



Dear Parent/Carer/Community Member....

As you will already be aware, Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposal:

- To close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation>.

This is your opportunity to let Powys County Council know your view on their proposal!

How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by:

- completing the online questionnaire which is available on the Council's website:
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10560/Castle-Caereinion-Church-in-Wales-School>
- completing a paper copy of the questionnaire which is available at the back of the consultation document. The consultation document can be requested in hard copy from the contact details below.
- You can also respond in writing.

All responses must be received by the **2nd June 2021**.

All responses should be sent to the following address or email:

Transforming Education Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01597 826618

Responding to the Consultation

The Council wants to know the following:

- what comments you have on the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School
- what other options you think the Council should be considering for Castle Caereinion C.in W. School, and

- what comments or concerns you have about the impact of the proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

(There are other questions, but these are the most pertinent)

It is important for you to respond to the consultation in your own words. The Council needs to see that everyone has responded as an individual rather than having the same message/wording used in all responses – this would seriously reduce the impact of all the responses. Also, the more individual responses, the better – so if there is more than one person in your family, then you can all respond separately even if you have similar things to say. Use separate emails if you can.

Obviously, you will have your own unique experience of Castle Caereinion School and therefore you will want to make your own comments to the Council. To help with the process we have made the following suggestions that could be included in your response to the consultation:

- **Learning Environment:** What does your child particularly enjoy about the school? What helps them learn? The school has great outdoor learning areas, with its own pond for pond dipping, forest school area, and a dedicated outdoor area for the foundation phase. There are large outdoor school grounds that are safe and secure. The school has its own ICT suite, with interactive whiteboards, ipads etc. - this technology provides the same learning opportunities that a larger school could provide. There are large classrooms, which allow the space for collaborative working.
- **Church School:** The school has strong links with St Garmon Church, Castle Caereinion. The Church is at the heart of the school and its Christian Ethos.
- **Small School Preference:** Is it important for your child to attend a small School? What does your child gain from a small school that they would not get in a larger school? The school is in a beautiful rural setting and is well equipped to provide pupils with real life learning experiences. Children learn through doing, being part of the community, learning about their history.
- **Transport:** If the school were to close would your child be entitled to free transport to attend your nearest Church in Wales school? If your nearest school is not a Church in Wales school, then the cost of transport might mean you are not able to consider the Church in Wales school as an option. According to the School Organisation Code “where school provision is being reduced or removed, alternative school provision of the same nature (language category or, if relevant, religious character), wherever possible, should remain available and accessible to pupils in the local area”.
- **Leadership:** The consultation states that the headteacher has a significant teaching commitment, which limits the time available to focus on leadership of the school. Other schools have heads with a greater teaching commitment, giving them even less time to focus on the management of their school.

- **Community Impact:** If the school were to close what impact would this have on the community? Does the community use the building for activities outside of school times? Community impact is important especially if there is no alternative provision.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Does your child participate in extra curricular activities provided by the school (pre-Covid)? Would they be able to participate in similar extra-curricular activities at the nearest alternative school or would distance/transport be an issue?
- **Equality Impact (there is a specific question relating to this):** If the school were to close would this impact on anyone with the following protected characteristics (from Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?
- **Disabled Facilities:** The school has specially adapted facilities to meet the needs of pupils with disabilities. This includes a large disabled toilet, with washing facilities, disabled access toilets, hoists, and a wet room area.

The School and Governing Body appreciate you taking the time to read this, and we would urge you to respond to the consultation if you are able.

Many thanks

Castle Caereinion CiW School Governing Body