



STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Ysgol Chwilog

19 October – 30 November 2022

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Foreword

At a meeting of Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on **19 July 2022**, the Cabinet approved the proposal to undertake a statutory consultation process on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95, which is an increase of over 25% to the existing capacity, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The statutory consultation will be held between 19 October and 30 November 2022, on the intention to implement the proposal on 1 September 2023.

Gwynedd Council would like you to submit your views for consideration before a decision is made. At the end of the consultation period, we will submit a report to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet.

A copy of this document, and other background papers, is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation and hard copies will be available upon request from the Modernising Education Office by emailing modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru or by phoning **01286 679247**.

PLEASE NOTE - any observations on the statutory consultation document should be sent to the Modernising Education Office by **13:00 on Wednesday, 30 November**. Details on how to respond are noted in **part 2** of the document.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Garem Jackson
Head of Education

1. Introduction

Gwynedd Council is proposing to increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 learners by adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog, to be operational from 1 September 2023. This consideration is as a result of the projected increase in pupil numbers at the school.

The number of learners at Ysgol Chwilog has increased consistently for a number of years, and the school has reached its full capacity of 65 learners since 1 September 2022.

During recent years, Chwilog has seen the emergence of a new housing estate in the village, which has now become a home to a number of young Welsh-speaking families, and there is planning consent for another two housing estates in the village, which could lead to a total of up to 39 additional houses in Chwilog over the coming years. It is anticipated that this will lead to further demand in the need for places at Ysgol Chwilog.

As a result, the Council is of the opinion that more places need to be provided at the school to meet the increase in pupil numbers.

This document outlines the factors behind the proposal, the consultation process on the proposal, as well as the decision-making process.

The proposal that is the subject of this Statutory Consultation is:

Increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 learners by adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog to be operational from 1 September 2023

2. The Consultation

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) guidelines, the consultation on the proposal will run for a period of 42 days and will be held between **19 October and 30 November 2022**.

The consultation document will be distributed to the following consultees in accordance with Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (011/2018):

The requirements of the Organisation Code 011/2018	It will be distributed to...
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	Gwynedd Council which is submitting the proposal
Any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated SEN provision any authority placing or likely to place pupils with SEN in it;	-
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;	Church in Wales Diocese
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	-
The governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals;	The Governing Body of Ysgol Chwilog

The governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Ysgol Abererch, Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Ysgol Llanybi and Ysgol Llanystumdwy.
Welsh Ministers;	Welsh Ministers
Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	<u>Dwyfor-Meirionnydd Constituency MS</u> Mabon ap Gwynfor MS <u>Regional Members of the Senedd for Mid and West Wales</u> Cefin Campbell MS Jane Dodds MS Eluned Morgan MS Joyce Watson MS <u>Dwyfor-Meirionnydd Constituency MP</u> Liz Saville Roberts MP
Estyn;	Owen Evans, Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Representatives of ASCL; NEU; NAHT; NASUWT; UCAC; UNISON
The relevant Regional Education Consortium;	Arwyn Thomas – GwE Managing Director
The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Andy Dunbobbin - North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Llanystumdwy Community Council
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;	Cylch Meithrin Chwilog
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People’s Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present;	Mudiad Meithrin - Early Years Specialists Gwynedd Family Hub
In the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Representative
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school;	Ysgol Glan y Môr
In the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.	The Welsh Language Commissioner
Other	Councillor Rhys Tudur Councillor Richard Glyn Roberts Councillor Jina Gwyrfai

This consultation document will be published on Gwynedd Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation and hard copies will be available upon request from the Modernising Education Office.

Background information will also be published on the Gwynedd Council website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation and hard copies will be available upon request. The information includes:

- School Organisation Code 011/2018
- School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
- Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd
- Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Disadvantage
- Ysgol Chwilog Well-being Assessment
- Impact Assessments on the Community, Education Quality and Standards, Ysgol Chwilog Travel Arrangements
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice, 19 July 2022

If you have any questions about the proposal, the content of the consultation document or the background information, contact the Modernising Education Office by e-mailing modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

2.1 Consultation with pupils

Arrangements will be made to ensure that we receive the views of the children and young people who attend the school by holding designated sessions with a group of pupils from the school with the assistance of the headteacher and an officer from the Education Department. A version of the consultation document for children can be seen on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation along with a response form/questionnaire in order to give every pupil an opportunity to respond to the consultation.

2.2 How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by either completing the response form and returning it to:

E-mail: modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Post: Modernising Education Office
Gwynedd Council
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Or by filling in the [Online Response Form](#)

Note - Every response, whether through the post or via e-mail, must reach the Council's Headquarters by **13:00 hours on Wednesday, 30 November 2022**.

It is important to note that the responses to the consultation will not be considered as objections to the proposal. Objections will only be recorded after a statutory notice is published.

The observations received during the statutory consultation period will be considered by Gwynedd Council's Cabinet, before a decision is made on the next steps. The Cabinet will decide whether to continue with the proposal, and whether a Statutory Notice should be published on the proposal.

3. Background Information

3.1 Request for Change

During the Summer Term 2021, the governing body of Ysgol Chwilog and the Local Member for the area at the time, contacted the Education Department concerned about the lack of space in the school to meet the recent increase in pupil numbers as well as projections of further increases as a result of housing developments within the school's catchment area.

3.2 Bid for funding

In response to the concerns, the Education Department submitted an application for funding from the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Capital Grant. The Welsh Government's main aim for the grant is to support investments that would facilitate growth in Welsh-medium education and the use of Welsh, aiming specifically at projects that would make a prominent contribution towards achieving the Welsh Government's aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

On 21 February 2022, confirmation was received from the Welsh Government that they had given their approval in principle to fund 100% of the capital and revenue funding towards a number of projects, including adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog in response to the lack of space.

The Government has also approved in principle a revenue grant towards employing a full-time teacher for a two-year period after the new classroom has been completed.

3.3 Gwynedd Council Cabinet

At a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet on 19 July 2022, the Cabinet approved to undertake a statutory consultation process on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95, which is an increase of over 25% of the existing capacity, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

At the same meeting, the Council also approved to proceed to submit a business case to the Welsh Government in order to secure the funding from the Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant. The use of any funding approved to add capacity to Ysgol Chwilog will be subject to the outcome of the statutory process.

3.4 The statutory process

A statutory consultation must be held as the Welsh Government notes in the School Organisation Code that a statutory process must be conducted when *"an enlargement of the premises of a school (excluding nursery and special schools), which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils as compared with the school's capacity on the appropriate date. In determining an increase in capacity all enlargements that have taken place since the appropriate date are to be taken into account together with the proposed enlargement."*

Adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog would increase the capacity to 95, which is an increase of over 25% of the existing 65, namely the school's capacity at the appropriate date in this case. This means that a statutory process will need to be carried out before any modifications can be made, which will lead to increasing the school's capacity. The first step in the statutory process will be to conduct a statutory consultation on the proposal.

The Welsh Government notes in the School Organisation Code that *a minimum of 42 days must be given to people to respond to the consultation document, with 20 of these being school days*; we will therefore be conducting the statutory consultation between **19 October and 30 November 2022**.

4. The Current Situation

The school's capacity is 65 (Reception - Year 6) with the admission number for nursery at 9 pupils. In September 2022, 71 pupils between 4-11 years of age and 13 Nursery pupils were on the register and there were 4 mixed age classes at the school. The table below shows the size of the current classrooms at Ysgol Chwilog.

Table 1

School	Nursery	Reception	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total	Number of classes	Largest class	Smallest class	Average class size
Chwilog	13	16	15	7	10	10	4	9	84	4	31	13	21

*2022-23 Nursery Class temporarily in the Village Hall

Source: September 2022 Census Data

As can be seen from the table below, of the 82 primary age children who live in the catchment area of Ysgol Chwilog in September 2022, 63 attended Ysgol Chwilog, and 19 attended other schools. 21 pupils from other nearby catchment areas also attend Ysgol Chwilog.

Table 2

		Living in the Catchment Area						School Total (N-Yr6)
		Chwilog	Abererch	Bro Plenydd	Llangybi	Llanystumdwy	Other	
Attending School	Chwilog	63	1	6	5	3	6	84
	Abererch	5						
	Bro Plenydd	4						
	Llangybi	4						
	Llanystumdwy	-						
	Other	6						
Total		82						

Source: GIS 3 October 2022

4.1 Financial allocation

Ysgol Chwilog's total financial allocation for the 2022-23 year is £302,000 with the average cost per pupil at £4,638. The average cost per pupil at all Gwynedd primary schools is £4,509.

4.2 Information about Additional Learning Needs

Ysgol Chwilog offers an education for learners with additional learning needs. Support is provided to vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs, in line with the Authority's policy. The school is unsuitable to admit pupils with physical needs, e.g. wheelchair users.

4.3 Quality and standards of education

4.3.1 Estyn Inspection

Ysgol Chwilog was last inspected in May 2022. Estyn changed their method of inspecting schools in 2022 and now, their reports do not include summative gradings, e.g. 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Adequate' and 'Unsatisfactory'. Now, their reports focus and provide detail on how well providers help children to learn. This means that it is not now possible to show an assessment of the likely impact of the proposal on Estyn's five relevant inspection areas as noted in the 'Quality and Standards in Education' in the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

Here is a summary of what was noted in Estyn's report following its inspection of Ysgol Chwilog:

"Ysgol Gynradd Chwilog is a happy and homely school. All staff work together successfully to create a familial, friendly and Welsh ethos. As a result, pupils enjoy attending school very much. The way in which staff promote Welsh culture, heritage and the Welsh language is a significant strength across the school. Nearly all pupils behave excellently. They take responsibility for their behaviour and are aware of the high expectations of adults. They are caring towards their peers, treat adults respectfully and are polite to visitors, whether in lessons or during break time. Pupils use the Welsh language highly effectively and speak completely naturally in an interesting range of learning contexts. They talk to each other, staff and visitors enthusiastically and naturally and show innate pride when speaking Welsh. Most pupils' creative skills are a strength at the school and, as a result, they develop to become creative learners who convey themselves with increasing confidence."

The full report can be seen by following this link:

[Inspection report Y.G. Chwilog 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

4.4 The Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation

As can be seen from Estyn's report and the table below, Ysgol Chwilog has a number of strengths, including praise of the use made of the Welsh language by the learners.

Estyn's report also refers to elements for improvement, including the use of ICT across the school's activities.

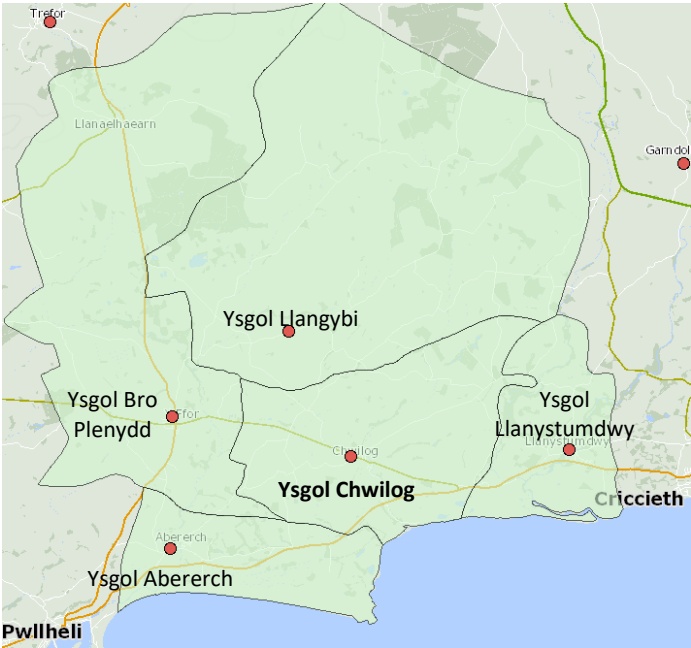
The main weakness, and what this consultation is seeking to respond to, is the lack of space for the demand in the catchment area as a result of an increase in the number of children in the catchment area.

Strengths	Weaknesses
According to Estyn, one of the strongest features of the school is that almost every pupil develops their spoken Welsh skills very effectively and speaks eloquently in an interesting range of learning contexts. They speak fluently and naturally with each other, staff and visitors and show an innate pride as they speak Welsh.	There is a lack of classrooms in the school to cope with the need for the future. The school has capacity for 65 pupils and the projections suggest that there will be 93 children from reception - year 6 who will need a place by 2026
According to Estyn, the headteacher has very high expectations of himself, the staff and the pupils and, consequently, a caring, active and Welsh ethos filters through all of the school's activities.	According to Estyn, the pupils' ICT skills are developing appropriately. However, a minority of the pupils do not use their ICT skills regularly enough across the range of learning activities.
According to Estyn, the governing body is	Estyn's report recommends the need to

<p>committed and supportive of the school and they have focussed successfully on resolving a number of important matters. They have ensured that the school has a stable leadership and a team of committed staff. By collaborating with leaders, and discussing examples of work with the pupils, they have a firm understanding of the school's strengths and the fields for improvement.</p>	<p>develop the role of governors as critical friends.</p>
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4.5 The Chwilog Area

The catchment area of Ysgol Chwilog borders the catchment area of four other primary schools, namely Ysgol Abererch, Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Ysgol Llangybi and Ysgol Llanystumdwy.



The School Organisation Code notes that there is a need to include the details of schools that may be affected by the proposal in the consultation document. Although none of these schools will be directly affected by the proposal, since increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog is the only aim of the consultation, we are required to include them in the process.

The table below includes statistics on the nearby schools:

		School				
		Chwilog	Abererch	Bro Plenydd	Llangybi	Llanystumdwy
Location of the School		LL53 6PS	LL53 6YU	Y Ffor LL53 6UP	LL53 6DQ	LL52 0SP
Age Range		3-11	3-11	3-11	3-11	3-11
School Category (Community [CS], Voluntary Assisted [CWN]; Voluntary Controlled [CWR])		CS	CS	CS	CS	CWR(E)
Language Medium Category		Welsh	Welsh	Welsh	Welsh	Welsh
Number of pupils on the register - September 2022	Nursery	13	10	9	4	3
	Reception - Yr 6	71	61	76	25	23
	Total	84	71	85	29	26
Number of pupils on the register for the previous five years N-Yr 6	September 2021	76	70	86	33	22
	September 2020	63	72	78	35	21
	September 2019	52	83	74	34	21
	September 2018	52	81	77	38	21
Capacity	Nursery	9	9	13	10	6
	Reception - Yr 6	65	67	91	70	47
	Total	74	76	104	80	53
Surplus Places Reception - Yr 6 September 2022		-6	6	15	45	24
Pupil Projections N-Yr 6	September 2023	88	67	85	29	25
	September 2024	98	72	83	28	25
	September 2025	103	67	79	28	25
	September 2026	107	72	77	28	27
	September 2027	109	73	79	28	27
Schools Performance Data (Estyn) *Estyn reports do not contain summative grades any more (2022 onwards)		2022*	5 x Good (2018)	3 x Good (2015)	5 x Good (2018)	5 x Good (2018)
Building Condition Category (Council Criteria) 2021		B	A	B	B	B
Financial Allocation 2022-23		£302,000	£316,000	£369,000	£199,000	£189,000
Cost per pupil 2022-23		£4,638	£4,863	£4,716	£6,579	£9,836

5. Case for change

5.1 New housing developments

Over recent years, Chwilog has seen the emergence of a new estate of open market housing in the village, which has now become a home to a number of young Welsh-speaking families, and there is planning consent for another two housing estates in the village, which could lead to a total of up to 39 additional houses in Chwilog over the coming years. Based on the formula for projecting the number of children in new houses, it is anticipated that 39 houses could translate into around 16 primary age children.

5.2 Increase in pupil numbers

The number of learners at Ysgol Chwilog has been increasing for a number of years, and the school has reached its full capacity of 65 learners in September 2022, with 71 learners (reception - year 6) and 13 nursery.

As can be seen from the table below, a marked increase has been seen in the number of learners at Ysgol Chwilog recently and there are projections of a further increase as a result of housing developments within the school's catchment area.

Table 4

School	Capacity R-Yr6 (N)	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Chwilog	65 (9)	46 (3)	39 (11)	47 (4)	44 (99)	41 (11)	47 (5)	50 (13)	71 (13)	71 (13)	75 (13)	84 (14)	88 (15)	91 (14)	95 (14)

The likely increase in the number of learners means that it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the school to cope with the numbers without creating an additional emergency classroom for them. Indeed, the school already has to implement temporary steps as a result of the lack of space by using the village hall to teach some learners.

6. Options Appraisal

During internal meetings, members of the Project Board proposed and discussed the following potential models to respond to the problems facing Ysgol Chwilog:

Option 1	Do Nothing. Continue with the current situation.
Option 2	Create capacity for the increase in primary pupils in the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the Ysgol Chwilog site.
Option 3	Create capacity for an increase in the primary pupils of the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the site of another nearby school.

6.1 Comparing Options

When considering how to respond to the challenges of Ysgol Chwilog in the future, we considered the three different options and measured them against 8 factors. The options assessment can be seen in the table below.

	1	2	3
	Do Nothing. Continue with the current situation.	Create capacity for the increase in primary pupils in the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the Ysgol Chwilog site.	Create capacity for the increase in primary pupils in the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the site of another nearby school.
Ensuring sufficient space for the projected numbers in the catchment area for the future	The school's capacity continues to be 65 despite a significant increase in pupil projections e.g 95 pupils (reception – Year 6) in 2027. Therefore, this option would not offer sufficient space for the projected numbers in the future.	Locating the additional classroom would mean that the school's capacity would increase to 95 and would therefore be sufficient for the projected numbers e.g 95 pupils (reception – Year 6) in 2027. Therefore, this option would offer sufficient space for the projected numbers in the future.	Locating an additional class on the site of another school would offer sufficient space for the future projected numbers e.g 95 pupils (reception – Year 6) in 2027. Therefore, this option would offer sufficient space for the projected numbers for the future.
Capital budget	As there is no expenditure associated with this option, this is irrelevant, but consideration would need to be given to any pressures on other schools in the future, as a result of having to admit pupils from the Ysgol Chwilog catchment area.	It is anticipated that the budget would be sufficient to cover all costs associated with locating the additional classroom on the school site.	It is anticipated that the budget would be sufficient to cover all costs associated with locating the additional class on the site of another nearby school.
Ensuring sufficient space by September 2023	Some children from the Chwilog catchment area will have to be refused admission unless there is sufficient capacity at the school and arrangements must be made for them to attend another nearby school.	It is possible to achieve this work by 1 September 2023.	It is possible to achieve this work by 1 September 2023.
Ensuring sufficient staff for any additional pupils	Any other nearby school will need to consider children from the Chwilog catchment area who need a place when they plan their staffing structure.	The grant includes revenue funding to employ a teacher for 2 years. This will allow time for the numbers at the school to increase as a result of housing developments and for the school to forward plan an appropriate staffing structure in response to the increase.	The grant includes revenue funding to employ a teacher for 2 years. This will allow time for the numbers at Ysgol Chwilog to increase as a result of housing developments and for the school to forward plan an appropriate staffing structure in response to the increase.
Geographical factors	Transport must be arranged for children from the Chwilog catchment area to attend the out-of-catchment school when Ysgol Chwilog is full, at a substantial cost to the Council.	In accordance with the Education Department's transport policy, learners from the catchment area who live within 2 miles to the school, are expected to make their own way to the school.	Transport must be arranged for children from the Chwilog catchment area to attend the class on the site of a nearby school, at a substantial cost to the Council.

Impact on the Welsh language	Impact on the Chwilog community	No impact	No impact
Community Impact	No room for all children of the catchment area. The children of the Chwilog catchment area will have to attend another nearby school for their education, thus dividing the community and affecting the viability and vibrancy of the Welsh language in Chwilog.	All children in the catchment area can be educated within their community, thus making a contribution towards the viability and vibrancy of the Welsh language in the community.	Children have to go to the site of another school for some of their education in the new classroom.
Impact on the quality and standards of education	It is anticipated that this option would result in having to continue educating pupils in 3 classes of differing size and age range.	It is anticipated that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog by adding a classroom on the site would have a positive impact as it would ensure that sufficient space is available to teach all children of the catchment area in 4 classes of a more appropriate size in the future. This will also, potentially, offer the option to educate children within classes of a more appropriate age range.	It is anticipated that locating an additional classroom on the site of another nearby school in response to the lack of capacity at Ysgol Chwilog will create instability and inconsistency in the education provision and educational experiences for Chwilog children as some children will have to receive their education on another school site.

As a result of the options assessment, it was agreed that the favoured option is to increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 learners by creating an additional classroom on the Ysgol Chwilog school site. The reasoning behind the decision can be seen in the table below:

Option	Decision	Reasons
Do Nothing. Continue with the current situation	Disregard	It will be impossible for the school to cope with the increase in the demand for places if the projected increase in the population of the children of Chwilog is realised. A number of the children will have to attend other schools when Ysgol Chwilog has reached its capacity. This involves having to leave their community to have an education and a substantial transport cost to achieve that.
Create capacity for the increase in primary pupils in the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the Ysgol Chwilog site to be operational from September 2023.	Preferred Option	This option will mean that all children in the Chwilog catchment area will be able to be educated within their community. The extra classroom will offer an opportunity to educate pupils in classrooms of the correct size and will possibly offer the option to educate children within classrooms of an appropriate age-range. This option will also contribute to the viability and vibrancy of the Welsh language in the community.

<p>Create capacity for the increase in primary pupils in the Chwilog catchment area by locating a new class on the site of another nearby school.</p>	<p>Disregard</p>	<p>It is anticipated that locating an additional classroom on the site of another school, in response to the higher number of children in the Chwilog catchment area, will create instability and inconsistency in the education provision and educational experiences for Chwilog children as some children have to receive their education on another school site.</p> <p>There will also be a need to transport the children from Chwilog to the alternative school at a substantial cost to the Council.</p>
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7. The Proposal

7.1 A Summary of the Proposal

Following an appraisal of the options, the preferred direction, and the proposal that is the subject to this statutory consultation is to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog from 65 to 95 learners by locating a new classroom on the Ysgol Chwilog school site to be operational from 1 September 2023.

As we need to create this additional classroom by 1 September 2023, it is intended to do this by using MMC (Modern Methods of Construction) Units. These have already been used in other schools in the county and have proven to be effective and popular classrooms.

There are many benefits to using the MMC Units including:

- More consistency in the materials that are used
- Easier to use lighter materials that save energy
- The buildings can be built to any size and shape
- Buildings are much easier to heat, with less energy, than traditional buildings
- The buildings comply with, or are better than, the energy requirements of the Building Regulations
- The modular structure of the buildings means that there is more flexibility when designing the interior space
- The construction period on site is much shorter than a building of traditional construction

See below images of classrooms using MMC units that have been located on the sites of other schools recently in order to give you an idea of how the class at Ysgol Chwilog could look:





The table below includes the details of Ysgol Chwillog if the proposal is actioned.

Table 5

School	Ysgol Chwillog	
Age range	3-11 years	
School Category	Community	
Language Category	3	
Implementation date	1 September 2023	
Projected numbers - September 2023	<i>Nursery</i> 13	<i>Reception - Yr 6</i> 75
Capacity (based on Welsh Assembly Circular 21/2011: 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales')	<i>Nursery</i> 13	<i>Reception - Yr 6</i> 95
Quality of the building and classrooms (Building Condition Category)	B	

7.2 Quality of the Education

The Council is committed to providing an education of the highest possible quality that will give the County's children the experiences, skills and confidence that will enable them to develop to be bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens.

One of the priorities is to provide the best possible learning experiences for every learner within the county, and ensuring an exciting and broad curriculum, as well as extra-curricular activities that motivate them to learn and understand, that will lead to improving standards.

It is anticipated that implementing the proposal of increasing the school's capacity by creating an extra class will help the school achieve this as it will:

- a) offer a better learning environment for teaching staff and learners at the school
- b) enable the school's learners to have better educational experiences and opportunities
- c) enable learners to be educated in classrooms with more suitable numbers

7.3 School capacity, classroom sizes and age range

By adding a class to Ysgol Chwilog, we will ensure sufficient space for all learners in the catchment area in the years to come. Adding a classroom will lead to a capacity for 95 learners from reception to year 6, with 13 nursery places. The projections for the next 5 years can be seen in the table below.

Table 6

School	Capacity 2023 R-Yr6 (N)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Chwilog	95 (13)	71 (13)	75 (13)	84 (14)	88 (15)	91 (14)	95 (14)

Our expectation is that there should be appropriately sized classes in primary schools, as far as possible, so that children in the county receive the best possible experiences and opportunities.

In September 2022, Ysgol Chwilog learners were taught in 4 classrooms with one class temporarily taught in the Village Hall, which is opposite the school, as there is no place for them within the school. The largest class has 31 learners in it, and the smallest class only teaches the Nursery year. The school's average class size is 21.

Delivering the proposal would mean that Ysgol Chwilog obtains an extra classroom to teach the learners, thus providing an opportunity to have more balanced classrooms that offer the best possible learning environment for the learners.

7.4 Financial allocation

Based on the projected number of learners in 5.2 (table 4), the table below shows an estimate of the school's financial allocation for the next 5 years, if the school's numbers increase in accordance with those projections.

Table 7

Year	School Financial Allocation	Financial Allocation per pupil
2023-24	£339,752	£4,428
2024-25	£352,572	£4,368
2025-26	£383,223	£4,250
2026-27	£397,608	£4,203
2027-28	£412,503	£4,160

This means that the cost per pupil will compare favourably against the average cost per pupil at all Gwynedd primary schools which currently stands at £4,509.

7.5. Management and Leadership

Gwynedd Council acknowledges the importance of good leadership at a school as a way of maintaining and improving standards. The following steps are underway in order to ensure strong leadership at Gwynedd schools for the future:

- GwE is training one senior manager from each secondary school to develop their personal leadership skills, and also to develop the middle managers of their schools;
- Successful schools share good practice and hold Leadership Development days for the managers of the rest of the schools;
- School to school plans ensure that school leaders collaborate and develop leader expertise;
- Prospective leaders encouraged to gain the NPQH qualification;
- New Headteacher mentoring scheme.

Our hope is that headteachers will receive sufficient opportunity to provide professional leadership and management for their schools. We also expect governing bodies to lead schools efficiently within their available budgets for the benefit of the learners. We will expect schools to have the best staff to provide an education of the best quality for the children of Gwynedd.

It was noted in Estyn's recent Ysgol Chwilog post-inspection report:

"Staff's leadership skills are developing soundly, which contributes successfully to creating strong leadership arrangements for the school."

In addition, it was noted that the Governing Body is "dedicated and supportive of the school and has focused successfully on solving a number of important issues. Members have ensured that the school has stable leadership and a team of dedicated staff."

Currently, the staffing structure of Ysgol Chwilog includes a headteacher that divides his time with Ysgol Garndolbenmaen, two part-time teachers, two full-time teachers and six classroom assistants. The headteacher has a 0% teaching commitment, which follows the Gwynedd education principles which notes that the Headteacher should have around 80% non-contact time to focus on leadership matters in the primary.

If a classroom is added to Ysgol Chwilog, by using the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Capital Grant, it will be possible to employ an extra teacher to teach in the new classroom for two years by means of the revenue element of the grant. This will allow time for the numbers at the school to increase as a result of the housing developments and for the school to plan an appropriate staffing structure in response to the increase.

7.6 Learning Environment

7.6.1 Condition

In accordance with the Primary Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd Education Strategy, the Council's aim is to provide quality primary education buildings in the County by undertaking structured planning, providing appropriate rooms for school headteachers and teachers and access to appropriate playing fields and a hall for the children. Buildings will also need to comply with the requirements for the Foundation Phase and the curriculum.

The Council conducts annual condition surveys on all its property. The annual reviews contribute to the Authority's Asset Management Plan and allow for the prioritisation of the schools' maintenance programme.

The table below includes the condition of buildings at Ysgol Chwilog, as well as the required maintenance costs.

Table 9

School	Condition Category	Condition Defects	Cost of Required Maintenance Work	Time-table for completing the defects
Ysgol Chwilog	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior paintwork 	£5,000	2 years
Key to the condition category:				
A	GOOD (No Decline)		C	POOR (Major Decline)
B	SATISFACTORY (Minor Decline)		D	BAD (Reached the end of its lifespan)

Source: Gwynedd Property Department

The condition of Ysgol Chwilog has been identified as being in condition category B (Satisfactory). The only defect that has been identified is the exterior paintwork. Work was completed on the school in 2021, therefore, the building is in an acceptable condition at present.

7.6.2 Suitability

It is intended to carry out a suitability survey of the school in response to the future increase in pupil numbers in order to identify any improvements that need to be carried out to ensure an appropriate environment for the school's needs.

7.7 Proposal's Impact Assessments

A number of impact assessments were carried out on the preferred option, namely increasing the school's capacity from 65 to 95 learners by adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog to be operational from 1 September 2023, in accordance with the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

7.7.1 Equality assessment

An equality assessment was completed on increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog. See the full assessment on the website. It is concluded that increasing the capacity of the school would not affect equality, in relation to characteristics or the general duty.

7.7.2 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Our expectation is that the County's primary schools support and enhance the use of the Welsh language as their pupils' social language and educational language.

In accordance with the Gwynedd Education Language Policy, each of Gwynedd's schools make a direct contribution to creating new Welsh speakers, as well as fostering confidence and the skills of natural Welsh speakers, leading to an increase in the number of Welsh speakers. Being able to respond positively to a growth in the population in communities with over 70% Welsh speakers as a result of housing developments will be a means to further reinforce and strengthen those elements that are considered essential to language regeneration, namely: linguistic ability, the social use made of the language, the motivation to learn the language, as well as using the language. Every one of Gwynedd's schools, by means of the Language Policy and Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, will focus on achieving these essential elements in children and young people, and will contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

When developing any proposals relating to schools' reorganisation, full consideration must be given to the potential impact on the Welsh language. Sustaining and improving the use of the Welsh language as a social language and educational language is always a key consideration when drawing up proposals and when assessing options.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

Ysgol Chwilog implements the objectives of Gwynedd Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32. This ensures:

- that every Early Years setting sets a strong foundation for Welsh, ensuring that every child is given a Language, Literacy and Communication skills assessment in Welsh on entry and at the end of part-time nursery education, and at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- During the Foundation Phase, building on the foundation established at the nursery and reception stages by continuing to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh, and begin the process of developing their English language skills. On a practical level, this means that most schools would start introducing English as a subject during the final term at the end of the Foundation Phase, focusing on developing reading, speaking and writing skills in that language. Welsh will be the school's official assessment language at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- In Key Stage 2, we continue to develop the pupils' grasp of Welsh, giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages.

Implementing the proposal would be in keeping with the objectives and targets of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 which has been approved by the Welsh Government.

An assessment was completed of the impact that the proposal in question would have on the Welsh language. See the full assessment on the website. It is concluded that increasing the capacity of the school would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language in the catchment area. Indeed, it is anticipated that creating sufficient space for all primary children in the catchment area in their local school will create the conditions that will support the prosperity of the Welsh language amongst the children and in the community in question.

7.7.3 Socio-economic impact assessment

An assessment was completed on the impact that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog would have on socio-economic elements. See the full assessment on the website. It is concluded that increasing the capacity of the school would not have a negative socio-economic impact on the area. It is anticipated that creating sufficient space for all primary children of the catchment area in Ysgol Chwilog will create a firm grounding for the community and create the best conditions for the prosperity of the community in question.

7.7.4 Well-being Assessment

The Education Department has a role in promoting well-being aims amongst the learners at schools in the county through its activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, the Council has published well-being objectives that outline the way it will improve well-being in the '2018-23 Gwynedd Plan'.

A well-being assessment was completed on increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog. See the full assessment on the website. After considering the 7 aims of the well-being act and the Council's well-being objectives, it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

The proposal will ensure that children in the catchment area are educated in a school that is of a suitable size and in a naturally Welsh-speaking society, thus increasing the opportunities to socialise and collaborate with others and give them a fair opportunity to thrive among their peers.

Adapting the school to secure sufficient space for all primary children in the catchment area will mean that the learners will be able to access education in their community.

It is anticipated that creating sufficient space for all primary pupils of the catchment area in their local school will create the conditions that will support the prosperity of the Welsh language amongst the children and in their community.

7.7.5 Community impact assessment

A community impact assessment was carried out on the impact of increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog. See the full assessment on the website. After considering the impact of the proposal on the community, it is not anticipated that increasing the capacity of the school by adding a classroom will have any negative impact on the community.

On the contrary, it is believed that increasing the school's capacity will ensure sufficient places for all children in the catchment area and will thus ensure an education provision for them within their community. It is anticipated that increasing the capacity at the school will create a firm grounding for the community and create the best conditions for the Welsh language and the prosperity of the community.

7.7.6 Assessment on the quality and standards of education

An impact assessment on the quality and standards of education was carried out as a result of increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog. See the full assessment on the website. As a result of conducting the assessment, we are of the opinion that increasing the capacity at the school by adding a classroom is likely to have a positive impact since it will ensure that sufficient space is available to educate children in suitably sized classes for the future.

7.7.7 Assessment of the impact on travel arrangements

An assessment was held on the impact of increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog on travel arrangements. See the full assessment on the website.

As we are considering increasing the capacity of the school in response to the projected increases within the catchment area and anticipate that the homes of the majority of the children will be located within two miles of the school, and considering the existing numbers who receive free transportation, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant impact on transport arrangements as a result of increasing the capacity of the school in question.

7.8 The anticipated advantages and disadvantages of the proposal

Advantages	Disadvantages
Sufficient space for all Chwilog catchment area children in the future.	Some of the school's outdoor space will be lost in order to locate the extra classroom.
The extra classroom will facilitate the task of planning classes of the correct size for the future.	There is a possibility that increasing the capacity will create parking/traffic problems.
Children able to gain access to an education within their community.	
Children able to walk or cycle to the school, which is a means to promote active travel.	
Children do not need to be transported to alternative schools.	
Cost savings by avoiding the need to provide transport.	

7.9 Possible Risks

Risk	Possible impact	Steps to mitigate the risk
Planning permission	Planning permission to enable the extra classroom on 1 September 2023 is refused.	Application to be submitted early enough.
Possibility that creating an extra classroom on the school site whilst the school is operational will create risks and hazards to the staff and learners.	Potential for accidents to happen.	Ensure robust health and safety measures to avoid any risk of accidents from working on a live site.
There is a possibility that increasing the capacity will create additional parking/traffic problems.	Parking problems in the vicinity of the school.	Encourage active travel to school, e.g. walking and cycling. Monitor the impact on traffic and parking and respond to any matters that arise.
Lack of space in Ysgol Chwilog for 2022/23.	Having to place more learners in an insufficient space temporarily.	Use the community hall as a temporary extra space.
Unable to claim the full revenue grant unless the extra classroom has been completed in time to employ a teacher for two years during the grant period, i.e. before the end of March 2026.	Possibility of being unable to claim the full revenue grant.	Ensure that creating an extra classroom has been completed and a teacher appointed before April 2024.
That any increase in costs will mean that the budget is insufficient.	Unable to build an extra classroom.	Create a classroom within the budget and respond early to any increase in costs.

8. A Summary of the Proposal

This proposal means that Ysgol Chwilog will increase capacity to offer plenty of space to the learners in the catchment area.

Increasing the school's capacity from 65 to 95 learners by adding a classroom to Ysgol Chwilog to be operational from 1 September 2023

9. Explanation of the statutory process and consultation details

At its meeting on 19 July 2022, the Cabinet gave its approval to undertake a statutory consultation process on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95 learners, which is an increase of over 25% to the existing capacity, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

This is the consultation document that includes the details of the proposal. This document was published on **19 October 2022** and responses can be received until **13:00 on Wednesday 30 October 2022**.

During this consultation, the responses could include observations or questions on any aspect of the proposal, or they could suggest other options. These responses will not be dealt with as objections. If anyone wishes to object, they must do so following the publication of the statutory notice (should one be published).

Following this statutory consultation period, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 011/2018, we will submit a report on the consultation to the Cabinet in order to summarise the matters raised by the consultees and note the Council's response to those matters. After considering the report, the Cabinet will decide whether or not to proceed to release a statutory notice on this proposal. The report will be published on the Council's website and hard copies will be available upon request. The parents, carers and guardians, staff and governors of the school will be informed that the report is available. A number of representatives from other agencies will be informed that the consultation report is available, e.g. Estyn, Welsh Ministers, relevant Assembly Members and Members of Parliament, etc.

If the Cabinet decides to proceed after considering the consultation report, the proposal must be **published in the form of a statutory notice**. The notice will be published on a school day and an "**objection period**" of 28 days will commence from the publication date of the proposal. At this stage, anyone can object to the proposal. The notice will be published on Gwynedd Council's website and also close to the main entrance of Ysgol Chwilog. Electronic copies will be sent to the schools for distribution to the learners, parents, carers and guardians, staff and governors. Hard copies will be available upon request from the Modernising Education office.

Following the end of the objection period, the Council will publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's response to the objections in an "objections report". The objections report will be published on the Council's website and hard copies will be available upon request. The parents, carers and guardians, staff and governors of Ysgol Chwilog will also be informed that the objections report is available. A number of representatives from other agencies will be informed that the objections report is available.

Subsequently, the Council's Cabinet will make the final decision on the objections report. When the Cabinet has made its final decision, the decision will be put in writing, along with specific reasons for the decision. The decision will be published on the Council's website, and the parents, carers and guardians, staff and governors of Ysgol Chwilog will be informed of the decision. A number of representatives from other agencies will be informed of the decision.

10. Proposed Timetable

Date	Stage
19 July 2022	Cabinet: Permission to carry out a statutory consultation.
19 October 2022	Statutory consultation period commences: A minimum of 42 days to be allowed for consultees to respond, with a minimum of 20 of those days to be school days.
30 November 2022	Closing date of the statutory consultation: The closing date for receiving observations on the proposal.
January 2023	Cabinet: Following the statutory consultation, a report on the responses will be submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet would discuss the report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. This report will be published on the Council's website.
February 2023	Publication of statutory notice: If the Council decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice will be issued and an objection period will be held. Any objection must be submitted within the 28-day objection period.
April 2023	Cabinet: Following the objection period, the Cabinet will discuss the objections report and decide whether or not to confirm the proposal.
May 2023	Refer the decision to the Welsh Ministers: In accordance with section 54 of the 2013 Act, within 28 days of the Cabinet's decision, the following bodies can refer the proposal to Welsh Ministers for a decision: Another Local Authority affected by the proposals; The appropriate religious body for any school affected; The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school subject to proposals; A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school subject to proposals; A further education establishment affected by the proposals.
May – August 2023	Locate an extra classroom on the Ysgol Chwilog site.
1 September 2023	Implement the proposal: Increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95.