

Background Package

Ysgol Baladeulyn

Content	
1	Local Meeting 1 – 17 March 2025
	Presentation
	Meeting Minutes
2	Local Meeting 2 – 19 May 2025
	Presentation
	Meeting Minutes
3	Local Meeting 3 – 7 July 2025
	Presentation
	Meeting Minutes
4	Summary of the input following Local Meetings

PANEL ADOLYGU YSGOL BALADEULYN

YSGOL BALADEULYN REVIEW PANEL

17 Mawrth 2025

17 March 2025



Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

1

AGENDA

1. Croeso

2. Sefyllfa Bresennol

3. Ystyriaethau

4. Opsiynau Posib

5. Camau Nesaf

6. Cloi

1. Welcome

2. Current Situation

3. Considerations

4. Possible Options

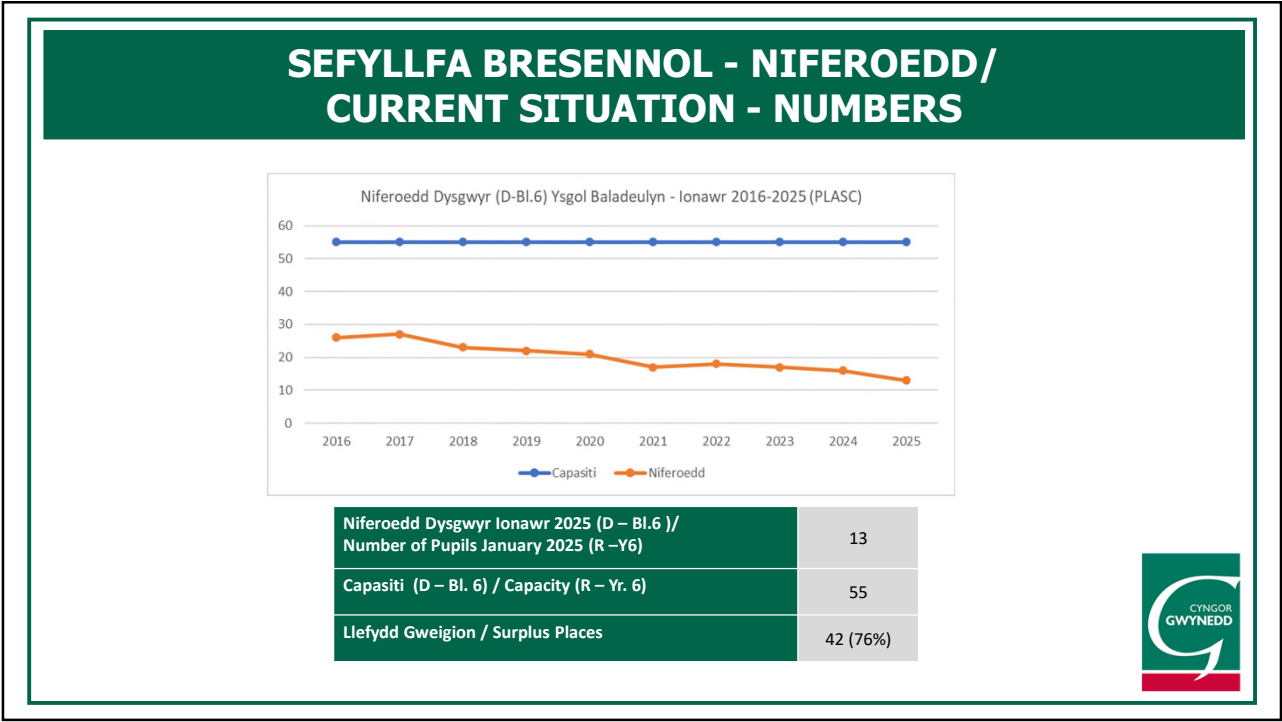
5. Next Steps

6. Close



Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

2



SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL – RHAGAMCANION/ CURRENT SITUATION – PROJECTIONS

	Blwyddyn								Cyfanswm	
	M	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Meithrin	Derbyn-BI.6
Ionawr 2025	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	4	0	13
Rhagamcanion Medi 2025	2	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	2	9
Rhagamcanion Medi 2026	1	2	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	10
Rhagamcanion Medi 2027	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	8



5

SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL – DYSGWYR Y DALGYLCH CURRENT SITUATION – CATCHMENT PUPILS

		Byw yn Dalgylch (Medi 2024)							Arall	Cyfanswm Ysgol (M-BI.6)
		Bro Lleu 2089	Brynaerau 2017	Llanllyfni 2070	Nebo 2081	Talysarn 2108	Baladeulyn 2078	Bro Llifon 2229		
Mynychu Ysgol (Medi 2024)	Bro Lleu						1			
	Brynaerau						0			
	Llanllyfni						0			
	Nebo						0			
	Talysarn						7			
	Baladeulyn	2	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	13
	Bro Llifon						1			
Cyfanswm							14			

Meddalwedd GIS y Cyngor (System Gwybodaeth Ddaearyddol), yn nodi mai dim ond 14 dysgwr oed cynradd sydd yn byw yn nalgylch Ysgol Baladeulyn. Er hyn, dim ond 4 sydd yn dewis mynychu'r ysgol, gyda 9 o'r dysgwyr yn mynychu ysgolion cynradd eraill yn nalgylch Dyffryn Nantlle, ac 1 yn teithio'n all-dalgylch.

The Council's GIS software (Geographical Information System) shows that only 14 primary age learners live in the catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn. Despite this, only 4 choose to attend the school, with 9 of the learners attending other primary schools in the Dyffryn Nantlle catchment area, and 1 travelling outside the catchment area.



6

SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL – CYLLIDEB YR YSGOL (2024/25)/ CURRENT SITUATION – SCHOOL BUDGET (2024/25)

	Ysgol Baladeulyn	Cyfartaledd Sirol County Average
Dyraniad Craidd 2024-2025 Allocation 2024-2025	£175,744	-
Gwarchodaeth Lleiafswm Staffio* Minimum Staffing Protection*	£77,659	-
Cyfanswm Dyraniad Total Allocation	£237,914	-
Cyfartaledd y Disgybl Average per Pupil	£14,982	£5,223

**Mae'r polisi gwarchodaeth yn sicrhau o leiaf pennaeth ac athro/athrawes ym mhob ysgol gyda mwy na 15 disgybl, a pennaeth a chymhorthydd dosbarth mewn ysgolion gyda llai na 15 disgybl.

**The minimum staffing protection policy ensures a minimum of headteacher and teacher at every school which has more than 15 pupils, and a headteacher and a classroom assistant in a school with fewer than 15 pupils.



7

SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL – STRWYTHUR STAFFIO CURRENT SITUATION – STAFF STRUCTURE

Mae strwythur staffio presennol Ysgol Baladeulyn yn cynnwys pennaeth llawn amser, 2 athro rhan amser (3 diwrnod yr un) a chyfwerth â 55 awr o gymorthyddion dysgu.

Trwy Polisi Gwarchodaeth Cyngor Gwynedd, gwarantir isafswm lefel staffio o bennaeth a chymhorthydd mewn ysgolion sydd â llai na 15 o ddysgwyr llawn amser. Gan fod llai na 15 o ddysgwyr llawn amser ar y gofrestr ym Medi 2024, bydd hyn yn cael effaith sylweddol ar gyllideb yr ysgol o Ebrill 2025 ymlaen. Fel mae'r sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd, mae'n bosib bydd yr ysgol angen lleihau lefelau staffio'r ysgol erbyn Medi 2025 gyda gwarchodaeth lleiafswm staff yn caniatáu cyllid ar gyfer pennaeth a chymhorthydd dysgu yn unig o Ebrill 2025.

The current staffing structure of Ysgol Baladeulyn includes a full-time headteacher, 2 part-time teachers (3 days each) and the equivalent of 55 hours of teaching assistants.

Through the Cyngor Gwynedd Protection Policy, a minimum staffing level of a headteacher and assistant is available in schools with less than 15 full-time learners. As there was less than 15 full-time learners on the register in September 2024, this will have a significant impact on the school's budget from April 2025 onwards. As things stand, the school may need to reduce the school's staffing levels by September 2025 with the minimum teaching staff protection allowing financing for only a headteacher and a teaching assistant from April 2025.

8

CRYNHOI PRIF HERIAU'R SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL / SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

1	Nifer disgyblion yr ysgol yr ail-isaf yn y sir <i>The number of pupils at the school is the second lowest in the county</i>
2	Rhagamcanion yn parhau yn isel <i>Projections remain low</i>
3	Nifer uchel o lefydd gweigion <i>High number of surplus places</i>
4	Maint dosbarthiadau bychain iawn <i>Very small class sizes</i>
5	Amrediad ystod oed eang o fewn dosbarthiadau <i>Broad age range within classes</i>
6	Cost y disgybl ymysg yr uchaf yn y sir a sylweddol uwch na'r cyfartaledd sirol <i>Cost per pupil amongst the highest in the county and significantly higher than the county average</i>
7	Ysgol yn derbyn swm ychwanegol o £77,659 (Medi 2024) trwy'r gwarchodaeth staffio <i>School receives an additional £77,659 (September 2024) through the minimum staffing protection</i>



9

YSTYRIAETHAU CONSIDERATIONS

Wrth lunio a chymharu opsiynau, byddwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth i sawl ffactor, gan gynnwys:
In formulating and comparing options, we will consider several factors, including:

1	Maint dosbarthiadau / <i>Class sizes</i>
2	Niferoedd disgyblion / <i>Pupil numbers</i>
3	Arweinyddiaeth a Staffio / <i>Leadership and Staffing</i>
4	Y Gymuned / <i>The Community</i>
5	Adnoddau ariannol / <i>Financial resources</i>
6	Yr iaith Gymraeg / <i>The Welsh language</i>
7	Ansawdd addysg / <i>Quality of education</i>
8	Cyflwr ac addasrwydd adeiladau / <i>Condition and suitability of the building</i>
9	Daearyddol a teithio / <i>Geographical and travel</i>



10

OPSIYNAU POSIB / POSSIBLE OPTIONS

1	Status Quo – Parhau efo'r sefyllfa bresennol. <i>Status Quo – Continue with the current situation.</i>
2	Ffedereiddio Ysgol Baladeulyn gydag ysgol cyfagos. <i>Federating Ysgol Baladeulyn with a neighboring school.</i>
3	Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn o a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn yr ysgol agosaf. <i>Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils at the nearest school.</i>



11

CAMAU NESAF/ NEXT STEPS

Camau Nesaf / <i>Next Steps</i>	Dyddiad / <i>Date</i>
Dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn unrhyw opsiynau / sylwadau pellach <i>Closing date for receiving any further options / comments</i>	28/3/2025
Cyfarfod Panel Adolygu 2 <i>Review Panel Meeting 2</i>	7/4/2025



12

Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel

Addysg

Meeting:	Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 1	Date/Time/Location: Monday, 17 March 2025 at 18:00 in Ysgol Baladeulyn
Present:	Parents, Governors and Staff of Ysgol Baladeulyn (recorded on the register); Dafydd Pritchard, Headteacher of Ysgol Baladeulyn (DP); Gwern ap Rhisiart, Head of Education Department (GapRh); Dewi Jones, Cabinet Member for Education (DJ); Gareth Richard Jones, Modernising Education Officer (GRJ); Enid Warren (EW) (taking minutes)	

Full Minutes		
1	Welcome and apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP welcomed everyone to the Schools Review Panel and thanked the staff, governors and parents for their support. It was stated that Council officers were present to discuss the school's current situation. Cllr Dewi Jones, the Cabinet Member for Education, gave a welcome and thanked the attendees for coming. He emphasised that the purpose of the meeting was to review the school's situation and that he was there to listen to the discussion. GapRh explained that a report had been submitted to the Cabinet seeking the approval to commence discussions with the school about its current challenges. He explained that this meeting was an initial conversation, giving stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions. He stated that it would be totally open and transparent, and he committed to giving the fullest possible responses to questions under the circumstances. <p>He went through the presentation and outlined some obvious challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2016, the number of learners has fallen significantly. At present, 42 out of 55 places are empty (76%). Surplus places in schools are contentious; the Government requests that any school with 10% surplus places is reviewed, but in Gwynedd, the matter is not paid too much attention because many schools exceed the threshold of 10%. By September 2027, it is anticipated that the number of learners will drop to 8. The school has more learners among the senior year classes, with fewer young children registering. This reflects a trend of declining learner numbers. There are 14 children of primary school age living in the Baladeulyn catchment area. At present, 13 learners attend Ysgol Baladeulyn, but only four live within the designated catchment area. The remaining learners come from other catchment areas. Parents have been given the option of sending their children to schools outside their catchment area since the introduction of new rules in 1996. This has led to variable registration patterns. The school's classes contain a wide age-range, posing challenges for effective teaching and learning. Ideally, learners should be grouped according to age and academic level. The school receives a financial allocation from the Council, including minimum protection to secure staffing levels. Ysgol Baladeulyn has benefited from this protection scheme for some time. The school currently employs one full-time headteacher and two part-time teachers. Under the policy for schools with fewer than 15 learners, the governors and headteacher will need to review the staffing structure for September 2025. In appraising and comparing potential options for the school, all relevant factors contained in the presentation have to be addressed. The Council will assess several factors that could impact on these options. The presentation has already identified several potential options: maintain the status quo, establish a federation with another school (a key consideration as this

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

www.gwynedd.gov.uk



is a rural school) or close the school and offer the learners places at another nearby school.

- These options will form the basis of reports to be submitted to the Cabinet which then takes the final decision.
- It was stated that if anyone had any other options to put forward, they should do so by 24 March 2025.

End of the presentation

- Some attendees felt that the timetable was too tight to submit options. This was acknowledged and GapRh extended the submission date to 31 March 2025.
- One attendee raised concerns about depending on FOI requests before submitting options. GapRh agreed to look at the requests straight away, but explained that any concerns would be reflected in the impact assessments, which would be appended to the Cabinet Report following a full consultation.
- It was also noted that the Local Member's comments had not been included in the Cabinet minutes. GapRh confirmed that the comments had been minuted at the end of the Report within the Cabinet agenda.
- Concern was expressed about the location of the school, as it was situated on the boundary of the National Park, and a desire expressed for the Council to look at other primary schools within the National Park boundary and the impact of the location on them.
- Another attendee expressed the importance of the school's location, emphasising the beautiful views that surround it.
- DP noted that the school's data and figures were clear, and that the focus should now be on offering viable solutions.
- GapRh stated that he recognised the strong feelings surrounding the matter, but emphasised the need to follow the correct process.
- Council Officers would evaluate all options before the second meeting. Should the Cabinet approve a full consultation on the options, there would be opportunities for attendees to share their views and concerns.
- It was asked what the timetable would be if the school closed? The full process could take up to 18 months, but no assumptions should be made at this time.
- One of the attendees drew attention to the homely atmosphere at the school, its strong links with the local community, and its advantage in providing a higher staff-to-learner ratio. GapRh acknowledged this but emphasised the need to ensure fairness and equal opportunities across the county.
- An attendee expressed concerns at the lack of affordable housing in the village, with many properties being holiday homes or being left empty. Some believed that if social housing needs were met, school numbers would increase. GapRh noted that despite the Education Department not being in charge of the housing policy, the decline in school numbers was related to the lack of numbers of children. He mentioned that the birth rate in Gwynedd was at its lowest ever, affecting a number of rural and also urban areas, e.g. Bangor.
- It was asked, if Ysgol Baladeulyn were to close, would the Council pay to transport a child to an alternative school? GapRh explained that the catchment area would merge with the catchment area of a nearby school. The Council's transport policy would ensure that eligible children would receive transport to their new school.
- It was asked whether a chaperone would be provided for children who used school transport. GapRh explained that a chaperone would be provided for ALN pupils only.
- It was asked how the Education Department would ensure that children's views were included in the decision-making process. GapRh explained that the School Organisation Code made it a requirement to consult children, and the Council would endeavour to do this in the most sensitive way possible.
- DJ joined in the discussion, acknowledging attendees' concerns. He confirmed

that he would pass on their questions to the Council's Housing Service.

- He highlighted recent positive developments by the Council, including the purchase of houses for accommodation, the construction of social housing and the implementation of the Article 4 planning tool (Gwynedd is the only Local Authority in Wales to have introduced this). DJ referred to what was already a positive example, illustrated by six terraced houses in Twtil, Caernarfon (which had been holiday homes in the past) being sold locally since the introduction of the planning rule. He also stated that Cynfor Gwynedd's social housing policy was strict in terms of requiring local connections.
- He asked whether funding would be allocated for the school's ALN learners? GapRh explained that the funding system was moving away from hours per learner. Instead, the new method calculates the ALN budget based on a formula. £9 million had been set aside for the ALN Service this year, together with an additional ALN grant investment of £800,000.
- An attendee emphasised the school's all-important role in promoting the Welsh language. It was asked whether an assessment would be conducted on the impact of the changes on the language and community? GapRh confirmed that a language and community assessment would be undertaken.
- It was asked whether parents who currently sent their children to Ysgol Talysarn could instead opt to register at Ysgol Baladeulyn? It was confirmed that applications would not be refused.
- It was asked what the advantages and disadvantages of federating with another school were? GapRh explained that federating allowed schools to operate under one leadership, strengthening the collaboration. However, the financial challenges for small schools would continue. The federating option would be evaluated carefully alongside other options.
- It was asked whether individual impact assessments would be carried out for each learner. GapRh explained that parents would have the opportunity to submit relevant details about their child's particular situation during the consultation process.
- GapRh raised a point concerning the importance of considering the condition of the school building, noting that the schools' after-use policy included an option to offer the old school building to the community.
- In bringing the discussion to a conclusion, DJ noted that this was not a pleasant experience for anybody. He stated that he agreed with many of the concerns of tonight's attendees. There may not be agreement every single time, but he stressed the importance of working together through the challenges. GapRh reiterated what DJ said and expressed thanks for the questions.
- DP thanked Council officers and DJ. He noted that tonight's discussion reflected the strong feelings that existed among the school's stakeholders and appreciated that there was not an answer to every question. He reminded the attendees that this was an opportunity to propose alternative options, and they were encouraged to submit their ideas to him to be passed on to the Council.

PANEL ADOLYGU YSGOL GYNRADD BALADEULYN

YSGOL GYNRADD BALADEULYN REVIEW MEETING

19 Mai 2025
19 May 2025



1

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Croeso | 1. <i>Welcome</i> |
| 2. Crynhoi Prif Heriau | 2. <i>Summary of Main Challenges</i> |
| 3. Ystyriaethau | 3. <i>Considerations</i> |
| 4. Opsiynau Posib | 4. <i>Possible Options</i> |
| 5. Dadansoddiad SWOT | 5. <i>SWOT Analysis</i> |
| 6. Camau Nesaf | 6. <i>Next Steps</i> |



2

CRYNHOI PRIF HERIAU'R SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL / SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

1	Nifer disgyblion yr ysgol yn ail isaf yn y sir <i>The number of pupils at the school is the second lowest in the county</i>
2	Rhagamcanion yn parhau yn isel <i>Projections remain low</i>
3	Nifer uchel o lefydd gweigion <i>High number of surplus places</i>
4	Maint dosbarthiadau bychain <i>Small class sizes</i>
5	Amrediad ystod oedran eang o fewn dosbarthiadau <i>Broad age range within classes</i>
6	Cost y disgybl ymysg yr uchaf yn y sir a sylweddol uwch na'r cyfartaledd sirol <i>Cost per pupil amongst the highest in the county and significantly higher than the county average</i>
7	Ysgol yn derbyn swm ychwanegol o £77,659 (Medi 2024) trwy'r gwarchodaeth staffio <i>School receives an additional £77,659 (September 2024) through the minimum staffing protection</i>



3

YSTYRIAETHAU / CONSIDERATIONS

Wrth lunio a chymharu opsiynau, byddwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth i sawl ffactor, gan gynnwys:
In formulating and comparing options, we will consider several factors, including:

1	Maint dosbarthiadau / <i>Class sizes</i>
2	Niferoedd disgyblion / <i>Pupil numbers</i>
3	Arweinyddiaeth a Staffio / <i>Leadership and Staffing</i>
4	Y Gymuned / <i>The Community</i>
5	Adnoddau ariannol / <i>Financial resources</i>
6	Yr iaith Gymraeg / <i>The Welsh language</i>
7	Ansawdd addysg / <i>Quality of education</i>
8	Cyflwr ac addasrwydd adeiladau / <i>Condition and suitability of the building</i>
9	Daearyddol a teithio / <i>Geographical and travel</i>



4

RHESTR HIR OPSIYNAU / LONG LIST OF OPTIONS

1	Dim newid - parhau gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol / No change - <i>continue with the current situation</i>
2	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos / <i>Federation with nearby school</i>
3	Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn a chynnig lle i'r dysgwyr mewn ysgol cyfagos / <i>Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils a place at a neighbouring school</i>
4	Ysgol Baladeulyn yn mynd yn ysgol Gristnogol / <i>Ysgol Baladeulyn becomes a Christian school</i>
5	Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn / <i>Merger of local schools in order to maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>
6	Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / <i>Addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>
7	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol arall gan ychwanegu ardal arbennigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / <i>Federation with another school and addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>



5

DIYSTYRU OPSIWN / DISCOUNTED OPTION

Mae'r opsiwn canlynol wedi cael eu diystyru gan nad ydi o yn cyd fynd gyda chanllawiau Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion / The following option has been discounted as it doesn't adhere to the School Organisation Code

4	Ysgol Baladeulyn yn mynd yn ysgol Gristnogol / Ysgol Baladeulyn becomes a Christian school	<p>Mae Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (011/2018) yn nodi:</p> <p>Caiff cyrff llywodraethu ysgolion a gynhelir wneud cynigion i newid categori eu hysgol. Fodd bynnag, dylid nodi na cheir gwneud unrhyw newid i ysgol a gynhelir sy'n newid ei chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig neu sy'n peri bod iddi wedyn gymeriad crefyddol dynodedig nad oedd iddi cynt, neu ei bod yn colli ei chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig. Ni chaniateir cymeriad crefyddol i ysgolion cymunedol. Nid yw hi'n bosibl i ysgolion gwirfoddol a gynorthwyr, ysgolion gwirfoddol a reolir nac ysgolion sefydledig, os oes ganddynt gymeriad crefyddol dynodedig, ddod yn ysgolion cymunedol trwy gynnig i newid categori. Yn ogystal â hyn, ni all ysgolion cymunedol ddod yn ysgolion gwirfoddol sydd â chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig.</p> <p>The governing bodies of maintained schools may make proposals to change the category of their school. However, it should be noted that no alteration may be made to a maintained school that changes its designated religious character or causes it to acquire or lose a designated religious character. Community schools are not permitted to have a religious character. It is not possible for voluntary aided, voluntary controlled or foundation schools with a designated religious character to become a community school through a change of category proposal. Similarly community schools cannot become voluntary schools with a designated religious character.</p>
---	--	--



6

OPSIYNAU RHESTR FER DADANSODDIAD SWOT / SHORT LIST OF OPTIONS - SWOT ANALYSIS

Rydym felly wedi cynnal gwerthusiad SWOT i'r 6 opsiwn arall gan gadw mewn cof prif heriau mae'r ysgol yn ei wynebu /
We have therefore carried out a SWOT analysis on the other 6 options giving consideration to the main challenges facing the school

1	Dim newid - parhau gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol / No change - continue with the current situation
2	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos / Federation with nearby school
3	Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn a chynnig lle i'r dysgwyr mewn ysgol cyfagos / Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils a place at a neighbouring school
5	Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn / Amalgamate local schools in order to maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn
6	Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / Addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn
7	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol arall gan ychwanegu ardal arbennigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / Federation with another school and addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

7

1. Dim newid – Parhau hefo'r sefyllfa bresennol / No change – Continue with the current situation

CRYFDERAU / STRENGTHS	GWENDIDAU / WEAKNESSES
Keeping a school and community resource in Nantlle	Numbers remain low.
A school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area	The cost per learner is high.
Learners continue to receive Category 3 Welsh-medium education	Wide age range within classes
School staff positions continue (depending on allocation)	Small class sizes continue
The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good	Numbers of learners not enough to allow non-contact time for the Headteacher.
	A high percentage of empty places in the school continues
CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
Small classes mean more attention to individual learners.	Number projections remain low.
A wide age range in the classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.	Possibility of a budget shortfall.
	Building maintenance costs continue
	A high percentage of Baladeulyn catchment area children continue to attend schools outside the catchment area.
	Uncertainty continues regarding the long-term sustainability of the school.

8

2. Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos / Federation with a nearby school

CRYFDERAU / STRENGTHS	GWENDIDAU / WEAKNESSES
Keeping a school and community resource in Nantlle	Wide age range within classes
A school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area	Small class sizes continue.
Learners continue to receive Category 3 Welsh-medium education	Learner numbers remain low
The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good	Numbers not enough to allow non-contact time for the Headteacher.
	Vacancies remain. Nothing likely to lead to an increase in the numbers of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn.
	Cost y disgybl yn parhau yn uchel.
CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
One Governing Body.	Possibility of a budget shortfall.
Sharing resources and expertise.	Building maintenance costs continue
Schools supporting each other.	Significant vacancies remain.
A formal model can provide a definite structure	Projections of learner numbers remain low.
Small classes mean more attention to individual learners	A high percentage of Baladeulyn catchment area children continue to attend schools outside the catchment area.
Wide age range in classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages.	A federation is a model that is dependent on the willingness of other schools to join an arrangement to work together.



9

3. Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn a chynnig lle i disgyblion y dalgylch mewn ysgol cyfagos / Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils from the catchment a place at a neighbouring school

CRYFDERAU / STRENGTHS	GWENDIDAU / WEAKNESSES
Learners are taught in classes of a more viable / suitable size.	Loss of school attendance in Nantlle
Reduction in empty places	Further travel distance from the home of Baladeulyn catchment area learners
Many children from the Baladeulyn catchment already attend nearby schools	Transport costs to transport learners to an alternative school.
A reduction in the cost of the pupil.	Learners to be taught in larger class sizes.
Minimum staffing protection reduced	Losing the robust inclusive approach that is currently offered to support health and well-being.
Learners would not have to travel an unreasonable distance to a nearby school.	Potential negative impact on the wellbeing of current learners.
Nearby schools offering Category 3 Welsh-medium education.	
The quality of education of all nearby schools is at least as good as Ysgol Baladeulyn (Estyn Inspections)	
CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
An opportunity for learners to mix daily with others of the same age.	Staff redundancies.
A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between communities.	Possibility of losing a community resource in the village.
Save on building maintenance costs	

10

5. Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn / Amalgamate local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn

CRYFDERAU / STRENGTHS	GWENDIDAU / WEAKNESSES
Reasonable geographical distance between schools	A wide age range continues at Ysgol Baladeulyn
Keeping a school and community resource in Nantlle	Small class sizes continue at Ysgol Baladeulyn
Relevant schools within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area	Low numbers at Ysgol Baladeulyn likely to continue
No need for additional transport or costs associated with this	Vacancies remain. Nothing likely to attract additional pupils to Ysgol Baladeulyn.
A reduction in the cost per learner	Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn
Learners receiving Category 3 Welsh-medium education	
The health and well-being of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners continues to be good	
CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
One Governing Body.	One headteacher has to manage more than one site therefore, depending on the structure, it is possible that there will not be a headteacher's presence on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site
One school on more than one site	
Possible sharing of resources.	Ysgol Baladeulyn maintenance costs continue
Small classes on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site mean more attention to individual learners.	Financial allocation unlikely to be sufficient to employ teachers for all sites
A wide age range in classes on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages	Significant empty places are likely to continue at the Baladeulyn School site



11

5. Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn / Amalgamate local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn

CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
Merging Ysgol Baladeulyn with other schools in the surrounding area will be an opportunity to stabilize student enrollment numbers, increase funding, and reduce operating costs. This method would ensure that Ysgol Baladeulyn can continue to provide a high quality Welsh medium education for all students and deal with the challenges caused by the reduction in enrolment.	Number projections are likely to remain low at the Ysgol Baladeulyn site
Merging Ysgol Baladeulyn with other nearby primary schools in the area would create a combined organization that can operate more efficiently. This would mean combining the schools' resources, such as staff, facilities and teaching materials, maintaining the focus on the medium of Welsh.	A high percentage of Baladeulyn catchment area children are likely to continue attending schools outside the catchment area.
By merging, the combined school will benefit from economies of scale. The larger school will attract more funding from the local authority due to a larger student body, as funding is often based on student enrollment numbers. This increased funding can be used to improve resources, teaching staff and facilities.	Possibility that the model will not be accepted by other schools
A merger would allow the consolidation of administrative functions, such as leadership roles, finance, HR and IT services, reducing overhead costs. This would lead to a more efficient use of resources, ensuring that more money is allocated to directly improve the educational experience.	
The united school can share resources such as staff, educational materials, sports facilities and extra-curricular programmes. This would reduce costs per student and improve the overall quality of the educational experience, allowing more investment in specialist areas such as special education, language programs and technology.	
The merger will allow Ysgol Baladeulyn to expand its curriculum and extracurricular activities. With additional resources, the school will be able to: Offer a wider range of subjects and activities that might not have been financially feasible in a smaller school setting.	
Developing specialist programs and support for students with special needs, ensuring that all children are included in the educational experience.	



12

5. Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn / Amalgamate local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn

CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
A larger, merged school will probably receive more funding from the Welsh Government and the local council, as funding models often take into account the number of registered students. The merger could lead to a more stable and predictable income, allowing the school to plan better for future needs rather than the budgetary constraints of the council's financial planning.	
Merging schools can help reduce duplication of services, simplify administrative costs, and allow more efficient use of resources. For example, the school can have one leadership team and reduce the number of non-teaching staff required for administration and support functions, reducing overhead costs. Shared services, such as transport and maintenance, can also be more cost-effective when centralised.	
A larger, more integrated school may be able to access additional funding from various educational and cultural grants, including those focused on safeguarding the Welsh language, additional learning needs, and rural education. The economies of scale created by the merger can make it more attractive for funding agencies to support the new school.	
The merger can 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. Furthermore, a larger school will enable the staff to receive more robust professional development, leading to higher teaching standards and better outcomes for students. Baladeulyn already has a high average attendance.	
The merger will result in a stronger and more diverse education offering, helping students achieve their academic potential in a more stable and resource-rich environment. It will also ensure that children have access to a wider range of extra-curricular activities, support services and specialist programmes.	
Merging schools will help foster a greater sense of community. Parents, students and staff from different schools will have the opportunity to work together and create a shared vision for the future of Welsh-medium education in the area. This united community approach will help to protect the school's Welsh language and culture while strengthening the links within the local area.	
The larger, merged school will have the ability to better support children with additional learning needs. By pooling resources and expertise, the school can provide more tailored support and interventions, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.	

13

6. Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / Add a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

CRYFDERAU / STRENGTHS	GWENDIDAU / WEAKNESSES
Keeping a school and community resource in Nantlle	Learner numbers remain low at Ysgol Baladeulyn
A school within a reasonable distance of the catchment area learners' homes.	Vacancies remain. Nothing likely to attract additional pupils to Ysgol Baladeulyn.
Learners receiving Category 3 Welsh-medium education.	The cost per pupil remains high.
The health and well-being of Baladeulyn School learners continues to be good	Wide age range within classes
	Small class sizes.
	Numbers of learners not enough to allow non-contact time for the Headteacher.
	Higher transport costs to transport learners with ALN to Ysgol Baladeulyn
CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
Better use of the building by locating a ALN Unit on the site	The ALN and Inclusion Service works with schools to ensure that pupils with specific difficulties are included in the curriculum, ensuring the inclusive ethos of the whole school, with pupils with ALN being supported to participate fully in the school community.
Small classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn mean more attention to individual learners.	Lack of capital funding to make modifications to the site
A wide age range in Ysgol Baladeulyn's classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages	Building maintenance costs continue
Contribute positively to the mental and emotional well-being of the learners	Need to recruit specialist staff.



14

6. Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn / Add a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

CYFLEON / OPPORTUNITIES	BYGYTHIADAU / THREATS
Ysgol Baladeulyn is already a valuable educational resource within the community, and by adding a specialist area for children with special needs, we can provide a local solution, in Welsh for families who currently have limited options. This will also coincide with the growing recognition of the importance of inclusive education and support for children with diverse learning needs. At the moment the school has a history of children/learners with ALN.	Specialist centers have already been established for children with intense 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.	Sacrifice learning space for the ALN Unit on site.
The addition of a specialist area will allow children with special needs to receive individual education.	A high percentage of Baladeulyn catchment area children are likely to continue attending schools outside the catchment area.
The specialist area will help foster a sense of inclusion, ensuring that children with special needs are integrated into the wider school community and that all students benefit from a nurturing and supportive learning environment.	
By continuing to provide education in Welsh, Ysgol Baladeulyn will ensure that children with special needs can access education in their first language, preserving their cultural heritage: Nantlle - a UNESCO area, and promoting continued use of the Welsh language in the community.	



15

7. Ffederalieiddio gyda ysgol gyfagos gan ychwanegu uned arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag ADY yn Ysgol Baladeulyn

CRYFDERAU	GWENDIDAU
Keeping a school and community resource in NantlleCadw ysgol ac adnodd cymunedol yn Nantlle	Wide age range within classes
A school within a reasonable distance of the catchment area learners' homes.	Small class sizes.
Learners receiving Category 3 Welsh-medium education.	Learner numbers remain low, as federalisation or locating a ALN unit on a school site does not normally attract additional learners to the school.
The health and well-being of Baladeulyn School learners continues to be good	Numbers not enough to allow non-contact time for the Headteacher.
	Vacancies remain. Nothing likely to lead to an increase in the number of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn.
	The cost of the learner remains high.
CYFLEON	BYGYTHIADAU
One Governing Body.	The ALN and Inclusion Service works with schools to ensure that pupils with specific difficulties are included in the curriculum, ensuring the inclusive ethos of the whole school, with pupils with ALN being supported to participate fully in the school community.
Sharing resources and expertise.	Lack of funding to make adjustments to the site
Schools supporting each other.	Need to recruit specialist staff
A formal model can offer a concrete structure.	Possibility of a budget shortfall.
Better use of the building by locating a ALN unit on the site.	Building maintenance costs continue.
Small classes at Ysgol Baladeulyn mean more attention to individual learners.	Number projections remain low.
A wide age range in Ysgol Baladeulyn's classes offering an opportunity to work with children of different ages	A high percentage of Baladeulyn catchment area children continue to attend schools outside the catchment area.
Contribute positively to the mental and emotional well-being of the learners	A federation is a model that is dependent on the willingness of other schools to join an arrangement to work together.

16

CAMAU NESAF / NEXT STEPS

Camau Nesaf / <i>Next Steps</i>	Dyddiad / <i>Date</i>
Dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn unrhyw gywiriadau / sylwadau <i>Closing date for receiving any corrections / comments</i>	16/6/2025
Cyfarfod Panel Adolygu 3 <i>Review Panel Meeting 3</i>	Gorffennaf 2025 / <i>July 2025</i>
Adrodd yn ôl i Gabinet ar ganlyniad y trafodaethau / <i>Report back to Cabinet on the outcome of the discussions</i>	Medi 2025 / <i>September 2025</i>



YSGOL GYNRADD BALADEULYN REVIEW PANEL

Addysg

Meeting:	Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel	Date/Time/Location: 19 May 2025, 18:00, Ysgol Baladeulyn
Present:	<p><u>Elected Members:</u> Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education) Peter Thomas (Member for Llanllyfni Ward)</p> <p><u>Education Department Officers:</u> Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education Department), Gareth Richard Jones (Modernising Education Officer), Dion Roberts (Education Project Officer).</p> <p><u>Staff and Governors of Ysgol Baladeulyn:</u> Four members</p> <p><u>Parents/Guardians:</u> 15 members</p>	

Full Minutes

	Item/Subject	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Headteacher welcomed everyone to the meeting. Gwern ap Rhisiart, Head of Education welcomed everyone to the meeting. Gwern discussed the reason for the meeting and what had happened in the meantime since the first meeting.
2	Summarising the Main Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation was given, highlighting the current situation and addressing the main challenges, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of pupils in the school was the second lowest in the county Projections remained low A high number of empty places (72%) Small class sizes A broad age range within classes Cost per pupil among the highest in the county and substantially higher than the county average The school received an additional amount of £77,659 (September 2024) via the staffing protection policy It was noted that the options would be measured against these challenges. The options were discussed, including those proposed since the previous meeting. Gwern noted that there had been no change to the challenges since the last meeting; the number projections remained low. It was also noted that if there were more than 10% empty places that there was a duty on the Authority to review the provision.
3	Possible Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that 7 options had come to our attention, and that a SWOT analysis has been carried out on these seven options so as to identify strengths and weaknesses and also identify potential opportunities and threats. It was noted that an option to alter the school's designation to that of a Christian school had been disregarded, as the School Organisation Code did not allow this. <p>Option 1: No change - continue with the current situation</p> <p>The strengths were discussed, noting that the attendees of the meeting had been included.</p>



		<p>A meeting attendee noted that different experiences such as gardening were available in Baladeulyn and that the age range allowed this to happen.</p> <p>Gwern referred to a weakness in that the Headteacher was not non-contact.</p> <p>It was noted that maintenance costs would continue. Several catchment area learners chose to attend a school outside the catchment area and that a broad age range within classes would remain.</p> <p>Option 2: Federate with a nearby school</p> <p>The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the SWOT evaluation were discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that that the formation of a federation is dependent on the willingness of schools to join the arrangement.</p> <p>Option 3: To close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer a place for the learners in a nearby school</p> <p>The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the SWOT evaluation were discussed.</p> <p>The transport policy was discussed, and it was noted that any learner who lived more than 2 miles away from the catchment area school was eligible for free transport.</p> <p>The stakeholders offered an opportunity to use Ysgol Baladeulyn as a Welsh-language unit, noting that a number of former and current pupils had made good progress at the school.</p> <p>It was noted that a SWOT analysis of the option of including a Language Unit on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would be presented at the next SRP meeting.</p> <p>The Headteacher asked if a message was being given to the families from Nantlle who were moving from the catchment area that there was a school in the village? It was noted that it is not appropriate for the admissions officer to ask why they did not choose to attend their catchment area school.</p> <p>Option 5: Merge local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn</p> <p>The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the SWOT evaluation were discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that there would not be an increased financial allocation with this option.</p> <p>Option 6: Add a specialist space for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</p> <p>The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the SWOT evaluation were discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be high transport costs to transport learners to an ALN unit at Baladeulyn.</p> <p>It was noted that significant spending would be needed for repair and maintenance and to adapt the school for the purpose of ALN.</p> <p>It was noted that the space for ALN learners would reduce the space for the remainder of the school's learners (i.e reducing the school's capacity).</p>
--	--	---



		<p>There are two special schools and a number of ABC units in Gwynedd.</p> <p>Option 7: Federate with another school, adding a specialist space for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</p> <p>The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified in the SWOT evaluation were discussed.</p>
4	SWOT Analysis	<p>It was noted that all the proposals that had been offered by stakeholders had been included in the SWOT analysis and would be given full consideration in moving forward.</p>
5	Next Steps	<p>The next steps were discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be a three-week period in which to receive any comments with 16/06/25 having been set as a date. It was noted that the third school review panel meeting would be held in July and subsequently, it would be necessary to feed back to the Cabinet.</p> <p><u>Questions/Comments</u></p> <p>Would my child receive transport to a school outside the catchment area if the school closed? Unlikely, depending on the transport policy.</p> <p>It was noted that the team would be available to support parents and staff with any option that would be taken forward.</p> <p>Concern was noted about insufficient housing in Nantlle and consequently no families to provide future learners for the school.</p> <p>A comment was received about the new cabin that had been built in Bro Lleu, and it was asked whether the Education Department could transport these learners by bus to a school such as Baladeulyn. In response to the question, it was emphasised that it is the parents' choice which school their child attends.</p> <p>It was noted that full consideration was being given to learners and staff as well as to the community and building in its entirety. We will assess the impact and evaluate each option when moving forward.</p> <p>Observation by the Headteacher: He thanked Gwern for the session. He thanked the parents for proposing options which had been included in the SWOT analysis. He asked that the impact any option may have on learners' well-being and what type of support they would receive in the future be looked at. Need to recognise the impact the school currently has on these learners. It was acknowledged that the school had low numbers but that what the school offered the community, families and specifically the learners needed to be considered.</p> <p>Gwern confirmed that we would be assessing the language unit option in addition to the ones proposed before the meeting.</p>



YSGOL BALADEULYN

7 Gorffennaf 2025
7 July 2025



Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
 Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

1

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Croeso | <i>1. Welcome</i> |
| 2. Trafodaethau blaenorol | <i>2. Previous discussions</i> |
| 3. Gwerthusiad Opsiynau | <i>3. Options Appraisal</i> |
| 4. Camau Nesaf ac Amserlen Amlinellol | <i>4. Next Steps and the Outline Timetable</i> |
| 5. Cloi | <i>5. Close</i> |



Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
 Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money

2

TRAFODAETHAU BLAENOROL / PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money



3

PRIF HERIAU'R SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL / MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

1	Nifer disgyblion yr ysgol yn ail isaf yn y sir <i>The number of pupils at the school is the second lowest in the county</i>
2	Rhagamcanion yn parhau yn isel <i>Projections remain low</i>
3	Nifer uchel o lefydd gweigion <i>High number of surplus places</i>
4	Maint dosbarthiadau bychain <i>Small class sizes</i>
5	Amrediad ystod oedran eang o fewn dosbarthiadau <i>Broad age range within classes</i>
6	Cost y disgybl ymysg yr uchaf yn y sir a sylweddol uwch na'r cyfartaledd sirol <i>Cost per pupil amongst the highest in the county and significantly higher than the county average</i>
7	Ysgol yn derbyn swm ychwanegol o £77,659 (Medi 2024) trwy'r gwarchodaeth staffio <i>School receives an additional £77,659 (September 2024) through the minimum staffing protection</i>

4

RHESTR HIR OPSIYNAU / LONG LIST OF OPTIONS

Yn sgil y mewnbwn a dderbyniwyd yn ystod, ac yn dilyn y cyfarfod cyntaf, cynhyrchwyd rhestr o opsiynau i'w hystyried. Er bod yr achos dros newid wedi ei sefydlu, mae'r opsiwn 'Gwneud Dim' wedi ei gynnwys at ddiben cymharu.

As a result of the input received during, and following the first meeting, a list of options was produced for consideration. Although the case for change has been established, the 'Do Nothing' option is included for comparison purposes.

1	Dim newid - parhau gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol	1	No change – continue with the current situation
2	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos	2	Federation with a nearby school
3	Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn a chynnig lle i'r dysgwyr mewn ysgol cyfagos	3	Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils a place at a neighbouring school
4	Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn	4	Merger of local schools in order to maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn
5	Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn	5	Addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn
6	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos gan ychwanegu ardal arbennigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn	6	Federation with a nearby school and addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn
7	Ysgol Baladeulyn yn mynd yn ysgol Gristnogol	7	Ysgol Baladeulyn becomes a Christian school
8	Cynnwys uned iaith yn safle Ysgol Baladeulyn	8	Include a language unit on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site

5

DIYSTYRU OPSIWN / DISREGARD OPTION

Rydym wedi ystyried yr 8 opsiwn, a mae'r opsiwn canlynol wedi cael eu diystyru gan nad ydi o yn cyd fynd gyda chanllawiau Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion. We considered the 8 options, and the following option has been disregarded as it doesn't comply with the School Organisation Code guidelines.

Ysgol Baladeulyn yn mynd yn ysgol Gristnogol <i>Ysgol Baladeulyn becomes a Christian school</i>	<p>Mae Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (011/2018) yn nodi:</p> <p>Caiff cyrff llywodraethu ysgolion a gynhelir wneud cynigion i newid categori eu hysgol. Fodd bynnag, dylid nodi na cheir gwneud unrhyw newid i ysgol a gynhelir sy'n newid ei chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig neu sy'n peri bod iddi wedyn gymeriad crefyddol dynodedig nad oedd iddi cynt, neu ei bod yn colli ei chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig. Ni chaniateir cymeriad crefyddol i ysgolion cymunedol. Nid yw hi'n bosibl i ysgolion gwirfoddol a gynorthwyr, ysgolion gwirfoddol a reolir nac ysgolion sefydledig, os oes ganddynt gymeriad crefyddol dynodedig, ddod yn ysgolion cymunedol trwy gynnig i newid categori. Yn ogystal â hyn, ni all ysgolion cymunedol ddod yn ysgolion gwirfoddol sydd â chymeriad crefyddol dynodedig.</p> <p>Ni fyddwn felly yn rhoi ystyriaeth pellach i'r opsiwn yma.</p>	<p><i>The School Organisation Code (011/2018) notes:</i></p> <p><i>The governing bodies of maintained schools may make proposals to change the category of their school. However, it should be noted that no alteration may be made to a maintained school that changes its designated religious character or causes it to acquire or lose a designated religious character. Community schools are not permitted to have a religious character. It is not possible for voluntary aided, voluntary controlled or foundation schools with a designated religious character to become a community school through a change of category proposal. Similarly, community schools cannot become voluntary schools with a designated religious character.</i></p> <p><i>We will therefore not be giving this option further consideration.</i></p>
--	---	---

6

GWERTHUSIAD OPSIYNAU / OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money



7

OPSIYNAU I'W GWERTHUSO / OPTIONS TO APPRAISE

1	Dim newid - parhau gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol
2	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos
3	Cau Ysgol Baladeulyn a chynnig lle i'r dysgwyr mewn ysgol cyfagos
4	Uno ysgolion lleol er mwyn cefnogi a chynnal Ysgol Baladeulyn
5	Ychwanegu ardal arbenigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn
6	Ffederaleiddio gyda ysgol cyfagos gan ychwanegu ardal arbennigol ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig yn Ysgol Baladeulyn
7	Cynnwys uned iaith yn safle Ysgol Baladeulyn

1	<i>No change – continue with the current situation</i>
2	<i>Federation with a neighbouring school</i>
3	<i>Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer pupils a place at a neighbouring school</i>
4	<i>Merger of local schools in order to maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>
5	<i>Addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>
6	<i>Federation with a neighbouring school and addition of a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn</i>
7	<i>Include a language unit on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site</i>



8

YSTYRIAETHAU / CONSIDERATIONS

Wrth gymharu opsiynau, byddwn yn rhoi ystyriaeth i sawl ffactor, gan gynnwys:
In comparing options, we will consider several factors, including:

1	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion/ <i>Pupil numbers and empty places</i>
2	Maint dosbarthiadau ac amrediad oedran/ <i>Class sizes and age range</i>
3	Adnoddau ariannol / <i>Financial resources</i>
4	Arweinyddiaeth a Staffio / <i>Leadership and Staffing</i>
5	Ffactorau daearyddol a teithio / <i>Geographical and travel factors</i>
6	Y Gymuned / <i>The Community</i>
7	Yr iaith Gymraeg / <i>The Welsh language</i>
8	Ansawdd addysg / <i>Quality of education</i>
9	Cyflwr ac addasrwydd adeiladau / <i>Condition and suitability of the buildings</i>



9

ESIAMPL GWERTHUSIAD OPSIYNAU / OPTIONS APPRAISAL EXAMPLE

Allwedd

Glas – Manteision

Coch – Anfanteision

Du – Ffeithiau / Sylwadau

Key:

Blue – Advantages

Red – Disadvantages

Black – Facts / Comments

	1	2 (a)	2 (b)	3	4	5	6	7	8 (a)	8 (b)
	Status Quo	Newel ystod oed Ysgol Abarsoch o 3-8 oed i 3-5 oed	Newel ystod oed Ysgol Abarsoch o 3-8 oed i 3-9 oed	Ffederaleiddio gyfng ysgol yfyrdd / Ysgol yfyrdd	Ffederaleiddio gyfng ysgol yfyrdd / Ysgol yfyrdd	Ffederaleiddio gyfng ysgol yfyrdd / Ysgol yfyrdd	Cau Ysgol Abarsoch a Chymysgu'r Ffyrdd gyfng ysgol yfyrdd	Ucwl canolfan lath ar safle Ysgol Abarsoch	Safleu'r ysgol mewnol yn Ysgol Abarsoch	Newel ystod oed Ysgol Abarsoch o 3-8 oed i 3-5 oed + ynyddu cych mewnol Ysgol Abarsoch
Maint dosbarthiadau ac amrediad oedran	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Abarsoch yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.
Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.	Niferoedd dysgwyr a llefydd gweigion yn parhau yn fwy na dosbarth o 5 (CS) a dosbarth o 2 (CA2). Amrediad oedran hyd at 4 mlynedd yn parhau yn y dosbarth CS.

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money



10

CAMAU NESAF / NEXT STEPS

Camau / <i>Steps</i>	Amserlen Amlinellol / <i>Outline Timetable</i>
Cwblhau gwerthusiad opsiynau <i>Complete the options appraisal</i>	Gorffennaf – Awst 2025 July – August 2025
Cynnal Asesiadau Effaith (leithyddol, Cymunedol, Cydraddoldeb + Asesiad yn erbyn y Ddeddf Llesiant) ar opsiynau rhestr fer <i>Undertake Impact Assessments (Language, Community, Equality + Assessment against the Wellbeing Act) on the short list of options</i>	Awst - Medi 2025 <i>August - September 2025</i>
Cyfarfod Cabinet Cyngor Gwynedd <i>Gwynedd Council Cabinet Meeting</i>	14 Hydref 2025 14 October 2025

Parch • Gwasanaethu • Positif • Gweithio fel tîm • Gwerth am arian
Respect • Serving • Positive • Working as a team • Value for money



School Review Panel 3 - Ysgol Baladeulyn

Addysg

Meeting:	School Review Panel 3 - Ysgol Baladeulyn	Date/Time/Location: 07.07.25 18:00 Ysgol Baladeulyn
Present:	<p><u>Elected Members:</u> Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education)</p> <p><u>Education Department Officers:</u> Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education Department), Gareth Richard Jones (Modernising Education Officer), Dion Roberts (Education Project Officer)</p> <p><u>Staff and Governors of Ysgol Baladeulyn:</u> 3 members.</p> <p><u>Parents/Guardians:</u> 13 members</p>	

Full Minutes		
	Item/Subject	Action
1	Welcome	Gwern welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that the purpose of the meeting was to update everyone on where the process currently stood.
2	Previous Discussions	It was noted that we had looked at the current challenges facing the school.
3	The Main Challenges with the Current Situation	The main challenges as noted in the presentation were discussed.
4	Long-list of Options	<p>The options on the long-list were addressed, there were eight options in all, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change - continue with the current situation • Federating with a neighbouring school • Closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and offering the learners a place in a nearby school • Merging local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn • Add a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn • Federalisation with a neighbouring school adding a special area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn • Ysgol Baladeulyn becomes a Christian school • Include a language unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn <p>This long list includes options that have been proposed following the SRP 1.</p> <p>It was noted that the option of changing the school's religious designation to Christian has been ruled out as the School Organisation Code notes:</p> <p><i>"No change is allowed to be made to a maintained school which changes the religious character of the school or causes the school to acquire or lose its religious character."</i></p>
5	Options Appraisal	<p>It was noted that further consideration will be given to 7 options within the options evaluation, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change - continue with the current situation • Federating with a neighbouring school • Closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and offering the learners a place in a nearby school • Merging local schools in order to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a specialist area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn • Federalisation with a neighbouring school adding a special area for children with special needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn • Include a language unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn <p>It was noted that the options appraisal was currently underway and would be completed over the summer.</p> <p>It was noted that every option would be considered in the options appraisal, and the option/options would be submitted to the Cabinet.</p>
6	Next Steps	<p>It was noted that a report with a recommendation on the way forward would be presented to the Cabinet on 14 October.</p> <p>The outline timetable, programme and the reasoning behind the need to submit to the Cabinet was explained. He explained the next steps.</p> <p>It was noted that the contents of the report would be shared with the school a week before it goes to the Cabinet.</p> <p>It was confirmed that all the documentation would be published on the Council's website.</p> <p>If the Cabinet decided to continue with any of the proposed proposals, a statutory consultation would need to be held on that proposal.</p> <p>The Headteacher asked whether cost per head would be reflected. It was answered that it would.</p> <p>One parent asked whether the school's contribution towards the progress of learners with ALN would be taken into account. It was noted that this was something that would be considered when evaluating options. It was noted that one option that has been included was to convert the school to a specialist hub for ALN, i.e. options 5 and 6.</p> <p>Several parents shared concern at the lack of provision for ALN and noted that Ysgol Baladeulyn had been good for their children.</p> <p>It was discussed how the impact assessments would be conducted and prepared and noted that impact assessments from previous projects were available to view on the Council's website.</p> <p>The Headteacher asked whether the school would be allowed to contribute to the options appraisal. It was noted that the SRP meetings provided the opportunity to give input.</p> <p>The Headteacher asked whether the ALN aspect would be considered against each option.</p> <p>One member asked whether it was possible for an individual to take part in the Cabinet meeting to represent the school. It was noted that the local member would be part of the meeting and that they would have an opportunity to provide comments on the report.</p> <p>It was noted that the appraisal of each option would be submitted to the Cabinet and the Cabinet would decide whether or not to proceed with a statutory consultation, depending on the recommendation.</p> <p>A high-level explanation of the statutory process procedure was given.</p> <p>The meeting was concluded by noting that the stakeholders were welcome to get in touch if they had any further questions.</p>

Input following Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel Meetings

Following the local meetings, below is a summary of the comments received:

Baladeulyn PAY meeting 1 – 17 March 2025

6 correspondences were received from Ysgol Baladeulyn stakeholders following the first local meeting. Here is a summary of the main comments made in the correspondence:

- 1 letter proposing an option to merge local schools to strengthen and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn, detailing the benefits of the option.
- 1 letter proposing to add an ALN area/unit on the Baladeulyn School site, detailing the advantages of the option.
- 1 letter offering an option to include ALN provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site, detailing the benefits of the option.
- 1 letter offering innovative and regional ideas to support Ysgol Baladeulyn, detailing the advantages of the option.
- 1 letter offering an option to convert Ysgol Baladeulyn into a Christian school, detailing the benefits of the option.
- 1 email proposing the federalization of Ysgol Baladeulyn with Ysgol Talysarn, with Ysgol Baladeulyn offering ALN provision.