



Cyngor **Abertawe**  
**Swansea** Council

**Objection Report:**  
**Proposal to Close YGG Felindre**

This report is published in line with requirements under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Felindre is situated in the village of Felindre in Swansea. At January 2018, it had 20 full-time (FT) pupils on roll from the ages of 4 to 11, plus 2 part-time nursery children. There were two mixed-age classes in the school. The number on roll has been declining for the last five years. Updated information for September 2018 recorded only 12 FT pupils on roll plus 2 nursery and this reduced further to 10 FT pupils in January 2019, and these are all being taught in one class.

The last Estyn inspection of the school was in February 2015 with the school's performance being adequate at the time and with adequate prospects for improvement and was placed in a category of Estyn monitoring. The school was removed from Estyn monitoring in October 2016 after considerable support from the local authority and investment of time by school staff. The Estyn report can be found here: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6702133>

The school has not been able to fill their headteacher vacancy and the local authority has provided three acting headteachers for the school since 1 January 2017.

The local authority has consulted on a proposal to close YGG Felindre with effect from 31 August 2019. It is proposed that the current catchment area is transferred to YGG Tan-y-lan, with a new build school proposed for that school for January 2021.

Following consultation, Cabinet considered the responses received and agreed to move the proposal forward to the publication of a statutory notice, as is required by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The notice was published on 9 January 2019 and objections were invited until 6 February 2019.

## **2. OBJECTIONS TO THE STATUTORY NOTICE**

363 written objections were received to the YGG Felindre closure proposal (9 of these being after the end of the objection period). 337 of these objections were in the form of a standard letter, with 56 of these being from residents of Felindre, 111 being from residents of the wider Swansea area and 170 being from people living outside of the Swansea area. The vast majority of the standard letters were facilitated by Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg and were sent from the one email address with different names and addresses noted in each email/letter.

A petition was received stating, "We need your help! The L.A. proposes to close our amazing, welsh medium school. We are fighting to keep it open. Felindre is one of the last villages in the Swansea area, where welsh is still spoken as a first or second language on a daily basis", signed by 195 people.

One objector had sent in an open letter to elected members in Swansea that had the names of 124 people listed as supporting the statement.

The objections were:

	<b>Point Raised</b>	<b>Local Authority Response</b>	<b>Number of Written Responses Raising Point</b>	<b>% of Written Responses Raising Point</b>
	<b>Travel/Transport</b>			
1	What is the point of paying to take children out of the village by car or bus when they could walk to school?	There are only a small number of children on roll in Felindre from the catchment area. It is more efficient to transport these pupils than continue to maintain a school. Learners only walk to school if there is an available walking route, which is not the case for all learners in Felindre. However, they would usually need to walk to a meeting point for any bus/taxi pick up.	1	0.3%
2	Breakfast and after school clubs will not be an option for those having home to school transport. Is this fair and equitable for all children that will be attending YGG Tan-y-lan?	Parents need to pick up and drop off their children for out of school activities in most schools, including Tan-y-lan. If the proposal is approved discussions could take place with parents on the potential of providing the transport earlier for learners to attend breakfast club, should the demand be there.	2	0.6%
3	Will all children living in the Felindre catchment area, now and in the future, be guaranteed a free bus service to their new school as it is more than 2 miles and there is no safe walking route?	Yes, all those living in the Felindre catchment area would be eligible for a transport assessment and this would be the case in future, as per Welsh Government requirements.	1	0.3%
			0	0.0%
	<b>Size of School</b>		0	0.0%
4	The school nurtures children who would not thrive in a bigger school. How does the council guarantee that all children who are current pupils are comfortable at the two new sites?	A class teacher will support all learner needs appropriately. Learners would be moved to one site, unless parents choose to take their child elsewhere, and transition will take place for each individual learner based on their own needs.	4	1.1%
5	Older pupils look after the younger pupils in a small school. Mixing ages and abilities generates a nurturing and tolerant atmosphere, which	Children will work across age groups in all schools and it is common practice for older children to support younger children.	2	0.6%

	is good for personal and social development.			
6	Being a rural primary, learners show respect for others and are caring, having a positive impact on their peers when they move to secondary.	Children in all areas of Swansea can show respect for others.	1	0.3%
7	Deprives children of the benefit of education in smaller schools with smaller class sizes. Some parents have chosen to bring their children from out of catchment to Felindre because it is small.	This proposal is about the quality and sustainability of education at YGG Felindre. All children are currently taught in one classroom covering nursery to Year 6. Staff expertise is required for the six areas of learning proposed for September 2022, as well as literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills. Regional ERW School Improvement officers believe that these skills and expertise may not be shared sufficiently, and that teaching ten pupils would make it difficult to meet learners needs. In addition, meeting the needs of learners with additional learning needs, as well as the breadth of areas of learning and experience, would be difficult for a single teacher to address. ERW School Improvement officers also believe that the current statutory curriculum with twelve subjects and a range of ages and abilities would present a workload issue for a single teacher with such a broad range of age, development stage and ability in one class. The officers believe that the only educational argument to keep Felindre would be that pupils would benefit from a high pupil teacher ratio and this can lend itself to pupil well-being and a positive relationship with the teacher. However, well-being alone does not cater for the learning needs of children. For the reasons stated above, it would be challenging for teaching and learning to be satisfactory across all age ranges in a single classroom and this could negate the positives gained in a small class size	2	0.6%
8	In small schools, participating in sporting and cultural activities is not dominated by the most talented or the most confident. Everyone gets a chance.	This proposal is about the quality and sustainability of education at YGG Felindre. All children are currently taught in one classroom covering nursery to Year 6. Staff expertise is required for the six areas of learning proposed for September 2022, as well as literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills. Regional ERW School Improvement officers believe that these skills and expertise may not be shared sufficiently, and that teaching ten pupils would make it	1	0.3%

		<p>difficult to meet learners needs. In addition, meeting the needs of learners with additional learning needs, as well as the breadth of areas of learning and experience, would be difficult for a single teacher to address. ERW School Improvement officers also believe that the current statutory curriculum with twelve subjects and a range of ages and abilities would present a workload issue for a single teacher with such a broad range of age, development stage and ability in one class. The officers believe that the only educational argument to keep Felindre would be that pupils would benefit from a high pupil teacher ratio and this can lend itself to pupil well-being and a positive relationship with the teacher. However, well-being alone does not cater for the learning needs of children. For the reasons stated above, it would be challenging for teaching and learning to be satisfactory across all age ranges in a single classroom and this could negate the positives gained in a small class size</p>		
9	<p>Parents should have the option to choose a small rural school. Is it the council's intention to close all of the small schools? Why are the council targeting the only remaining Welsh-medium small school?</p>	<p>Swansea Council will be keeping the sustainability of all small schools under review.</p>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
10	<p>There is not enough explanation about why the pupil numbers have dropped. Research should be done to find out why parents took their children from the school. In the consultation period it was suggested that it could be because of former staffing. Council did not answer this after consultation.</p>	<p>Parents have the choice to admit their children where there is space. The issue with Felindre is lack of demand each year at the year of admission.</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
11	<p>The new governing body had started a recruitment drive before the closure proposal was announced. The pupil numbers have dropped due to uncertainty over the future of the school.</p>	<p>Pupil numbers had fallen before the closure proposal was announced. There is no indication that numbers will increase.</p>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

12	The council should promote the school to increase pupil numbers. This could take pressure off oversubscribed schools, particularly in the Morryston area.	It is the responsibility of the school to promote itself. The council cannot promote one school over another. Council has gone to statutory notice to increase the size of both of the neighbouring Welsh-medium primary schools and to relocate them into new buildings and there have not been any objections to these proposals. This will more than address any overfilled schools in the area and will allow plenty of space for Felindre pupils to transfer.	2	0.6%
13	Do not agree with pupil projections. There are proposed housing developments in the area.	Future potential housing developments have been considered, however, the timescale and nature of any such developments remain uncertain and the future need for educational provision would be intrinsically linked and outside of the village itself.	3	0.8%
	<b>Current School/Site</b>			
14	Maintenance at the school has stopped to save money, as have a number of contracts - but shouldn't the council invest in the buildings?	Schools have funding delegated to them for repairs and maintenance as well as for contracts. The Council has responsibility for capital maintenance of all schools and this is undertaken on a priority basis.	1	0.3%
15	Felindre has plenty of open space, access to a large playing field, multi-use games area and unlimited access to the village hall, and all within walking distance to the Lliw Reservoirs, to which the children often take nature walks. Felindre school is a valuable cultural asset to the community having been part of village life since 1877. It allows the wellbeing of pupils, allowing them to thrive in a vibrant and nurturing environment.	Externally, the site has some attractive features, and access to the nearby community hall and sports area, but the site falls short of the Building Bulletin 99 minimum site areas.	131	36.1%
16	Felindre school has become a hub for other schools in the last few months, bringing in children from other Welsh schools to take part in activities such as sports, forest schooling and our local Eisteddfod, leaving them all the more richer for their experiences here. The loss of Felindre School will have a vast	Noted. YGG Tan-y-lan and YGG Tirdeunaw could have their own new sites in January 2021 that will be designed to support a 21st century curriculum and will include sport and grassed areas as well as landscaped grounds. This is already the case at YGG Lon-las.	133	36.6%

	impact on these surrounding Welsh schools.			
17	Felindre has never been treated on the same level as other Welsh-medium schools in the county.	This is an unfounded statement. Felindre has been given far more support than other Welsh-medium schools because of its amber categorisation and because of its inability to attract a headteacher.	2	0.6%
18	Felindre is not just a village school, it is part of the Welsh-medium schools' network across the county, and it should be treated as part of the solution and not part of the problem.	Agree that the Welsh-medium primary schools have a strong network and there is indeed a countywide strategy set out in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.	2	0.6%
19	Has the council tested air pollution on the three school sites in line with the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act? Has the council carried out an assessment of the various sites for the purposes of the children's health and safety?	The new build school will have plenty of green space for outdoor play, and will include the different outdoor areas, such as an mini all-weather pitch (for hockey, football, rugby, tennis etc.), a MUGA (multi use games area on hard standing) and also a marked out grass sports area. Health and Safety is considered for all stages of a new school build, from design through to the management of the school. The council has not monitored air pollution at YGG Felindre as, given its location and the traffic flow, it would fall well below the minimum criteria for assessment. Given our data sets and what we know about the pollutants, it is very unlikely that YGG Felindre would be an area of concern. Air pollution has not been tested for the new Tan-y-lan site as it was not deemed to be an issue given the nature of the building/end usage and location of the site. Nothing has been raised in this regard by any of the consultees in the planning process. The council is required to work to the Welsh Government's 'Local Air Quality Management in Wales - Policy Guidance June 2017' which was	1	0.3%

		produced in-line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act but technical guidance sets out how we should approach areas to assess.		
20	Parents choose to send their children to this small and rural site as preferred placements.	The majority of learners on roll are not from Felindre.	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
21	What would happen to the vacated school building? Are there any cost implications should closure be the outcome? How would these costs be met? The village does not want a dilapidated building at its centre. If there are plans to develop the site, have local residents been consulted?	There are no plans for the building as no decisions have been made. If the school were to close, the site would be considered for other potential council use before considering disposal.	<b>2</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

	<b>Leadership</b>			
22	There have been a number of headteachers over recent years and this has affected pupil numbers. The local authority must take some responsibility for this, as it did not step in to stop this from happening.	Small schools can struggle to keep headteachers as larger schools can offer more attractive salaries and career progression. The council has supported Felindre by sourcing and funding deputy headteachers to act as headteacher but these quality staff have then been successful in gaining permanent headteacher posts in other schools.	<b>4</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
23	The council should support the governors in appointing a permanent headteacher. Why were efforts abandoned after two advertisements?	Adverts have been placed twice but the governors were unable to appoint in both instances. It would not be sensible to advertise for a headteacher while there is ongoing consultation on a closure proposal.	<b>209</b>	<b>57.6%</b>
24	A permanent headteacher was not appointed before announcing the consultation so the school was not given a fair chance to increase its numbers.	There does not need to be a permanent headteacher in post to announce a school organisation proposal. The school has had a headteacher in place though, albeit acting.	<b>7</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

	<b>Education</b>			
25	<p>The council say that the closure proposal is for educational reasons but they do not appear to have carried out an assessment of the current quality of education at the school. If they have, they have not referred to it. As noted by Estyn in their consultation response, the council has not considered any educational advantages of keeping the school open.</p>	<p>All schools are constantly monitored by ERW, the regional school improvement service. This shows that the school requires much support and is not improving fast enough or showing the ability to self-improve. The consultation paper must include the latest Estyn inspection report, which it did. ERW School Improvement officers believe that the only educational argument to keep Felindre open would be that pupils would benefit from a high pupil teacher ratio and this can lend itself to pupil well-being and a positive relationship with the teacher. However, well-being alone does not cater for the learning needs of children. It would be challenging for teaching and learning to be satisfactory in a single classroom and this could negate the positives gained in a small class size. All children are currently taught in one classroom covering nursery to Year 6. Expertise is required for the six areas of learning proposed for September 2022, as well as literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills. Regional ERW School Improvement officers believe that these skills and expertise may not be shared sufficiently. The officers believe that teaching ten pupils would make it difficult to meet learners needs. In addition, meeting the needs of learners with additional learning needs, as well as the breadth of areas of learning and experience, would be difficult for a single teacher to address. The current statutory curriculum with twelve subjects and a range of ages and abilities would present a workload issue for a single teacher with such a broad range of age, development stage and ability in one class.</p>	<b>11</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
26	<p>Estyn has stated that there is no guarantee that the education will be better in the other two schools.</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code requires an alternative school to be of at least the same educational standard. The alternative is currently of a better standard.</p>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

27	Past pupils have gone on to university and good jobs.	Noted.	2	0.6%
	<b>Wellbeing</b>			
28	The proposal will be stressful for children. The Cabinet member has stated that moving children to a different school is stressful. Details are needed on how the authority plans to alleviate the children's stress.	All children will be offered support and transitional days so that they can get used to the new school and make friends before they move.	2	0.6%
	<b>Welsh Language</b>			
29	There are too few Welsh communities in which the Welsh language continues to thrive for us to afford losing another one of them.	There are only 10 full time learners at the school and only 3 of these live in Felindre. Parents are choosing to send their children out of the village for their education.	215	59.2%
30	The parish of Mawr is the second largest parish in Swansea, and has/Felindre has the largest Welsh speaking population. Therefore, a Welsh speaking school is vital for its survival.		139	38.3%
31	The council have already closed the Welsh-medium primary school in Garnswllt so closing Felindre will remove all Welsh-medium schools from the Mawr parish.		2	0.6%
32	Felindre School is the only Welsh-medium school in the local area and parents seeking a Welsh-language education for their children will be disadvantaged.	Any parent requesting Welsh-medium education will be offered a place for their child.	2	0.6%
33	Felindre is a naturally Welsh speaking village and the children have a local dialect and their fluency in the language is an asset to the secondary school as a high percentage of Bryn Tawe learners are from non-Welsh-speaking homes.	There are very few children attending Felindre and most of these are from out of catchment.	2	0.6%

34	The Welsh language needs to be nurtured in a suitable environment, and Felindre does this through the community (Eisteddfods, youth club, chapel) so that it is a living language and not just a language of the classroom. The Eisteddfod in Garnswllt ended shortly after the school was closed.	As above, we have been informed that recently other schools have attended the Eisteddfod etc. There is no reason why these trips cannot continue to the Mawr ward.	11	3.0%
35	The school should be kept in light of the new proposals for Welsh as a first language in schools.	We are, in parallel, providing increased capacity at the two neighbouring primary schools, in new buildings that will be closer to Felindre.	1	0.3%
36	Can the council provide data on the number of Welsh speakers in the Clase and Penlan communities?	All ward profile information can be found here <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/1808/Search?q=Ward+Profiles">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/1808/Search?q=Ward+Profiles</a>	1	0.3%
37	The school is the heartbeat of daily use of the Welsh language in the village.	There are only 10 full time learners at the school and only 3 of these live in Felindre. Parents are choosing to send their children out of the village for their education.	206	56.7%
38	Goes against the Welsh Government's plan for increasing Welsh speakers. Should keep Felindre open as well as increasing the size of other schools.	This proposal is one part of a wider plan with two new build schools proposed for Tan-y-lan and Tirdeunaw that will provide an increased number of places in buildings that are fit for the 21st Century.	4	1.1%
39	There could be a detrimental effect on the Welsh language as parents may not choose Welsh-medium provision if Felindre were to close.	Children would be offered a place at the new Welsh-medium school. Transport would be provided to their catchment Welsh-medium school. If they did choose English-medium then transport would only be provided to their English-medium catchment school i.e. Llangyfelach Primary School.	1	0.3%
	<b>Community Impact</b>			
40	Closing the school will change the nature and character of this Welsh-speaking village forever.	There are only 10 full time learners at the school and only 3 of these live in Felindre. Parents are choosing to send their children out of the village for their education.	6	1.7%
41	The pupils and school blend into the community.		2	0.6%

42	The presence of a Welsh-medium school in this area means that the connection with the past is still alive. That connection will lapse if the school is closed. There is a great deal of affection for the school, and the history of the school is very much tied with the history of the village.		<b>2</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
43	Voluntary work to support the prosperity and success of the pupils is noted in Estyn inspections.	Noted.	<b>207</b>	<b>57.0%</b>
44	People move to the village for the unique schooling, which large schools cannot provide.	Only 3 learners on roll live in the catchment area.	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
45	Impact on the community. The community will become isolated. Travel is not always available or convenient.		<b>3</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
	<b>Timeline</b>			
45	Do not move the children twice in two years, as this is stressful. Leave Felindre open until the new build Tan-y-lan school is ready. Have the cost implications of the two moves been factored into the decision?	Not all learners will move twice. It would only be those currently in Nursery to Year 4. The first move would be into YGG Tan-y-lan where they would integrate into their new classes, and then for the second move they would move with their classmates and their teacher to a new build school. Although any move could be stressful for a child, they will be supported throughout the process, and moving to a new site with better facilities might equally be an exciting prospect. Officers also believe that YGG Felindre would not be sustainable until the new build is ready in January 2021, as the budget available to the school will become tighter and the school only has £10k in reserve, which will inevitably lead to staffing reductions and an impact on the educational offer to learners. Yes, all costs have been factored for the moves.	<b>3</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

	<b>Alternative Options</b>			
47	Council should extend Felindre's catchment area, reflecting the school's status as a designated Welsh-medium school rather than a traditional Welsh-medium school.	Extending the catchment area will not increase the size of the school as parents have a choice over where they send their children to school. Parents that live in Felindre are currently sending their pupils elsewhere but could choose to send them to Felindre if they wished, as there is space. Similarly, if parents outside of Felindre wished to send their children to Felindre now they could. There have been separate proposals to increase the size of neighbouring schools with a review of catchment area to better reflect demand. Changing the catchment area for Felindre would mean that children may have to be bussed into the village when there is already space for them much closer and potentially in new buildings designed for education in the 21st Century. YGG Felindre is already a designated Welsh-medium school and has not been a traditional Welsh-medium school for many years.	<b>216</b>	<b>59.5%</b>
48	Transport children to Felindre from other Welsh-medium schools who do not cope in a large school environment.	Parents could choose to do this now.	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
49	Federate with another school. There is not no evidence that the local authority has explored/encouraged all other possibilities including federation.	No other school had been identified that would federate with Felindre when the closure proposal went out for consultation; therefore there was no business case to make the school sustainable. Lon-las have agreed to consider federation if Cabinet decide to keep the school open at their meeting on 21 March 2019 but they have not produced a business case on how they would make the school sustainable. Officer continue to believe that federation will not address the reasons that closure has been proposed. Federation should not be seen as a way to address financial difficulties, as savings are limited, as has been seen in federations across Wales. Some savings can be made if the federation decides to appoint a shared headteacher and deputy	<b>6</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

50	YGG Lon-las governors agreed that they would federate with YGG Felindre at their meeting on 31 January 2019.	<p>headteacher(s) but their pay range usually increases to reflect the increased number of learners across the federation and backfill is needed for deputy headteacher non-contact time when the headteacher is at the other site. Two premises would need to be maintained. The reality of sharing resources across two sites a distance apart is limited. Existing staff cannot be made to work at the other school unless they agree to change the terms of their contract. Federation could mean no guarantee of increase in pupil numbers, making it difficult to provide a curriculum in a single class for a broader range of skill levels than you would normally find in a classroom. As federation does not guarantee movement of teachers between schools, any expertise for the six areas of learning proposed for September 2022, as well as literacy, numeracy and digital competence, may not be shared sufficiently. Regional ERW School Improvement officers believe that teaching ten pupils would make it difficult to meet learners' needs. In addition, meeting the needs of learners with additional learning needs as well as the breadth of areas of learning and experience would be difficult for a single teacher to address. The current statutory curriculum with twelve subjects and a range of ages and abilities would present a workload issue for a single teacher with such a broad range of age, development stage and ability in one class. ERW School Improvement officers believe that the only educational argument to keep Felindre would be that pupils would benefit from a high pupil teacher ratio and this can lend itself to pupil well-being and a positive relationship with the teacher. However, well-being alone does not cater for the learning needs of children. For the reasons stated above, it would be challenging for teaching and learning to be satisfactory in a single classroom and</p>	2	0.6%
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		this could negate the positives gained in a small class size		
51	Although RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education) are supportive of the closure of Felindre and understand the reasons for closure, they would like to see the vacated site used for Welsh-medium education, preferably a Pupil Referral Unit.	The local authority continually monitors demand for specialist provision and there is not enough demand for a PRU, and the new EOTAS service can support Welsh speakers.	1	0.3%
52	Increase community use of the school site to keep it viable.	There is a well-used community hall in the village so this extra space is not needed.	1	0.3%
	<b>Finance</b>			
53	The school is sustainable as it is, so leave it open. The school has £10k in reserves, which is good for a small school.	Budget pressures are increasing on all schools and we believe that Felindre is not sustainable. £10k is a small reserve by comparison with the potential cost and funding challenges that it is likely to face.	1	0.3%

54	Council tax at Felindre is very high yet there will be no school or other amenities.	Council tax is not calculated according to availability of a school. It is mainly calculated on house values.	1	0.3%
55	The benefits of keeping the school open outweigh the short-term financial gains.	The proposal is not for financial gain, it is to improve the educational outcomes for learners now and in the future.	1	0.3%
			0	0.0%
	<b>Staff</b>		0	0.0%
56	As pupil numbers are so low at Felindre it is unlikely that additional staff will be needed at the new school.	HR would work with staff to seek alternative employment within the council.	1	0.3%
	<b>Process</b>			
57	Decision has already been made. Consultation papers were biased.	This is a genuine consultation proposal and decisions have not been made.	1	0.3%
58	You say the proposal is about money and not children yet the documents have much emphasis on sustainability and costs.	The School Organisation Code requires certain financial information to be included.	1	0.3%
59	Staff and Cabinet Members making this decision need to visit the school during a school day to understand how the school works, what it offers its pupils and what it adds to the community.	This is not a requirement of the School Organisation Code.	1	0.3%
60	Many of the options and arguments presented in consultation were ignored and omitted from reports to council, for example extending the catchment area of Felindre.	The Consultation Report is a summary of the responses raised; however, Cabinet members have sight of all correspondence in full in advance of their meetings so that they can take account of the full detail when making their decisions. Extending the catchment area was specifically considered in the body of the Cabinet Report (option 6).	1	0.3%
61	Council have said that they cannot favour one school over another but they have done so by sacrificing Felindre, a school which multiple generations of some families have been attending. The expansion of Welsh-medium education is of course to be welcomed but council should keep Felindre as	There is plenty of space in the new 21st Century Schools that will be built.	1	0.3%

	well as expanding other schools.			
62	The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act has not been taken into account before starting the process (to build strong communities) and the consultation documents do not meet expectations.	<p>Swansea Council acts in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) in all it does. Sustainable development has been a central organising principle since 2012 and each year the Council aims to further embed and build on sustainable practice. The focus is on integrating behaviour change so that the five ways of working and maximisation of each of the national well-being goals is implicit in how services operate as a whole Council. Integration - Our Corporate Plan 'Delivering a Sustainable and Successful Swansea' sets out how the organisation applies the five ways of working and maximises contribution to each of the national well-being goals. We believe this decision aligns with not only the Well-being Objective 'Improving Education and Skills' but other well-being objectives. Swansea's Local Well-being Plan prioritises Local Well-being Objectives for collective action. The achievement of Local Well-being Objectives are not threatened by this decision.</p> <p>As this body of evidence demonstrates wide ranging impacts across the well-being goals have been documented. Swansea Council considers these issues not only individually by addressing specific concerns in isolation but by considering informally the collective impact on well-being and how issues raised can impact on wider well-being. This indirectly considers the collective impact on the seven well-being goals as a set.</p> <p>Long term - The decision takes account not only of the well-being of learners currently at Felindre but the well-being of all Swansea's learners today and in the future. This includes taking account of long-term trends that inform the development of the Council's policies and strategies.</p>	3	0.8%

		<p>Prevention - The Council has acted having identified adverse impacts on future learning and sustainability. This decision aims to stop or prevent problems getting worse.</p> <p>Collaboration - The consideration of impacts on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being has been informed both by the expertise of services across our organisation and from external organisations such as the Audit Commission. Collaborative opportunities e.g. federalisation were explored as part</p> <p>Involvement- The consultation document demonstrates considerable involvement activities with those with an interest or who were affected by the proposal in a way that reflects the diversity of the population</p>		
63	Consultation has not taken place with people with an interest e.g. students, parents, residents, local businesses.	Consultation has taken place with all interested parties as per the School Organisation Code.	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
64	The consultation did not consider what would happen to children with SEN if the school closed.	All schools must appropriately support their learners with additional learning needs. All pupils, including those with SEN would be appropriately supported by the local authority and the school throughout transition to their new school, including support from Education Psychologists and visits to the new school to meet new classmates and get familiar with the new school building. The required level of intervention would be provided by that new school, and staff training would be provided if required to prepare for individual learners.	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
65	The council did not succeed in carrying out a survey on the impact of their decision on the Welsh language within the community, contrary to the 2011 Welsh Language Measure. The school should not close until the Welsh Language Commissioner has investigated a complaint about	This is a living document and develops as the proposal develops. An update was produced at the end of consultation and it was further reviewed at the end of the objection period. The Council has responded to the Commissioner.	<b>208</b>	<b>57.3%</b>

	this process that has been made.			
66	There has not been due regard to UNCRC and lack of engagement with the children in schools likely to be impacted by the arrival of Felindre children. As the council has made a public commitment to children's rights, an impact assessment on their rights should have been undertaken.	As per the Code, consultation meetings have been held with learners on the school councils in YGG Felindre, YGG Tan-y-lan and YGG Tirdeunaw. Consultation papers were also issued to all learners in these schools and beyond. A separate online consultation form was provided for learners and responses were received and noted.	1	0.3%
67	The Community Impact Assessment was inadequate/was not undertaken.	The assessment was produced as per the School Organisation Code requirements.	2	0.6%
68	The local authority could have used the Welsh Government's Small and Rural Schools Grant to fund the school with new IT requirements, which could have allayed concerns about e-learning, which could have facilitated amalgamation.	The grant bids had limited criteria.	1	0.3%
69	The Welsh Language Impact assessment does not address how many families would choose to send their children to a different, English-medium school as a result of the closure.	As there is no closure decision as yet this is not data that we can gather.	1	0.3%
70	The council did not respond to all of the comments from Estyn regarding their consultation. Among the list of failures is the council's inability to carry out a survey on the standard of the current educational provision, despite claiming that the standard of education was the reason for closure. The consultation paper for pupils did not give enough detail on the pros and cons of the status quo.	The local authority has provided a response to points raised by Estyn.	213	58.7%

71	The Council's attitude towards the use and application of Welsh during the consultation process has been inadequate.	Any issues raised about the consultation process were dealt with immediately ensuring that all stakeholders could take a full part in the consultation, as can be seen from these responses. We only had one response to say that a document could not be accessed (although others could access this document).	<b>2</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
72	Felindre is listed as a rural school in the new School Organisation Code. The Cabinet Secretary for Education is trying to protect small rural schools. You did not follow this Code. Whilst the consultation started under the old Code, can you give assurances that the new Code has been considered during this consultation?	The new School Organisation Code had not been published when this proposal commenced, and the Welsh Government confirmed that it would not apply to any proposals that were already out to consultation, as was the case with Felindre. Nevertheless, the council acted within the spirit of the new Code regardless. The new Code requires alternative options to closure to be considered and this took place.	<b>6</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

All consultation responses have been made available in full for Cabinet to view.

### 3. RhAG RESPONSE

RhAG (Parents for Welsh-medium Education) is an organisation established in 1952 to encourage the development of Welsh-medium education. It is funded by the Welsh Government and represents the parents of pupils in Welsh-medium schools, and is in regular contact with Welsh-medium schools. RhAG is supportive of the proposal to close YGG Felindre and made the following comments during the statutory notice period:

1. We are aware that the number of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Felindre has become too small to maintain viable education.
2. We are also aware that the number of pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Felindre is very small. This reflects the demographic change in the area, and the mobility of parents in terms of work.
3. There are plans to build a large number of houses near the M4, between Llangyfelach and Felindre. For this reason, and given the County's wider educational service, we would wish to see the County retaining the school at Felindre for the purposes Welsh medium education. This could include:
  - i. Pre-school provision
  - ii. A Pupil Referral Unit
  - iii. A Latecomers' Unit

ii. above might be very appropriate, offering pupils a rural and creative atmosphere, which is likely to differ from their home or urban circumstances.
4. The above schemes might be linked to another Welsh medium school which will serve the area.

The local authority welcomes the support of RhAG to this proposal. There is no plan for the future use of the Felindre school site but, should Cabinet agree to close the school, consideration will be given to alternative uses, subject to demand and other factors, before any disposal takes place.