



Powys County Council

Young People's Consultation Document

**Establishment of a new All-through School for pupils
aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin**

**Consultation dates: 27th November 2018 – 31st
January 2019**

Introduction

You may have heard that Powys County Council is considering changing the way that primary and secondary education is delivered in Llanfyllin, by establishing a new all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 18, which would provide primary and secondary education. We would like to know your views on this idea – this is called ‘consultation’.

What does ‘consultation’ mean?

Every Council in Wales must follow the Welsh Government’s rules when they are considering making changes to schools. As part of this process, Councils must hold ‘formal consultation’ with all interested people – this is part of the legal process which must be followed.

The aim of this consultation is to help the Council’s Cabinet to make a decision about the future of education in Llanfyllin. All responses will be taken into consideration so that Cabinet is informed of any issues, views, implications or any options that might have been overlooked. Councillors on the Cabinet will then be able to make a decision about what to do next.

Background

Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School are two dual stream schools located in the town of Llanfyllin. Llanfyllin C.P. School primarily serves the town of Llanfyllin, whilst Llanfyllin High School serves a wider, primarily rural catchment area. The two schools are located on the same site.

Current pupil numbers at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfyllin C.P. School	18	19	19	28	16	21	26	147

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Llanfyllin High School	101	96	118	137	142	56	57	707

Pupil numbers in Llanfyllin C.P. School are fairly stable, however pupil numbers at Llanfyllin High School have reduced over recent years. This is expected to continue.

In 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved a new 'School Organisation Policy', which said that the Council would like to see secondary schools becoming 'all-through schools' or part of 'multi-sited arrangements'. After the policy was approved, the Council was invited to meet with the governors of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School, to discuss the new policy and the all-through school model in particular.

Following these discussions, the two governing bodies wrote a letter to the Council, asking the Council to start the process to open a new all-through school in Llanfyllin, by merging Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School.

Why is change needed in Llanfyllin?

The current challenges facing the two schools in Llanfyllin are as follows:

- i) Reducing pupil numbers, particularly in the secondary sector** – Pupil numbers across the two schools have reduced over the last few years and are expected to reduce further over the next few years.
- ii) Budget pressures** – As is the case with a number of other schools across Powys and Wales, both schools are facing financial pressures.
- iii) Need to provide an attractive post-16 curriculum** – Sixth form pupil numbers are reducing, which is making it more difficult for schools to provide a broad range of subjects to learners.
- iv) Relatively small Welsh-medium stream in the secondary sector** – Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the secondary sector are quite small, which can make it difficult to provide a wide range of Welsh-medium subjects for pupils.
- v) Need to improve quality of provision** – There is evidence that there is a need to improve the quality of provision in both schools.
- vi) Difficulties with appointing a headteacher in the primary sector** – There has been no permanent headteacher at Llanfyllin C.P. School since the previous headteacher left in 2015. A permanent headteacher is needed to make sure that primary provision in Llanfyllin continues to improve.

More information about these challenges is available in the full Consultation Document, which is available on the Council's website:
<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/5267/Llanfyllin-C.P.-School-and-Llanfyllin-High-School>

What options have been considered?

In the meetings between the Council and the governing bodies of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School, it became clear that there was interest in moving to an all-through school model in Llanfyllin.

A number of options were considered in order to achieve this. These were:

- **Status Quo** – primary school and high school continue to operate independently
- **All-through Federation** – primary school and high school federate to create a fedrated all-through school in Llanfyllin
- **All-through School** – primary school and high school merge to create a new all-through school in Llanfyllin

More information about these options is available in the full Consultation Document, which is available on the Council's website:
<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/5267/Llanfyllin-C.P.-School-and-Llanfyllin-High-School>

The Proposal

The Council is consulting on proposals to open a new all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin. The proposals are as follows:

- To close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
- To establish a new bilingual all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School

The current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2020, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2020.

What is an all-through school?

An all-through school is a school which provides both primary and secondary education. The school is run by one headteacher and one governing body, and the school has one budget.

What would this mean for pupils?

i) Pupils that currently attend Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School

- Pupils that currently attend Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School would still go to school in the same building they currently go to – pupils up to year 6 would be taught on the current site of Llanfyllin C.P. School, and pupils from year 7 onwards would be taught on the current site of Llanfyllin High School.
- However, there would be better opportunities for pupils to use the facilities on both sites.
- In particular, primary aged pupils would have more opportunity to use specialist facilities mainly used by secondary pupils
- There would also be more opportunity for pupils in all key stages to benefit from staff specialism throughout their time at the school.
- The new all-through school could provide continuity of provision to pupils throughout their time in the school, particularly vulnerable pupils. The new all-through school would also be able to provide better opportunities for more able and talented pupils
- There would be better transition between educational phases, which should have a positive impact on pupil well-being, and on educational performance.

ii) Pupils that attend other primary schools in the Llanfyllin catchment

- Pupils that attend other primary schools in the Llanfyllin catchment area would still be able to transfer to the new all-through school in year 7.
- The school would need to think carefully about the transition arrangements for pupils that attend other primary schools, to make sure that these pupils aren't disadvantaged compared with pupils already attending the all-through school for their primary education.
- There would also be an opportunity to improve the current relationship with other primary schools in the catchment area, to provide better opportunities to pupils attending these schools, and to provide better transition arrangements for these pupils.

What will happen next?

The consultation starts on the 27th November 2018 and ends on the 31st January 2019. A consultation report will then be produced, summarising the issues raised during the consultation period. The consultation report will be considered by the Cabinet, who will decide whether or not to carry on with establishing a new all-through school in Llanfyllin.

If the Cabinet decides to carry on with the proposal, a 'statutory notice' would be published, and there would be 28 days for people to object to the proposal. An Objection Report would then be produced, summarising the issues raised during the objection period, and the Cabinet would meet again to consider the Objections received, before making a final decision.

If the Cabinet decided not to carry on with the proposal, no changes would happen to the two schools.

How to respond to the consultation

You can complete a questionnaire, which is available online on the Council's website:

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/5267/Llanfyllin-C.P.-School-and-Llanfyllin-High-School>

Alternatively, you can write to us to let us know your views.

Completed questionnaires and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

School Transformation Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG
E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

All correspondence must be received by 31st January at the latest.