



Consultation
on the Proposed Amalgamation of

Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont & Ysgol Trefriw

Caerhun a Trefriw, Conwy

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1. Description and Benefits of the Proposal

Through its Primary School Modernisation Programme Conwy County Borough Council has been reviewing current pupil numbers, equality of funding for pupils and the fitness for purpose of current school buildings across the Authority. The Local Authority has been engaging with parents, Governors, staff and communities in order to explain the current position and is proposing to establish a new Community Primary School in the Caerhun and Trefriw district. The proposal is considered necessary for these Schools due to falling pupil numbers in the area, increased cost per pupil figures and the need for sustainable buildings and resources to provide a 21st Century education for the future.

The new school will be established through the amalgamation of Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont and Ysgol Trefriw with a new school built on the current Ysgol Dolgarrog site. The new school will be built and developed through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme in order to accommodate all pupils from the current schools and the Caerhun Area. The purpose of this consultation is to establish the views of the community, potential users and other important stakeholders.

The consultation is on the basis that, if agreed, the new school will open in September 2017. Proposals brought forward by the maintaining Local Authority will require the determination by the Executive of the Local Authority in all cases; meaning that if any formal objections that are received through the Statutory process will be considered and determined by Conwy County Borough Council's Cabinet. Only a Local Authority objection will trigger the requirement for Welsh Ministers' approval where the Local Authority is not the proposer.

Those being consulted with are listed in the below table:-

| Name/Organisation |
|--|
| Parents, teachers & staff of Ysgol Trefriw, Tal y Bont & Ysgol Dolgarrog |
| Governors of Ysgol Trefriw, Ysgol Tal y Bont, & Ysgol Dolgarrog |
| Headteacher & Governors of Ysgol Bro Gwydir, Ysgol Eglwysbach & Ysgol Llangelynnin |
| Church in Wales Diocese of Bangor & Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham |
| Denbighshire County Council Education Services |
| Gwynedd County Council Education Services |
| Welsh Minister for Education & Skills |
| Welsh Government Schools Management and Effectiveness Division |
| Assembly Member & Member of Parliament representing area subject to proposals |
| Local Conwy Councillors for Caerhun & Trefriw Wards |
| Caerhun Community Council, Dolgarrog Community Council, Trefriw Community Council |
| Estyn |

| |
|---|
| Teaching & Staff Trade Unions |
| GWE |
| Taith |
| Police & Crime Commissioner for North Wales |
| Conwy CYPP |
| Flying Start Conwy |

The consultation will take place during the period from 28th September 2015 to 9th November 2015.

As part of the consultation, sessions for Stakeholders will be held on the following dates and times –

- Tuesday 13th October, 3pm–4.30pm – Ysgol Tal y Bont
- Monday 19th October, 2.30pm-4pm – Ysgol Trefriw
- Tuesday 20th October, 3pm-4.30pm – Ysgol Dolgarrog

Officers from the Council's Education Services will be available to answer any questions.

A report on the outcome of the consultation will be submitted to a meeting of the Council's Cabinet in November 2015.

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.

1.1 The Proposal to Amalgamate the Three Existing Schools

As part of the Primary School Modernisation Programme Conwy Education Services have engaged with parents, staff, Governors, pupils and the wider communities of Ysgol Trefriw, Tal y Bont, and Ysgol Dolgarrog. During 2013 key information was gathered to support the completion of Impact Assessments on Language, Community, Transport, Equalities and Buildings 'Fit for Purpose' and associated Options Appraisal were undertaken and completed by Conwy Education Services.

Each Impact Assessment and the Option Appraisal considered 4 options for the Area, namely;

- New Build Area School on Dolgarrog Site
- Maintain Current Schools
- Area School via re-modelling of Ysgol Dolgarrog
- An Area School on Existing Sites.

Education Services consulted with the school, pupils and the community in order to discuss the Options for the Caerhun Area. The Option Appraisal examined the various impacts for each option, feedback from children's workshops held with pupils from all three schools in January 2013 and feedback received from the community on the Strategy and associated Implementation Plan.

Each of the 3 current School buildings have issues pertaining to suitability and condition with outdated kitchen installations, poor energy efficiency, do not meet required Building Bulletin standards for a 21st Century School, outdated toilet and hygiene facilities and have restricted learning resource space. Owing to these issues to 'Maintain the Current Schools' or provide an 'Area School on Existing Sites' would be unachievable and unfeasible and would not meet the requirements of securing funding under the Welsh

Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. The option to re-develop or build a new School on one of the other existing sites was also ruled out given very restricted space available and the complexities of building a suitable Area School on such a site.

In November 2013 Conwy Cabinet agreed to take forward the option for a new build Area School on the current Ysgol Dolgarrog site. An Area School on the Ysgol Dolgarrog site was the agreed option owing to land ownership, revenue savings and limitations involved with gaining appropriate funding to provide 21st Century education provision in the area.

During the interim period officers from Education Services have been in liaison with Headteachers and Governors of Ysgol Trefriw, Ysgol Tal y Bont, and Ysgol Dolgarrog in relation to progress and information for processes required to establish a new School.

The Proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Trefriw, Tal y Bont, and Ysgol Dolgarrog will mean the formal closure of all three schools followed by the opening of a new build Community Primary School on the current Ysgol Dolgarrog site for pupils in the Caerhun locality.

Ysgol Dolgarrog – Site for the new Caerhun Area School



The new build Area Primary School will provide 120 places for pupils aged from 3 – 11 years old.

It is envisaged that the new Area Primary School will provide pupils, staff and the community with:-

- Three new general teaching classrooms
- Nursery accommodation to facilitate school, private nursery and early years with shared toilet and ancillary provision
- Specialist practical areas
- Library Resource Centre
- Main Hall
- Staff and Administrative accommodation
- Full Services Kitchen and Servery

The proposed new Area Primary school will be built on the lower section of the existing school site at Dolgarrog whilst the existing school remains in occupation.

In addition to formal educational space there will be also be resource facilities providing nurture / group rooms, access to ICT in all areas and staffing accommodation including offices and informal staff room.

Externally there will be vast space for sports pitch areas, games court, soft and hard play areas and sensory and habitat zones and landscaping suitable for both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 provision.

The expected advantages and disadvantages of the Proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Trefriw, Ysgol Tal y Bont, and Ysgol Dolgarrog have been considered by Education Services and are identified in the table below.

| Advantages / Benefits of the Proposal | Disadvantages / Challenges of the Proposal |
|---|--|
| There will be one Headteacher and Governing Body with a shared ethos | Staffing implications, potential staff redeployment and/or redundancies |
| A single set of policies with a single point of contact for parents/guardians/carers | Development of new day to day operational challenges of a new amalgamated school i.e. school layout, new uniforms, new school name etc |
| Staff can work together creating stability and a shared vision to provide a consistent and coherent learning environment and offering greater potential for improving levels of achievement within the school | Loss of 2 village schools |
| A new build 21 st Century School on a single site for all pupils living in the Caerhun & Trefriw areas | |
| Greater sense of school community for all staff, pupils and parents | |

Conwy Education Services have considered any potential risks associated with the proposal to amalgamate the three schools and one risk has been identified along with the action to be taken to mitigate the risk.

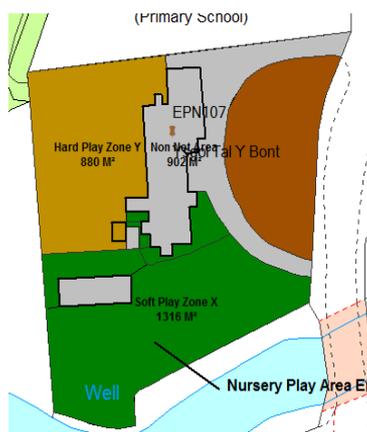
| Risks Associated with Proposal | Action taken to Mitigate Risk |
|--|--|
| Proposal may not be supported and approved by Conwy County Borough Council's Cabinet | Continue to keep Cabinet members updated on the progress of the Proposal and the Strategic Primary School Modernisation Programme through democratic processes |

2. Details of the Affected Schools

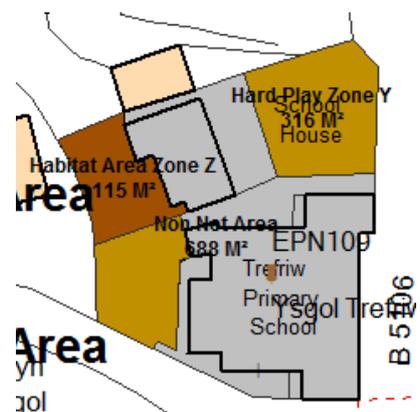
Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont & Ysgol Trefriw – Site Plan



**Ysgol Dolgarrog,
Ffordd Llanrwst,
Dolgarrog,
Conwy,
LL32 8QE**



**Ysgol Tal y Bont,
Conwy Road,
Tal y Bont,
Conwy,
LL32 8QF**



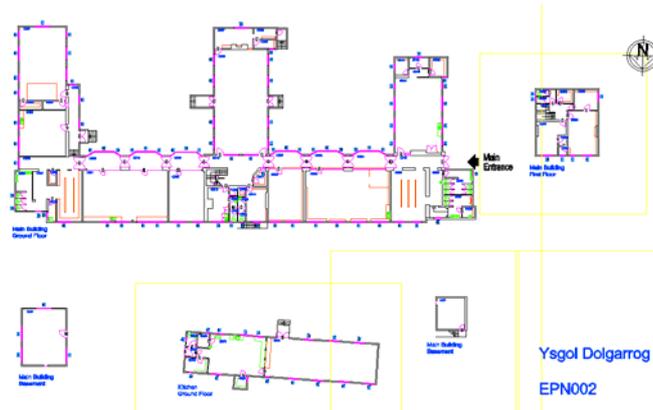
**Ysgol Trefriw,
Llanrwst Road,
Trefriw,
Llanrwst,
LL27 0RX**

2.1 Ysgol Dolgarrog

Ysgol Dolgarrog is in the village of Dolgarrog situated between the towns of Conwy and Llanrwst in Conwy County Borough Council.

The school has three classrooms (89.25m², 90m² and 73m²), a School Hall of 115.7m², Library of 37.4m² and internal play area of 37.8m². Pupils have access to 3530m² hard play area, habitat area of 2227m² and sports pitch of 2226m².

Ysgol Dolgarrog - School Plan



Ysgol Dolgarrog has the capacity to accommodate 90 pupils between the ages of 3 - 11 years old. As at January 2015 there were 50 full time children attending the school with 13 part time pupils attending the Nursery class.

Pupil numbers for the last 5 years are shown below:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| January 2011 | 47(6N) |
| January 2012 | 48(10N) |
| January 2013 | 49(8N) |
| January 2014 | 46(2N) |
| January 2015 | 50(13N) |

Projected pupil numbers over the next five years are expected to be:

(Taken from January 2015 PLASC stats)

| | |
|--------------|----|
| January 2016 | 56 |
| January 2017 | 56 |
| January 2018 | 58 |
| January 2019 | 62 |
| January 2020 | 65 |

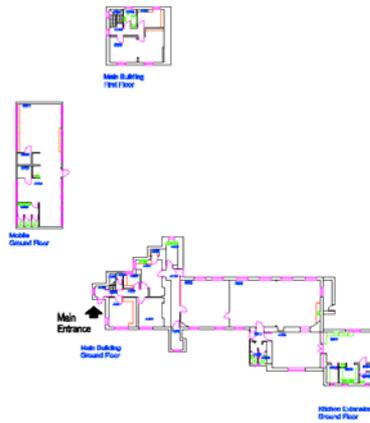
2.2 Ysgol Tal y Bont

Ysgol Tal y Bont is in the village of Tal y Bont just north of Dolgarrog between the towns of Conwy and Llanrwst in Conwy County Borough Council.

The school has three classrooms (39.96m², 31.11m², and 67.30m²). There is also an I.C.T room (35.8m²) and a library (11.3m²).

The pupils have access to 880m² of hard play area, and a soft play area of 1316m². The School also make use of the Village Hall.

Ysgol Tal y Bont - School Plan



Ysgol Tal y Bont has the capacity to accommodate 60 pupils between the ages of 3 -11 years old. As at January 2015 there were 22 full time children attending the school with 2 Nursery Pupils.

Pupil numbers for the last 5 years are shown below:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| January 2011 | 30 (5N) |
| January 2012 | 38 (0N) |
| January 2013 | 35 (3N) |
| January 2014 | 26 (6N) |
| January 2015 | 22 (2N) |

Projected pupil numbers over the next five years are expected to be:

(taken from January 2015 PLASC stats)

| | |
|--------------|----|
| January 2016 | 22 |
| January 2017 | 21 |
| January 2018 | 22 |
| January 2019 | 20 |
| January 2020 | 24 |

2.3 Ysgol Trefriw

Ysgol Trefriw is situated in the village of Trefriw just south of the villages of Dolgarrog and Tal y Bont within Conwy County Borough Council.

The School has 2 classrooms (87.6m² and 46.5m²) a Nursery classroom (39.9m²) and Library (14.4m²). The pupils make use of 316m² of hard play area and 115m² of habitat area and also make use of the Village Hall and a field in the village.

Ysgol Trefriw – School Plan



Ysgol Trefriw has the capacity to accommodate 69 pupils between the ages of 3 -11 years old. As at January 2015 there were 22 full time children attending the school with no Nursery Pupils.

Pupil numbers for the last 5 years are shown below:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| January 2011 | 35 (5N) |
| January 2012 | 36 (3N) |
| January 2013 | 30 (5N) |
| January 2014 | 32 (1N) |
| January 2015 | 22 (0N) |

Projected pupil numbers over the next five years are expected to be:

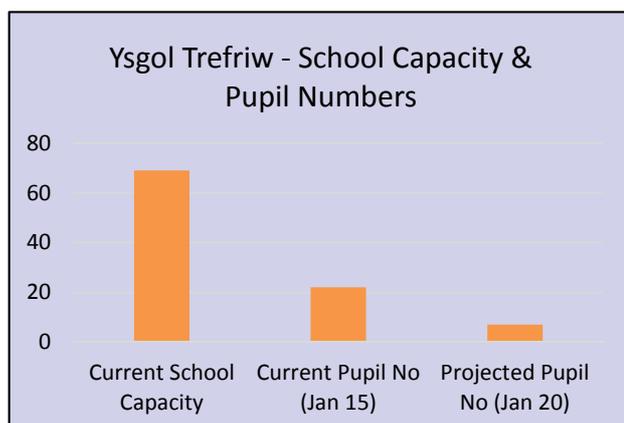
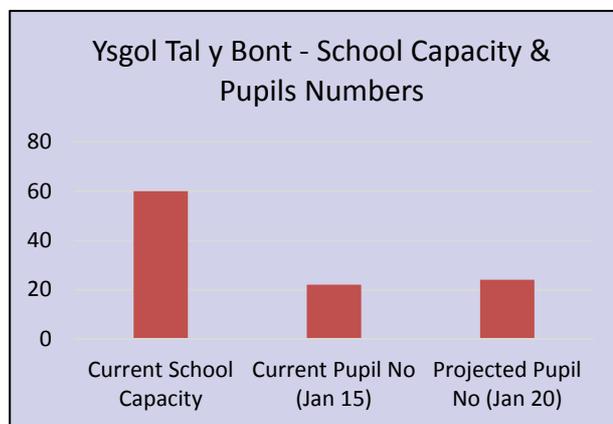
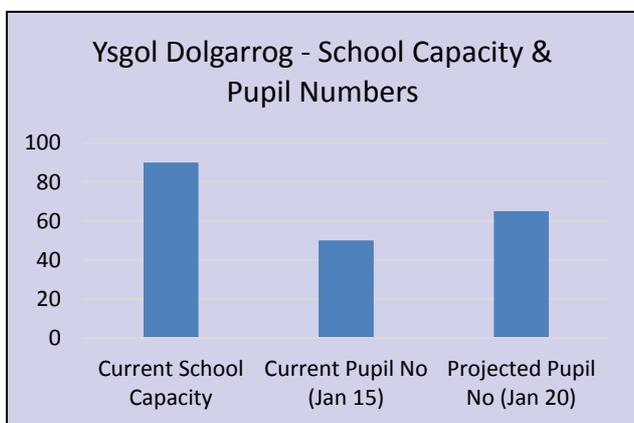
(taken from January 2015 PLASC stats)

| | |
|--------------|----|
| January 2016 | 15 |
| January 2017 | 13 |
| January 2018 | 13 |
| January 2019 | 9 |
| January 2020 | 7 |

One of the main drivers of Primary School Modernisation is the rationalisation of pupil numbers across the County. The information provided above in relation to the 3 current Schools shows that pupil numbers in the area have been in decline over the last 5 years and this trend is forecasted to continue.

The tables below provide evidence to demonstrate current and projected unfilled places against the current capacities of the 3 Schools. Ysgol Dolgarrog currently has 44% unfilled places, Ysgol Tal y Bont has 63% unfilled places and Ysgol Trefriw has 68% unfilled places.

By establishing a new Area School there will be a significant decrease in the number of unfilled places in this locality.



2.4 Staff

Ysgol Dolgarrog

There are 3 Teachers at the school, including the acting Headteacher. There are 4 Teaching Assistants that provide support to teaching staff. The school has 1 Administrative Assistant, a School Meal Clerk and a Cleaner; there is also a mid-day supervisor.

Ysgol Tal y Bont

At Ysgol Tal y Bont there are 3 Teachers including the acting Headteacher, Support to teaching staff is provided by a Teaching Assistant, one of whom also has the role of mid-day supervisor. The school also has a School Meals Clerk and a Cleaner.

Ysgol Trefriw

Ysgol Trefriw has 3 Teachers including the Headteacher. Support to teaching staff is provided by a Teaching Assistant; the roles of School Meals Clerk, Cleaner and mid-day supervisor are undertaken by another member of staff.

Should the proposal to amalgamate the three schools be approved, a Temporary Governing Body will be established and will work with the Headteachers and in liaison with Education HR officers in establishing the staffing structure for the new amalgamated School. These proposals will provide a greater opportunity for staff development of skills with potential for more specialist staffing and management structures in the amalgamated school.

2.5 Admissions Arrangements

Currently Ysgol Dolgarrog have an admission number of 12, Ysgol Tal y Bont have an admission number of 8 and Ysgol Trefriw have an admission number of 9. The proposed admission number for the new Area school is 17.

Admissions arrangements for the new amalgamated school will continue to be administered by Conwy Education Services.

Teaching groups will remain within the statutory limit of 30 pupils in the Infant classes and within recommended 30 or less for junior pupils.

2.6 Catchment Area

In the event of the proposed amalgamation of Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont and Ysgol Trefriw and the establishment of a new build Area School the existing catchment area for the schools will be combined to create the new catchment area for the new School.

Pupils will eventually transfer to the relevant Secondary Schools of Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, Ysgol Y Creuddyn or Ysgol Gatholig Bendigaid Edward Jones to continue their education.

3. Quality & Standards in Education

3.1 Curriculum

If the proposal were to go ahead there would be a single school with an age range of 3 to 11 year olds, providing a Welsh medium curriculum. Children upon admittance to Reception would be entitled to remain at the school until the end of Year 6 when they would transfer to secondary education.

The ESTYN inspection reports for the three schools comments as follows on the curriculum provision:-

Ysgol Dolgarrog - "Teachers and classroom assistants co-operate effectively to provide a wide and varied range of interesting experiences to gain pupils' interest. Planning for developing literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology skills across the curriculum and learning areas is good."

Ysgol Tal y Bont – “Nearly all pupils make good progress in their learning skills. They face new experiences and unfamiliar learning situations confidently, work hard in lessons and persevere on their tasks over extended periods. They make good progress towards becoming independent learners.”

Ysgol Trefriw – “The school plans appropriate and stimulating learning experiences, which engage pupils’ interest across the school. Teachers work together purposefully to plan suitable work programmes. The school has also benefited from planning and creating resources jointly with two nearby schools.”

Amalgamation would build upon the work that the headteachers, staff and governing bodies have already started in order to improve school standards further. This good work could be more easily built upon; collaboration providing the following potential benefits for pupils standards, enhanced provision, leadership and management:

- creating a shared educational ethos that supports children from age 3 through to 11 and providing consistently high expectations for all
- allowing the community to identify with and support a single primary school and potentially providing a more effective community focus role through its single governance
- promoting greater interaction allowing opportunities for additional activities which could be supported by parents, children and staff
- reduced duplication and economies of scale in management of budgets
- greater opportunities for pupils to mix, socialise, learn and develop with additional pupils of their own age
- enabling pupils and staff to access additional specialisms, resources and facilities more easily
- accommodating a wider breadth of activities for more able and talented pupils and those with additional learning needs
- having a wide range of ‘out of school’ activities that benefit from greater resources and that could be interest and age related
- strengthening the school’s language provision by working together to continue to promote the use of Welsh both in and outside of the classroom.
- providing greater opportunities for staff development and learning from new ways of doing things.

3.2 Estyn Inspections

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise the standards achieved by their pupils (*Estyn*).

As a result of changes made in 2011 by Estyn to the inspection criteria schools are evaluated by asking three key questions and awarding judgement based on a four point scale as follows:

| Judgement | What the judgement means |
|----------------|---|
| Excellent | Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice |
| Good | Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement |
| Adequate | Strengths outweigh areas for improvement. |
| Unsatisfactory | Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths. |

The latest judgement of the ESTYN inspection teams for the schools is as follows:

3.2.1 Ysgol Dolgarrog: November 2012

| Key Questions | Judgement |
|---|-----------|
| 1 How good are the outcomes? | Adequate |
| 2 How good is provision? | Good |
| 3 How good are leadership and management? | Good |

3.2.2 Ysgol Tal y Bont July 2010

| Key Questions | Judgement |
|--|-----------|
| Received Grade 2 across all 7 Key Questions - as of Estyn criteria at 2010 (Grade 2 - Good Features and no important shortcomings) | |

3.2.3 Ysgol Trefriw June 2014

| Key Questions | Judgement |
|---|-----------|
| 1 How good are the outcomes? | Good |
| 2 How good is provision? | Good |
| 3 How good are leadership and management? | Good |

The proposed amalgamation of the three schools is expected to maintain existing standards within the current schools and provide an opportunity for further improvement under one Governing Body and management team with a single ethos and policies.

4. Finance

The average cost per pupil in Conwy is £3,956 with a low of £3,227 in schools with higher pupil numbers and a high of £9,616 in schools with lower pupil numbers.

The funding allocation given to Ysgol Dolgarrog for the 2015/16 financial year were £263,760 with the cost per pupil figure of £4,840. For Ysgol Tal y Bont the funding allocation for the school for the 2015/16 financial year were £181,608 with the cost per pupil figure of £7,122. Ysgol Trefriw had a cost per pupil figure of £7,992 and the funding allocation for the school for the 2015/16 financial year was £183,822

One of the drivers for Primary School Modernisation is equality of funding for pupils and through the amalgamation of the 3 schools we would expect the cost per pupil figure for the Caerhun and Trefriw Area to be reduced.

Capital funding for the scheme has been sourced between the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme and Conwy County Borough Council's Primary School Modernisation Programme.

Recurrent revenue budget savings will be reinvested into the Council's Primary School Modernisation Programme.

The current Ysgol Tal y Bont and Ysgol Trefriw school buildings would be offered to other Education Services users before being declared surplus to Corporate Estates & Asset Management Service who would then proceed with disposal of the buildings. As it is proposed that the newly established Area School is built on the current site of Ysgol Dolgarrog this will continue to be maintained by Education Services.

5. Condition of School Buildings

Conwy County Borough Council as part of their Asset Management data hold information in relation to the condition of all school buildings (Whole Life Works). They are scored by the following:

| | |
|---|--|
| A | Serviceable, maintained life with normal maintenance |
| B | Operational, with minor essential maintenance requirements |

| | |
|---|--|
| C | Operational but with some critical and/or essential maintenance requirement |
| D | Barely operational, major critical and essential maintenance requirement a risk of breakdown; due for extensive refurbishment or replacement |

The scores for each school are detailed below:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Ysgol Dolgarrog | Ysgol Tal y Bont | Ysgol Trefriw |
| B/C | B/C | B |

A similar survey was carried out by EC Harris on behalf of the Welsh Government and their findings reflect those of Conwy County Borough Council.

6. Community Impact

Each of the 3 current Schools are located in small villages within close proximity of each other with an area category of 'rural village & dispersed setting'. As previously mentioned the Proposal will result in a new Area School being located in 1 village with the loss of 2 village Schools.

The following comments made by ESTYN inspection reports for the current Schools are encouraging in that each of the Schools and its pupils have strong and effective community links which would look to be maintained in the area.

The ESTYN inspection report for Ysgol Dolgarrog, November 2012, comments as follows – “There is a strong partnership with parents. They are very supportive of the school and contribute enthusiastically to a number of activities, including raising money to improve educational provision. Parents appreciate the regular information that is shared with them. There are numerous links with the local community and this has an extensive influence on learning experiences”.

Ysgol Tal y Bont's ESTYN inspection report from July 2010 makes the following observation – “The regular visits the pupils make to the local community, and other areas of interest associated with class work, contributes significantly towards enhancing their understanding of the community itself and the world of work. By means of a number of productive links with local businesses and industries worthwhile experiences are provided to raise pupils' awareness of the world of work”.

The June 2014 Ysgol Trefriw ESTYN inspection report states that – “Many pupils shoulder responsibilities conscientiously within the school community. The majority of pupils are active in the community and contribute fairly regularly to a variety of beneficial activities in the local area. All pupils are very welcoming and treat peers and adults with respect. The school's pupils visit the nearby chapel to contribute to religious services and the local minister leads regular services at the school. This contributes well to pupils' spiritual development.

Currently Ysgol Tal y Bont and Ysgol Trefriw make use of their community facilities, that being the Village Halls and Playing Field to deliver the curriculum. The establishment of a new Area School would allow for the full curriculum to be delivered using School facilities and resources.

The 3 current Schools all provide a range of clubs for pupils including Urdd and other extra-curricular activities such as Football, Film, Cooking and Knitting clubs. The amalgamation of the 3 Schools into one Area School is envisaged to continue providing such clubs for children with the potential to expand existing clubs and establish new clubs.

With the establishment of a new Area School it is also expected that the provision of free Welsh Government breakfast for pupils shall continue. Currently both Ysgol Dolgarrog and Ysgol Trefriw have Cylch Meithrin provision that operates at the Schools, the proposal to

amalgamate the schools would see the continuation of such provision with opportunities for more pupils to access as they wish.

7. 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 pupils receiving Home to School Transport to Ysgol Trefriw; these pupils along with those that reside in the current Ysgol Trefriw catchment will receive transport to the new Area School as they will meet the criteria. Should the Proposal to amalgamate the schools be approved, the current Home to School Transport Policy will continue to be applied.

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in transport provision as some pupils will have a slight increase in their journey to their nearest appropriate School.

Education Services are working with the transport arrangements team to ensure contingency measures are in place in the event of an emergency.

For those pupils who will not be eligible for free Home to School Transport as they are under the 2 mile minimum criteria, there are suitable and appropriate safe walking routes to the new School site.

8. Language Impact

The Welsh Government recommends that an analysis of the use of the Welsh Language in the schools referred to in this document is provided.

Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont & Ysgol Trefriw are all Welsh Medium category 1 Schools. Pupils are taught at least 70% of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh with a mainly Welsh ethos across formal and informal School activities. Both parents and pupils are communicated to bilingually.

The proposal to formally amalgamate the 3 Schools is not anticipated to impact negatively on the use of the Welsh Language. In having one Governing Body with a single character and policies there may be opportunity to work towards improving how the Welsh Language and bilingualism is promoted, especially for those pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes, expanded through the curriculum and in more informal activities within the new Area school with continued support from the Local Authority.

Conwy's language strategy has committed to the Welsh Government's aspiration to continuously increase the numbers and percentages of the population who can speak Welsh. The aim is that all the county's pupils have appropriate language skills in Welsh and English.

Appropriate provision must be ensured to enable all pupils to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context, the skills of those pupils who are natural Welsh speakers need to be fostered and introduce Welsh to learners. The aim is to ensure that pupils and students are given an educational stimulus to foster skills and linguistic confidence in both languages to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society in which they are part of. We want to encourage pride in the languages, heritage and culture of Conwy and Wales.

All educational establishments in the county are expected to reflect and reinforce the aim in their administration, social life and pastoral organisation as well as in their curricular provision. The council's responsibility (with headteachers and governors) is to ensure that appropriate teachers are available so that the average time given to teaching Welsh and English are in accordance with the Foundation Phase and the Framework.

The most recent ESTYN inspection reports available for the current Schools make the following comments on the use and development of the Welsh Language -

Ysgol Dolgarrog November 2012 – “The skills of pupils who come from non-Welsh speaking homes develop quickly. The majority of pupils listen attentively and are prepared to contribute enthusiastically in lessons and reflective sessions. Staff promote Welsh effectively and regularly and there is an obvious Welsh ethos in classes. Provision for developing pupils’ awareness of the culture and history of Wales is good, and studies of the local community and the history of Wales make a valuable contribution to this”.

Ysgol Tal y Bont July 2010 – “Significant emphasis is placed throughout the school on developing the pupils’ bilingual competency. The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is very effectively promoted. Across the school, nearly all pupils make good progress in their bilingual ability. Foundation Phase children have a very enthusiastic approach towards learning Welsh with the majority in the group expressing their needs and discuss their learning experiences very confidently. In key stage 1 and 2 all pupils are able to follow all the subjects of the curriculum by means of both Welsh and English”.

Ysgol Trefriw June 2014 – “Across the school, pupils make good progress in their Welsh literacy skills. Nearly all pupils use the Welsh language fluently and effectively in the classroom. Provision for developing pupils’ Welsh skills is effective. They are given comprehensive opportunities to learn about the culture of their local area and Wales”.

The below table provides an analysis on the usage of the Welsh Language at the 3 current schools, based on the most current information available.

| Analysis of the use of Welsh Language | Ysgol Dolgarrog | Ysgol Tal y Bont | Ysgol Trefriw |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pupil Numbers – Full and Part Time (as at January 2015 PLASC) | 50 (13N) | 22 (2N) | 22 (0N) |
| Language category of the school | Category 1 Welsh Medium | Category 1 Welsh Medium | Category 1 Welsh Medium |
| (PLASC 2015) Percentage of pupils from homes where the language spoken is: | | | |
| <i>Does not speak Welsh at Home</i> | 28% | 17% | 41% |
| <i>Speaks Welsh at Home</i> | 38% | 24% | 55% |
| <i>Not applicable, cannot speak Welsh</i> | 34% | 59% | 4% |
| Percentage <u>taught</u> through the medium of Welsh | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Of those that received a Teacher Assessment in Welsh, the percentage of children that <u>achieved</u> at | | | |
| <i>Foundation Phase</i> | 71% | N/A | 100% |
| <i>Key Stage 2</i> | 86% | 100% | 86% |
| Pupils language medium in the | | | |
| <i>Playground</i> | English/Welsh | Welsh | Welsh (with some English) |
| <i>Breakfast Club</i> | English/Welsh | Welsh | Welsh (with some English) |
| <i>After-school club</i> | English/Welsh | Welsh | Welsh (with some English) |
| School participates annually in: | | | |
| <i>Cylch Meithrin / Ti a Fi</i> | Yes | No | Yes |
| <i>Eisteddfodau</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Urdd Branches</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Other Welsh Medium activities</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| The school is used by the community to learn Welsh | No | No | No |
| Percentage of Teaching staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh: | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Percentage of Support Staff that are able to teach through the medium of Welsh: | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Percentage of Governors that are able to speak Welsh: | 20% | 44% | 88% |
| Language most commonly used during: <i>Governor meetings</i> <i>PTA meetings</i> <i>Staff meetings</i> | English English Welsh | Welsh Welsh Welsh | English/Welsh English/Welsh Welsh |
| (October 2014) (of persons aged 3+) The percentage of the Local Ward that: | Caerhun | | Trefriw |
| | <i>Speak Welsh</i> | | 45% |
| | <i>No skills in Welsh</i> | | 38% |
| | 41% | | |
| | 44% | | |

9. Equality Impact

The below tables consider the existing information of the 3 schools in relation to any specific equality strands that may need to be considered during the implementation of the proposals. The information for the 3 schools shows a diverse school population and there is no indication that any pupils would be disadvantaged should the proposal to formally amalgamate the 3 schools and establish a new Area School go ahead.

The ESTYN Inspection reports for Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont and Ysgol Trefriw demonstrate that the schools have a safe and inclusive environment for pupils that would continue should the schools formally amalgamate.

Ysgol Dolgarrog ESTYN report from November 2012 comments as follows “As they mature, most pupils enjoy and benefit successfully from a variety of appropriate experiences and opportunities to undertake responsibilities, including the school council and the eco committee. The council has an active role in school life and members take good advantage of the opportunities that they have to influence the school’s work. The school is successful in ensuring a caring community, in which pupils feel happy and safe. A prominent feature is the feeling of family, based on principles that respect the rights of individuals within the school community.”

The ESTYN Inspection Report from July 2010 for Ysgol Tal y Bont states “The progress that pupils of all ages make in their personal, social and moral development is good. They behave responsibly, are considerate of each other’s feelings and needs and socialize and play happily. Across the school, pupils respect the diversity of beliefs, attitudes and cultural and social traditions of others. Nearly all have a good understanding of equal opportunity issues and of fairness.”

Ysgol Trefriw’s ESTYN Inspection report from June 2014 makes the following comment - “Staff plan a range of interesting activities to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral and social development effectively. All pupils feel safe and know whom to approach to discuss any concerns they may have.”

| Equality Strand | Ysgol Dolgarrog |
|------------------------|---|
| Race | <p>(PLASC 2015) In Ysgol Dolgarrog 98% of its pupils who are over 5 years old are 'White British'.</p> <p>The 2015 PLASC return also tells us that 70% of Ysgol Dolgarrog pupils are of 'Welsh' nationality, 24% are 'British' and 6% are 'English'.</p> <p>Information in relation to race is regarded as 'sensitive data' and as such, the information for pupils under the age of 5 is withheld.</p> |
| Disability | <p>(PLASC 2015) There are currently around 28% of pupils at Ysgol Dolgarrog who receive some support for Additional Learning Needs, of these, the majority are girls.</p> |
| Gender | <p>(PLASC 2015) Of the 50 pupils who currently attend school full time at Ysgol Dolgarrog there are 20 boys and 30 girls.</p> <p>In order to establish whether boys or girls perform any better than each other we can look at data at a school level, which can then be compared to data given on a Conwy County level and an All Wales level.</p> <p>At Ysgol Dolgarrog boys have outperformed at Foundation Phase across both County and National averages; they also performed better than girls at School level. At Key Stage 2 girls have outperformed boys, and have performed better than County and National averages. However in comparison to the County and National averages, both boys and girls at Foundation Phase underperformed, whereas at Key Stage 2 both boys and girls at the school achieved higher in comparison to County averages and matched National averages.</p> |
| Age | <p>Ysgol Dolgarrog is school that provides full time education for pupils aged 4 to 11 and part time nursery for pupils aged 3-4 years old.</p> <p>Information classed as 'sensitive' e.g. ethnicity, nationality, is not reported for children under 5 years of age, in line with National recommendations.</p> |
| Religion & Belief | <p>(PLASC 2015) Ysgol Dolgarrog is not an affiliated denominational school, which is reflected in the breakdown of pupil's religious beliefs. At Ysgol Dolgarrog 58% of pupils are recorded as having 'No Religion' and 32% 'Christian'. The remaining 10% consist of 'Roman Catholic' and 'Unclassified'.</p> |
| Sexual Orientation | N/A |
| Welsh Language | See 'Language Analysis' for Ysgol Dolgarrog (Section 8) |
| Other (please state) | <p>(PLASC 2015) 12% of pupils that attend Ysgol Dolgarrog are currently eligible for free school meals.</p> |

| Equality Strand | Ysgol Tal y Bont |
|------------------------|--|
| Race | <p>(PLASC 2015) In Ysgol Tal y Bont 100% of its pupils are 'White British'.</p> <p>The PLASC 2015 data tells us that 55% of pupils are 'Welsh' 45% 'British'.</p> |
| Disability | <p>(PLASC 2015) There are currently around 13% of pupils who receive some support for Additional Learning Needs; of those pupils who receive support at Ysgol Tal y Bont the majority are Boys.</p> |
| Gender | <p>(PLASC 2015) Of the 22 pupils who currently attend Ysgol Tal y Bont full time there are 14 Boys and 8 Girls.</p> <p>In order to establish whether boys or girls perform any better than each other we can look at data at a school level, which can then be compared to data given on a Conwy County level and an All Wales level.</p> <p>At Ysgol Tal y Bont there were no pupils in the Foundation Phase in 2015 to compare to County and National averages. In 2014 both boys and girls achieved equal</p> |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| | outcomes which were lower in comparison to County and National averages at Foundation Phase. At Key Stage 2 in 2015 boys performed better than County and National averages. There were no girls at Ysgol Tal y Bont to complete a KS2 assessment; however in 2014 girls within the KS2 cohort outperformed County and National averages for that year. |
| Age | Ysgol Tal y Bont provides full time education for pupils aged 4 to 11 and part time nursery for pupils aged 3-4 years old. |
| Religion & Belief | (PLASC 2015) Ysgol Tal y Bont is not an affiliated denominational school, which is reflected in the breakdown of pupil's religious beliefs. At Ysgol Tal y Bont 54% of pupils are recorded as having 'No Religion', 18% 'Christian' and 14% 'Methodist'. The remaining 14% are categorised as 'Other Religion' and 'Information Refused'. |
| Sexual Orientation | N/A |
| Welsh Language | See 'Language Analysis' for Ysgol Tal y Bont (Section 8) |
| Other (please state) | (PLASC 2015) There are around 9% of pupils who attend Ysgol Nant y Coed that are currently eligible for free school meals. |

| Equality Strand | Ysgol Trefriw |
|----------------------|---|
| Race | (PLASC 2015) In Ysgol Trefriw 96% of its pupils are 'White British'. The PLASC 2015 data tells us that 60% of pupils are 'Welsh' and 40% 'British'. |
| Disability | (PLASC 2015) There are currently around 14% of pupils who receive some support for Additional Learning Needs; of those pupils who receive support at Ysgol Trefriw the majority are Boys. |
| Gender | (PLASC 2015) Of the 22 pupils who currently attend Ysgol Trefriw there are 10 Boys and 12 Girls. In order to establish whether boys or girls perform any better than each other we can look at data at a school level, which can then be compared to data given on a Conwy County level and an All Wales level. At Ysgol Trefriw both boys and girls achieved equal outcomes which were higher in comparison to County and National averages at Foundation Phase in 2015. At Key Stage 2 girls performed better than boys and achieved higher than County & National averages. Boys achieved slightly under the County and National averages for 2015 and overall pupils achieved in line with both County and National averages. |
| Age | Ysgol Trefriw provides full time education for pupils aged 4 to 11 and part time nursery for pupils aged 3-4 years old. |
| Religion & Belief | (PLASC 2015) Ysgol Trefriw is not an affiliated denominational school, which is reflected in the breakdown of pupil's religious beliefs. At Ysgol Trefriw 72% of pupils are recorded as 'Christian', 22% 'No Religion'. |
| Sexual Orientation | N/A |
| Welsh Language | See 'Language Analysis' for Ysgol Trefriw (Section 8) |
| Other (please state) | (PLASC 2015) There are around 27% of pupils who attend Ysgol Trefriw that are currently eligible for free school meals. |

10. Consultation

This document marks the start of the consultation. This enables all interested parties to give their views on the proposal before any statutory notices are published. This period of consultation will last until the **9th November 2015**. The Council will consider carefully any comments made at the meeting and all comments and observations made in writing by this date. 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. Any formal proposal would be set out and published in the form of a public statutory notice.

The Council has the powers to propose expansions or closures of schools. If proposals are published following this period of consultation, there then follows a statutory 28 day period during which further representations and formal objections can be made.

Any responses during the Consultation will not be regarded as formal objections. To have responses considered as statutory objections they must be made in writing or by email within the 28 day objection period.

Whether or not objections are received within the statutory period, the proposal will be determined by the Authority at the end of the 28 day objection period.

How can you comment on the proposal?

- By attending and speaking in the stakeholder meeting
- By attending the stakeholder meeting and handing in your written comments and observations
- By filling in the attached questionnaire and sending it to Richard Ellis Owen, Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Education Department, Government Buildings, Dinerth Road, Colwyn Bay LL28 4UL
- Those requiring an electronic version can e-mail School.Modernisation@conwy.gov.uk
- By writing to Richard Ellis Owen, Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Education Department, Government Buildings, Dinerth Road, Colwyn Bay LL28 4UL
- By e-mailing your views to school.modernisation@conwy.gov.uk

**Proposal for the Amalgamation of
Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont
and Ysgol Trefriw**

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 9th NOVEMBER 2015

To: Richard Ellis Owen, Head of Education Services (Chief Education Officer),
Education Department, Government Buildings, Dinerth Road, Colwyn Bay LL28 4UL

Fax: 01492 541311

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

Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Dolgarrog, Ysgol Tal y Bont and
Ysgol Trefriw:

Yes No

I am:-

The parent of a child currently at one of the above schools

The parent of a child previously at the school The parent of a child at another school

A member of staff at the school A member of staff at another school

A governor of the school A governor of another school

Other interested party Name of other school or interested party _____

My comments are as follows:

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: _____