

Options Appraisal - Ysgol Nebo

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

	No change – continue with the current situation	Federate with a nearby school	Federalise with a nearby school adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Nebo	Close Ysgol Nebo and offer the learners a place in a nearby school, Ysgol Llanllyfni.	Ysgol Nebo developing into a specialist location for some individual subjects (unique opportunities to carry out fieldwork)	Ysgol Nebo offering a specialist unit for supporting children with additional learning needs	Ysgol Nebo offering a Welsh Language Unit/Centre for the Dyffryn Nantlle catchment area	A multi-site school continuing with the site of Ysgol Nebo
Number of learners and surplus places	<p>Low numbers continue at Ysgol Nebo (Numbers September 2025: 11 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 1 learner in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain high (40 surplus spaces (78%) Reception – Year 6; 46 surplus spaces (79%) Nursery – Year 6)</p> <p>The school's projections suggest that numbers will remain low over the next few years.</p>	<p>Low numbers continue at Ysgol Nebo (Numbers September 2025: 11 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 1 learner in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain high (40 surplus spaces (78%) Reception – Year 6; 46 surplus spaces (79%) 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 Nebo.</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 September 2025: 11 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 1 learner 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 Llanllyfni's numbers are stable with 59 Reception to Year 6 learners and 12 Nursery learners on the register (September 2025).</p> <p>A lower surplus rate in the catchment area.</p>	<p>Low numbers continue at Ysgol Nebo (Numbers September 2025: 11 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 1 learner in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain high (40 surplus spaces (78%) Reception – Year 6; 46 surplus spaces (79%) Nursery – Year 6)</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 September 2025: 11 learners in Reception to Year 6 and 1 learner 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 Welsh Language Unit/Centre, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus places.</p> <p>As the learners of the Welsh Language Unit/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>	<p>With only 11 Reception to Year 6 learners, and 1 Nursery age learner attending Ysgol Nebo (September 2025), it is anticipated that the establishment of a multi-site school would not lead to an increase in numbers at Ysgol Nebo site.</p> <p>As no increase in numbers is anticipated, it is anticipated that the large number of surplus places, space for 46 learners (79%), would continue.</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 are 2 classes at Ysgol Nebo (September 2025) with 5 learners (Reception – Year 3) and 1 Nursery learner in one class. There are 6 learners (Year 4 to year 6) in the second class.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>Ysgol Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years</p>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Nebo (September 2025) with 5 learners (Reception – Year 3) and 1 Nursery learner in one class. There are 6 learners (Year 4 to year 6) in the second class.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>There is no clear evidence that forming a</p>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Nebo (September 2025) with 5 learners (Reception – Year 3) and 1 Nursery learner in one class. There are 6 learners (Year 4 to year 6) in the second class.</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>Learners to be taught in classes that are more suitable in size. Ysgol Llanllyfni learners are taught in classes of a more suitable size of between 18 and 22 learners (September 2025).</p> <p>There are 3 classes with mixed ages at Ysgol Llanllyfni, together with a Nursery class.</p>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Nebo (September 2025) with 5 learners (Reception – Year 3) and 1 Nursery learner in one class. There are 6 learners (Year 4 to year 6) in the second class.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>Ysgol Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years in one class</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 Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years in one class and 3 years in the second class.</p>	<p>As the learners of the Welsh Language Unit/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 Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years in one class</p>	<p>As it is not anticipated that this option would lead to an increase in numbers, it is anticipated that class sizes on the Ysgol Nebo site would remain small, with a wide age range.</p>

	in one class and 3 years in the second class.	federation would lead to an increase in numbers. Ysgol Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years in one class and 3 years in the second class.	Ysgol Nebo's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small. There is an age range of up to 5 years in one class and 3 years in the second class.		and 3 years in the second class.		and 3 years in the second class.	
Financial Resources	<p>Ysgol Nebo has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 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>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p>	<p>Ysgol Nebo has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 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>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p> <p>An opportunity to make savings by sharing resources and employing staff across the federation when appointing in the future.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating an ALN Unit at Ysgol Nebo.</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>Nebo School has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Removing a school from the minimum staffing protection safety net and eliminating the 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>	<p>Nebo School has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 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>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating an ALN Unit at Ysgol Nebo.</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 Nebo has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>There would be transport costs associated with locating a Welsh Language Unit at Ysgol Nebo.</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 Welsh Language Unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Nebo has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £70,694 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>The average cost per learner remains high (£25,876 per learner) - significantly higher than the county average of £5.78.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant conservation allocation will continue. It is not anticipated that locating a Welsh Language Unit on the school site or federation would respond to this financial challenge.</p>	<p>Merging schools will mean establishing one multi-site school, with one allocation for all the sites. It is anticipated that the Nebo site would continue to receive an additional amount to the core allocation through the minimum staffing protection policy as the numbers of learners at Ysgol Nebo would continue to be low.</p>
Leadership and Staffing	<p>Current jobs at Ysgol Nebo to continue.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were 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 has to</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. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</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. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p>	<p>The staffing structure of Ysgol Llanllyfni ensures teachers in all classes and allows more non-contact time for the Headteacher compared to Ysgol Nebo.</p> <p>It would lead to the dismissal of staff at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>Ysgol Nebo current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were 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</p>	<p>Ysgol Nebo current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were 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</p>	<p>Ysgol Nebo current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as the numbers in September 2024 were 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</p>	<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 Nebo would continue, with a site head (rather than a head) and an assistant.</p>

	<p>teach the majority of the time. Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>Due to the school's staffing structure, the Headteacher has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>Additional responsibility on the headteacher, as he would be responsible for the management of the unit's site.</p>		<p>has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>Additional responsibility for the headteacher, as the language unit would be on the site.</p>	<p>has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>Additional responsibility for the headteacher, as the language unit would be on the site.</p>	
Geographical Factors	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Nebo</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p> <p>Transport would be offered to the learners attending the ALN unit.</p>	<p>Transport will need to be offered to learners in Ysgol Nebo's catchment area</p> <p>Some learners will travel further to school than they would at present.</p> <p>No learner in the Nebo catchment area will need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Nebo</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p> <p>Transport would be offered to the learners attending the ALN unit.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Nebo</p> <p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area</p> <p>Transport would be offered to the learners attending the Welsh Language Unit.</p>	<p>The school is within a reasonable distance of the homes of 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 organise transport between schools.</p>
The Community	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</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 Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Possibility of community collaboration between the 2 schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>The village of Nebo losing a school.</p> <p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between 2 neighbouring communities.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Nebo's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Nebo.</p>	<p>Retain the school site and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nebo.</p> <p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between neighbouring communities.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at the Ysgol Nebo site.</p>
The Welsh Language	<p>No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>No change – both schools are Welsh medium schools.</p>	<p>No change – Ysgol Llanllyfni is a Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>No change - Learners continue to receive Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>No change - It is anticipated that Welsh-medium education would be offered as is the current situation.</p>
Additional comments offered during/following SRP1 and SRP2	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to learner ratio working well at Ysgol Nebo A robust inclusive approach at Ysgol Nebo The health and well-being of Ysgol Nebo learners is central to everything Small classes are an opportunity/strength 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to learner ratio working well at Ysgol Nebo A robust inclusive approach at Ysgol Nebo The health and well-being of Ysgol Nebo learners is central to everything 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to learner ratio working well at Ysgol Nebo A robust inclusive approach at Ysgol Nebo The health and well-being of Ysgol Nebo learners is central to everything Additional grants to address improvements for learners with ALN 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners to be taught in larger class sizes Losing the robust inclusive approach that Ysgol Nebo offers to support health and well-being Negative impact on the well-being of the current learners at Ysgol Nebo 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to learner ratio working well at Ysgol Nebo A robust inclusive approach at Ysgol Nebo The health and well-being of Ysgol Nebo learners is central to everything Small classes are an opportunity/strength A unique model which is an opportunity to learn in an outdoor environment 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to learner ratio working well at Ysgol Nebo A robust inclusive approach at Ysgol Nebo The health and well-being of Ysgol Nebo learners is central to everything Small classes are an opportunity/strength Contribute positively to the mental and emotional well-being of the learners 	<p>Strengths/Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small class sizes Community activities between the school and the community. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wide age range is an opportunity to work with their peers (helping each other)• Community activities between the school and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community activities between the school and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community activities between the school and the community.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribute positively to the mental and emotional well-being of the learners.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential to improve health and well-being• Support the new Curriculum for Wales• Other schools throughout Gwynedd taking advantage of the offer• Potential to develop a facility that is open to the public outside of school hours - would generate income - link with regeneration plans for the local area• Many benefits to outdoor learning including (i) supporting holistic and academic development (ii) increasing levels of physical activity (iii) raising mental wellbeing (promoting inclusion, equality, and better learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community activities between the school and the community• Up-skilling of Ysgol Nebo's current staff• Raise pupil health and well-being• Increase educational opportunities for young people fully engage in school• Smaller class sizes facilitate personalised educational attention and progress• Relieve pressure on other schools that are struggling to meet the needs of learners across the county• Relatively lower cost compared to supporting young people in specialist provision• School and community resources remains open• School within reasonable distance of homes of learners in the catchment area of Dyffryn Nantlle. Also quite central to other local catchment areas• Learners receiving Category 3 Welsh-medium education in a small school which leads to confident language acquisition.• Reduced incidents of negative behaviours such as bullying, owing to strong family ethos, and presence of teaching staff in social times such as lunchtimes and playtimes• Ties in with strategic planning at council level to meet the needs of learners in the mainstream, as noted in the Education and Economy Scrutiny meeting on 10th April 2025• Overall financial savings compared to 1:1 support in specialist provision• Effective provision to meet pupils' needs at an early stage reduces future costs and dependency on other services which are ultimately more expensive• Mixed age classes support better social and emotional development		
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No significant expenditure on staff training• Exciting opportunity for Cyngor Gwynedd to lead on an innovative wellbeing project which can be rolled out to other areas as example of exemplary practice.• Potential to link with research department at Bangor University to recruit a PhD student to undertake a piece of research to highlight the success of the project e.g. Cheme Project measuring social return on investment• Potential to roll out as a solution which rejuvenates not just Ysgol Nebo but other small schools across the county but also Wales as a whole• Collaborate working with support agencies such as CAMHS and school counsellors to provide therapies – to support young people and parents• Effective provision that meets pupil needs reduces the number of families choosing to de-register their children, and has the potential to reduce the trend of increasing numbers on the Elective Home Education register• Increase use of a building <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport arrangements		
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