

Options Appraisal Ysgol Baladeulyn

Key: **Blue - advantages** **Red – disadvantages** **Black – comments**

Ysgol Baladeulyn Options Appraisal				
Considerations	No change – continue with the current situation	Federate with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)	Federate with a nearby school adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)
Learner numbers and surplus places	<p>Number of learners remain low at Ysgol Baladeulyn (Numbers January 2026: 6 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 2 learners in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain high (49 surplus spaces (89%) Reception – Year 6; 54 surplus spaces (87%) Nursery – Year 6).</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>	<p>Number of learners remain low at Ysgol Baladeulyn (Numbers January 2026: 6 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 2 learners in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain high (49 surplus spaces (89%) Reception – Year 6; 54 surplus spaces (87%) Nursery – Year 6).</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p> <p>There is no clear evidence that forming a federation would lead to an increase in numbers.</p>	<p>There is no clear evidence that a federation would lead to an increase in school numbers. It is predicted that low numbers would continue at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>As the learners of the ALN unit would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of an ALN unit on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low. (Numbers January 2026: 6 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 2 learners in Nursery).</p> <p>As the building would need to be adapted to provide a location for the specialist unit, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer empty places</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>	<p>Ysgol Talysarn's numbers are stable with 84 Reception to Year 6 learners and 17 Nursery learners on the register (September 2025).</p> <p>A lower surplus places rate in the catchment area.</p>
Class size and age range	<p>There is 1 class at Ysgol Baladeulyn (January 2026) with 6 learners (Reception – Year 6) and 2 Nursery learners.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's class size is therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 8 years in the class.</p>	<p>There is 1 class at Ysgol Baladeulyn (January 2026) with 6 learners (Reception – Year 6) and 2 Nursery learners.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>There is no clear evidence that forming a federation would lead to an increase in numbers. Ysgol Baladeulyn's class size is therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 8 years in the class.</p>	<p>There is 1 class at Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) with 6 learners (Reception – Year 6) and 2 Nursery learners.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>There is no clear evidence that locating an ALN unit on the school site, or forming a federation, would lead to an increase in numbers.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's class size is therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 8 years in the class.</p>	<p>Learners to be taught in classes that are more suitable in size. Ysgol Talysarn learners are taught in classes of a more suitable size of between 16 and 30 learners in each class (September 2025).</p> <p>There are 4 classes with mixed ages at Ysgol Talysarn, as well as the Nursery class.</p>
Financial Resources	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 in 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant protection allocation will continue.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) -</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 in 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant protection allocation will continue.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating an ALN Unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>A significant capital cost is anticipated to adapt the building. An additional financial (revenue) source would be required to fund the ALN unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 for 2026-27 in 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p>	<p>Removing a school from the minimum staffing protection and no need for protection allocation in the alternative school</p> <p>Cost per learner will be closer to the county average.</p> <p>It is likely to lead to an increase in transport costs for the Authority.</p>

	significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.	An opportunity to make savings by sharing resources and employing staff across the federation when appointing in the future.	Ysgol Baladeulyn average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998. Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant conservation allocation will continue. It is not anticipated that locating an ALN unit on the school site or federation would respond to this financial challenge	
Leadership and Staffing	<p>Current jobs at Ysgol Baladeulyn to continue.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as learner numbers in September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher must teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>An opportunity to share good practices between the two schools and possibilities of making better use of resources.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as learner numbers in September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher must teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>An opportunity to share good practices between the two schools and possibilities of making better use of resources.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as learner numbers in September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher must teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>Additional responsibility for the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the site management of the unit.</p>	<p>The staffing structure of Ysgol Talysarn ensures teachers in all classes and allows more non-contact time for the Headteacher.</p> <p>It would lead to the dismissal of staff at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>
Geographical Factors	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance to the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance to the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance to the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p> <p>Transport would need to be organised for the learners attending the ALN unit.</p>	<p>Transport will need to be offered to learners in Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area.</p> <p>Some learners will travel further to school than they would at present.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area will need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p>
The Community	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>	<p>Possibility of community collaboration between the 2 schools.</p> <p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Possibility of community collaboration between the two schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>	<p>The village of Nantlle would lose a school.</p> <p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between the two neighbouring communities.</p>
The Welsh Language	No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.	No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.	No change – both schools are Welsh medium schools.	No change – Ysgol Talysarn is a Welsh medium school.
Additional comments offered by stakeholders during/ following SRP1 and SRP2	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. A wide age range is an opportunity to work with children of different ages. 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. A wide age range is an opportunity to work with children of different ages. 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners to be taught in larger class sizes. Losing the robust inclusive approach that Ysgol Baladeulyn offers to support health and well-being. Negative impact on the well-being of the current learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide age range is an opportunity to work with children of different ages. 	Contribute positively to the emotional and mental well-being of learners.		
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Considerations	Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn - Multi-site School	Adding a specialised area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site
Learner numbers and surplus places	<p>With only 6 learners in Reception – Year 6, and 2 learners in Nursery attending Ysgol Baladeulyn (January 2026), it is anticipated that merging with local schools would not lead to an increase in learner numbers in Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>As an increase in the number of learners is not predicted, it is anticipated that a large number of surplus places, thus enough places for 49 (89%) learners will continue.</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>	<p>As the learners of the ALN unit would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of a specialist unit on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low.</p> <p>(Numbers January 2026: 6 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 2 learners in Nursery).</p> <p>As the building would need to be adapted to provide a location for the specialist unit, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus places.</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>	<p>As the building would need to be adapted to provide a location for the language centre on the school's site, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus places.</p> <p>As the learners of the language centre would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of a language centre on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low.</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>
Class size and age range	<p>There is 1 class at Ysgol Baladeulyn (January 2026) with 6 learners (Reception to Year 6) and 2 Nursery learners.</p> <p>As it is not anticipated that this option would lead to an increase in numbers, it is anticipated that Ysgol Baladeulyn's class sizes would remain small, with a wide age range.</p>	<p>There is no clear evidence that locating an ALN unit on the school site, or forming a federation, would lead to an increase in numbers. It is therefore anticipated that the school's learner numbers would remain low.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's class size is therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 8 years in the class.</p>	<p>As the learners of the language centre would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of a language centre on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's class size is therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 8 years in the class.</p>
Financial Resources	<p>Merging schools will mean establishing one multi-site school, with one allocation for all the sites. It is anticipated that the Baladeulyn site would continue to receive an additional amount to the core allocation through the minimum staffing protection policy as the numbers of learners at the Baladeulyn site would continue to be low.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 for 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating an ALN Unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>A significant capital cost is anticipated to adapt the building.</p> <p>An additional financial source (revenue) would be needed to fund the ALN Unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 for 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant protection allocation will continue. It is not anticipated that locating an ALN unit on the school site or federation would respond to this financial challenge.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating a Language Unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>A significant capital cost is anticipated to adapt the building.</p> <p>An additional financial source (revenue) would be needed to fund the Language Unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 for 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant protection allocation will continue. It is not anticipated that locating a Language Unit on the school site would respond to this financial challenge.</p>
Leadership and Staffing	<p>There would be a rationalisation of leadership with this option, but as there would be no effect on the numbers of learners at the sites, the current staffing structure of Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with a head of site (rather than a headteacher) and an assistant.</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as learner numbers in September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as learner numbers in September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>

		<p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher must teach most of the time.</p> <p>Additional responsibility for the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the site management of the unit located on the site.</p>	<p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher must teach most of the time.</p> <p>Additional responsibility for the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the site management of the unit located on the site.</p>
Geographical Factors	<p>School within a reasonable distance of the homes of the learners in the catchment area.</p> <p>Depending on the structure of the new school there is a possibility that it will be necessary to arrange transport between school sites.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>School within a reasonable distance of the homes of the learners in the catchment area.</p> <p>Transport would need to be arranged for children to attend the ALN Unit.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>School within a reasonable distance of the homes of the learners in the catchment area.</p> <p>Transport would need to be arranged for children to attend the Language Unit.</p>
The Community	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>A wider community where the learners and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between neighbouring communities.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p>
The Welsh Language	No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.	No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.	No change – Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.
Additional comments offered by stakeholders during/ following SRP1 and SRP2	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. A wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages. An opportunity to stabilise learner numbers, increase funding, and reduce operating costs. Ysgol Baladeulyn continues to provide a high quality Welsh medium education for all students. Create a combined organisation that can operate more efficiently - combining the schools' resources, such as staff, facilities and teaching materials, maintaining the focus on the medium of Welsh. Allowing the consolidation of administrative functions, such as leadership roles, finance, HR and IT services, reducing overhead costs. The combined school would benefit from economies of scale. An opportunity to share resources such as staff, educational materials, sports facilities and extracurricular programmes. An opportunity for Ysgol Baladeulyn to expand its curriculum and extracurricular activities. An opportunity to develop specialist programs and support for students with additional learning needs, ensuring that all children are included in the educational experience. An opportunity to attract more budget from the Welsh Government and the Local Authority - it can lead to a more stable income and allow the school to plan better for future needs. An opportunity to help reduce duplication of services, e.g. it could lead to a single leadership team and reduce the number of non-teaching staff, leading to a reduction in the cost of the learner. Opportunity for shared services e.g. Transport and maintenance being more cost effective as a result of their centralisation. Opportunity to access additional funding from various educational and cultural grants, including those focused on safeguarding the Welsh language, additional learning needs, and rural education. Lead to a more efficient allocation of teaching staff, staff progression and opportunities for training in specialist areas such as ALN, developing the Welsh language, and technology. 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages. Contribute positively to the mental and emotional well-being of the learners. Match the growing recognition of the importance of inclusive education and support for children with diverse learning needs. Families will no longer need to travel long distances for specialist support, as they will have access to a local, Welsh language solution for their children's special educational needs. Allow children with ALN to receive individual education. Help to foster a sense of inclusion and ensure that children with ALN are integrated into the wider school community. Ensure that children with ALN have access to education in their first language, preserving their cultural heritage. 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good. Small classes mean more attention to individual learners. Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to offer a stronger and more varied education, with a wider range of extracurricular activities, support services and specialist programmes. • Help foster a greater sense of community. • Ability to better support children with ALN. 		
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Reasonable Alternative Options Suggested by Consultees

Considerations	Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN primary school in order to offer specialist provision to the local area
Learner numbers and surplus places	<p>There is currently no clear evidence that developing Ysgol Baladeulyn as a hybrid school offering specialist provision would lead to a sufficient and sustainable increase in registered learner numbers.</p> <p>January 2026: 6 learners in Reception – Year 6 and 2 Nursery learners.</p> <p>As the building would need to be adapted to provide a location for the specialist unit, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus places.</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>
Class size and age range	<p>There is no clear evidence that locating an ALN unit on the school site would lead to an increase in pupil numbers. It is therefore anticipated that the school's learner numbers would remain low.</p> <p>The class at Ysgol Baladeulyn is therefore likely to remain small, with an age range of up to 8 years within the same class.</p>
Financial Resources	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating an ALN Unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>A significant capital cost is anticipated in order to adapt the building.</p> <p>An additional (revenue) funding source would be required to finance the ALN Unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn will receive a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £74,446 for 2026-27 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner will remain high (£25,123 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5,998.</p> <p>Forecasts suggest that the need for substantial protection funding would continue. It is not anticipated that the alternative provision on the school site would address this financial challenge.</p>
Leadership and Staffing	<p>Current posts at Ysgol Baladeulyn would be retained.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 because the September 2024 numbers were below 15 full-time learners. This will also apply for 2026/27, as the projected learner numbers for September 2025 are also below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is intended to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and a teaching assistant.</p> <p>Forecasts suggest that this situation will continue.</p> <p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher is required to teach for the majority of their time.</p> <p>There would be an additional responsibility on the Headteacher, as they would also be responsible for managing the ALN provision on the site.</p>
Geographical Factors	<p>No change for the learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>A school within a reasonable distance of the learners' homes in the catchment area.</p> <p>There may be higher transport costs in order to arrange transport for ALN learners.</p>

The Community	Maintaining the school and its potential to serve as a community asset in Nantlle. The majority of learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools. Uncertainty remains regarding the sustainability of education provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.
The Welsh Language	No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.