



CONSULTATION

Proposal to establish a school federation between Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan



This consultation document and appendices are also available on the Consultation page on the Council website.

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh.



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1. The Proposal

This document outlines the proposal made by the Local Authority to enter a federation agreement with Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan in accordance with the Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations (2014).

The aim of the Federation is for the schools to work in partnership. The Headteacher has provided the points below to outline the positive steps to date:

- Opening access to teaching expertise, up-skilling staff in both schools / share expertise / share good practice which ultimately raises standards and broadens experiences
- Allowing best practice, preparation materials and resources to be shared.
- Providing the best social opportunities for pupils
- Expand the professional development opportunities of staff in both schools.
- Allowing schools that federate to stay in their communities and keep their individual identity adding to the overall benefit, welfare, and achievement of all pupils
- Continue to strengthen the Welsh language, culture and ethos and ensure the distinct religious values of these church schools.
- Ensure the church values are strengthened between both schools

This will ensure significant positive outcomes and improved standards for all.

The term 'Federation' describes a formal and legal agreement by which a number of schools share governance arrangements. The key elements are:

- If the establishment of a School Federation is agreed, there will be a single governing body with strategic oversight of schools within Federation, the existing governing bodies will be dissolved and replaced by a new, single governing body with strategic oversight of both schools.
- Each School will retain their own character, name, category, budget, staff, and school uniform.
- The School will remain in its own community.
- Each School has its own Estyn inspection, though increasingly these are co-ordinated to happen at the same / similar time for all schools within the Federation to minimise stress and disruption.

The proposed name of the Federation is yet to be agreed.

We would like to know your views on this proposal and have suggested the ways in which you can do this at the end of this document.

Conwy recognises the importance of involving pupils of the schools in the development and improvement of their educational experience and with this in mind will ensure their active participation in the consultation process and implementation. Education Officers will consult with pupils and produce a children and young people's version of the consultation document and ensure that teachers hold sessions to discuss the proposal with pupils and encourage their engagement and feedback which will be shared with Cabinet.

2. Background and drivers for change

A federation can help small rural primary schools to remain sustainable within their communities. The shared governing body provides an effective and accountable mechanism for schools to pool resources and staff, gain economies of scale and efficiencies that enable them to remain viable. Smaller schools in more rural and isolated areas could also gain as federation could open opportunities to share management, governing body responsibility and curriculum expertise.

The table below demonstrates the background and drivers for collaboration at both schools:

Ysbyty Ifan	Llanddoged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permanent Head teacher • Need to protect the aspirations of a small school by expanding the staff support and share the skills to ensure that the outcomes and experiences of our pupils are enhanced. • Church school • Welsh Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent but established head Teacher with a background in different schools of size and language. • Keen to protect the aspirations of a small Schools by expanding the support and share the staff skills to ensure that the outcomes and experiences of our pupils are enhanced. • Church school • Welsh medium

3. Overview of Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysbyty Ifan



Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan are 12.7 miles apart.

Both Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan are Voluntary Controlled, Church in Wales Primary Schools which provide Education for 3–11-year-olds from nursery up to year 6 pupils.

Welsh is the main language of both schools. Welsh is used as the language of communication with the pupils and for the school’s administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

Church in Wales Schools’ Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, both schools will preserve and develop religious characters in accordance with the principles of The Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan levels.

The school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Statistics for both schools are listed in the table below:

	<u>Ysgol Llanddoged</u>	<u>Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan</u>
School Location	Llanddoged, Llanrwst LL26 0BJ	Ysbyty Ifan, Betws-y-Coed LL24 0NY
School Category	Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Voluntary Controlled Primary School
Capacity (full time) (PLASC Jan 2024)	97	40
ESTYN Inspection	As of October 2017 Inspection Report Template (gov.wales)	As of June 2017 Inspection Report Template (gov.wales)
Current performance	Satisfactory	Good
Prospect for Improvement	Improvement required 2019 – School came out of ESTYN review Outcome of Estyn review Ysgol Llanddoged 2019 (gov.wales)	Good
Building Condition category	B	C

The table below shows total full time learner numbers over the last five years:

<u>School</u>	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan	15	12	15	15	17
Ysgol Llanddoged	35	32	35	35	36

The table below shows projected pupil numbers over the next five years based upon PLASC Jan 2024 data:

<u>School</u>	TOTAL FTE	TOTAL PUPILS (not inc Nursery)	CYFANSWM	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan	17.5	17	18	14	16	15	16	14
Ysgol Llanddoged	38	36	40	37	33	33	36	35

Pupil numbers from 2025 – 2029 are forecasts and subject to change.

Ysgol Llanddoged - Current Staff (PLASC 2024)

<u>Teaching Staff FTE numbers</u>			<u>Support Staff FTE</u>		
Head Teacher	Deputy Head	Qualified Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Admin Staff	School Business manager or equivalent
0.49	0.49	1.62	0.80	0.37	0.22

Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan – Current Staff (PLASC 2024)

<u>Teaching Staff FTE numbers</u>			<u>Support Staff FTE</u>		
Head Teacher	Deputy Head	Qualified Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Admin Staff	School Business manager or equivalent
0.49	0.49	1	0.49	0.00	0.22

4. Key Benefits and challenges presented by Federation

There are a number of key benefits and challenges presented by federation. The expected benefits and challenges of a small school proposal to federalise Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan have been considered by Education Services and are identified as shown in the table below:

Key Benefits	Key Challenges
Consistency of teaching and learning methodology especially cross-phase	Ensuring full commitment from both schools.
Streamlining of policies and structures.	Increased workload for governors during the first year of establishing a Federation
Sharing of best practice, preparation materials and resources.	Building trust between School communities and Governors
Greater opportunities for staff professional development.	Ensuring clear communication with parents and staff at the different schools
Arranging joint pupil activities.	Ensuring effective staffing structures are set to allow smooth transition
Small rural primary schools remain sustainable within their communities.	
Schools can share management, governing body responsibility and curriculum expertise	
Enhancing and protecting the Welsh Language and its culture and heritage	
Supporting and protecting the church values	

5. **Finance**

The way in which an individual school's budget is calculated is not affected by federation - each school in the federation will continue to receive its own budget based on the number of registered pupils at the school plus any other contributing factors.

6. **Leadership and Structure**

Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysbyty Ifan currently have one Headteacher between both school sites.

Should the proposal to federate be implemented, the schools will have one executive Headteacher.

School had an assistant headteacher during the initial collaboration period. Sept 22 – Easter 24 to ensure that there was a site lead where the headteacher was not present.

7. **The federation process**

The process a local authority would use to federate schools is very similar to the one governing bodies would follow. If a local authority is considering federating a voluntary-

aided, voluntary-controlled or foundation school it should first contact the Charity Commission to discuss proposals. It must also obtain the consent of the relevant diocesan authority, trustees or persons who are responsible for appointing the foundation governors before continuing with the steps below. As part of Step 1 - the Exploration and Preparation phase, a letter was sent to the Diocese of St Asaph to seek their consent on a proposal to form a federation between both Schools. The Diocese responded to confirm that they are in support of exploring a federation proposal between these two schools and recognises the opportunities and benefits that a federation could offer the pupils and staff in both schools.

Local authorities should:

- consider federation as an option within their strategic plans for effective and efficient school provision in or across communities
- ensure that school organisation plans are sufficiently detailed and transparent to inform decisions about federation within and across school governing bodies
- consider the impact of their federation programme on voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled and foundation schools where federation may not be easily achieved
- identify any small schools with fewer than 91 learners as the process of seeking the views of stakeholders to federate these small schools is shorter

The Education (Wales) Measure 2011 gave local authorities the power to make proposals for federation.

In the case of local authority-led federations, the decision whether to federate is made by the local authority after giving careful consideration to the use of federation as a strategic tool to drive improved outcomes and deliver resource efficiencies in their areas.

8. Composition of the Governing Body

The regulations require that each federated governing body should have a minimum of 15 Governors and a maximum of 27. We would initially look at having a fair representation from both schools on the new governing body.

9. Transport Impact

The current Home to School Transport Policy states that free transport will be provided for Primary School pupils who reside over 2 miles from their nearest appropriate school.

There are currently 14 pupils receiving Home to School Transport to either Ysgol Llanddoged or Ysbyty Ifan that live over 2 miles from both schools.

Should the Proposal to federate the schools be approved, there will be no changes to the current transport provision. Pupils will continue to receive their education from the same site as they currently do and therefore will not be eligible for free Home to School Transport.

10. Admissions

Conwy Education Service will remain as the admissions authority both during and after the federation of both schools.

Teaching groups will remain within the statutory limit of 30 pupils in the foundation phase classes and 30 or less for key stage 2 classes pupils.

11. Consultation Process

This document marks the initiation of the consultation process.

This period of consultation will last until the **25th November 2024**. As a result of the consultation the Council may decide not to proceed any further with the proposal or to go ahead with the proposal or a modified version of it.

A copy of this proposal will be published on Conwy County Borough Council's website.

The Local Authority will inform the current governing bodies of their decision and publish the outcome on their website whilst informing staff, parents/guardians, and unions directly.

How can you comment or ask questions on the proposal?

- By filling in the attached questionnaire and sending it to Dr Lowri Brown, Head of Education, Education Services, Coed Pella, Colwyn Bay, LL29 7AZ.
- By writing to Dr Lowri Brown, Head of Education, Education Services, Coed Pella, Colwyn Bay, LL29 7AZ.
- By e-mailing your views to: School.Modernisation@conwy.gov.uk.

The Local Authority will seek the views from the following stakeholders of both schools:

- Staff, pupils, and parents/carers
- Teaching and support staff
- Governing Bodies
- School and Community Councils

The consultation document will be circulated to the following stakeholders:

- All school staff
- Governing Bodies and trustees
- Parents and carers
- Trade unions
- Diocesan authorities or other religious bodies
- Other persons/organisations
- Community councils
- Early Years group
- School councils
- Any relevant LA

12. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment is available upon request and will be considered throughout the implementation of this proposal. The information for the schools demonstrates a diverse school population and there is no indication that any learners would be disadvantaged should the proposal go ahead; given that they will both remain on the same site and learners will have little change in their daily school routine.

**Proposal for a federation between
Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan**

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 25th November 2024

To: Dr Lowri Brown, Head of Education Services, Coed Pella, Colwyn Bay, LL29 7AZ.

Online: www.conwy.gov.uk/YsbytyLlanddogedConsultation

You can also email your views to: School.Modernisation@conwy.gov.uk

1. Do you agree with the proposal to federate Ysgol Llanddoged and Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan?

Yes No

2. Please confirm that you are: -

The parent/carer of a pupil of Ysgol Llanddoged
A Pupil of Ysgol Llanddoged
A member of staff at Ysgol Llanddoged
A governor of Ysgol Llanddoged
Community Member of Llanddoged

The parent/carer of a pupil of Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan
 A Pupil of Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan
 A member of staff at Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan
 A governor of Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan
 Community Member of Ysbyty Ifan

Other interested party _____

3. Please inform us if you have additional comments regarding the proposal:

4. Do you wish to receive notification via email link of the Consultation Report once published on Conwy County Borough Council Education Services webpage?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide email address: _____

Data Protection: Conwy County Borough Council is the data controller for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/Data Protection Act 2018. Conwy County Borough Council will manage the information you provide in a manner that complies with the Data Protection Regulation General Data 2016 / Data Protection Act 2018. The information you provide will only be used to provide you with feedback on the above. In order to see the privacy notice and more visit

<https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Council/Access-to-Information/Privacy-Notices/How-Conwy-County-Borough-Council-uses-your-Information.aspx>