

**Consultation Report  
In Relation to the Proposal to Increase the Pupil Capacity  
at  
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd**

**November 2021**

Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd  
Ruthin  
Denbighshire  
LL15 2SD

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The School Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd has completed a period of formal consultation regarding the proposal to increase capacity of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd from 105 to 126 full time pupils from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- 1.2 This increase would mean that each year group admission number would increase from 15 pupils to 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- 1.3 The formal consultation began on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.
- 1.4 Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposers to publish a consultation report. In this document we have to:
  - Summarise each of the issues raised by people we have consulted with and who have written to us;
  - Show our response to those issues; and
  - Set out Estyn's view of the overall merits of what we are considering.
- 1.5 This report should be considered by decision makers prior to determining whether or not to move to the statutory notice stage.

## **2. Formal Consultation**

- 2.1 Notification emails of the Formal Consultation period and where to access the consultation document were sent to recipients. You can see the complete list of recipients in [Appendix A](#).
- 2.2 The Formal Consultation documents were published on the School's website on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021. You can see a screenshot of the webpage in [Appendix B](#).
- 2.3 A children and young people's version of the consultation document was also created.
- 2.4 All documentation, including the Formal Consultation document, Community, Equality and Welsh language impact assessment, Children and Young peoples' consultation document and the electronic version of the response forms were published on the school's website. All documents were available in both Welsh and English. Information was also provided on how to request hard copies of the documents should any consultee wish to have a physical copy of the documents.

2.5 To help and encourage people to give us their views, response documents (Consultation Response Forms) were created. The Response Forms formed part of the Consultation Documents and as such was also published on the school's website. The Consultation Response Forms were converted into an online survey; a link to the survey was also published on the school website and was also hyperlinked within both versions of the consultation document.

### 3. Meetings

3.1 Consultation sessions were offered as follows:

Date	Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Staff Consultation
6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	School Council Consultation
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Virtual Information Sessions (by appointment)

3.2 A summary of the points raised at these meetings and the responses given at the time are included in [Appendix C](#).

3.3 Consultation sessions were arranged for the Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd's School Council, as the school directly involved in the proposals. A summary of the session can be found in [Appendix D](#).

3.4 As part of the pupil consultation arrangements an age appropriate response form was also provided specifically for pupils. A total of 10 pupil forms were completed as part of the school council session. The comments and questions raised by pupils through the Children and Young People's response form and the consultation session are also summarised within [Appendix D](#).

### 4. Consultation Responses

4.1 In total 17 responses were received during the consultation period which included responses from Estyn, and the Local Authority.

4.2 Support of the proposal is as follows:

	Total
For the proposal	3
Against the proposal	3
Didn't state either way	11

<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>
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4.3 Respondents were as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
Pupil	10
Community member	3
School Governor	2
Other	2
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>17</b>

4.4 [Appendix E](#) summaries the comments received via letter and email.

## **5. Response forms**

5.1 The formal consultation response forms were designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the Proposals;
- If they had any alternative options to the current proposal that they would like the proposers to consider; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the Formal Consultation Response Form is set out in [Appendix F](#) together with the Proposers' response.

## **6. Response from Statutory Bodies**

### **6.1 Denbighshire County Council**

<b>Comment/ Question Raised</b>	<b>Response</b>
In recent years the local Authority has seen a growing demand for places, resulting in our school admissions department refusing pupils for whom Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is their nearest suitable school. This has resulted in an increase in over subscription and appeals.	Agree

<p>During the design stage and pre-planning consultation for the new school building considerable feedback focussed on ensuring that any new building could be flexible to accommodate additional demand from the new Cae Mair development, which had recently been granted planning permission. The design taken forward acknowledged the likely demand of additional pupils to be accommodated in the building by different utilisation of the space within the school without the requirement for further capital investment.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The local authority does not envisage the proposal having a negative impact on surrounding schools mentioned within the proposal as the increase in capacity has been based on demand on 1st preference allocations, pupil projections and planning calculations as a result of the developments within close proximity to the school site.</p>	<p>Agree</p>

## 6.2 ESTYN

This response has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn.

However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters.

Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn have provided their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

<b>Comment/ Question Raised</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to maintain the standard of education provision in the area. However, there is too little information on what standards are currently.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>The governing body has provided a suitable rationale for the proposal. They outline clearly the benefits of increasing the pupil admission number. However, the consultation also includes increasing the number of pupils in the nursery section, which takes pupil numbers beyond that stated in the proposal's title.</p> <p>The proposer gives appropriate attention to the school's current capacity and considers the effect of a possible increase in projected numbers adequately. They also consider the impact on pupil numbers at other local schools. The school is housed in a new building with capacity to increase pupil numbers to 126. However, if the governing body increases the numbers in the nursery, as set out in the proposal, then pupil numbers will exceed 126. They do not identify clearly enough arrangements for provision if the school goes above capacity.</p>	<p>The capacity of 126 full time pupils proposed is for statutory pupils age 4-11. Nursery provision (part time) does not form part of this increased capacity. The proposal does state in Section 7 that Nursery provision would be increased by 3 in line with the new published admissions numbers of 18 for Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. This would enable more children to be accommodated within Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and surrounding areas, where demand for places has increased.</p> <p>The proposal makes reference to nursery places to inform consultees of how the class structures could potentially be set out and to provide context of the demand in the recent admissions for 2021 – 22 school year. This information is set out in section 3 of the consultation document.</p> <p>The increase in nursery pupils in the view of the Governing Body would not impact on the school's ability to accommodate 126 full time pupils.</p>
<p>The governing body provide a detailed description of the projected timetable for statutory procedures and for implementation of the proposals.</p> <p>The proposer sets out fairly the expected benefits and disadvantages of the change. They have considered the impact on other local schools and the community well. This includes plans to work with a local Cylch Meithrin to provide wrap around care to nursery pupils.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>In the main, the proposal considers risks adequately. Whilst the proposal considers current classroom arrangements well, it gives insufficient consideration to the impact of the increase of pupil numbers on nursery provision.</p>	<p>The proposal does state in section 7 of the consultation document, that Nursery provision would be increased by 3 in line with the new published admissions number of 18.</p>

	<p>Section 7 also details how the nursery provision will be affected and how the school is working with the Cylch Meithrin to provide wrap around care for nursery pupils in the morning and afternoon which would provide additional Welsh language childcare for parents. This is also considered as part of the Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment It is the view of the governing body that the proposal will have no negative impact on nursery provision.</p>
<p>The proposal considers a range of suitable alternatives and provides a suitable rationale for the preferred outcome.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The proposer considers adequately the impact of changes on learner travel arrangements and accessibility of provision. The proposal sets out that the local authority has exercised discretionary powers afforded to it under the provisions of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The eligibility criterion for walking distance for pupils at their nearest suitable school has been set at 2 miles as required by the measure. The local authority also provides a pedestrian link to the new housing development to allow a safe walking route to the school site.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The governing body has taken sufficient account of the impact of the proposals on Welsh medium provision within the local authority. The proposal identifies a potential increase in bilingual places for pupils.</p> <p>The extent to which the proposal supports the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) are less clear.</p>	<p>The creation of additional available places at Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd will provide greater opportunities for pupils to access a bilingual provision.</p> <p>All pupils are all taught in the same class with the primary language of instruction being in Welsh. Furthermore, this also facilitates the movement of pupils who begin their education through English to switch to Welsh medium as they progress through the school.</p>



	<p>This contributes to outcome 1 of the current Denbighshire WESP - More children to be taught in Welsh by the age of 7.</p> <p>In addition, this support Denbighshire's ambition to see every child and young person in Denbighshire leaving full time education being competent and confident in Welsh and English.</p>
<p>The proposer identifies the financial costs of the proposal well. The governing body identifies potential additional costs and revenue to budget. They suggest that these projections will improve the school's long-term financial position.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>In considering the impact of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management, the governing body has listed the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes and the Welsh Government categorisation outcomes published in January 2020. In its last inspection in December 2015, Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd was judged to be a good school with good prospects for improvement. In January 2020 the school categorisation was yellow.</p> <p>This defines the school as an effective school knowing what it needs to do to improve. However, there is no more view on the quality of leadership and management at the school included in the proposal. This is an important oversight.</p>	<p>In accordance with the school organisation code the governing body has provided in section 8 the information required and has considered the impact on leadership and management in section 8.3.</p> <p>It is the view of the governing body that, as the Leadership and Management of the school, we have provided the required information in accordance with the code and have considered the potential impact on the areas above. The proposal seeks to maintain these standards with a view to strengthening and improving them in the future.</p>
<p>The proposal has considered suitably information from the most recent Estyn reports for each school likely to be affected.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The governing body considers the impact of the proposal on delivery of the full curriculum at the foundation phase and at each key stage adequately. The proposer suggests that the</p>	<p>Agree</p>

implementation of the proposal may support the delivery of the new Curriculum for Wales.	
The proposal considers sufficiently the impact of the proposals on children with Special Educational Needs. They have carried out an appropriate equality impact assessment has been and consider that there is no adverse effect on any group. The impact those eligible for free school meals are not identified.	<p>The Governing Body acknowledge that free school meals have not been considered as part of the impact assessment. Currently the percentage of pupils receiving free school meal entitlement at the school is low.</p> <p>The Governing Body do not envisage the proposal having a negative impact on pupils eligible for free school meals as a result.</p> <p>However, this will be reviewed if necessary based on any potential increases in the future.</p>
The proposal identifies fairly that there will be little disruption to learners.	Agree

## APPENDIX A

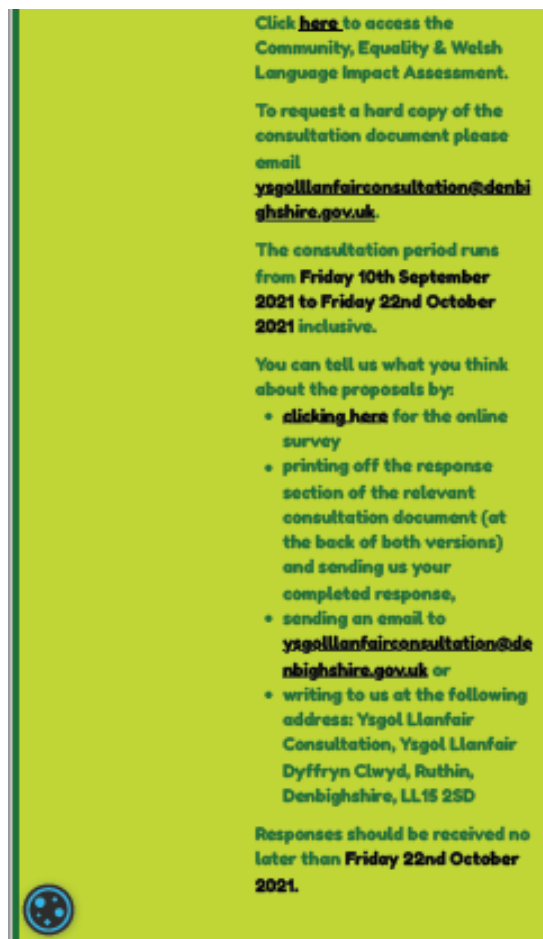
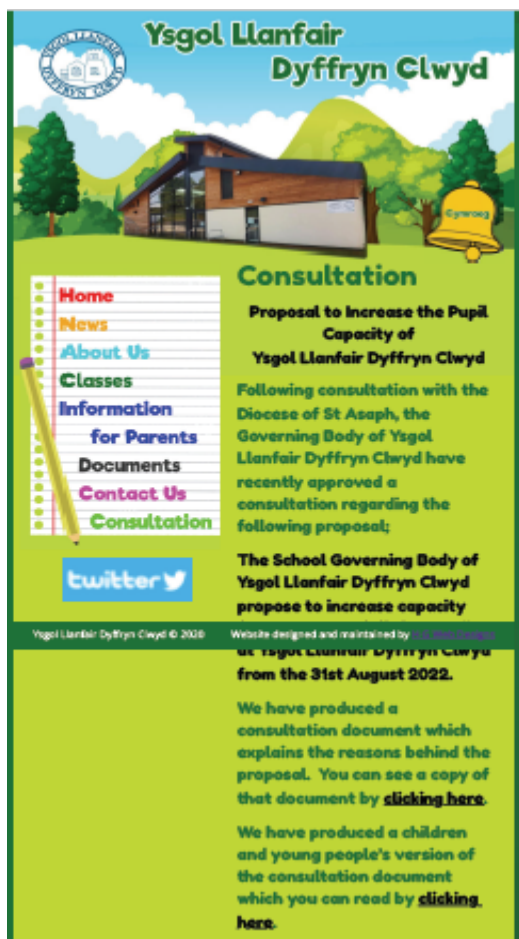
### Consultation Notification List

Stakeholder	Number of recipients
Parents of pupils of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd	104
Teachers and support staff of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd	13
The Governing Body and Head teachers of Ysgol Pentrecelyn, Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Dyffryn Ial.	8
Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham	2
Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all schools in Denbighshire ( Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)	102
Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	1

Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area	5
All Denbighshire County Councillors	46
Local and regional Assembly Members and MPs	6
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council	1
Llanelidan Community Council	1
Efenechtyd Community Council	1
Ruthin Town Council	1
The Welsh Government	1
Estyn	1
Relevant Teaching and support staff Trade Unions	8
Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)	2
The Welsh Language Commissioner	1
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	1
Flintshire County Council	1
Wrexham County Borough Council	1
Denbighshire County Council	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>

## APPENDIX B

### Copy of the school's website and the consultation page



## APPENDIX C

### Summary of Comments/ Questions raised in the Consultation sessions

#### Staff Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Comment/ Question Raised	Response
Is there sufficient space within the class if you have a number of children who require 1:1 support?	The classrooms have been designed to BB99 guidance. Providing a sufficient classroom space for the school's capacity and 1:1 support. Pupils with additional support requirements are assessed individually and each pupils needs will be accommodated within the classroom environment with support from Denbighshire's Education Department.

<p>How will numbers be managed as pupils increase in some year groups.</p>	<p>It is difficult to predict what impact the increased capacity will have higher up the school but we may assume that Nursery and reception class may reach full capacity in September 2022 if the numbers that applied in 2021 are similar. This would mean in the first instance that year 1 &amp; 2 would be taught together all day making a class size of 30. We would have to split nursery into morning and afternoon sessions and we have discussed this matter with Cylch to ensure that we can provide wrap around care and not impact on the ability of the Cylch to provide their service. If pupils apply further up the school where the class sizes are 27+ then this would have an impact and could lead to another teacher needing to be employed. This would need to be looked at case by case to evaluate the situation and consulting with staff, and the Local Authority.</p>
<p>How will pupils be split and how will the new classroom arrangements support the delivery of the new curriculum.</p>	<p>A clear criteria will be needed when identifying the split of year groups, this criteria would include but not exclusively – learner progression, social i.e friendship groups.</p> <p>It is important to note that the new curriculum is based on stage and not the age of learner, therefore an emphasis is placed on the learner’s progression and allows practitioners to plan learning and teaching based on this.</p>
<p>The proposal is a positive thing as the school has a new building and pupil numbers are also increasing.</p>	<p>Agree</p>
<p>The school has worked in this format (with mixed year groups) before and it has been successful.</p>	<p>Agree - Ysgol Llanfair work with mixed year groups already and the proposal is not envisaged to have any negative impact on how the school currently functions.</p>

## **Virtual information session 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Details of the information sessions were outlined within the consultation document. The Governing Body contacted consultees by email on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to confirm details on how to book an appointment for an information session slot and a reminder email was sent on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021. However, consultees did not take up the opportunity to book an appointment for the information session, therefore no responses were recorded.

### **APPENDIX D**

#### **Findings from the consultation with the School Council of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd**

##### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The School Organisation Code requires the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (the proposer) to make suitable arrangements to consult with the pupils of any school which is affected by school organisation proposals.
- 1.2 The code says that consultation must include consultation with the school councils of schools which are affected and should also include consultation with individual pupils, where this is appropriate and practicable.
- 1.3 The requirement has been set in respect of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which states that children and young people have a right to have their views and opinions heard and listened to in decisions made by adults which affect their lives.

##### **2. Method of Consultation**

- 2.1 The Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd published a separate Children's version and Young Persons version of the Consultation document. Copies of the Children's document were provided to pupils at the school and pupils were made aware of where they could access the consultation document and response form on the school's website.
- 2.2 A consultation meeting was arranged by the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, facilitated by Denbighshire County Council with the school council. The meeting with Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd's school council took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

##### **3. Consultation Response**

- 3.1 The sessions aimed to be as engaging as possible, with the session focusing on these elements:

- **What the pupils thought of the school currently?** – (icebreaker session)  
Members of the school council were asked to come up with one word to describe Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. This could relate to the building, the school environment or how they feel about school in general. The group shared their word and the reason why they chose that word. This allowed individuals to explore what Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd meant to them and the individuals could consider if the proposal would have an impact what they felt, enjoyed or disliked about the school.
- **How do they feel about the possibility of sharing their classroom with children from the year below or above them?** – Pupils were able to discuss their views and any concerns about the possibility of sharing their classroom with children from the year below or above them and could ask any questions about the proposed changes to fully understand what the impact would be. The group notes were taken by the facilitators, and the individuals also made comments on their response form.
- **Would the pupils like to see anything else happen instead of what was being proposed?** - Each pupil had an opportunity to make an alternative suggestion to the proposal, also the group listed any questions or concerns they may have and the group were able to have an open discussion or write them anonymously. The facilitators addressed any worries/ questions which were raised.

#### 4. Children and Young Peoples Response Forms

- 4.1 We received 10 responses to the children and Young people’s response form. These forms were completed as part of the school council session and a summary of the responses are detailed below:

#### 5. Responses from the school council Session

- 5.1 What pupils thought of the school currently?

- Joyful
- Fun x 2
- Amazing
- Welcoming
- Enjoyable x 2
- Safe
- Community
- Beautiful

- 5.2 How do you feel about Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Having More pupils?

- Fun
- Excited

- I think it will be interesting and fun
- Good, but I don't want things to change because I quite like the rules
- I think it is good
- Odd, but exciting
- Good
- Happy
- Excited to learn with more pupils
- Excited that more children will be coming to the school
- It will be good because we will get to know new people
- There will be more people to play with
- It will be fun and exciting
- Would want to make sure there was still enough space within the classroom including room for staff who might need to help children who need 1:1 support

5.3 How do you feel about possibly sharing your classroom with children from the year above or below your own?

- I think it's odd but fun
- I would feel strange. but good for having new kids
- Odd because friends may not be with each other
- It will be different
- Happy
- We will be able to make more friends and know more of the children in the school
- Good because you can teach them things that they don't know, but they might not know the rules
- I feel like it would be fine. (we already mix classes anyway)
- Nice and excited
- I feel OK with it

5.4 Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead of what we are planning?

- There were no additional suggestions on the proposal in the group discussion or on the response return forms.
- Suggestions were made to improve the school facilities and learning equipment such as increasing equipment in the outdoor areas and providing different musical instruments. These suggestions will be passed on to the school for consideration.



5.5 Pupils also raised the following point:

<b>Comment/ Question Raised</b>	<b>Response</b>
How will it be decided who we will share a class with?	A clear criteria would be needed when splitting year groups, this criteria would include but not exclusively - language, social i.e friendship groups.
Will pupils from the same school year (if separated) always be separated from the rest of their year group?	Year groups joining back together for some activities would be encouraged but it would be dependent on timetabling, staffing and availability of appropriate teaching space. Breaks and lunchtimes would be timetabled so that year groups would be together.
Will more pupils at the school mean that there would not be enough space/ equipment for everyone?	The School's design has considered the additional capacity required at the design stage to accommodate the additional pupils. If additional equipment is required the school would be able to provide what was required to support this.

## 6. Pupil Consultation Report

A children and young people's version of the pupil consultation session has also been produced. You can access the document [here](#).

## APPENDIX E

### Summary of responses received via Letter and Email

<b>Response 1:</b>	
<b>Summary of Comments</b>	<b>Proposers Response</b>
<p>We are pleased to see the demand for places at Church in Wales schools, however there a several items in the consultation document that are of concern to us:</p> <p>- In section 3 there is information here about how many pupils have applied for places, number of pupils who have gone to appeal and the outcome of these appeals. This information is not normally readily available to schools or the governing bodies, which immediately raises suspicions.</p>	<p>The Governing Body requested this information from the Local Authority to provide context of the demands which the school has seen in admissions recently. The information published within the consultation document is available upon request from School Admissions. The Local Authority annually publish in round data as a Welsh Government requirement. Information on appeals, and applications received are also included in the School Information Guide published by the Local Authority.</p>

<p>- In section 4 there is data presented about pupil numbers over the previous 5 years and projections for the next 5 years. From the previous 5 years there is sustained and sustainable growth at Ysgol Llanbedr, which makes the pupil projections look incorrect. We recognise that any forecasting tool is prone to errors, however if there are likely significant errors here then it casts doubt over some of the other projections.</p>	<p>It is not for the Governing Body to defend the data provided by the Local Authority. This is an extract of the data which the Local Authority produces on an annual basis. The forecasts for all schools are based on current numbers and future years reflect the most recent numbers in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. Reduced numbers in these year groups will impact on overall future projections.</p>
<p>- In section 4 in the preferred option it states that the school already has capacity for 126 FT pupils. How was this additional capacity built in when the consultation for the new build for Ysgol Llanfair was to match the existing numbers at the previous Ysgol Llanfair of 105?</p>	<p>There has only been pre planning consultation undertaken for the new school site. The pre planning consultation identified that there was a need to increase the school capacity to accommodate numbers generated from the new housing development.</p> <p>This formal consultation proposal is the only consultation which has taken place on the capacity of the school.</p>
<p>- In section 5 the mention of the condition report brings in comparison with other local schools, which seems to highlight the difference between Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn. If Ysgol Llanfair is to expand it should not be at the detriment of Ysgol Pentrecelyn which appears to be the underlying threat.</p>	<p>The information has been provided as a requirement of the code. The proposal is to address local need arising from a recent housing development within the village increasing demand for places.</p>
<p>- Increasing capacity at Ysgol Llanfair whilst there are spaces available at other nearby schools will result in an increase in surplus places in the area, which is against a Denbighshire and Welsh Government education objective.</p>	<p>This point has been raised with the Local Authority, and it is their view that appropriate places need to be provided in the right areas. Any surplus places would be managed appropriately.</p>
<b>Response 2</b>	
<b>Summary of Comments</b>	<b>Proposers Response</b>
<p>We wish to note that we were disappointed that the consultation existed in the first place. Whilst there are two schools in close proximity, we question why the additional pupils could not be sent to Ysgol Pentrecelyn rather than increase the capacity of Ysgol Llanfair?</p>	<p>The school's admissions process is based on parental preference. Pupils cannot be sent to a specific school unless it's one of the parental choices. Schools are simply referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language</p>

	<p>and faith based preferences. Parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available. Once the admission number is reached pupils will be directed to the second preference school which parents have chosen in their application.</p>
<p>Should there be no change in Llanfair numbers in the light of wider County planning on the future and viability of other schools in the catchment, especially in the context of the growth of Welsh medium education and the provision of category 1 schools in the county? The little that is in the consultation document is not sufficient to fully address that. What is the vision proposed by the Council? Where is the "route map" format for Welsh medium education in the area? This consultation is taking place in a vacuum and on an ad hoc basis. This is particularly disappointing as the Council has been through a major consultation on education in the area a few years ago. That led to the building of a new school in Llanfair in the first place. The decision of the Council was not to amalgamate two Schools. We would therefore expect the County to drive a strategy to grow both Schools in tandem. Indeed, a promise was made at that time not to 'forget' Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the Leader of the Council promised to support the School. Since then we have seen no evidence of the Council acting proactively to promote category 1 Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>The Governing Body believes that most of the issues raised are for the Local Authority to comment on. The consultation document focuses on the need to revise the admission number based on local demand.</p> <p>The Governing body is aware that the Local Authority have recently published the "Route map" for Welsh Medium Education – WESP. This document outlines how the Local Authority intends to promote Welsh in Education and sets out the vision for the next 10 years.</p>
<p>How can it be claimed that the extra places in Llanfair are going to strengthen the Welsh language when it is not known which language stream those pupils will attend? The consultation portrays an unfair picture and creates questionable findings - especially in relation to other schools. e.g. What does this sentence mean?</p>	<p>The Governing Body needs to clarify a misconception about the school. Pupils at Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd are not in English and Welsh streams which suggests some form of separation. They are all taught in the same class with the primary language of instruction being in Welsh. Furthermore, this also</p>

"While maintaining the current arrangements would not have a negative impact on the quality of teaching and learning at Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, a lack of action to address a recognized increase in demand for places and evidence of parental choice, could increase the risk that the quality and standard of education in the wider area will be adversely affected." This is repeated in the document and states that education in other schools could suffer if Llanfair numbers are not increased. How? On what basis?

facilitates the movement of pupils who begin their education through English to switch to Welsh medium as they progress through the school.

The School and Governing Body has always made it a priority to ensure that all pupils leave at the age of 11 able to communicate fluently in both Welsh and English. Pupils encounter both languages in the lessons but Welsh is the main language of delivery.

The School has always been proud of its record in promoting the Welsh language and culture amongst all learners and has a proven record of success in Urdd eisteddfodau for example, over many years.

The latest available data identified that there were 55 children at Ysgol Llanfair in KS2. 36 were pursuing their education through Welsh and 19 through English. Based on this a reasonable assumption could mean that growth in capacity would increase numbers in the Welsh stream in Brynhyfryd.

The established pattern from Ysgol Llanfair is that pupils pursuing their education through Welsh transition to the Welsh stream at Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

Ysgol Llanfair doesn't lose pupils to the English stream at Ysgol Brynhyfryd as they had already been pursuing their education in English at Ysgol Llanfair.

It should be noted however that since Ysgol Brynhyfryd abolished the bilingual stream, parents, especially from non-Welsh speaking homes are now faced with a binary choice between Welsh and English. This has made it a more difficult decision

	<p>for pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes.</p> <p>The most recent figures for example show there were 46 pupils in the English medium stream [years 7 -11] at Ysgol Brynhyfryd who had transferred from Category 1 Denbighshire schools.</p> <p>[More information on our Welsh language policy is available on our website and in our prospectus].</p>
<p>A balanced consultation would better explain what this means. It would also explain that there could be positive benefits in not expanding Llanfair numbers as it would help to increase the numbers of other schools and thus strengthen the viability of schools in the area. We would appreciate an explanation of what this sentence means and what point it is trying to make</p>	<p>The sentence made reference to seeks to outline the potential risks associated with the status quo. Should the proposal not proceed the main risk to the school would be the risk of admission appeals to the schools being upheld as the building could accommodate a higher number than the current capacity. This would impact on the efficient and effective operation of the school. The reference to the wider area is the general acknowledgement in respect to the prospect where in those circumstances where parental demand cannot be met there is the risk that the use of resources is used to meet transport requirements to access education rather than direct spend on education provision in terms of teaching and learning.</p>
<p>The document states: "Set in the context of the challenges facing educational provision and the sustainability of high quality educational provision, the Governing Body puts forward this proposal to increase capacity ..." What is unsustainable for high quality educational provision at Ysgol Llanfair? Does the document try to suggest that progress is necessary to maintain high quality in the school? I don't think there is a question about the high quality of Ysgol Llanfair, nor is it dependent on having three extra children a year to support that!</p>	<p>The consultation seeks to bring a managed controlled approach to meeting additional demand for places in the Llanfair area via the small increase in the school capacity. The risks for the school is the scenario referred to where the capacity remains at 105 but the school is directed to admit additional pupils via the appeals process. This may place pressures on classes and could require class sizes in excess of 30 in Key Stage 2. The small increase proposed would increase</p>

<p>We ask for further explanation of what this sentence means.</p>	<p>the financial viability of an additional class which would accommodate the potential addition of 18 pupils to the school.</p>
<p>According to the consultation: "Where funding allows, the Local Authority will seek to increase the number of school places available, in order to meet local demand, improve the distribution of school places and offer parents more choice." How will increasing numbers in Llanfair and further centralizing children at that school "improve the distribution of school places"? Doesn't attracting more pupils from a wide catchment area to one school militate against that completely?</p>	<p>The Local Authorities admission policy does not use catchment areas when determining school admissions. Parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available.</p> <p>The current Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd pupils live predominantly within 3 miles of the school site. Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a dual stream Church school, which may impact on parental preference.</p> <p>The proposal would improve the distribution of school places by the small increase in Ysgol Llanfair to meet local demand for the recent housing development. Failing to act may mean that parental preference for the nearest appropriate school would not be able to be met.</p>
<p>Assigning a Grade C to Ysgol Pentrecelyn is unfair. If that is a fair reflection of the state of the school (namely "Poor. Showing significant shortcomings and / or not operating as intended.") then one has to ask why the Council has allowed the condition to deteriorate to such an extent and why are they not doing anything about that? That brings us back to the previous point about the council's failure to support the school since the new school in Llanfair opened. If the council has invested in addressing any "significant deficiencies" in the school then why does a Condition Grade C appear in the document?</p>	<p>The wider points raised here on the condition of Ysgol Pentrecelyn, are for the local authority to comment on.</p> <p>The school organisation code requires the proposer to provide information on the conditions of school premises which may be potentially impacted as a result of the proposal. The condition grade provided by the Local Authority is based on condition surveys of school buildings.</p>
<p>"If the proposal is not implemented, the school could be facing a budget deficit in the long run." Isn't this true of every school in the county ?! A counter argument can be made that not implementing the proposal would help to avoid a budget shortfall in other schools! Again, this reflects how the</p>	<p>The document has been produced on the potential impact on Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. This statement referred to reflects the position of the school.</p>

<p>document is unbalanced and portrays an unfair picture.</p>	
<p>“There is a possibility of reduced transport costs as more people will be able to secure a place at the nearest 1st choice school. This would be a saving to the local authority rather than the school.” This can only be claimed if there is certainty that any additional pupils will only come from the Ysgol Llanfair catchment area. If they come beyond that then there will be additional costs to the county!</p>	<p>The Local Authority do not operate catchment areas. Parental preference influences choice of school rather than location.</p> <p>The proposal seeks to reflect local demand as a result of additional places from the recent housing development in the village.</p> <p>Transport is only provided by the Local Authority in accordance with the Learner Transport Policy. Should the proposal not progress there is a risk that transport costs would be incurred in meeting second preference choices. Parents wishing to choose Ysgol Llanfair where this is not their nearest appropriate school may not qualify for Transport and therefore there may not be additional cost.</p>
<p>Finally, we would be grateful for confirmation from the council of how many pupils from Ysgol Llanfair have attended the Welsh and English streams at Ysgol Brynhyfryd each year over the last 5 years?</p>	<p>Data provided by the Local Authority that at Ysgol Brynhyfryd in years 7 to 11 there were 57 pupils with 34 in the Welsh stream and 23 in the English medium stream that attended Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanfair doesn't lose pupils to the English stream at Ysgol Brynhyfryd as they are already in the English stream at Ysgol Llanfair. To provide context in the same dataset there were 46 pupils in the English medium stream (years 7 – 11) at Ysgol Brynhyfryd which had transferred from category 1 Denbighshire schools.</p>

## APPENDIX F

### Summary of responses via the Formal Consultation Response Form

**Question 1** Are you in favour of the Proposals?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes	2
No	1
Response Total	3

**Question 2** Please provide comments regarding the proposal and any suggestions on alternative proposals which should be considered in the box below:

<b>Comments/ Alternative options suggested</b>	<b>Proposers response</b>
<b>Survey Comment 1:</b>	
Whilst an increase in class sizes is not ideal, as a community it must be acknowledged that additional places are required. The village is growing and so the school will have to grow with it. A reduction in 'Nearest Suitable School Refusals' is clearly good.	Agree
<b>Survey Comment 2:</b>	
No comments left by the consultee	N/A
<b>Survey Response 3:</b>	
Llanfair school already attracts more than its fair share of children from a wider catchment than it did historically because of the money spent on the new school. This is to the detriment of other nearby schools. Pentrecelyn School less than 2 miles away only has 29 children.	<p>The Local Authorities 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.</p> <p>The current Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd pupils live predominantly within 3 miles of the school site. Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a dual stream Church school, which may impact on parental preference.</p>