

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	The Executive Committee
Date:	28 October 2019
Subject:	Lowering the Age of Admission at Ysgol Llandegfan
Portfolio Member(s):	Councillor R. Meirion Jones
Head of Service:	Mr Rhys Howard Hughes
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Local Members:	Councillor Lewis Wyn Davies Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones Councillor Alun Roberts

A – Recommendation(s) and Reason(s)

Background

The Education Department of Anglesey County Council received a request from the Governing Body of Ysgol Llandegfan to go to consultation on lowering the school's age of admissions. This would mean that Ysgol Llandegfan would admit pupils part time from the September following their 3rd birthday; this would take effect from September 2020.

Currently, pupils are admitted to Ysgol Llandegfan full time in the September following their 4th birthday.

The Governing Body believes that this would be an important evolution in the school's development. In addition to this, it would mean that pupils had access to extensive and rich provision.

Currently, a Cylch Meithrin and Nursery Group [English medium] provide education for this age group. By lowering the age of admission, the Governing Body is eager to ensure consistency, progression and continuation in pupils' education in addition to providing formal nursery education for the catchment area's children.

There is confidence that this proposal will maintain or improve the current standards in regards to the education, provision and leadership and management.

This will also enable the school to organise flexible and affordable childcare for parents wishing to return to work.

B – Which other options did you consider and what were your reasons for dismissing and/or choosing this option?

Option – Continue with the current arrangements

This is not an option in the long term since modernisation arrangements are likely to impact the provision as it currently stands.

Consistency in preschool provision cannot be guaranteed, especially in terms of the present language provision.

In order to ensure that we respond fully to the requirements of the Strategic Plan for the Welsh language in Education, this proposal will favour lowering the age of admission to ensure that the Welsh language is a continuous priority in all catchment area schools and the isle of Anglesey.

The current arrangements also mean that the school cannot offer a care/breakfast club to the nursery pupils and as a result, parents choose to take their children to neighbouring schools in order to receive this provision.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive Committee?

A change in a school's age range is a "regulated modification" within the process of re-structuring schools and within the requirements of the School Organisation Code, 011/2018.

This is a decision for the Executive Committee and they are required to issue proposals on the change whilst considering the responses.

CH – Is this decision in line with the policy approved by the full Body?

The Authority has followed the process with other schools over the past few years. Nearly all primary schools in the county now admit pupils following their 3rd birthday. This would ensure consistency in terms of nursery education in the catchment area and across the county.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes.

DD – With whom did you consult?		What were their comments?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Procurement	
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	
10	Any external bodies / other(s)	

E – Risks and any mitigation steps (if relevant)	
1	Economic
2	Anti-poverty
3	Crime and Disorder
4	Environmental
5	Equalities
6	Resulting Agreements
7	Other

F - Appendices:

The Governing Body's request to lower the age of admission. Part of the Governing Body's minutes, 1 July 2019, when the matter was discussed.

FF – Background Papers (please contact the Report author for any further information):

None

COFNODION CYFARFOD LLYWODRAETHWYR

**MINUTES OF THE GOVERNORS MEETING
YSGOL LLANDEGFAN**

6yh/ 6pm DYDD LLUN 1af o ORFFENNAF 2019 / MONDAY 1st JULY 2019

Rhan o gofnodion y Corff Llywodraethu / Part of the Governing Body minutes

Meithrinfa yn yr Ysgol	School Based Nursery
<p>Oherwydd nad yw'r Cynllun Moderneiddio yn mynd yn ei flaen bellach mae'r Awdurdod angen i'r ysgol ail-gadarnhau a oes angen Meithrinfa yn yr ysgol.</p> <p>Cytunwyd yn unfrydol y dylai'r cynlluniau i gael Meithrinfa fynd yn eu blaen.</p> <p>Bydd angen cynnal ymgynghoriad i hysbysu'r Pwyllgor Gwaith o benderfyniad y Corff ac i fod yn eglur iawn ynglŷn â'r hyn yr ydym yn ei ddisgwyl.</p> <p>Adroddodd y Pennaeth bod yr ysgol eisoes wedi colli 11 o ddisgyblion drwy beidio â chael clwb brechwast.</p> <p>Cytunodd yr aelodau i gyd mai dyma'r ffordd ymlaen a gosodwyd targed ar gyfer Medi 2020.</p>	<p><i>Following the collapse of the Modernisation Plan the Authority now wants the school to re-confirm if they still require a school based Nursery.</i></p> <p><i>It was unanimously agreed that this should go ahead.</i></p> <p><i>A consultation will need to take place, to inform the Executive of the Governors decision and be very clear as to what we expect.</i></p> <p><i>Headteacher reported that by not having a breakfast club which would open at 8am the school have already lost 11 pupils.</i></p> <p><i>All members agreed that this was the correct way forward and have set a target date for September 2020.</i></p>



**YSGOL GYNRADD LLANDEGFAN
LLANDEGFAN, YNYS MÔN, LL59 5UW**



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Pennaeth / Headteacher: Mr D Hood

Dear Mr A Williams,

Following a recent Governing Body meeting here in Ysgol Llandegfan, we once more wish to seek your consent to start the process of consultation into the possibility of opening the School to offer nursery provision within its walls. We would like for this to start by means of which would enable us, if the consultation were favourable, to open and offer the provision from September 2020.

We as a Body feel that this is essential for the School's development in moving forward, in expanding what we have to offer, in continuing to drive standards and in ensuring the best provision for our pupils here in Llandegfan.

We would appreciate your response including the next steps to be followed.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr C. Jones

Chair of the Governing Body