

## Options Appraisal – Ysgol Baladeulyn

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

	No change – continue with the current situation	Federate with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)	Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school, Ysgol Talysarn.	Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn	Add a specialist area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	Federate with another school adding a specialist area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	Including a Language Unit/Centre on the site of Ysgol Baladeulyn
<b>Number of learners and surplus places</b>	<p>Low numbers continue at Ysgol Baladeulyn (Numbers September 2025: 6 Reception learners to Year 6 and 2 Nursery learners).</p> <p>The number of surplus places remains high (49 empty places (89%) Admission to Year 6; 54 empty places (87%) 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 Baladeulyn (Numbers September 2025: 6 Reception learners to Year 6 and 2 Nursery learners).</p> <p>The number of surplus places remains high (49 empty places (89%) Admission to Year 6; 54 empty places (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 federalisation would lead to an increase in numbers.</p>	<p>Ysgol Talysarn's numbers are stable with 84 Reception to Year 6 learners and 17 Nursery learners on the roll (September 2025).</p> <p>A lower surplus rate in the catchment area</p>	<p>With only 6 Reception to Year 6 learners, and 2 Nursery learners attending Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025), it is anticipated that merging with local schools would not lead to an increase in numbers on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site.</p> <p>The number of surplus places remains high (49 empty places (89%) Admission to 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>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 area on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low.</p> <p>(Numbers September 2025: 6 Reception to Year 6 learners and 2 Nursery learners).</p> <p>As the building would need to be modified to provide a location for a specialist unit, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus spaces.</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 a specialist area on a school site would affect the numbers. As a result, it is predicted that numbers would remain low.</p> <p>(Numbers September 2025: 6 Reception to Year 6 learners and 2 Nursery learners).</p> <p>As the building would need to be modified to provide a location for a specialist unit, the school's capacity would likely be reduced and therefore there would be fewer surplus spaces.</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 modified in order to offer a suitable location for the Language Center on the school site, the school's capacity would likely decrease and therefore there would be fewer empty places.</p> <p>As the learners of the language center would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of a language center 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>

<b>Class size and age range</b>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) with 3 learners (Admission to Year 2) and 2 morning learners only (Nursery) in one class. There are 3 learners (Year 3 to Year 6) in the second class.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's classes are therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 4 years in each class.</p>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) with 3 learners (Admission to Year 2) and 2 morning learners only (Nursery) in one class. There are 3 learners (Year 3 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 federalisation would lead to an increase in numbers. Ysgol Baladeulyn's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 4 years in each class.</p>	<p>Learners to be taught in more suitable class sizes. Ysgol Talysarn learners are taught in classes of a more suitable size of between 25 and 36 (September 2025).</p> <p>There are 3 classes with mixed ages at Ysgol Talysarn.</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 Baladeulyn site would remain small, with a wide age range.</p>	<p>There is no clear evidence that locating an ALN unit on the school site 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 sizes are therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 4 years in each class.</p>	<p>There are 2 classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) with 3 learners (Admission to Year 2) and 2 morning learners only (Nursery) in one class. There are 3 learners (Year 3 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 federalisation, would lead to an increase in numbers.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's class sizes are therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 4 years in each class</p>	<p>As the learners of the language center would continue to register as learners in their original school, it is not anticipated that the inclusion of a language unit 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 sizes are therefore likely to remain small with an age range of up to 4 years in each class.</p>
<b>Financial Resources</b>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn has received a minimum staffing protection allocation of £56,781 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>Ysgol Baladeulyn's learner average remains high (£14,953 per learner) significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn has received a minimum staffing protection allocation of £56,781 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>Ysgol Baladeulyn's learner average remains high (£14,953 per learner) significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.</p>	<p>Removing a school from the minimum staffing protection net 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>	<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 Ysgol Baladeulyn learners would continue to be low.</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 has received a minimum staffing protection allocation of £56,781 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that the need for a significant</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 has received a minimum staffing protection allocation of £56,781 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's learner average remains high (£14,953</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 finance the Language Unit.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn has received a minimum staffing protection allocation of £56,781 in 2025-26 from the Authority to ensure appropriate staffing levels.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's learner average remains high (£14,953</p>

		An opportunity to make savings by sharing resources and employing staff across the federation when appointing in the future.			conservation allocation will continue. It is not anticipated that locating an ALN unit on the school site would respond to this financial challenge.	per learner) significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.  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 federalization would respond to this financial challenge.	per learner) significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.  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.
<b>Leadership and Staffing</b>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a smaller allocation for 2025/26 as September 2024 numbers are 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 teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Forecast 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 September 2024 numbers are 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 teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Forecast numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>Ysgol Talysarn's staffing structure ensures teachers in all classes and allows non-contact time for the Headteacher.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn staff will need to be made redundant.</p>	<p>There would be a rationalisation of leadership in this option, but as there will be no effect on the numbers of learners at the sites, the current staffing structure of Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with a site headteacher 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 September 2024 numbers are 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 has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Additional responsibility on the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the management of the unit's site.</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 September 2024 numbers are below 15 full-time learners. The allocation is to ensure the ability to employ a headteacher and an assistant.</p> <p>The Headteacher has to teach most of the time.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>Additional responsibility on the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the management of the unit's site.</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn's current positions continue.</p> <p>The school has received a reduced allocation for 2025/26 as September 2024 numbers are 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 has to teach the majority of the time.</p> <p>Additional responsibility on the headteacher, as they would be responsible for the management of the unit's site.</p>
<b>Geographical Factors</b>	<p>No change.</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>Dim newid.</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>It will be necessary to offer transport to Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area learners.</p> <p>Some learners will travel further to the school than they are present.</p>	<p>The school 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</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>No change for the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>

			Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area learner won't need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.	possibility that it will be necessary to organise transport between schools.	It will be necessary to arrange transportation for the learners of the ALN Unit.	It will be necessary to arrange transportation for the learners of the ALN Unit.	It will be necessary to arrange transportation for the learners of the Language Unit.
<b>The Community</b>	<p>Keeping a school and its potential to be a community resource in Nantlle.</p> <p>A majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>	<p>Possibility of community collaboration between the 2 schools.</p> <p>Keeping the school as a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>A majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>There is no community use of the school outside of school hours.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>	<p>The village of Nantlle losing a school.</p> <p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between 2 neighboring communities.</p>	<p>Retain a school site and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between the Dyffryn Nantlle community.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>	<p>Retain a school site and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>A majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>	<p>Retain a school site and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle.</p> <p>A majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn'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 Baladeulyn.</p>	<p>Retain a school site and its potential to be a community resource in the village of Nantlle</p> <p>A majority of learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area already attend out-of-catchment schools.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>
<b>The Welsh Language</b>	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	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 - Baladeulyn School learners continue to receive Welsh-medium education
<b>Additional comments offered during/following SRP1 and SRP2</b>	<b>Strengths / Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good.</li> <li>Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.</li> <li>Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths / Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good.</li> <li>Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.</li> <li>Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.</li> <li>Contribute positively to the learner's mental</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners to taught in larger sized classes</li> <li>Losing the robust inclusive approach that is currently offered to support health and well-being.</li> <li>Possible negative impact on the wellbeing of current learners.</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths / Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Baladeulyn School learners continues to be good.</li> <li>Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.</li> <li>A wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.</li> <li>An opportunity to stabilise learner numbers, increase</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths / Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good</li> <li>Small classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn mean more attention to individual learners</li> <li>Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages</li> <li>Contribute positively to the mental and</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths/ Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Baladeulyn School learners continues to be good.</li> <li>Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.</li> <li>Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.</li> <li>Contribute positively to the learner's mental and emotional well-being.</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths / Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health and well-being of Baladeulyn School learners continues to be good.</li> <li>Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.</li> <li>Wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.</li> </ul>

	work with children of different ages.	and emotional well-being.		<p>funding, and reduce operating costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Baladeulyn continues to provide a high quality Welsh medium education for all students.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Allowing the consolidation of administrative functions, such as leadership roles, finance, HR and IT services, reducing overhead costs.</li> <li>• The combined school would benefit from economies of scale.</li> <li>• An opportunity to share resources such as staff, educational materials, sports facilities and extracurricular programmes.</li> <li>• An opportunity for Ysgol Baladeulyn to expand its curriculum and extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• An opportunity to develop specialist programs and support for students with additional learning needs, ensuring that all children are included in the educational experience.</li> </ul>	<p>emotional well-being of the learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match the growing recognition of the importance of inclusive education and support for children with diverse learning needs</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Allow children with ALN to receive individual education</li> <li>• Help to foster a sense of inclusion, and ensure that children with ALN are integrated into the wider school community</li> <li>• Ensure that children with ALN have access to education in their first language, preserving their cultural heritage.</li> </ul>		
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Opportunity for shared services e.g. Transport and maintenance being more cost effective as a result of their centralisation.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• An opportunity to offer a stronger and</li> </ul>			
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				<div>more varied education, with a wider range of extracurricular activities, support services and specialist programmes.</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help foster a greater sense of community.</li><li>• Ability to better support children with ALN.</li></ul>			
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