

Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

**Proposal to increase capacity of Ysgol Llanfair
Dyffryn Clwyd**

September 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is carrying out a formal consultation on a proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd from 105 full time pupils to 126 full time pupils.
- 1.2 Should the Governing Body wish to implement the Proposal following the Formal Consultation, such implementation will be subject to Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments.

2. National Context

- 2.1 The Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2013 (revised 2018) requires the proposer to conduct a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment when proposing changes to school organisation.
- 2.2 The School Organisation Code stipulates that proposers need to consider the impact that a proposal may have on local families and the local community, through preparation of a community impact assessment and the effect of the Welsh language through the preparation of a language impact assessment if any school affected provides teaching through the medium of Welsh.

3. Local Context

- 3.1 Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a Category 2 (bilingual) Voluntary Controlled school providing education for pupils aged 3-11 years old aligned with the Church in Wales in the Diocese of St Asaph.
- 3.2 Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd moved into their new school building in February 2020. The new school facility was built as part of Denbighshire County Council and Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Band A Programme.
- 3.3 The new school has been built to provide enough space to accommodate all current pupils along with enough surplus places to accommodate future projected pupil numbers based on Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and projected numbers as a result of housing developments for an additional 63 Dwellings to be built in the village.

- 3.4 Since the opening of the new school site, pupil numbers have begun to rise and demand for places has resulted in the Denbighshire's school admissions department having to refuse pupils their 1st preference.

Community Use of Schools

- 3.5 One of the policies contained within the Framework relates to 'Community Use of Schools' and highlights DCC's commitment to community focused schools. The Governing Body will work closely with DCC to conduct the community impact assessments when considering changes to the schools capacity.

Promoting Bilingualism

- 3.6 The Framework also contains a policy on promoting bilingualism. The governing body recognises how important bilingualism is in 21st Century Wales. As a bilingual church school, we share DCC's aspiration for all children and young people to leave full time education being competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. This aspiration is in accordance with the Welsh Government's vision for 'A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050'.

4. Background

- 4.1 DCC's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.
- 4.2 There was a commitment from DCC to provide a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council agreed that modernising education provision was a priority because it recognises the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 4.3 Education provision in the county had to change because improvements in education could not be sustained without changes to the way education was provided.
- 4.4 Consideration has been given to the potential impact on the Welsh Language and on the local communities resulting from the Proposal.

5. Sources of Information

The following sources of information have been used for the purposes of this document:

- Impact Assessment questionnaire undertaken by the head teacher of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd
- PLASC 2021 Data;
- Statistical data stored by Denbighshire County Council;
- 2011 Census Information;
- Current- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020. A draft Welsh in Education plan 2022-2032.

6. Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd

6.1 School details:

Name of School	Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd
Location	Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Ruthin Denbighshire LL15 2SD
Age range	3-11
Language designation	Dual Stream
Type of School	Voluntary Controlled

6.2 Number of pupils

As of June 2021 the School had 99 full time pupils with a further 13 part time nursery pupils. The pupil numbers over recent years are illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – April 2021 PLASC				
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
94	93	90	99	99

Nearest suitable school

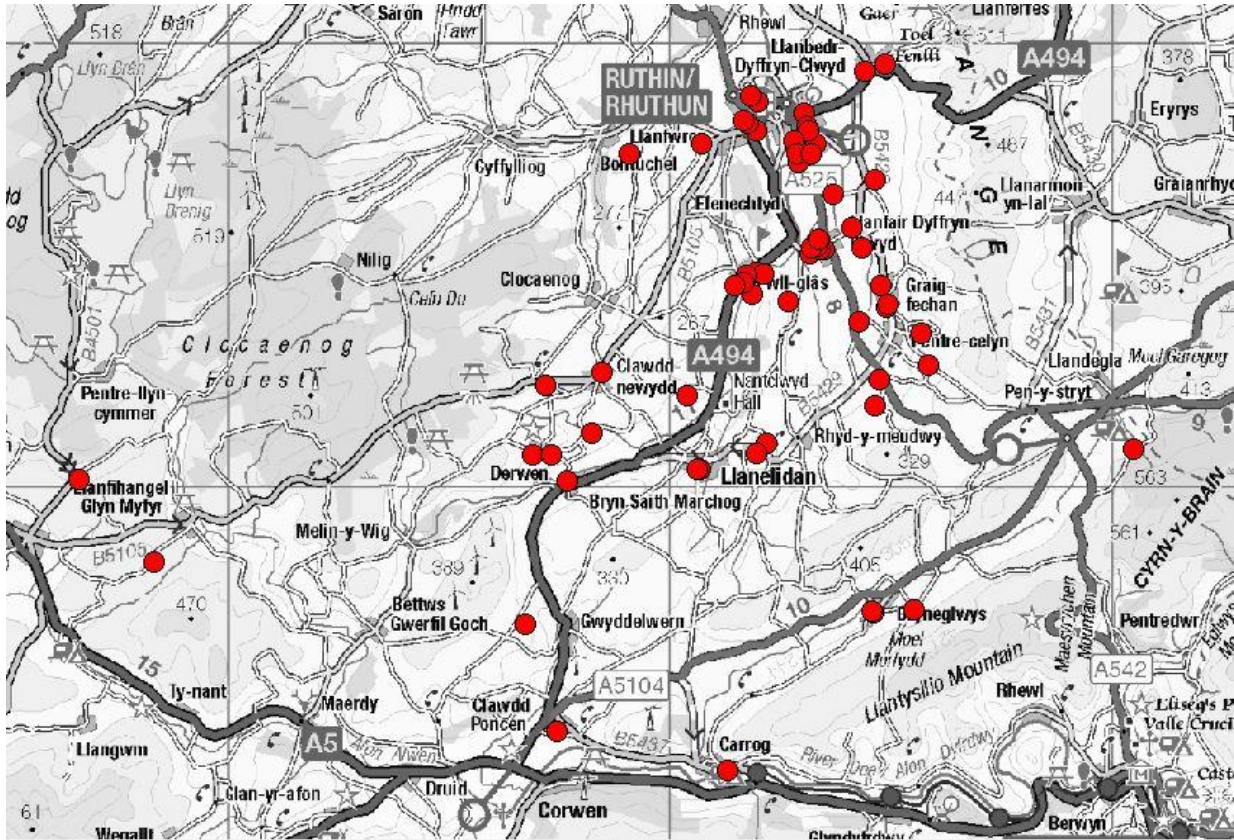
- 6.3 DCC admission policy does not use catchment areas when determining school admissions. Schools are simply referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith based preferences. However

parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available.

- 6.4 In making this assessment, it is necessary to consider the other schools which the proposal may potentially impact and where pupils of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd could attend. The list of potentially impacted schools have been determined based on their similar characteristics to Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn such as: similar capacity, deliver Welsh medium provision or church school provision.

School	Location	Age range	Language	Approx distance by road from Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (miles)
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	Pentrecelyn	3-11	Welsh Medium	2.3
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	Clocaenog	3-11	Welsh Medium	3.9
Ysgol Llanbedr (Voluntary Controlled)	Llanbedr	3-11	English Medium	4
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial (Voluntary Controlled)	Llandegla	3-11	Predominantly English Medium but with significant use of Welsh	7

6.5 The current Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd pupils live predominantly within 3 miles of the school site. The map below shows the spread of pupil locations (post code locations only, from June 2021 data, including nursery pupils).



	Number of pupils	Percentage of School Population
Live within 1 Mile of School site	25	22.32%
Live within 2 Mile of School site	29	25.89%
Live within 3 Mile of School site	22	19.64%
3 - 5 Miles of School site	15	13.39%
Over 5 Miles from School site	21	18.76%

6.6 Due to the fact that Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd has a unique offer being a dual stream Church school, it is difficult to know whether pupils are attending their nearest suitable school, without knowing individual pupils reasons for attending Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, the above table could be misleading.

Fluency of pupils at the school

	Pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* April 2021 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd	49	33	18

* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

**Including Full and Part-Time numbers on roll

6.7 Home language of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils (Impact Assessment Questionnaire)		
	Welsh speaking homes	English speaking homes	Bi-lingual*
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd	10	51	38

- Information obtained as part of the impact assessment process via pupil information held on the local authority pupil database.

* In this instance a bilingual home refers to a home where 1 parent speaks Welsh and 1 parent speaks English

6.8 Governing body details

Number of Parent Governors:	4
Number of Community Governors:	2 community + 3 foundation
Total Number of Governors:	15
Number of Welsh speaking Governors:	13
Language in which minutes are recorded	English

6.9 Parent and teacher association

There is a parent and teacher association at the school which meets every termly, the meetings take place in English.

6.10 Additional provision

The additional school provision offered out of school hours is a daily breakfast club. There is no after school or Holiday Club offer at the school.

6.11 Childcare/ pre-school provision

The school also has a Cylch Meithrin [playgroup] which is located within the school building. The provision is run within the school `s Community Room .It currently opens for morning sessions. The playgroup is registered to take 19 pupils per session. Current numbers at June 2021 were up to 18 attending each day.

6.12 There are also private nursery/ day care provisions in the local area that provide Welsh and Bilingual provision.

6.13 Community Facilities

The head teacher listed the following community facilities available outside of the school:

- a) Neuadd Llanfair (community hall)
- b) Neuadd Pwllglas (community hall)
- c) The White Horse, Llanfair
- d) Fox and Hounds, Pwllglas
- e) Siop Gymunedol Pwllglas
- f) St Mary's Church, Llanfair
- g) Capel Salem, Llanfair
- h) Capel y Rhiw, Pwllglas

6.14 Community Activities – school building

The following community activities take place in the school building:

Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc.)	Location	Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)	Language (Welsh/English/Bilingual)
Cylch Meithrin y Graig	Community Room	Daily (Mornings)	Welsh
Llanfair Community Council – Meetings	Community Room	Twice a year	Bilingual

6.15 Covid restrictions have meant that the school haven't been able to open up the hall to community activities since the opening of the new building in February 2020.

6.16 Community Activities – other

Neuadd Llanfair and Neuadd Pwllglas are used by a variety of groups for a range of community activities. These activities are delivered in Welsh and Bilingually.

7. Additional considerations set out in the Code

7.1 Although it is planned that the schools will increase its capacity the proposal will not have any impact on the current school building and how it is used as the school has sufficient space to accommodate the additional pupil numbers within the school building.

7.2 There are certain matters set out in the Code which the proposer should consider when assessing the impact of the proposal on the community and language. However, some of them apply only where a school is to be closed and its pupils will have to rely on existing alternative provision. Therefore for the reasons stated in **paragraph 7.1** above it is not relevant for the purposes of this document to consider:

- a. whether other facilities in the immediate local or wider community will or could be enhanced in the event of closure;

- b. information about the facilities and services provided at any alternative school;
- c. information about the distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school;
- d. how parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported;
- e. information about any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions;
- f. information on wider community safety issues;
- g. information about standards in the Welsh language in the school and any alternatives;
- h. information about after school activities which provide additional opportunities to use Welsh in the school and any alternative school;
- i. whether it might be appropriate to provide additional after school facilities at any alternative school to further secure standards in the Welsh language; and
- i. how parents' and pupils' engagement with any alternative school and any specific language enhancement it offers could be supported.

The school and governing body may wish to consider as part of its future work how the school can ensure its presence is maintained in the community.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The Governing Body accept that any change to education arrangements has potential to have a wide variety of impacts on different groups.
- 8.2 This impact assessment will consider equality impact on pupils, staff and the local community based on the Proposal.
- 8.3 In order to assess the potential impact consideration has been given to the following areas:
 - Race
 - Disability
 - Sex

- Age
- Religion & Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Welsh Language

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
Race	<p>There is no criteria that would exclude an ethnic group as part of this proposal. Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd value and respect our pupils and encourage them to develop skills to become confident individuals, aware of the wellbeing of others and happy and responsible members of society</p> <p>In the event of a family with children wishing to access the school who don't speak either Welsh or English, then support would be provided by the local authorities EAL service to support the pupil.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Disability	<p>The school building is fully accessible and the increase of capacity will not impact of accessibility for Disabled pupils.</p> <p>Children with specific learning needs will be assessed as to the most appropriate aids which</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

	<p>may be required to allow a pupil to attend the school would be undertaken.</p> <p>The proposal would provide additional capacity at the school to cater for additional pupils including pupils with a Disability.</p>			
Sex	There is no criteria as part of this proposal that would exclude on the basis of gender.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Age	<p>The service will be open to children between the ages of 3 – 11 years.</p> <p>The proposal will increase provision within Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and the surrounding areas for this age group.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Religion & Belief	<p>There is no criteria as part of this proposal that would exclude a child and their families on the basis of religion and belief.</p> <p>Increase in Provision at the school is likely to have a positive impact as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of places available in a church school Reduction in 1st preference refusals Decrease in Nearest Suitable School refusals Decrease in Sibling refusals Increase in capacity within Church School provision will increase opportunity to meet demand and encourage access. 	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

Sexual Orientation	There is no criteria as part of this proposal that would exclude a child and their families on the basis of sexual orientation.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Gender Reassignment	There is no criteria as part of this proposal that would exclude a child and their families on the basis of gender reassignment.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership	There is no criteria as Part of this proposal that would exclude a child and their families on the basis of marriage and civil partnerships.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy & Maternity	There is no criteria as part of this proposal that would exclude a child and their families on the basis of pregnancy and maternity.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Welsh Language	Increase in Provision at the school is likely to have a positive impact as: Increase in number of places available Reduction in 1st preference refusals Decrease in Nearest Suitable School refusals Decrease in Sibling refusals Encourage parents to walk/ cycle to school, due to having a place in a school closer to home. Increase in capacity within Welsh medium provision will increase opportunity to meet demand and encourage access.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact	Current Proposal	3	7	0
	Residual Impact	0	0	0

9. Summary of Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 It should be noted that attempting to ascertain the potential impact on equality from school organisation is a difficult undertaking.
- 9.2 Overall the impact from the assessment is positive. There are a number of impact considerations which the proposal has no impact on due to the nature of the proposal.
- 9.3 The main positives from the assessment are the increases in the number of places available in a bi-lingual church school to meet demand and encourage access, reduction in 1st preference refusals, decrease in nearest suitable school refusals and decrease in sibling refusals.

10. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

- 10.1 This impact assessment is to consider the potential impact on the Welsh language of the Proposal.

Census Data

- 10.2 The following data is taken from the 2011 Census and provides information on the proportion of Welsh speakers within the ward that Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is located in.

	Population	Number of Welsh Speakers	Proportion of Welsh Speakers
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/ Gwyddelwern	2162	1044	48.3%

- 10.3 The Census data demonstrates that 48.3% of the population can speak Welsh in the ward that the school is located in.

Risk Assessment

10.4 In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh language consideration has been given to the following areas (as set out in the table below):

- Language of the school;
- Access to Welsh Medium education;
- Education Provision / Educational standards;
- Access to non-statutory provision;
- Access to pre / after school activities;
- Use of Welsh within the community.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
Language of the school	<p>Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a Bilingual school with a very strong Welsh ethos.</p> <p>Following the proposal the school will remain a bilingual school.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Access to Welsh Medium education	<p>Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a Dual stream, bilingual School aiming for all students to achieve a confident grasp of the Welsh Language regardless of the language they have opted for.</p> <p>Welsh and English – medium provision exist side by side, there is a strong emphasis on immersing pupils in the Welsh language during the school day to ensure this aim, shared with DCC, is achieved.</p> <p>The proposal would see this provision have an increased</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

	capacity to bilingual education for pupils.			
Education Provision / Educational standards	The proposal will not impact on the provision or facilities. The school has necessary space required for the proposed increase in capacity and additional staffing will be employed to accommodate for the increase in capacity when required.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Non-statutory provision	The Cylch Meirthin currently operates morning sessions Monday - Thursday. The proposal may see this provision increase to morning and afternoon sessions, depending on demand for wrap around care which would provide additional Welsh language childcare for parents.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Pre/After school activities	The school would continue to have a breakfast club. The proposal will may see an increase in numbers attending the provision, which the school will accommodate.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Use of Welsh within the communities	Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a Dual stream, bilingual school, which would continue should the proposal be approved. The increase of bilingual provision places at the school could have a positive impact on the use	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

	of Welsh within the community.		
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Overview – Potential initial impact on Welsh Language

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact	Current Proposal	3	3	0
	Residual Impact	0	0	0

11. Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language

- 11.1 It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from the proposal on the Welsh language is a difficult undertaking.
- 11.2 The main positives emerging from the impact assessment is an increase in bilingual places for pupils which will support the increase in the use of Welsh language within the community. Providing an increase in capacity represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh language.
- 11.3 Conclusion: Overall the proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language and the increase of bilingual provision places at the school could have a positive impact on the use of Welsh within the community.

12. Community Impact Assessment

- 12.1 This impact assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community of the Proposal.
- 12.2 In order to assess the potential impact on families and the local community consideration has been given to the following areas:
- School Designation;
 - School links to the local community;

- Impact on neighbouring schools;
- Impact on parents and families;
- Travelling Implications for pupils/parents;
- Impact on community activities;
- Impact on community facilities;
- Impact on community demographics.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
School Designation	The school is currently Voluntary Controlled school and will continue to be Voluntary Controlled if the proposal is taken forward.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
School links to the community	The school has good links within the community it currently serves. Therefore links will be maintained.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Impact on neighbouring schools	<p>There is a growing demand for places within the School, resulting in the Local Authority having to refuse pupils.</p> <p>The new housing development in the village and pupil projections also justifies the need to increase the capacity of the school.</p> <p>The Governing body do not envisage the increase of 3 pupils per year group having a significant impact on neighbouring schools. The increase proposed has taken the impact in to consideration along with the demand, therefore the impact is seen as being neutral.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A

Impact on pupils	<p>The school has necessary space required for the proposed increase in capacity and additional staffing will be employed to accommodate for the increase in capacity when required. Therefore it is not envisaged that there will be any negative impact on pupils.</p> <p>The additional pupil places will support parents getting their first preference. This in turn may have a positive impact on pupils learning, travel to nearest school and being educated closer to their local community.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Impact on parents and families	<p>There should be no major impact on parents and families due to the proposal.</p> <p>The additional pupil places will support parents getting their first preference or a place at their nearest suitable school.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Travelling implications for pupils/parents	<p>Additional places will provide pupils with additional places at their nearest suitable school. This will as a result reduce travel time and increase opportunity for pupils to walk/ cycle to school.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

Impact on community activities	As the proposal is not closing a school or significantly changing the current provision there should be no major impact on community activities.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Impact on community facilities	There should be no impact on community facilities due to there being no changes to local facilities.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Impact on community demographics	There should be no initial impact on community demographics due to the proposal. The proposed increase is to accommodate numbers which were envisaged as part of the new housing development and pupil projection data.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A

Overview – Potential initial impact on families and the local community

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact	Current Proposal	1	9	0
	Residual Impact	0	0	0

13. Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community

13.1 It should be noted that attempting to ascertain the potential impact from school organisation on families and the local community is a difficult undertaking.

- 13.2 The increase in capacity is to accommodate for predicted increases in pupil numbers based on the pupil projections and numbers anticipated from the new housing development in the village it is anticipated that there will be a minimal impact on the community.
- 13.3 Conclusion: The proposal will have a neutral impact on pupils, parents and their families. The increase proposed has considered impact on the local community, along with the demand for places.
- 13.4 As the proposal is not closing a school provision or significantly changing the current provision there should be no major impact on community activities.
- 13.5 Throughout the consultation period if there are any justified impacts noted the impact assessment will be reviewed and measures will be considered so that any impact is minimised.