



Eich cyf/Your ref:  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00195/17

February 2017

Dear ,

I am writing in response regarding Carmarthenshire County Council and the closure of English Medium schools. I understand you have previously received a response from officials regarding your concerns on Llangennech Infant school

Local authorities must comply with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act” and the statutory School Organisation Code (“the Code”) and must consider a range of factors when proposing change. The School Organisation Code sets out the policy context, general principles and factors that should be taken into account by those bringing forward and determining proposals. It imposes requirements on local authorities and others bringing forward proposals and sets out the procedures they must follow, including in respect of undertaking statutory consultation in accordance with the Code.

Where a proposal relates to a change of language medium the School Organisation Code states that relevant bodies should take into account the extent to which existing provision by the local authority of education in the medium of English/and or Welsh exceeds or falls short of demand or projected demand from parents for that type of provision, and the contribution the proposal would make to remedying that situation.

A copy of the School Organisation Code can be found on the Welsh Government website at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en>

I am aware that 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 full Council met on 18 January and approved the decision to proceed with the proposal.

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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.

The 2013 Act created a new process for determining school organisation proposals which receive objections. Previously, 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. The 28 day period in which a referral can be made has now ended and no referral was received.

The Welsh Ministers cannot therefore consider Carmarthenshire County Council's proposal. In bringing forward any future proposal the local authority would need to ensure that it complies with the School Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and statutory School Organisation Code.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**