

Addysg / Education

Pennaeth Addysg /
Head of Education – Garem Jackson

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: **Moderneiddio Addysg**
☎ (01286) 679467 Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **Ysgol Llanaelhaearn**
📄 (01286) 677347 Eich Cyf / Your Ref:
✉ ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



3 June 2020

To: All consultees involved in the proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn in accordance with the School Organisation Code

Dear Stakeholder,

Re: The proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr from 1 September 2020.

On Tuesday 19 May 2020, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet confirmed the final proposal to close Ysgol Llanaelhaearn on 31 August 2020 and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Bro Plenydd from 1 September 2020. In accordance with Gwynedd Council's constitution, the Cabinet decision was operational on 3 June 2020. A statutory objection period was held between 5 March and 3 April 2020. No objections to the proposal were received, and as a result, the Cabinet supported the recommendation to confirm the proposal.

The proposal was developed as a result of the main challenges facing the school, namely:

- Low pupil numbers attending the school - there were eight pupils on the register in the September 2019 census
- Existing pupils are educated in classes which are small in number with one class of three pupils and one class of five
- Projections indicate a further fall in numbers over the next three years.

In taking the decision on the proposal, the following factors were considered by the Cabinet, in accordance with the School Organisation Code (11/2018):

- Educational quality and standards
- The need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools
- Educational resources and other financial implications
- Other general factors
- Specific factors in the consideration of school closures
- Presumption against the closure of rural schools and associated impact assessments, namely
 - The likely effect on different travelling arrangements
 - The likely impact on the Community
 - The likely impact on Quality and Standards in Education
- Equality
- The Welsh Language
- The requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

In making the decision on the proposal, the Cabinet was satisfied that the proposal was the most appropriate response to this situation as none of the other options considered during the process, including federation, would address the key issues facing the school. The Cabinet was also satisfied that the proposal would lead to more consistent opportunities for children in the catchment area, and would achieve the Council's strategic aspirations, namely:

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

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- that implementing the proposal would lead to better consistency in class sizes and reduce the age range within primary school classes in the area and that pupils would be educated at a school where the numbers and projections are more robust and sustainable for the future,
- robust leadership and management in a school with numbers which will provide the Headteacher with an equitable opportunity to professionally lead and manage the school,
- that pupils are educated at a school which is a focal point for community activities providing enriched experiences and opportunities for pupils, as is the current situation,
- that rationalising the per pupil cost in schools would reduce the range in the per pupil cost for all Gwynedd children,
- it is estimated that implementing the proposal would lead to revenue savings of between £92,213 and £105,813 per annum having considered additional transport arrangements,
- a continuation of the current situation, with pupils educated at a Welsh-medium school where social use of the Welsh language is strong,
- that pupils would continue to receive their education at a school within a reasonable distance of their homes and receive transport in accordance with Council policy.

The report presented to Cabinet on 19 May 2020 ([19 May 2020 Cabinet Report](#)) details the background, consultation and statutory process to date. This report, along with other relevant documents, can be found at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation.

In accordance with the above decision, **Ysgol Llanaelhaearn will close on 31 August 2020**, and pupils will transfer to Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, unless parents choose to apply to transfer to another school. Ysgol Bro Plenydd will be the catchment school for the current catchment area of Ysgol Llanaelhaearn in future.

If you require further information, you are welcome to contact ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

Yours Faithfully,



Garem Jackson
Head of Education

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