 5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES

5.1 It is obvious that many challenges are facing Ysgol Felinwnda, which means that the school's position is unsustainable in the future. The Education Department has considered 4 options for the future of education in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area and has evaluated every option against the following criteria, which corresponds with the "Primary Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd" Strategy.

- Number of learners
- Class sizes
- Financial resources
- Geographical factors
- Leadership and staffing
- The community
- The Welsh language

5.2 See below a collection of the outcomes of the evaluation for the 4 options. The full evaluation can be seen in **Appendix B**.

### 5.2.1 Do nothing - maintain the 'Status Quo'

Although the case for change has already been established, the 'Do Nothing' model has been included for comparison purposes.

This model would mean that there would be no change to the current provision in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area.

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
There would be no need to arrange additional transport for any learner.	Low numbers continue in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Substantial surplus places continue in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Small classes with an age range of 3 years continues in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Reliance on a substantial protection allocation continues for Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Cost per head which is 3 times higher than the county average continues for Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Majority of the children in the catchment area already choose to attend other schools.

It is believed that the current situation of Ysgol Felinwnda will continue and intensify over the next few years, and as a result, we are of the opinion that continuing with the status quo is not an option for the future.

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## 5.2.2 Federalisation with a nearby school

This model would ensure the continued presence of the school in the village of Felinwnda by means of a collaboration agreement with a nearby school under the leadership of a headteacher or headteachers and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be revoked and a federal governing body (new) would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, IT, buildings and expertise.

If schools are federalised, they are required to be of the same status, therefore in the case of Ysgol Felinwnda they would need to federalise with another community school. The closest community school is Ysgol Bontnewydd.

Ysgol Felinwnda cannot be federalised with Ysgol Llandwrog since it is a church school.

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
There would be no need to arrange additional transport for any learner.	Low numbers continue in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Substantial surplus places continue in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Small classes with an age range of 3 years continues in Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Reliance on a substantial protection allocation continues for Felinwnda.
	Cost per head which is 3 times higher than the county average continues for Ysgol Felinwnda.
	Majority of the children in the catchment area already choose to attend other schools instead of Ysgol Felinwnda.

As this option involves continuing with the current school within the federation, it is anticipated that there is a high likelihood that the current challenges continue and intensify over the next few years, therefore, we are of the opinion that federalisation with Ysgol Bontnewydd is not an option that would address the challenges facing Ysgol Felinwnda now and in the future.

## 5.2.3 Close Ysgol Felinwnda and offer a place to the learners at Ysgol Bontnewydd

This model would mean closing Ysgol Felinwnda and offering a place for the pupils to receive their education at Ysgol Bontnewydd.

Ysgol Bontnewydd is considered as the 'alternative school' for the following reasons:

- Ysgol Bontnewydd is the community school located geographically nearest to Ysgol Felinwnda, and Ysgol Bontnewydd is in the same secondary school catchment area as Ysgol Felinwnda, namely Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen. Ysgol Bontnewydd is located approximately 2 miles from the Ysgol Felinwnda site.

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- A number of parents of children in the Felinwnda catchment area already send their children to Ysgol Bontnewydd (31 learners in September 2022).
- Only 3 of the current learners of Ysgol Felinwnda live in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area and Ysgol Bontnewydd has sufficient places for these 3 learners.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Enough space to accommodate the learners of Ysgol Felinwnda.	Staff will need to be made redundant.
More opportunities to participate in activities with a number of other learners.	There would be a need to arrange transport for some of the learners at a cost to the Authority.
Learners will be educated in classrooms of a sustainable size.	
Learners being educated in classes with children of the same age.	
No further need for financial support from the safety net.	
Cost per head closer to the county average.	

It is anticipated that this option will resolve the challenges of low numbers, small classes and high costs, as well as offer opportunities for the children in the Felinwnda catchment area to mix with more age-relevant peers, and benefit from the advantages of a larger school.

Any additional transport costs will be outweighed by the savings from closing Ysgol Felinwnda.

## 5.2.4 Close Ysgol Felinwnda and offer a place for the learners at Ysgol Llandwrog

This model would involve closing Ysgol Felinwnda and offering a place for the learners to be educated at Ysgol Llandwrog.

Ysgol Llandwrog is considered as the 'alternative school' for the following reasons:

- Ysgol Llandwrog is the community school located second nearest geographically to Ysgol Felinwnda, and Ysgol Llandwrog is in the same secondary school catchment area as Ysgol Felinwnda, namely Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen. Ysgol Llandwrog is located approximately 2 miles from the Ysgol Felinwnda site.
- Some of parents of children in the Felinwnda catchment area already send their children to Ysgol Llandwrog (5 learners in September 2022).
- Only 3 of the current learners of Ysgol Felinwnda live in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area and Ysgol Llandwrog has sufficient places for these 3 learners.

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<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Enough space to accommodate the learners of Ysgol Felinwnda.	The number of learners at Ysgol Llandwrog is also comparatively low.
Cost per head is less.	Ysgol Llandwrog has classes with an age range of 3 years.
	Ysgol Llandwrog also receives a protection allocation.
	Staff will need to be made redundant.
	It is likely that transport would need to be arranged for some of the learners at a cost to the Authority.

Since Ysgol Llandwrog has a comparatively low number of learners, it is not anticipated that this option resolves the challenges of low numbers and small classes completely. Although it is anticipated that costs will reduce, the cost per head will remain higher than the county average and Ysgol Llandwrog will continue to receive a protection allocation.

## 6. THE PREFERRED OPTION

After conducting the options appraisal, the preferred option for the proposal for the future education of learners in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area is to close Ysgol Felinwnda and offer a place for the learners at Ysgol Bontnewydd. This option is favoured for the following reasons:

### 6.1 Number of Learners

The number of learners at Ysgol Felinwnda has varied over the years, but a reduction of 70% has been seen in the number of learners at the school over the past 5 years and now there are only 8 learners at the school. According to the projections, the number of learners will continue to be low over the next three years and it is likely that the number of learners will fall further.

The numbers at Ysgol Bontnewydd are very viable (185 reception - year 6), and 31 children from the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda already choose to attend Ysgol Bontnewydd. There are plenty of spaces for the 3 learners who currently attend Ysgol Felinwnda and live in the catchment area.

### 6.2 Class sizes

Ysgol Felinwnda has 2 classes with 3 learners in one class and 5 learners in the other class (January 2023). One class is for year 1-3 learners and the other is for year 4-5 learners. There are no nursery age, reception class, or year 6 pupils at the school.

The average class size at Ysgol Bontnewydd is 26 and there is a class for every age group. Delivering the proposal would mean that pupils from the catchment area of Felinwnda would be educated in classes of a viable size, and with children of the same age group.



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## 6.3 Financial Resources

The total allocation that Ysgol Felinwnda receives for 2022-23 is £138,226 which means that the cost per head at Ysgol Felinwnda is £14,643. The county average for the cost per pupil in the same year is £4,509.

Ysgol Felinwnda receives a sum of £54,924 for 2022-23 through the minimum staffing policy (which guarantees at least a headteacher and teacher at every school, and a headteacher and assistant at schools with fewer than 15 learners).

Ysgol Bontnewydd does not receive a sum through the protection policy and the cost per head of Ysgol Bontnewydd is £4,032 which is slightly lower than the county average.

In terms of revenue costs, it is projected that the proposal would create an annual saving of approximately £120,000, less any transport costs.

## 6.4 Geographical Factors

It is noted in the "Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd" Strategy that an attempt should be made to restrict travelling to a maximum of 30 minutes of one-way travel between the home and the school. From implementing the proposal, it is anticipated that all existing pupils of Ysgol Felinwnda would be within a reasonable distance (less than 30 minutes of travel) to the alternative school, namely Ysgol Bontnewydd.

If the proposal would be implemented, the learners who live within the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area would receive transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd, in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy.

## 6.5 Leadership and Staffing

The current staffing structure of Ysgol Felinwnda includes one part-time headteacher and one full-time teacher. The headteacher is also a part-time headteacher at Ysgol Llandwrog. The headteacher has a teaching commitment for 60% of the time and receives 40% non-contact time for managerial and leadership matters.

At Ysgol Bontnewydd, there is a headteacher, deputy, five full-time teachers, three part-time teachers, and twelve assistants. The headteacher is non-contact and therefore deals with managerial and leadership matters only.

## 7. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

As part of the process of developing the proposal, a range of options for the school were considered and evaluated and a series of impact assessments were undertaken, including:

- Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Disadvantage
- Impact Assessment Report of The Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Community Impact Assessment Report

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- Assessment Report of the Probable Impact on Travel Arrangements
- Quality and Standards of Education Assessment Report

The above assessments can be seen in **Appendix C**.

## 7.1.1 Equality Assessment

An equality impact assessment was carried out on the proposal - **see the full report in appendix C**.

The assessment gives particular attention to different equality elements such as race, gender, disability, language, religion or belief and age. The assessment notes the current situation and shows that policies and procedures are in place which will ensure that the proposal considers and is in accordance with equal rights.

Having weighed-up the relevant factors, it is concluded that the learners will receive more equal opportunities when placed in Ysgol Bontnewydd since the learners will have learning experiences that are based on national learning principles, with a range of methods, including working in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question.

The children of Ysgol Felinwnda will have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, it will ensure that they make the most of their education and allow access to more activities that are age-appropriate and appropriate for their ability level.

The children of Ysgol Felinwnda will benefit from having more age-relevant peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

The Council will follow the usual procedures by supporting and monitoring, in order to ensure the compliance of every school with the equality characteristics.

## 7.1.2 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

The Welsh Government guidance (School Organisation Code 011/2018) states that a Welsh language impact assessment must be conducted as part of any proposal involving school reorganisation. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment was completed (**Appendix C**), by assessing the impact of the language on every option in the options appraisal.

The Gwynedd Education Language Policy has the same aim for all the county's primary schools, and every primary school (except one school) fall into category 3 in accordance with the school categorisation guidance according to the Welsh medium provision, Welsh Government. This means that the learners at Ysgol Felinwnda will be able to continue to receive their education through the medium of Welsh in accordance with the Education Language Policy in the alternative primary school noted.

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It is not anticipated that there would be a negative impact should the proposal be implemented, but it is possible that it could have a positive impact on the Welsh language as Ysgol Felinwnda learners benefit from additional opportunities to use Welsh with a broader range of peers in the classroom and socially. The alternative school is also located in an area of linguistic significance, with over 70% of the population able to speak Welsh.

## 7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Education Department has a role in promoting the well-being objectives of the Act amongst pupils in the county 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 the way it will improve well-being in the "2018-23 Gwynedd Plan".

An equality impact assessment was held on the proposal - **see the full report in Appendix C.**

Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the seven well-being act goals and Council's well-being objectives, and it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

It is acknowledged that this proposal leads to the loss of a school in the community of Felinwnda, however, a vast number of the children living within the school's catchment area already attend Ysgol Bontnewydd, and therefore a link already exists between Ysgol Bontnewydd and the community of Felinwnda. Every effort will be made to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging links between the communities. Should the proposal be approved, discussions will take place to discuss the possibility that Ysgol Bontnewydd community activity includes the Felinwnda community, where appropriate.

The proposal will ensure that the children of the area are educated on a site that is suitable and in a naturally Welsh-speaking society, thus increasing the opportunities to socialise and collaborate with others, and to give them a fair opportunity to thrive among their peers.


## 7.3 Community Impact Assessment

Welsh Government guidance (The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018) states that a community impact assessment must be held as part of any proposal for schools' reorganisation. See the full assessment in **Appendix C.**

It is seen in the assessment that no community use is made of the school. Canolfan Bro Llanwnda is located next door to the school and holds a number of activities including the Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi. As the Canolfan is independent from the school, it is not anticipated that closing the school will have any impact on the ability of the Cylch Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin or other events from continuing.

Should the option of closing Ysgol Felinwnda and offering a place for the pupils at Ysgol Bontnewydd be realised, it is not anticipated that it would have a negative impact on the community of Felinwnda. In order to mitigate against any potential negative impact on learners, we would encourage

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discussions between Ysgol Bontnewydd and the parents of learners at Ysgol Felinwnda so that they can take advantage of their facilities and after-school activities, and to encourage collaboration between Ysgol Bontnewydd and the community of Felinwnda.

## 7.4 Assessment of the Impact on Travel Arrangements

Welsh Government guidance (The Schools Organisation Code 011/2018) states that a community impact assessment must be held as part of any proposal for schools' reorganisation. An assessment of the Impact on Travel Arrangements was completed (**Appendix C**), by assessing the impact of the language on every option in the options appraisal.

It is noted in the assessment, should the proposal be delivered, that the learners who live within the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda will receive transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy.

Should the option to close Ysgol Felinwnda be implemented, and the learners offered a place at Ysgol Bontnewydd, it is anticipated that two of the learners receiving free transport to Ysgol Felinwnda at present, will continue to be eligible for transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd and, subject to parents' choice, 21 other learners may require transport.

Should all 3-11 year-old learners in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area who are eligible need transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd, it is anticipated that there would be a need to arrange a bus to transport them at a cost of around £45,000-£55,000 a year.

## 7.5 Assessment of the Quality and Standards of Education

See the full assessment in **Appendix C**.

Based on the outcome of the assessment of the quality and standards of education, comparing the latest Estyn reports of both schools (2017) showed, although the inspection result of Ysgol Felinwnda was 'Good', the results of Ysgol Bontnewydd were described as 'outstanding' and 'excellent' in the following fields:

- Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills
- Care, support and guidance
- Leadership and management

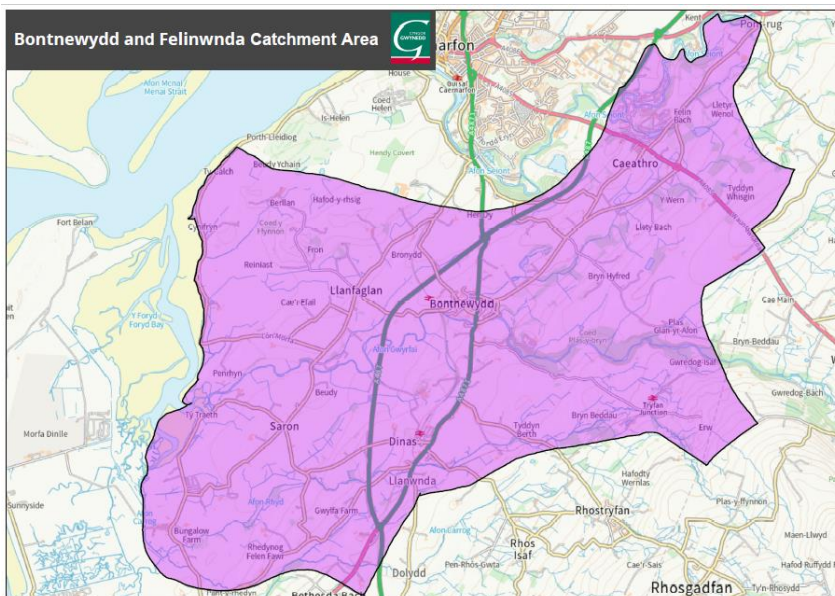
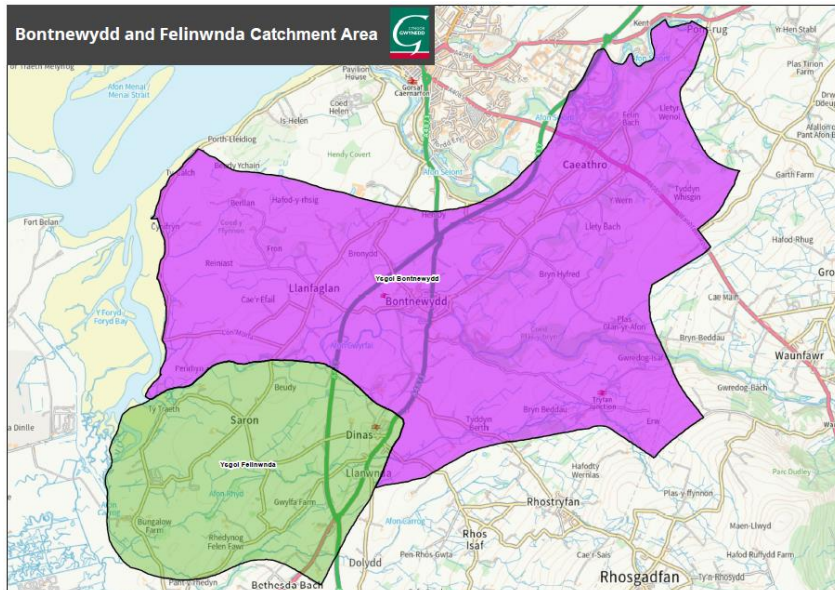
Consequently, it is anticipated that there would be a positive impact in terms of the quality and standards of education deriving from the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda and transferring the learners to Ysgol Bontnewydd.

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## 8. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

### 8.1 Schools admissions catchment areas


If the proposal would be implemented, the Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area would be amended to include the existing Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area.



### 8.2 Transportation

Should the proposal be implemented, learners living within the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda would receive transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy.

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Should the option to close Ysgol Felinwnda be implemented, and the learners offered a place in Ysgol Bontnewydd, it is anticipated that two of the learners receiving free transport to Ysgol Felinwnda at present will continue to be eligible for transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd and, subject to parents' choice, 21 other learners may require transport.

Should all 3-11 year-old learners in the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area who are eligible need transport to Ysgol Bontnewydd, it is anticipated that there would be a need to arrange a bus to transport them at a cost of around £45,000-£55,000 a year.

## 8.3 Staffing Considerations

Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be staffing implications that could lead to redundancies. Discussions have already been commenced with staff and Unions to give them prior warning that the report is being taken to Cabinet, requesting formal permission to hold an objection period on the option to close Ysgol Felinwnda and provide a place for learners at Ysgol Bontnewydd.

Cyngor Gwynedd has developed a detailed staffing policy, jointly with Trade Unions and headteachers. Any redundancies resulting from this proposal will have to comply with that policy. Clear and open communication will play a fundamental part in the implication of any proposals.

## 9. REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS ORGANISATION CODE 011/2018

Any statutory process will be conducted in accordance with Welsh Government Guidelines (School Organisation Code 011/2018).

### The Code notes:

*"Where a school has fewer than 10 registered pupils (or there are no pupils remaining at a school) at the January census point the 2013 Act permits governing bodies/local authorities to undertake a streamlined procedure to bring about official closure.*

*This consists solely of the issue of the notice of closure – the requirement for general consultation being waived, provided sufficient equivalent school places have been identified which would be reasonably accessible to those pupils actually or potentially displaced."*

Since there are fewer than 10 registered learners in Ysgol Felinwnda in the January 2023 PLASC, it is considered to be a 'small school' under the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. In accordance with the Schools Organisation Code, this allows the authority to follow a simpler procedure in order to close the school. Specifically, the requirement for general consultation is omitted, and the only requirement is to hold an objection period by issuing a statutory notice. Subsequently, the usual objection period would be held, and there would be a need to consider any objections received before making a final decision. It would not be possible to refer such a decision to Welsh Ministers as is the case with other schools.

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## 10. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 10.1 If the Cabinet resolves to support the recommendation submitted in this report, a period of statutory consultation of 28 days will need to be undertaken in accordance with the Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the guidance given in the Schools Organisation Code 011/2018. It is anticipated that this period will be conducted after the Easter holidays.
- 10.2 Afterwards, an objection report will be submitted to the Cabinet in order to report back on the results of the objection period. Then, the Cabinet will be required to consider the content of the report and decide whether the proposal should be implemented or not.
- 10.3 Should the Cabinet decide to implement the proposal, Ysgol Felinwnda will close on 31 August 2023, and a place will be offered to primary age children of the Felinwnda catchment area at Ysgol Bontnewydd from 1 September 2023.

## VIEWS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

### **The Monitoring Officer:**

The contents of this report has been the subject of legal advice by the Legal Service. No further comments regarding propriety.

### **Head of Finance Department:**

From a financial point of view, it is clear that Ysgol Felinwnda's current situation is not sustainable, given that 87% of places in the school are empty. The report shows that an assessment has been carried out of the options available, and I am satisfied with the robustness of the financial estimates contained therein. I therefore support the decision sought.

### **Local Member:**

See Appendix A

## Appendices

**Appendix A:** Local Member's Comments

**Appendix B:** Options Appraisal Table

**Appendix C:** Impact Assessments:

- Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Disadvantage
- Impact Assessment Report of The Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Community Impact Assessment Report
- Assessment Report of the Probable Impact on Travel Arrangements
- Quality and Standards of Education Assessment Report