



Moderneiddio Addysg  
*Modernising Education*

(01286) 679247 Ein Cyf / Our Ref: Ysgol Y Garreg Decision Letter

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24 June 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

**Notice regarding Cyngor Gwynedd's decision on the proposal to - "close Ysgol Y Garreg 31 August 2026 and denote Ysgol Cefn Coch as the alternative school from 1 September 2026" in accordance with the School Organisation Code 011/2018.**

On Tuesday 9 June 2026, Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet approved the proposal to close Ysgol Y Garreg on 31 August 2026 and denote Ysgol Cefn Coch as the alternative school from 1 September 2026. In accordance with the constitution of the council, the Cabinet's decision became effective on 24 June 2026. A statutory objection period was held between 25 February and 24 March 2026. No objection was received to the proposal and as a result, the Cabinet supported the recommendation to confirm the proposal.

The report presented to the Cabinet on 9 June 2026 - the [Objection Report](#) (item 6) elaborates on the background and the statutory process. This report along with other relevant documents is available on the [Modernising Education](#) website.

The proposal was developed due to the main challenges facing the school, namely:

- Very low numbers of learners attending the school - there were two learners on the register during the January 2026 PLASC census;
- A high percentage of empty places with 95% of empty places in the school (Reception to Year 6 class);
- Projections based on January 2026 PLASC numbers suggest that there will be no learners of statutory age in the school in September 2026 as there are no learners in the Reception to year 5 classes and no learners in the Nursery class.

In the case of Ysgol Y Garreg which is designated as a rural school in the School Organisation Code 011/2018, specific consideration was given to the additional procedural requirements in relation to drawing up a proposal for rural schools and several impact assessments were undertaken. The following factors were considered by the Cabinet in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 011/2018:

- Quality and standards in education
- The need for places and the impact on school accessibility
- Education resources and other financial implications
- Other general factors
- Specific factors when considering school closures
- The likely impact on different travel arrangements
- The likely impact on the Community
- The likely impact on the Welsh Language
- Equality
- The requirements of the Well-being and Future Generations Act 2015

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- Numbers of learners and empty places
- Class sizes and age range
- Leadership and staffing
- Financial resources
- The suitability and capacity of Ysgol Cefn Coch for future learners of Ysgol Y Garreg's catchment area.

The Authority is of the opinion that following the objection period, none of the other options, including federalisation, would address the main challenges facing the school and that implementing the proposal is the most appropriate response to Ysgol Y Garreg's situation.

The reasons for approving the proposal are outlined below, addressing the relevant factors set out in sections 1.3 to 1.7 of the School Organisation Code 011/2018:

**Quality and Standards of Education:**

- There will be an opportunity to teach children in larger groups, with age-related peers to broaden their experiences.
- According to Estyn's latest reports, Ysgol Cefn Coch offers education of a quality and standard that is equivalent at least to that at Ysgol Y Garreg, therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposal would have a negative impact on the quality and standards of education.

**The need for places and the impact on school accessibility:**

- As a result of the implementation of the proposal there will be better consistency in the size of classes and a reduction of the age range within the primary school classes in the area with the learners being taught in a school where the numbers and projections are more robust and sustainable for the future.

**Education resources and other financial implications:**

- Implementing the proposal would rationalise the cost per learner in schools and reduce the range in cost per learner for all Gwynedd children.
- It is anticipated that the realisation of the proposal would lead to an annual saving in revenue costs.

**Other general factors:**

- Learners in the catchment area would continue to receive their education in a Welsh-medium (Category 3) primary school.
- Learners in the catchment area would continue to receive their education in a school within a reasonable distance of their homes and would receive transport in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.

In accordance with the decision above, Ysgol Y Garreg will close on 31 August 2026. From 1 September 2026, Ysgol Cefn Coch will be the catchment area school for the current catchment area of Ysgol Y Garreg for the future.

If you need further information, you may contact – [Modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:Modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Yours Sincerely,



Gwern ap Rhisiart  
**Head of Education**  
**Cyngor Gwynedd**