



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref TO/ARD/00060/17

Michaela Beddows

14 February 2017

Dear Michaela

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 February, addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, AM and Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, Alun Davies, AM on 30 January, regarding the provision of education at Llangennech Infant School. I have been asked to reply.

The responsibility for the planning of school places rests with local authorities. Local authorities have to keep under review the extent to which their existing pattern of school provision meets current and forecast demand for school places and the requirements of delivering the modern curriculum. The Welsh Government does not normally intervene directly in the planning of school places.

I am aware on 5 September 2016 Carmarthenshire County Council published a statutory notice to close Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior Dual Stream Schools and establish a new Welsh medium primary school. The cabinet met on 18 January and approved the decision to proceed with the proposal.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the 2013 Act) created a new process for determining school organisation proposals which receive objections. Previously, Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

all such proposals came to the Welsh Ministers for determination. Under the 2013 Act a proposal approved or rejected by a local authority can be referred to the Welsh Ministers for consideration if certain limited parties decide to take this step within 28 days of the date of determination.

- another local authority affected by the proposals;
- the appropriate religious body for any school affected;
- the governing body of a voluntary school or foundation school subject to the proposals;
- a trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals; and
- a further education institution affected by the proposals.

Given the potential role of the Welsh Ministers in the statutory process it would be inappropriate for the Welsh Government to comment on the merits or otherwise of the proposal at this time.

Yours sincerely

Carys Percy-Denning

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Gangen Llywodraethu a Trefniadaeth Ysgolion/ School Governance and Organisation Branch
Yr Is-Adran Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion / School Effectiveness Division