

## Options Appraisal: Ysgol Y Garreg

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

	No change – Continue with the current situation	Federalisation with a nearby school	Close Ysgol Y Garreg and denote Ysgol Cefn Coch as the alternative school
<b>Learner numbers and surplus places</b>	<p>Very low numbers continue at Ysgol Y Garreg (January 2026 Numbers: 2 learners in Reception – Year 6 and 0 learner in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain very high (39 surplus places (95%) Reception – Year 6; 46 surplus places (96%) Nursery – Year 6).</p> <p>There are two classrooms in Ysgol Y Garreg, one of which is not in use.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p>	<p>Very low numbers continue at Ysgol Y Garreg (January 2026 Numbers: 2 learners in Reception – Year 6 and 0 learner in Nursery).</p> <p>Number of surplus places remain very high (39 surplus places (95%) Reception – Year 6; 46 surplus places (96%) Nursery – Year 6).</p> <p>There are two classrooms in Ysgol Y Garreg, one of which is not in use.</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.</p>	<p>Ysgol Cefn Coch's numbers are stable with 132 Reception – Year 6 learners and 16 Nursery learners on the register (January 2026)</p> <p>A lower percentage of surplus places in the catchment area.</p>

<b>Class size and age range</b>	<p>There is 1 class in Ysgol Y Garreg (January 2026) with 2 learners (Reception – Year 6) and 0 Nursery learners.</p> <p>According to projections no increase in numbers is foreseen.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Garreg’s class sizes are therefore likely to remain very small, with a strong possibility that the age range would be 4 years of more in each class.</p>	<p>There is 1 class in Ysgol Y Garreg (January 2026) with 2 learners (Reception – Year 6) and 0 Nursery learners.</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 Y Garreg’s class sizes are therefore likely to remain very small, with a strong possibility that the age range would be 4 years or more in each class.</p>	<p>Learners to be taught in classes that are more suitable in size. Ysgol Cefn Coch learners are taught in classes of a more suitable size with an average of 21 learners in each class (January 2026).</p> <p>There are 7 classes in Ysgol Cefn Coch, with years 4,5 and 6 sharing two classes.</p>
<b>Financial Resources</b>	<p>Ysgol Y Garreg has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £89,701 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 Y Garreg’s average cost per learner remains high (£14,621) which is based on September 2024 numbers of 17 learners. This is significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.</p>	<p>Ysgol Y Garreg has received a minimum staffing protection allocation amount of £89,701 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 Y Garreg’s average cost per learner remains high (£14,621) which is based on September 2024 numbers of 17 learners. This is significantly higher than the county average of £5,780.</p> <p>An opportunity to make savings by sharing resources and employing staff across the federation when appointing in the future.</p>	<p>Removing a school from the minimum staffing protection and no need for protection allocation in the alternative school.</p> <p>Cost per learner will be closer to the county average.</p> <p>It is likely to lead to an increase in transport costs for the Authority.</p>

<b>Leadership and Staffing</b>	<p>It is anticipated that the challenges in ensuring stable staffing levels at the school would continue.</p> <p>The school will be likely to receive minimum staffing protection to ensure that a head teacher and a teaching assistant can be employed.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p>	<p>An opportunity to share good practices between the two schools and possibilities of making better use of resources.</p> <p>The school will be likely to receive minimum staffing protection to ensure that a head teacher and a teaching assistant can be employed.</p> <p>Projected numbers suggest that this will continue.</p> <p>The burden would remain heavy for the headteacher, who is responsible for two schools through an informal arrangement.</p>	<p>The staffing structure of Ysgol Cefn Coch ensures teachers in all classes and allows more non-contact time for the Headteacher.</p> <p>It would lead to the dissolution of Ysgol Y Garreg staff's contracts.</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>No change.</p> <p>The school within a reasonable distance of the homes of learners in the catchment area.</p>	<p>Transport would need to be offered to learners in Ysgol Y Garreg's catchment area, in accordance with the Council's transport policy.</p> <p>Some learners in the catchment area would travel further to school than they would at present.</p> <p>No learner in the Ysgol Y Garreg catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p>
<b>The Community</b>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in Llanfrothen.</p>	<p>Possibility of community collaboration between the 2 schools.</p>	<p>The village of Llanfrothen would lose a school.</p>

	<p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Y Garreg'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 Y Garreg.</p>	<p>Retain the school and its potential to be a community resource in Llanfrothen.</p> <p>Majority of learners from Ysgol Y Garreg's catchment area already attend out of-catchment schools.</p> <p>There is no community of the school outside of school hours.</p> <p>Uncertainty continues regarding the sustainability of education provision at Ysgol Y Garreg.</p>	<p>A wider community where the children and parents can benefit from creating stronger links between 2 neighbouring communities.</p>
<b>The Welsh Language</b>	No change – Learners continue to receive Category 3 Welsh medium education.	No change – Learners continue to receive Category 3 Welsh medium education.	No change – Ysgol Cefn Coch is a Category 3 Welsh medium education school.
<b>Additional comments following a meeting with the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Garreg</b>		<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The suitability of Ysgol Cefn Coch's building, class sizes and the number of staff able to provide for all the learners of Llanfrothen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of a communal and cultural focal point which has existed for 143 years; a negative impact on the moral and unity of the village</li> </ul> <p><b>Strengths/ Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the building as an educational asset by restructuring it to a specialist centre or wellbeing unit.</li> </ul>