

**Atodiad Ch  
Appendix Ch**



**Derbyniodd Cyngor Gwynedd 154 o ymatebion  
i'r Cyfnod Ymgynghori Statudol ar y cynnig i gau  
Ysgol Abersoch  
12 Ionawr 2021 – 23 Chwefror 2021**

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**Gwynedd Council received 154 responses to the  
Statutory Consultation Period on the proposal to  
close Ysgol Abersoch  
12 January 2021 – 23 February 2021**

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 21 Ionawr 2021 16:24  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** ysgol abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Gyngor

### YSGOL ABERSOCH

Ysgrifennaf atoch i ddatgan fy nghefnogaeth o ymgyrch Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch i sicrhau y bydd yr ysgol yn parhau i weithredu fel ysgol gymunedol y pentref. Rwyf wedi darllen y ddogfennaeth yn ofalus a dwi yn hynod gefnogol o'r ysgol, ei gwaith a'r cyfeillion. Dros y blynyddoedd rwyf wedi cael llawer i wneud yn mywyd yr ysgol fel [REDACTED] ac yn ymwybodol iawn o waith da yr ysgol a'i phwysigrwydd mewn cymuned unigryw.

Yn gywir  
[REDACTED]

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** David Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 21 Ionawr 2021 20:55  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Statuary Consultation for the closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern,

I am a former pupil of Ysgol Abersoch and have many fond memories of a wonderful start to my education there. Looking at my old school photograph it saddens me how few of my schoolmates have chosen, or indeed been able, to stay in the area due to the extraordinary changes to the village over the previous decades.

With the closing of local amenities and prohibitive housing situation, the village school is one of the few institutions that still support the essence of community and village life.

Generations of my family and so many others have benefited from this excellent and unique facility, and it's obvious, unquantifiable potential to enrich the lives of so many families who live, or are yet to come and live, in the area is now more important than ever.

It would be a tragic and deeply detrimental blow to the village of Abersoch, the surrounding area, and all its people, if this vital resource were to cease to provide so much for those who depend on it; directly and immediately, the community at large, and those many in the future who are now in danger of being denied the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the extraordinary vital and nourishing support of this village school and its staff.

Yours sincerely  
David Jones

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Y Ganolfan Integredig  
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 1PD



22ain Ionawr 2021

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Roedd hi'n ddrwg iawn gennym glywed y newyddion am benderfyniad Cabinet Cyngor Gwynedd i ymgynghori ar gau Ysgol Abersoch. Rydym fel Mudiad Meithrin yn cefnogi'n llawn yr ymgyrch i gadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor.

Mae Mudiad Meithrin wedi cydweithio gydag Ysgol Abersoch yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf i sefydlu Cylch Meithrin yn y pentref. Wedi ymgynghori gyda rhieni'r ardal daeth i'r amlwg bod angen mawr am ofal i blant cyn oed ysgol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Doedd dim gwasanaeth cyn-ysgol 5 diwrnod yr wythnos i'w gael yn yr ardal a gyda Cylch Meithrin lleol arall yn cau oherwydd diffyg staff roedd hyn yn gadael bwlch mawr yn y ddarpariaeth. Llwyddwyd i agor y Cylch Meithrin er mwyn llenwi'r bwlch yma ac mae wedi profi'n hynod boblogaidd gyda niferoedd da yn mynychu ac yn trosglwyddo i'r ysgol.

Fel rhan o'n darpariaeth rydym wedi agor Cylch Ti a Fi sy'n glwb ar gyfer rhieni/gwarcheidwaid a'u plant o fabis hyd at oed dechrau Cylch Meithrin. Bu'r Cylch Ti a Fi yn hynod llwyddiannus gyda nifer o deuluoedd yn mynychu'n wythnosol ac yn manteisio ar y cyfle i ddechrau taith eu plant at addysg Gymraeg gan symud ymlaen i'r Cylch Meithrin ac yna i Ysgol Abersoch.

Gwelwyd bod galw i gael gofal trwy'r dydd i blant 3 a 4 oed i alluogi rhieni i fynd yn ôl i weithio. Sefydlwyd darpariaeth gofal cofleidiol fel bod modd i'r plant fynychu'r meithrin yn yr ysgol, clwb cinio a'r cylch meithrin. Mae hyn wedi sicrhau niferoedd sefydlog o blant yn mynychu'r ysgol a'r cylch a ddim yn teithio allan o'r pentref i dderbyn eu gofal.

Mae cydweithio agos a hapus iawn wedi bod rhwng Ysgol Abersoch a'r Cylch Meithrin ers y dechrau ac mae hyn wedi sicrhau y dilyniant naturiol o un i'r llall. Mae'r Cylch wedi rhannu'r dosbarth meithrin yn yr ysgol gyda rhwydd hant i ddefnyddio'r ardal tu allan gwych. Oherwydd y rhannu mae plant y Cylch Meithrin

**arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar** Welsh early years specialists





wedi cael y profiadau a'r cychwyn gorau posib yn y cylch a throsglwyddo hapus o un darpariaeth i'r llall.

Cyn y cyfnod clo cynhaliwyd sesiynau Clwb Cwtsh yn Ysgol Abersoch. Sesiynau hwyliog ar gyfer oedolion oedd â phlant ifanc iawn oedd yn awyddus i ddysgu Cymraeg. Bu'r rhain yn hynod boblogaidd gyda nifer dda o rieni a gwarchodwyr yn mynychu ac yn mwynhau ac yn gweld cystal ddarpariaeth oedd ar gael i'w plant yn yr ysgol.

Yn anffodus oherwydd y clo daeth gweithgareddau'r cylch i ben dros dro. Fodd bynnag mae'n rhaid canmol ymroddiad y staff a phwyllgor y cylch lwyddodd i ail agor y cylch ym mis Mehefin ar gyfer gweithwyr allweddol. Unwaith eto dangoswyd cydweithio arbennig rhwng yr ysgol a'r cylch a alluogodd y cylch i ail agor yn ddiogel i'r plant a'r staff.

Mae'n anodd meddwl nad ydi'r cyfnod Covid-19 wedi cael effaith ar sefyllfa'r Cylch Meithrin ac Ysgol Abersoch. Prin wythnosau roedd y cylch wedi bod ar agor cyn y cyfnod clo, nid ydym yn teimlo ein bod wedi cael cyfle teilwng i wneud gwahaniaeth i'r sefyllfa niferoedd plant. Trwy sefydlu darpariaeth gofal plant yn lleol, yr hyn mae teuluoedd yn gofyn amdano er mwyn hwyluso eu mynediad at waith, rydym wedi llenwi bwloch fel nad oes rhaid iddynt deithio allan o'r ardal. Mater o amser fyddai i niferoedd y plant gynyddu yn yr ysgol.

Oherwydd yr holl waith arbennig sydd wedi mynd ymlaen yn Ysgol Abersoch i sefydlu Cylch Meithrin a'r cyd-weithio eithriadol rhwng staff a Llywodraethwyr yr ysgol a phwyllgor, rhieni, cymuned a staff y cylch mae'n siom mawr gennym feddwl bod dyfodol yr ysgol yn cael ei drafod.

Yn gywir

D.Jones

Delyth Jones  
Rheolwr Talaith Gogledd Orllewin Cymru

**arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar** Welsh early years specialists



(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 22 Ionawr 2021 20:07  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to request that you re-consider the potential closure of Abersoch village school, This excellent little school is an essential part of our village community under the wonderful leadership of Linda Jones.

Without this school our children would have to travel to neighbouring villages and also the parents and toddlers 'cylch meithrin' would be sacrificed also.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 23 Ionawr 2021 11:40  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch proposed closure  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir/madam

I am objecting to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.  
There are 4 main reasons:

1.  
Welsh language and culture.  
Ysgol Abersoch is a bastion of the Welsh language in Abersoch. Many local business owners are like myself monoglot English speakers. All my Children are now Bilingual. This is a result of taking them to our local school.
2.  
Sustainability and citizen safety  
Families can walk their children to school. Even to travel by car to the nearby schools will increase Co2 emissions and increase risk if road deaths
3.  
Sense of place and community cohesion.  
Small primary schools support pupils and families in the local community better than large faceless ones.
4.  
To close the school without proper consultation with communities and stakeholders in the middle of a pandemic is wrong.

All the above are supported in policies in force in WG and GCC current documents.

I understand that the LEA is struggling with funding, however this is a knee jerk reaction. which will be impossible to reverse.

please keep me informed in consultation matters.

Kind Regards.

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 23 Ionawr 2021 11:42  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch proposed closure  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir/madam

I am objecting to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.  
There are 4 main reasons:

1.  
Welsh language and culture.  
Ysgol Abersoch is a bastion of the Welsh language in Abersoch. Many local business owners are like myself monoglot English speakers. All my Children are now Bilingual. This is a result of taking them to our local school.
2.  
Sustainability and citizen safety  
Families can walk their children to school. Even to travel by car to the nearby schools will increase Co2 emissions and increase risk if road deaths
3.  
Sense of place and community cohesion.  
Small primary schools support pupils and families in the local community better than large faceless ones.
4.  
To close the school without proper consultation with communities and stakeholders in the middle of a pandemic is wrong.

All the above are supported in policies in force in WG and GCC current documents.

I understand that the LEA is struggling with funding, however this is a knee jerk reaction, which will be impossible to reverse.

please keep me informed in consultation matters.

Kind Regards.

[REDACTED]

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



## Your Details:

Date: 22 - JANUARY - 2021

Name: PAUL MURPHY

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify) LOCAL CONCERNED RESIDENT (BORN IN ABERSOCH)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose one of the following answers

I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

No, the Council should not publish my response.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

**Please return your response to:**  
 Modernising Education Office,  
 Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

**Response Form**

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

**Comments:**

AS WITH LOCAL SHOPS, YSGOL ABERSOCH IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY.

IF YOU CONSIDER CLOSING THE SCHOOL AND MOVING THE PUPILS TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, THEN YOU ARE EMBRACING THE SAME MINDSET THAT GAVE PERMISSIONS TO OUT-OF-TOWN SUPERMARKETS, FORCING THE EXTINCTIONS OF THE HEART-OF-VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVES AND CARING COMMUNITIES.

Paul T. Murphy  
22/01/2021.



## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



## Your Details:

Date: 22 JAN 2021

Name: GAYNOR ELIZABETH MURPHY (née GORDON WILLIAMS)

E-mail Address: [Redacted]

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

- Parent  
 Staff  
 Governor  
 Pupil former  
 Other (please specify) [ ]

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

- Yes, I wish to be notified  
 No, I do not wish to be notified

In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

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**Please return your response to:**  
 Modernising Education Office,  
 Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

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**Response Form**

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

**Comments:**

**"Focus:-**

As a former pupil of Ysgol Abersoch (1949-53) I am extremely dismayed to learn that its closure is even being considered. I am also proud to be the granddaughter of a Founder Governor (Capt. John Williams) and an Aunt to the current Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

Apart from the educational and strategic importance of a local primary school, which will be covered by many others in this consultation, I wish to draw attention to its *historic* significance and why it is clearly imperative that it remains an ongoing Primary School for our Local Children.

We should, most especially at this time, be earnestly directing all involved in this consultation to include in their focus the values of a cultural heritage and thus also the *origins* of Ysgol Abersoch.

It is the foresight and the fine intentions of those people whose benevolent and selfless actions began, and then completed our Primary School, - and also the Village Hall among other benefits, - that deserve our close scrutiny.

Their good will, and indeed their financial and practical contributions, are those very foundations, - the likes of which give birth to real and lasting, truly established, Village Communities in Wales.

It was two philanthropic families who commenced the creation of Ysgol Abersoch, recognising the immense importance of having a Welsh Primary School situated in the heart and centre of a Welsh Village Community.

It was the (strictly non-drinking) Winterbottom family who first purchased the land, which they saw would become, in time, at the very centre of Abersoch Village.

They then built the Village Hall and, together with the Minoprio family, went on to build the School itself. It was one Minoprio brother who financed the building entirely, while his younger brother contributed to the designing of the building and also involved himself personally in the actual construction work. The same family, among other things, gave us the original breakwater in Pen y Cei and donated a stretch of Morfa Abersoch for community use.

The design and structure of the School building is unique to our Village and more than attractive, being fashioned from wood. The most pleasing shape of the facade was beautifully highlighted, this Christmas of 2020, by the decorative, festive lighting that had been thoughtfully added to the front elevation.

Gwynedd Council Members, above all citizens, should be very aware of the historical value and the preservation needs of an attractive, as well as a necessary, utilitarian construction that, having been established in 1924, is now approaching a hundred years old.

For all of the above reasons, as well as the imperative duty we have regarding the importance of Primary, formative Welsh Education to our present, and for their future generations of local, Village children, Ysgol Abersoch **MUST FLOURISH**, and not, for one second, be considered for closure to "save money".

I rest my case.

Gaynor Murphy



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gay E. Murphy". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

23rd of January, 2021"



**9**

**Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi**



**9**

**The respondent does not want the  
response to be published**

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Melissa Hall <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 23 Ionawr 2021 17:18  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern

I have been visiting Abersoch for most of my life and have seen many changes over 50 years.

I was alarmed to read that Ysgol Abersoch is in threat of closure.

After meeting some of the children and teachers on Abersoch beach while they were doing their PE sessions I thought how lucky they were to have such a beautiful place to do sports. I spoke to one of the parents on the beach and asked about the school. She was very enthusiastic about the benefits her children had had going to that particular school. Learning so many skills and continuing to speak the Welsh language. I often hear the kids speaking Welsh keeping the heritage in the town.

I felt a sense of warmth towards the school. I love the fact that the little kids go to swimming lessons on the local bus to save on costs. So important to learn to swim while living so close to the sea. Luckily their lessons paid off a few years back when they entered into the local swimming competition. I decided that I would sponsor the kids by buying them matching sweatshirts with the school logo on. I felt they had achieved so much at this lovely little school they deserved to look the part.

I have supported this lovely school by donating money through the New Years Day dip and selling ducks for the duck race in my salon in Cheshire.

There is so much bad press around Abersoch regarding second home ownership. If this school closes what is left that's for the locals? The post office closed to be replaced as a small counter in Londis. The hair dressers went because the rent was so high. There's no bank just a cash machine. High street brand shops came and went. And now the school.

I feel that this community has suffered enough especially Linda Jones the head mistress that has sadly lost two members of her family in the past year. The threat of closure of Ysgol Abersoch to Linda Jones and the rest of the families must be so stressed out something they don't need especially in these uncertain times.

There's very little of the old Abersoch left the school is a focal point of the village it would be such a tragic mistake to take the heart of this village away.

I am happy to continue to support this lovely school, dedicated parents and governors who are doing everything to keep the school open.

Yours sincerely  
Melissa Hall

Sent from my iPhone

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/CEB6242C56.A23E0/blacklist>

**11**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**11**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Nina Lang <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 24 Ionawr 2021 18:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I write to express my concern and distress at the plans to close Abersoch Village School. Firstly, on a personal level, my family through the generations from my father down to my grandchildren, have all benefited from attending the school and I will only believe that it has provided an excellent grounding for the children of the locality. I understand that the number of pupils has dwindled in recent years but now numbers are increasing and an attempt to shut down this well located school, with such excellent facilities, both within its well maintained building and close at hand, in this catchment area where such numerous children are coming up to entry age is difficult to comprehend. The opportunity to walk to school is clearly beneficial for many reasons, and to close this school would deny a number of children this. What about increasing costs of transporting children to schools further afield and the environmental impact? Not all families have cars available.

I believe the recently organised activity groups are proving successful, adding to the value of the school to the village and surrounding area. It has consistently succeeded to prepare children well as they go forward with an excellent knowledge of our Welsh language whether from Welsh or English families.

To lose this precious school, Ysgol Abersoch, in my view would be tragic, for the sake of the language and culture of our village apart from anything else, Pupil numbers are rising and once lost, how would we ever regain our historic school?

Nina Lang (nee Williams , ex Ysgol Abersoch 1949 - 1953)

Sent from my iPad

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**(ADDYSG)**

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**Oddi wrth:** Melanie Lean <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 25 Ionawr 2021 10:17  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch  
**Pwnc:** Keeping Abersoch School Open

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern

I wanted to write with my support for keeping Ysgol Abersoch open in the heart of Abersoch village. As a former pupil who attended this school, I feel that it provides vital lifeblood to the community not least by the provision of local education but also by bringing children and parents together within the community. The friends that I made at this school remain lifelong friends, with many having families of their own and remaining living locally. To take away this opportunity of local schooling within the community would be a devastating loss to the village and also the Welsh speaking community. This school provides more than memories to past pupils - it creates a cultural, rural, Welsh community feel to children in their formative years of schooling which should continue for future generations to come.

Yours sincerely  
Dr Melanie Lean

([REDACTED])

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Oliver Robinson <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 25 Ionawr 2021 16:26  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Gwynedd Council,

I would like to reach out to you and ask you to seriously reconsider your current position on closing Ysgol Abersoch. I ask this not just as someone who has a number of business in the village but also because for the past 50 years I have visited Abersoch as a holiday maker and as part of my work.

I have seen friends, current residents and many of those who now work in Abersoch and have got their own children at the school develop and flourish. I am sure Sarn Bach school is also an excellent facility however I would like to reach out further to you and explain why I think Ysgol Abersoch should remain open.

- With two business in the village both past, current and future landlords require a junior school that is convenient for the life style those business have to lead. The ability for children to walk safely to school and back home at the end of the day is crucial to how we operate our business.
- The independence this gives every child as they get older is invaluable in their maturity for young children prior to the start of secondary school.
- As a previous governor of the Ryleys school in Alderley Edge, I also see the huge benefit such a small school has on nurturing young children Not just the level of independence they get but more importantly the chance to have a voice and not be lost.
- The sense of community it brings to the locals and the loss to the community as a whole if it closes.
- I am fully aware of the additional cost to the council in keeping small schools open, not only across Wales but across the country. However, now more than ever our children's education should be paramount in the council strategic direction, regardless of the issues of budgets. We are already talking about a lost generation when it comes to education for what will be nearly a full academic year in some form of shut down.
- Looking after and supporting those in education under the age of 11 years surly has to now be a priority and one that despite current plans to close the school in August 2021 should surely be put on hold and for the residents of Abersoch and their children to be offered the education they deserve and an education that the teachers as Ysgol Abersoch have been delivering for generations.

As a business leader, I am aware of the financial burden we all face. I am also aware that we must look at all our business and look to make some tough decisions. Gwynedd Council, like a school is a business and it must run to budget. I am also acutely aware of the so called "low hanging fruit" that is easier to go after to save on budgets and bring costs down. However, like we have done, we have looked at the long term stability of our business and invested for the long term by making sure the business we have are supported for the long term benefit of the workers, residents and consumers. I see Ysgol Abersoch as something that is wroth investing in long term rather than short term.

Abersoch as you will know is a village that is attracting more families and therefore children to move too as their primary home rather than a holiday destination. As business start to thrive again they see a year round opportunity and with that brings investment, permanent residents and therefore more children to educate. I would urge you to at the very least put all plans on hold until further notice and proven evidence that this school can thrive once again and continue the importance of the Welsh language. As a non-Welsh speaker and with 33 business across North

Wales I fully respect and appreciate the importance of the Welsh language for all who frequent them. It would be a great shame to lose that!

Closing the school now I think is sort term thinking with long term damage to children's education, freedom, and sense of purpose and in addition jobs for the area.

I would be delighted to help in any other way I can and more than anything I would like to see Ysgol Abersoch opening it's doors once again in September 2021 for the next generation of Abersoch residents to be educated in the manor that they have become accustomed.

Diolch yn fawr

**Oliver Robinson**  
Managing Director

Tel: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Rachel Overfield <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 25 Ionawr 2021 20:26  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** hello!

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Gwynedd Council's Statutory Consultation,

I was really sad to hear that my niece and nephew are devastated that their school might close, although my nephew has left, he still has fond memories of his education, as he discusses it regularly. So, it has had a profound effect upon his education and was also a school that his father attended, within 97 years it has educated generations. To close it would be shutting the door on not just a school, but a way of life. You hear of so many small schools been axed apparently in the name of progress, but recurrently these decisions are regretted, when it is too late! Village schools need to be preserved and invested in, in order to offer education to all, and to save children from having to travel further from the centre of the village, than they need too. The school offers a nurturing environment, I've seen it first hand with my niece and nephew, they are taught to be independent thinkers. It seems the threat of shutting down shrouds the school and this is also against the communities will, and the community is who the council serves. This impending uncertainty will negatively effect the children's education and emotional well being, causing insecurity and the ability of the school, to recruit, I heard that Llanbedrog was able to accept 19 extra students over their capacity, when ordinarily they could have joined the Ysgol Abersoch if it wasn't for the uncertainty caused by the threat of closure, which is just not fair. Its not just shutting a school you are closing the door on potential learning. This is a time when we see that cuts to our infrastructure highlighted by Covid are causing problems all over the UK, within the health care systems, councils and education. Also it has been requested that the school goes up to year 4, so it can offer longer learning, but this question has not been answered, so can you please answer. Could the school be allowed to educate up to year 4? I am an educator in Hull teaching degree students and I see time and time again the difference in confidence of children educated within smaller class sizes compared to larger schools. This is a great opportunity to conserve history while embracing and investing in the future, which are the children and teaching that embraces learning on a personal level, rather than pupil's becoming lost in large class sizes, I think now is the time to be progressive, through also protecting the past within the teaching of Welsh language and heritage.

Kind Regards,

Rachel.

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 26 Ionawr 2021 10:15  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I am writing to support keeping the above school open.  
The school is central to the community of Abersoch where pupils can walk to school and make the most of the natural surrounding environment especially in summer.

The school is keeping the Welsh language and culture going and with excellent teaching and a very good academic record.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

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Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



### Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by ticking a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose **one** of the following answers

I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

No, the Council should not publish my response.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

**Please return your response to:**

Modernising Education Office,  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### **Comments:**

It is not convinient for me to take my child to Sarn Bach. I love Ysgol Abersoch and I feel like it should stay open for local children. Council should think more about developing the village itself into family friendly instead of selling houses to random people as holiday homes, otherwise the village will be dead soon.

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 26 Ionawr 2021 19:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Abersoch School  
**Pwnc:** To whom it may concern. I'm contacting you again to further express...  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern. I'm contacting you again to further express my support and mention a few concerns regarding the excellent Ysgol Abersoch.

Firstly can I say that I'm once again stunned and surprised to hear that you are continuing in your frankly anti-democratic course of trying to close the school.

I want to draw your attention to my areas of concern which include

1. The social impact of closure of the school on the village.
2. The loss of a vital resource of village life.
3. The fact that closure flies in the face of the recent Gwynedd council survey re second/ holiday home ownership.
4. The over subscription of nearby schools which will have extra pressure placed on them when in fact they need Ysgol Abersoch's capacity.
5. Suggestions to even increase capacity.

To address each of my concerns as follows.

1. Social impact.

This is an area that I have personnel experience of. I have a friend who has children at the school. When we moved to live here we spoken to her re learning Welsh. This was important to us as we wanted to support the Welsh language and as we are expecting a first grandchild we felt that requirement to learn even greater. When we started the lessons in Abersoch village hall we would often hear the children in the main hall. We loved to hear their chatter in Welsh trying to recognise the occasional word. As our learning progressed on occasion we were even able to converse with the children. This was so rewarding to both sides. It increased our confidence and I felt the children gain something to.

1. The schools importance as a resource is also evident but perhaps not fully appreciated when they can be seen going around the village either singing carols at Christmas ,holding outdoor classes on the beach or indeed visiting elderly residents thru coffee mornings. In fact it's recently been recognised that interaction between young children and elderly persons is enormously beneficial. Indeed as the local elderly welsh residents often speak little English the children are a godsend. So the loss of the school would be felt throughout Abersoch village and beyond. We would really miss these mini Ambassadors of the Welsh language.
2. I have recently received a survey regarding second/holiday homes. The survey highlighted the impact of such on local resources including the school. This would suggest that the local council recognise that the school closure would be a tragedy and have a massive negative impact.I'm sure I recall one question being about the use of monies collected from such homes.can I ask where such money goes and Might I suggest that as well supporting affordable housing you could use it to support Ysgol Abersoch.
3. I'm also aware that llanbedrog school is oversubscribed by 19 pupils. I'm also aware that this year in Abersoch village we had at least 10 new babies born. The fact that llanbedrog is oversubscribed

would suggest that it's already under extreme pressure and any closure would only adversely affect the school. Surely the above makes the strongest case to keep the school open.

4. Indeed the above would also support the argument that the school increase its age coverage from year 3 to include year 4. This has multiple benefits allowing for increased scope of teaching and allowing a more mature student to progress onwards to their next school.

Ysgol Abersoch forms in my opinion the centre of the wheel of village life. It allows parents who don't drive easy access as well as a vital meeting point for single parents. It's well documented the benefits of such with regard to family finances and mental health. If the school was to close how might I ask would these single parents who don't drive on low income get the children to a school miles away. Indeed if pupils age 3, who attend between 9am-11am, continue as such how would they get there, who would pay the extra travel costs( which if ascribed to the family increase financial burdens) and would they need chaperones.

Also at this time of global concerns re COVID should we be progressing this closure. Any concerned parties can't meet effectively to either discuss concerns or generate support, without risking breaching guidelines. In my opinion to continue this process at this time is oppressive against freedom of speech and effective representation. This would only lead to lengthy appeals and further delays and anguish.

On a personal note I would be devastated if the school closed. As I've said I'm expecting a grandchild and was hoping to enrol him for some preschool/nursery classes. So it's closure would directly impact me and my family.

I hope this letter adequately expresses my thoughts, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me via email to discuss.

[Redacted signature]

Sent from my iPhone

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**19**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**19**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Jan Atherton <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 28 Ionawr 2021 14:03  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Gwynedd Council review, a threat to close Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Yet AGAIN , Gwynedd Council have commenced a Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch . It is particularly out of order and underhand during this stressful and abnormal time of Lockdown and Covid 19 . The cost of the meetings , councillors and bureaucracy over the years have been at a massive cost already to us , the taxpayers .

They have also caused huge uncertainty affecting parent education choice , undermined the staff teaching \ planning and everyone's confidence in the future .

It is time the council listened and commenced positive support to the customers - the parents , teaching staff , the local community and the children .

This unique school has a long special history and in addition :- \*promotes and treasures the Welsh Language and culture , \*is proud of excellent pupil achievements- professional ,top universities/colleges business and personal \*is central to the village and linked closely to the community and its activities , \*negates unnecessary travel and is small and safe , \*is sustainable due to school increasingly building on important extra activities such as Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti & Fi \*class size ideal for each individual child if council valued and promoted the future of Ysgol Abersoch positively ; therefore preventing the current class overcrowding in the other local 3 schools \*is a registered Beach School, an accolade offering many extra natural outdoor opportunities , \*has been recognised as unique on Nation Media , \*the school has always had very strong support from its parent teacher and Governing bodies .

I ask the council to cease wasting yet more more time ,money and resources on meetings that are ongoing and do not achieve a successful conclusion . Stop being negative and please take a positive attitude .

Our council could be proud to celebrate the unique school that is Ysgol Abersoch and its achievements. It is an example of good practice of a village school that Champions the Welsh Language and Culture .

Mrs Jan Atherton. Llueta , Abersoch , Gwynedd .LL53 7EB

Sent from my iPad

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 28 Ionawr 2021 13:48  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I am writing in support of Ysgol Abersoch.

The school is a great asset to the village and it is important that it remains open. It provides a high standard of teaching and the proposed beach school will be a unique opportunity for the local children to enjoy. The village is changing, with more young people living near-by and with the new Cylch Meithrin nursery & Ti a Fi parent & toddler group there will be more children wanting to come to Ysgol Abersoch.

The school is at the heart of the village community and if it were to close the village would become just a holiday resort and parking area for tourists.

[REDACTED]

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**22**

**Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi**

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**22**

**The respondent does not want the  
response to be published**

**(ADDYSG)**

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**Oddi wrth:** Chris Pilling <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 28 Ionawr 2021 20:53  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

As a local to Abersoch born and bred in the village it's very sad to hear of the possible closure of Ysgol Abersoch...I admit that Abersoch over the years has become a very popular tourist destination and from that has been subject to a lot of homes bought up by holidaymakers however there are still young local families in the village wanting to send their kids to the school, it just seems the village has been written off as a tourist attraction and has no passion from the council to try and sustain locals in the village community, I for one have been subject to a lack of forward thinking from the development department and therefore have moved out of the village but given the chance I'd be back there in a heartbeat to try and keep it the lovely Welsh village that it is! The school closing would be a huge loss to the village, I've watched 2 generations myself come through there and even when we'd left the school we still use to attend the Christmas plays the teachers put on for the village which drew in a lot of local families to get together. The families that are still lucky enough to be in the village have tried their utmost to help with fundraisers and so on and are more than willing to help further in the future...they've started a cylch there which is slowly growing and have put it to the council to allow kids to stay on an extra year at the school before going on to Sarn Bach. It's come to our attention as a group that Ysgol Llanbedrog who are already thriving as a school have kids almost on a waiting list which I'm sure could be diluted to Abersoch to keep more pupils in the school, it would be a huge loss to the community to lose Ysgol Abersoch and we are here to help in anyway we can to stop this from happening.

Sent from my iPhone

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 29 Ionawr 2021 11:55  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Please save Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Gwynedd Education Department

As a passionate advocate of quality education for early years and young people I write to you today to implore you to reconsider your decision to close Ysgol Abersoch which is vital to the survival of the Abersoch community and a shining beacon in its provision of outstanding learning opportunities for its children and their impact on promoting the Welsh language and culture within the village and wider community.

I feel privileged to have a property in the village as my love for Abersoch spans 62 years and the local community has always made me feel welcome and inclusive. Over the recent years I have witnessed first hand the local school using the beach and natural beauty of their environment to enhance the children's learning, encouraging and empowering the local businesses to incorporate the Welsh language in their literature, promotions and teach visitors the language to allow them to embrace and respect the village and its community.

The school is proactive in its drive to increase pupil numbers as it has the following initiatives underway by creating Cylch Meithrin Abersoch, early years childcare, in a dedicated room in the school, and Cylch Ti&Fi, a weekly parent and toddler group. Both initiatives will involve families with young children in the area in the school community. Also registration as a beach school will make Ysgol Abersoch unique in the area and gives families in the local and wider community who want their children to grow up with the opportunity to develop holistically. Holistic development combines individuals mental, physical, social emotional and spiritual growth. By giving children the opportunity to develop in an environment such as those in Beach Schools, there is an increased potential for learning. From running free along the beach, making fires, to toast marshmallows on, mark making in the sand with sticks, bird watching, tracking animals footprints, jumping over the waves, exploring crabs habitats, the beach provides a wealth of learning opportunities. Being outside and being able to access these learning opportunities at the same time as being able to take in the fresh air and observe natural occurrences, provides an even more amazing experience for children. Not only does Beach School provide these experiences, it also provides the opportunity for the magic of awe and wonder to inspire young children's thinking and ideas.

All the above initiatives should be given the time they deserve to increase pupil numbers for a unique school in a rural coastal setting.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** FRANK TURNER <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 29 Ionawr 2021 12:03  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** ABERSOCH SCHOOL

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I understand that there is a proposal to close the Abersoch School and as a none Welsh speaking person with many Welsh friends that my wife and family have enjoyed for many years of owning a property in Abersoch, I feel compelled to write to you. Abersoch School is part of the fabric of this village, it has an envied reputation and is particularly good at preserving the Welsh culture in addition to achieving very good academic results.

As Vice President of the local 41 Club and involved in many charitable activities where the Abersoch School has been involved I feel compelled to write to make you aware of the part that this school plays in village life.

There is little more important than the education of children and in particular in their early education where academic and social skills are developed. After interfacing with many ex pupils of Abersoch School I believe more than fulfils this requirement.

I urge you to consider this proposal most carefully as you could jeopardise the incredible community culture of this of this village and the future of the children.

Frank Turner

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 29 Ionawr 2021 15:14  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch school  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir /Madam. I write to express my serious concerns in relation to the proposed closure of my former Primary School in Abersoch -which I am very shocked to learn about . This wonderful School over the years has nurtured and provided a sense of community for the whole village that few ,if any institutions can match. Children and parents and indeed villagers have the opportunity to interact and engage with adults and children on a daily basis both morning and afternoon and this element is vital contribution to the cohesion and glue of village life . The daily walk by children and parents to their special and valued school is something that has stood the test of time and to rip out and relocate to a remote isolated and alternative location is totally unacceptable.Big is not always better and to remove a valuable facility is a disincentive for young mothers and families who are the lifeblood and potential future of the village.In terms of planning .Abersoch has been thrown under the bus many years ago by local Authorities and this would be the final nail in the coffin for village life as most people understand it . Please Please keep our School open as Mr Winterbottom gifted to the village for schooling of children Your sincerely. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Nick Lang <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 29 Ionawr 2021 17:57  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** YSGOL ABERSOCH

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my shock and disappointment that the Council are considering closing Ysgol Abersoch.

Generations of my family have attended this wonderful school, which plays a vital role in the village, representing and reinforcing the importance of the Welsh language and our cultural heritage, despite the at times overwhelming pressures of tourism.

The present low numbers are not a reflection of the importance of this school in our community, nor is there any doubt over the high standard of education and individual attention enjoyed by every single pupil.

The plan to register as a beach school is a unique enterprise in this area which, along with the fledgling Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi, deserves the opportunity to properly establish once this pandemic is over.

Nicholas Lang  
Abersoch

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Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



### Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

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**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose **one** of the following answers

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**Please return your response to:**

Modernising Education Office,  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

**Response Form**

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

**Comments:**

Dear Sir/ Madam

The proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31st of August 2021 deeply concerns me because the school has been there since I was a child.

I attended Ysgol Abersoch around the year of 1971, and am still keeping in touch with friends that I made there. I believe that the opportunity to attend Ysgol Abersoch was the foundation of our friendships, and had it not been for that chance, I would not have established those relationships that are so important to me now.

I believe that, as a community it is important for Abersoch to have a school as so much has already been lost in our village.

Another reason why this proposal concerns me is that my own daughter also attended this school, and my grandson is currently attending too.

During the time my daughter, [REDACTED] attended this school, she also established some of her most important friendships which have carried on to this day. [REDACTED] received extraordinary early education, where she learnt how to further develop her Welsh speaking skills with the teachers and her friends, as well as other important foundations in her development as a pupil.

I feel that this school has done so much good for me and my family, and has much more to offer. I strongly feel that the council should be supporting the school and looking at ways to keep the school open for future generations.

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

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**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

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### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### Comments:

Dear Sir/ Madam

The proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31st of August 2021 deeply concerns me as a parent, because my son, ■■■, who is only 2 and a half years old goes to Ysgol Abersoch to meet his friends and teachers.

■■■ has been going to Ysgol Abersoch, since he was just over 18 months old where he first met his friends at the Ti a Fi Cylch, where I also attended and spent time with him and other parents too.

The opportunity for ■■■ and myself to use this service meant a great deal to both of us, as I am a single mother and do not get to interact as much with other adults. ■■■ is an only child too, and does not interact with other children at home.

The Ti a Fi Cylch meant that we could both establish relationships with other people and children, which I believe is essential for ■■■'s wellbeing and normal development as a child. This enables him to learn how to interact with other children and handle difficult feelings, like shyness and also sharing and treating others with kindness. This is vital for early learning as it sets the foundation on which he will grow upon.

As ■■■ grew, he was able to join the Cylch Meithrin where his friends also attend. This has given ■■■ stability and has given him the reliability and assurance of a routine.

I believe stability and routine are vital to my child's wellbeing, especially during these times of the pandemic. Taking this away from my child allows room for disorientation and chaos, which will hinder his ongoing development.

At Ysgol Abersoch, ■■■ has learnt some of the most important skills needed, for example, how to speak, and how to count. The time spent at the Cylch Meithrin has given ■■■ the opportunity to further develop his Welsh speaking skills, identify colours, facial expressions in other children, and work on his fine motor skills.

Closing this school will have a big negative impact on my son's development.

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** ? x <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 2 Chwefror 2021 14:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** YSGOL ABERSOCH

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl moderneiddio addysg,

Ysgrifennaf atoch gyda siom fawr o glywed eich bod yn bwrw ymlaen gyda'r ymgynghoriad statudol er gwaethaf yr amser pryderus yr ydym i gyd yn ei wynebu gyda covid. Fel cyn ddisgybl, rhiant, llywodraethwyr a rheolwr siop yn y pentref, yr wyf yn gwybod fod colli ein Ysgol fach arbennig ni yma yn Abersoch yn mynd i gael effaith enfawr ar ein cymuned a yr iaith. Ychydig iawn o ysgolion fedrai gynnig y profiadau mae y plant yma yn ei gael, trwy y gwersi nofio yn wythnosol trwy'r flwyddyn, adnoddau dysgu naturiol, gwersi natur a cadw'n heini ar lan y mor, buarth a cae diogel i cael mwynhau amser chwarae ar y beiciau ac hefyd cael gwersi tu allan ar ddyddiau mae'r tywydd yn caniatáu, cadw'r iaith yn fyw trwy cyfathrebu gyda'r bobl lleol a perchenogion y siopau trwy'r iaith gymraeg, cael Aur gan menter iaith.

Yr wyf wedi cael mwynhau sawl cyngerdd gan y plant yn Neuadd Abersoch trwy'r flwyddyn. Fel busnes yr ydym drost y blynyddoedd wedi casglu llawer iawn o arian i'r Ysgol ac wedi mwynhau gwneud. Mae'r cwsmeriaid a'r gymuned wrth eu bodd yn ein cefnogi ond fwyaf oll, cefnogi Ysgol Abersoch.

Yr ydym yn gwybod fod yna lond llaw o blant yn barod i gychwyn yn yr ysgol trwy yn gyntaf "Ti a Fi" a'r meithrin newydd llwyddianus, fy nai yn un ohonynt, ac hefyd yn bendant mi fuasai fy meibion wedi aros ymlaen am y flwyddyn ychwanegol sef bl 4 ,pe byddai'r opsiwn yna.

Y cychwyn gorau i unrhyw blentyn cymraeg, saesneg neu unrhyw iaith, mi fuasain frait iddynt cael fod yn rhan o'r ysgol gyda'r athrawon gwych ymroddedig yma. Oherwydd ei fod yn ysgol fach ac ddim yn orlawn fel rhai cyfagos, maen't yn cael yr amser 'un i un' ar chwara teg gan yr athrawon, na allai gael yn y dosbarthiadau llawn.

Fel rhiant i blant yn yr ysgol ers 2008, mae un peth yn sefyll allan yn gryf i mi ac welaf fai ar polisi/rheolau y Cyngor ynglyn a pa mor hawdd ydi hi i rhieni symud eu plant o un ysgol i'r llall. Ni chaniateir hyn yn Lloegr. Ers 2009 mae hyn wedi digwydd nifer o weithiau yn ysgol Abersoch, heb esboniad cryf/da, fel oedd un yn mynd oedd lleill yn dilyn (fel defaid!!!). Pe bai hyn ddim wedi cael ei ganiatáu, mi fuasai ffigyrau disgyblion Ysgol Abersoch yn gryf iawn.

Gobeithio o dan yr amgylchiadau y bydd mwy o tegrwydd yn cael ei ystyried ac mwy o amser i ffigyrau yr ysgol ysgol godi heb y cwmwl o ansicrwydd uwch ei phen.

Yn gywir  
Dawn Jones

--  
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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 6 Chwefror 2021 17:02  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Syr / Fadam,

Ysgrifennaf i gynnig fy nghefnogaeth i ymdrech y gymuned i gadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor.

Cefais fy ngeni a'm magu yn Abersoch a rwyf yn falch i ddweud fy mod yn dal â chysylltiad gyda'r pentref. Roeddwn i, fy chwaer a fy mrawd yn ddisgyblion yn yr ysgol fach hon yn ystod blynyddoedd olaf y pedwardegau. Clir yw'r atgofion am yr athrawon arbennig a fu'n ein dysgu ac ni ellid bod wedi cael gwell cychwyn ar ein taith addysgol - yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg - yn unman.

Trist iawn yw meddwl bod dyfodol yr ysgol fach hon dan fygythiad. Colled aruthrol i'r pentref a'r gymuned fyddai ei chau. Ymddengys bod disgyblion presennol yr ysgol hefyd yn cael cychwyn gwych i'w haddysg ac yn gallu manteisio ar y cyfleoedd a'r profiadau arbennig mae'r pentref, ei sefydliadau a chymdeithasau yn gallu eu cynnig, o ran gweithgareddau cymunedol a thrawsgwricwlaidd. Fel mae wedi bod ar hyd y degawdau ers sefydlu'r ysgol, tystir i ymroddiad di-flino staff yr ysgol i wneud yn siŵr bod y disgyblion yn eu gofal yn cael y cychwyn gorau bosibl.

Er mai ychydig yw nifer y disgyblion ar hyn o bryd, mae arwyddion gobeithiol y gallai hynny newid gyda sefydlu'r Cylch Meithrin a'r Clwb Ti a Fi. Credaf mai teg fyddai rhoi mwy o amser i'r ddau sefydliad yma allu datblygu a chynyddu mewn niferoedd. Mae cefnogaeth ac ymroddiad y rhieni (Cymraeg a Di-Gymraeg) yn galonogol iawn ac yn rhoi gobaith i'r dyfodol.

Byddai colli'r ysgol yn drychineb i'r pentref a'r gymuned ac yn arbennig o safbwynt y diwylliant Cymraeg. Collwyd cymaint o ran Cymreictod y pentref dros y blynyddoedd a dyma fygythiad gwirioneddol yn wynebu'r gymuned pe câi'r ysgol ei chau. Trist iawn fyddai pentref heb ysgol a sŵn plant yn chwarae ar iard yr ysgol a'u gweld yn cael yr holl brofiadau arbennig drwy gael eu tywys o gwmpas gwahanol rannau o'r pentref. Ni ellid cynnig iddynt yr holl brofiadau maent yn gallu eu cael ar hyn o bryd, o fewn eu cyrraedd ar droed yn Abersoch, pe baent yn gorfod mynd i Ysgol Sarn Bach. Byddai'n rhaid trefnu trafndiaeth neu wneud heb y gweithgareddau.

Mae adeilad arbennig ac eiconig Ysgol Abersoch wedi goroesi bron i gan mlynedd ac yn rhan amlwg o'r pentref ers hynny. Chwith ofnadwy fyddai gweld yr adeilad yn wag a gwaeth fyth fyddai gweld ei ddymchwel ar gyfer rhyw bwrpas arall, fel mwy o dai neu faes parcio.

Ni ellir rhoi pris ar y golled fyddai'n digwydd o gau'r ysgol. Apeliaf atoch, yn enwedig yng nghanol amgylchiadau gwirioneddol anodd a rhwystredig y pandemig, i ystyried gohirio'r penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol a rhoi mwy o amser i gefnogwyr yr ysgol er mwyn iddynt allu cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb fel fyddai'n digwydd mewn amser mwy 'arferol'. Nid yw mor hawdd cyfarfod yn 'rhithiol' ac nid pawb sydd gyda'r adnoddau na'r sgiliau i wneud hynny. Nid yw'r amrywiol gymdeithasau yn yr ardal yn gallu cyfarfod yn yr amgylchiadau presennol chwaith i allu cynnig eu cefnogaeth i'r ymgyrch i achub yr ysgol i'r dyfodol.

Gobeithiaf yn fawr y byddwch yn rhoi ystyriaeth deg i ddadleuon ac apêl y rhai sydd am weld yr ysgol fach arbennig hon yn parhau i'r dyfodol.

Yn gywir,



--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Eifiona Wood <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 7 Chwefror 2021 18:00  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ymateb i Ymgynghoriad Statudol Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Moderneiddio Addysg

Rwyf yn gyrru'r llythyr yma ar ran Ruth Jenkins, sydd heb gyfrifiadur. Mae ei chyfeiriad e-bost wedi atodi a byddaf yn falch petai byddech yn gallu cysylltu gyda hi i gadarnhau eich bod wedi derbyn yr e-bost isod.

Diolch yn fawr,

Eifiona Wood

*Parthed: Cau Ysgol Abersoch ar 31 Awst 2021*

*Mae unrhyw ysgol yn ganolbwynt i'r gymuned - mewn pentref bach fel Abersoch mae'n ymddwyn fel man lle mae rhieni ifanc yn cwrdd â phlant yn derbyn dechrau academaidd da mewn bywyd. Mae hefyd yn darparu amgylchedd diogel ar gyfer datblygiad cymdeithasol personol, gan ganiatáu lleoliad dwyieithog naturiol ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Byddai'n golled enfawr i'r pentref pe bai'r penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol yn mynd yn ei flaen. Mynychodd fy nhri phlentyn Ysgol Abersoch ac rwyf wedi bod yn ymwneud ag addysg leol ers blynyddoedd lawer.*

*Rwyf wedi darllen yn ofalus yr holl wybodaeth a ddarparwyd ac wedi meddwl yn ofalus am yr holl opsiynau. Rwy'n deall y cynnig a'r rhesymau dros y, pryderon ond rwyf hefyd yn gweld darpariaeth gadarnhaol yn ddiweddar trwy gychwyn y Cylch Meithrin a grŵp Ti a Fi. Rhaid rhoi amser i'r ymdrechion a'r ddarpariaeth hon ddatblygu.*

*Mae'r pandemig Covid 19 wedi effeithio ar bob un ohonom yn bersonol, ac mae rhaid canmol ymrwymiad Llywodraethwyr a Chyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch ar yr adeg hon. Ni ddylid rhuthro penderfyniad mawr fel hyn. Mae Covid 19 wedi atal cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus ac ymgynghoriadau amrywiol a byddai fel arfer yn cael eu cynnal. Siawns felly y dylid gohirio penderfyniad mawr ddyfodol Ysgol Abersoch nes bod cyfyngiadau Covid 19 yn caniatáu i ni gyd gwrdd eto.*

*Gofynnaf am ystyriaeth ddifrifol i ohirio, er mwyn caniatáu amser i'r mentrau a roddwyd mewn lle ddangos effaith, cyn i benderfyniad terfynol gael ei wneud. Rwy'n teimlo'n gryf fod dyfodol cymuned leol Abersoch yn y fantol yma.*

*Os ydym wedi dysgu unrhyw beth o bandemig Covid 19, mae'n siŵr bod "niferoedd bach (a lleol) yn dda".*

*Yr eiddoch yn gywir,*

*Ruth Jenkins*

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd



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Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

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**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### Comments:

Ysgol Abersoch has been an important place for two generations of my family. It has provided education of a superbly high quality for one of my sons and up until last year, my grand-daughter attended and was very happy there. Both of them learnt Welsh from scratch there.

I was impressed with the gentle, yet thorough way that my son was taught Welsh. By the time he moved up to Sarn Bach he had an excellent foundation and the teachers at both schools were happy with his ability. He was very lucky to experience such a beneficial pupil-teacher ratio as he did at the school. I've often thought that the attention that the children are able to receive at Ysgol Abersoch is of a standard usually only available to pupils in private schools.

The school is essential to the village of Abersoch. The constant presence of parents and children converging there serves to give a reminder that there is a community of people who live here, in addition to the people that come and go on holiday throughout the year.

Without a school in Abersoch, there would be significantly less evidence that the Welsh language is being spoken in everyday circumstances. This is particularly pertinent to Abersoch as a primary holiday destination.

**34**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**34**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Wendy Lloyd Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 9 Chwefror 2021 21:24  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ymateb i'r Ddogfen Ymgynghorol Statudol - Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

## Dogfen Ymgynghorol Statudol – Ysgol Abersoch

Mae'r ddogfen yn dadlau dros gau yr ysgol ar sail diffyg niferoedd – a'r costau sy'n dilyn i gynnal ysgol fechan. Ond dylid cymeryd cyd-destun yr ysgol arbennig hon i ystyriaeth cyn cyrraedd penderfyniad o'r fath.

A'r cyd-destun ydi gwarafun ariannu ysgol Gymraeg ei hiaith ym mhentref mwyaf Seisnig, a mwyaf cyfoethog Gwynedd. Daw mwy o arian i Gwynedd mewn trethi o Abersoch nag o unrhyw bentref o'i faint yn y sir. A'r rheswm am y ffynhonnell hael hon o arian yw'r caniatád a roddwyd gan Gwynedd a Sir Gaernarfon dros y degawdau i godi a gwerthu tai haf yma. Drwy'r caniatád hwn, caniatáwyd hefyd i Abersoch ddirywio'n bentref gwyliau yn hytrach na ffynnu'n bentref byw. A'r canlyniad? Colli teuluoedd - ar wahan i blant rhieni di-Gymraeg sy'n rhedeg busnesau yma.

Mae pwysigrwydd cynnal ysgol yn y pentref hwn yn ddi-ddadl – yn enwedig o ystyried nod y Llywodraeth o gael 500,000 o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Mae'r ysgol bresennol yn cynnal ymwybyddiaeth o gymreictod yn y pentref – yn symbol o'r iaith frodorol a'r wlad. Mae'n rhan o ddyletswydd Gwynedd i wneud iawn â'r ardalwyr o Gymry am ganiatáu Seisnigeiddio cymaint ar y pentref. Anghofied am gostau cynnal addysg yn Ysgol Abersoch. Taled trwy'r trethi digonol iawn a delir o'r pentref i adfer yr iaith a gollwyd drwy ddiffyg gweledigaeth y gorffennol. Dyma eich cyfle.

Wendy Lloyd Jones

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9 Chwefror 2021

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Abersoch School

I am writing to your goodselfes to raise my concern regarding the proposed closure of Abersoch School. I myself went to this school and I feel that I must write to you to plead that you do not close it. Even though you see it as a small community school, it plays a much bigger part in the heart of the community. Local younger children get the opportunity to go to school on a smaller scale before going to Sarn Bach School. They get to understand the concept of school without it being a chore and without making it look like a big step in their lives. When the time comes for them to move to Sarn Bach it is a much easier transition for them.

I feel that the pupils who attend this school are very privileged in that they are able to have more intense lessons if you like, as there is a smaller amount in each class, the teacher would be able to give each pupil their time and they may be able to pinpoint a problem much quicker than if the teacher had to concentrate on say 20 or more pupils at any one time. By having smaller classes, the teacher is able to see each child's progression and learning capacity on a much higher level. I think this is such an advantage for children and would think that it would be a key elementary fact to keeping a school like this open. You only have to look at their excellent teaching and academic record to prove this point.

We have tried as a community to sustain the future of the school by making it possible to hold a Cylch Meithrin and a Ti a Fi Group at the school; where the future pupils and their parents can see how the school is run and what excellent teaching they have there.

The school is located in the centre of the village. Parents are able to walk their children to school. The school, because of its location, are able to take the pupils out for walks and outings to see the various things that are on offer around the village. How many schools are able to do this? Not many. They are able to see the wild nature that we have around, learn so many things without being in a lesson format.

It is such a shame that you feel that Abersoch School does not give each and every local child an excellent opportunity for their first impression of school life. I hope that you will reconsider any motion that you have to close the school and maybe just take the time of calling in and see how this absolutely brilliant little school works for us as a community and how it would be shameful to close it.

Yours sincerely

Nia Jones

Annwyl Syr/Madam,

Cyf Ysgol Abersoch

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch i godi fy mhryder ynglyn a'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch. Es i fy hun i'r ysgol hon a theimlaf fod yn rhaid imi ysgrifennu atoch i bledio nad ydych yn ei chau. Er eich bod chi'n ei gweld hi'n ysgol gymunedol fach, mae'n chwarae rhan llawer mwy yng nghalon y gymuned. Mae plant iau lleol yn cael cyfle i fynd i'r ysgol ar raddfa lai cyn mynd i Ysgol Sarn Bach. Maent yn dod i ddeall cysyniad yr ysgol heb iddi fod yn feichus a heb wneud y syniad o fynd i'r ysgol edrych fel cam mawr yn eu bywydau. Pan ddaw'r amser iddyn nhw symud i Sarn Bach mae'n gyfnod trawsglwyddo llawer haws iddyn nhw.

Rwy'n teimlo bod y disgyblion sy'n mynychu'r ysgol hon yn freintiedig iawn gan eu bod yn gallu cael gwersi dwysach os dymunwch, gan fod swm llai ym mhob dosbarth, byddai'r athro'n gallu rhoi ei amser i bob disgybl ac efallai gallu nodi problem yn gynt o lawer na phe bai'n rhaid i'r athro ganolbwyntio ar dyweder 20 neu fwy o ddisgyblion ar unrhyw un adeg. Trwy gael dosbarthiadau llai, gall yr athro weld dilyniant a gallu dysgu pob plentyn ar lefel llawer uwch. Rwy'n credu bod hyn yn gymaint o fantais i blant a byddwn yn meddwl y byddai'n ffaith elfennol allweddol cadw ysgol fel hon yn agored. Nid oes ond rhaid ichi edrych ar eu record addysgu ac academaidd rhagorol i brofi'r pwynt hwn.

'Rydym wedi ceisio fel cymuned i gynnal dyfodol yr ysgol trwy ei gwneud hi'n bosibl cynnal Cylch Meithrin a Grŵp Ti a Fi yn yr ysgol; lle gall disgyblion y dyfodol a'u rhieni weld sut mae'r ysgol yn cael ei rhedeg a pha addysg rhagorol sydd ganddyn nhw yno.

Mae'r ysgol yng nghanol y pentref. Gall rhieni gerdded eu plant i'r ysgol. Mae'r ysgol, oherwydd ei lleoliad, yn gallu mynd â'r disgyblion allan am dro a gwibdeithiau i weld y gwahanol bethau sydd ar gael o amgylch y pentref. Faint o ysgolion sy'n gallu gwneud hyn? Dim llawer. Gallant weld y natur gwyllt sydd gennym o gwmpas a dysgu cymaint o bethau heb fod ar ffurf gwrs.

Mae'n gymaint o drueni eich bod chi'n teimlo nad yw Ysgol Abersoch yn rhoi cyfle gwych i pob plentyn lleol gael ei argraff gyntaf o fywyd ysgol. Gobeithio y byddwch yn ailystyried unrhyw gynnig sydd gennych i gau'r ysgol ac efallai dim ond cymryd yr amser i alw i mewn a gweld sut mae'r ysgol fach hollol wych hon yn gweithio i ni fel cymuned a sut y byddai'n gywilyddus ei chau.

Yn gywir,

Nia Jones



**37**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**37**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**38**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**38**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** bobaberuchaf <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 11 Chwefror 2021 12:41  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** The future of Ysgol Abersoch.

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To Gwynedd Council,

With reference to your lamentable plan to close Ysgol Abersoch; I am resident of over 30 years and the husband of a lady (nee Williams) born and bred here, her family having resided in Abersoch for many generations.

My wife's father attended Ysgol Abersoch, as did my wife and her sisters, her children and latterly her daughter's children.

There is an increasing awareness of the cultural and economic importance of ensuring the survival of small rural and sea side villages.

Has this been missed by Gwynedd Council?

Your proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch directly contravenes the stated policies and goals of the Welsh Government and thus it's people, the voters.

Maybe you need to be reminded of these policies and goals, as extracted below:

## Rural education action plan

If we ensure that learners and schools in rural Wales have the right support to succeed, then we can ensure that our rural communities and economy will go from strength to strength.

# **We are strengthening the School Organisation Code in respect of a presumption against the closure of rural schools.**

This Government's commitment to raising education standards in rural areas remains unwavering. Every learner in Wales, wherever they live, has the right to benefit from high-quality education and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## **Theme 1: Strengthened organisation and support for rural schools**

• How we are reforming and refreshing process and structures so that rural schools are better supported to thrive and innovate.

## **Theme 2: Supporting equity and excellence in rural schools**

• How we are providing targeted support for rural schools and learners, and prioritising leadership and professional learning opportunities for teachers.

## **Theme 3: Supporting rural schools as community and educational spaces**

• How we are delivering the best digital education resources and ensuring rural schools are modern educational and community hubs.

There are significant benefits – academic, cultural and social – to learners and communities through the delivery of high-quality education in small and rural schools<sup>1</sup>. This can be critical in engaging learners and families from the most disadvantaged backgrounds in rural areas and raising learner aspirations, as well as making a significant contribution to the long-term sustainability of the local community.

## **We are:**

- strengthening the School Organisation Code in respect of a presumption against the closure of rural schools
- improving the statutory process for planning Welsh-medium education by local authorities, following the recommendations of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Advisory Board; in particular this will improve longer term planning and include early years provision
- providing match funding for 11 School Business Manager Pilots for 2017–19, including Powys, Anglesey, Conwy and Carmarthenshire; the pilot is already supporting 100 schools across the country, freeing up headteachers' time by working on areas such as procurement and finance
- investing in the Pembrokeshire pilot as part of our Community Focussed School Business Manager initiative
- developing an overarching Workforce Development Plan to include a focus on small and rural schools, developing Welsh language skills and improving the quality of the supply workforce.

As a government, we believe in the principle that places matter and we are ambitious in delivering better jobs closer to home, within prosperous, healthier and secure communities.

Just as we are committed to working with businesses, we will continue to work with schools, parents/carers and local authorities to give them the tools to shape successful and sustainable futures.

## Case studies

### Rural education action plan

**Pembrokeshire College** has been supporting learning in rural areas by offering two forms of 'online' learning – asynchronous learning where learners follow a programme at their own time and pace, and synchronous learning where learners follow timetabled sessions. Learners additionally receive support and tutorials with college staff.

Pembrokeshire College has also been offering A levels and IGCSEs online asynchronously for six years. A levels are delivered centring on learner focus rather than institutional focus, including maximising course offer while minimising duplication, establishing guidance for financial viability, and minimising learner transport requirements during the core day.

More information is available through LiveSchool at <https://liveschool.co.uk>

**Ysgol Bro Teifi** is a new 3 to 19 school in Ceredigion which utilises its school buildings for community needs. The school's excellent sports resources help support various clubs, with cycling, running and football clubs in the local area using these facilities and making the school a vibrant community hub during the evenings.

Likewise, **Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn** provides the base for the weekly meetings of the local Young Farmers Club, with many concerts and drama practices held in the well-equipped hall.

**Ysgol Mynach, Ysgol Syr John Rhys and Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Pontrhydfendigaid** benefit from the Small and Rural Schools Grant and work closely in partnership to plan provision and share expertise within fields such as leadership in literacy, numeracy and additional learning needs (ALN).

**Ysgol Penllwyn and Ysgol Penrhyn-coch** have benefited from a strong informal collaboration and are now in consultation to extend this partnership to a formal federation.

**Ffederasiwn Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbrynmair** was established in 2014 and has ensured continued provision of Welsh-medium education in these three rural, traditionally Welsh-speaking areas. Permanent leadership arrangements have been in place since the Federation was established, and all three schools have had successful Estyn inspections. Work has now commenced on a new building for Ysgol Carno which will further safeguard and strengthen the provision of education in the village.

**Llangedwyn CW School and Llanfechain Church in Wales Primary School** are two small schools located in North Powys. The schools have a shared headteacher, and received funding from the Small and Rural Schools Grant during 2017–18 to support collaboration between them. Having recognised the potential to further benefit the opportunities available for learners by strengthening the links between the two schools, the governing bodies decided to proceed with the federation process.

**Conwy County Borough Council**, using the Small and Rural Schools Grant, has financed three School Business Managers (SBMs) operating from the secondary school Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy to support 21 primary schools in the Dyffryn Conwy cluster. The aim is to release headteachers from administrative/organisational tasks so they can focus on leading, raising standards and improving learner performance contributing to the sustainability of the small and rural schools, in particular those where the headteacher has a significant teaching commitment. Furthermore, the initiative encourages and supports school-to-school working, enabling headteachers to share good practice and collaborate to maximise capacity and share expertise.

The Small and Rural Schools Grant has enabled **Pembrokeshire County Council** to support a group of four schools to develop leadership and improve provision. The group has been working on provision for additional learning needs (ALN) and, with support from the Inclusion Service, they have appointed an ALN coordinator (ALNCo) to work across the group. The work so far has evidenced the potential of collaboration and has enabled headteachers of the schools, many of who teach the majority of the week, to delegate the day-to-day management of ALN to the ALNCo which has already resulted in reduced costs across the group. This grant is also providing a greater range of support which is being accessed by the schools to support their learners.

**Gwynedd Council** is supporting its learners by promoting after-school homework clubs in its communities. Twenty-four schools have received funding to purchase equipment to establish clubs in homework and ICT, film, coding and multimedia, physical education, cycling, Welsh language development and community gardening.

The **Ysgol Calon Cymru Cluster** in Powys has used grant funding to appoint a Business Manager to manage the cluster. The school is now looking to establish a cluster-wide behaviour support project. The business manager was funded via the Business Manager Pilot, and the behaviour support project will be supported by the Small and Rural Schools Grant.

Why is Ysgol Abersoch not mentioned here?

Gwynedd Council should be making best effort to support and keep Ysgol Abersoch open!

Robert Kennedy.

██████████

██████████



**from my iPad**

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council

[Marcio fel sbam / Mark it as spam](#)

[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)



Orebyrwydd 6/2/21

40

Annwyl Mr Rees Williams

**RE: Cau arfaethedig Ysgol Abersoch**

Rwy'n ysgrifennu mewn perthynas â chynnig arfaethedig Cyngor Gwynedd i gau Ysgol Abersoch o 31 Awst 2021.

Ddydd Iau 28ain Ionawr, cyfarfûm â llywodraethwyr a rhieni Ysgol Abersoch fwy neu lai i drafod y cynnig ac rwyf am godi rhai pryderon difrifol ag ef. Cyn i mi wneud hyn, hoffwn nodi brwdfrydedd ac ymroddiad y rhai sy'n ymwneud â'r ysgol sy'n benderfynol o weld yr ysgol yn aros ar agor. Clywais o lygad y ffynnon eu syniadau arloesol i gynyddu nifer y disgyblion ac i ymgysylltu â'r gymuned leol sydd wedi gweld yr ysgol yn helpu i wella'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg yn y pentref yn ogystal ag ymgysylltu â phoblogaeth oedranus Abersoch, gan helpu i frwydro yn erbyn arwahanrwydd cymdeithasol.

Rwy'n hysbysu fy mhryderon isod:

- 1. Proses.** Mae'r Cyngor yn dilyn y broses ymgynghori statudol yn iawn ac mae ymhell o fewn ei hawliau i gyflawni'r broses hon hyd yn oed yn ystod y pandemig. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n pryderu bod y cyfraniadau rhithwir y gall rhanddeiliaid eu gwneud yn yr ymgynghoriad yn cyfyngu. Mae'n amhosibl i rieni, llywodraethwyr ac eraill gyflwyno eu hachos yn llawn dros blatfform rhithwir. Mae cau ysgolion yn galw ar deimladau cryf ac rwy'n pryderu bod cryfder teimlad y gymuned leol yn cael ei wanhau gan ddefnyddio'r platfform hwn. Rwyf hefyd yn credu bod cymariaethau rhyng-ysgol yn cael eu pwysoli yn erbyn yr ysgol ac rwy'n pryderu am y diffyg ystyriaeth ddyledus i opsiynau eraill fel ffederaleiddio. Rwy'n credu y dylai bwydlen ehangach o opsiynau fod ar gael i'r ysgol.
- 2. Amseru.** Rwy'n poeni am amseriad y cau arfaethedig. Clywais am y cynnydd gwirioneddol yr oedd yr ysgol yn ei wneud o ran cynyddu nifer y disgyblion a bod yn arloesol trwy Cylch Meithrin, Ti a Fi yn ogystal â'r broses o sefydlu Ysgol Traeth, y cyntaf o'i bath yng Ngwynedd. Mae llawer o waith wedi'i wneud y tu ôl i'r llenni, er gwaethaf y pandemig, ac amharwyd ar addysg am bron i ddeuddeg mis. Roedd yr ysgol yn casglu momentwm go iawn cyn COVID19 ac mae wedi dechrau mynd yn groes i'r duedd ar i lawr ar nifer y disgyblion er gwaethaf heriau ar nifer y preswylwyr yn Abersoch. Gyda'r rhaglen frechlyn yn cael ei chyflwyno ar gyflymder a'r gobaith o addysgu personol yn ailddechrau ar ôl hanner tymor mis Chwefror, rwy'n hyderus y byddai'r ysgol yn ailddarganfod y momentwm hwnnw bron yn syth.

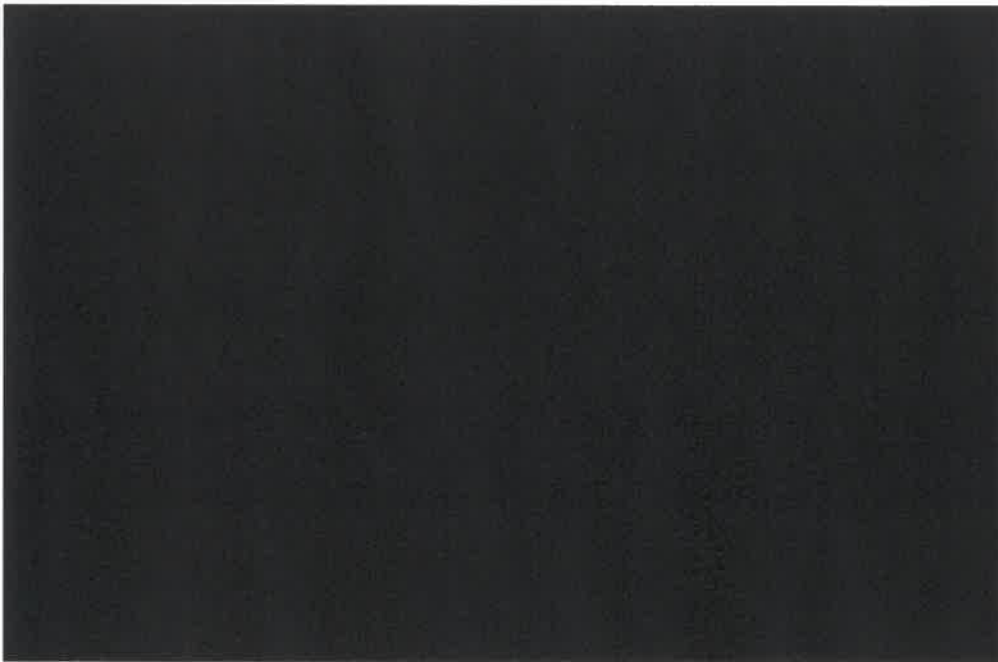


3. **Nodau.** Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn cwrdd â nodau Moderneiddio Addysg Cyngor Gwynedd. Mae'n cyflawni maint dosbarthiadau llai ac amser cyswllt disgybl-athro. Wrth hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg, mae disgyblion nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg yn dod yn siaradwyr Cymraeg hyderus yn gyflym. Defnyddir cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr ystafell ddosbarth a'r tu allan iddi, gan ddangos bod y Gymraeg yn iaith fyw ddyddiol. O ran ysgolion yn cael eu hintegreiddio yn y gymuned leol, mae Ysgol Abersoch wedi cefnogi cyngherddau a chodwyr arian y Nadolig a Gwyl Dewi Sant ac mae ganddi berthnasau sefydledig â siopau a busnesau pentref. Mae hefyd yn gyfrannwr poblogaidd i Bore Panad, bore coffi dros 50 oed yn neuadd y pentref.

Rwy'n gofyn ichi fel yr Aelod Cabinet Addysg ddarparu dewis arall yn lle cael gwared ar addysg yn barhaol yn Abersoch, a fydd yn niweidio ymdrechion i adfywio cymunedau gwledig yn anghueol. Mae angen cynllun ar gyfer tai, swyddi a diwylliant amom, ond bydd colli'r ysgol leol yn golygu bod yr holl ymdrechion hyn wedi darfod. Hoffwn weld y cynnig hwn yn cael ei ollwng i roi ychydig mwy o flynyddoedd i'r ysgol brofi y gall dyfu eto (fel y mae'n ei wneud nawr) yn y byd ôl-bandemig. A allech chi hefyd ddarparu nifer o ddisgyblion ysgol a fyddai, yn eich barn chi, yn gwneud Ysgol Abersoch yn ysgol hyfyw yn y tymor hir.

Rwy'n amgáu papur sefyllfa'r ysgol ar y cau arfaethedig ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed gennych.

Cofion





Dear Mr Rees Williams

**RE: Proposed Closure of Ysgol Abersoch**

I am writing with respect to Gwynedd Council's proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch from 31 August 2021.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, I met with governors and parents of Ysgol Abersoch virtually to discuss the proposal and I want to raise some serious concerns with it. Before I do this, I would like to note the enthusiasm and dedication of those involved with the school who are determined to see the school remain open. I heard first-hand their innovative ideas to increase pupil numbers and to engage with the local community which has seen the school help improve the use of the Welsh language in the village as well as engage with Abersoch's elderly population, helping combat social isolation.

I notify my concerns below:

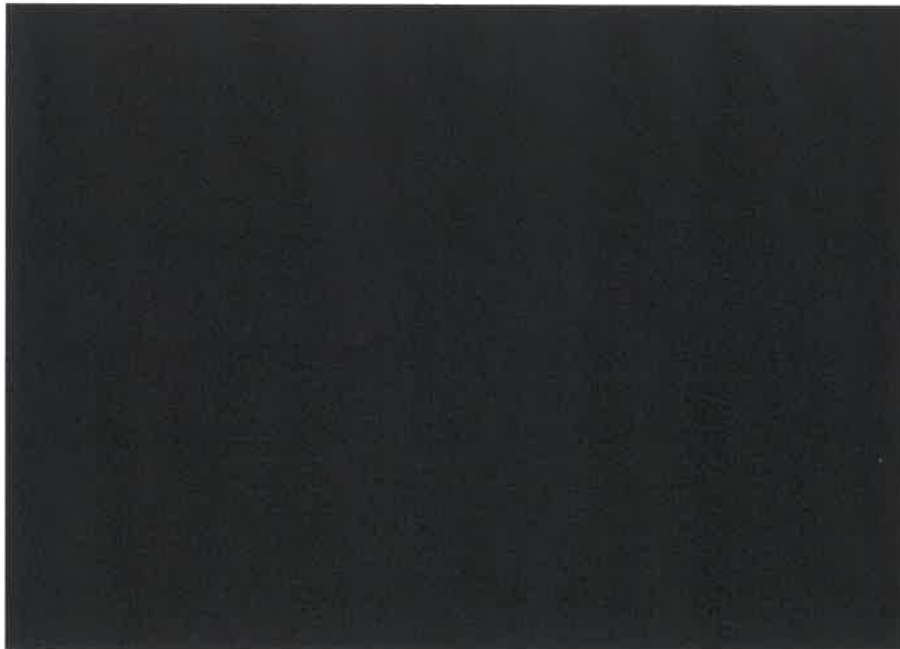
- 1. Process.** The Council is following the statutory consultation process properly and is well within its rights to carryout this process even during the pandemic. However, I am concerned that the virtual contributions that stakeholders can make in the consultation are limiting. It is impossible for parents, governors and others to fully make their case over a virtual platform. School closures invoke strong feelings and I am concerned the strength of feeling of the local community becomes diluted using this platform. I also believe inter-school comparisons to be weighted against the school and I am concerned by the lack of due consideration to other options such as federalising. I believe a broader menu of options should be available for the school.
- 2. Timing.** I am concerned about the timing of the proposed closure. I heard of the real progress the school was making in increasing pupil numbers and being innovative through *Cylch Meithrin, Ti a Fi* as well as the process of establishing *Beach School*, the first of its kind in Gwynedd. Much work has been done behind the scenes, despite the pandemic, and education being disrupted for nearly twelve months. The school was gathering real momentum pre-COVID19 and has begun to buck the downward trend on pupil numbers despite challenges on the number of residents in Abersoch. With the vaccine program being rolled out at pace and the prospect of in-person teaching resuming after February half-term, I am confident the school would rediscover that momentum almost instantaneously.

- 3. Aims.** Ysgol Abersoch is meeting Gwynedd Council's Modernising Education aims. It delivers on smaller class sizes and pupil-teacher contact time. On promoting the Welsh language, non-Welsh speaking pupils quickly become confident Welsh speakers. Welsh-language medium is used in and out of classroom, demonstrating that Welsh is a daily, living language. On schools being integrated within the local community, Ysgol Abersoch has well supported Christmas and Gwyl Dewi Sant concerts and fundraisers and has well-established relationships with village shops and businesses. It is also a much-enjoyed contributor to *Bore Panad*, an over 50s coffee morning at village hall.

I am asking you as the Education Cabinet Member to provide an alternative to the permanent removal of education in Abersoch, which will fatally damage efforts to regenerate rural communities. We need a plan for housing, jobs and culture, but losing the local school will render all these efforts obsolete. I would like to see this proposal dropped to give the school a few more years to prove it can grow again (as it is doing now) in the post-pandemic world. Could you also please provide a number of school pupils that you think would make Ysgol Abersoch a viable school in the long-term.

I enclose the school's position paper on the proposed closure and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes



# Position Statement Ysgol Abersoch January 2021



Gwynedd Council has commenced a statutory consultation with the view to close Ysgol Abersoch from 31 August 2021 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Sarn Bach. **Ysgol Abersoch strongly objects to this proposal.**

Gwynedd Council position	Ysgol Abersoch position
<b>Modernising Education aims</b>	<b>Ysgol Abersoch meets each of the six principal aims</b>
Appropriately sized classes & high-quality school leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller class sizes (&lt;20 pupils) - allow for <b>excellent progress and individual attention</b></li> <li><b>Inspiring vision and leadership</b> - supported by loyal staff</li> </ul>
Promote and strengthen the Welsh language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Welsh speaking pupils – quickly become <b>confident Welsh speakers</b></li> <li>Welsh-language medium, in and out of classroom - demonstrates <b>Welsh is a daily, living language</b></li> <li>Visual impact - pupil actions actively increased use of <b>bilingual signage</b> in village shops</li> <li><b>Urdd</b> - Long-established branch situated in-school &amp; <b>Hunaniaith</b> Welsh language craft club</li> </ul>
Develop a proactive and creative long term scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education - <b>"Beach School"</b> registration underway, unique amongst schools in Gwynedd</li> <li>Pupils - Sense of place and <b>lifelong connection within community</b></li> <li>Governing body - <b>strong and actively engaged</b></li> <li>Sustainability - newly established <b>Cylch Meithrin nursery &amp; Ti a Fi</b> parent &amp; toddler group</li> <li><b>Five new pupils</b> enrolled in September 2020, bucking the downward trend</li> </ul>
Make the best use of available resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor learning - <b>playground and field</b> with gardening, sport and play facilities</li> <li>Adjacent village hall - <b>large hall</b> for indoor activities, stage and space</li> <li>Central location - easy walking distance to <b>natural learning resources</b> including beaches, sand dunes &amp; harbour and organisations (RNLI, Coastguard, Fire Service)</li> <li>Swimming lessons accessed by public transport – <b>independence</b> and money handling skills</li> </ul>
Create the best possible learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff – <b>dedication to excellence</b> underpinned by <b>strong emphasis on Welsh language &amp; culture</b></li> <li>Long-standing <b>excellent academic achievements &amp; close-knit pupil relationships</b></li> </ul>
Develop schools into establishments that are central to community activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very well supported <b>Christmas and Gwyl Dewi Sant concerts and fundraisers</b></li> <li>Well-established <b>relationships with village shops and businesses</b></li> <li>Much-enjoyed <b>contributor to Bore Panad</b> - over 50s coffee morning at village hall</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory Consultation</b>	<b>Many statements in the consultation documents are factually incorrect, misleading and biased against the school, yet they have been the basis for Gwynedd Council Cabinet decisions.</b>
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation during both pandemic and strict lockdown is <b>undemocratic, obstructing comprehensive school and community response</b>. Full stakeholder engagement is not observed.</li> <li>Between-school comparisons are <b>inappropriate, misleading and biased against</b> Ysgol Abersoch</li> <li><b>All options were disregarded apart from closure</b>, with no clear rationale why federalisation not further explored</li> </ul>
Welsh Language and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Do not accept that there will be no impact on the Welsh language</b> if Ysgol Abersoch were to close; it is an excellent <b>advertisement for Welsh language heritage and culture</b></li> <li>The <b>importance of the school's central location is disregarded</b> despite facilitating easy and regular community interaction, just not possible in the location of the alternative school</li> </ul>
Cylch Meithrin & Ti a Fi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cylch Meithrin &amp; Ti a Fi opened</b> in response to encouragement by the Council to improve the sustainability of the school</li> <li>Viability of the Cylch Meithrin endorsed by Mudiad Meithrin grant funding; now provides a <b>vital service</b> registered with the 30 hours free childcare scheme</li> <li>The impact of these important initiatives has been disregarded; <b>their future is now in jeopardy</b></li> </ul>
Class sizes and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbouring schools have <b>large class sizes</b>, some of which <b>exceed Gwynedd Council recommended maximum class sizes</b> (12-20 for mixed age groups)</li> <li>Ysgol Llanbedrog is <b>20% over-capacity, 43% of pupils are out of catchment</b></li> <li>Capacity calculations do not reflect the recommended class sizes</li> <li><b>School closure will permanently increase already over-sized classes in neighbouring schools and negatively impact education provision</b></li> </ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of alternative school <b>necessitates vehicular access</b>, by car or bus. Pupils will no longer be able to walk to school. It will be <b>impossible for families with younger children without personal transport</b> such as part-time nursery pupils, to attend.</li> </ul>
Financial position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High cost per pupil is used as the basis for closure yet <b>small increases in pupil numbers will reduce the difference</b></li> <li>Projected annual cost savings are small (&lt;£100,000) and insufficiently transparent for decision-making but <b>the loss to the community and language are impossible to quantify</b></li> </ul>

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Iau, 11 Chwefror 2021 16:52  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Abersoch, is the best example, of how, holiday homes and second homes, can destroy a community, Just in recent years, many hotels, guest houses, b&bs, bars, and restaurants, have been sold, (with the relevant authorities approval) as 'holiday homes.

These, were thriving local businesses, which had been established many, many years ago. employing mostly, local people, to cater for the thousands of visitors the area attracts. When the more 'affluent' found there was no restrictions, we lost, the Neigwl hotel, the Deucoch hotel, the powerboat club, the Harbour hotel, the Riverside hotel, Venetia, hotel, Bron Heulog hotel, and many more, All now holiday homes, The post office in Bwlchtocyn, the surgery, ?

With the threatened closure, of the local school, this is proof, of the abject failure of the authorities, to protect local families, and the community I hope new measures to 'stop the rot', will be forthcoming, and we will see, families, once again using our last 'vestige' of a happy, civilised society, restored Sent from my iPad

--Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd. This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council. <https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/9E70441AC5.A891D/learn-spam> <https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/9E70441AC5.A891D/blacklist>



## **10.2.21 - YMATEB GRŴP YMGYRCH ADDYSG CYMDEITHAS YR IAITH I'R** **Ymgynghoriad ar y cynnig i gau Ysgol Gynradd Abersoch**

Yr ydym yn gwrthwynebu'r cynnig i gau Ysgol Gynradd Abersoch am y rhesymau a nodir isod, ac yn gofyn i Gyngor Sir Gwynedd beidio â chyhoeddi Rhybudd Statudol i gau'r ysgol, ond yn hytrach i drafod gyda'r gymuned leol ac ysgolion cyfagos rhai o'r opsiynau amgen a amlinellir gennym ac nad ysyriwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad anstatudol cychwynnol. Mae'r Côt Trefniadaeth Ysgolion yn rhoi'r hawl i chwi ddilyn y llwybr hwn o beidio â mynd ymlaen â chynnig ond trafod unrhyw opsiynau amgen a ddaw i'r amlwg yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad statudol. Byddai modd i chi drafod y rhain yn anffurfiol eleni, gan geisio cytundeb, ac yna gynnal ymgynghoriad statudol ar gynnig ffordd newydd ymlaen pan na fyddai'r pandemig yn cyfyngu ar drafodaeth ystyrlon.

Cydnabyddwn fod y Cyngor Sir wedi gwneud llawer mwy o ymdrech o ran ymgynghoriad anffurfiol, ac wedi creu dogfen ymgynghorol fwy cynhwysfawr nag sy'n digwydd mewn siroedd eraill. Credwn fodd bynnag mai camgyriad ar ran yr Awdurdod, er i'r Gweinidog Addysg ddiwygio'r Côt ar frys ar 7.1.21 i ganiatau hyn, oedd dewis cynnal yr ymgynghoriad statudol holl-bwysig tra roedd yr ysgol ar gau am yr holl gyfnod, y rhieni a'r llywodraethwyr dan bwysau oherwydd y pandemig a'u gallu i drefnu gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig yn gyfyngedig oherwydd rheol "aros adre". Credwn y dylai'r Awdurdod gymryd hyn i ystyriaeth wrth ddod i benderfyniad.

Credwn hefyd fod yr amserlen a roddir yn anffodus. Petai'r cynnig yn cael ei gadaernhau, ni byddai ond mis o amser ar ddiwedd tymor yr haf wedi hysbysu rhieni o'r penderfyniad terfynol iddynt ystyried yr opsiwn mwyaf priodol wedyn ar gyfer addysg eu plant – a'u penderfyniad nhw yw hwn yn gyfreithiol. Mae hyn yn groes i arfer gorau cydnabyddiedig o roi tymor cyfan o rybudd i rieni am unrhyw newid sylfaenol. Byddai gosod dyddiad mwy realistig o Fedi 2022 i gychwyn unrhyw drefn newydd yn caniatáu digon o amser ar gyfer trafod yr opsiynau amgen y cyfeiriwyd atynt cyn cyhoeddi penderfyniad terfynol.

### **Y CYNNIG EI HUN**

Nid ydym yn gwadu nad yw'r sefyllfa'n un heriol, na bod mwyafrif y ffeithiau yn yr adroddiad yn gywir, ond mae angen tynnu sylw at y ffaith fod penderfyniadau (neu ddiffyg penderfyniadau) mewn polisi cyhoeddus gan Lywodraeth Leol a Chanolog wedi cyfrannu at y problemau, a bod cyfrifoldeb arbennig felly i chwilio pob datrysiad posibl. Dengys y ffigurau mai nifer naturiol y disgyblion fyddai 19, yn hytrach na 10, heblaw am benderfyniad i gyfyngu ar oedran disgyblion i'r blynnyddoedd cynharaf. Ar ben hyn, cyfyngwyd ar allu teuluoedd lleol â phlant i fyw yn Abersoch oherwydd diffyg rheolaeth ar y farchnad agored mewn tai sydd wedi gorfodi nifer i fynd o'r ardal. Yr ysgol erbyn hyn yw'r adnodd pwysicaf yn y pentref i yrru adfywiad, a byddai penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol gyfystyr â phenderfyniad i gefnu ar y gymuned o ran Cymreictod, ac i gefnu ar y criw gweithgar lleol a allent fod yn bartneriaid gwerthfawr mewn strategaeth adfywio.

### **Opsiwn 1 - Datblygu Canolfan Ddiwylliannol Gymraeg**

Mae cyfrifoldeb felly i werthuso'n gadarnhaol pob opsiwn posibl. Deallwn awydd y gymuned leol i gynnal yr Ysgol fel Ysgol i Abersoch, yn cynnig rhan gyntaf addysg statudol Gymraeg, ac hefyd addysg feithrin ac yn ganolfan addysgol a diwylliannol Gymraeg i'r gymuned leol. Mae'r ddogfen ymgynghorol wedi cydnabod mai megis cychwyn y mae ychwanegu'r elfennau addysgol a

diwylliannol Cymraeg at yr addysg statudol, a bod posibiliadau denu incwm trwy ddefnyddwyr a thrwy geisio grantiau'n ymwneud â gweithgarwch diwylliannol. Mae'n bosibl y gellid denu cyllid ychwanegol trwy fod yr Ysgol yn manteisio ar safle yng nghanol y pentre e.e. Gwyliau Haf yr Ysgol yw'r 6 wythnos o dymor brig twristiaeth. A oes potensial i stafell yn yr ysgol, mewn cydweithrediad â Neuadd y pentre wrth ymyl, gael ei defnyddio i hybu profiad twristaidd llawer mwy Cymreig. Gallai'r gwasanaeth gynnwys gwybodaeth bersonol am yr ardal a'r gweithgareddau, rhaglen o adloniant Cymraeg yn y neuadd, gwybodaeth am yr arfordir a'r llwybrau gwledig (o bosib yn cysylltu ag Opsiwn 2 isod). Gall fod yn wasanaeth, ar ben y wybodaeth pamffledi safonol a baratoir ar hyn o bryd, o gynnig profiad Cymreiciach i ymwelwyr, ac yn gynllun peilot. Gallai hefyd fod yn ffynhonnell incwm o bwys. Pwysleisiwn mai un syniad penodol sydd yma, a allai fod yn hyfyw neu beidio, ond yr hyn a gynigiwn yw cyfiawnhau'r gwariant ychwanegol ar ysgol – sydd fel arall yn llwyddo'n addysgol – trwy roi iddi swyddogaeth ychwanegol o ran ADFEDDIANNU ar gyfer y diwylliant Cymraeg. Gall hefyd gynhyrchu llif cyllid, a gellid gweithredu mewn partneriaeth gyda phwyllgor cyswllt lleol. Mae Abersoch, ac adeilad yr ysgol yn benodol, mewn sefyllfa unigryw i weithredu prosiect o'r fath.

Mae'r Asesiad Effaith yn cydnabod, er mor amharod, y gwirionedd hunan-amlwg y byddai cau'r ysgol yn cael effaith negyddol ar y gymuned, ac yn benodol ar yr iaith Gymraeg. Ni ellir mesur yr effaith ar yr iaith o gyfyngu'r ymarferiad i ddadansddiad ystadegol o gyfrwng yr addysg, iaith gartre'r plant, a nifer y gweithgareddau ffurfiol. Mae'r llywodraethwyr yn tystio'n hytrach i effaith lawer mwy sylfaenol o ran ffurfio agweddau yn y gymuned leol, yn cynnwys mewnfudwyr, tuag at y Gymraeg a theimlo perchnogaeth arni gan weld yr iaith yng nghyd-destun y gymuned ble maent yn byw.

### **Opsiwn 2 – Addysg Gyflawn ac Adnabod Bro**

Yr ail swyddogaeth y gellid ei ychwanegu at Ysgol Abersoch, er mwyn cyfiawnhau'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol wrth gynnal yr ysgol, yw fel cynllun peilot ar gyfer addysg gyflawn. Unwaith eto, mae Ysgol Abersoch mewn sefyllfa unigryw i weithredu cynllun peilot fel "Ysgol Traeth" ac "Ysgol Llwybrau Gwledig". Nid yn unig fod yr ysgol yn agos iawn at y traeth ac, mewn perthynas ag Ysgol Sarn Bach, at lwybrau gwledig y penrhyn, ond mae hefyd ymhlith y llywodraethwyr uchelgais i gyflwyno llawer o'r profiadau addysgol trwy astudio'r traeth a llwybrau gwledig, ac yn ieithyddol o ran dod allan o adeilad yr ysgol i fywyd ganol y pentre fel grym Cymreigio. Trwy bartneriaeth gyda llywodraethwyr a phwyllgor cyswllt lleol, nid yn unig y gellid cyfoethogi profiad addysgol y disgyblion mewn modd unigryw, ond hefyd gweithredu fel cynllun peilot y gellid efelychu elfennau ohon wedyn mewn ysgolion eraill hefyd. Dyma ail ran agenda ADFEDDIANNU – sef adfer perthynas rhwng ysgol a'r gymuned o'i chwmpas fel y gall yr nysgol fod yn gyfrwng i hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth amgylcheddol yn ogystal â diwylliannol, ymhlith y disgyblion ac yn y gymuned.

Gellid cyflawni'r "gwerth ychwanegol" hwn (Opsiynau 1 & 2) nail ai yng nghyd-destun ysgol annibynnol yn Abersoch neu fel rhan o drefn gydweithredol rhwng ysgolion.

### **Opsiwn 3 – Modelau Cydweithio ag ysgolion Cyfagos**

Mae'r ddogfen yn astudio rhai modelau o ffederasiwn, ac yn casglu na byddent yn ateb heriau sylfaenol fel nifer isel o ddisgyblion. Ond mae nifer o fodelau eraill yn bosibl na roddwyd sylw iddynt. Ar y cyd gydag opsiwn (1) a/neu (2) uchod, gallent fod yn ddatrysiad o ran llawn ddefnyddio capasiti.

- (a) **Ysgol Aml-safle** - Nid ystyriwyd y model o ysgol aml-safle rhwng Llanbedrog ac Abersoch ac o bosibl Sarn Bach. O safbwynt ystadegol, byddai hyn yn gwneud synnwyr gan fod Ysgol Llanbedrog yn orlawn a chapasiti dros ben yn Abersoch dair milltir i ffwrdd – sef yr hyn a roddir gan y ddogfen ymgynghorol fel gwendid ffurfio ffederasiwn. Potensial o ran Un ysgol integredig ar 2 safle fyddai'r model hwn, sy'n wahanol i ffederasiwn lle bydd gwahanol ysgolion yn cadw eu hunaniaeth dan un bwrdd llywodraethwyr cyfunol. Does dim sicrwydd mai dyma'r model a fyddai'n gweddu orau i'r amgylchiadau lleol, ond dylsid fod wedi ei ystyried cyn cynnig y datrysiad difrifol o amddifadu Abersoch o unrhyw sefydliad addysgol o gwbl.
- (b) **Ffederasiwn o nifer o ysgolion** – Yn y ddogfen trafodir yn unig sefydlu ffederasiwn ag un ysgol arall tra bo'r Rheoliadau ar Ffedereiddio'n caniatáu i nifer o ysgolion ffurfio ffederasiwn. Gallai fod ffederasiwn rhwng Ysgolion Llanbedrog, Abersoch a Sarn Bach. Er na allai'r un Bwrdd Llywodraethwyr Ffederal hefyd reoli Ysgol Foel Gron (oherwydd ei statws gwirfoddol), gallsai'r ffederasiwn ffurfiol gydweithio (mewn trefniant a elwir weithiau yn "ffederasiwn medal") gydag Ysgol Foel Gron at drefniadau a gweithgareddau arbennig. Byddai manteision (ac arbedion) potensial o ran gweinyddiaeth ac arweinyddiaeth integredig, potensial o ran defnyddio capasiti at ddibenion y ffederasiwn cyfan, a photensial ehangu profiad addysgol trwy fod gwahanol ysgolion yn canolbwyntio ar wahanol weithgareddau. Mae Cronfa Ysgolion Bach a Gwledig y Llywodraeth yn golygu fel arfer fod swm ar gael i gwrdd ag unrhyw gostau ychwanegol (e.e. teithio at ysgol arall i ymuno mewn gweithgarwch) sy'n ehangu profiadau addysgol a chymdeithasol ffederasiwn.
- (c) **FFEDERASIWN "ENLLI"** – Gallai ffederasiwn fod ar ffurf mwy uchelgeisiol fyth e.e. gellid sefydlu ffurf blaengar newydd ar addysg yn yr ardal trwy fod yr holl ysgolion yn ffedereiddio – Llanbedrog, Abersoch, Sarn Bach, Pontygof a Chrud y Wern (gan gydweithio'n anffurfiol gydag Ysgol Foel Gron). Mae'r Rheoliadau ar Ffedereiddio'n caniatáu fod ffederasiwn yn cynnwys hefyd ysgol uwchradd. Byddai cynnwys Ysgol Botwnnog mewn ffederasiwn felly'n cryfhau datblygiad trwodd o lefel cynradd i uwchradd, ac yn cadarnhau addysg y fro mewn modd blaengar iawn a fyddai'n sicrhau ddenu cefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru oherwydd y gwersi y gellid eu dysgu. Yn ogystal ag ehangu profiadau, byddai potensial amlwg hefyd ar gyfer rhesymoli costau gweinyddol a chreu strwythurau integredig.

Gallai unrhyw un o'r opsiynau cydweithio (nad ydynt hyd yma wedi derbyn sylw) hefyd cael eu cyfuno gydag opsiwn (1) neu/a (2) ar gyfer Ysgol Abersoch ei hun fel y byddai natur unigryw yr ysgol honno o fudd ehangach i ddisgyblion y fro.

## CASGLIAD

Credwn fod y nodion hyn yn arwain at gasgliad anoche. Yn enwedig o ystyried amgylchiadau'r pandemig sydd wedi cyfyngu ar drafodaeth, byddai glynu at ddyddiad o Fedi 2021 i weithredu unrhyw newid yn gwbl afresymol. Ni buasai'r opsiynau wedi cael eu gwintyllu'n iawn, ac ni byddai mis o rybudd i rieni am y drefn newydd yn deg o gwbl. Galwn felly ar Gabinet Cyngor Gwynedd, wrth ystyried yr adroddiad ar yr ymatebion i ymgynghori, i oedi'r broses tan fis Tachwedd er mwyn caniatáu amser i ysgolion a chymunedau'r ardal geisio ffordd gytûn ymlaen sy'n bodloni amcanion yr Awdurdod. Byddai proses wedyn yn mynd trwodd yn gyflym yn niwedd 2021 naill ai oherwydd fod cytundeb neu oherwydd fod pob opsiwn wedi ei wintyllu'n llwyr, a gellid gweithredu unrhyw newid yn ddiogel at Fedi 2022.



**43**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**43**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Martin Turtle <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 14 Chwefror 2021 11:44  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

I am lucky enough to have had a business in Abersoch for the last 30 years. I am also lucky to live in Abersoch as well, but by far the best thing is that both my children started their education at Ysgol Abersoch.

I feel certain that this is why they so quickly became fluent Welsh speakers and both chose to continue their education happily through the medium of Welsh. Very successfully I might add.

The Head mistress when my son started, now retired, also lives here and she has been a friend and guide to us ever since. The present headmistress also comes from Abersoch. This all helps to reinforce the strong sense of community that we have, and especially in our children. This is to some extent their first roots of an independent life. They will never forget their first school and they feel immensely loyal to it. I am sure that they would one day wish their own children to go there. Are you really going to take that away from them and all the other past pupils.

Ysgol Abersoch has so much to offer. It introduces non Welsh speakers to the language in a gentle fun way and in turn to the remaining Welsh culture and people that exist here. A people and culture that I feel is all too often overlooked by those who live outside the village. Taking the school away will only help to hide this even more.

Ysgol Abersoch has so much to offer. Situated in the middle of a busy village, it is within easy walking distance to the beach, shops and local businesses. The active chapel is across the road and our large village hall is next door. A village hall that the school is able to use frequently, at no cost to the council. The playing fields are nearby and the school has held sports days there in the past. All of this helps to give the pupils a sense of community, respect and love for their village.

In so many ways this small school is unique and deserves proper investment for a stronger future. With a little vision and help this school could be a flagship of rural education. A school that the council could be proud of.

**GIVE THIS SCHOOL THE INVESTMENT IT SO RIGHTLY DESERVES. DO NOT CLOSE THIS UNIQUE SCHOOL.**

Martin Turtle

Sent from my iPad

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Mike Maylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 14 Chwefror 2021 15:08  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch Proposed Closure - NO!

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my views on the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

I am against this move for three reasons.

Firstly, my son attended this school so I can speak from personal experience about the validity and value of the education that Ysgol Abersoch provides to the children of Abersoch. The caring and sharing values of the school were solidly instilled in my son and shaped his character in a wholly positive way. Even though he is now 18, I can still see the influence of Ysgol Abersoch in the empathetic way he interacts with others.

Secondly, he was taught to speak grammatically perfect Welsh, which was positively commented on by several Welsh-first language members of the local community, so it is clear that Ysgol Abersoch is effective as an institution for developing Welsh speakers. This comment is made against the context of my son coming from an English-first language home.

Which brings me to my final point. Gwynedd Council seems very focussed at the moment on strengthening the local community and supporting homes for young people by doing everything it can to constrain second home ownership. There seems little point in strengthening the local community when the parents of tomorrow will not have their local school in their community to which to send their young children. The implications of sending the future children of Abersoch to other schools are greater than simply the extra miles driven and the CO2 emitted. Those children will be fragmented between 3 other local primary schools, with the resultant loss of friendships made and nourished in the local Abersoch community between both children and parents. This therefore undermines and erodes the local community of Abersoch thus accelerating the trend towards it becoming nothing more than a holiday resort.

I recognise that the current enrolment at Ysgol Abersoch is very low, but closing the school is not necessarily the correct answer to that problem. Once the school is closed it will never come back. Instead I would encourage the council and the governors to restore the long term viability of Ysgol Abersoch by ensuring that local parents are aware of what a great choice it is when deciding where to send their children to primary school.

Regards

Mike Maylor

Lynne and Mike Maylor

[REDACTED]

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** David Griffiths <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 15 Chwefror 2021 10:40  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Rwyn sgwennu yr ebost yma i erfyn arnoch chi i ail feddwl ynglun a chau Ysgol bach Abersoch. Mae hi wedi bod yn chwip o Ysgol dda i'r pentra ers blynyddoedd lawer ac mae cymaint ohonom sydd yn oedolion rwan wedi cael ei addysg cynta yn yr Ysgol bach hon ac yn meddwl y byd ohonni.

Fel llawer i ysgol arall mae na gyfnodau lle does ddim cymaint o blant yn mynychu ond wedyn mae'r niferoedd yn medru codi mwyaf sydyn. Mae nhw wedi dechra cylch meithrin hefyd sydd yn tyfu ac mi fysa hi yn bechod mawr cau yr Ysgol cyn iddo fo gael shawns i ddatblygu a thyfu.

Rwyf i yn un o gannoedd o blant mashwr sydd wedi bod trwy Ysgol Abersoch dros y blynyddoedd a fedrai ddim brolio digon am yr addysg a gefais yno gan yr athrawon.

Rydym angen yr Ysgol yn y pentra i gadw ein plant yn lleol a cario mlaen i gael yr addysg Cymraeg arbennig yno. Rwyn erfyn arnoch fel Cyngor i ail feddwl efo eich penderfyniad i gau ein Ysgol bach arbennig ni.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir  
David Jonathan Griffiths

Sent from my iPhone

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## **Ysgol Abersoch Statutory Consultation February 2021**

Modernising Education Office  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council  
Caernarfon LL55 1SH

**15.2.21**

### **Response from Sustainable Abersoch Cynaliadwy (SAC) on the Statutory Consultation regarding Ysgol Abersoch, 15.2.21**

The following comments are submitted by Sustainable Abersoch Cynaliadwy (SAC), a small local group concerned with protecting and improving the environment and community of Abersoch and making it a better place to live.

We understand the role and responsibilities of Gwynedd's education department to manage the county primary school budget efficiently. In this case we feel there is a failure to consider the wider context of the school in sustaining the local community in the longer term. Abersoch is remarkably successful as the pre-eminent hub of the visitor economy in Llŷn, but this has come at a high cost to the local village which has seen its services in health, housing and now schools steadily eroded. A vibrant economy is not being properly supported by its community development. Closure of the school would rip the heart out of the community. We consider the proposal is far too focussed on the narrow financial criteria of the education department. The costs and benefits of maintaining the school are much wider than a simple cost/pupil measure. The decision needs to take a more integrated account of the Council's policy for Gwynedd as a whole and in particular the extreme housing pressures inflicted on Abersoch which housing policy has so far failed to address.

The case for closure rests on the low present and predicted pupil numbers. From the figures for Abersoch and the 3 neighbouring primary schools given in the consultation document, it is clear that over the last 40 years the total number of pupils over the 4 schools has been relatively constant, but this conceals considerable volatility in individual schools, particularly Abersoch. Pupil numbers here fell as low as 13/14 in 1990 and 1995, yet were back up at 29 in 2000; they remained at 15-20 in subsequent years and have only fallen to around 10 in the last 3 years. Foel Gron numbers have varied between 20 and 52, Llanbedrog between 48 and 103, Sarn Bach between 48 and 74. Abersoch's numbers are generally lower only because the school provides for the younger age range (3-8 years), while the other 3 schools cover the full primary range (3-11 years), making direct comparison of numbers misleading. The volatility in numbers raises questions over how meaningful the prediction of future numbers can be. The prediction for Sarn Bach suggests numbers will more than halve over the next 5 years. What are the predictions based on? We would argue that the recent low numbers at Abersoch have been influenced by uncertainty over the stability of the school caused by persistent threats from the Council to close it. There is evidently considerable fluidity in numbers drawn by schools between each of their nominal catchment areas which appear to have arbitrary geographical boundaries. Thus the proposal to close the school rests on estimates of future pupil numbers that are subject to considerable uncertainty and instability and in which there can be little confidence. Quite small numbers are at issue and these could evidently change dramatically in a short space of time.

The low numbers at the school are also criticised for leading to too small a class size. Most people's experience would suggest that small classes favour a better quality of attention and teaching. Rather, overlarge classes, such as those at Llanbedrog, may lead to poorer outcomes. A higher educational performance through small class size would tend to outweigh any limitation on the benefits of greater social interaction between larger numbers of peers. Abersoch school is in fact regarded as offering a high quality bilingual education based on small classes and good leadership.

Abersoch is in the centre of a steadily growing housing crisis that is enveloping other parts of Dwyfor. It has exploded into greater political prominence in the last year as the insatiable demand for second homes has absorbed much of the

village housing stock and caused market prices for local houses to soar well beyond the reach of most residents, especially young families. The pandemic has accelerated this trend through the new options for working from home, rising interest in staycations and temporarily pent-up demand. The provision of genuinely affordable homes is one of the few practical ways of trying to address this issue, but present models are not working well and are failing Abersoch. This is a key reason why the numbers of local school age children are low. In an effort to address this crisis, Gwynedd Council Cabinet approved a new Action Plan for affordable housing on December 15<sup>th</sup> to spend £77mn on a substantial roll-out of new affordable homes with an emphasis on social rental, using the proceeds from the recently introduced Council Tax premium on second homes and empty houses. This should focus particularly on those areas, such as Abersoch, most exposed to market distortions caused by second homes. If successful this should soon lead to an influx of young families with school age children needing local primary education. This programme should be given a chance to work before any decision is made to close the local school. Closing the school would risk undermining the housing policy. Once the school is gone, it could not easily be brought back if circumstances changed.

The recent successful establishment of a Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi at the school is an important dynamic element that is given too little weight. It not only changes the outlook regarding possible future school numbers, but is also a further important step in integrating the school and the local community. The school, located in the heart of the village, acts as a bastion of permanence for local Welsh culture and language in a community that is increasingly dominated by the transient interests of the visitor economy and too often seems to be written off or ignored by Council policy. The consultation's community impact assessment report is a weak document which fails to capture the importance of the school to the local community. However, it admits that school closure would have some effect on elements of community events and some negative impact on the community.

The proposal is that pupils from Abersoch would move to the nearby school at Sarn Bach where there is surplus capacity that is predicted to rise. It is easy to understand the superficial financial and practical logic of such a solution. However, it fails to appreciate the assets in Abersoch that would be lost: the centrality of the school within the village, the direct connection with the community, the easy access on foot between the school and homes or services, the availability of the large village hall for indoor activities alongside the school, the playground field and garden, and the opportunities for natural learning afforded by the proximity of beaches, dunes and coastal activities. Sarn Bach school has a much more isolated and peripheral location. Sarn Bach itself is just a few scattered houses with no community or services to speak of. Practical access to Sarn Bach school is limited to the 1.4 mile road from Abersoch which in places is narrow, fast and dangerous, especially in the summer season. The absence of a safe walking route means that bus or private vehicle transport has to be used. In a society that has to learn to reduce its dependence on road transport this is an environmentally irresponsible way to go. The Consultation document includes a map showing the rights of way around Sarn Bach, but sadly several of these footpaths are closed or impassable, if they were thought to be relevant to school recreation or access. Both schools are rated as having a 'good' standard of teaching, but Sarn Bach would be a poor substitute for Abersoch.

Six options have been considered for the future of Abersoch school. The option of closure has been chosen, it seems, as superficially the easiest and neatest, but in our view adequate consideration has not been given to the alternatives. Federalisation with a nearby school, in particular, needs to be considered in more detail, perhaps focussing on Llanbedrog where numbers now exceed capacity. The appraisal of options found that this would be plausible and have several advantages and few downsides, but was rejected because 'there was no clear evidence that federalisation would lead to an increase in numbers'. This is too flimsy an argument to justify closure of Abersoch.

The net cost saving of closing Abersoch school is stated to be in the region of £100,000/year or about 0.1% of the total Council education budget of £108.8mn in 2020/21. At the same time, the Council is proposing to invest some £5.4mn in an entirely new primary school (Ysgol Trefarthwyr) on the outskirts of Criccieth. The assessment of saving takes no account of the cost and disruption to the community in Abersoch nor considers the loss of a perfectly sound building if no alternative use for it could be found. It appears that financial considerations alone are driving a policy of concentration into larger schools at the cost of depriving communities of their own services and reducing the variety and choice of schools available to them.

We think it quite inappropriate to have conducted this consultation during the height of the covid epidemic when it has been impossible to follow normal democratic procedures. For that reason alone we feel this process should be abandoned or at least postponed to allow options to be reviewed and reconsidered properly before a final decision about the future of the school is reached.





**48**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**48**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 15 Chwefror 2021 13:16  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Do not close Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

We are so very fortunate in the UK that every child has the right to a State funded education. However, this is not a one-size fits all product. Just as every child and their capacity to learn is unique, so are the environments in which our children acquire their education. The value of the education given to the children who attend a small local school at the beating heart of the community cannot be under estimated.

Going to school and the benefits derived are far more than learning to read and write. Ysgol Abersoch gave my son the most valuable foundation in life I could have hoped for. The caring, nurturing teachers taught him life lessons of kindness, compassion and respect. The small classes meant that each child was individually known and understood...and were taught as individuals. The value of this is enormous.

So please step away from your spreadsheet and understand that whilst every child has to go to school, some schools give the most valuable education of all. Please do not close Ysgol Abersoch and give the next generation of young children coming up through the Cylch and into Primary the opportunity to flourish and become the future of Abersoch village.

Thank you.  
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council  
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[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 16 Chwefror 2021 14:24  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir / Madam

I am e-mailing to state my objection to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch. I have spent the last 59 years coming to Abersoch and one of my fondest memories is staying at Teg Fan and observing how vibrant the village school was and indeed still is. I am now in the process of moving to the area and will be learning Welsh. One of the great things about Ysgol Abersoch is that Welsh is promoted and the cultural heritage of the area is preserved.

There are currently 12 children under 3 who would benefit from attending the school and, having taught for 35 years, I truly believe that small class sizes are the best. I have taught in schools where 30 was the average class size and in other schools where 4 was the average. Teachers are multi-talented but even the most diligent, committed teachers cannot give the same attention to 30 children as they can to 4!

Please note that due to Coronavirus more people have realised that they can work from home and they can move to Abersoch, so the numbers of children needing a quality education may well grow.

I feel that it would be detrimental to the village to allow this closure to go ahead and I ask you to reconsider

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/96A9841B0A.A3D45/learn-spam>

<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/96A9841B0A.A3D45/blacklist>

**Eich Manylion:**

Dyddiad: 15/02/2021

Enw: Ffion Elisabeth Wood

Cyfeiriad e-bost: [REDACTED]

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant  
 Staff  
 Llywodraethwr  
 Disgybl  
 Arall (nodwch) myfyriwr lleol

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu  
 Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

**Anfonwch eich ymateb at:**  
 Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
 Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

**Dyddiad cau: 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021**

Miss Ffion Elisabeth Wood,

Smyddfa Moderniaddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon,  
Gwynedd.  
LL55 1SH

15/02/2021

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Fy enw i ym Ffion Wood, rwyf yn un ar bymtheg oed ac yn byw yn Abersoch. Ysgrifennaf atoch mewn ymateb i'r cynlluniau presennol i gau'r ysgol gynradd yma yn Abersoch. Teimlaf fod yr ysgol yn rhan halbwmrig o'r gymuned leol gan ei fod yn gandbmynt i'r pentref yn ogystal â hybu Cymreictod mewn ardal sydd yn sydyn yn colli ei hunaniaeth Gymraeg. Yn sicr, buasai cau'r ysgol yn wall mawr o ran y Cyngor gan ei fod yn dlinistio unrhyw siawns o adfywio sefydliad ifanc, Cymraeg ym y pentref. Credaf fod yr ysgol hefyd yn cynnig profiad addysgiadol unigryw a rhagorol i unrhyw blentyn sydd yn mynychu, gan ddysgu sgiliau bymyd sylfaenol drwy ymweliadau i'r pentref - rhywbeth sydd ar gael yn Abersoch yn unig - a hefyd addysg eithriadol yn yr ysgol ei hun. Mae'r defnydd o adnoddau naturiol yr ardal, sef y traeth, fel adnodd ddisgry hefyd yn golygu fod

y plant yn derbyn addysg hollol uni-gymr sy'n cwmparu llawer mwy na'r ysgol gynradd arferol. O ganlyniad sefydliad y Cylch Meithrin Ti a Fi, teimlat fod modd i'r ysgol parhau i fod yn eglon i'r gymuned yma yn Abersoch, gan ddarparu'r cychwyn gorau posib ar gyfer y genhedlaeth nesaf.

Fel person ifanc yn Abersoch, rwyf yn ymwybodol o'r diwydiad mewn cymuned yma o ganlyniad i'r cynydd blyneddol yn y nifer o ymwelwyr. Teimlat os nad oedd ysgol Abersoch yn bresennol ac yn cymeryd rôl actif yn y gymuned, buasai'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg wedi diflannu yn eiddan gwbl o'r pentref erbyn hyn, ac mi fyddai ein diwylliant a haner cyfoethog wedi cael ei gollu. Os nad yn presenoldeb yr ysgol yn parhau i'w gall ei gynnal, credaf dyma fydd tynged Abersoch. Mae amlygiad cynnar i'r iaith yn hollbwysig, yn enwedig i blant sydd ddim yn wreiddiol o'r ardal, ac mae'r ysgol yn sicrhau fod y traddodiad yma yn cael ei hybu gan greu gobauith ar gyfer dysodol y gymuned yn Abersoch.

yn rhan o deulu o gyn-ddisgyblion, rwyf wedi profi yn uniongyrchol sut effeith mae'r ysgol wedi cael ar blant. Rydym wedi bod mor ffodus i dderbyn addysg mor llawn a rhagorol, ac mae'n rhaid sicrhau hyn ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dysodola pharhau i ddarparu addysg gwerth chweil i blant lleol yr ardal. Fel dymwed yr actifydd nawliau dynol Malcolm X, "mae addysg yn



barbort i'r dyfodol" ac yn wir, nid yw hyn yn fwy  
perthnasol i Ysgol Abersoch. Mae'r ysgol hon yn  
rhoi'r cychwyn gorau posib i blant lleol, ac wedi  
cynhyrchu myfyrwyr sydd wedi astudio ym mh'nfyngoli-  
-on megis Caergrawnt, sydd nawr yn ddoctoriaid,  
cyfreithwyr a phurhysgwyr. Mae cael y fath addysg  
yn rhoi gobaiith i'r pentref mewn ffordd hollol  
unigryw na fyddai yn cael ei adlenwyrchu gan  
unrhyw amwynder arall; rhaid hefyd gofio bod  
addysg yn fuddsoddiad mewn ardal, ac mi  
fuasai cymeryd hyn i ffordd yn gollod digyn-  
-sail i'r gymuned.

I gleri, heffwn eich atgoffa o'r rôl hollbwyrig  
mae Ysgol Abersoch yn chwarae yn yr ardal.  
Nid yw hi yn unig yn ysgol, ond sefydliad  
sydd yn rhoi gobaiith i adfywio Cymreictod yr  
ardal, yn hwb i'r gymuned, yn ddarparwr addysg  
rhagorol. Mi fuasai'r effeithiau o'r cau yn cael  
goblygiadau a fyddai'n adleisio llawer ymhellach  
na sydd wedi cael eu hystyried gan y Cyngor Fel  
rhan o genhedlaeth nesaf Abersoch, teimlâs bod  
hyn yn gamgymeriad gref ar eich rhan, ac rhyb  
yn erfu arnoch i ailystyried er mwyn y gymuned  
ein haddysg a'r cenedlaethau i ddod.

Yr eiddoch yn gwir,

Ffion Wood.

  
(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Sue Prince < >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mercher, 17 Chwefror 2021 16:29  
**At:** [Moderneiddio Addysg](#)  
**Copi:**   
**Pwnc:** ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern,

We are dismayed to hear that ysgol Abersoch is under threat of closure. If this goes ahead it will be another nail in the coffin of this beautiful place.

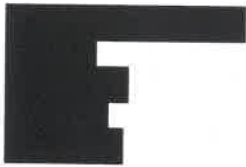
Ysgol Abersoch is the beating heart of this village and to lose it will be a serious blow to a community in which the youngsters and their parents and teachers play such a pivotal role.

My husband Martin and I are 'outsiders' but we know from our friends in the village how important this school is to the future of Abersoch. It is more than a place of learning - it is a symbol of local culture as well a symbol of the future of the village. The elderly residents of the village also embrace the children as a wonderful resource, with their sing-alongs in local settings.

The Covid pandemic has impacted so many of us, but for children it has been a particularly stressful time; they have already lost valuable social networks. The proposal by the school's champions to transform ysgol Abersoch into a beach school seems to be the perfect solution.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Kind regards,



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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council  
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16fed Chwefror 2021

Annwyl Syr / Fadarn,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch ar fyrder ar ran **Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch (CMA)**, a gynhelir yn Ysgol Abersoch, gyda phryderon dybryd am eich cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch a'r bygythiad a ddaw yn sgil hyn i'r CMA ac ar y darpariaeth feithrin yn Abersoch a'r pentrefi cyfagos.

Ochr yn ochr â'n pryderon ynghylch cael ein gorfodi i gau'r CMA, rydym yn tynnu eich sylw at y diffyg difrifol wrth eithrio'r CMA o'r broses ymgynghori a disgwyliwn eich ymateb i'r hepgor hyn.

#### **Cefndir CMA**

Ffurfiwyd y CMA mewn ymateb i'r niferoedd llai o blant yn mynychu Ysgol Abersoch er mwyn greu mewnlif naturiol a hefyd i greu darpariaeth gofal plant lleol mawr ei angen yn Abersoch a'r pentrefi cyfagos: "[i ganiatáu i deuluoedd] fanteisio ar y cyfle i gychwyn ar daith eu plant i addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg" (Mudiad Meithrin 22/01/2021).

Mae'r Mudiad Meithrin wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr wrth i ni sefydlu'r Cylch Meithrin yn ein hardal, ac wedi ein cefnogi trwy gyhoeddi grant Sefydlu a Symud fel rhan o'i nod i agor 40 o Gylchoedd newydd erbyn 2021 o dan raglen **Cymraeg 2050**. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru trwy Gyngor Gwynedd hefyd wedi cefnogi'r CMA trwy ei Grant Cychwyn Busnes Newydd Llywodraeth Cymru (cymorth ariannol Covid-19).

Fel rhan o'n strategaeth i symud tuag at agor y Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi i ddarparu gwasanaeth amser llawn, mae'r CMA wedi cofrestru gyda:

- Y Comisiwn Elusennau fel Sefydliad Corfforedig Elusennol (SCE)
- Gydag Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC)
- Cynllun Plant / Gofal Plant Cynnig Gofal 30 awr
- Cyllid a Thollau EM fel cyflogwr lleol (mawr ei angen)

Wrth i ni agosáu at amseroedd gwell, mae'r CMA ar fin ail-ddechrau darparu gofal ac addysg cyfnod cynnar trwy'r cyfrwng Cymraeg a bydd eto'n darparu adnodd cymdeithasol gwerthfawr dros ben i deuluoedd gyda'r gwasanaeth Cylch a'r Ti a Fi. Bydd y CMA yn ail-agor ei drysau cyn gynted â phosibl ar ôl yr hanner tymor ac, oherwydd ymdrechion gwych ein harweinydd Cylch, cyn pen awr ar ôl cyrraedd y penderfyniad i ail-agor, mae gennym blant wedi cofrestru i fod yn bresennol.

#### **Hepgorion yn eich proses**

##### **Rhybudd Swyddogol**

Mae'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (CTY) yn nodi bod angen ystyried unrhyw effaith ar ddarpariaeth meithrin ond nid yw hyn wedi digwydd:

Noda CTY 3.6:

"Rhaid i'r canlynol gael gwybod, drwy lythyr neu e-bost, bod yr adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad ar gael:...

- yn achos cynigion sy'n effeithio ar ddarpariaeth feithrin, unrhyw ddarparwyr annibynnol neu wirfoddol y gall y cynigion effeithio arnynt, gan gynnwys Mudiad Meithrin
- yn achos cynigion sy'n effeithio ar ddarpariaeth feithrin, y Bartneriaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc a/neu Bartneriaethau Datblygu'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Gofal Plant, lle bo'r rhain yn bodoli;

*Nid yw'r CMA wedi derbyn*

- rhybudd swyddogol am y bwriad i gau'r ysgol
- y ddogfen ymgynghori mewn unrhyw fformat na'r gwahodd i ymgynghori
- gwahoddiad i gyfarfodydd rhanddeiliaid

*er ei bod yn ofyniad statudol o dan y CTY.*

### **Comisiwn Elusennau**

*Noda CTY 1.6*

*"Rhaid i gynigion sy'n effeithio ar elusennau gyd-fynd â'r gyfraith elusennau neu â'r diben a ddatganwyd ar gyfer yr ymddiriedolaeth elusennol"*

Rydym wedi cyflwyno ymholiad gyda'r Comisiwn Elusennau gan ein bod yn credu bod yn rhaid i'r ymgynghoriad ystyried y mater hwn.

### **Niferoedd plant**

*Nid yw'r mewnlif plant o'r CMA i Ysgol Abersoch wedi cael ei ystyried er gwaethaf y dystiolaeth gan Gylchoedd eraill bod hyn yn arwain at gynnydd yn y niferoedd; fel achos penodol, er gwaethaf Covid, cofrestrodd dau o blant CMA gydag Ysgol Abersoch ym mis Medi 2020 ac ar hyn o bryd, mae o leiaf un o blant CMA bellach wedi cofrestru ar gyfer mynediad yn Medi 2021 i Ysgol Abersoch.*

### **Cludiant**

O edrych ar ddarpariaeth feithrinfa leol, dydy blant o dan 5 oed ddim yn gallu teithio'n annibynnol a'r bws felly byddai angen i deuluoedd gael eu cludiant eu hunain er mwyn anfon eu plant ifanc yno. *Nid yw'n bosibl i lawer o deuluoedd gan nad oes ganddynt gar teulu.*

### **Effaith Leol**

Fel y gwyddoch, mae Abersoch yn adnabyddus yn lleol ac yn genedlaethol am fod yn ardal sydd dan bwysau eithriadol yn sgil prisiau tai uchel a pherchnogaeth ail gartref, fforddiadwyaeth tai, twristiaeth ddwys a'r effaith y mae'r rhain yn eu cael ar ein hiaith a diwylliant Cymraeg. Yn llai hysbys, i'r ardal tu hwnt, yw bod Abersoch o fewn bro a chymuned wledig Gymraeg ei hiaith ac mae'r bygythiad i Ysgol Abersoch a Chylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch yn her uniongyrchol i oroesiad y diwylliant Cymraeg ym Mhenrhyn Llŷn. Yn wir, mae llawer yn credu, trwy gau'r ysgol a bygwth y CMA, y byddwch yn tynnu calon guro'r pentref ac yn gorfodi mwy fyth o deuluoedd i symud allan o Abersoch sydd eisoes wedi gweld canolfan feddygol, banciau a swyddfa bost annibynnol ein pentref i gyd yn cau. Mae'n debygol bydd y pentref yn dod yn gyrchfan haf a stryd siopa i ymwelwyr; yn wag yn ystod misoedd y Gaeaf, nid yw'r pentref yn ffynnu fel y gallai.

*I grynhoi, os yw Ysgol Abersoch yn cau, mae'r CMA dan fygythiad uniongyrchol o gau gyda cholled o ddwy swydd yn ychwanegol i'r golled o'r gwasanaeth angenrheidiol hon. Mae teuluoedd yn cael eu digalonni rhag anfon eu plant i Ysgol Abersoch a'r CMA gan eu bod yn pryderu y bydd y rhain yn cau. Mae'n amlwg bod y cyngor wedi methu ag ymgynghori nac ystyried y CMA yn yr holl broses hon sydd, yn enwedig yng nghanol pandemig, yn anodd iawn ei gyfiawnhau a'i chyflawni.*

Yn hytrach na chau, dylai'r ddarpariaeth yma fod yn arddangos y gorau o'r hyn sydd gan yr iaith a diwylliant Cymru ei gynnig.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Phil Brougham,  
Trysorydd,  
Ar ran Y Pwllgor,  
Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch

Cylch Meithrin Abersoch  
Ysgol Abersoch  
Lon Gwydryn  
Abersoch  
Gwynedd  
LL53 7EA

16 February 2021

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing to you urgently on behalf of **Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch (CMA)**, set within Ysgol Abersoch, with grave concerns about your proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch and the threat this brings to the CMA and, ergo, nursery provision in Abersoch and surrounding villages.

Alongside our worries about being forced to close CMA, there have been serious omissions of due process in the consultation which I bring to your attention and would like a response to.

#### **CMA Background**

CMA was formed as a response to reduced numbers of children attending Ysgol Abersoch to create a natural feed *and to create much needed local childcare provision in Abersoch and surrounding villages: “[to allow families to take] advantage of the opportunity to begin their children's journey to Welsh medium education”* (Mudiad Meithrin 22/01/2021).

The Mudiad Meithrin has fully committed to creating a Cylch Meithrin in the area through a generous *Sefydlu a Symud/Startup and Succeed (SAS)* grant as part of its aim to open 40 new Cylchoedd by 2021 under the **Cymraeg 2050** programme. The Welsh Government through Cyngor Gwynedd has also backed the CMA through its Covid Welsh Government Start Up Grant.

As part of our strategy to move towards providing a full time Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi, the CMA has registered with:

- The Charities Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- The Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
- The 30 hour Cynnig Gofal Plant/Childcare scheme
- HMRC as a (much needed) local employer

As we approach better times, the CMA is set to resume providing nurturing care and early stage education in a Welsh medium and will again provide an extremely valuable social resource for families in both the Cylch and the Ti a Fi. The CMA will be re-opening its doors as soon as possible after the half term and, due to the efforts of our fantastic Cylch leader, within an hour of this decision being reached we have children signed up to attend.

#### **Omissions in your Process**

The CMA committee and staff have not been informed of the intention to close the school or consulted despite it being a statutory requirement under the **Schools Organisation Code (SOC)**. We have not been invited to stakeholder meetings so our input has been completely ignored. The feed from CMA to Ysgol Abersoch numbers has not been taken into account despite the evidence from other Cylchoedd that this does lead to an increase in numbers; as a case in point, despite Covid, two CMA children registered with Ysgol Abersoch in September 2020 and at least one of our CMA children has now registered for the September 2021 intake to Ysgol Abersoch.

The **SOC** states any impact on nursery provision needs to be considered but this has not happened and we have lodged a query with the Charities Commission as we believe that the requirement that *“Proposals which affect charities must be consistent with charity law or the stated purpose of the charitable trust”* has been breached.

#### **SOC 3.2 states:**

*“The following must receive either a hard copy of the consultation document or ...*

- *in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent*

*providers who may be affected*

- *in the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present'*

**The CMA has not received the consultation document** in any format and it is far too late now for us to have any meaningful input to a process so far advanced unless a delay is introduced into this process!

### **Local Impact**

As you will be aware, Abersoch is renowned locally and nationally as an area under extreme duress from house prices and second home ownership, house affordability, intense tourism and the pressures these bring on the Welsh language and culture. Rather less well-known outside the area is that Abersoch lies fully within a rural heartland of Welsh speaking communities and the threat to **Ysgol Abersoch** and **Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch** represents a direct challenge to the survival of the Welsh speaking culture within Penrhyn Llŷn; indeed, many believe that by closing the school and threatening the CMA you will be removing the beating heart of the village and forcing yet more families to move out of Abersoch which has already seen its village medical centre, banks and independent post office all closed.

Looking at local nursery provision, the dosbarth meithrin at Ysgol Sarn Bach does not allow children below the age of 5 to travel on its bus so families would need to have their own transport in order to send their young children which is not possible for many families as this often implies a 2+ car family. On the evidence we have heard, some other local Cylch Meithrin are viewed as being *too English* resulting in children being transported far and wide to find more suitable childcare.

In summary, the CMA is under direct threat of closure if Ysgol Abersoch is closed. Families are being dissuaded from sending their children to both Ysgol Abersoch and the CMA as they are concerned these will be closing. The council has manifestly failed to consult or consider the CMA in this whole process which, particularly in the middle of a pandemic, is very hard to justify.

With the school and Cylch Meithrin closed, no doctor's and very few local shops, the village will become just a summer resort and shopping street for visitors, empty in the Winter months not the thriving village it could and should be showcasing all the best that the Welsh language and culture have to offer.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Brougam,

Treasurer,

On behalf of the Committee,

Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi Abersoch

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021, yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013



## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad: 16/02/2021

Enw: Noan Charles Wood

Cyfeiriad e-bost: [REDACTED]

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant  
 Staff  
 Llywodraethwr  
 Disgybl  
 Arall (nodwch)

[REDACTED]

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu  
 Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

Anfonwch eich ymateb at:  
 Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
 Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Dyddiad cau: 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

Nodwch mai **syllwadau** yw'r ymatebion ac **nid gwrthwynebiad** i'r cynnig.

Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Pwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn rhoi fy marn, fel cyn-ddisgybl, am pam nad dyliais cais Ysgol Abersoch.

Mae gan Ysgol Abersoch cymuned agos a llon iawn, a mae wedi bod yn y pentref bychain am brân i 100 o flynyddoedd. Yn yr ysgol mae digon o le i bobol ac mwyt yn cael sylw unigol gan athrawon ardderchog, sydd yn eiddo cefnogi trwy'r oed. Darganfuais llawer o frindiau hyd-bywyd yna, na fuasai wedi cwrdd heb yr ysgol. Mael awyrgylch cyflustigat yna, a digon o le i chwarae. Mae iard a cae lle moga's sgiliau pêl drosed.

Rhododd Ysgol Abersoch llawer o gyfleuoedd iddyf i yn aml gyda gwrsi nefio wythnosol, mabalgampau a phroffin a waeth fy mharsaki or gyfer y flynyddoedd i ddaed. Cefais addysg arbennig gan yr athrawon ar helpwyr, gyda'r pynciau syfaenol yn cael eu dysgu yn ~~nerffwrth~~ rhugorol. Yn oedeg y Nardolig, mae'r disgyblion yn ymuno mewn ymreth i adrodd stori'r Nardolig ar lwyfan newydd Abersoch. Bydd yr athrawon yn ysgrifennu sgrif, a fyddun yn li adrodd ef o Elen trigion y pentref a chasglu pres am achos pwysig.

Rgwedd orali sydd yn unigol yn Ysgol Abersoch yn'r cymuned sydd yn ei amgylchu. Mae'r disgyblion yn gael y pentref, ac yn aml weld trigion Abersoch a fydd hwn yn creu awyrgylch agos a cyffwrddus; dyma gyfle ac allwch cael mewn ysgolion orali. Ar oedeg yr ysgol mae trath a chyle i ddygu ac ymchwilio i natur. Darganfuais llawer or lan y môr ac mae gennof atgofion o gael trwy'r a gwneud arbrosion yna.

Yn anffodus mae niferoedd o ddisgyblion Abersoch wedi dirydu yn y flynyddoedd diweddar sydd yn siom, ond ni yd'r disgyblion new addysg wedi dirydu a mae gennof pob ffairth fydd y niferoedd yn cael uwreith eto wrth i'r rhieni clywed am gymmigion yna, a'r addysg sydd or gael yn lleol.

Dioch Syr/Fadam am ddarllen fy llythyr am pam na ddylech gan Ysgol Abersoch. Dwi'n siar fe wneudch uskyried fy mherspek; P pan fyddwch yn wneud eich penlofyriad.

Yn eiddoch yn gywir,

Noah Wood



Chwefror 17eg, 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg  
Swyddfa Addysg  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Nid oes amheuaeth bod Ysgol Abersoch yn berl arbennig iawn yng nghanol y pentref. Mae'r ysgol yn rhan annatod o galon cymdeithas Gymreig Abersoch ac yn linc arbennig gyda'r mewnfudwyr a'r bobl ddi-gymraeg sy'n byw ac yn rhedeg busnesau lleol yn y pentref, drwy eu hybu a'u hannog i fod yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg o ddydd i ddydd. Mae lleoliad yr ysgol yn werth chweil – reit yng nghanol y pentref sy'n galluogi rhieni gerdded eu plant i ac o'r ysgol, bod y disgyblion yn medru cael eu tywys i'r traeth, siopau lleol ac, wrth gwrs, i Neuadd y Pentref sydd reit drws nesaf i'r ysgol – **NID YSGOL MEWN PENTREFAN YW HON**. Mae hi'n ysgol ar drothwy drws pawb yn y pentref ac sy'n cyfrannu at fywyd pawb sy'n byw yn Abersoch, e.e. Clwb Dros 50; oedolion hŷn yn medru cerdded i'r Ysgol a'r Neuadd i weld sioeau Nadolig a chyngherddau'r disgyblion a.y.y.b.

Yn ddi-os, mae'r pandemig/cyfnod clo wedi gwneud i bawb stopio a meddwl beth sy'n bwysig yn ein bywydau ac ystyried y ffordd orau o symud ymlaen.

Yn fy marn i, mae hyn yn gyfle i Gyngor Gwynedd gymryd cam yn ôl ac adolygu byd addysg plant gyda llygaid ffres. **BETH AM WELD YSTYR DYFNACH I YSGOL ABERSOCH** yn hytrach na cheisio ei gweld fel ffordd o arbed arian?

- Gall yr ysgol fod yn rhan bwysig iawn mewn cynllun ffederaleiddio'r ysgolion lleol.
- Adeilad, man ac awyrgylch arbennig iawn (clos, cynnes a chefnogol). Gallaf ddweud, fel cymddisgybl a rhiant i ddau o blant sydd wedi mynychu'r ysgol, bod cael treulio blynyddoedd cynnar ein haddysg yno wedi bod yn fanteisiol iawn. Nid anfantais yw cael eich dysgu mewn grŵp bach o ddisgyblion ym mlynyddoedd cynnar eich addysg. Mae'r naws deuluol o gymorth mawr i'r broses o drawsnewid o gael eich magu gartref i ddechrau mewn awyrgylch addysgol. **Mae hi'n ysgol arbennig i fabanod a'r blynyddoedd cynnar.**
- Buasai'r cynllun i greu Ysgol Draeth yn siŵr o roi Cyngor Gwynedd ar y map fel cyflogwr/asiantaeth sydd ddim yn styc a meddwl yn gul – mae modd i chi ddangos yma bod ffyrdd gwahanol o ddysgu sy'n hybu'r iaith Gymraeg, cadw cymuned gyda'i gilydd, hybu ac amddiffyn yr amgylchedd, gwneud yn fawr o'r adnoddau naturiol sydd wrth law a gwneud pwynt bod mwy i ddysgu na darllen ac ysgrifennu mewn un adeilad... buasai cyfleoedd dysgu hwylio,



cael mabolgampau ac yoga ar y traeth; dysgu yn uniongyrchol am fywyd gwyllt a physgota... mae'r rhestr yn ddi-baid. Mae'r Clwb Golff reit wrth ymyl hefyd... **CYFLE I BARHAU AC YMESTYN CWRICWLWM Y PLANT A'I GYSYLLTU GYDA'R ADNODDAU SYDD O FEWN Y PENTREF.**

O ran sefyllfa Covid, fel y gwyddoch, mae angen ystyried faint o awyr iach a phellter sydd rhwng disgyblion. **Mae cael llai o blant mewn dosbarth ac ysgol am fod yn hanfodol bwysig yn y bywyd newydd sydd o'n blaenau ar ôl y cyfnod clo.** O ran iechyd a lles plant Abersoch a'r cyffiniau, dylai'r Cyngor weld gwerth ysgol fach a'r ffaith bod traeth dim ond pum munud i lawr y lôn. Yn eironig iawn, mae eich dadl o gau'r ysgol oherwydd nifer bychan o ddisgyblion a'u cludo mewn bws gyda'i gilydd i ysgol gyda mwy o ddisgyblion ynddi yn gwbl afresymol a ddim yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn sydd ei angen oherwydd y pandemig ac sydd am fod yn llesol i blant Abersoch.

Erfyniaf arnoch weld gwerth a photensial yr ysgol fach hon ac, yn hytrach na chael cynlluniau i'w chau, beth am gael cynllun modern sy'n mynd i gyd-fynd ac ailedrych ar y ffordd mae plant yn medru derbyn eu haddysg ôl-Covid.

Yn gywir,

*Catrin Hart*

**CATRIN HART**

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 19 Chwefror 2021 10:35  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

#### GRWP TREFTADAETH PLWYF LLANENGAN

Fel Grwp Treftadaeth sydd yn cynrychioli Plwyf Llanengan, sydd yn cynnwys Ysgolion Abersoch a Sarn Bach rydym yn siomedig iawn fod Ymgynghoriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch.

Bydd hyn yn amddifadu plant y pentref o'u hawliau i dderbyn Addysg ar garreg eu drws.

Hefyd fel Grwp Treftadaeth teimlwn bydd plant Abersoch yn cael eu hamddifadu o hanes eu pentref yn y pendraw pe tae Ysgol Abersoch yn cau.

Mae son am gau ysgol Abersoch yn gadael blas drwg ar dafod y trigolion ac yn gwneud dim i gyfeillgarwch y ddwy Ysgol.

Wrth gau yr Ysgol byddai adeilad cynhenid o gymeriad arbennig y pentref yn diflannu.

Apeliwn arnoch i gadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor i 'n plant, i'n pentref ac i'n diwylliant.

Sent from my iPad

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/6160141B5B.AE96D/blacklist>

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 19 Chwefror 2021 10:43  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Capel y Graig  
Abersoch

Gwrthwynebwn y cynnig gan grwp Moderneiddio Addysg Gwynedd i gau Ysgol Abersoch. Credwn dylai plant pentref Abersoch gael yr hawl i dderbyn ei haddysg yn eu pentref ei hunain. Mae hyn yn rhoi iddynt wreiddiau yn eu pentref, yn gofalu am y diwylliant a'r iaith Gymraeg yn Abersoch. Nid yw gorfodi plant i fynd i Ysgolion ymhellach o'u cartref yn iach iddyn nhw na'r amgylchfyd gan y byddai rhaid defnyddio rhyw fath o drafnidiaeth i fynd i Ysgolion cyfagos e.e Sarn Bach, Foel Gron, Llanbedrog.

Felly ymbiliwn arnoch i ail ystyried y cynnig hwn i gau Ysgol Abersoch

Sent from my iPad

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/BB64841B05.AF335/learn-spam>

<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/BB64841B05.AF335/blacklist>



## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

**Please return your response to:**  
 Modernising Education Office,  
 Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

### Comments:

I think the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch rests too much on a short-sighted focus on financial measures and fails to consider the wider context of council policies and the need to support the local community.

Clearly, the Education Department has a responsibility to manage its school budget efficiently which it seeks to do through closure of high cost schools and consolidation of smaller schools into larger ones. At the same time, the Council has a duty to support the wider community through the provision and maintenance of local affordable housing, jobs, services and cultural assets. In this case there is too much focus on financial logic and not enough account of community impact.

Abersoch is an unusual village. It has become remarkably successful as the foremost centre of tourism in Llŷn, driving the sectors on which the visitor economy depends - accommodation, hospitality, leisure facilities, construction and maintenance - to the benefit of the wider population of the peninsula. Yet, this has come at a high cost to the resident village community, especially through distortions in the housing market leading to a lack of genuinely affordable housing within the village. The increasing demand for second homes has raised house prices at all levels, driving out the local community. Young families, in particular, have little chance of being able to secure local housing. This in turn has distorted the catchment areas for local schools. The duty of the Council is to try and redress this, not by closing schools, but by providing effective local affordable housing, including social housing. The recently approved crisis Action Plan for Affordable Housing, using proceeds from the Council Tax premium on second homes, is a step in the right direction. It should be given a chance to work, ensuring there is still a local school to go to if it succeeds in settling more young families in the village.

There is a failure to consider the value of the school in sustaining the village community. It is a good building located in the centre of the village, alongside the village hall, and with easy access to shops, services and beach amenities. It is an important anchor for sustaining Welsh language and culture in this embattled community, increasingly dominated by the interests of short-term visitors. The school is closely integrated with the village community. The recent establishment of pre-school nursery capacity has further strengthened this integration as well as promising to increase future numbers in the foundation stage. Closure of the school would have a negative impact on the community.

There is too much emphasis on pupil numbers driving this proposal. It is clear that numbers in all the local primary schools have fluctuated widely over the years. The numbers at Abersoch are of course lower partly because the school concentrates on the foundation 3-8 year stage. The threat of closure itself has also probably led to lower numbers. The defined school catchment areas appear arbitrary. There can be little confidence in predictions of future numbers on which the proposal for closure depends. Abersoch school is regarded as offering a high quality bilingual education based on small classes and good leadership, at least the equal of neighbouring schools.

The alternative options to closing the school have not been adequately considered. In particular, federalisation, perhaps with Llanbedrog which is oversubscribed, deserves further consideration. The proposal for Abersoch pupils to move to Sarn Bach school nearby is not a satisfactory solution. The financial and practical advantages which may be seen as attractive are outweighed by the loss of centrality and amenities, the loss of direct connection to the community, the peripheral location of Sarn Bach school, the need for additional road transport to reach it, and the lack of any local community or services to speak of.

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

I think the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch is premature and mistaken. It appears that financial considerations alone are driving a policy of consolidation into larger schools at the cost of depriving communities of their local services and reducing the variety and choice of schools available to them. Think again! Don't penalise the school for the lack of housing in Abersoch. Try to solve the family housing problem first and then there will still be a school to go to. Don't give up on the resident community of Abersoch.

**Eich Manylion:**Dyddiad: Enw: Cyfeiriad e-bost: 

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant
- Staff
- Llywodraethwr
- Disgybl
- Arall (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu
- Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol
- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol
- Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

**Anfonwch eich ymateb at:**

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Dyddiad cau: 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021, yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013

### Sylwadau:

Tydio ddim yn fy synnu o weld cefnogaeth y Gymuned i'r Ysgol yma yn Abersoch ym mhob ffordd, ac yn sicr y cariad a'r ymroddiad rhai at yr ymgynghoriad, a neb yn fwy na'r gwaith mae'r Cadeirydd a'r Is-Gadeirydd Llywodraethwyr wedi ac yn ei wneud i gefnogi yr adnodd ardderchog sydd yma yn Abersoch, ac mae yna lawer o rhai eraill hefyd fel ein Aelod lleol.

Fe hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at yr adroddiad lle mae'r Awdur yn cyfeirio at y Gwasanaethau sydd a'r gael yn Sarn Bach, y gwir ydi na dim ond tai sydd yna gyda ychydig o deuluoedd lleol ac erbyn hyn dim plant o'r oedran i fynd i Ysgol Sarn Bach, felly blant dwad sydd yn mynychu'r Ysgol yma, gan bod y Gwasanaethau i gyd yn Abersoch, Neuadd ardderchog, 40 o fusnesau yn y brif strydoedd yn unig, Deintydd, a 4 Gwasanaethau argyfwng, 3 Capel a mwy. Dyma'r hyn mae Abersoch yn ei gynnig, hefyd yn yr adroddiad mae rhaid edrych a'r sawl graff?

Hefyd mae yn trafod y ffordd Ffederal o weinyddu, er holi a'r hap mae hyn wedi digwydd, oherwydd does yna ddim trafodaeth wedi bod gyda chorff Llywodraethol unrhyw o'r Ysgolion eraill Hefyd mae yna gyfeirio at y wobr Aur mae Ysgol Abersoch wedi ei dderbyn am ei gwaith ardderchog i hybu'r Gymraeg trwy Siarter Iaith Gwynedd, gan fod y Gymraeg yn flaenoriaeth gan Cyngor Gwynedd. ond tydi'r adroddiad ddim hyd yn oed yn crybwyll bod hyn wedi bod yn anfantais i Ysgol Abersoch hefyd, gan bod rhieni di Gymraeg wedi mynd a'i blant o'r Ysgol i'r Ysgolion cyfagos sydd wedi lleusu ei dwylo a dim wedi dilyn canllawiau y Siarter Iaith, felly dyna y rheswm bod yna lai o ddisgyblion a'r hyn o bryd yn mynychu'r Ysgol, ond llanw a thrai ydi wedi bod erioed yn Ysgol Abersoch, a gyda'r fenter newydd o Gylch Meithrin, Mudiad Ti a Fi a'r Urdd fe fydd yna gynydd mewn disgyblion mis Medi yma.

Hefyd rydych wedi diystyru cynnig Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Abersoch o ddanfôn y disgyblion i Ysgol Sarn Bach yn 9 oed yn lle 8 oed, gan fod hyn yn amharu a'r rhif y disgyblion yn yr Ysgol yna, er mwyn y sefyllfa addysgol roedd y cynnig yn cael ei wneud dim er mwyn rhifau, a mae eich ymateb hefyd yn golygu gymaint mae Ysgol Sarn Bach yn ddibynnol a'r ddisgyblion o gyfeiriad Abersoch.

Rwyf yn deall ei bod yn gyfnod anodd, ac roedd y Pwyllgor Craffu Addysg a'r Economi yn ei chael yn anodd iawn ddod i benderfyniad cytun, wedi hir drafod roedd y bleidlais yn agos, gyda 6/4 ac un yn atal, yn gwrthod mynd a'r adroddiad i'r Cyngor llawn, a dim ond 5 o blaid 5 yn atal ac un yn gwrthod mynd a'r adroddiad yn ôl i'r Cabinet., fe ddylia bod hyn yn ddigon o reswm i ail edrych?

Oherwydd bod yr Ysgol yn adnodd ardderchog yma, ac a'r gais y Trethdalwyr fe ddylia fod yna gyfarfod cyhoeddus, tydi'r Adran Addysg ddim a'r fai am gynnal un, ond mae rhaid dilyn canllawiau Covid, er does yna ddim byd tebyg i gyfarfod agored, wyneb i wyneb, lygaid i lygaid a chael trafodaeth a fydd er lles a deall gyda'r Gymuned i gyd.

Dyma'r cyfle i edrych at ymestyn y gwaith ardderchog sydd yn digwydd yn Ysgol Abersoch ac i hyrwyddo a chynnal yr Iaith Gymraeg a'r ei gorau

Dyma'r cyfle i drafod gydan gilydd trwy yr ardal y ffordd Ffederal o weithredu, os y bydd er lles a budd y disgyblion.

Dyma'r cyfle i ail edrych a'r adnoddau addysg yr ardal a'r adeiladau a gofyn a ydynt i fynnu a gofynion addysgiadol y ganrif yma a fydd er lles a budd yr holl ddisgyblion.



**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 19 Chwefror 2021 12:44  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Ar ran Urdd Tudwal Ysgol Abersoch mynegwn ein siom ynglyn a'r bwriad i ystyried cau Ysgol Abersoch. Bu Adran o'r Urdd yma ers sefydlu yr Urdd yn 20au y ganrif ddiwethaf.. Cynhelir yr Adran bob wythnos yn syth ar ol yr Ysgol ,yn yr Ysgol ar gyfer y disgyblion. Mynychir yr Adran hefyd gan gyn ddisgyblion a phlant o Ysgolion eraill yn y gorffennol. Caiff y plant gyfle i gymysgu, i ddysgu am ei pentref,i siarad yn Gymraeg wedi oriau Ysgol. Byddwn yn mynd ar ynweliadau at yr Afon,i'r Traeth,i fferm gyfagos adeg wynau ac yn gwahodd pobl leol ac o bell I son am amrywiol bethau .e.e. Adar, deifio dan y mor ym Mae Ceredigion,y Bad achub,y Gwasanaeth tan ac amrywiol bethau eraill. Cawn ymweliad tymhorol gan swyddog yr Urdd i chwarae Gemau . Gwirfolodd yw y gwaith o arwain yr Adran a hynny gyda phleser o roi amser i blant y pentref gyfarfod ar ol yr Ysgol i fwynhau. Oes mae Adran yr Urdd yn Llanengan ond bod yr Adran honno yn cyfarfod gyda'r nos ac felly yn rhy hwyr i blant Ysgol Abersoch. Erfyniwn arnoch fel pwyllgor Addysg i ail ystyried eich bwriad o gau Ysgol Abersoch....mewn Ffydd, Gobaith a Chariad ..er mwyl pwnn ein plant ,ein cymuned a'n hiaith

Sent from my iPad

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## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

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\* Choose **one** of the following answers

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I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

No, the Council should not publish my response.

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 Modernising Education Office,  
 Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

### Comments:

Statutory Consultation regarding Ysgol Abersoch

Concerning the draft proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31st August and transfer the existing pupils to Ysgol Sarn Bach.

This proposal was approved at meetings held at Gwynedd Council Cabinet on the 15th September and 3rd November 2020

The costs to finance the continuation of funding Ysgol Abersoch as stated appear high and are not transparent enough to comment upon. The numbers of pupils projected for future years, are at best, a guess based on past recent trends but the historically pupil numbers have fluctuated with around 20 being a reasonable benchmark. If there is no village school then the numbers will not have a chance to increase.

There is now a new on-site Cylch Meithrin recently installed and the governors have urged the Cabinet to allow the program "time to flourish", which may influence new pupils to join.

One of the possible reasons that numbers of pupils has not risen over the past few years is the lack of affordable housing for people working in the village on low basic wages this has forced young families to move out to cheaper housing in surrounding area.

Gwynedd Council research has shown that the holiday homes emergency within the county has reached a critical point and that many people in Gwynedd find it near impossible to get a foot on the housing market, both to buy and to rent. The reality is that high house prices due to the demand for holiday units and second homes are pushing prices far beyond the reach of local people in an increasing number of the regions towns and villages.

To close the local village school would severely damage the fabric of Abersoch village retaining its status as a thriving local village community with an integrated school of many years standing to continue and preserve the ability to provide local education of children from aged 3 to 8 into the Welsh language, history and culture.

The Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 sets as one of its well-being objectives the aims to ensure that all residents can live in a community where the Welsh language is a natural part of life.

No other village in the area under consideration has such an integrated village with Abersoch having local businesses, shops, pubs, cafes, beaches, a harbour, tourist office, garages, golf course etc. and now a school under threat of closure.

To close the school would 'Rip the heart out of the village', no longer would residents, second home owners, tourists and visitors see and hear the voices of young pupils going to and from school or hear them enjoying playing in the yard during school breaks.

It is understood there is a cost to continue keeping the school open but surely the benefits would outweigh the costs of maintaining the existing status quo.

Now that Gwynedd Council are planning to double the council tax on second homes to 100 per cent it is possible to consider using some of this extra cash to fund local infrastructure such as local schools.

In the current situation of Covid 19 and all its restrictions, to not be able to discuss this matter further face to face, is very unfortunate and in its self may be a good enough reason to postpone the decision until we know the outcome of 'Lockdown' is clearer.

It is possible that the number of people who have now experienced working from home in towns and cities will continue to grow and will realise they can live and work anywhere may give a boost to more families moving to live in a village with integrated good education etc. in say Abersoch, another reason to defer any school closure.

In my own case we lived and worked in large cities and loved holidaying in Abersoch with a young family, once we found how integrated the village was we bought a second home here. On retirement we became permanent residents, thinking our grown up children would visit. They all moved to Abersoch at about the same time and have lived, worked and grown families in the 25 years we have all lived here. Grandchildren have arrived and some have been educated at Ysgol Abersoch learning the local language, the history and culture of the area and living in a village in Wales.

If the school is closed and pupils move to Sarn Bach their good Welsh education will be continued but Abersoch will lose a vital facility of a local school to bind the village together, there will be less Welsh spoken and the community will suffer.

As a consequence of this loss of local culture and integration, Abersoch will become ever more a second home area and in danger of becoming a 'Satellite of Cheshire'

Please reconsider your proposal or at least defer the decision for at least another 2 years to see what effect post Covid 19 has on our local community.

Therefore we are opposed to the Gwynedd Council Cabinet current proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch from August 2021



[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** Nick Ansell <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Gwener, 19 Chwefror 2021 14:05  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** YSGOL ABERSOCH

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir

I am the Commodore of South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club and am writing in response to Gwynedd Council's Statutory Consultation on its proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021, and to support the campaign to keep our excellent school open.

You will obviously be aware of the school's excellent academic record and I am sure that many respondents will have referred to practical issues such as the convenience to parents of having a school that is located nearby and easily accessible. However, to my mind the main issue is the profound damage that closure of the school would do to the prospects and the future sustainability of the local community and to the Welsh language and culture.

A school is a fundamental and essential prerequisite of any thriving local community. It is a magnet that draws young couples and families to an area and encourages them to set down roots and remain, ensuring that a community will survive and thrive into the future. A school encourages young, generally local and Welsh-speaking people to remain in the community, thereby promoting and strengthening the language and the culture.

Much of Gwynedd Council's policy has been shaped by its determination to safeguard and promote the language and culture and it would be perverse to implement a policy of closing the school that would be in direct conflict with these aims and be immensely damaging to the local community in Abersoch.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch.

Yours faithfully

Nick Ansell  
COMMODORE SCYC

--  
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**63**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**63**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published



## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

- Parent  
 Staff  
 Governor  
 Pupil  
 Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

- Yes, I wish to be notified  
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**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

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**Response Form**

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

**Comments:**  
See Attached pdf.





19th February 2021

**Response to the Ysgol Abersoch Statutory Consultation**

Dear Education Department and Cabinet Members,

This letter is being written in response to the Statutory Consultation to consider the future of Ysgol Abersoch.

On review of the proposal I have the following serious concerns that I believe warrant a considered response by the Council prior to a decision being made.

**Loss to the community and the engagement in the community of the pupils.**

Our business is located on Abersoch beach and is visited by the school children on their school outings. The school children walk from Ysgol Abersoch and take part in many activities on the beach. It is a delight to see the children so well engaged with their local environment.

Prior to Covid, the children were frequently out and about engaging with local businesses and exploring their local surroundings in the heart of the village. Each year the children host a wonderful Christmas show at the village hall as well participating in many other local concerts and events, which are always well attended and much enjoyed by many members of the local community, young and old.

If the school were to close, then these connections and engagement with the local community will be lost. I am not aware that other schools in the area offer such wide-ranging experiences. In the consultation document it is clear that there are many more local amenities available to Ysgol Abersoch when compared to other schools in the local area.

This aspect is inadequately addressed in the proposal as there is clearly a difference with the location of Ysgol Sarn Bach, which is largely separate from any community amenities.

**Pupil numbers at Ysgol Abersoch and surrounding schools**

I am very concerned that the Council is basing its decision on deeply flawed pupil estimates that are out of line with Gwynedd Council estimates which indicate that the number of school age children will increase over the next 20 years as well as recent data showing that pupil numbers at Ysgol Abersoch and surrounding schools have been growing over the last 5 years. This is in stark contrast to the Education Department's forecasts which show a steep decline in numbers. The source of these estimates needs to be substantiated and differences from common population trends justified.

In addition Ysgol Llanbedrog is continuing to accept children in excess of its capacity limits and is educating children in class sizes of more than 20 for a mixed-age class. Both these factors contravene Gwynedd Council's "Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd" position. It seems that the Education Department and Ysgol Llanbedrog has allowed this over-subscription to occur to the potential detriment of the education of the Ysgol Llanbedrog pupils whilst threatening the continuation of other schools in the catchment area. This situation needs to be corrected.

If pupil numbers were better managed across the four schools in the catchment area, then class sizes of 12-20 would be more common at all the schools to the benefit of all pupils in the catchment. The continuation of classes at Ysgol Abersoch is required to meet this aim at all the schools in the catchment. In addition it is

likely that the average cost per pupil in the catchment area would then be more in line with educational norms.

The Council has not provided an impact assessment on class sizes if the pupils of Ysgol Abersoch are transferred to Ysgol Sarn Bach as proposed. If this were to occur, then the class sizes at Ysgol Sarn Bach will be 21 and 37 respectively. This is clearly in excess of the started 20 as a maximum mixed class size. In addition to my own concerns, I believe that the governors and parents of Ysgol Sarn Bach would also be concerned and their views need to be taken into account in the consultation.

Further I do not accept the argument that smaller classes are detrimental to the education of pupils. It makes intuitive sense that more individual attention will lead to better outcomes.

When my son attended the school I felt that the attention to his individual education needs enabled through a smaller class size at Ysgol Abersoch meant that he was able to quickly progress and has moved into the next steps of his education with a strong academic record. If asked, I am sure that other parents and pupils would feel the same. It is notable that their opinions are not recorded in the consultation document

#### Consideration of Federation with a neighboring school.

I can appreciate that that the Council has financial constraints and that costs and benefits need to be carefully considered.

The consultation document indicates that there will be a net annual saving of approximately £96k. This is about 0.01% of the overall Gwynedd Education Department budget. How the saving has been calculated is unclear, with no breakdown of costs provided e.g. are the costs of educating the children at another school and the ongoing maintenance of the school, which is a responsibility of the Council, included? It is highly concerning that decisions are being put forward to the Cabinet with an argument based on a cost per pupil rather than an absolute cost of running the school. Taking all four schools together, as a catchment the cost per pupil is approximately £5k per pupil. This is in step with other rural schools in the area.

Closing Ysgol Abersoch will make an immaterial impact on the budget, but would seriously erode education standards for the 200 pupils in Abersoch and the surrounding schools.

An option to federalize with a neighboring school is outlined as an option in the consultation document. This option has not been given equal consideration from a cost perspective with no figures available to understand what cost savings could be made if Ysgol Abersoch were federalized.

#### Conclusion

I believe that in order to make a more balanced decision the Council must:

1. Identify the impact on the Abersoch community as being clearly negative if Ysgol Abersoch were to close.
2. Substantiate the Education Department's pupil projections with reference to more reliable population growth statistics such as its own Gwynedd Council Auditor General statistics.
3. Once more realistic pupil estimates are confirmed, illustrate how the mixed class sizes of Ysgol Abersoch and surrounding schools will be in the range of 12-20 for now and the future. This is essential to providing educational excellence to all 200 pupils in the catchment.
4. Formally consult with and share the views of neighbouring schools on the alternatives under consideration.
5. Consider a catchment area review and federalisation as real options that can be pursued.

Yours Sincerely  
Peter Wood  
Abersoch Beach Café Ltd.

## **Ymateb Estyn i'r cynnig gan Gyngor Gwynedd i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar 31 Awst 2021, a darparu addysg i ddysgwyr yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o'r 1af o Fedi 2021.**

### **Cyflwyniad**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Arolygwyr Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru. O dan delerau Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 a'i Chod cysylltiedig, mae'n ofynnol i gynigwyr anfon dogfennau ymgynghori i Estyn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw Estyn yn gorff y mae'n ofynnol iddo weithredu yn unol â'r Cod ac nid yw'r Ddeddf yn gosod unrhyw ofynion statudol ar Estyn o ran materion trefniadaeth ysgolion. Felly, fel corff yr ymgynghorir ag ef, bydd Estyn yn rhoi eu barn ar rinweddau cyffredinol cynigion trefniadaeth ysgolion yn unig.

Mae Estyn wedi ystyried yr agweddau addysgol ar y cynnig ac mae wedi llunio'r ymateb canlynol i'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan y cynigiwr a gwybodaeth ychwanegol arall fel data gan Lywodraeth Cymru a barn y Consortia Rhanbarthol sy'n cyflwyno gwasanaethau gwella ysgolion i'r ysgolion yn y cynnig.

Daw'r cynnig sy'n destun i ymgynghoriad hwn gan Gyngor Gwynedd. Mae'n cynnig:

- Cau Ysgol Abersoch ar 31 Awst 2021 a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021

### **Crynodeb/Casgliad**

Mae Estyn o'r farn bod y cynnig hwn yn debygol o gynnal o leiaf y safonau presennol o addysg gynradd yn yr ardal.

### **Disgrifiad a manteision**

Mae'r cynnig yn cyflwyno achos cynhwysfawr dros newid sy'n ystyried yr heriau presennol i Ysgol Abersoch. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys niferoedd disgyblion isel, canran uchel o lefydd gweigion, amrediad oedran eang o fewn dosbarthiadau ac adnoddau ariannol ychwanegol. Rhoddir ystyriaeth lawn i'r heriau hyn.

Mae'r cynnig yn ystyried amrediad priodol o opsiynau posibl:

- Opsiwn 1 – Dim newid a pharhau gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol
- Opsiwn 2 - Newid ystod oedran Ysgol Abersoch o 3-8 oed unai i 3-9 oed neu 3-11 oed.
- Opsiwn 3 – Ffederaleiddio gydag ysgol gyfagos
- Opsiwn 4 – Ffederaleiddio gydag ysgol gyfagos gan leoli cyfnod sylfaen ar safle Ysgol Abersoch a chyfnod allweddol 2 ar safle ysgol gyfagos
- Opsiwn 5 – Ffederaleiddio gyda mwy nag un ysgol cyfagos gan leoli cyfnod sylfaen, Blwyddyn 3+4 a Blwyddyn 5+6 ar safle tair ysgol wahanol
- Opsiwn 6 – Cau Ysgol Abersoch a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion mewn ysgol amgen
- Opsiwn 7 – Lleoli canolfan iaith ar safle Ysgol Abersoch
- Opsiwn 8 – Sefydlu Cylch Meithrin yn Ysgol Abersoch

- Opsiwn 9 – Newid ystod oedran Ysgol Abersoch o 3-8 oed i 3-9 oed a sefydlu Cylch Meithrin.

Mae'r cynnig yn gwerthuso'r opsiynau yn llawn cyn amlygu tair opsiwn fyddai fwyaf hyfyw sef opsiwn 2 (newid ystod oedran i 3-11oed), Opsiwn 3 ac Opsiwn 6.

Asesir effaith y tri opsiwn uchod ar ansawdd yr addysg, trefniadau teithio a'r gymuned. Yn dilyn yr asesiad mae'r awdurdod lleol yn dewis ac yn cynnig Opsiwn 6, cau Ysgol Abersoch ac addysgu'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 af o Fedi 2021.

Nodir manteision y cynnig dros gadw'r sefyllfa bresennol neu opsiwn arall fel:

- Lleihau niferoedd llefydd gweigion
- Cynnig profiadau i ddisgyblion gymdeithasu a chydweithio gyda chyfoedion
- Addysgu mewn dosbarthiadau o faint mwy addas
- Lleihau'r amrywiad o lwfans y pen ar gyfer disgyblion y sir
- Sicrhau bod plant yn trosglwyddo unwaith yn ystod eu haddysg gynradd ac uwchradd.

Mae'r cyngor wedi ystyried yn ofalus beth fydd effaith hyn ar niferoedd disgyblion yn yr ysgol yn Medi 2021 ac am y ddwy flynedd olynol. Trwy gadw'r sefyllfa bresennol, byddai tua 76% o lefydd gweigion yn yr ysgol gyda'r holl ddisgyblion yn cael eu dysgu mewn un dosbarth cymysg eu hoedran. Golyga hyn bod amrediad o 5 mlynedd o fewn y dosbarth. Yn yr ysgol amgen, Ysgol Sarn Bach, mae capasiti digonol i dderbyn disgyblion Ysgol Abersoch yn ychwanegol i'w disgyblion ei hunain. Trwy drosglwyddo disgyblion i'r ysgol amgen, mae'n rhagweld gostyngiad yn y llefydd gweigion i 29% a llai o amrediad oedran yn yr un dosbarth.

Wrth ystyried trefniadau teithio, mae'r cynnig yn nodi na ragwelir y bydd unrhyw ddisgybl yn gorfod teithio pellter afresymol i gyrraedd yr ysgol. Efallai y bydd angen addasu trefniant cludo cyfredol Ysgol Sarn Bach os bydd holl ddisgyblion dalgylch Ysgol Abersoch yn trosglwyddo. Daw hwn ar gost ychwanegol i'r awdurdod.

Ymddengys fod y cynigiwr wedi ystyried effaith y cynnig ar yr iaith Gymraeg yn briodol. Ni ragwelir bod y cynnig yn effeithio ar addysg Gymraeg y disgyblion gan fod polisi iaith y cyngor yr un mor berthnasol yn yr ysgol amgen a byddai parhad o addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

### **Agweddau addysgol ar y cynnig**

Mae safonau yn y ddwy ysgol a effeithir yn debyg iawn i'w gilydd ac yn yr arolygiadau mwyaf diweddar barnwyd y ddwy ysgol yn dda ar bob cwestiwn allweddol neu faes arolygu.

Mae'r cynnig yn ystyried deilliannau diweddaraf arolygiadau Estyn y ddwy ysgol sydd dan sylw. Arolygwyd Ysgol Abersoch yn Mehefin 2017 a barnwyd y tri chwestiwn allweddol yn dda. Yn Hydref 2017, arolygwyd Ysgol Sarn Bach gan farnu pob maes arolygu yn dda. Mae'r cynigiwr yn asesu effaith tebygol y cynnig ar feysydd y fframwaith arolygu. Dangosa hyn y gall effaith positif fod yn bosibl ar les a

phrofiadau dysgu o gau Ysgol Abersoch a throsglwyddo'r plant i Ysgol Sarn Bach. Mae hyn o ganlyniad i'r hyn mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi nodi am disgyblion yn elwa o brofiadau i gymdeithasu a chydweithio gyda chyfoedion.

Er nad yw'r cynnig yn gwneud cymariaethau ar berfformiad y ddwy ysgol maent yn hyderus bod ansawdd y ddarpariaeth yn Ysgol Sarn Bach gystal â'r ddarpariaeth y cyfnod sylfaen yn Ysgol Abersoch. Gwelir bod y cynigiwr wedi ystyried parhad yn y ddarpariaeth gwricwlaidd yn briodol gan awgrymu bod ysgolion gyda niferoedd uwch o ddisgyblion yn gallu cynnig strwythur mwy cadarn wrth gynllunio a darparu'r cwricwlwm.

Yn eu asesiad o arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth, mae'r cynnig yn dyfynnu o arolygiadau diweddar sy'n nodi bod ansawdd yr arweinyddiaeth yn dda. Mae Ysgol Abersoch ar hyn o bryd yn gweithredu dan arweiniad pennaeth mewn gofal tra bod pennaeth parhaol yn Ysgol Sarn Bach. Mae'r ddwy ysgol wedi eu nodi fel bod yn y categori melyn o ran cefnogaeth a gallu i wella gan Lywodraeth Cymru

Nodir yn glir yr hyn y mae'r cynigiwr yn ei ddisgwyl o ran effaith ar lywodraethu a materion staffio. Mae'n amlinellu'r gefnogaeth fydd ar gael i aelodau staff Ysgol Abersoch yn benodol sydd yn bennaf yn cael eu heffeithio gan y cynnig.

Mae'r cynigiwr wedi rhoi sylw priodol i'r effaith ar grwpiau bregus o ddisgyblion gan gynnwys y rhai sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig. Mae'n nodi sicrwydd bod gan Ysgol Sarn Bach y cyfleusterau i gynnig darpariaeth gyfatebol ar gyfer disgyblion ag anghenion addysgu arbennig.

Maent wedi cynllunio'n addas i ymgynghori gyda'r disgyblion. Mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi paratoi dogfennaeth addas ar gyfer egluro'r ymgynghoriad i ddisgyblion ac yn holi eu barn trwy holiadur syml. Nid yw'n glir i ba raddau maent am ystyried yr effaith ar ddisgyblion presennol Ysgol Sarn Bach.

## **Estyn's response to the proposal by Gwynedd Council to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, and provide education for learners at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

### **Introduction**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

The proposal that is subject to this consultation is by Gwynedd Council. The proposal is to:

- Close Ysgol Abersoch on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, and to offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

### **Summary/Conclusion**

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of primary education in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The proposal presents a comprehensive case for change that considers the current challenges at Ysgol Abersoch. These include low pupil numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, a broad age range within classes and additional financial resources. Full consideration is given to these challenges.

The proposal considers an appropriate range of possible options:

- Option 1 – No change and continue with the status quo.
- Option 2 – Change the age range of Ysgol Abersoch from 3-8 years to either 3-9 years or 3-11 years.
- Option 3 – Federate with a nearby school.
- Option 4 – Federate with a nearby school, locating the foundation phase on the Ysgol Abersoch site, and KS2 on the site of a nearby school.
- Option 5 – Federate with nearby schools, locating the foundation phase, Years 3 + 4 and Years 5 + 6 on the sites of three different schools.
- Option 6 – Close Ysgol Abersoch and offer a place for the pupils at an alternative school.

- Option 7 – Locate a language centre at the Ysgol Abersoch site.
- Option 8 – Establish a Cylch Meithrin at Ysgol Abersoch.
- Option 9 – Change the age range of Ysgol Abersoch from 3-8 to 3-9 and establish a Cylch Meithrin at Ysgol Abersoch.

The proposal evaluates the options in full before identifying the three most viable options, namely Option 2 (change the age range to 3-11 years), Option 3 and Option 6.

The effect of the three options above on education, transport arrangements and the community is assessed. Following the assessment, the local authority has selected and proposed Option 6, to close Ysgol Abersoch and educate pupils at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

The proposal's advantages over maintaining the status quo or another option are as follows:

- Reduce the number of surplus places
- Provide experiences for pupils to socialise and co-operate with peers
- Teach in more suitably-sized classes
- Reduce the cost per head range for all of the county's pupils
- Ensure that pupils transfer once during their primary and secondary education.

The council has given careful consideration to what effect this will have on pupil numbers at the school in September 2021 and two subsequent years. By maintaining the status quo, surplus places at the school would be around 76% and all pupils would be taught in one mixed-age class. This would mean that there would be an age range of 5 years within the class. At the alternative school, Ysgol Sarn Bach, there is sufficient capacity to admit pupils from Ysgol Abersoch in addition to its own pupils. By transferring pupils to the alternative school, a reduction in surplus places to 29% is projected, in addition to a smaller age range within the same class.

In considering transport arrangements, the proposal states that it is not anticipated that any pupil will need to travel an unreasonable distance to school. The current transport arrangements at Ysgol Sarn Bach may need to be adapted should all pupils from the Ysgol Abersoch catchment area transfer there. This would be at an additional cost to the authority.

It appears that the proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the proposal on the Welsh language. It is not anticipated that the proposal will affect the pupils' Welsh education, as the council's Welsh language policy is equally relevant to the alternative school and that there would be continuity in terms of Welsh-medium education.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

Standards in both of the affected schools are very similar and, in the most recent inspections, both schools were judged to be good in relation to all key questions or inspection areas.

The proposal considers the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspections of both schools. Ysgol Abersoch was inspected in June 2017, and all three key questions were judged to be good. Ysgol Sarn Bach was inspected in October 2017, and was judged to be good in all inspection areas. The proposer assesses the proposal's likely effect on the areas of the inspection framework. This shows that there could be a positive effect on wellbeing and learning experiences by closing Ysgol Abersoch and transferring the pupils to Ysgol Sarn Bach. This is as a result of what the local authority has identified about pupils benefitting from experiences to socialise and co-operate with peers.

Although the proposal does not compare the performance of both schools, it is confident that the quality of provision at Ysgol Sarn Bach is as good as the foundation phase provision at Ysgol Abersoch. It is evident that the proposer has given appropriate consideration to the continuity of curricular provision, by suggesting that schools with higher pupil numbers are able to provide a more robust structure when planning and delivering the curriculum.

In its assessment of leadership and management, the proposal quotes from recent inspections, which note that the quality of leadership is good. Ysgol Abersoch is currently operating under the guidance of a teacher in charge, while Ysgol Sarn Bach has a permanent headteacher. Both schools have been identified as being in the yellow category in terms of support and ability to improve by Welsh Government.

It is stated clearly what the proposer expects in terms of the effect on governance and staffing issues. It outlines the support that will be available to staff members at Ysgol Abersoch in particular, who are most affected by the proposal.

The proposer has given due attention to the effect on vulnerable groups of pupils, including those with special educational needs. The proposer gives an assurance that Ysgol Sarn Bach has the facilities to provide equal provision for pupils with special educational needs.

The proposer has planned suitably to consult with pupils. The local authority has prepared suitable documentation to explain the consultation to pupils and seek their views through a simple questionnaire. It is not clear to what extent the local authority will consider the effect on current pupils at Ysgol Sarn Bach.



**66**

**Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi**

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**66**

**The respondent does not want the  
response to be published**

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 20 Chwefror 2021 09:56  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Good morning.

I am writing in support of parents and teachers of children who attend the above primary school. My wife and I on a personal basis believe that it should remain open given that our daughter and son-in-law, who have recently had twin boys, would like them to have their formative education there.

We believe strongly in the sense of community, particularly in the current climate and that has been a real benefit over the last twelve months. It is also important to not impact on the environment and to be able to walk to school obviously helps in educating the boys in the roles they can play.

Also important is the desire of our daughter to have her children embrace the Welsh language and culture and believe strongly that in their early years, this will be more effectively achieved in Ysgol Abersoch.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

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## Your Details:

Date:

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose one of the following answers

I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

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**Please return your response to:**  
 Modernising Education Office,  
 Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### Comments:

As a former student of Ysgol Abersoch who is now 18, I was disappointed to hear about the proposed closure of the school.

These are some of the reasons why I think the school should be kept open:

- 1) Nearly all of the bigger villages on Pen Llyn have their own local primary school, but Sarn Bach is the closest option for the children of Abersoch and is not at a convenient walking distance. Ysgol Abersoch is perfect for the kids who live in the village, whose parents aren't able to drive them to school, until they're old enough to catch the bus to Sarn Bach.
- 2) The location of the school is also convenient for learning as it allows for the possibility for more practical, outdoor lessons with the beach and the harbour down the road and the village hall next door.
- 3) Starting in a small school like Ysgol Abersoch is perfect for the kids to form close bonds with each other that will last for the rest of their lives, before moving up to the bigger schools of Sarn Bach and Botwnnog.
- 4) The low teacher to student ratio allows for more one-on-one time, which I'm sure is much more manageable for the teachers, as well as more encouraging for the kids.

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 20 Chwefror 2021 15:50  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen



Annwyl Cyngor Gwynedd,

Ysgrifennaf atoch ynglŷn â'r penderfyniad i gau Ysgol Abersoch.

Fel cyn-ddisgybl a chyn-riant rwy'n ofni y bydd cau yr ysgol yn bygwth natur cymraeg y pentref. A yw'r cyngor wedi ystyried o ddifrif y goblygiadau ar ein cymuned a'r Gymraeg pe bai Ysgol Abersoch yn cau? Rwy'n byw ac yn gweithio yn y pentref, ac wedi gwneud ar hyd fy oes, ac nid wyf yn gwybod am unrhyw un y gofynnwyd iddynt am eu barn neu a ddarparwyd ffurflen i'w llenwi ar gyfer unrhyw asesiad effaith.

Mae cenedlaethau o deuluoedd wedi gallu cerdded yn ddiogel i'r ysgol hon lle cawsant ddechrau rhagorol i'w haddysg yng nghalon ein cymuned, a'r hyn sydd ei angen arnom yw cefnogaeth briodol i alluogi teuluoedd i fyw yn y pentref mewn niferoedd cynaliadwy unwaith eto.

Byddai plant yn dioddef pe bai Ysgol Abersoch yn cau gan y byddai'n rhaid iddynt ddechrau eto mewn ysgol newydd.

Er ei bod yn wir bod rhai plant yn teimlo'n gyffyrddus mewn ysgol newydd o fewn ychydig o wythnosau, gall eraill gymryd llawer mwy o amser i addasu. A oes gwir angen gorfodi plant ifanc i deimlo'n ofnus ac yn bryderus?

Nid y plant fyddai'r unig rai i ddioddef. Beth am yr athrawon? Rydych chi nid yn unig yn mynd â'r ysgol i ffwrdd, ond hefyd swyddi, swyddi sydd eu hangen i dalu biliau a chael lle i fyw. A ydych wedi ystyried yr effeithiau ar iechyd meddwl a'r pryderon ariannol y gall eu hachosi?

Rwy'n deall bod y rhesum y tu ôl i gau'r ysgol yn ganlyniad i'r niferoedd isel a'i bod yn anghynnaladwy, ond rwy'n credu bod cymaint o opsiynau eraill y dylech eu hystyried cyn y penderfyniad brys i gau'r ysgol.

Os yw'r niferoedd yn isel yn ysgol abersoch, siawns y peth mwyaf synhwyrol buasai darganfod y rhesymau pam fod cynifer o rieni yn dewis peidio a gyrru eu plant i'r ysgol.

Beth am i chi sefydlu arolwg er mwyn deall y rhesymau hyn.

Wedi deallt y rhesymau awgrymaf gynllun gweithredu i gynyddu'r rhifau yn y'r ysgol.

Mae'r Cylchoedd Meithrin a Ti a Fi yn syniadau gwych i gynyddu nifer y disgyblion a chyflwyniad rhagorol i addysg gyfrwng Cymru ar gyfer cartrefi nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg, ond oherwydd Covid nid ydynt wedi cael cyfle i fynd ati'n iawn eto.

Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn symbol hanfodol o ddiwylliant a threftadaeth Gymreig yng nghanol ein pentref, sy'n chwarae rhan mor bwysig wrth hyrwyddo a chryfhau'r Gymraeg.

Mae croeso i blant o bob cefndir ddod i'r ysgol gyda breichiau agored ac yn cael y dechrau gorau mewn bywyd, gan ddatblygu ymdeimlad o le a chymuned sy'n para am oes, ynghyd â rhodd werthfawr y iaith Gymraeg.

Er ein bod yn byw yn y pentref mwyaf a mwyaf llwyddiannus yn ariannol ar Ben Llyn, rydym eisoes wedi colli cymaint, - rhaid inni beidio â cholli ein hysgol bentref.

Rwy'n gobeithio y byddwch yn ailystyried eich penderfyniad, Nawr yw'r amser i Gyngor Gwynedd gamu i fyny a rhoi rhywbeth yn ôl i'n cymuned yn lle bygwth rhwygo ei galon allan !!

Edrychaf ymlaen at eich ymateb.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Ms Roberta Parry

Sent from my iPhone

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 20 Chwefror 2021 15:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to add my support to the keeping open of Ysgol Abersoch. I was born and bred in Bwlchtocyn and my grandfather was one of the people contributed to the building of the school, hall and reservoir for the use of the village. I do understand that Ysgol Abersoch is a drain on the council's finances but it is an essential part of the village and contributes in many ways to the community spirit. As the school is in the centre most of the children are able to walk to it rather than driving to Sarn Bach or Llanbedrog so not contributing to the environmental impact. I am sure that many other letters you have received will have emphasised the importance the Welsh language being taught in our schools and in this case if the school closes some parents could consider sending their children to private schools in Bangor thus losing the chance to learn the language at an early age. I do hope the committee will consider carefully all the points that have been made by all the letters you will have received before reaching your decision.

Yours  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Phil Brougham BT <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sadwrn, 20 Chwefror 2021 17:43  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch  
  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Syr / Fadam,

dw i'n ysgrifennu i chi yn cofrestru fy siom fi wrth glywed eich bwriad chi i gau Ysgol Abersoch yn ddiweddarach eleni. Dw i'n dysgwyr Gymraeg ond, yn anffodus, dw i'n well siarad Saesneg felly ...

I live in Llanengan and so am very conscious of the hurt that closing Ysgol Abersoch will have on the local community and the Welsh culture particularly the language. Many of my friends attended Ysgol Abersoch as do, or did, their children and they will feel this very keenly as will their extended families and neighbours. In 2018 the village and Canolfan Gymdeithasol Llanengan lost its Cylch Meithrin which this was a severe loss affecting many local families but towards the end of 2019/early 2020 this was replaced by Cylch Methrin Abersoch housed in Ysgol Abersoch and the threat to close the school would almost certainly mean the closure of this new and thriving Cylch Meithrin and the 2 jobs it provides for local people.

I am a volunteer with Gwylwyr y Gglannau and, though I do not speak for them, I am very conscious of the need by the coastguard and other local council and charitable emergency services for young, energetic and, essentially, *local* women and men to provide the very large number of people who make up these teams. We are currently 3 members short of a full crew and have great difficulty recruiting and retaining team members who live and work close enough to be able to down tools and be at the station in time to attend the many emergency calls we receive each year. These services – the Coastguard, the RNLI, retained Firefighters and first responders to name a few - rely on being within a living village and a huge part of the draw for the families who provide these crew members, now and in the future, is their being a good village school – Ysgol Abersoch isn't good, it's great as I'm sure you've heard in other testimonies. Long term, and perhaps sooner, the loss of Ysgol Abersoch will lead to fewer and fewer families living close enough to Abersoch to provide enough crew to keep these essential emergency services viable which would push back provision of cover and the costs implied onto Gwynedd council. Having a local school isn't just about being able to walk or cycle there, it goes much deeper than that and short term savings can and will have much longer term costs both material and cultural.

Finally, please give due consideration to this and the many other testimonies that you will receive before coming to a decision that, depending on the outcome, could do irrevocable damage to the village of Abersoch.

Cofion, Phil Brougham

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**72**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**72**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

Concerning the draft proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and transfer the existing pupils to Ysgol Sarn Bach.

This proposal was drafted at meetings held at Gwynedd Council Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

The costs to finance the continuation of funding Ysgol Abersoch as stated appear high and are not transparent enough to comment upon.

The numbers of pupils projected for future years are at best a guess based on past trends. If there is no village school then the numbers will not have a chance to increase.

There is now a new on-site Cylch Meithrin recently installed and the governors have urged the Cabinet to allow the program “time to flourish”, which may influence new pupils to join. The school is also registering to become a ‘Beach School’

Outdoor learning is proven to provide positive outcomes to help children learn, particularly those who find it hard to engage with classroom-based education.

Where better to learn maths, english, science, nature, conservation and teamwork than in an inspirational marine environment. The Beach School would be a unique learning opportunity for current and future pupils. At a time when the government is actively encouraging learning outside the classroom, beach schools offer a wonderful opportunity in an outstanding environment to all schools and children.

One of the possible reasons that numbers of pupils has not risen over the past few years is the lack of affordable housing for people working in the village on low basic wages this has forced young families to move out to cheaper housing in the surrounding area.

To close the local village school would severely damage the fabric of Abersoch village retaining its status as a thriving local village community with an integrated school of many years standing to continue and preserve the ability to provide local education of children from aged 3 to 8 into the Welsh language, history and culture.

The Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 sets as one of its well-being objectives the aims to ensure that all residents can live in a community where the Welsh language is a natural part of life.

No other village in the area under consideration has such an integrated village with Abersoch having local businesses, shops, pubs, cafes, beaches, a harbour, tourist office, garages, golf course etc. and now a school under threat of closure.

To close the school would take the heart out of the village, no longer would residents, second home owners, tourists and visitors see and hear the voices of young pupils going to and from school or hear them enjoying playing in the yard during school breaks.

It is understood there is a cost to continue keeping the school open but surely the benefits would outweigh the costs of its future prospects.  
Now that Gwynedd Council are planning to double the council tax on second homes to 100 per cent it is possible to consider using some of this extra money to fund local infrastructure such as local schools.

In the current situation of Covid 19 and all its restrictions, to not to be able to discuss this matter further face to face, is very unfortunate and so it is a good enough reason to postpone the decision.

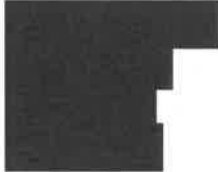
In my own case I live in Llanengan and work in Abersoch. My family and friends all went to Ysgol Abersoch.  
My Niece and Nephew went there and now my friends children have been and are educated there.

If the school is closed and pupils move to Sarn Bach their Welsh education will be continued but Abersoch will lose a vital facility of a local school to bind the village together, there will be less Welsh spoken and the community will suffer.  
As a consequence of this loss of local culture and integration, Abersoch will become ever more a second home area and not a local community.

Please reconsider your proposal or at least defer the decision for at least another 2 years to see what effect the new Cylch Meithrin and Beach School have on the number of pupils attending.

Therefore I am opposed to the Gwynedd Council Cabinet current proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch from August 2021

Miss Phaedra Wood



[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 21 Chwefror 2021 10:33  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern,

I would like to note that I don't agree with the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch.

I was a pupil at the school in the 1980's, I made lifelong friends whilst attending ysgol Abersoch and I am still best friends with them now.

Although I have since moved out of the area, I have family and friends whose children currently attend the school and it has provided them with an excellent education through the medium of The Welsh Language.

This school has always provided a high level of education whilst taking full advantage of its local surroundings. Nature walks through the sand dunes and PE on the beach is a magical way of learning and those memories stay with you forever.

Closing its doors would have a devastating and heartbreaking impact on its pupils, parents, staff and the local community.

I implore you to reconsider.

Many Thanks  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.  
This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/096B041B2A.A7388/learn-spam>

<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/096B041B2A.A7388/blacklist>

Chwefror 22ain, 2021

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg  
Adran Addysg  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Adran Addysg ac Aelodau'r Cabinet,

Ysgrifennaf atoch i fynegi fy ngwrthwynebiadau cryf i'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar 31 Awst 2021. Ni fu'r blynyddoedd diwethaf yr hawsaf i'n hysgol, yn enwedig yn ddiweddar heb ein pennaeth, a hoffwn ddiolch yr Adran Addysg am ei ymrwymiad a'i ymdrechion i lunio trefniadau i sicrhau ein bod wedi cael penaethiaid dros dro.

Fel cyn-ddisgybl, cyn-riant a llywodraethwr presennol, mae Ysgol Abersoch yn bwysig i mi. Mae cynnig Cyngor Gwynedd i gau'r ysgol arbennig hon yn fy llenwi ag ymdeimlad o dristwch a cholled. Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn rhoi dechrau rhagorol mewn bywyd i'r plant sydd wedi derbyn y fraint i'w fynychu, ysgol sydd yn cynnig ymdeimlad o berthyn ac yn deulu, lle mae'r iau, a'r hŷn, yn naturiol yn dysgu o bob un gyda'i gilydd. Nid yw'n bosibl rhoi pris ar yr hyn y mae Ysgol Abersoch yn ei roi i'n plant.

Mae'r ysgol yn rhan annatod o'r gymuned. O dan arweiniad gofalus ein pennaeth, Linda Jones, mae'r disgyblion yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn y gwaith o hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg a diwylliant Cymru, drwy fentrau llwyddiannus fel annog siopau lleol i gyflwyno arwyddion dwyieithog a chymryd rhan mewn digwyddiadau lleol. Mae'r rhain yn gyfleoedd gwerthfawr i gyfalafu ar ein cynnig unigryw a hyrwyddo ein treftadaeth i gynulleidfa ehangach.

Mae'r gefnogaeth y mae'r ysgol yn ei dderbyn o'r gymuned yn amlwg a chadarn, ond efallai yn fwy o syndod yw'r gefnogaeth a gynigir gan y di-Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn arwydd clir, er gwaethaf y seisnigeiddio ymddangosiadol o Abersoch, fod yr iaith a'r diwylliant Cymraeg yn uchel eu gwerth, ac yn ddiogel yn cynrychioli'r angen i ddiogelu, cynnal a chryfhau'r asedau hyn.

Mae cymunedau ledled y byd yn llais pwysig i'w glywed. Yn ymgyrchu dros ein hysgolion, neu gyfleusterau cyhoeddus eraill, mae democratiaeth yn disgwyl chwarae teg ac ystyriaeth briodol. Mae gan aelodau etholedig y Cabinet, er nad ydynt yn lleol i Abersoch, ddyletswydd o gyfrifoldeb ar bob cymuned ledled Gwynedd. Disgwylir iddynt fod yn wrthrychol yn eu penderfyniadau, gan weithredu er budd y cyhoedd a chydag uniondeb. Rwyf yn cwestiynu, yn achos Ysgol Abersoch, a fydd gwrandawriad teg yn cael ei gynnal o ystyried lefel siomedig y drafodaeth a welwyd yng nghyfarfodydd cynharach y Cabinet, ac ar ôl cais y

Pwyllgor Craffu i ailymweld â'r penderfyniad i fwrw ymlaen â'r ymgynghoriad. Mae ymdeimlad o 'fait accompli' yn eistedd yn anesmwyth iawn ochr yn ochr â'r sylwadau goddrychol a rhagfarnllyd a gyflwynir yn y dogfennau ymgynghori, wedi'u fframio i gyflawni nod yr Adran Addysg i gau Ysgol Abersoch.

Ni fyddai'n afresymol, o ystyried y goblygiadau difrifol sydd yn y fantol yma, ddisgwyl i aelodau etholedig – a gyda thal - herio uniondeb y dogfennau hyn yn hytrach na chymeradwyo'n unfrydol gynigion a gyflwynwyd gan swyddogion y Cyngor, heb gymryd unrhyw gyfrifoldeb personol dros ddwyn y Cyngor i gyfrif.

Mae hefyd angen tynnu sylw'r Cabinet at y gwahaniaeth rhwng yr amcanestyniadau disgyblion ardal leol a gyflwynir yn y dogfennau ymgynghori sy'n ymddangos i awgrymu gostyngiad mawr mewn niferoedd disgyblion, ac amcangyfrifon Llywodraeth Cymru<sup>1</sup> a Cyngor Gwynedd<sup>2</sup> sy'n niferoedd sefydlog a chynyddol ledled Cymru a Gwynedd. Gellir cynnig bod hyn yn ganlyniad i amcanestyniadau a wnaed gan benaethiaid sydd ddim yn preswyllo yn y dalgylch, gan seilio eu rhagamcanion ar dueddiadau diweddar yn hytrach na thystiolaeth sy'n cynnig amcangyfrifon mwy dibynadwy. Er enghraifft, gwyddom am o leiaf 11 o blant yn nalgylch Ysgol Abersoch a fyddai'n gymwys i ddechrau yn ystod y 3 blynedd nesaf o gymharu â rhagamcaniad yr Adran Addysg o 7. Oni ddylai'r Cyngor ystyried newidiadau amlwg yn y boblogaeth leol a rhagamcanion ffurfiol, cyhoeddedig yn hytrach na rhagamcanion a allai fod yn ddi-sail ac yn gamarweiniol?

Yr hyn sydd wedi ein harwain fwyaf i'r sefyllfa bresennol hon yw methiant Cyngor Gwynedd i gynnal ei bolisiau cyhoeddedig ei hun o ran capasiti a dewis rhieni. Mae'r ffaith fod yr Adran Addysg wedi caniatáu i Ysgol Llanbedrog derbyn mwy nag 20% o blant dros ei gapasiti, gyda 43% o'i disgyblion o'r tu allan i'r dalgylch pan fo capasiti ar gael mewn ysgolion cyfagos yn enghraifft o hyn. Mae'r Adran Addysg, er mwyn gwasanaethu ei hangen ei hun, yn amlwg yn ddewisol ym mha un o'i pholisiau y mae'n dewis ei gweithredu ac felly mae'n uniongyrchol atebol am y sefyllfa yr ydym yn ei chael ein hunain ynddynt. Byddwn yn disgwyl, o ran budd y cyhoedd, y bydd y Cabinet yn dwyn yr Adran Addysg i gyfrif am ei methiant i ddilyn ei pholisiau ysgrifenedig ei hun.

Y fater sy'n gyrru'r ymgynghoriad yw'r gost fesul disgybl. Ac eto, mae'r ymgynghoriad yn defnyddio dadleuon ategol megis pwysigrwydd 'lles' a 'addysgu'r plant mewn dosbarthiadau o faint mwy addas' i gyflawni'r angen hwn. Maint presennol y dosbarth yn Ysgol Abersoch yw 10 o blant, ac yn Ysgol Sarn Bach maint cyfartalog y dosbarth yw 24, sydd eisoes yn fwy na datganiad Cyngor Gwynedd yn 'Strategaeth Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau'. Mae'n peri penbleth y gall Cyngor Gwynedd gyfiawnhau gwthio drwy benderfyniad a fydd yn cynyddu maint dosbarthiadau uwchlaw ei arfer gorau ei hun ar sail 'lles'. O ystyried cyd-destun y dogfennau ymgynghori, mae'n ymddangos nad yw'r Adran Addysg yn ystyried y ddarpariaeth addysg bresennol yn Ysgol Abersoch i gynhyrchu 'dinasyddion dwyieithog, llwyddiannus a chyflawn' mewn 'cymdeithas naturiol Gymraeg'.

Serch hynny, mae cyfle yma i gael 'stori newydd da'. Mae gan Abersoch, er gwell neu'n waeth, broffil uchel yng Ngwynedd. Rydym yn gymuned nad yw heb ein heriau, yn ymdrechu i gadw ein 'Cymreictod' yn fyw, mae anawsterau gyda thal a chyfleoedd cyflogaeth drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Ac eto, fel pentref, mae'n dyrnu uwchlaw ei bwysau; mae dros 50 o siopau llewyrchus, sy'n darparu cyflogaeth ac incwm i'r Cyngor. Mae'r dyfodol yn ddisglair, gyda chynlluniau ar gyfer gwesty mawr ar y gweill â chyflogaeth bellach; mae ynni o

<sup>1</sup> <https://statscymru.llyw.cymru/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd\\_council\\_annual\\_audit\\_summary\\_2020\\_welsh\\_0.pdf](https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd_council_annual_audit_summary_2020_welsh_0.pdf)

fewn ein pentref i wthio ffiniau, gwella ein cynigion a gwneud hyn mewn ffordd sy'n arddangos diwylliant Cymru.

Drwy feddwl yn synhwyrol, mae'r gost fach i gadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor yn rhoi'r gwelededd y mae'n ei haeddu i'r iaith a diwylliant Cymreig, yn hytrach na'i roi i'r don o seisnigeiddio. Mae cadw'r ysgol ar agor yn rhan hanfodol o hyn.

Rwy'n hyderus, gydag amser, y bydd mentrau'r Cylch Meithrin ac Ysgol Traeth yn cefnogi ysgol sydd yn fynnu yn ein cymuned leol. Wrth wneud hynny, mae potensial ar gyfer cynnydd enfawr wrth inni hyrwyddo ein Cymreictod.

Mae lle i roi cynnig ar rywbeth gwahanol yma. Gadewch i ni beidio â gwastraffu'r cyfle hwn i wneud rhywbeth mwy arloesol, yn hytrach na dilyn yr opsiwn hawdd gyda chanlyniadau hirhoedlog, na ellir ei wrthdroi, wrth gau'r ysgol.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

EIFIONA WOOD



February 21, 21

Modernising Education Office  
Education Department  
Gwynedd Council  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

Dear Education Department and Cabinet Members,

I write to express my strong objections to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021. The past few years have not been the easiest for our school, especially recently being without our headteacher, and I would like to thank the Education Department for its commitment and efforts in putting together arrangements to ensure we have had temporary headteachers in place.

As a past-pupil, past-parent and present governor, Ysgol Abersoch is important to me. Gwynedd Council's proposal to close this special school fills me with sadness and a sense of loss. Ysgol Abersoch provides an excellent start in life to those children blessed to attend, offers a sense of belonging and is a family, where the younger, and older, naturally learn from each other. It is not possible to put a price on what Ysgol Abersoch gives to our children.

The school is integral to the community. Under the careful leadership of our headteacher, Linda Jones, the pupils form a key role in promoting the Welsh language and culture, through initiatives such as successfully encouraging local shops to introduce bilingual signage and taking part in local events. These are perfect opportunities to capitalize on our unique offering and promote our heritage to a wider audience.

The support the school receives from the community goes without saying, but what may be more surprising is the support offered by non-Welsh speakers. This is a clear signal that despite the apparent anglicization of Abersoch, the Welsh language and culture is highly prized, and by default represents a need to protect, sustain and strengthen these assets.

Communities worldwide are an important voice to be heard. Be it campaigning for our schools, or other public facilities, democracy expects fair play and due consideration. Elected Cabinet members, whilst not local to Abersoch, have a duty of responsibility to all communities across Gwynedd. They are expected to be objective in their decision-making, acting in the public interest and with integrity. I question whether, in the case of Ysgol Abersoch, a fair hearing will take place given the disappointing level of discussion observed in earlier Cabinet meetings, and in light of the Scrutiny Committee's request to re-visit the decision to go ahead with the consultation. A sense of 'fait accompli' sits very uneasily alongside the subjective, biased representations presented in the consultation documents, framed to meet the Education Department's goal



to shut Ysgol Abersoch. It would not be unreasonable, given the serious implications at stake here, to expect that the elected - and paid - Cabinet members challenge the integrity of these documents rather than unanimously endorse proposals put forward by Council officials without taking any personal responsibility for holding the Council to account.

It would also not be amiss to bring to the Cabinet's attention the disparity between the local area pupil projections presented in the consultation documents which appear to suggest a nosediving of pupil numbers, and those of Welsh Government<sup>1</sup> and Gwynedd Council<sup>2</sup> estimates that show stable and increasing numbers across Wales and Gwynedd. It could be surmised that this is a result of projections made by headteachers who are not resident with the catchment area, basing their projections on recent trends rather than substantiated evidence offering more reliable estimates. For example, we know of at least 11 potential children in Ysgol Abersoch catchment area who would be eligible to start in the next 3 years compared to the Education Department's projected 7. Should the Council not take into account evident local population changes and formal, published projections rather than potentially unsubstantiated and misleading projections?

What has most led us into this present position though is Gwynedd Council's failure to uphold its own published policies in terms of capacity and parental preference. That the Education Department has allowed Ysgol Llanbedrog to become more than 20% oversubscribed with 43% of its pupils from out of catchment when there is capacity in neighbouring schools exemplifies this. The Education Department, to serve its own need, is clearly selective in which of its policies it chooses to implement and is thus directly accountable for the situation we find ourselves in. I would expect, in terms of public interest, that the Cabinet will hold the Education Department to account for its failure to follow its own written policies.

The elephant in the room that is driving the consultation is the cost per pupil. Yet the consultation uses supporting arguments such as the importance of 'well-being' and 'ensuring that children are educated in more suitably-sized class' to fulfill this need. The current class size at Ysgol Abersoch is 10 children, whilst at Ysgol Sarn Bach the average class size is 24, already in excess of Gwynedd Council's Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd position statement. It is puzzling that Gwynedd Council can justify pushing through a decision that will increase class sizes above its own best practice on the basis of 'well-being'. Given the context of the consultation documents it would appear that the Education Department does not consider the present education provision at Ysgol Abersoch to produce 'bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens' in a 'naturally Welsh speaking society'.

Nonetheless, there is opportunity here for a 'good news story'. Abersoch, for better or worse, has a high profile within Gwynedd. We are a community not without our challenges, striving to keep our 'Cymreictod' alive, there are difficulties with housing and year-round employment opportunities. Yet as a village it punches well above its weight; there are in excess of 50 flourishing shop floor businesses, providing employment and income to the council. The future is bright, with plans for a large hotel complex bringing further employment; there is an energy within our village to push boundaries, improve our offerings and to do this in a way that showcases Welsh culture.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>

<sup>2</sup> <https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s28389/Gwynedd%20Council%20Annual%20Audit%20Summary.pdf>

By thinking innovatively, the small cost to keep Ysgol Abersoch open give the Welsh language and culture the visibility it deserves, rather than giving it to the wave of anglicization and second-home owners. Keeping the school open is an essential part of this.

I am confident that the Cylch Meithrin and Beach School initiatives will, given time, support a thriving school in our local community. In doing so, there is potential for enormous gain as we champion our Welshness.

There is scope to try something different here. Let's not waste this opportunity to do something more imaginative, rather than the follow the easy, but irreversible option with long-lasting consequences, in closing the school.

Yours sincerely,

EIFIONA WOOD

**76**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

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**76**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published



## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad:

Enw:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant  
 Staff  
 Llywodraethwr  
 Disgybl  
 Arall (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu  
 Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

**Anfonwch eich ymateb at:**  
 Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
 Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Dyddiad cau:** 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021, yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013

### Sylwadau:

Cymdeithas o rhai sydd dros 50 oed ydi Bore Paned Abersoch a'r Cylch, yn cyfarfod yn Fisol yn y Neuadd Abersoch (heblaw am cyfnod y covid) mae rhai o'r aelodau dros ei 90 au a tua 35 yn mynychu yn rheolaidd iawn,

Rydym fel Cymdeithas yn ddyledus iawn ac yn ffrindia agos a Ysgol Abersoch sydd yn hwylus drws nesa, ac yn ein cyfarfod mis Mawrth rydym yn cael dathlu Gwyl Dewi yn gwbl Gymreig gyda'r Ysgol, a'r Plant yn cael sgwrsio gyda'r aelodau wedyn, hefyd ym mis Rhagfyr rydym yn medru dathlu y Nadolig gyda'r Ysgol, ac erbyn hyn wedi dod i adnabod y disgyblion, ac rydym yn gwerthfawrogi yn fawr iawn cyswllt y Pennaeth ag eraill, ac mae y ddau gyfarfod yna erbyn hyn yn un mae'r aelodau i gyd yn edrych ymlaen atynt ac yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r Ysgol am y cyswllt Cymunedol sydd yn hwb i'r Gymdeithas,

Mi fuasa cau Ysgol Abersoch sydd yn rhan allweddol o Gymdeithas yn ergyd drom i ni, oherwydd does gan yr un Ysgol arall gyswllt a Abersoch fel Pentre, a chael eraill i fynychu yn rheolaidd yn amhosib, oherwydd y gost o deithio ag ati.

Er mai cymdeithas dwyieithog ydym, mae dylanwad yr Iaith Gymraeg a'r y ddau achlysur yma yn allweddol a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Iaith Gymraeg yn fyw, ac ein bod yn cydnabod y rhan mae'r Ysgol yma yn ein wneud yn y Gymdeithas sydd ohonni.

Gobeithio y byddwch yn ail edrych a'r eich argymhellion eto,  
A dyma ydi sylwadau ni fel Cymdeithas Bore Paned 50 Abersoch a'r Cylch sydd eisiau gweld bod yna warchoiaeth i'r Ysgol fywiog yma yn Abersoch sydd yn sicr yn allweddol i'r Gymuned yma. Diolch.

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Jessica Dunning <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 21 Chwefror 2021 18:43  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Please don't close the school. The village needs the jobs and the local community. You're killing our village without it. You may as well brand Abersoch a resort without its heart.

Regards,  
Jessica Dunning  
Ysgol Abersoch pupil 1992-1994

--  
Many thanks,  
Jessica Dunning

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council  
[Marcio fel sbam / Mark it as spam](#)  
[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 08:35  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Please find my email with my name and address that was missing from my previous email. Thank you.

Good Morning Sir/ Madam

With regards to Ysgol Abersoch currently being under a statutory consultation process for potential closure i wish to forward my comments to be supportive against this decision.

The past year has been a challenge for us all and is continuing to be for the foreseeable future. Most of us have never experienced the detriment of the Coronavirus pandemic in our lifetime and probably won't again.

The virus lockdowns we have all had to manage, has meant village/ community life has become more than ever important, looking out for one and other, being kind, helping when help has been needed, keeping peoples spirits up in dark times. For all of us perhaps we have learnt, we should not take things for granted and the people around us where we live are the most important in to bringing communities together.

Ysgol Abersoch is the HEART of the Abersoch village and has such importance.

This is the start for all the children, of past generations and most important future generations take, learning them many life skills which is at such an important time of life! The school has great passion in teaching them the core attributes of life with the education it provides, together with the activities it organises that many other children from other schools join and benefit from.

The consideration to close the school will mean Parents are unable to walk their children to school, they will have to rely on personal or private transport that has damaging effects on us all and the environment, and that is if they are fortunate to be able to afford this commute, meaning the children now and the coming years will suffer together with their parents.

Only recently, Gwynedd Council has decided to push forward in increasing the council tax for second home owners or long term empty properties to 200%. This I understand the council hopes will deter the affordable housing being purchased by more wealthy families, leaving the local people in the community to be able to get on the property ladder and move as their families grow, staying in the community for generations as it always has been.

Abersoch is village that has grown with day trippers and holiday makers and second home owners for many many years and will continue to do so, but to rip the HEART out of Abersoch to save a little money when the area will increase its income through the council tax increase alone just doesn't add up to the council's innovative approach for future growth in the community and education needs, with having no school in the village.

You may ask why should i take the time to challenge such consultation process, I have been fortunate to grow up with Abersoch being part of me since the 70's, Thank you to my late Aunt who I lost to cancer. We holiday'd many times a year in Abersoch in the wonderful village it is, the school has always thrived with activity and the benefits to the children and parents is huge, and is such important stepping stone in life. It is very hard to explain, and unless you experience it for yourself you will never understand fully how Abersoch becomes part of you!

Even though i don't reside nearby, i feel such affected by the proposed changes, and strongly object to its closure.

I own a small family business with my wife i am in discussion with Ysgol Abersoch to support/ sponsor in fundraising and events and be it our contribution is only small, together with the businesses that are in Abersoch that currently strive to support the school where they can, that just shows how much Ysgol Abersoch means to the Village.

I appreciate that with everything we undertake in life, both personal and business there are always for and against.

However if 2020/2021 so far has honestly taught us anything.

You cannot put a cost on Life, Well-Being, A Village Community, Strong Spirit and A Close & Supportive Bond and all this starts with our children and Their School - Ysgol Abersoch- which is so vital for our generation and future generations.

This school is the lifeline for so many including the teaching jobs and needs to continue to be so.

I accept the vast responsibilities the council has and the legal duties to promote high educational standards locally.

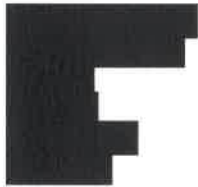
So I ask Gwynedd Council to do the right thing. Continue with supporting and growing Ysgol Abersoch, and together with the support of businesses, family and friends and the community to ensure this school continues to be the beating Heart of the village of Abersoch and not be another horrific loss.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Be Kind Stay Well Stay Safe

Yours

Stuart Holyman



--

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Sul, 21 Chwefror 2021 22:08  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Gyfeillion

Ysgrifenaaf atoch i ddatgan fy nghefnogaeth i gadw Ysgol Abersoch yn agored. Rwyf yn enedigol o Abersoch, ac mae'r Ysgol wedi bod yno hyd fy oes (dros 60 mlynedd!). Buasai yn golled mawr ir pentref i golli yr Ysgol. Mae'r pentref yn saesnigo yn fwyfwy y dyddia yma, a mae'r Ysgol yn rhoi cyfle ir plant ddysgu Cymraeg yn ifanc.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

[REDACTED]

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**81**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**81**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 10:12  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch  
  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Some things aren't just about the money!!! Please bear this in mind when deciding the future of Ysgol Abersoch.....

Best rgds [REDACTED]

--


Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Kay Brennan < >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 11:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern,

Modernising education should not be all about money, should it ?? The systematic closing of our village schools is ripping out the very hearts of these precious places.

So here is your unique opportunity to break this destructive cycle and do the right thing, by handing over a stay of execution on our precious Ysgol Abersoch.

Built and gifted to the village by a wonderful family over 100 years ago. I spoke to one of the early attendees of the school, she attended 95 years ago and was one of only 8 children at the time.

Our head teacher along with her colleagues and helpers, are instrumental in encouraging the very survival of the welsh language being spoken. Herself along with the children are often to be found walking around the village entering shops with hand written and painted posters to be hung in shop windows with either competitions or easy welsh words to encourage shopkeepers and visitors to converse in welsh.


The forward thinking head mistress has also recently begun a Cylch meithrin to encourage younger children to begin their education journey at Ysgol Abersoch.

It is sadly no secret that the next nearest school in Llanbedrog is dangerously oversubscribed with now more than 102 pupils.

Ysgol Abersoch with its unique situation in this beautiful seaside village should also be put forward as one of the first 'Beach Schools'

I urge you, please do not close this beautiful, significantly important, much loved 'little school' which nurtured its small people on entry and releases them into this world, as kind, thoughtful, mannerly individuals who care about the environment around them. Please, do the right thing, I promise you will feel so much better, knowing that you have also saved a village together with its gorgeous community.

Thank you

Kay Brennan  


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--  
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**84**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**84**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**Eich Manylion:**

Dyddiad: 21.02.2021

Enw: [REDACTED]

Cyfeiriad e-bost: [REDACTED]

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant
- Staff
- Llywodraethwr
- Disgybl
- Arall (nodwch)

Cyfaill yr ysgol

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu
- Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion [REDACTED] diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol
- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol
- Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

**Anfonwch eich ymateb at:**  
Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
[neuModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:neuModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Dyddiad cau:** 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

### Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021, yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013

**Sylwadau:**

**Gweler fy llythyr sy' wedi'i atodi.**

Moderneiddio Addysg

Adran Addysg

Cyngor Gwynedd

Caernarfon

LL55 1SH

20/02/2021

Annwyl Foderneiddio Addysg,

**Ymgynghoriad Statudol Ysgol Abersoch**

Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn unigryw ac yn galon i bentref Abersoch. Rhoddwyd pob math o ddadleuon gerbron gan y ddwy ochor o blaid ac yn erbyn cau yr ysgol ers i'r broses ymgynghori i'w chau ddechrau.

Nid oes angen profi mor ganolog yw'r ysgol fechan hon i'r pentref – mae gymaint o dystiolaeth eisoes wedi'i chyflwyno am hyn, fel y gallaf innau fel cyn-ddisgybl sydd wedi cefnogi'r ysgol drwy'r blynyddoedd dystio.

Nid oes cwestiwn am safon yr addysg a ddarperir. Mae addysgu plant mewn ysgol fechan yn gostus ond mae cost ei chau ac effaith hynny yn llawer mwy pellgyrhaeddol. Mae'r ysgol yn rhan greiddiol o ddyfodol pentref Abersoch – lle mae diwylliant, yr iaith Gymraeg, ffyniant economaidd, 'hawl i fyw adra', tai fforddiadwy ac addysg i gyd yn cydblethu – gwerthoedd sy'n ganolog i Gyngor Gwynedd fe gredaf. Onid dyletswydd Cyngor Gwynedd yw edrych ar y darlun cyflawn ac ar ffyniant y pentref cyfan yn hytrach nag ystyried dyfodol yr ysgol allan o gyd-destun ac ar ei phen ei hun? Pe gwneir hyn byddai cyfle i gynnig rhywbeth arloesol, unigryw a gwahanol yn Abersoch.

Anodd credu fod pob opsiwn posib dros gadw'r ysgol ar agor wedi'i diystyru a'u gwrthod – dewisiadau cadarn megis ffederaleiddio, sefydlu ysgol draeth, addysgu'r plant nes eu bônt yn 9 oed cyn trosglwyddo.

Gwych fyddai gweld Cyngor Gwynedd yn gwneud safiad, yn arwain y ffordd ac yn dangos blaengarwch. Erfyniaf arnoch ail-ddechrau â dalen lân ond y tro yma ystyried rhesymau cadarnhaol dros gadw'r ysgol ar agor yn hytrach na phwysleisio'r rhesymau dros ei chau. Mae'n eithriadol bwysig credu a buddsoddi yn nyfodol yr ysgol amhrisiadwy hon a thrwy hynny ym mhentref Abersoch.

Yn gywir,

[Redacted signature]



(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Erin haf Parry-hughes <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 13:24  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen



Annwyl Syr/Madam

Ysgrifennwn atoch fel dwy gyn ddisgybl Ysgol Abersoch. Rydym yn drist iawn i glywed bod yna fwriad i gau ein hysgol leol.

Cawsom amser hapus iawn yno gyda'n hathrawon caredig Mrs Lorina Hughes a Mrs Rhian Williams. Yn yr haf cynhelid mabolgampau yn y cae a gwahoddwyd y rhieni i'n gwyllo. Cawsom lawer tro i lan y mor ac yn y gwanwyn aethom gyda'r Urdd oedd yn cyfarfod yn yr ysgol i Gastellmarch i weld yr wyna. Gan fod maes parcio'r neuadd drws nesa i'r ysgol cawsom weld yr arddangosfa hen geir -diddorol.

Wrth gwrs yn y neuadd y cynhelid ein cyngerdd nadolig.

Wrth gwrs arwahan i'r gwersi arferol, y canu, y crefftau ac ati, deuai y parchedigion Andrew Jones ac Olwen Williams i roi stori o'r beibl yn y boreau.

Biti mawr fuasai cau ysgol mor dda.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Fflur ac Erin Parry

--  
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Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

22/02/21

Annwyl Moderneiddio Addysg,

Rwy'n Llywodraethwr, yn gyn-ddisgybl ac yn rhiant, ac rwy'n gwrthwynebu'n bersonol yn y modd cryfaf i'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch.

Ysgrifennaf hefyd fel ymgyrchydd, a wrthdystiodd yn erbyn y cynlluniau ad-drefnu ysgolion a gynigiwyd dros ddegawd yn ôl, pan oedd fy mhiant fy hun yn ddisgyblion yn Ysgol Abersoch. Rwy'n mawr obeithio, ar yr achlysur hwn, y gellir dod o hyd i ffordd gadarnhaol ymlaen i sicrhau dyfodol yr ysgol bentref fach annwyl hon, sy'n chwarae rhan mor bwysig yn ein cymuned.

Fodd bynnag, wrth wyllo'r gwe ddarllediad y cyfarfod cychwynnol y Cabinet, lle ceisiwyd caniatâd i gynnal Ymgynghoriad Statudol ar y cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch, cefais sioc o weld nad oedd bron dim ymrwymiad gan aelodau'r Cabinet ar y mater pwysig hwn, cyn i'r pleidleisiau gael eu castio. Roeddwn wedi disgwyl yn naif gweld rhywfaint o drafodaeth neu ddadl yn digwydd. Yn anffodus, cadarnhawyd fy amheuan wrth weld y diffyg diddordeb hwn bod y penderfyniad i fwrw ymlaen â'r Ymgynghoriad eisoes wedi'i wneud, ymhell cyn i aelodau'r Cabinet ddod i mewn i'r cyfarfod, ac ar ben hynny, bod yr holl broses wedi bod yn ymarfer ticio blwch o'r dechrau, gyda'r cyngor yn mynd trwy'r cynigion i roi'r argraff o ymgynghori ystyrlon.

Rwy'n dal i fod yn argyhoeddedig am reswm da pam nad oedd un opsiwn a awgrymwyd gan y rhanddeiliaid yn haeddu cael ei gynnwys yn y tri opsiwn olaf. Felly, gobeithio eich bod yn deall pam ei bod yn anodd cael gwared â'r teimlad, er gwaethaf y broses adolygu anffurfiol, mai'r cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch fu'r unig eitem ar yr agenda o'r dechrau. Mae'r penderfyniad a'r brys i gyflawni'r nod hwn wedi cael ei baratoi i anwybyddu'r cyfyngiadau digynsail ar gymdeithas pandemig, gan fwrw ymlaen â phroses sydd, er ei bod yn cael ei chaniatáu'n gyfreithiol, yn cael ei hystyried gan lawer yn foesol anghywir.

Rwyf yn ei chael hi'n anodd i ddod o hyd i unrhyw beth yn y dogfennau sy'n taflu goleuni ar lwyddiant neu gyflawniadau'r ysgol, ac nid oes unrhyw gyfeiriad at amgylchiadau ac effaith anghyffredin Covid 19, heb sôn am oblygiadau tymor hir Coronavirus a ddylai, yn sicr, gael ei adlewyrchu yn y strategaeth a chynllunio adnoddau o hyn ymlaen?

Mae'r modd diystyriol y mae potensial y Cylch Ti a Fi a Cylch Meithrin newydd wedi eu trin yn destun pryder mawr. Mae hyn yn fy arwain i gwestiynu didwylledd bwriad y Cyngor, a fynegwyd yng nghyfarfod rhanddeiliaid cyntaf yr adolygiad anffurfiol, i gefnogi a helpu'r ysgol i ddod o hyd i ffyrdd o gynyddu nifer y disgyblion i lefel fwy cynaliadwy. Mae ein gweithredoedd a'n hawgrymiadau cadarnhaol mewn ymateb i hyn, gan gynnwys y mentrau a gefnogir gan Mudiad Meithrin, ynghyd â chysyniad Ysgol y Traeth, ac ychwanegu blwyddyn ysgol ychwanegol, i gyd yn opsiynau sydd â siawns go iawn o gael effaith gadarnhaol ar gynaliadwyedd tymor hir Ysgol Abersoch, a minnau, ynghyd â llawer o rai eraill, yn credu y dylid rhoi cyfle teg iddynt ffynnu.

Rwy'n ystyried bod llawer o gynnwys y dogfennau ymgynghori yn cael ei gyflwyno mewn modd camarweiniol ac annheg. Er enghraifft, mae'r ystod oedran yn Ysgol Abersoch dair blynedd yn llai nag ystod oedran yr ysgolion cyfagos, y mae'n cael ei chymharu'n gyson â hi ar draws ystod o ddata, sy'n golygu nad yw llawer o'r wybodaeth a gyflwynir yn cymharu tebyg â thebyg, gan ei rhoi ar y gorau yn ddryslyd iawn, ac ar y gwaethaf bron yn ddiystyr. Sylwaf fod data ar ddefnydd y Gymraeg a gyflwynir yn y dogfennau drafft, wedi cael eu ddiystyru o blaid set wahanol o ddata sy'n fwy ffafriol i'r naratif gwrth Ysgol Abersoch, a thrwy hynny ychwanegu cryfder at y ddatl sy'n ceisio cyfiawnhau'r cynnig i gau'r ysgol.

Rwyf wedi bod yn siomedig iawn o weld natur arwynebol yr Asesiadau Effaith Cymunedol ac Iaith yn benodol, sy'n ymddangos yn barod heb unrhyw fewnbwn cymunedol go iawn. Yn syml, nid wyf yn derbyn y canlyniad na fydd unrhyw effaith ar y Gymraeg yn Abersoch pe bai'r ysgol yn cau. Mae'r tablau yn yr asesiadau hyn yn parhau i gynnwys gwybodaeth ffug, er enghraifft nid oes eglwys na chapel yn Sarn Bach. Fel cyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Sarn Bach, cefais fy synnu o ddarganfod bod yr ysgol, yn ôl map yn yr adroddiad, wedi symud i gaeau Fferm Ty Newydd. Mae gwallau mewn ffeithiau a gwybodaeth mor sylfaenol yn parhau i danseilio fy hyder ym meysydd mwy cymhleth yr adroddiad.

Mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at sefyllfa bryderus iawn yn Ysgol Llanbedrog, lle gwelwn niferoedd y disgyblion ymhell dros gapasiti'r ysgol, gan arwain at sefyllfa lle nad yw plant o'r pentref hwnnw'n gallu mynychu eu hysgol bentref eu hunain. Mae hyn hefyd yn effeithio ar ysgolion cyfagos fel Ysgol Abersoch lle mae capasiti, ac mae'n ymddangos yn eithaf rhyfeddol i mi fod y sefyllfa hon wedi cael parhau i gael ei gwirio. Mae'r Adran Addysg yn rhoi pwyslais mawr ar ddata lleoedd dros ben a chapasiti ysgol, yr wyf yn deall sy'n cael ei gyfrifo gan ddefnyddio fformiwla. Ymddengys bod hyn wedi cael ei ddiystyru'n llwyr yn achos Ysgol Llanbedrog, a byddwn yn awgrymu y gallai hyn arwain at effaith ar ganlyniadau dysgu disgyblion, heb sôn am faterion ieuchyd a diogelwch posib gorlenwi? Os nad yw data gallu yn cael ei ystyried yn arbennig o bwysig mewn gwirionedd, yna pam y dylid ei ddefnyddio fel ffactor wrth adeiladu'r achos i gau ysgol?

Derbynnir bod ysgolion gwledig yn ôl eu natur bron bob amser yn ysgolion bach, ond nid yw eu maint yn arwydd o'u pwysigrwydd i'w cymuned. Yn ei 'Study of Economics as if People Mattered', ysgrifennodd E F Schumacher 'Small is Beautiful', ac mae'n ymddangos yn amser priodol i ychwanegu 'and Safer' nawr, ar ôl y gwersi a ddysgwyd o'r pandemig. Nid oes

unrhyw adran ar fantolen i roi gwerthoedd lles cymuned neu ddiwylliant, oherwydd yn syml, nid yw'n bosibl cloriannu pwysigrwydd ehangach ysgol mewn termau ariannol yn unig. Nid oes unman yn fwy amlwg nag yn achos Abersoch, cymuned sy'n drech nag ail gartrefi, lle mai'r ysgol fwy neu lai yw'r unig symbol sy'n weddill o iaith, diwylliant a threftadaeth Gymraeg yn y pentref.

Mae Ysgol Abersoch mewn sefyllfa dda yng nghanol y pentref, gan alluogi mynediad hawdd i gynifer o adnoddau naturiol heb faich costau cludo gwaharddol, ac mae'r disgyblion hyd yn oed yn defnyddio opsiwn economaidd ac amgylcheddol gyfeillgar y gwasanaeth bws cyhoeddus i fynychu gwersi nofio wythnosol yn Pwllheli. Mae cynaliadwyedd cymunedau gwledig ym mhobman yn cael eu bygwth gan gostau cynnal adnoddau pwysig fel capeli, llyfrgelloedd a neuaddau pentref. Mae ein pentref yn hynod ffodus bod Neuadd Abersoch yn cael ei ariannu'n dda iawn gan refeniw o'i faes parcio, ac mae'n fraint i'r ysgol gyfagos fwynhau'r defnydd am ddim o gyfleusterau rhagorol y neuadd. Mae gan y neuadd ddigon o le ar gyfer gweithgareddau dan do, gan gynnwys llwyfan gwych, sy'n cynnig cyfle gwych i'r disgyblion arddangos eu sgiliau perfformio mewn dathliadau amrywiol trwy gydol y flwyddyn, ond yn enwedig yn y Cyngerdd Nadolig, lle gwahoddir y gymuned gyfan iddo. Mae caeau chwarae'r pentref, dim ond taith gerdded fer i ffwrdd hefyd ar gael am ddim i'r ysgol, lle cynhaliwyd diwrnodau chwaraeon yno yn y gorffennol.

Mae Ysgol Abersoch hefyd yn gweithredu fel pont werthfawr, gan groesawu ac integreiddio teuluoedd sydd newydd gyrraedd yng nghanol ein cymuned amrywiol, gan annog a hyrwyddo lles dwyieithrwydd a dathlu diwylliant Cymru.

Byddai cau Ysgol Abersoch yn torri parhad cymuned a chysylltiadau cenedlaethau o deuluoedd a addysgir yn yr ysgol bentref hon, y mae'n anrhydedd i rai o'u disgynyddion wasanaethu ar fwrdd presennol y llywodraethwyr. Rydym wedi ein hymrwymo gan ymdeimlad cyffredin o dreftadaeth ac yn perthyn i'r lle arbennig hwn, ac mae ein hargyhoeddiad cryf fod Abersoch yn haeddu ysgol, ynghyd â phenderfyniad i beidio â cholli'r Gymraeg fel iaith fyw yng nghanol y pentref.

Mae cau ysgol yn fater difrifol a byddwn yn disgwyl cwestiynau difrifol, a thrafodaeth heriol dros fanylion y dogfennau ymgynghori, ynghyd ag ystyriaeth deg o'r materion a godwyd gan randdeiliaid a dderbyniwyd yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori, cyn i unrhyw benderfyniad gael ei wneud.

Rwy'n mawr obeithio y bydd y rhai sydd mewn swyddi grym yn bachu ar y cyfle i ddangos eu cefnogaeth frwd i'r Gymraeg a gwerth cymuned trwy ddod o hyd i ffordd i gadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor er budd y cenedlaethau o blant i ddod.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Margot Jones



Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

22/02/21

Dear Moderneiddio Addysg,

I am a Governor, former pupil and parent, and I object personally in the strongest terms to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

I also write as a campaigner, who protested against the school reorganisation plans that were proposed over a decade ago, when my own children were pupils at Ysgol Abersoch, and I sincerely hope that on this occasion, a positive way forward can be found to secure the future of this dearly loved small village school that plays such an important role in our community.

However, on watching the recording of the initial Cabinet meeting, in which permission was sought to hold a Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch, I was shocked to see almost no engagement from Cabinet members on this important issue, prior to the votes being cast. I had naively expected to see some discussion or debate take place. Unfortunately, witnessing this lack of interest confirmed my suspicions that the decision to go forward with the Consultation had already been made, well before the Cabinet members entered the meeting, and furthermore, that the whole process has been a tick box exercise from the beginning, with the council just going through the motions to give the impression of meaningful consultation.

I remain to be convinced of a good reason why not a single option suggested by the stakeholders merited inclusion in the final three options. Therefore, I hope you understand why it is hard to shake the feeling that, despite the informal review process, the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch has actually been the only item on the agenda from the start. The determination and urgency to achieve this aim has been prepared to ignore the unprecedented restrictions on society of a pandemic, forging ahead with a process which, although legally allowed, is considered by many to be morally wrong.

I am hard pressed to find anything in the documents that shines a light on the success or achievements of the school, nor is there any reference to the extraordinary circumstances and impact of Covid 19, let alone the long-term implications of Coronavirus which should surely be reflected in strategy and planning of resources from now on?

The dismissive manner in which the potential of the newly established Cylch Ti a Fi and Cylch Meithrin has been treated, is a cause of great concern. This leads me to question the sincerity of the Council's intention, expressed in the first stakeholder meeting of the informal review, to support and help the school to find ways to increase pupil numbers to a more sustainable level. Our positive actions and suggestions in response to this, including the Mudiad Meithrin supported initiatives, along with the Beach School concept, and the addition of an extra school year, are all options that have a real chance of positively impacting the long term sustainability of Ysgol Abersoch, and I, along with many others, believe they should be given a fair chance to flourish.

I consider much of the content of the consultation documents to be presented in a misleading and unfair manner. For example, the age range at Ysgol Abersoch is three years less than the age range of the neighbouring schools, with whom it is constantly compared across a range of data, meaning a lot of the information presented is not comparing like with like, rendering it at best very confusing, and at worst almost meaningless. I notice that some of the data on the use of the Welsh language presented in the draft documents, has been disregarded in favour of a different set of data that more favourably suits the anti Ysgol Abersoch narrative, thereby adding strength to the argument which tries to justify the proposal to close the school.

I have been very disappointed to see the superficial nature of the Community and Language Impact Assessments in particular, which appear to be prepared without any actual community input. I simply do not accept the finding that there will be no impact on the Welsh language in Abersoch if the school were to close. The tables in these assessments continue to contain false information, for example there is no church or chapel in Sarn Bach. As a former pupil of Ysgol Sarn Bach, I was very surprised to discover that, according to a map in the report, the school has moved into the fields of Fferm Ty Newydd. Inaccuracies in such basic facts and information continue to undermine my confidence in the more complex areas of the report.

The report highlights a very worrying situation in Ysgol Llanbedrog, where we see pupil numbers well over school capacity, leading to a situation where children from that village are not able to attend their own village school. This also impacts neighbouring schools such as Ysgol Abersoch where there is capacity, and it seems quite extraordinary to me that this situation has been allowed to continue unchecked. The Education Department places great emphasis on data of surplus places and a school's capacity, which I understand is calculated using a formula. This appears to have been completely disregarded in the case of Ysgol Llanbedrog, and I would suggest this could lead to an impact upon pupil learning outcomes, not to mention possible health and safety issues of over-crowding? If in fact capacity data is not considered particularly important, then why should it be used as a factor in building the case to close a school?

It is accepted that rural schools by their nature are almost always small schools, but their size is not an indication of their importance to their community. In his 'Study of Economics as if People Mattered', E F Schumacher wrote 'Small is Beautiful', and it seems an appropriate

time to now add '*and Safer*', after the lessons learned from the pandemic. There is no section in a balance sheet in which to put the values of wellbeing of a community or culture, because it is simply not possible to quantify the wider importance of a school in purely financial terms. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the case of Abersoch, a community which is overrun with second homes, where the school is virtually the only remaining symbol of Welsh language, culture and heritage in the village.

Ysgol Abersoch is well placed in the centre of the village, enabling easy access to so many natural resources without the burden of prohibitive transport costs, and the pupils even use the economic and environmentally friendly option of the public service bus to attend weekly swimming lessons in Pwllheli. The sustainability of rural communities everywhere is threatened by the costs of maintaining important resources such as chapels, libraries and village halls. Our village is extremely fortunate that Neuadd Abersoch is very well funded by revenue from its car park, and the adjacent school is privileged to enjoy the free use of the hall's excellent facilities. The hall has plenty of room for indoor activities, including a marvelous stage, which offers the pupils a wonderful opportunity to showcase their performance skills in various celebrations throughout the year, but especially at the Christmas Concert, to which the whole community is invited. The village playing fields, just a short walk away are also freely available to the school, which has hosted sports days there in the past.

Ysgol Abersoch also acts as a valuable bridge, welcoming and integrating newly arrived families into the heart of our diverse community, encouraging and promoting the benefits of bilingualism and celebrating Welsh culture.

The closure of Ysgol Abersoch would sever the continuity of community and connections of generations of families educated at this village school, some of whose descendants are honoured to serve on the present board of governors. We are bound by a shared sense of heritage and belonging to this special place, and our strongly held conviction that Abersoch deserves a school, along with a determination not to lose Welsh as a living language in the centre of the village.

Closing a school is a serious matter and I would expect serious questions, and challenging debate over the detail of the consultation documents, along with fair consideration of the matters raised by stakeholders received during the consultation period, before any decision is made.

I fervently hope that those in positions of power will seize the opportunity to show their wholehearted support for the Welsh language and the value of community by finding a way to keep Ysgol Abersoch open for the benefit of the generations of children to come.

Yours sincerely

Margot Jones



## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad:

Enw:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

Rhiant

Staff




Llywodraethwr

Disgybl

**Arall** (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

**Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu**

Na, nid  wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol

**Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol**

Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb



## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn

Bach o 1 Medi 2021 yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safon a Threfnidaeth Ysgolion 2013

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Ddoger Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran  
Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

### Anfonwch eich ymateb at:

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,

Caernarfon

LL55 1SH

neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Sylwadau:**  
Dyddiad i'w rhoi: 19:00 ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid  
gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd  
statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

# CAPEL YR ANNIBYNWYR ABER-SOCH



Chwefror 22ain, 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd,  
CAERNARFON,  
Gwynedd.  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Moderneiddio Addysg,

## **YMGYNGHORIAD STATUDOL CAU YSGOL ABER-SOCH**

Ysgrifennaf atoch, ar ran Swyddogion ac Aelodau'r Capel, i fynegi ein pryder am y posibilrwydd o gau Ysgol Aber-soch.

Mae'n ysgol brysur, hapus, llawn bywyd sy'n darparu dechrau ardderchog i fywyd ei disgyblion ac mae'n cael, a mwynhau, llwyr gefnogaeth cymuned y pentref. Hyfryd yw cael gweld y plant yn cymryd rhan yn y gwasanaethau – yn y ddau gapel – megis y Nadolig a'r Pasg dros y blynyddoedd. Ni fuasai hyn yn digwydd o symud y plant i Sarn Bach. Byddai'r pentref yn colli'r gweithgareddau, sy'n gwneud cyfraniad mor sylweddol at gadw'r Gymraeg yn fyw ym mhentref Aber-soch.

O gau'r ysgol, dieithrir y plant o'u pentref – yma mae eu lle nhw, yn eu pentref eu hunain ble mae pawb yn adnabod ei gilydd. Dysga a gwerthfawroga plant ysbryd cymunedol gwell mewn ysgol leol ac erys hyn â hwy weddill eu hoes.

Lleihau mae cynulleidfaoedd capeli oherwydd oedran yr aelodau ac, yn sicr, gan nad oes tai fforddiadwy ar gyfer teuluoedd ifainc, cau bydd eu hanes hwythau hefyd. O gau'r ysgol, nid oes gobaith denu aelodau newydd, gan mai tai haf yw'r mwyafrif o dai yn Aber-soch erbyn hyn.

Erfynnir arnoch ailystyried eich penderfyniad o gau Ysgol Aber-soch ar fyrder. O wneud hynny, gobeithir y bydd yn parhau cynnal y gwerthoedd sy'n cydfynd â'r addysg sy'n

greiddiol i flynyddoedd cynnar plant mewn ysgol fach wrth osod seiliau iaith, moeseg a chyfathrebu cymdeithasol a hynny mewn awyrgylch glos, deuluol.

Yn gywir,

[REDACTED]

ar ran y Swyddogion a'r Aelodau

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Dylan Llwyd < >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 15:15  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ymateb i Adroddiad Ymgynghorol Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I sylw Mr Garem Jackson,

Rwyf yn rhiant i ddau o fechgyn (8 oed a 6 oed) sydd wedi symud ym Medi 2020 i Ysgol Sarn Bach o Ysgol Foel Gron, lle'r roeddwn hefyd yn Llywodraethwr ar ran y Cyngor Cymuned.

Mae fy mab hynaf yn blentyn gydag anghenion arbennig; yn Foel Gron fo oedd yr unig fachgen yn ei flwyddyn, a'i frawd oedd ei ffrind pennaf o'r herwydd. Fe benderfynom symud y plant i ysgol gyda gwell trawsdoriad o ran rhyw - penderfyniad anodd gan fod amharu ar yrfa ysgol yn enwedig i blentyn sydd yn cael addysg yn anodd, yn peri pryder.

Roedd fy mhlant hefyd yn mynychu Ysgol Abersoch i fynd i glwb yr Urdd a'r Clwb Crefft, lle roeddent yn mwynhau yn fawr. Oni bai mai dim ond blwyddyn fyddai gan yr hynaf cyn symud i fyny i Sarn Bach - a phoeni am symud plentyn ddwywaith mewn dwy flynedd - yna symud i Ysgol Abersoch yn bendant fyddai ein dewis cyntaf wedi bod. Petai 'opsiwn 9' - a gynigwyd yn y cyfarfod lleol - ar gael, yn Ysgol Abersoch fyddai fy mhlant heddiw.

Fel person lleol sydd wedi byw'r rhan fwyaf o'm bywyd ym mhlwyf Llanengan ac yn gyn-gynghorydd cymunedol ar ward Abersoch, rwyf yn teimlo yn gryf na ddylid cau'r ysgol.

Yn wir fy nghred yw mai gwir fwriad y cyngor yw cau cymaint o ysgolion bach â phosib, i gael rheoli llai o ysgolion mwy. Mae'r polisi wedi bod yn cropian ers degawd a mwy. Canlyniad y bwriad hwn yw'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch. Torri ar ariannu yw'r nod. Y drafferth efo torri yw'r difrod o dorri gormod. A'r dioddefwyr fydd trigolion cymuned Abersoch.

Mae'r gymuned Gymreig yn Abersoch er yn fach erbyn heddiw, yn un gref. Mae'r Ysgol yn rhan bwysig o hyn, a brofir gyda gwobr aur y Siarter Iaith. Mae polisiâu Gwynedd wedi caniatáu i Abersoch fod yn bentref gwyliau (ail gartrefi) mwyaf proffidiol y Sir o ran trethi, a bwriedir cynnydd pellach. Yn ôl ystadegau'r cyngor mae Plwyf Llanengan yn cyfrannu dros 4% o'r dreth a gesglir yng Ngwynedd, dros £3,000,000. Ar ôl tynnu 'presept' y Cyngor Cymuned a chyfraniad yr Heddlu, mae hyn yn gadael dros £2.3 miliwn. Oni ddyliai canran cyfrannol o'r dreth hon fynd i gefnogi cnewyllyn Cymreig y pentref ac adnodd pwysig i drigolion llai breintiedig y ward?

Sylwadau pellach.

Wrth ddarllen pecyn cefndir yr Ymgynghoriad, cefais fy synnu gan **niferoedd** Ysgol Llanbedrog (Appendix 4). Caniatéir iddi drwy ryw ddirgel ffordd, i gymeryd pedwar ar bymtheg o blant yn fwy na'r capasiti! Pedwar ar bymtheg a ddylai fod wedi ei rhannu rhwng ysgolion cyfagos! Dim ond Yr Adran Addysg allai fod wedi rhoi'r caniatád i hyn. Sut bod hyn yn bosib? Sut y caniatáwyd hyn?

O ran **'rhagamcanion** o ddisgyblion' (ffigwr 5.2) a'r dyfyniad oddi tano: "T'r gwrthwyneb, mae niferoedd Ysgol Llanbedrog wedi cynyddu 15% yn yr un cyfnod" - yr un 15% ag mae'r ysgol dros ei chpasiti!

Ni wn sut yr amcangyfrifir y rhagamcanion hyn ond rwy'n mawr obeithio nad ydych yn ceisio cau ysgol ar amcangyfrifiad o lai na 10 plentyn. Rwyf ar ddeall bod nifer o blant o dan oed ysgol yn y cylch - un ar ddeg yn ôl bob sôn. Pe na byddai Ysgol Llanbedrog wedi cael 'caniatád' i fynd dros gapasiti, yna mae'n debyg na fyddai Ysgol Abersoch mewn sefyllfa i chi fod yn dadlau dros ei chau.

Ar y pwynt o **'niferoedd'**: rwy'n siŵr nad all Ysgol Foel Gron gynnal 61 o blant, nag Ysgol Abersoch gynnal 42. O adnabod y ddwy ysgol, mae'r ddau ffigwr yna yn swnio'n llawer rhy uchel. A allwch gadarnhau bod y ffigyrau yn 'Appendix 4' yn gywir, rhag ofn eu bod yn gamarweiniol?

Yn gywir,

Dylan Llwyd

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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Chwefror 20fed, 2021

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg  
Yr Adran Addysg  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Moderneiddio Addysg ac Aelodau'r Cabinet,

Hoffem gymryd y cyfle hwn i fynegi ein gwerthfawrogiad o'r sensitifrwydd a estynnwyd atom fel cymuned ysgol yn ystod cyfnod colledion trasig teulu ein Pennaeth y llynedd, ac am y gefnogaeth o gynnal trefniadau cynnal staffio i sicrhau parhad addysg ein disgyblion. Mae'n dyled a'n diolchgarwch yn fawr i dîm gwych staff addysgu a chefnogol Ysgol Abersoch a ddangosodd wydnwch, gofal a sensitifrwydd unedig trwy gydol yr amseroedd heriol yn ystod blwyddyn eithriadol anodd.

Roeddem hefyd yn ddiolchgar o ohirio'r ymgynghoriad tan ar ôl y Nadolig. Fodd bynnag, parhawn fod yn siomedig y teimlwyd ei bod yn addas parhau â'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol, er gwaethaf y pandemig cyfredol a'r cyfyngiadau eithafol cysylltiedig, a'n hataliodd rhag cynnal unrhyw gyfarfod staff, rhieni neu gymunedol nac unrhyw drafodaeth naturiol, effeithiol ar y mater difrifol hwn. Yn bwysicach, efallai, parodd y penderfyniad o barhau gryn ofid i'r plant, sydd wedi gorfod ymdopi nid yn unig ag absenoldeb eu Pennaeth ac amodau ofnadwy Covid ond, hefyd, â'r syniad gofidus o gau eu hysgol. Teimlwn yn bendant na wnaed y penderfyniad hwn er lles y plant.

Treuliwyd cryn amser yn astudio'r ddogfen Ymgynghoriad Statudol, ynghyd â'r Pecyn Cefndir a baratowyd gan yr Adran Addysg, yn fanwl. Gwnaeth swmp sylweddol yr wybodaeth hon hi'n amhosibl i ni ymateb, yn unol â chais yr Adran Addysg, mewn unrhyw ffordd yn ystod penwythnos cyntaf yr ymgynghoriad, yn arbennig pan na dderbyniwyd y copïau caled a ofynnem amdanynt ar Ionawr 6ed yn llawn tan Ionawr 19eg.

Cefnogwn ymateb Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch sy'n delio â'r dogfennau Ymgynghoriad Statudol yn fanwl. Felly, er mwyn osgoi ailadrodd, penderfynom ganolbwyntio'r ymateb hwn ar gryfderau presennol yr ysgol a syniadau a mentrau o sicrhau ffordd gynaliadwy ymlaen.

## Ysgol Abersoch

Mae'n ysgol gymunedol yng ngwir ystyr y gair, ymhle dysgir plant mewn dosbarthiadau bychain ac y clywir pob llais. Gwneir defnydd llawn o gyfleusterau gwych y Neuadd Bentref gyfagos, a darperir gwersi nofio trwy'r flwyddyn. Ymgysyllta'r disgyblion â'r gymuned trwy gyflwyniad arloesol o'r cwricwlwm a wêl y plant allan yn y pentref yn rheolaidd. Trefnir amrywiol glybiau ar-ôl-ysgol, gan gynnwys Cangen Tudwal o'r Urdd, sy'n cynnig gweithgareddau a chyfleoedd cymdeithasol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Tra bod meintiau dosbarthiadau yn llai

na'r rhai mewn ysgolion cyfagos, buasai'r mwyafrif o bobl yn tystio ei fod o fantais i'r plant yn nhermau canlyniadau addysgol gwell. Mewn cymhariaeth, sylwyd ar ddsbarthiadau mawr mewn ysgolion cyfagos sydd, gyda llaw, yn fwy na maint y dosbarthiadau a nodwyd gan Gyngor Gwynedd ei hun, a allai arwain at ganlyniadau gwaelach. Mae'n syndod y rhodda'r Adran Addysg fwy o bwyslais ar ryngweithiad cymdeithasol na chyrrhaeddiad addysgol. Gadawa disgyblion yr ysgol wedi'u cymhwyso â sgiliau angenrheidiol a hyder fel unigolion dwyieithog, yn ymwybodol o ddiwylliant a'r amgylchedd â synnwyr o dreftadaeth a chysylltiad gydol oes â phentref a chymuned Abersoch.

Ar ddechrau'r adolygiad anffurfiol, ym mis Medi 2019, derbynion bod niferoedd disgyblion is yn arwydd o'r angen am newid, a diolch i symbyliad y cyfarfodydd dechreuol, darganfuwyd nifer o bethau newydd i wella cynladwyedd yr ysgol. Yr ydym nawr hefyd wedi sicrhau bod y strwythur staffio yn cydfynd â'r gyllideb.

*Yn ystod cyfnod heriol, mae Ysgol Abersoch wedi bachu ar y cyfle ac wedi cyflwyno mesurau cynaliadwy i wynebu niferoedd disgyblion isel*

### Cylch Meithrin a Cylch Ti a Fi

Mae'r Corff Llywodraethol yn falch, a chynhyrfus, o gefnogi a chroesawu'r Cylch Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin mewn dosbarth pwrpasol yn adeilad yr ysgol, gan y profodd y grwpiau hyn gynnydd yn niferoedd disgyblion mewn ysgolion eraill yn yr ardal. Yn dilyn ymchwil, a chyda cefnogaeth lawn Mudiad Meithrin, ffurfiwyd pwyllgor annibynnol a sefydlwyd y ddwy fenter mewn cyfnod byr iawn, gan agor ym mis Chwefror 2020. Ond, eto, dewisodd yr Adran Addysg anwybyddu unrhyw effaith posibl o'r ymdrechion hyn ar niferoedd y disgyblion.

#### *Cylch Ti a Fi*

Grŵp wythnosol sy'n darparu gweithgareddau datblygu plant o'u genedigaeth at oed ysgol, gan ganiatáu rhieni/gofalwyr gyfarfod i gymdeithasu a rhannu profiadau mewn awyrgylch anffurfiol Gymreig sydd, hefyd, yn cynnig cyflwyniad gwych i'r Cylch Meithrin ac Ysgol Abersoch. Mae'n gyfle gwych i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg ar gyfer dysgwyr, annog teuluoedd di-gymraeg ddefnyddio'r iaith am y tro cyntaf â'u plant. Mynychodd, ar gyfartaledd, pymtheg rhiant a'u plant bach y sesiynau ond, yn anffodus, oherwydd cyfyngiadau Covid, ni lwyddodd y grŵp hwn gyfarfod ers mis Mawrth 2020.

#### *Cylch Meithrin Abersoch*

Gall plant ddysgu trwy chwarae a chymdeithasu dan oruchwyliad staff proffesiynol, cymwysedig ac ymroddedig. Rhoddir pwyslais arbennig ar ddatblygiad iaith, personol, cymdeithasol ac emosiynol plant. Dyfarnwyd arian nawdd o £12,500 gan y Mudiad fel rhan o raglen i gefnogi ac annog profiadau'r iaith Gymraeg yn y blynyddoedd cynnar i gydfynd â Strategaeth Miliwn o Siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050 Llywodraeth Cymru. O ganlyniad i'w gofrestrriad fel Sefydliad Corfforedig Elusennol, ynghyd ag Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru, mae'r Cylch hefyd yn rhan o'r cynllun 30 awr gofal plant am ddim a chyflogir dau aelod o staff cymwysedig. Enwebwyd y Cylch am wobwr yng Ngwobrau Blynyddol y Mudiad Meithrin, sy'n adlewyrchiad gwych o'r gofal plant o'r safon uchaf a gynigir. Cynigia'r Cylch gyflwyniad a throsglwyddiad didrfferth i Ysgol Abersoch. Yn wir, ymunodd dau o gyn-blant y Cylch Meithrin â'r pum disgybl newydd a ddaeth i'r ysgol ym mis Medi 2020.

Chwaraea'r mentrau pwysig hyn rôl hanfodol yn y gymuned, gan ddarparu profiadau a gwasanaethau gofal plant blynyddoedd cynnar ond, y tebygrwydd yw y collir hwy pe caeid yr ysgol.

*Mae'r ffaith bod yr Adran Addysg wedi diystyru effaith y Cylch Meithrin ar nifer y disgyblion yn hepgoriad difrifol.*



## Ysgol Draeth

Cam positif proactif arall yw hyfforddiant a chofrestru fel Ysgol Draeth (Atodiad A) i gywiro tyfiant a chynladwyedd. Mae lleoliad Ysgol Abersoch yn ddelfrydol ar gyfer datblygu'r cysyniad gwych hwn, drwy gyflenwi ethos a gweledigaeth i'n hysgol. Heb amheuaeth, mae profiad Covid yn cyflymu'r symbyliad o fanteisio ar y cyfle i fabwysiadu'r awyr agored fel adnodd dysgu. Mae gan y cynllun unigryw hwn y potensial i gynnig cyfleoedd cynhyrfus i'w rhannu ag ysgolion eraill y dalgylch, gan fod yn llwyfan i brosiect blaenllaw gosodiad addysg prif ffrwd yng Ngwynedd. Saif Ysgol Abersoch mewn man delfrydol ac unigryw i gerdded i'r traethau, twyni, harbwr ac afon i wneud yn fawr o'r adnoddau naturiol sydd o'i hamgylch er budd pob grŵp oedran. Dysga a datblyga disgyblion yn yr amgylchedd naturiol, gan gynnau eu cymhellion cynhenid i chwilota, creu a chwilfrydedd am y byd o'u hamgylch, gan ysbrydoli meddwlgarwch a dychymyg plant. Darpara'r ysgol gyfoeth o gyfleoedd dysgu o redeg yn ffri ar hyd y traeth, cynnau tân a thostio malws melys, ysgrifennu yn y tywod â phriciau, gwyllo adar, dilyn ôl troed anifeiliaid, neidio dros y tonnau, chwilota cynefinoedd crancod, i wyllo'r melinau gwynt lleol yn gweithio. Cofrestrwyd ein Pennaeth i fynychu hyfforddiant Ysgol Awyr Agored/Traeth y llynedd ond, yn anffodus, oherwydd profedigaeth deuluol ni allai fynychu ac, yn dilyn hynny, rhoddodd Covid ddiwedd yn syth ar unrhyw gwrs hyfforddiant uniongyrchol yn y tymor byr.

*A all Cyngor Gwynedd fanteisio ar y cyfle i archwilio cam i gyfeiriad gwahanol trwy mabwysiadu agwedd arloesol i addysg yng Ngwynedd, gan fanteisio ar ein hadnoddau naturiol*

## Amcanestyniadau Disgyblion

Awgryma daroganau yr Adran Addysg yr hanera niferoedd disgyblion Ysgol Sarn Bach o fewn y bum mlynedd nesaf. Ymddengys y sylfeini'r rhain ar asesiadau penaethiaid ond, eto, rhagamcana Crynodeb Archwiliad Blynyddol Cyngor Gwynedd 20201 gynnydd mewn poblogaeth o 5.3% rhwng 2020 a 2040 gan gynnwys cynnydd o 0.4% yn nifer y plant. Ymddengys y ffafria'r Adran Addysg ddibynnu ar asesiadau anffurfiol penaethiaid sydd ddim yn byw yn y gymuned i gefnogi ei dadleuon dros gau, yn hytrach na daroganiadau ffurfiol a gyhoeddwyd gan y Cyngor. Dengys rhagolygon Adran Addysg y Cyngor dueddiad cryn dipyn gwahanol i'r boblogaeth Gymreig ehangach a'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol. O ganlyniad, dylid talu sylw gofalus iawn i ystod realistig o senarios wrth ystyried darpariaeth addysg gynradd yn yr ardal. Pan weithredir rhagamcanion yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol am niferoedd plant, deil niferoedd disgyblion yn ddiwyro wrth gydfynd â blynyddoedd diweddar ac nid ydynt yn gostwng: pe caeir Ysgol Abersoch, dynoda ein dadansoddiad yr addysgir 100% o blant mewn dosbarthiadau gorfaint cymysg (uchafswm maint dosbarth 20) yn y dalgylch lleol. Mae cau Ysgol Abersoch yn ganlyniad o'r Cyngor ddim yn cwrdd â'i amcanion ac yn cyfaddawdu'r ddarpariaeth addysg i'r disgyblion.

*Pa mor sicr yw'r dadansoddiad tueddiadau niferoedd disgyblion a adnabyddid yn yr adroddiad?*

## Blwyddyn 4 Ychwanegol

Derbyniwyd ceisiadau oddi wrth rieni a disgyblion am gynnwys blwyddyn ychwanegol yn Ysgol Abersoch, a chredwn yn gryf y buasai cynnwys addysg Blwyddyn 4 o fudd enfawr mewn sawl ffordd. Rydym yn hapus 'meddwl tu allan i'r blwch' ac ni ddeallwn pam, dim ond oherwydd bod y model hwn yn wahanol i fwyafrif ysgolion, o ganlyniad na allai fod yn bosibl. Cynyddid niferoedd y disgyblion heb effeithio ar ysgolion cyfagos gan mai ond oedi trosglwyddiad y plant i'w hysgol nesaf a wneid. Mae yna grwpio naturiol mewn dosbarthiadau o Flynyddoedd 3 a 4 a Blynyddoedd 5 a 6 mewn ysgolion cyfagos felly, mae'r syniad hwn yn ffitio'n daclus. Ar y cyd â Thi a Fi, gallai addysg i gynnwys Blwyddyn 4 gynnig pecyn hirdymor o ymrwymiad, parhad a sefydlogrwydd i blentyn a'i rieni hyd at wyth neu naw mlynedd. Mae gan hyn botensial mawr i adeiladu cysylltiadau ar bob lefel o fewn yr ysgol a'r gymuned ehangach a, hefyd, buasai'n annog mwy o rieni



wneud Ysgol Abersoch eu prif ddewis. Mae'n aneglur i ni pam yr anghytuna'r Adran Addysg â'r flwyddyn ychwanegol hon na pham y diystyrir dymuniadau'r plant a'r rhieni.

*Mae ychwanegu Blwyddyn 4 yn gwneud synnwyr greddfol ac yn unol â dymuniad y plant a'r rhieni?*

## Ffederaleiddio

Credwn nad archwiliwyd ffederaleiddio'n ddigonol. Mae'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion yn nodi "rhaid i'r achos dros ei chau fod yn gryf, a bod pob opsiwn ymarferol arall wedi'u hystyried yn gydwobodol gan y cynigydd, gan gynnwys ffedereiddio". Nid yr ydym yn teimlo bod hyn wedi caei ei ystyried yn llawn, yn arbennig o ran Ysgol Llanbedrog ymhle mae niferoedd disgyblion yn fwy na'r capasiti. Nid yw'r ddadl o beidio â dilyn hyn ymhellach wedi'i gyfiawnhau'n ddigonol, gan 'nad oedd tystiolaeth glir yr arweiniai ffederaleiddio at gynnydd mewn niferoedd'. O ganlyniad, cynigwn yr ailystyri hyn i gydfynd ag Dalgylch, gan fod y criteria, yn ôl 'Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau i Blant yng Ngwynedd' Cyngor Gwynedd wedi'i gyrraedd.

*Mae Ffederaleiddio'n gynnig realistig sy'n cyfiawnhau ystyriaeth briodol*

## Yr Iaith Gymraeg, Diwylliant a Chymuned

Mae dogfennau'r Ymgynghoriad yn cynnig nad effeithir ar yr iaith a'r gymuned yn ormodol o gau Ysgol Abersoch. Eto, nid yw natur yr ymarfer 'ticio'r blwch' hwn yn cynnwys mewnbwn gan y gymuned ac felly ni all ystyried y gwir effaith ar yr iaith a'r gymuned. Mae disgyblion Ysgol Abersoch yn llysgenhadon i ddyfodol yr iaith a'r diwylliant Cymraeg â'r capasiti i effeithio ar wir newid, fel y tystiolaetha eu llwyddiannau yn cynyddu arwyddion dwyieithog yn siopau'r pentref.

Mae parhad y gymuned yn amlwg trwy deulu'r ysgol; mae'r Pennaeth, y Cadeirydd a'r Is-gadeirydd, ynghyd â Llywodraethwyr a rhieni yn gyn-ddisgyblion. Profa hyn bwysigrwydd y cysylltiad gydol oes a geir mewn ysgol bentref fach ag unigolion yn fodlon camu i rolau amlwg yn y gymuned a chyfrannu a chryfhau'r edeifion cymdeithasol a ffurfia wneuthuriad cymuned.

*Mae'r ysgol yn ffagl i'r iaith a diwylliant Cymreig, gan arddangos ein treftadaeth heddiw a sicrhau ei pherthnasedd yn y dyfodol*

## Y Cyd-destun Ehangach

Hoffem weld tystiolaeth sy'n dangos y meddyliodd yr Adran Addysg yn arloesol am y materion hyn, yn hytrach na mynd i'r afael ag o â'r un hen ddatrysiad 'go-to' o gau. Tra bod gan yr Adran Addysg gyfrifoldeb rheoli ei chyllideb ysgol yn briodol, teimlwn ei bod yn hynod bwysig i gydbwyso anghenion tymor byr â'r angen i ddiogelu'r gallu hefyd o wynebu anghenion hir dymor gan ystyried cyd-destun y gymuned ehangach. Adnabyddir Abersoch fel gwir hwb economaidd i dwristiaeth, yn ogystal â chefnogi'r economi ehangach tu allan i ffiniau'r pentref a gellid dadlau bod economi Pen Llŷn yn elwa o lwyddiant Abersoch.

Wynebir yr argyfwng tai parhaus a llym yn Abersoch â chynlluniau am dai fforddiadwy a Chynllun y Cyngor newydd i brynu eiddo i'w rhyddhau ar rent ar gyfraddau fforddiadwy. Anelir Cynllun Gweithredu Tai Cyngor Gwynedd at gywiro problemau stoc dai fforddiadwy, problem sy'n arbennig o endemig yn Abersoch. Ariannir y cynllun hwn yn rhannol gan gynnydd yn Nhreth y Cyngor ar dai haf a gwag ac mae Abersoch mewn safle da i elwa ohono. Yn economaidd, mae Abersoch yn mynd o nerth i nerth â chyfleoedd cyflogaeth megis cynllun y gwesty newydd sy'n darogan 150 o swyddi newydd. Gallwn hefyd, yn rhesymol, ddisgwyl weld cynnydd posibl mewn disgyblion o ganlyniad i'r posibilrwydd o berchnogion ailgartrefi symud yn barhaol i'r ardal o ganlyniad i

Covid. Yn ôl Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, dylem edrych 25 i 50 mlynedd i'r dyfodol a dengys y dangosyddion presennol y dylai Abersoch ffynnu yn y blynyddoedd i ddod.

Mae'r swyddi newydd a'r cynlluniau ar gyfer tai yn ddangosyddion allweddol at newid y demograffigau lleol; maent yn pwysleisio'r angen i gynnal darpariaeth addysgol yn y pentref a buasai'r penderfyniad o gau'r ysgol yn taseilio'r mentrau hyn.

*Buasai gweledigaeth ehangach ac integredig tu hwnt i arbedion ariannol cau'r ysgol yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd Abersoch i economi Pen Llŷn; yn ddigwestiwn ar gyfer hyn, mae'r pwysigrwydd o gynnal gwasanaethau sylfaenol o dai, cyflogaeth ac addysg.*

## Diwedd glo

Rhoddodd fframwaith ac amserlen yr holl broses gryn bwysau arnom fel grŵp o unigolion gwirfoddol sydd â chyfrifoldebau megis gwaith a theulu. Roedd rhaid i ni ddarparu arweiniad a gweledigaeth oherwydd absenoldeb ein Pennaeth, delio ag effaith Covid ac ymateb i alwadau'r broses ymgynghori, yn ogystal â'u heffaith cyfatebol ar redeg yr ysgol o ddydd-i-ddydd. Er hynny, fel Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Abersoch, gwnaethom ein gorau glas i ymgysylltu'n bositif â'r adolygiad anffurfiol dechreuol a'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol dilynol a, hyd eithaf ein gallu, annog yn weithredol ryngddeiliaid wneud yr un peth.

Cydnabyddwn, o edrych yn ôl, y buasai gweithredu pendant buan i gyflwyno mentrau positif megis Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin a'r Ysgol Draeth wedi osgoi'r argyfwng presennol a wyneba'r ysgol. Fel Llywodraethwyr, rydym yn gwneud hynny a allwn i gadw'r ysgol ar agor ond, teimlwn fod y chyfrifoldebau a roddwyd i ni o'r meintioliad mwyaf perthynol i'n rôl fel gwirfoddolwyr heb gymhwyso ac, felly, yn ymddangos yn anaddas ac annheg. Awgrymwn y strwythurwyd trefniadau llywodraethu'r ysgol bresennol yn anaddas ac mae hyn yn fethiant cryf o system sydd angen ei chywiro. Onid yw cefnogaeth amserol ac ymyriad gan yr Adran Addysg i ddelio â phroblemau, a chydweithio'n broactif â chymuned ysgol yn sicr, yn ffordd fwy adeiladol o fynd ati, yn hytrach na rhuthro mewn ar y funud olaf ag agenda amlwg o gau ysgol?

Canolbwyntiodd yr Adran Addysg ar dri o'r cynigion a gyflwynwyd at ddyfodol Ysgol Abersoch: newid yr ystod oedran o 3 – 11, ffederaleiddio neu gau'r ysgol. Ymddengys mai cau'r ysgol yw'r un a ffafrir wedi'i seilio ar arbedion ariannol â dogfennau ymgynghori'r Adran Addysg fel ymarfer papur i gyfiawnhau'r sefyllfa hon heb wir ystyried y dewisiadau eraill.

Mae'r gefnogaeth a dderbyniom yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori o'r galon ac yn eglur; mae yna gryfder teimlad angerddol yn ein cymuned y dylai Ysgol Abersoch gael y cyfle i barhau â'r hyn a ddechreuwyd yng nghysgod Covid fel y gall ein mentrau cysylltiedig â Chylch Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin a'r Ysgol Draeth gwreiddio a flodeuo. Pe dysgid rhywbeth o'r pandemig, y sylweddoliad yw nad oes dim pwysicach na chymuned a bod gosodiadau addysgol ar raddfa fechan yn ddiogelach.

Erfyniwn ar y Cabinet ystyried y cynnig o'i flaen yn hynod ofalus. Awgrymwn yn barchus bod gwaith pellach i'w wneud yma, trwy archwilio ffederaleiddio a modelau arloesol eraill o drefniadaeth ysgol cyn cynnig y mesur eithafol o gau'r ysgol. Buasai canlyniadau'r penderfyniad o gau Ysgol Abersoch yn effeithio ar gymuned Abersoch a'r iaith Gymraeg am genedlaethau i ddod. Erfyniwn arnoch gamu'n ôl o'r dibyn a manteisio ar y cyfle i effeithio newid positif ar gyfer dyfodol hirdymor addysg yn y pentref.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

**MARGOT JONES AC EIFIONA WOOD**  
ar ran Corff Llywodraethol Ysgol Abersoch

Ysgol Abersoch  
Lôn Gwydryn  
Abersoch  
Gwynedd  
LL53 7EA

Modernising Education Office  
Education Department  
Gwynedd Council  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

20 February 2021

Dear Education Department and Cabinet Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the sensitivity shown towards us as a school community at the time of our headteacher's tragic family bereavements last year, and for the support in maintaining staffing arrangements to ensure the continuity of education for our pupils. We owe a debt of gratitude to the excellent team of dedicated teaching and support staff at Ysgol Abersoch, who have shown such unified resilience, care and sensitivity throughout very testing times over the last extremely difficult year.

We were also grateful for the postponement of the consultation until after the Christmas period. However, we remain disappointed that it was felt appropriate to continue with the Statutory Consultation, despite the ongoing pandemic and associated extreme restrictions, which have prevented us from holding any staff, parent or community meetings or any natural, effective discussion on this serious matter. Perhaps more importantly, the decision to continue has caused great distress to the children, who have had to cope not only with the absence of their headteacher and the frightening conditions of Covid but also with the upsetting idea of their school being closed. We feel this decision was clearly not made with the best interests of the children in mind.

We have taken a great deal of time to study the detail of the Statutory Consultation document along with the Background Pack prepared by the Education Department. The sheer volume of this information made it impossible to respond in any shape or form during the first weekend of the consultation, as requested by the Education Department, particularly when the hard copies that we asked for on the 6th January were not delivered in full until the 19th January.

We support the Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch response which deals with the Statutory Consultation documents in detail, so for the avoidance of repetition we have decided to focus this response on the existing strengths of the school and ideas and initiatives to ensure a sustainable way forward.

### Ysgol Abersoch

A community school in the true sense of the word, where children are taught in small classes and every voice is heard. Full use is made of the excellent facilities in the adjacent village hall, and swimming lessons are provided all year round. Pupils actively engage with the community through an innovative delivery of the curriculum, which sees the children out and about the village on a regular basis. A variety of after-school clubs are arranged including Urdd Tudwal, offering Welsh medium social activities and opportunities. Whilst class sizes are lower than those in neighbouring schools, most people would attest this can only be to the advantage of the children

in terms of better educational outcomes. In comparison, overlarge classes as observed in neighbouring schools, which incidentally exceed Gwynedd Council's own stated class sizes, can only lead to poorer outcomes. It is surprising that the Education Department puts greater emphasis on social interaction than educational attainment. Pupils leave the school equipped with essential skills and confidence as bilingual individuals, culturally and environmentally aware, with a sense of heritage and lifelong connection to the village and community of Abersoch.

At the beginning of the informal review, in September 2019, we accepted that low pupil numbers signalled the need for change, and thanks to the stimulus of the initial meetings, several innovations to improve the sustainability of the school were found. We have also now ensured that the staffing structure is in line with the budget.

*In challenging times, Ysgol Abersoch has seized the opportunity and demonstrably introduced sustainable measures to address low pupil numbers*

### Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi

The Governing Body is delighted and excited to support the hosting of a Cylch Ti a Fi and Cylch Meithrin in a dedicated classroom within the school building, since these groups have been proven to increase pupil numbers in other schools in the area. After research and with the full support of the Mudiad Meithrin, an independent committee was formed, and both of these initiatives were established in record time, opening in February 2020. Yet the Education Department has selectively disregarded any potential impact of these efforts on pupil numbers.

#### *Cylch Ti a Fi*

A weekly group providing activities promoting the development of children from birth to school age, allowing parents/carers to meet to socialise and share experiences in an informal Welsh atmosphere, which also offers a great introduction to the Cylch Meithrin and Ysgol Abersoch. This is an opportunity for Welsh learners to use their Welsh whilst encouraging non-Welsh speaking families to use Welsh for the first time with their children. An average of 15 parents and toddlers attended the sessions, but unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, this group has not been able to meet since March 2020.

#### *Cylch Meithrin Abersoch*

Children are able to learn through play and socialise under the guidance of professional, qualified and dedicated staff. There is a special emphasis on language development and the personal, social and emotional development of children. The Cylch was awarded grant funding of £12,500 from the Mudiad, as part of a program to support and encourage early years Welsh Language experiences in line with the Welsh Government's Strategy of a Million Welsh speakers by 2050. Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as well as with the Care Inspectorate Wales, the Cylch is also part of the 30 hours free childcare scheme and employs two members of qualified staff. The Cylch was nominated for a prize at the Mudiad Meithrin's national awards, which is a great reflection of the high standard of childcare offered. The Cylch offers children a seamless introduction and transition into Ysgol Abersoch. Indeed, two former Cylch Meithrin children were among the five new pupils who joined the school in September 2020.

These important initiatives play a vital role in the community, providing early years experiences and childcare services, but they are likely to be lost if the school were to close.

*That the Education Department has disregarded the impact of the Cylch Meithrin on pupil numbers is a serious omission.*

## Beach School

Training and registration as a Beach School (Appendix A) is another proactive positive step in addressing growth and sustainability. Ysgol Abersoch is ideally placed to develop this great concept, complementing the ethos and vision for our school. There is no doubt that the experience of Covid is accelerating the drive to embrace the outdoors as a learning resource. This unique scheme has the potential to offer exciting opportunities to share with other schools in the area, acting as a flagship project in mainstream education settings in Gwynedd. A short walk from beaches, sand dunes, harbours and river, Ysgol Abersoch is ideally and uniquely positioned to make the most of its surrounding natural resources for the benefit of all age groups. Pupils learn and develop in a natural environment, sparking their intrinsic motivations to explore, create and be curious about the world around them, inspiring young children's thinking and ideas. From running free along the beach, making fires and toasting marshmallows, writing in the sand with sticks, bird watching, tracking animal footprints, jumping over the waves, exploring crab habitats, to watching the local wind turbines work, the school provides a wealth of learning opportunities. Our headteacher was registered to attend Outdoor/Beach School training last year, but sadly due to bereavement she was unable to attend, and subsequently Covid has of course put paid to any immediate training courses.

*Can Gwynedd Council seize this opportunity for an innovative approach to education in Gwynedd, capitalising on our natural resources and exploring a step in a different direction?*

## Pupil projections

The Education Department's predictions suggest that pupil numbers at Sarn Bach will more than halve within the next five years. These predictions appear to be based on headteacher assessments yet the Auditor General's Gwynedd Council Annual Audit Summary 2020<sup>1</sup> projects an increase in population by 5.3% between 2020 and 2040 including a 0.4% increase in the number of children. The Education Department appears to prefer to rely on informal assessments by headteachers, not resident in the community, to support its arguments for closure, rather than formal, published Council projections. The Education Department forecast shows a significantly different trend to the wider Welsh population and the Auditor General. As a result careful attention needs to be given to a realistic range of scenarios when considering the provision of primary education in the area. When the Auditor General projections for children numbers are applied, pupil numbers remain steady in line with recent years and do not fall: if Ysgol Abersoch closes our analysis indicates that within the local catchment area, 100% of children will be educated in oversized mixed classes (maximum class size of 20). The closure of Ysgol Abersoch results in the Council not meeting its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.

*How sound is the analysis of the trends in pupil numbers identified in the report?*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd\\_council\\_annual\\_audit\\_summary\\_2020\\_english.pdf](https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd_council_annual_audit_summary_2020_english.pdf)



## Additional Year 4

We have received requests from parents and pupils for an additional year to be included at Ysgol Abersoch, and we firmly believe that offering education to include Year 4 would be of great benefit in several ways. We are happy to think outside of the box, and do not understand why, just because this model is different to most schools, it should not therefore be possible. This would increase pupil numbers, without impacting on neighbouring schools, since the children would only delay the move to their next school. There is a natural grouping in classes of Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 in neighbouring schools, so this idea is a neat fit. In conjunction with the Ti a Fi, education to include Year 4 could offer a long-term package of engagement, continuity and stability for a child and its parents of up to eight or nine years. This has great potential to build connections on many levels within the school and the wider community, and would also encourage more parents to make Ysgol Abersoch their first choice. It is unclear to us why the Education Department does not agree to this additional Year, nor why the wishes of children and parents are disregarded.

*Adding an additional Year 4 makes intuitive sense and is the wish of parents and pupils*

## Federalisation

We believe that federalisation has been insufficiently explored. The Schools Organisation Code states that “the case for closure must be strong and all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation”. We do not feel this has been the case, particularly with regards to Ysgol Llanbedrog where pupil numbers exceed capacity. The argument for not pursuing this further is insufficiently justified as ‘there was no clear evidence that federalisation would lead to an increase in numbers’. We therefore propose that this is revisited in-line with a Catchment Area Review, the criteria for which, according to Gwynedd Council’s ‘Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd’ have been met.

*Federalisation is a realistic option that warrants proper consideration*

## Welsh Language, Culture and community

The Consultation documents suggest that the language and community will not be adversely affected by the closure of Ysgol Abersoch. Yet the nature of this tick-box exercise does not include input from the community and therefore cannot take into account the true impact on the community and language. The pupils of Ysgol Abersoch are ambassadors for the future of the Welsh language and culture, with the capacity to affect real change, as evidenced by their successes in increasing bilingual signage in the village shops.

The continuity of community is evident throughout the school family; former pupils include the Headteacher, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governors as well as parent governors and parents. This demonstrates the importance of the lifelong connection a small school village education brings, with individuals willing to step up into leading roles in the community contributing to and strengthening the social threads that form the fabric of society.

*The school is a beacon for the Welsh language and culture, showcasing our heritage today, and ensuring its relevance in the future.*

## The wider context

We would like to see evidence that shows the Education Department has really thought innovatively about the issues rather than tackling it with the same old go-to solution of closure. Whilst the Education Department has a responsibility to manage its school budget appropriately, we feel it is extremely important to balance short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs taking into context the wider community. Abersoch is well recognised as an economic hub for tourism, also supporting the wider local economy outside of the village boundaries, and it can be argued that the economy of Pen Llŷn piggy-backs on the success of Abersoch.

The chronic and acute housing crisis in Abersoch is being addressed with plans for affordable housing and the new Council Scheme to buy properties to release for rent at affordable rates. The Gwynedd Council Housing Action Plan is aimed at addressing the problems of affordable housing stock, a problem particularly endemic within Abersoch. This plan will be partially funded by Council Tax hikes on second homes and empty houses and Abersoch is well-placed to benefit. Economically, Abersoch goes from strength to strength, with employment opportunities such as the new planned hotel which foresees 150 new jobs. We might also reasonably expect a potential increase in pupils due to the possibility of second home-owners making a permanent move to the area after the experience of Covid. According to the Commissioner for Future Generations, we should be looking 25 to 50 years into the future and the present indicators show Abersoch is well placed to flourish in coming years.

These new jobs and plans for housing are key indicators for change in local demographics; they emphasise the need to maintain an educational provision within the village and a decision to close the school would undermine these initiatives.

*A wider, integrated vision beyond the financial savings of school closure, would recognise the importance of Abersoch to the Pen Llŷn economy; implicit in sustaining this is the importance of maintaining basic services of housing, employment and education.*

## In closing

The framework and timetable of the whole process so far have put a great deal of pressure on us as a voluntary group of individuals with commitments such as work and family. We have had to provide leadership and vision in the absence of our headteacher, deal with the impact of Covid and respond to the demands of the consultation process as well as their corresponding impacts on the day-to-day running of the school. Nevertheless, as Governors of Ysgol Abersoch we have tried our best to positively engage with the initial informal review and subsequent Statutory Consultation, and have, to the best of our ability, actively encouraged other stakeholders to do the same.

We acknowledge that with hindsight, earlier decisive action to put in place positive initiatives such as the Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin and Beach School, would have avoided the current crisis facing the school. As governors, we are doing all we can to keep the school open, but we feel the responsibilities bestowed upon us are of too great a magnitude relative to our role as unqualified volunteers, and thus seem inappropriate and unfair. We suggest that the current school governance arrangements are inappropriately structured and this is a strong failure of the system that requires addressing. Timely support and intervention by the Education Department to address problems, and proactively working in collaboration with a School community, is surely a more constructive approach, as opposed to sweeping in at a late stage with an obvious agenda to close a school.



Of the options put forward for the future of Ysgol Abersoch, the Education Department has focused on three: change the age range to 3 -11, federalise, or close the school. School closure appears to be the favoured outcome based on financial savings, and the Education Department's consultation documents appear to have been a paper exercise to justify this position without due consideration of the alternatives.

The support we have received during this consultation period is heartfelt and clear; there is a strength of feeling in our community that Ysgol Abersoch should be afforded the time to continue what has been started under the shadow of Covid, so that our innovations associated with the Cylch Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin and Beach School can take root and flourish. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is the realisation that there is nothing more important than community, and that small-scale educational settings are safer.

We appeal to the Cabinet to consider the proposal before them with extreme care. We respectfully suggest that there is further work to be done here to fully explore federalisation and other innovative models of school organisation before proposing the drastic measure of the closure of a school. The consequences of a decision to close Ysgol Abersoch will impact upon the community of Abersoch and the Welsh Language for generations to come. We urge you to take a step back from the precipice and seize the opportunity to affect a positive change for the long-term future of education in the village.

Yours sincerely

**MARGOT JONES AND EIFIONA WOOD**

**On behalf of the Board of Governors, Ysgol Abersoch**

**Eich Manylion:**Dyddiad: Enw: Cyfeiriad e-bost: 

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

Rhiant

Staff

Llywodraethwr

Disgybl

X **Arall** (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

**Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu**Na, nid  wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol

**Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol**

Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn

Bach o 1 Medi 2021 yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safon a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Ddogfen Datz i'w Cyngor ewch i'r Adran  
Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

### Anfonwch eich ymateb at:

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon

LL55 1SH

neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Sylwadau:**  
Dyddiad cau: 15:00 ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid  
gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd  
statudoi yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**



# CANGEN MERCHED Y WAWR ABERSOCH

Chwefror 20fed, 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd,  
CAERNARFON,  
Gwynedd.  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Swyddogion,

## YMGYNGHORIAD STATUDOL CAU YSGOL ABERSOCH

Ysgrifennwn atoch fel Aelodau Merched y Wawr Abersoch i fynegi ein siomedigaeth yn yr uchod – yr ysgol a fynychodd y mwyafrif ohonom a'r un ble addysgwyd ein plant a'n hwyrion, ac un sy'n agos iawn at ein calonnau.

Codi a gostwng bu ei niferoedd ers ei hagog yn 1924 felly, nid yw rhifau isel yn ddieithr iddi. Ac, felly, gallant godi eto pe ceid digon o dai fforddiadwy yn y pentref, gan mai dyna yw'r maen tramgwydd pennaf o ddenu teuluoedd ifainc i Abersoch. A yw Cyngor Gwynedd yn fodlon a pharod gwneud hynny? Gobeithir yn wir, yn hytrach na chaniatáu cynlluniau drudfawr y tai haf sydd yn y pentref.

Mae'r trigolion a'r busnesau'n ymwybodol o fodolaeth yr ysgol oherwydd yr holl waith a wna'r athrawon a'r disgyblion o'i hybu drwy'r iaith Gymraeg wrth ymweld â nhw'n rheolaidd – mae Ysgol Abersoch yn ysgol yng nghanol bwrlwm ei chymuned. O'i chau, collir deinameg uned y pentref, y bwrlwm a'r ymlyniad cryf sydd gan rieni at sefydliad. Yn sicr, collid un peth allweddol – cysylltiad â'r gymuned ac ymroddiad honno i'r ysgol – pe caeid hi.

O ganlyniad i'r cysylltiad hwn, cefnogir yr ysgol yn fawr, ac aml, gan y gymuned – yn ariannol gan y busnesau ac mewn unrhyw fodd arall, e.e. bu Aelodau'r Gangen yn darllen â'r plant yn y gorffennol.

Mae Cangen Tudwal o'r Urdd yn cyfarfod yn wythnosol yn yr ysgol ac mae'n hyfryd clywed y plant yn siarad Cymraeg, gan y daw llawer ohonynt o gartrefi di-gymraeg. Dônt i ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg a'i siarad yn rhugl mewn awyrgylch glos a theuluol yn yr ysgol. A ystyriwyd yr effaith a gaiff cau'r ysgol ar y gymuned a'r iaith, heb sôn am addysg y plant? Ymladdwn yn galed i warchod yr iaith a meithrin mewn fudwyr fod yn ddwyieithog ac o'i chau tynnir y sylfaen honno oddi wrthym.

Os na fydd ysgol yma yn Abersoch, ni fydd y plant sy'n byw yma – os bydd rhai – yn ein hadnabod ni na ninnau yn eu hadnabod hwythau ac ni fydd defnydd o'r iaith yn gymdeithasol; collwn dalp arall o'n hiaith a'n hunaniaith.

Mae'n hyfryd gweld y plant yn mynd am dro natur – fel y gwnaethom ninnau yn ystod ein cyfnod ni yn yr ysgol. Buasai'n braf meddwl fod cynllun arloesol fel Ysgol Draeth yn gallu arwain at fwy o wersi yn yr awyr agored iddynt, yn arbennig o ganlyniad i'r pandemig presennol, a'u meithrin a'u dysgu am yr amgylchedd a'r byd rydym yn byw ynddo sy'n wynebu argyfwng ei hun.

Taer erfyniwn arnoch ailystyried eich penderfyniad o gau 'Ysgol Bach', gan y byddai'n difetha addysg gynnar ein plant yma, newid bywydau a theuluoedd a darnio cymdeithas bentrefol. Buasai ei chau, dair blynedd cyn iddi ddatlu ei chanrif, yn dranc a rhoi'r hoelen arall yn arch yr iaith Gymraeg yn Abersoch.

Yn gywir,



**Llywydd ar ran yr Aelodau**

Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch  
Ysgol Abersoch  
Lôn Gwydryn  
Abersoch  
PWLLHELI  
Gwynedd  
LL53 7EA

Chwefror 22ain, 2021

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg  
Adran Addysg  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Adran Addysg ac Aelodau'r Cabinet,

Ysgrifennaf ar ran Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch mewn ymateb i'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar Awst 31ain, 2021. Gwrthwynebwn yn gryf y cynnig hwn a gofynnwn i'r Cabinet gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddatblygu agwedd gydweithredol ac arloesol i sicrhau parhad darpariaeth addysg ym mhentref Abersoch.

1. Rydym yn amlygu ein pryderon ynglŷn a chyfreithlondeb y broses ymgynghori.

1.1. Roedd yr ymgynghoriad gyda'r disgyblion yn anheg o ystyried ei h'oedran a'i deallusrwydd.

1.2. Mae'r ffurflen ymateb yn annigonol. Nid oes manylion o sut all pobol ofyn cwestiynau pellach ynglŷn a'r cynnig neu cynnig dewisiadau amgen. Nid yw'r ymgynghoreion wedi cael gwybod o'r cyfleon i wneud sylwadau am ddewisiadau amgen i gau yr Ysgol sydd wedi ei adnabod gan Cyngor Gwynedd ynghyd a'u prif ddewis. Nid yw'r ymgynghoreion wedi cael gwybod am y cyfle i gynnig syniadau amgen i gau fyddai hefyd yn ymateb i rhesymau dros gloi ( h.y y brif sialens mae'r Ysgol yn ei wynebu).

1.3. Mae diffyg eglurhad/rhesymeg dros y tafluniad 5 mlynedd o niferoedd disgyblion yr ysgol. Mae penderfyniad Cyngor Gwynedd i beidio â ystyried ardrawiad Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin ar niferoedd amcan yr Ysgol yn anheg.

1.4. Mae diffyg tryloywder ynglŷn a sut wnaeth Cyngor Gwynedd ymgynghori gyda'r ysgolion cyfagos ac yn benodol nid yw barn yr ysgolion ac ei cyrff llywodraethu ynglŷn a ffederaleiddio yn hysbys. Mae'r diffyg gwybodaeth yma wedi cael ardrawiad ar allu yr ymgynghoreion i ymateb yn ystyrlon i'r cynigion.

Teimlwn hefyd bod gennym nifer o bwyntiau o werth sy'n haeddu ystyriaeth deg fel rhan o'r broses benderfynu. I gefnogi hyn, mae Atodiad A yn dabl manwl o'n sylwadau ar y dogfennau ymgynghori a ddarparwyd gan Foderneiddio Addysg a gofynnwn i'r sylwadau hyn, yn ogystal â'r pwyntiau a godwyd yn y llythyr hwn, gael eu hadolygu a rhoi sylw iddynt.

## 2. Maint Dosbarthiadau a Chapasiti

### 2.1. Maint Dosbarthiadau

Ymrwymodd Cyngor Gwynedd i strategaeth o 'Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau i Blant yng Ngwynedd'<sup>1</sup>. Yn y strategaeth hon, dynodir meintiau dosbarth fel elfen bwysig er mwyn i blant feithrin y profiadau a'r cyfleoedd gorau posibl. Mae gan y pedair ysgol yn y dalgylch (Ysgolion Abersoch, Sarn Bach, Llanbedrog a Foel Gron) ddosbarthiadau oed cymysg fel yr arferol. Ymrwymodd Cyngor Gwynedd sicrhau bod yna, ar gyfartaledd, dim mwy nag 20 neu lai na 12 disgybl mewn unrhyw ddosbarth oed cymysg ond, eto, mae meintiau dosbarth 2020 – 2021 yn uwch nag 20 mewn chwe dosbarth allan o naw (Atodiad B – Adolygiad o Feintiau Dosbarth, Capasiti a Rhagolygon y Boblogaeth – Adroddiad gan Gyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Chwefror 2021 /Appendix B – Review of Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Forecasts – A report by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends, February 2021).

### 2.2. Capasiti

Datgana Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion, "Fel arfer, ni ddylid bod angen darparu lleoedd ychwanegol mewn ysgolion os oes gan ysgolion eraill o'r un fath leoedd gwag o fewn pellter rhesymol". Ymhellach, datgana 'Gwybodaeth i Rieni Cyngor Gwynedd 2021 – 2022'<sup>2</sup> "Bydd yr Awdurdod yn cydymffurfio â dewis rhieni nes cyrraedd rhif mynediad yr ysgol" a "Gall yr Awdurdod mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol roi mynediad i blant nes bod y nifer sy'n cael mynediad uwchben y rhif mynediad cyhyd nad yw derbyn yn effeithio'r ysgol yn y tymor byr a'r tymor hir a ddim yn cael effaith anfanteisiol ar ysgolion cyfagos". Eto, mae niferoedd Ysgol Llanbedrog wedi gordanysgrifio o fwy nag 20%, gyda 102 o blant yn mynychu o gymharu â'i chapasiti o 83, gyda 43% o'r disgyblion sy'n ei mynychu yn all-ddalgylch. Ni chredwn fod Cyngor Gwynedd yn dilyn y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion na'i bolisiau ei hun o ran mynediad, uchafswm meintiau dosbarthiadau o 20 disgybl i blant mewn dosbarthiadau oed cymysg nac, ychwaith, mewn rhai achosion lefel cyfreithiol y Cyngor ei hun o 30 mewn dosbarth.

### 2.3. Niferoedd Amcanestyniad

Mae rhagolygon poblogaeth disgyblion yn bwysig i ddeall os oes digon o gapasiti yn y pedair ysgol i gynnig maint dosbarth o rhwng 12 ac 20 nawr ac yn y dyfodol. Paratôdd yr Adran Addysg amcanestyniadau pum mlynedd o niferoedd disgyblion yn yr ardal. Dangosir hwn isod (Ffigur 1) ochr yn ochr ag amcanestyniadau nifer plant Crynodeb Archwiliad Blynyddol Cyngor Gwynedd 2020<sup>3</sup> gan y Archwilydd Cyffredinol ynghyd ag amcangyfrif newidiadau Llywodraeth Cymru<sup>4</sup> ym mhoblogaeth y rhai 0 – 9 oed yng Nghymru. Canfuwyd y dengys amcangyfrif yr Adran Addysg duedd tipyn gwahanol i ragolygon Yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol a gyhoeddodd ar Gyngor Gwynedd a'r boblogaeth Gymreig ehangach ac, o ganlyniad, mae angen ystyriaeth ofalus i sicrhau amrediad realistig o senarios i'w

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/cy/Trigolion/Ysgolion-a-dysgu...dogfennau/Ad-drefnu/Strategaeth-Addysg-Gynradd-or-Ansawdd-Gorau.pdf>

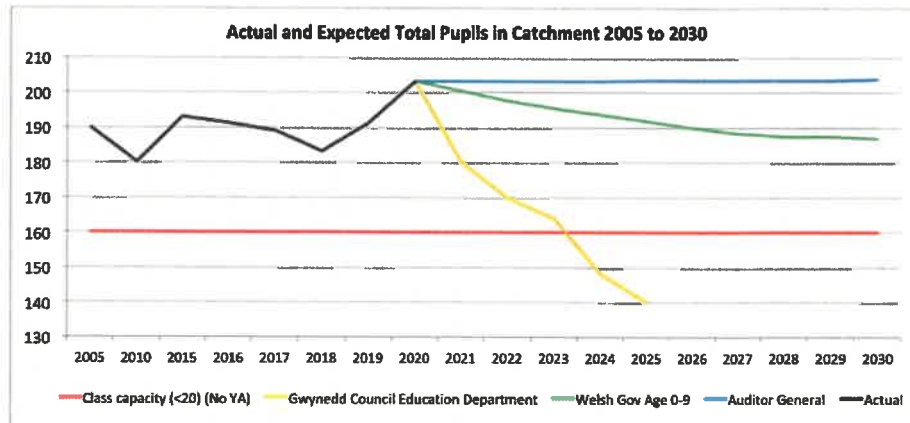
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/cy/Trigolion/Dogfennau-Trigolion/Ysgolion-a-dysgu...dogfennau/Mynediad-ysgolion-2018/Gwybodaeth-i-Rieni.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd\\_council\\_annual\\_audit\\_summary\\_2020\\_welsh\\_0.pdf](https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd_council_annual_audit_summary_2020_welsh_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://statscymru.llyw.c.y.mru/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>

hystyried. Nid yw'r amcangyfrif hwn yn cydfynd â thueddiad rhagolygon y boblogaeth yng Nghymru na'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol.

**Ffigur 1: Gwir Gyfanswm a Disgwyliedig Disgyblion yn y Dalgylich 2005 i 2030**



Mae gennym hefyd dystiolaeth gan sawl teulu â phlant nad yw'n cael ei adlewyrchu yn y niferoedd hyn. Er enghraifft, mae o leiaf 11 o blant y gwyddom amdanynt a fyddai'n gymwys o bosib i ddechrau yn Ysgol Abersoch yn y 3 mlynedd nesaf o gymharu â rhagamcan 7 yr Adran Addysg. Awgryma Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol y dylid edrych 25 – 50 o flynyddoedd i'r dyfodol, gan bwysleisio'r pwysigrwydd o anghenion tymor byr â'r angen i ddiogelu'r gallu i fedru wynebu anghenion hirdymor.

I gynorthwyo dod i benderfyniad, mae'n rhesymol ystyried tri senario o niferoedd disgyblion y dyfodol a sut gallasai hwnnw ddyylanwadau ar gapasiti dosbarth cymysg petai Ysgol Abersoch yn aros ar agor neu gau a'r plant fynd i Ysgol Sarn Bach (Atodiad B – Adolygiad o Feintiau Dosbarth, Capasiti a Rhagolygon y Boblogaeth – Adroddiad gan Gyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Chwefror 2021 /Appendix B – Review of Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Forecasts – A report by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends, February 2021). I grynhoi, dros y pedair ysgol:

- **Achos Uwch o 25 disgybl ym mhob flwyddyn ysgol / cyfanswm o 200 disgybl sy'n cydfynd â chyfartaledd blynyddoedd diweddar a barn yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol.**
- **Achos Canolig o 22 disgybl ym mhob flwyddyn ysgol / cyfanswm o 176 disgybl sy'n cydfynd â nifer mwyaf cyffredin disgyblion yn y blynyddoedd diweddar.**
- **Achos Isel o 18 disgybl ym mhob flwyddyn ysgol / cyfanswm o 144 disgybl sy'n cydfynd â rhagamcan y Cyngor.**

O ddefnyddio'r amcanestyniadau uchod, pe gwiredid yr Achos Isel ac y caeid Ysgol Abersoch, byddai'r tair ysgol ar ôl yn gweithredu bron yn llawn capasiti, gan ddarparu bron ddim amrediad amrywiadau arferol yn y niferoedd ysgol blynyddol neu ddarparu llwybr at ddatblygiad economaidd a thai yn yr ardal. Yn y senarios Canolig ac Uwch, addysgir nifer cynyddol o ddisgyblion mewn dosbarthiadau oed cymysg o fwy nag 20. O gymryd y senario Uwch, sy'n cydfynd ag amcanestyniadau'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol i Wynedd, pe caeid Ysgol Abersoch addysgir 100% o blant mewn dosbarthiadau cymysg maint mwy na'r arfer.



Ar gyfartaledd, rhaid ystyried pe caeid Ysgol Abersoch y dysgid holl ddisgyblion y tair ysgol sy'n weddill mewn dosbarthiadau mwy na'r arfer er eu hanfantais addysgol ac yn erbyn strategaeth ddatganedig Cyngor Gwynedd o addysg o'r ansawdd gorau mewn Ysgolion Cynradd.

### 3. Ffederaleiddio a Adolygu Dalgylch

Nid yr ydym yn credu bod ffederaliaeth wedi'i archwilio'n ddigonol. Ochr yn ochr â hyn noda 'Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau i Blant yng Ngwynedd' Cyngor Gwynedd yr amodau sy'n briodol i Adolygu Dalgylch. Cynhwysa'r rhain '...pe byddai ysgolion y dalgylch yn ennill neu golli dros 20% o'i disgyblion oherwydd yr effaith ar y gymdeithas gyfagos a'r dalgylch', 'llefydd gweigion ar draws y dalgylch', ac 'amrediad gwariant y pen pan fo'n fwy na 10% yn uwch neu'n is na'r cyfartaledd sirol'. Diwalla'r sefyllfa bresennol o fewn dalgylch y pedair ysgol leol yr holl griteria hyn ac, felly, gofynnwn am weithredu Adolygu'r Dalgylch.

### 4. Materion Proses

#### 4.1. Holiadur y Plant

Cynhwysa dogfen Ymgynghoriad Statudol i Blant gwestiynau arweiniol, mae'n gamarweiniol a rhagfarnlyd yn erbyn Ysgol Abersoch. Datgana'r ddogfen bod 'gwell defnydd o adnoddau, e.e. offer TG', 'cyfle i gyfarfod a chwarae â ffrindiau newydd', 'mwy o athrawon' yn Ysgol Sarn Bach. Cynlluniwyd y geiriad hwn i ddenu plant ac awgryma bod TG gwell a mwy o athrawon yn Ysgol Sarn Bach; ni chredwn fod hyn yn wir. Ymhellach, dim ond buddion ymddangosiadol (os yn gywir) a nodir, heb gyfeirio dim at yr hyn y gellid ei golli.

#### 4.2. Cymariaethau anaddas ac anghywir.

Wrth gydnabod y mynychu canran o ddisgyblion Abersoch ysgolion tu allan i'w dalgylch, rydym yn anghydweld y gall y ffigur hwn fod cyn uchod ag 81% gan y trosglwyddodd nifer o'r plant yn gyfreithlon i Ysgol Sarn Bach ar ôl Blwyddyn 3. Ymdebyga hyn i sefyllfa ddu a gwyn ac mae'n gamarweiniol ac anghywir.

#### 4.3. Asesiadau Effaith

Ymddengys bod cynnwys a natur cwblhau'r asesiadau effaith yn ymarfer ticio'r blwch cyfyngedig a gwblhawyd gan staff y Cyngor, yn hytrach nag ymgais gydnabyddedig i ganfod gwir gynrychiolaeth o'r effaith o fewn y gymuned a effeithir.

#### 4.4. Newid yr ystod oed o 3 – 8 i 3 – 9

Rydym yn gadarn ein barn bod ymestyn yr ystod oed i gynnwys Blwyddyn 4 yn ddatrysiad posibl ac ymarferol ond, eto, fe'i hanwybyddir gan y Cyngor heb eglurhad digonol. Nid yw'r awgrym hwn yn afresymol o feddwl y dysgir Blynnyddoedd 3 a 4 ar y cyd yn gyffredinol mewn dosbarthiadau oed cymysg yn ysgolion Gwynedd.

## 5. Materion Trafnidiaeth

### 5.1. Costau

Amcangyfrifwyd cost ychwanegol o £14,000 y flwyddyn i gludo plant Ysgol Abersoch yn ôl a blaen i Ysgol Sarn Bach gan yr Adran Addysg. Eto, cydnabydda'r Cyngor y gallai hwn fod yn dan amcangyfrifiad, o ystyried y mynychu nifer o blant tair i wyth oed Abersoch Ysgol Sarn Bach eisoes ac y dylid cynnwys y gost o gludo'r plant hyn hefyd yn y swm terfynol.

### 5.2. Diogelwch a'r Amgylchedd

Dosbarthwyd y daith o Abersoch i Ysgol Sarn Bach yn 'berylus' a olyga bod rhaid cael cludiant. Datgana Atodiad C 'Ardrawiad Cymunedol' y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion, "gallai cynigwyr gynnwys y canlynol: yr effaith ar iechyd a llesiant, e.e. pe bai disgyblion yn llai abl i gerdded neu feicio i'r ysgol". Eto, ni chredwn y deliwyd â hyn na'r angen o gludiant ar yr ardrawiad amgylcheddol, sy'n meithrin ymhellach o oed cynnar, nad yw materion amgylcheddol o bwys.

Mae'n werth tynnu sylw bod lleoliad Ysgol Sarn Bach, fel y dynodir ar dudalen 35 y Ddogfen Ymgynghoriad Statudol, yn anghywir. Efallai y cydiodd yr Adran Addysg yn ein syniad o Ysgol Draeth (Atodiad C) ac y dymuna ddatblygu Ysgol Sarn Bach yn Ysgol Fferm? Arweinir hyn at achos pryder yn anad dim ynghylch cywirdeb rhannau mwy cymhleth yr adroddiad.

### 5.3. Mynediad i Blant "Blwyddyn Meithrin"

Golyga cyfyngiad amserlen trafniadaeth gyhoeddus ei bod bron yn amhosibl i blant Meithrin, sy'n dod i'r ysgol rhwng naw ac 11 o'r gloch y bore, fedru mynychu heb drafnidiaeth bersonol.

## 6. Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi

### 6.1. Y Broses Ymgynghori

Mynna'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion bod "Ffactorau penodol i'w hystyried ar gyfer cynigion i ychwanegu neu ddileu dosbarthiadau meithrin". Yn gyntaf, nis ymgynghorwyd â'r Cylch Meithrin a'r Cylch Ti a Fi sydd ar y safle ynglŷn â'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol er gwaethaf bod yn rhanddeiliad cydnabyddedig ac ni chynhaliwyd trafodaeth parthed goblygiadau cau'r ysgol ar y ddarpariaeth o addysg blynnyddoedd cynnar yn Abersoch. Mae'r hepgoriad hwn yn tansilio ymddiriedaeth dull cynnal yr ymgynghoriad.

## 7. Yr Iaith a'r Gymuned

### 7.1. Strategaeth yr Iaith Gymraeg

Mae Miliwn o Siaradwyr Cymraeg 2050 yn strategaeth amlwg gan Lywodraeth Cymru ond, eto, mae cau ysgol yng nghanol pentref sy'n symbol pwysig i'r iaith Gymraeg yn groes i'r graen a gwrthwynebus i'r amcan hwn. Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn falch o'i diwylliant a'i threftadaeth Gymreig, gan gymryd mantais o bob cyfle codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Gymraeg mewn ffyrdd tu hwnt i allu cymunedau eraill. Gellid ystyried effaith y cau hwn ar y strategaeth hon fel hepgoriad detholedig. Targedwyd y strategaeth dysgu blynnyddoedd cynnar trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a llwyddo'n rhannol trwy fentrau'r Mudiad Meithrin megis Cylch Meithrin Abersoch a'r Cylch Ti a Fi, ac mae'n dystiolaeth o weithgareddau ar y gweill i gyflawni'r nod hwn.

## 7.2. Mentrau ac Effaith ar yr Iaith Gymraeg

Gwesteia Ysgol Abersoch nifer o fentrau sy'n hyrwyddo a dathlu'r Gymraeg, gan gynnwys Yr Urdd, gweithgareddau Hunaniaith, yn ogystal â bod yn rhan o'r cynllun 'Shwmae S'mae'. O fynd â'r iaith i'n cymuned leol ac at fusnesion cymaint fu'r llwyddiant hwn fel y dangosa nifer o'r siopau arwyddion dwyieithog erbyn hyn. Datgana Adran 7.9 y ddogfen ymgynghori, "Deuir i gasgliad...na ragwelir effaith negyddol ar yr iaith Gymraeg pe byddai'r cynnig yn cael ei weithredu." Fodd bynnag, mae colli'r hyrwyddiad a defnydd o'r iaith trwy berthynas â'r gymuned a busnes yn sylweddol.

## 7.3. Cysylltiad â'r Gymuned

Mae'r cyfleusterau cymunedol a gynigir ym mhentref Abersoch yn drech na'r rhai a gynigir yn Sarn Bach (CIAR 4.4, dogfen gefndir) ond, eto'n ddiddorol, ni chyflwynir yr wybodaeth bwysig hon yn y prif adroddiad, a ymddengys yn rhagfarnllyd yn erbyn Ysgol Abersoch. Dylid nodi hefyd nad yw Ysgol Sarn Bach yn ymwneud ag unrhyw Gylch Meithrin na Ti a Fi. Caeodd Cylch Meithrin, a gynhelid yng Nghanolfan Gymdeithasol Llanengan, o ganlyniad i ddiffyg pwyllgor. Mae'r tabl yn parhau i fod yn ffeithiol anghywir, er enghraifft nid oes capel nac eglwys yn Sarn Bach ac mae gan Llanbedrog a Foel Gron neuaddau pentref. Mae'r camgymeriadau syml hyn yn tanseilio'r hyder mewn meysydd gwybodaeth mwy cymhleth sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn yr adroddiad.

## 7.4. Effaith ar y Gymuned

Mae cryn bryder am effaith colli'r ysgol o gymuned pentref Abersoch. Datgana'r Adran Addysg "y deuir i'r casgliad fod cysylltiad rhwng yr ysgol â'r ardal ehangach yn bodoli eisoes" ar y sail y mynychu plant Abersoch Ysgol Sarn Bach eisoes ond, eto nid oes gan Ysgol Sarn Bach broffil yn Abersoch ac, o wybod am heriau'r lleoliad a thrafnidiaeth, mae'n anodd gweld sut y newidia hynny. Byddai dod â phlant Ysgol Sarn Bach i'r pentref yn gofyn am logi bws yn ogystal â chostau eraill fel taliadau parcio a'r angen am staff ychwanegol; ar hyn o bryd mae hyn yn cael ei wneud am ddim yn Ysgol Abersoch. Ni all ysgol nad yw yn y pentref gynhyrchu nac atgynhyrchu'r un lefel o ddiddordeb, cefnogaeth neu ymwneud cymunedol o fewn y gymuned leol a busnesion.

## 8. Ariannol

### 8.1. Arbedion Amcangyfrifedig

Mae'r arbedion o £110,000 yn gyfartaledd bychan (0.1%) o gyllideb gyfan Cyngor Gwynedd o £90.4 miliwn. Ond, eto, yn nhermau tryloywder, nid yw'n glir pa gostau a gynhwyswyd ac na chynhwyswyd yn yr amcangyfrifon hyn. O ystyried y dibynna mwyafrif dadl Cyngor Gwynedd ar gost, mae'n syndod nad yw'n dweud llawer am hyn o gymharu â'r manylder a geir yng ngweddill y ddogfennaeth.

### 8.2. Cyllideb

Ymrwymodd Ysgol Abersoch i falanshio ei chyllideb yn nhermau dyraniad ariannol a strwythur staffio. Datryswyd unrhyw ddiffygion cyllidebol ar gyfer 2021 – 2022 erbyn hyn hefyd.

## 9. Darpariaeth Addysg

### 9.1. Cymarebau Staff i Ddisgyblion

Credwn y cynhwysa lefelau staffio Ysgol Sarn Bach bennaeth llawn amser, athrawes rhan amser ac athrawon achlysurol, yn ogystal â chymorthyddion dysgu. Rhennir y plant i ddau ddsbarth ffurfiol mewn tair ystafell ddsbarth. Dysga'r pennaeth Meithrin – Blwyddyn 2 mewn dosbarth sengl a'r athrawes ran-amser Flynyddoedd 3, 4, 5 a 6 mewn dwy ystafell ddsbarth wedi'u cefnogi gan gymhorthydd dysgu. Credwn y dysgir y plant ym Mlynnyddoedd 5 a 6 gan gymhorthydd dosbarth ddeuddydd yr wythnos. Mae'n rhesymol gofyn pam fod cynyddu maint dosbarthiadau, trwy gynnwys disgyblion Ysgol Abersoch, yn "Cynnig addysg o'r ansawdd uchaf posibl" a "byddai addysgu'r plant yn Ysgol Sarn Bach yn cael effaith positif". O gymharu, dysgir plant Ysgol Abersoch bob amser gan athrawes, fel y disgwylir mewn ysgol.

### 9.2. Trosglwyddo ar Ddiwedd Blwyddyn 3

Awgryma'r cynnig trwy gael eu dysgu'n unig yn Ysgol Sarn Bach, ac nad oes angen trosglwyddo disgyblion yn ystod eu haddysg gynradd, yn fudd diriaethol ond, eto, ni ddarparir tystiolaeth i gefnogi'r pwynt hwn. Nid ydym yn ymwybodol o unrhyw effaith negyddol yn gysylltiedig â'r trosglwyddiad hwn. Nid oes sylfaen i'r datganiad ac mae'n hynod oddrychol.

### 9.3. Ansawdd yr Addysg

Ymddengys bod adroddiad yr Ymgynghoriad yn ddethol yn ei ddewis o gynnwys a geiriad, gan amlygu buddion Ysgol Sarn Bach ond, eto'n eithrio rhai Ysgol Abersoch. Er enghraifft, penodwyd pennaeth Ysgol Abersoch, Linda Jones yn Gydlynnydd Clwstwr Siarter Iaith i gefnogi'r Sector Uwchradd ond eto ni chydabyddir dim o hyn. Awgryma hyn bod mwy i'w ennill nac o'i golli o gau Ysgol Abersoch. Buasai'r mwyafrif o bobl yn ystyried meintiau dosbarthiadau llai yn gyfle atyniadol â chanlyniadau addysgol gwell. Mae'n syndod y rhodda'r Adran Addysg fwy o bwyslais ar agweddau cymdeithasol dosbarthiadau mwy dros ganlyniadau addysgol gwell. Ni theimlwn yr ysgrifennwyd yr adroddiad mewn modd a rodde chwarae teg cyfartal i Ysgol Abersoch.

## 10. Y Dyfodol

Gwyddom y mynegodd rieni ddymuniad o gadw'u plant yn Ysgol Abersoch am flwyddyn ychwanegol pe bai dewis a buasai'n clymu'n daclus â'r drefn o addysgu plant Blynnyddoedd 3 a 4 â'i gilydd. Teimlir ei bod yn groes i'r graen adeiladu mwy o ofod yn Ysgol Llanbedrog, fel yr awgrymodd aelod o'r Adran Addysg mewn cyfarfod anffurfiol, pan fo ysgol addas â chapasiti yn Abersoch. Arweiniodd polisi dewis rhieni Llywodraeth Cymru, a methiant Cyngor Gwynedd o lynu at ei bolisiau ei hun, i'r sefyllfa o un ysgol fod dros-gapasiti ac, eto, un arall sy'n brwydro aros ar agor yn dangos yr atebwyd y criteria am Adolygu Dalgylch.

Brwydra cymunedau ar draws Gwynedd ag ystod o heriau cyffredinol. Nid cymuned Abersoch yw'r unig un sy'n ymladd achub ei hysgol, llyfrgell, addoldai ac adnoddau cyhoeddus eraill. Cafodd y sefyllfa bresennol o ran tai a chyflogaeth effaith niweidiol unman yn fwy amlwg na Abersoch. Amlygodd cyhoeddiad diweddar Cyngor Gwynedd o 'Gynllun Gweithredu Tai' i gefnogi tai fforddiadwy y pwysigrwydd o fframwaith cydlynol at ddyfodol cynaliadwy. Profa hyn, ar y cyd â'r cyhoeddiad am gynlluniau datblygu i greu 150 o swyddi yn y pentref, y saif

Abersoch mewn lle da i arwain y ffordd. Credwn y gall hyn ddechrau wrth i Gyngor Gwynedd ymdrin ag addysg arloesol.

Cynigwn bod Ysgol Abersoch mewn sefyllfa ddelfrydol i ddarparu model amgen llwyddiannus, trwy ddatblygu ei ddarpariaeth addysgol trwy'r Cylch Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin ac arwain ar y syniad o Ysgol Draeth arloesol a allasai gynnwys bod yn rhan o ffederaleiddio neu ysgol aml-safle. Trwy ymrwymo cadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor fel darpariaeth addysg hirdymor yng nghanol Abersoch, a'i chefnogi â strategaeth tai a chyflogaeth, mae yna gyfle unigryw i gyhoeddi stori economaidd lwyddiannus i Wunedd. Ni all hyn ond bod o fudd i'r gymuned gyfan a gwasanaethu'n flaenllaw i gryfhau a chynnal yr iaith Gymraeg a diwylliant yn yr ardal hynod weladwy hon o Wunedd.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

**LOUISE OVERFIELD**  
ar ran Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch

Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch  
Ysgol Abersoch  
Lôn Gwydryn  
Abersoch  
LL53 7EA

22 February 2021

Modernising Education Office  
Education Department  
Gwynedd Council  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

Dear Education Department and Cabinet Members

On behalf of Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends and in response to the Statutory Consultation to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021, we strongly oppose this proposal and request that the Cabinet take this opportunity to develop a cooperative and innovative approach to ensure that education provision continues in the village of Abersoch.

1. We highlight to you our concerns in relation to the lawfulness of the consultation process
  - 1.1. The consultation with the learners was unfair in light of their young ages and understanding.
  - 1.2. The Response Form is inadequate. There is no detail as to how people can ask further questions about the proposal or suggest alternatives to the proposal. Consultees have not been informed of their opportunity to make representations regarding the alternatives to closure that have been identified by Gwynedd Council as well as the main proposal. The consultees have not been informed of their opportunity to suggest other alternatives to closure which would address the reasons for the closure (i.e. the key challenge that the school faces).
  - 1.3. There is a lack of explanation/reasoning in relation to the 5-year projection of pupil numbers for the school. Gwynedd Council's decision not to consider the impact of Ti a Fi and Cylch Meithrin on the projected numbers is unfair.
  - 1.4. There is a lack of transparency in relation to how Gwynedd Council consulted with the other schools and in particular the views of those schools and their governing body in relation to federalisation is unknown. This lack of information has impacted on the consultees ability to respond meaningfully to the proposals

We also have several points that we feel deserve due consideration as part of the decision-making process. To support this, Appendix A is a detailed table of our observations to the consultation documents provided by Moderneiddio Addysg and we request these comments, in addition to the points raised in this letter, are reviewed and addressed.

## 2. Class sizes and capacity

### 2.1. Class sizes

Gwynedd Council is committed to a strategy of ‘Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd’<sup>1</sup>. In this strategy class sizes are identified as an important factor so that children acquire the best possible experience and opportunities. All of the four schools in the area (Ysgol Abersoch, Ysgol Sarn Bach, Ysgol Llanbedrog, Ysgol Foel Gron) have mixed age classes as the norm. Gwynedd Council has committed to ensuring that there is on average no more than 20 pupils or fewer than 12 pupils in any mixed age class yet the class sizes for 2020-21 are above 20 in 6 classes out of 9 (Appendix B- Review of Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Forecasts - A report by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends, February 2021)

### 2.2. Capacity

The Schools Organisation Code states that "It should not normally be necessary to provide additional places at schools when there are others of the same type with surplus places within a reasonable distance. Furthermore, Gwynedd Council ‘Information For Parents 2021 / 2022’<sup>2</sup> states that “The Authority will comply with parental preference until the school's admission number has been attained” and “The Authority may in exceptional circumstances admit children in excess of the admission number if such acceptance will not adversely affect the school both in the short and longer term and will not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring schools”. Yet Ysgol Llanbedrog is oversubscribed by more than 20%, with 102 children attending compared to its capacity of 83, with 43% of attending pupils coming from out of catchment. We do not believe Gwynedd Council to be following the Schools Organisation Code, nor its own policies when it comes to admissions, maximum class sizes of 20 pupils for children in mixed-age classes, nor in certain cases the Council’s own legal limit of 30 in a class.

### 2.3. Projection numbers

Pupil population forecasts are important in understanding whether there is sufficient capacity at the four schools to offer class sizes of between 12 and 20 now and in the future. The Education Department has prepared a 5-year projection of pupil numbers in the four schools. This is shown below (Figure 1) alongside the Auditor General ‘Gwynedd Council Annual Audit Summary 2020’<sup>3</sup> projections and the Welsh Government<sup>4</sup> estimate of population changes of those aged 0 – 9 years in Wales. Our finding is that the Education Department estimate shows a significantly different trend that out of step with Gwynedd Council’s Auditor General published forecasts and that of the wider

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Schools-and-learning-documents/Reorganisation/ExcellentPrimaryEducationforChildreninGwynedd.pdf>

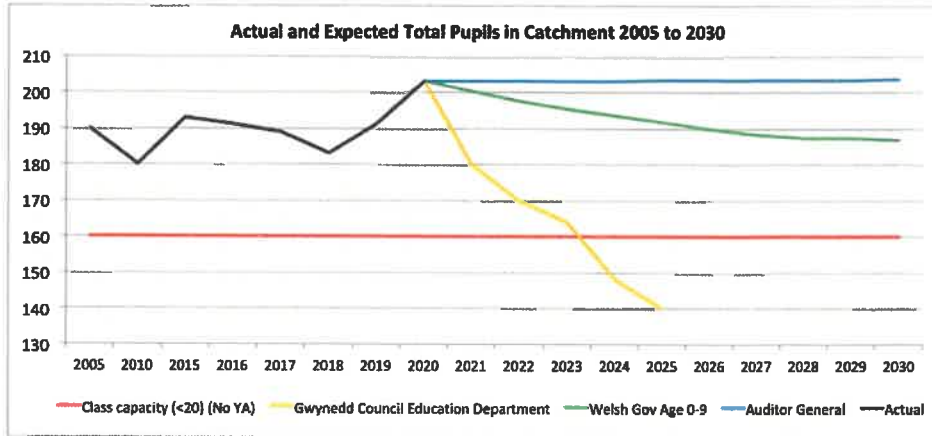
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Schools-and-learning-documents/School-Admissions/Guide-Book.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd\\_council\\_annual\\_audit\\_summary\\_2020\\_english.pdf](https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/gwynedd_council_annual_audit_summary_2020_english.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>

Welsh population and as a result needs careful consideration to ensure a realistic range of scenarios is considered.

**Figure 1: Actual and Expected Total Pupils in Catchment 2005 to 2030**



We also have evidence from several families with children which is not reflected in these numbers. For example, there are least 11 potential children that we know of who would be eligible to start at Ysgol Abersoch in the next 3 years compared to the Education Department’s projected 7. The Commissioner for Future Generations also suggests that we should be looking 25 to 50 years into the future, stressing the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

To assist with decision making it is reasonable to consider three scenarios of future pupil numbers and how this might impact mixed class capacity if Ysgol Abersoch remains open or closes and the pupils go to Ysgol Sarn Bach (Appendix B- Review of Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Forecasts - A report by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends, February 2021). In summary, across the four schools:

- **High case of 25 pupils per year group per year / 200 pupils in total** in line with the average of recent years and the opinion of the Auditor General.
- **Mid case of 22 pupils per year group per year / 176 pupils in total** in line with the most frequent number of pupils in recent years.
- **Low case of 18 pupils per year group per year / 144 pupils in total** in line with the Council’s forecast by 2025.

Using the projections from above, if the Low case is realised, as per the Council’s forecasts and if Ysgol Abersoch is closed, the remaining three schools will operate at close to full capacity, providing little scope for normal fluctuations in annual school numbers or provide a pathway for economic and housing development in the area. In both the Mid and High scenarios an increasing number of pupils will be educated in mixed age classes greater than 20. Taking the High scenario, which broadly reflects the Auditor General projections for Gwynedd, if Ysgol Abersoch closes 100% of children will be educated in oversized, mixed age classes.



On average, it must be considered that the closure of Ysgol Abersoch will mean that all pupils in the three remaining schools will be educated in oversized classrooms to their educational detriment and against Gwynedd Council's stated strategy of educational excellence in primary schools.

### 3. Federalisation and Catchment Area Review

We do not believe that federalisation has been sufficiently explored. Alongside this Gwynedd Council's 'Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd' specifies the conditions under which Catchment Area Review is appropriate. These include "if schools within the catchment area gain or lose more than 20% of its pupils due to the impact on the neighbouring community and the catchment-area", "surplus places across the catchment-area", and "per capita expenditure per school greater than 10% above or below the county average". The present situation within the area of the four local schools meets all of these criteria and we therefore request that a Catchment Area Review be implemented.

### 4. Process issues

#### 4.1. Children's questionnaire

The Statutory Consultation for Children document includes leading questions, is misleading and biased against Ysgol Abersoch. The document states that at Ysgol Sarn Bach there is 'better use of resources e.g. IT Equipment', 'an opportunity to meet and play with new friends', 'more teachers'. This wording is designed to entice children implying there is better IT and more teaching staff at Ysgol Sarn Bach, which we do not believe to be the case. Furthermore, only perceived (if not incorrect) benefits are noted, with no reference to what may be lost.

#### 4.2. Inappropriate and inaccurate comparisons.

Whilst acknowledging that a percentage of Abersoch pupils attend school outside of their catchment area, we dispute that this figure can be as high as 81% since a number of children have transferred legitimately to Ysgol Sarn Bach after Year 3. This is akin to an apples and pears comparison, is misleading and incorrect.

#### 4.3. Impact assessments

The content and nature of the completion of the impact assessments appear to be a limited, tick box exercise completed by Council staff, rather than a concerted effort to ascertain a true representation of the impact within the affected community.

#### 4.4. Changing age range from 3 - 8 years to 3 - 9 years

We are firmly of the opinion that extending the age range to include Year 4 is a feasible and practical solution yet is disregarded by the Council with insufficient explanation. This suggestion is not unreasonable given that Years 3 and 4 are commonly taught together in mixed-age classes in many Gwynedd schools.

## 5. Transport issues

### 5.1. Costs

An additional cost of £14,000 pa for transport of Ysgol Abersoch children to and from Ysgol Sarn Bach has been estimated by the Education Department. Yet, the council has acknowledged that this may be an underestimation, seeing as a number of Abersoch children aged 3 - 8 already attend Ysgol Sarn Bach, and the cost of transport for these children would also need to be factored in.

### 5.2. Safety and environment

The route from Abersoch to Ysgol Sarn Bach is classified as 'dangerous' necessitating vehicular transport. The Schools Organisation Code, Annex C 'Community Impact' states 'proposers might include the following: impact on health and wellbeing e.g. if pupils would be less able to walk or cycle to school' yet we do not believe that this has been addressed, nor the environmental impact of the need for transport, which further instills a belief from an early age that environmental issues are of no importance.

It is worth pointing out that the location of Ysgol Sarn Bach, as indicated on page 35 of the Statutory Consultation Document, is incorrect. Perhaps the Education Department has taken hold of our Beach School concept (Appendix C) and wishes to develop Ysgol Sarn Bach into a Farm School? This leads to cause for concern not least over the accuracy of other more complex areas of the report.

### 5.3. Access for children in the 'Nursery Year'

The limitations of the public bus service timetable mean that it would be near impossible for Nursery children, who come to school between 9am and 11am to attend without personal transport.

## 6. Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi

### 6.1. Consultation process

The Schools Organisation Code stipulates there are "specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes". Firstly, the on-site Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi has not been formally informed nor consulted with regards to the Statutory Consultation despite being a recognised stakeholder, and no discussion has been held regarding the implications of school closure on the provision of early years education in Abersoch. This omission undermines confidence in the conduct of the consultation.

## 7. Language and community

### 7.1. Welsh Language strategy

The Cymraeg 2050 Million Welsh Speakers is a key Welsh Government strategy yet closing a school in the heart of a village that is an important symbol of the Welsh language is both counterintuitive and contrary to this aim. Ysgol Abersoch proudly celebrates its Welsh culture and heritage, taking advantage of every opportunity to raise the profile of the Welsh language in ways that are beyond the ability of other communities. Not considering the impact of this closure on this strategy could be considered a selective omission. The strategy has targeted early years learning through the medium

of Welsh, achieved in part by Mudiad Meithrin initiatives such as the Cylch Meithrin Abersoch and Cylch Ti a Fi and is evidence of the activities underway to achieve this goal.

## 7.2. Welsh language initiatives and impact

Ysgol Abersoch is host to several initiatives designed to promote and celebrate the Welsh language including Yr Urdd, Hunaniaith activities as well as participation in the 'Shwmae S'mae' program. The pupils take the language out into our local community and businesses and such is the success of these initiatives that a number of shops have introduced bilingual signage. Section 7.9 of the consultation document states that "It is concluded ... that no negative impact on the Welsh language is anticipated, should the proposal be realised." However the loss of the promotion and use of the language through community and business relationships is tangible.

## 7.3. Involvement in community

The community facilities offered in Abersoch village far outweigh those offered in Sarn Bach (CIAR 4.4, background document) yet interestingly this important information is not presented in the main report, which seems rather biased against Ysgol Abersoch. It should also be noted that Ysgol Sarn Bach is not involved with any Cylch Meithrin or Ti a Fi. The Cylch Meithrin at Llanengan Community Centre closed due to a lack of committee. The table continues to be factually incorrect, for example there is no chapel or church in Sarn Bach and both Llanbedrog and Foel Gron have village halls. These simple mistakes undermine confidence in more complex areas of information contained in the report.

## 7.4. Impact on community

There is significant concern on the impact of the loss of the school on the Abersoch village community. The Education Department state that a "link already exists between the school and the broader area" on the basis that Abersoch children already attend Ysgol Sarn Bach, yet Ysgol Sarn Bach does not have a profile in Abersoch, and given the location and transport challenges it is difficult to see how this would change. Bringing Ysgol Sarn Bach children into the village would require the hire of a bus as well as other costs such as parking charges and the need for additional staff yet this is presently done for free at Ysgol Abersoch. A school that is not in the village cannot generate or replicate the same level of community interest, support or involvement within the local community and businesses.

## 8. Financials

### 8.1. Estimated savings

The savings of £110,000 are a small proportion (0.1%) of the overall Gwynedd Council expenditure on education of £108.8m<sup>5</sup> million yet, in terms of transparency, it is unclear what costs have been

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Finance/Gwynedd-Financial-Information-for-Council-Tax-Payers-2020.21.pdf>

included or excluded in these calculations. Given that much of Gwynedd Council's argument hinges on cost, it is surprising that the same level of detail afforded to the rest of the documentation is not forthcoming.

## 8.2. Budget

Ysgol Abersoch is committed to balancing its budget in terms of financial allocation and staffing structure, and any budget deficits for 2021/22 have now been resolved.

## 9. Education provision

### 9.1. Staff to pupil ratios

We believe staffing levels at Ysgol Sarn Bach to consist of 1 full-time headteacher, 1 part-time teacher, and occasional teachers, as well as teaching assistants. The children are split into 2 formal classes, across 3 classrooms. The headteacher teaches Meithrin - Year 2 in a single classroom, and the part-time teacher Years 3,4,5 and 6 across 2 physical classrooms supported by a teaching assistant. We believe that for 2 days per week the children in Years 5 and 6 are taught by a teaching assistant only. It is reasonable to question how increasing class sizes, by including Ysgol Abersoch pupils, will "Provide education of the best possible quality" and how "there would be a positive impact on educating the children at Ysgol Sarn Bach". In contrast, Ysgol Abersoch children are always taught by a teacher, as would be expected in a school.

### 9.2. Transferring after Year 3

The proposal implies that there is a tangible benefit for pupils in avoiding the need to transfer schools during their primary education, yet no evidence is provided to support this point and we are unaware of any negative impact associated with this transfer. There is no basis for the statement and it is highly subjective.

### 9.3. Quality of Education

The Consultation report appears to be selective in its choice of content and wording, highlighting the benefits of Ysgol Sarn Bach yet excluding the benefits of Ysgol Abersoch. For example, Ysgol Abersoch's headteacher, Linda Jones has been appointed Language Charter Cluster Coordinator to support the Secondary Sector yet none of this is recognised within the documentation. This implies there is more to be gained than will be lost by the closure of Ysgol Abersoch. Most people would consider smaller class sizes to be an attractive opportunity with improved educational outcomes. It is surprising that the Education Department places greater emphasis on social aspects of larger classes over improved educational outcomes. We do not feel that the report is written in a manner that gives equal fair play to Ysgol Abersoch.

## 10. Future

We know that parents have expressed a wish to keep their children at Ysgol Abersoch for an extra year if this were an option and would neatly tie in with the usual order of teaching children in years 3 and 4 together. It feels counter-intuitive to build additional space at Ysgol Llanbedrog, as was proposed by a member of the Education Department in an informal meeting, when there is a fit for

purpose school at Abersoch with capacity. Welsh Government policy of parental choice, and Gwynedd Council's failure to adhere to its own policies has led to the situation of one school being over capacity, yet another struggling to stay open and indicates that the criteria for Catchment Area Review have been met.

Communities across Gwynedd are struggling to deal with a range of challenges along a common theme. The Abersoch community is not alone in its efforts as we strive to save our schools, libraries, places of worship and other public facilities. The present situation with regards to housing and employment has had a detrimental effect nowhere more obvious than in Abersoch. Gwynedd Council's recently announced 'Housing Action Plan' to support affordable housing serves to highlight the importance of a cohesive framework towards a sustainable future. This combined with recently announced development plans which will result in 150 jobs in the village, demonstrates that Abersoch is well-placed to lead the way. We believe this can start with Gwynedd Council taking an innovative approach to schooling.

We propose that Ysgol Abersoch is ideally placed to provide a successful alternative model, by strengthening foundations through the inclusion of Cylch Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin and leading on the innovative Beach School concept, which could involve being part of a federalisation or multi-site school. A commitment to keeping Ysgol Abersoch open in the center of Abersoch, supported by a dynamic housing and employment strategy, presents a unique opportunity to herald a social, educational, and economic success story for the Council. This can only serve to benefit the entire community and serve as a flagship to strengthen and sustain the Welsh language and culture in this highly visible area of Gwynedd.

Yours sincerely

**LOUISE OVERFIELD**

**On behalf of Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch**

## Appendix A: Analysis and response to the Ysgol Abersoch Statutory Consultation documents by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends

### Abbreviations

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CIAR	Community Impact Assessment Report
EPECG	Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd document <a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Schools--and-learning/Modernising-Education/Modernising-Education.aspx">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Schools--and-learning/Modernising-Education/Modernising-Education.aspx</a>
LIAR	Language Impact Assessment Report
QSEIAR	Assessment Report of the likely impact on Quality and Standards in Education
SCD	Statutory Consultation Document
SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children
SOC	Schools Organisation Code
TIAR	Assessment Report of the likely impact on different travelling arrangements
WBAR	Well-being Assessment Report

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Document	Page	Observation	Comment	Theme
SCD	p6	2. The Consultation "In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin"	<p>Cylch Meithrin Abersoch and Cylch Ti a Fi were not informed despite being on-site and a recognised stakeholder in the consultation process.</p> <p>Has the information on the consultation been distributed widely enough? How many other organisations that were due to be informed were not informed?</p> <p>This omission undermines the process and compromises faith that the process is being carried out fairly.</p>	Process
SCD	p9	3.1. How the Proposal was developed	There is an implication here that as part of the "review panel" Ysgol Abersoch agreed with the proposal that was "developed". This is not the case. Please clarify.	Process
SCD	p9	3.1. How the Proposal was developed 'Excellent primary education strategy'	<p>State in what way did the proposal follow this, and in what ways does Ysgol Abersoch not meet this strategy.</p> <p>To ensure fairness, it would follow that this approach should also be followed for each of the neighbouring schools, with reference to which elements of the strategy are met and not met, in particular with regards to the mixed-age class size range of 12 - 20 pupils.</p> <p>We believe it is inappropriate to be selective about this.</p>	Process
SCD	p9	3.1. How the Proposal was developed Strategies & Objectives considered	The Cymraeg 2050 Million Welsh Speakers is a key Welsh Government strategy. Why is there no reference to this and the impact of closing the school on this strategy?	Community and Welsh Language

SCD	p9	3.1. How the Proposal was developed Excellent primary education strategy Provide education of the best possible quality	<p>This statement does not reflect the present teaching offer at Ysgol Sarn Bach and does not inform parents that children are routinely not being taught by a qualified teacher.</p> <p>We understand that classes in Ysgol Sarn Bach are taught by 1 full-time headteacher, 1 part-time teacher, and occasional teachers, as well as teaching assistants. The children are split into 2 formal classes, across 3 classrooms. The headteacher teaches Nursery - Year 2 in a single classroom, the part-time teacher Years 3,4,5 and 6 across 2 classrooms supported by a teaching assistant. There are regular days per week when the children in Years 3,4, 5 and 6 are taught by the teaching assistant only. For example, in the Year 5 and 6 classroom, the children are taught by the part-time teacher 2 days per week, by an occasional teacher 1 day per week and by a teaching assistant 2 days per week. There are 21 children in this classroom, plus a further 13 children in the Year 3 and 4 classroom. Therefore 34 children combined across two separate classrooms being taught by a combination of part-time teacher, occasional teacher, and teaching assistant.</p> <p>In what way, by including Ysgol Abersoch pupils, does increasing class sizes meet the objective of 'providing education of the best possible quality' when the classes are larger and in some cases exceed Gwynedd Council's legal limit of 30 and pupils are not being taught by a teacher on a number of days per week? (<a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents/Schools-and-learning-documents/School-Admissions/Guide-Book.pdf">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents/Schools-and-learning-documents/School-Admissions/Guide-Book.pdf</a>)</p> <p>Conversely, at Ysgol Abersoch children are always taught by a teacher, as would be expected to "Provide education of the best possible quality".</p>	Quality and Standard of Education
SCD	p10	4. Existing Arrangements in the Abersoch Area	<p>Why are staffing levels at Ysgol Abersoch but not Ysgol Sarn Bach referred to here?</p> <p>What are the staffing levels at Ysgol Sarn Bach, per class and classroom, with teacher to child ratios? Does each classroom have a teacher in it every day?</p> <p>We have reason to believe there is 1 full-time headteacher, 1 part-time teacher, an occasional teacher as well as teaching assistants.</p>	Quality and Standard of Education
SCD	p10	Impact assessment on resources at Ysgol Sarn Bach	<p>The report does not address the impact on additional resources needed at Sarn Bach to support the continued educational standard by including the additional children. Please specify what these will be and the anticipated costs.</p>	Class sizes and capacity



SCD	p12	Capacity	<p>“Governing body admission authorities should be particularly mindful that admitting more pupils than the school has capacity for could prejudice the efficiency of education for pupils, and could have the effect of drawing pupils from other schools that may then find it more challenging to retain sufficient teachers to facilitate the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum”.</p> <p>(<a href="https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/id/eprint/15830">https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/id/eprint/15830</a>).</p> <p>Gwynedd Council “Information For Parents 2021 / 2022” states that “The Authority will comply with parental preference until the school’s admission number has been attained” and “The Authority may in exceptional circumstances admit children in excess of the admission number if such acceptance will not adversely affect the school both in the short and longer term and will not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring schools”.</p> <p>The Schools Organisation Code states: “It should not normally be necessary to provide additional places at schools when there are others of the same type with surplus places within a reasonable distance”.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council does not appear to be adhering to its own policies nor following the Schools Organisation Code. The number of pupils at Ysgol Llanbedrog exceeds capacity (capacity 83, registered 102), there has been a detrimental impact on Ysgol Abersoch and Ysgol Sarn Bach. We question why Gwynedd Council allows Ysgol Llanbedrog to continue to accept children from out of catchment when they are already above capacity if there is surplus elsewhere.</p>	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p13 EPECG P4	“Pupil numbers have reduced consistently since 2016”	<p>This statement is misleading for the local area. The table on p14 shows that the number of children educated in the area have been consistent since 1980. Pupils have increased by 5% between 2005 and 2020 (190-204). 204 pupils in 2020 is the third highest on record with pupil numbers steadily rising in the past 5 years.</p> <p>The basis for the projection numbers at Ysgol Abersoch is unclear. We know of at least 11 potential children in Ysgol Abersoch catchment area to start in the next 3 years compared to the Education Department’s projected 7. There is also post-pandemic potential for further increase in numbers as people move out of urban areas to rural areas.</p> <p>We question the validity of the projected Ysgol Sarn Bach pupil numbers, 40 in 2021 reducing to 17 in 2025. The Gwynedd Council estimate shows a significantly different trend to the wider Welsh population. As a result, these projections need careful consideration to ensure a realistic range of scenarios is considered (See Appendix B: Review of Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Forecasts - A report by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends) and for a sufficient duration of time. The Future Generations Commissioner has stated that consideration should be given to the long-term trends i.e. 25-50 years into the future.</p>	Class sizes and capacity

SCD	p13	Small class sizes "The 10 pupils are taught in one mixed-age class" Broad age ranges within classes "The pupils are taught in one class with an age range of up to 5 years" and p24	There are two physical classrooms, and the children spend approximately 50% time with 2 teachers (split into 2 classrooms), and 50% of their time with 1 teacher and 1 assistant.  In Ysgol Sarn Bach there are two classes - one for Nursery to Year 3 (four age ranges) and one for Years 3,4,5 and 6 (four age ranges). Please explain how closing Ysgol Abersoch would improve the education provision?	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p13	5.1. The Current Situation The cost per pupil at Ysgol Abersoch in the 2020/21 financial year is £17,404 - the average cost in the county per pupil is £4,198.	We continually point out that it is inappropriate to compare the cost per pupil to larger schools. Provide a cost per pupil comparison compared to other similar small schools.	Financial
SCD	p13	5.1. The Current Situation Pupil residence	This table is wholly misleading. Ysgol Abersoch only takes pupils up to Year 3, therefore the numbers by default are biased against the school. Several of the Ysgol Abersoch pupils attending Ysgol Sarn Bach will be attending since they have already transferred in year 4. The comparisons are inappropriate and compare apples with pears. It would be more appropriate to compare all 3-8 year olds.	Process
SCD	p15	5.3. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation Weakness - Lack of opportunity to socialise	There is the Urdd, Craft Clubs, and of course plenty of out of school clubs and sports opportunities. The school is for learning and children have plenty of friends outside of this environment.	Community and Welsh and Language
SCD	p15	5.3. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation "The financial allocation of the school would not maintain the current staffing structure in the future"	This has been resolved to ensure the budget now balances moving forward.	Financial
SCD	p15	5.3. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation "High percentage of pupils attend schools outside catchment area"	This is also the case for Ysgol Sarn Bach; 15 out of 42 home catchment area pupils attend Ysgol Llanbedrog. This is not unusual due to the WG parental choice policy.	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p15	5.3. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation Ysgol Abersoch continues to receive an additional sum to the usual financial allocation via the minimum staffing policy.	This is Gwynedd Council policy and not a weakness.	Financial

SCD	p15	5.3. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Situation "It is noted that the weaknesses outweigh the strengths"	On what basis was this assessment made?	Process
	p18	6.1 Comparing Options Option 1 - Status Quo Option 8 - Establish a Cylch Meithrin at Ysgol Abersoch " Whilst acknowledging the potential positive impact that locating a Cylch Meithrin on the Ysgol Abersoch site may have on the pupil numbers, this cannot be guaranteed, and it is anticipated that the challenges would continue"	<p>The layout of the table by default makes it look like there are more weaknesses than strengths since all the strengths are listed in a single row rather than multiple rows thus immediately biasing against the school.</p> <p>Other strengths are omitted e.g. presence of Cylch Meithrin.</p> <p>"The financial allocation of the school would not maintain the current staffing structure in the future." This has now been addressed and resolved.</p> <p>The impact on Cylch Meithrin Abersoch is summarily dismissed. There is evidence to show that a Cylch Meithrin does increase numbers. For example, at Ysgol Llanbedrog, even though the Cylch is across the road it is a reason that people have chosen to send children to Ysgol Llanbedrog.</p> <p>Our position is that it is anticipated that numbers will increase and that this is a more plausible scenario than Gwynedd Council's statement of no guarantees.</p>	Cylch Meithrin
SCD	p17	6.1 Comparing Options Option 2b - change age range to 3-9 years	<p>The justification for saying no is insufficient.</p> <p>In most mixed age classes years 3 and 4 are taught together therefore this is a natural step. "It would not allow for the school to offer a comprehensive Key Stage 2 provision." It seems unclear why this would be an issue. It has been successful in doing so for many decades. Please provide evidence and justification for this point.</p>	Process
SCD	p17	6.1 Comparing Options Option 3 - Federalisation with a nearby school	Insufficient explanation is given as to why this is to be disregarded.	Process
SCD	p17	6.1 Comparing Options Option 4 - Federalisation with a nearby school, locating the Foundation Phase on the Ysgol Abersoch site, and KS2 on the site of a nearby school	"...it is possible that it would lead to a situation where both schools included in the federation would be reliant on an additional financial allocation by means of the minimum staffing protection policy" Why would both schools then be reliant on minimum staffing policy? Is Gwynedd Council confident in the pupil number projections put forward by Ysgol Sarn Bach?	Process

SCD	p17	6.1 Comparing Options Option 5 - Federalisation with nearby schools, locating the Foundation Phase + Years 3 and 4 + Years 5 and 6 on the sites of three different schools	"Although it would reduce the financial protection sum at Ysgol Abersoch, it is possible that it would lead to a situation where the three schools included in the federation would be reliant on an additional financial allocation by means of the minimum staffing protection policy".  Is this a credible foreseeable option if Ysgol Abersoch, Ysgol Sarn Bach and Ysgol Llanbedrog were to federalise as 3 schools? There are more than 160 pupils at all 3 schools at present, dropping to no less than 100 if the school projections are to be believed.	Process
SCD	p18	6.1 Comparing Options Option 9 - Change the age range of Ysgol Abersoch from 3-8 to 3-9 + establish a Cylch Meithrin at Ysgol Abersoch	This is the favoured option by Ysgol Abersoch but was disregarded by Gwynedd Council. It should be noted that parents might be more inclined to feel it's more worth sending their children to Ysgol Abersoch should an extra year be offered. This would both increase pupil numbers and reduce the cost per head and as stated above it is a natural and common approach to teach Years 3 and 4 together in a single classroom.	Process
SCD	p18	6.1 Comparing Options "Nevertheless, after appraising the options against the factors of the Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd strategy, it was concluded that these options did not manage to meet, or resolve, the main challenges faced by the school (as detailed in section 5.1)."	On what basis was this concluded?  Why is there no mention of the implication on the maximum recommended mixed age class sizes and higher pupil: staff ratios?	Process
SCD	p18	6.2 Alternative Options "three options became evident as the most viable and realistic to address the school's situation"	These three options are all Gwynedd Council suggestions, Ysgol Abersoch proposed options have been disregarded leading us to believe that we have not been listened to.	Process
SCD	p19 p25	"Based on the conclusions of the assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education, it is concluded that the standard of education provided at Ysgol Sarn Bach is of the same level as the quality of education at Ysgol Abersoch."  "The alternative school offers education of equal standard at least,..."	By using the term "at least", are you implying that Ysgol Sarn Bach offers a better standard of education? The class sizes at Ysgol Sarn Bach are larger and by default this means less individual attention, and, in some classes, Ysgol Sarn Bach children are exclusively taught by teaching assistants on 2 days per week.  Please clarify on what basis you make this statement.  The children attend year-round swimming lessons with Ysgol Abersoch, and it will be detrimental to the children to lose this as our ethos is "every child who attends Ysgol Abersoch until Year 3 will leave the school able to swim".	Quality and Standard of Education
SCD	p19	"Implementing this option would give pupils an opportunity to be educated in peer groups with much less of an age range and an opportunity to improve the educational and social experience of the pupils, on a daily basis."	What is the evidence for this? Ysgol Sarn Bach class sizes are Nursery, Reception, Years 1,2 in one class, then Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in a second class. In Ysgol Abersoch the class is Nursery – Year 3 but split across 2 teachers.  Specify in which ways the education would improve.	Class sizes and capacity

SCD	p20 CIAR (Model 4) SOC Annex C	7.10 Geographical factors - new location	<p>The route to Ysgol Sarn Bach is classified as "dangerous" yet the CIAR (Model 4) states "Children can be dropped off in the car park, whether by car or taxi /minibus, and there is a bus stop (public bus service) outside the school boundaries. Therefore, if pupils are less able to walk or cycle, we do not anticipate difficulty in reaching the school." Is Gwynedd Council recommending that children should be walking or cycling to school along a dangerous route?</p> <p>The Schools Organisation Code, Annex C, Community Impact states "proposers might include the following: impact on health and wellbeing e.g. if pupils would be less able to walk or cycle to school". This has not been addressed.</p> <p>Vehicular transport is associated with an environmental impact, is contrary to principles such as "live globally, act locally" and instils a belief from an early age that environmental issues are of no importance.</p>	Transport
SCD	p20	6.3.3. Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Community Close Ysgol Abersoch and the pupils to be educated at Ysgol Sarn Bach "some negative impact on the community" CIAR 4.4 Summary of various facilities in the communities (November 2020) Background pack p220	<p>On behalf of the staff, pupils, and governors, we find this dismissive remark very offensive after the huge effort and impact the school's activities have within the community. Ysgol Abersoch pupils are ambassadors for the village of Abersoch.</p> <p>Ysgol Sarn Bach does not have a profile in Abersoch and given the location and transport challenges it is difficult to see how this would change. We cannot see how a school that is not in the village will generate or replicate the same level of community interest, support or involvement within the local community and businesses.</p> <p>The table in CIAR 4.4 lists all the facilities offered in Abersoch village. The community facilities offered by Ysgol Sarn Bach are no match for this. That this table showing is not presented here is highly biased against Ysgol Abersoch.</p> <p>In addition, the table CIAR 4.4 continues to be factually incorrect. There is no church or chapel in Sarn Bach, and to our knowledge, no Cylch Meithrin/Ti a Fi at Ysgol Foel Gron, whilst Abersoch has a post office. Both Llanbedrog and Mynytho have village halls that are not noted on the table.</p> <p>CIAR 4.5 does not show that there are after school clubs at Ysgol Abersoch.</p> <p>CIAR4.6 Incorrectly shows a Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi regularly involved with Ysgol Sarn Bach.</p> <p>That these tables continue to be incorrect undermines confidence in the entire document.</p>	Community and Welsh Language

SCD	p20	6.3.3. Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Community Close Ysgol Abersoch and the pupils to be educated at Ysgol Sarn Bach "link already exists between the school and the broader area" "importance of ensuring that the community of Abersoch is included in the activities of the alternative school"	Quantify with supporting evidence what is meant by "link already exists between the school and the broader area" other than the fact that the children go to Ysgol Sarn Bach.	Community and Welsh Language
SCD	p21	6.4 Appraisal of the Options to consider for the School Change the age range of Ysgol Abersoch "it is not anticipated that adding one educational year would lead to a sufficient increase in the numbers."	This is a matter of opinion. This option would provide up to 7 years of continuous education at a single site (1 year Cylch Meithrin, Nursery, Reception, Years 1,2,3,4, plus a potential further 2 years at Tl a Fi). It has been asked for by the parents and children and it would have a positive financial impact, reducing the cost per pupil.  Years 4-6 at Sarn Bach are projected to continue to be above 20 for the next 2 years. Allowing an extra year at Ysgol Abersoch would help to relieve the pressure on the oversized classes at Ysgol Sarn Bach (as well as probably Ysgol Llanbedrog).	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p21	6.4 Appraisal of the Options to consider for the School Change the age range of Ysgol Abersoch Option increase to 3-11	Why was this not put forward? Gwynedd Council encouraged Ysgol Abersoch to look at age range 3-11, then disregarded it. This was never really an option but a smokescreen.	Process
SCD	p22	6.4 Appraisal of the Options to consider for the School Federalisation with a nearby school. "Discussions were held with Ysgol Sarn Bach and Ysgol Llanbedrog."	What were the findings of these discussions? Why are there no records of these discussions? If Gwynedd Council do not report this then this should not be raised as a point.  This was disregarded on the basis that it was "Not the best option" - well it's better than closing Ysgol Abersoch. It would keep a school and the language in the community.	Process
SCD	p22	Ysgol Sarn Bach catchment area extended	Given Welsh Government policy, the relevance of catchment areas is questionable since parents have free choice of schools, even if a non-catchment area school is over-capacity, as exemplified by Ysgol Llanbedrog.	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p23	7. The Proposal e) Ensuring that pupils transfer once during their primary and secondary education rather than twice.	On what basis is this a valid point? What evidence can you provide that this is a problem. Given Welsh Government policy, children seem to be chopping and changing schools at a whim.  It can be argued that children who learn to adapt to change and are more resilient and ready for the move to secondary school. Discussion with current and past pupils and parents, as well as Governors who attended the school have not identified any negative impact associated with this transfer. Have any problems reported from children at Ysgol Morfa Nefyn, which caters for the same age range?	Quality and Standard of Education

SCD	p23	7.1. Reason for the Proposal	There is selective use of statements here. "Pupil numbers at the school have reduced consistently since 2016..." fails to acknowledge the increase in intake in September 2020 when 5 pupils commenced Ysgol Abersoch.	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p25	7.2.2. The Quality of the Education and Standards at the Two Schools Included in the Consultation Estyn reports Ysgol Abersoch and Ysgol Sarn Bach. Regarding Ysgol Sarn Bach "In addition, it was noted that the school benefited from clear leadership that is based on raising standards and ensuring the pupil's welfare."	Selective use of quotes from Estyn reports are biased against Ysgol Abersoch. No recognition of the leadership at Ysgol Abersoch where in fact the Ysgol Abersoch Estyn Report 2017, p8 stated: " Since being appointed, the teacher in charge, with the skilful support and contribution of the governors, has begun to set a purposeful strategic direction for developing the school. Within a short period of time, she has implemented robust strategies and has succeeded in creating an ethos of teamwork among the staff. She has begun to put robust processes in place that are based on raising standards..."	Quality and Standard of Education
SCD	p26	7.2.2. The Quality of the Education and Standards at the Two Schools Included in the Consultation "The table below shows the likely impact of the proposal on the five relevant Estyn inspection fields."	These are more accurately "possible" positives rather than likely positives. Again, misleading against Ysgol Abersoch. See below two rows.	Process

SCD p26	<p>7.2.2. The Quality of the Education and Standards at the Two Schools Included in the Consultation – Table Well-being and attitudes to learning</p> <p>'Adequate' was the outcome of the Estyn inspection for the 'Well-being' indicator at Ysgol Abersoch during their last inspection in 2017, whilst the outcome at Ysgol Sarn Bach was 'Good'. Therefore, based on the outcome of these inspections, it is concluded that educating the children at Ysgol Sarn Bach would have a positive impact.</p> <p>Also, in Background pack p247 "Assessment Report of the likely impact on Quality and Standards in Education - Ysgol Abersoch"</p>	Quality and Standard of Education
<p>There is no basis for the statement "educating the children at Ysgol Sarn Bach would have a positive impact" and is highly subjective. The new headteacher at Ysgol Abersoch had just started when the Estyn review took place.</p> <p>The nature of this statement inappropriately biases against Ysgol Abersoch. The layout of the report changed between the two inspections in 2017, with Ysgol Abersoch reporting only "wellbeing" and Ysgol Sarn Bach being assessed on "wellbeing and attitudes to learning". The text for both schools is very similar. The difference may possibly be down to attendance rates; by nature, a small school is more sensitive to attendance rate changes where every child counts. Attendance rates in recent years are consistently high, even more so impressive given the school is in a seasonal location where parents are required to work during school holidays (2018-2019 = 96.3%, 2017-2018 = 94.2%).</p> <p>Ysgol Abersoch: " Nearly all pupils feel safe and happy at school and know who to approach if anything is worrying them. They treat each other with care and respect and offer support to their fellow pupils spontaneously in lessons or in more informal situations. In general, most pupils are enthusiastic and show an interest in their work and stay on task for specific periods. By being aware of their targets, many know how well they are achieving and what they need to do to improve.</p> <p>In general, nearly all pupils are aware of the importance of eating and drinking healthily and staying healthy. They participate enthusiastically in physical activities within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. Pupils play an important part in school life, and many enjoy shouldering responsibilities, for example when telephoning a nearby school to order lunch each day. The school council, the 'Sgwad Syniadau' (Ideas Squad), is beginning to develop an awareness of its responsibilities. It has begun to take action in the school and organises fundraising activities for those in need. Members understand their responsibility to support others when raising money for charities, such as the Mike Peters Walk and Children in Need. As a result, pupils develop a good sense of social responsibility. Over the last four years, attendance levels have placed the school in the bottom 25% in comparison with similar schools. Pupils' punctuality is good"</p> <p>Ysgol Sarn Bach: "Nearly all pupils have a thorough understanding of the importance of eating and drinking healthily. Many pupils in the foundation phase talk confidently about which foods are healthy or less healthy for them, and which foods have a harmful effect on their teeth. Older pupils have a sound understanding of the need to stay healthy by drinking water, eating sensibly, and taking part in physical activities to ensure their fitness. Pupils appreciate opportunities to take part in gymnastics and swimming at the leisure centre, which enables them to take part in competitions. Opportunities to go on residential visits, for example to Plas Menai, make a positive contribution to developing their fitness and social skills. Nearly all pupils are well-behaved and treat each other, staff, and visitors with respect. The school's oldest pupils are very caring towards the youngest pupils; for example, the 'faithful friends' (ffrindiau fyddlon) ensure that the youngest pupils are safe and happy on the swimming bus. Most pupils are confident that the school responds promptly to any concerns they may have and deal well with any cases of bullying. Pupils take regular advantage of valuable opportunities to express an opinion on what they learn by choosing the term's theme. Each week, pupils express their opinion on the activities that they would like to do next within the theme. Most pupils' attitudes towards learning is one of the school's strengths. Nearly all pupils are enthusiastic and work diligently for extended periods</p>		



			when completing their activities. They support each other's learning effectively by receiving support from their peers before asking for support from an adult. This develops their independent skills and prepares them to be helpful adults. From an early age, most pupils have a sound understanding of what they need to do to improve their work. The youngest pupils explain the school's marking code clearly and understand how this helps them to improve their work. Most pupils are aware of the importance of attending school regularly and punctually."	
SCD	p26	7.2.2. The Quality of the Education and Standards at the Two Schools Included in the Consultation - Table - teaching and learning experiences  'Adequate' was the outcome of the 'learning experiences' indicator at Ysgol Abersoch, and the outcome of the 'teaching' indicator was 'Good'.  Also in Background pack p247 "Assessment Report of the likely impact on Quality and Standards in Education - Ysgol Abersoch"	The new headteacher at Ysgol Abersoch had just started when the Estyn review took place, this is an inappropriate comparison and fails to identify the progress since. Her hard work and leadership skills have been recognised e.g. she has been appointed cluster leader for excellence in the Siarter Iaith.	Quality and Standard of Education
SCD	p27	7.3 Class Sizes and Appropriate Age Range "Gwynedd Council aim to have no more than 2 age range within the same class"	The classes at Ysgol Sarn Bach all exceed the two-age ranges within the same class objective. Ysgol Sarn Bach has 2 classes of 4 age ranges: Nursery, Reception, Years 1,2 in one class, then Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in a second class.  As a result of not meeting the stated strategic objectives we feel that Ysgol Sarn Bach cannot accommodate additional children due to the nature of the classrooms available at Ysgol Sarn Bach. There will be a negative outcome for the schooling of children at both schools.	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p27	7.3 Class Sizes and Appropriate Age Range "In September 2020, all Ysgol Abersoch (Nursery to Year 3) pupils were educated in one class with 10 pupils. The average class size at Ysgol Sarn Bach in September 2020 is 24."	The average class size at Ysgol Sarn Bach is already above that set out in Gwynedd Council's "Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd" of no more than 20 in a mixed-age class.	Class sizes and capacity

SCD	p28	7.5 Management and Leadership Quotes "The leadership at Ysgol Sarn Bach has been identified by Estyn (2017) as "Good" and notes that "the school benefits from clear leadership that are based on raising standards and ensuring the welfare of pupils." In addition, it is noted that the Governing Body is "very supportive of the school's work, meets regularly and achieves their duties conscientiously."	The presented quotes are all in favour of Ysgol Sarn Bach. Why are the similar quotes for Ysgol Abersoch not presented?  "Since being appointed, the teacher in charge, with the skilful support and contribution of the governors, has begun to set a purposeful strategic direction for developing the school. Within a short period of time, she has implemented robust strategies and has succeeded in creating an ethos of teamwork among the staff."  and  "Members of the governing body are very supportive of the school. Their valuable contribution has a successful effect on the school's development for the future by ensuring effective support and mentoring for the headteacher in charge."	Process
SCD	p29	7.5 Management and Leadership 7.5.1. Impact on Management and Leadership Schools with higher numbers of children can offer a more robust structure to planning and providing the curriculum by establishing middle management teams and subject and curriculum leaders.	Are things likely to change at Ysgol Sarn Bach at this point if Ysgol Abersoch is absorbed? Unlikely, this is a moot point.	Process
SCD	p29	7.6 Financial Resources "it is projected that the proposed proposal would create an annual saving of £110,062, less the additional transport costs."	The savings of £110,000 are a small proportion (0.1%) of the overall Gwynedd Council budget of £90.4 million.  In the interests of transparency, we request Gwynedd Council provided the calculations to support this projected saving. It is unclear what costs have been included or excluded in these calculations. Given that much of the Gwynedd Council's argument hinges on cost, it is surprising that the same level of detail afforded to the rest of the document is not conferred to the costing exercise.	Financial
SCD	p32	7.8 The Community Table 1: The table below notes the current community use made of the buildings of both schools. Cross reference to Section 2.6 of the LIAR document also.	Ysgol Sarn Bach does not host an Urdd. The Urdd is at Llanengan Community Centre, though they very occasionally (once in 2 years) use the Ysgol Sarn Bach field for rugby practice sessions.  Ysgol Abersoch have a number of after school clubs that are not acknowledged e.g. Gardening Club, Hunaniaith craft club, Urdd Tudwal.  Ysgol Sarn Bach does not actively engage to the same extent with the wider community either. For example, the Clwb Rotari Pwllheli Christmas Concert 2020 and Rotary Santa; there was no presence from Ysgol Sarn Bach.	Community and Welsh Language

SCD	p32	7.8 The Community Table 2: Activities or groups that the school are regularly involved with are noted in the table below.	Ysgol Sarn Bach is not involved with any Cylch Meithrin or Ti a Fi. The Cylch Meithrin at Llanengan Community Centre closed due to there being no committee willing to run the Cylch.	Community and Welsh Language
SCD	p32	7.9 The Welsh Language "It is concluded in this assessment that no negative impact on the Welsh language is anticipated, should the proposal be realised." And 3. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE 3.1 Options Background pack p211 Assessing the linguistic impact of closing Ysgol Abersoch and offering pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach compared to the current situation.	Using Welsh in the community. This is a neutral statement which we believe is strongly a negative impact. Ysgol Abersoch pupils are widely involved with promoting the language and are integrated outside of the school in the local Welsh speaking community compared to Ysgol Sarn Bach, who do not venture out.  There is more to this than a Welsh-medium education. This assessment simply looks at the schools and the community seems to be treated separately to the school. How has the impact on the Welsh language in the community been assessed? Ysgol Abersoch is highly involved in promoting the Welsh language in Abersoch, with tangible results (e.g. action resulted in the introduction of bilingual signage in shops).  Furthermore, there is no assessment of the impact of the Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi on supporting and strengthening the Welsh language and its role in contributing to the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers strategy.	Community and Welsh Language
SCD	p33	Impact on Welsh Language	Different data has been used compared to the draft assessment - Summer 2019 as opposed to October 2019.  Why is an older dataset being used in this version? Is this to present data that reflects Gwynedd Council's own purposes?	Process

SCD	p34 TIAR p7	7.10.1 Proposed Travel and Transportation Arrangements "There would be no additional costs associated with providing transport for the current 8 pupils of Ysgol Abersoch (Reception-Yr.3) as well as pupils from the Abersoch catchment area that already attend Ysgol Sarn Bach. It is understood that a bus already transports pupils from Abersoch to Ysgol Sarn Bach, and we understand that there would be sufficient empty seats on the bus for the current pupils at Ysgol Abersoch. It could be argued that implementing the proposal would make more cost effective use of the existing transport arrangements for transporting pupils to Ysgol Sarn Bach."  "The additional costs of transport would be approximately £14,000 per year if all pupils in the current Ysgol Abersoch catchment area chose to attend Ysgol Sarn Bach in the future, and required transport."	Is there an additional transport cost or not? These two points are contrary to each other. On what basis has the cost of £14,000 pa been estimated and is this representative?  Has Gwynedd Council ascertained how many children will need bus transport to Ysgol Sarn Bach, considering the Abersoch children aged 3 - 8 who currently attend Ysgol Sarn Bach out of catchment? For school trips and leisure centre outings - how many buses would Ysgol Sarn Bach need if Ysgol Abersoch were to close, and what are these costs?  Gwynedd Council appears to attempt to justify its own reasoning behind its proposal by suggesting that it would make more cost-effective use of transport arrangements.  We have also repeatedly requested Gwynedd Council provide information on what proportion of children at Ysgol Sarn Bach who attend Ysgol Sarn Bach out of catchment (Nursery to Year 3) receive public transport for free when they are obliged to pay for it. We have reason to understand that a number of children in these years catch the bus at no charge, and the cost to Gwynedd Council of providing this service. This may influence others to follow when it appears there is no recourse for flouting the rules.	Transport
SCD	p35	7.10.4 Walking paths	The walking paths marked on the map are not all in frequent use, and do not provide a complete, safe walking route to the school from Abersoch. The roads do not have pavements. Gwynedd Council incorrectly understands the location of Ysgol Sarn Bach. We do not believe it to be located in Ty Newydd Farm.	Transport
SCD	p36	7.14 Future use of site	The future use of the site and financial implication have not been provided.	Financial
SCD	p37	7.15 Potential Risks Lack of decision-making - An inability to put change into practice due to a lack of decision-making which increases the likelihood of disturbing the pupils' education. It could harm the Council's reputation.	It will be harmed if Gwynedd Council insist on pushing through unpopular plans during a pandemic and without due care and attention to detail and the impacts on the community and language in Abersoch.	Process
SCD	p37	7.15 Potential Risks The quality of the education in the short-term whilst the school's situation is under review - Reduced quality of education provision for the pupils	This is an insulting remark to the dedication of Ysgol Abersoch teaching and support staff. We request that you retract this statement and issue an apology.	Process

SCD	p37	7.16 Expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal "Class sizes"	Class sizes at Ysgol Sarn Bach are already above Gwynedd Council recommendation for mixed-age class size of 20 "Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd". Closing Ysgol Abersoch will make the situation worse.	Class sizes and capacity
SCD	p37	7.16 Expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal "Impact on staff employment"	Redundancy is expensive and potentially unnecessary if Ysgol Sarn Bach needs to employ more teachers. Have redundancy costs been included in the cost calculations? Do the financial arguments include any additional costs at Ysgol Sarn Bach? For transparency, please provide this detail. Given that much of the Gwynedd Council's argument hinges on cost, it is surprising that the same level of detail afforded to the rest of the document is not transparent.	Financial
SCD	p38	7.16 Expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal "Other considerations."	We question why there is no acknowledgement of the loss of the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi.	Process
SCD	p38	7.16 Expected advantages and disadvantages of the proposal - Table Other considerations, School interests and resources. "Offer experiences for pupils to socialise and collaborate with peers."	Ysgol Abersoch offers socially enriched community projects on a daily weekly basis. The children engage and interact with all age groups in the community and were encouraged to think outside the box. The disadvantages of this loss of enriched experiences should be made clear.	Quality and Standard of Education
SOC	p10	"Proposals which affect charities must be consistent with charity law or the stated purpose of the charitable trust"	We have contacted the Charities Commission and await response.	Cylch Meithrin
SOC	p10	1.7 Specific factors in the consideration of school closures Community Impact Assessment - consider "how community facilities currently provided within the school will be maintained"	"In some areas, a school may also be the main focal point for community activity, and its closure could have implications beyond the issue of the provision of education. This may be a particular feature in rural areas if school buildings are used as a place to provide services to the local community." "The case prepared by those bringing forward proposals should show that the impact of closure on the community has been assessed through the production of a Community Impact Assessment and how any community facilities currently provided by the school could be maintained." Ysgol Abersoch is home to the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi. Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi have not even been informed of the Statutory Consultation, nor invited to any of the stakeholder meetings. It is not apparent that any consideration has been made of the impact of the closure of the school on these services.	Process

SOC	p11	1.8 Presumption against closure "all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation"	<p>It is stated that this has been considered, but the decision made by Gwynedd Council was that this was not relevant since it would not affect the pupil numbers. Yet Ysgol Llanbedrog is overfull. There is a strong case here that this has not been fully justified. What evidence has been provided?</p> <p>Gwynedd Council response email 8/12/20 "Mewn ymateb i'ch ymholiad ynglŷn â natur yr ymgynghoriad a wnaed gydag Ysgol Sarn Bach ac Ysgol Llanbedrog parthed yr opsiwn i ffederaleiddio gydag Ysgol Abersoch, cadarnhaf ein bod wedi cwrrdd â phennaeth a chadeirydd llywodraethwyr y ddwy ysgol ar wahân yn ôl ym mis Ionawr 2020 i drafod yr opsiwn o ffederaleiddio gydag Ysgol Abersoch. Oherwydd natur anffurfiol y trafodaethau hyn, ni chofnodwyd y cyfarfodydd. Roedd y cyfarfodydd hyn hefyd yn gyfle i ddiweddarau penaethiaid a'r cadeiryddion ynghylch yr opsiynau a drafodwyd yn y cyfarfodydd lleol, gan amlygu unrhyw effaith bosib gallai rhai o'r opsiynau hynny gael ar eu hysgol."</p>	Process
SOC	p14	Specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes	<p>The proposals have not considered the impact of losing Cylch Meithrin. There is clearly a demand for this service, with no other Cylch being in the Ysgol Abersoch/Ysgol Sarn Bach catchment area and the Llanbedrog Cylch is full, or near full.</p>	Process
SOC	p26	7.2.2. The Quality of the Education and Standards at the Two Schools Included in the Consultation - Table Educational attainment Land and buildings	<p>Whilst we acknowledge that Wales does not compare schools in league tables, we request in Gwynedd Council's response the outcomes for each school in terms of achieving KS D5+ indicators for each school (Ysgol Abersoch, Ysgol Sarn Bach, Ysgol Llanbedrog, Ysgol Foel Gron) for the past 5 years. We do not believe that there is a valid reason as to why Gwynedd Council would not fulfil this request.</p>	Quality and Standard of Education
SOC	p30		<p>No detail has been provided on what will happen to the school land and buildings if the school is closed.</p>	Community and Welsh Language

SOC	p32	<p>"Where the proposal concerns adding or removing nursery provision. The following information must be included in the consultation document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered, both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places;</li> <li>- whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area;</li> <li>- the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character;</li> <li>- the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and</li> <li>- the extent to which proposals will integrate early childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach.</li> </ul>	<p>The effect of proposals on other institutions including private and third sectors providers (Cylch Meithrin Abersoch) and the extent to which the proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services has not been included within the consultation.</p>	Process
SOC	p34	<p>3.5 Consultation with children and young people          "The information given to children and young people must be presented in such a way that it is relevant to their age and level of likely understanding and allows them to reach an informed opinion"</p>	<p>There are concerns over the nature of the children's consultation. The Consultation Document for Children provides leading questions, is misleading and is biased against Ysgol Abersoch.</p>	Process
SOC	p68	<p>How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported</p>	<p>This has not been addressed despite being part of the SOC.</p>	Process
SOC	p69	<p>The overall effect of closure on the local community          LIAR          CIAR</p>	<p>Yet the Community and Language Impact Assessments are tick box exercises completed by headteachers who live outside of the community. These do not adequately address the overall effect of closure on the local community.</p>	Process

SOC	p72	Well-being of Future Generations Act SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013	The act states there is a need to "balance short term needs against the ability to meet long term needs" and "deploy their resources to prevent problems from getting worse or from occurring in the first place".	Process
EPECG	Background pack p180	<p>4.5. The Community</p> <p>4.5.5 "The Working Group's concern is that over 20% of primary school pupils currently attend schools outside the catchment-area. Whilst parents have a legal right to select their child's school, the significant percentage that opts for schools from outside the catchment-area is an increasing concern in terms of strategic planning and the aim of developing community schools."</p> <p>4.5.7 "We wish to consider such movements within our Review Framework. The Working Group feel that the situation should be reviewed if schools within the catchment area gain or lose more than 20% of its pupils due to the impact on the neighbouring community and the catchment-area. This will therefore be a key indicator when prioritizing catchment-areas for review."</p> <p>4.6.7. "The Working Group has identified the following as key indicators when prioritizing catchment-areas for review: • Surplus places across the catchment-area; • Per capita expenditure per school greater than 10% above or below the county average "</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can Gwynedd Council comment on the significance of going over capacity in Ysgol Llanbedrog and subsequent problems for neighbouring schools?</li> <li>• The Future Generations Commissioner has stated that consideration should be given to the long-term trends i.e. 25-50 years into the future.</li> </ul>	Class sizes and capacity
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This concern was identified as far back as 2009. What action has Gwynedd Council taken to address this concern, and why has it allowed this to continue, particularly with regards to some schools being &gt;20% over-capacity and still accepting out of catchment pupils when nearby schools have spaces?</li> <li>• The evidence indicates that a catchment area review is appropriate.</li> </ul>	



LIAR	Background pack p206	2. LINGUISTIC PROFILE OF ABERSOCH CATCHMENT AREA 2. 5 Language Charter Statistics (Summer 2019)	<p>These statistics and data are not that reliable, relevant nor representative because of the small numbers involved and the most recent is a year old + anyway (Spring 2019, PLASC Jan 2020).</p> <p>Please provide evidence that the sample of children that completed this questionnaire were representative of the entire school demographic. What age groups at Ysgol Llanbedrog completed this questionnaire, and what is their home language?</p> <p>For Ysgol Llanbedrog (n=9/102) it was reported that 100% of children who speak Welsh with their teachers compared to Ysgol Abersoch (n=6/10) which reported 67% Ysgol Abersoch.</p> <p>Ysgol Abersoch children are a younger group (age 3-8) and (assuming the PLASC 2020 results still hold true) more come from non-Welsh speaking homes than other schools, therefore it is not surprising that some of the younger children at Ysgol Abersoch are only just learning to speak Welsh.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
LIAR	Background pack p211	3. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE 3.1 Options Assessing the linguistic impact of closing Ysgol Abersoch and offering pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach compared to the current situation.	<p>Since Ysgol Abersoch pupils move up to Ysgol Sarn Bach anyway, any "positives" are already being experienced when the Ysgol Abersoch children move up therefore none of these should be "positives" but "neutrals" at the most.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
LIAR	Background pack p211	3. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE 3.1 Options Assessing the linguistic impact of closing Ysgol Abersoch and offering pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach compared to the current situation "Pupils would have access to a higher supply in terms of staffing, and would be part of a larger peer group of the same age."	<p>Provide evidence to support statement of "higher supply in terms of staffing" The pupil to teacher ratio is higher at Ysgol Sarn Bach, and there are no more teachers at Ysgol Sarn Bach than in Ysgol Abersoch, therefore in what way is this statement correct?</p>	Class sizes and capacity
LIAR	Background pack p211	3. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE 3.1 Options Assessing the linguistic impact of closing Ysgol Abersoch and offering pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach compared to the current situation. "Before/After school activities"	<p>Why is "Before/After school activities" listed as a positive when Ysgol Abersoch have more clubs e.g. Gardening Club, Hunaniaith craft club, Urdd Tudwal. This should be a negative rather than a positive and again biases against Ysgol Abersoch.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
CIAR	Background pack p219	4.2 School statistical information	<p>The table under point 4.2 the number of pupils at Ysgol Llanbedrog is 95 on roll, yet the next table states 103.</p> <p>These obvious inaccuracies undermine confidence and compromise the integrity of the Consultation.</p>	Class sizes and capacity

CIAR	Background pack p221	4.7 If buildings, rooms, facilities, or services are provided by the school for the community, where will they be provided if the school is closed?	The Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Tîa Fi are held in the school building. This question is not answered in the report.  What is the reason for this omission?	Cylch Meithrin
CIAR	Background pack p224	MODEL2 CHANGE THE AGE RANGE The general impact on the local community	Increasing the age range may make parents more likely to choose the school. This is a positive.	Process
CIAR	Background pack p225	MODEL3 FEDERATION Impact on facilities / other services provided at the school	Isn't the point of Federation that facilities /other services provided at the school are improved by sharing staff and resources? This should therefore be a positive?  General impact on the local community - "opportunities are identified for the Abersoch Community and the other school that would be part of the federal model to come together". Why is this not a positive?	Process
CIAR	Background pack p226	MODEL 4 – CLOSE YSGOL ABERSOCH AND OFFER PUPILS A PLACE AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL Impact on Health and Well-being	We do not believe Ysgol Sarn Bach to have a carpark as such. There is a small car parking area on the side of the road where teaching staff park, but the number of spaces is limited. The arrangements to drop and collect children require parents to park on the verge/roadside; car doors must either open straight onto the road or into a dip in the verge. This is dangerous.	Transport
CIAR	Background pack p226	MODEL 4 – CLOSE YSGOL ABERSOCH AND OFFER PUPILS A PLACE AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL Implications of the change on public transport provisions	This is highly subjective and should be a negative.  How will children without access to private transport be able to attend the Nursery year, 9-11am, and have no car? Public transport services are not a workable option: Service bus times:  Abersoch to Ysgol Sarn Bach 08.40 - 08.46, next bus Ysgol Sarn Bach to Abersoch 10.00 - 10.09. Abersoch to Ysgol Sarn Bach 10.52 - 10.58, next bus Ysgol Sarn Bach to Abersoch at 10.58 - 12.36 (1hr 38 minutes), or Ysgol Sarn Bach to Abersoch 12.50 - 12.59.  The impact would be that these children would be excluded from Nursery, young families may be less likely to move into the community.	Transport
CIAR	Background pack p226	MODEL 4 – CLOSE YSGOL ABERSOCH AND OFFER PUPILS A PLACE AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL Impact on facilities / other services provided at the school	This is highly subjective and should be a negative.  If Ysgol Abersoch closes, it is difficult to envisage that the Cylch Meithrin and Tîa Fi would continue. Gwynedd Council has not approached the Cylch Meithrin and Tîa Fi for their input even though they are on-site and co-dependant.	Community and Welsh Language

CIAR	Background pack p227	6. Conclusion of Community Impact Report "To mitigate this impact, opportunities are identified to ensure that the community of Abersoch is aware of the activities of the alternative school, and community cooperation between the alternative school and the Abersoch community is encouraged, where appropriate"	How will this be done given earlier caveats about a long-standing lack of relationship between Ysgol Sarn Bach and Abersoch community.  This report does not reflect views of the community since it was completed without asking residents and members of the community. Therefore, by default it does not show what impact of the loss of a school has on the community and is biased against the school.	Process
EAR	Background pack p232	Equality Assessment Impact Report Ysgol Abersoch The Welsh language	We do not believe this statement of no impact on the Welsh language to be valid.	Community and Welsh Language
EAR	Background pack p232	Equality Assessment Impact Report Ysgol Abersoch Age	We disagree with this statement. Younger children ages 3 - 4 in the Nursery will be excluded if they do not have access to private transport.	Transport
EAR	Background pack p233	Equality Assessment Impact Report Ysgol Abersoch Encouraging good relationships "opportunities to build further on the relationship with the community in Abersoch could arise from implementing the proposal"	We do not agree with this statement. In what way will this happen and what opportunities have been identified? This has not been stated.  Logistically children cannot access the village amenities in a 'formal' capacity.	Community and Welsh Language
QSEIAR	Background pack p251	FEDERATION - ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION	Federation option has positives but has been disregarded for unclear reasons. There is insufficient evidence to indicate why federalisation has not been pursued further.	Process

QSEIAR	<p>Background pack p251</p> <p>CLOSE YSGOL ABERSOCH AND OFFER PUPILS A PLACE AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL - ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION</p> <p>Well-being and attitude to learning</p>	<p>There is no basis for the statement "educating the children at Ysgol Sarn Bach would have a positive impact" and is highly subjective. The new headteacher at Ysgol Abersoch had just started when the Estyn review took place.</p> <p>The nature of this statement inappropriately biases against Ysgol Abersoch. The layout of the report changed between the two inspections in 2017, with Ysgol Abersoch reporting only "wellbeing" and Ysgol Sarn Bach being assessed on "wellbeing and attitudes to learning". The text for both schools is very similar. The difference may possibly be down to attendance rates; by nature, a small school is more sensitive to attendance rates where every child counts. Attendance rates in recent years are consistently high, even more so impressive given the school is in a seasonal location where parents are required to work during school holidays (2018-2019 = 96.3%, 2017-2018 = 94.2%).</p> <p>Ysgol Abersoch: " Nearly all pupils feel safe and happy at school and know who to approach if anything is worrying them. They treat each other with care and respect and offer support to their fellow pupils spontaneously in lessons or in more informal situations. In general, most pupils are enthusiastic and show an interest in their work and stay on task for specific periods. By being aware of their targets, many know how well they are achieving and what they need to do to improve.</p> <p>In general, nearly all pupils are aware of the importance of eating and drinking healthily and staying healthy. They participate enthusiastically in physical activities within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. Pupils play an important part in school life, and many enjoy shouldering responsibilities, for example when telephoning a nearby school to order lunch each day. The school council, the 'Sgwad Syniadau' (Ideas Squad), is beginning to develop an awareness of its responsibilities. It has begun to take action in the school and organises fundraising activities for those in need. Members understand their responsibility to support others when raising money for charities, such as the Mike Peters Walk and Children in Need. As a result, pupils develop a good sense of social responsibility. Over the last four years, attendance levels have placed the school in the bottom 25% in comparison with similar schools. Pupils' punctuality is good"</p> <p>Ysgol Sarn Bach: "Nearly all pupils have a thorough understanding of the importance of eating and drinking healthily. Many pupils in the foundation phase talk confidently about which foods are healthy or less healthy for them, and which foods have a harmful effect on their teeth. Older pupils have a sound understanding of the need to stay healthy by drinking water, eating sensibly, and taking part in physical activities to ensure their fitness. Pupils appreciate opportunities to take part in gymnastics and swimming at the leisure centre, which enables them to take part in competitions. Opportunities to go on residential visits, for example to Plas Menai, make a positive contribution to developing their fitness and social skills. Nearly all pupils are well-behaved and treat each other, staff, and visitors with respect. The school's oldest pupils are very caring towards the youngest pupils; for example, the 'faithful friends' (ffrindiau ffyddlon) ensure that the youngest pupils are safe and happy on the swimming bus. Most pupils are confident that the school responds promptly to any concerns they may have and deal well with any cases of bullying. Pupils take regular advantage of valuable opportunities to express an opinion on what they learn by choosing the term's theme. Each week, pupils express their opinion on the activities that they would like to do next within the theme. Most pupils' attitudes towards learning is one of the school's strengths. Nearly all pupils are enthusiastic and work diligently for extended periods</p>
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		when completing their activities. They support each other's learning effectively by receiving support from their peers before asking for support from an adult. This develops their independent skills and prepares them to be helpful adults. From an early age, most pupils have a sound understanding of what they need to do to improve their work. The youngest pupils explain the school's marking code clearly and understand how this helps them to improve their work. Most pupils are aware of the importance of attending school regularly and punctually."		
QSEIAR	Background pack p251	CLOSE YSGOL ABERSOCH AND OFFER PUPILS A PLACE AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL - ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION Teaching and learning experiences	Contents	The new headteacher at Ysgol Abersoch had just started when the Estyn review took place, this is an inappropriate comparison and fails to identify the progress since made. Her hard work and leadership skills have been recognised e.g. she has been appointed cluster leader for excellence in the Starter faith.
WBAR	Background pack p254			There seems to be an element of box ticking going on here. The process has felt rather different from the stakeholder perspective than it appears to from Gwynedd Council's angle.
WBAR	Background pack p260	3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT? A prosperous Wales "An innovative society using resources efficiently and proportionately, educated people, creating wealth and work. The proposal would allow pupils to be educated in larger classes and with more children of the same age group. It is therefore envisaged that it would enrich pupils' learning and social experiences"		Gwynedd Council is committed to a strategy of Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd Council. In this strategy class sizes are identified as an important factor so that children acquire the best possible experience and opportunities. All the four schools in the area (Ysgol Abersoch, Ysgol Sarn Bach, Ysgol Llambodrog, Ysgol Foel Gron) have mixed age classes as the norm. Gwynedd Council has committed to ensuring that there is on average no more than 20 pupils or fewer than 12 pupils in any mixed age class yet the class sizes for 2020-21 are above 20 in 6 classes out of 9 (Appendix B).  Using the forecasts based on Welsh Government projections (see Report on Class Sizes, Capacity and Population Projections" if the low case is realised and if Ysgol Abersoch is closed, the remaining three schools will operate at close to full capacity, providing little scope for normal fluctuations in annual school numbers or provide a pathway for economic development in the area. In both the Mid and High scenarios, an increasing number of pupils will be educated in classes greater than 20. In the worst-case scenario, this may be as many as a class size of 25.  On average, it must be considered that the closure of Ysgol Abersoch will mean that all schools pupils in the three remaining schools will be educated in oversized classrooms to their educational detriment and against Gwynedd Council's stated strategy of educational excellence in Primary Schools.
WBAR	Background pack p260	3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT? A Resilient Wales		An acknowledgement of the Covid-19 pandemic would be appropriate, with reference to "the ability to adapt to change" The pandemic has led and is leading to changes in society. Rural life is becoming more attractive as more and more people work from home, they are less restricted as to where they must live; we might expect second homes in Abersoch to become first homes with attendant schooling requirements. The report fails to acknowledge this in its capacity numbers.

WBAR	Background pack p260	3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT? A healthier Wales	<p>The ability for children and parents to walk to school and access the natural resources such as the beach etc on foot during the school day will be lost. Other schools only offer one term of swimming lessons, a vital and important skill to children living in a coastal area.</p> <p>In the context of Covid-19 small groups have been created within schools to control infection, thus implying that small schools are safer. This is not acknowledged.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
WBAR	Background pack p260	3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT? A Wales of cohesive communities	<p>"By implementing the proposal there will be an opportunity to build on these links between the Abersoch community and Ysgol Sarn Bach by holding discussions that would promote the inclusion of the Abersoch community in the community activity of the school" Again we question the validity of this statement. Outside of the fact that Abersoch children attend the school, we are not aware of any links that Ysgol Sarn Bach has with the Abersoch community.</p> <p>The very nature of the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch is potentially divisive, driving a wedge between communities and creating discord and disagreement.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
WBAR	Background pack p260	3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT? A vibrant Wales and culture where the Welsh language thrive	<p>Closing a Welsh medium school in a village where the Welsh language is under pressure will not "promote and protect culture, heritage and the Welsh language." The school is the best and only advertisement for the Welsh language, heritage, and culture in the village.</p> <p>This impact is almost impossible to calculate in monetary terms. The existence of Welsh as a living language will be relegated as visitors to Abersoch will not hear the natural language being used. The school is in the centre of the village and the main village car park is adjacent to the school. The school is a beacon of the Welsh language, both visually and audibly through the children being outside during the school day.</p>	Community and Welsh Language
WBAR	Background pack p261	4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES "Long term the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs is also important. There has been a pattern of low numbers at Ysgol Abersoch for some years, and the situation is now unsustainable. With projections showing numbers to remain low, it is concluded that the challenges facing the school are long-term, and therefore the case for change is clear."	<p>Establishing the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi are key actions towards creating sustainable growth in pupil numbers, as well as providing an important childcare service for working parents of the area. Why is this not acknowledged in the report?</p> <p>The Future Generations Commissioner has stated that consideration should be given to the long-term trends i.e. 25-50 years into the future.</p>	Cylch Meithrin
WBAR	Background pack p261	4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES Integration	<p>The numbers have now risen, and the situation has changed with the introduction of Cylch Meithrin Abersoch and Cylch Ti a Fi.</p>	Community and Welsh Language

WBAR	Background pack p261	4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES Collaboration	It is unclear what input from stakeholders has been included within the proposal leading us to question whether the views of stakeholders really listened to. It feels rather as if the Gwynedd Council are pursuing their own agenda and are determined to close Ysgol Abersoch.	Community and Welsh Language
WBAR	Background pack p262	5. CONCLUSION "Every effort will be made to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging links between the communities. Should the proposal be approved, discussions will take place to discuss the possibility that activities at Ysgol Sarn Bach includes the Abersoch community, where appropriate."	Yet again this theme is apparent, yet no evidence has been put forward as to how this has been planned and would take place.	Community and Welsh Language
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children	The Children's Consultation Document provides leading questions, is misleading and is biased against Ysgol Abersoch.	Process
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "Make better use of resources e.g. IT equipment"	This is a leading and inappropriate question. Is the Gwynedd Council suggesting that there is better IT provision at Ysgol Sarn Bach?	Process
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "Maintain classes of a suitable size"	It is not made clear that they will be going from ratio of 10:1 to above 20:1	Class sizes and capacity
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "Give you the opportunity to learn and play with other children of the same age"	This is a leading and inappropriate question. Is Gwynedd Council implying that this doesn't already happen at present?	Process
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "Moving to another school would mean: More teachers"	Is this factually correct? How are there more teachers - there are 2 at Ysgol Sarn Bach, 2 at Ysgol Abersoch. Isn't the teacher to pupil ratio much higher? We request that you provide this information.	Process
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "Give each child fair experiences"	How is a child meant to interpret this statement? What is not fair at the moment?	Process
SCDC	SCDC	Statutory Consultation Document for Children "You will know more children when it's time for you to move to secondary school"	This is an invalid point - the pupils will already have been at Ysgol Sarn Bach for 3 years presecondary school regardless under the current scenario.	Process

# Report on Class Sizes, Capacity & Population Forecasts by Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch, February 2021

## 1. Class Sizes are typically above 20

Gwynedd Council is committed to a strategy of Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd.

In this strategy class sizes are identified as an important factor so that children acquire the best possible experience and opportunities. All of four schools in the area (Ysgol Abersoch, Ysgol Sarn Bach, Ysgol Llanbedrog and Ysgol Foel Gron) have mixed age classes as the norm. Gwynedd Council has a stated objective to ensure that there is on average no more than 20 pupils or fewer than 12 pupils in any mixed age class.

The analysis below shows that in the four schools, the class sizes for 2020-21 are above 20 in 6 classes out of 9.

In addition, over 80% of pupils are being educated in oversized mixed classes.

**Conclusion:** Class size needs to be carefully considered in the decision-making so that Gwynedd Council can achieve its strategy from this current situation.

Ysgol	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	Class Size		
						below 20	above 20	Average
Abersoch	10				10	1	0	10
Sam Bach	14	34			48	1	1	24
Llanbedrog	22	27	25	28	102	0	4	26
Foel Gron	14	29			43	1	1	22
					203	3	6	
						33%	67%	

Number of children in classes that are	
Correctly sized	Oversized
10	
14	34
	102
14	29
38	165
19%	81%

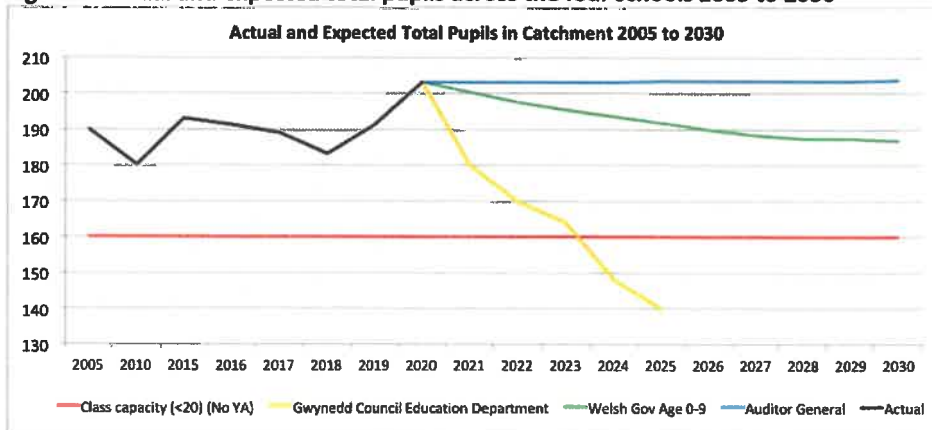
## 2. Pupil Population Forecasts

Pupil population forecasts are important in understanding whether there is sufficient capacity at the four schools to offer mixed class sizes of between 12 and 20 now and in the future.

Gwynedd Council Education Department has prepared a 5-year projection of pupil numbers in the region. This is shown below alongside the Auditor General Gwynedd Council projected population estimate in children<sup>1</sup> and the Welsh Government<sup>2</sup> estimate of population changes of those aged 0 to 9 years in Wales (Figure 1)

The Gwynedd Council Audit Summary 2020 issued 12 February 2021 states “Gwynedd’s population is projected to increase by 5.3% between 2020 and 2040 from 124,670 to 131,314, including a 0.4% increase in the number of children, a 0.9% increase in the number of the working-age population and a 20.8% increase in the number of people aged 65 and over.”

Figure 1: Actual and expected total pupils across the four schools 2005 to 2030



<sup>1</sup> Auditor General Report : Gwynedd Council Audit Summary 2020 : <https://www.audit.wales/publication/gwynedd-council-annual-audit-summary-2020>

<sup>2</sup> Stats Wales : <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>  
Report on Capacity, Class Sizes and Pupil Projections February 2021



**Conclusion:** Gwynedd Council Education Department forecast shows a significantly different trend to that of the wider Welsh population and the Auditor General. As a result, careful attention needs to be given to a realistic range of scenarios when considering the provision of primary education in the area.

### 3. Observations on current pupil numbers

The table below summarises the current class sizes for all four schools. It can be observed that there are a number of 'big years', however the typical range of annual pupil numbers per year group ranges from 18 to 33, with an overall average of 25 pupils per year group and a most common number of 22.

**Conclusions:** Currently 80% of the children in the area are being educated in oversized mixed age classes.

Ysgol	Council Stated capacity	Mixed Class Capacity	Number of pupils in year group						Total	Council Spare Capacity	Mixed Class Spare Capacity	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size		
			N	R	1	2	3	4								5	6
Abersoch	42	20	2	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	10	76%	50%	1	10	10	-
Sam Bach	73	40	3	2	5	4	8	5	10	11	48	34%	-20%	2	34	14	24
Llanbedrog	83	80	10	12	12	15	14	11	10	18	102	-23%	-28%	4	28	22	26
Foel Gron	61	40	3	5	3	3	8	5	12	4	43	30%	-8%	2	29	14	22
	<b>259</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>-13%</b>				
									<b>Average</b>	<b>25</b>							

### 4. Pupil population scenarios

Gwynedd Council Education Department has used a lower end of the range of 18 pupils in each year group across the four schools in total to forecast future pupil numbers. This estimate is out of step with forecasted population trends in Wales and the Auditor General projection for Gwynedd.

To assist with decision making it is reasonable to consider three scenarios of future pupil numbers and how this might impact mixed class capacity if Ysgol Abersoch remains open or closes and the pupils go to Ysgol Sarn Bach. The detail of these scenarios can be found in Appendix A.

- **High case of 25 pupils per year group per year/ 200 pupils in total** in line with the average of recent years and the opinion of the Auditor General.
- **Mid case of 22 pupils per year group per year/ 176 pupils in total** in line with the most frequent number of pupils in recent years.
- **Low case of 18 pupils per year group per year / 144 pupils in total** which approximates Gwynedd Council's 2025 forecast.

#### Conclusions:

Review of the three scenarios shows that:

- Relatively small changes in annual pupil numbers can have a significant impact on mixed class size in the four schools under consideration.
- If the Low case is realised and if Ysgol Abersoch is closed, the remaining three schools will operate at close to full capacity, providing little scope for normal fluctuations in annual school numbers or provide a pathway for economic development in the area.
- In both the Mid and High scenarios, an increasing number of pupils will be educated in mixed classes greater than 20.
- In the High scenario, which reflects the Auditor General projections, 100% of children are educated in oversized mixed-age classes, with as many as 26 per mixed-age class. The closure of Ysgol Abersoch results in Gwynedd Council not meeting its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.
- On average, it must be considered that the closure of Ysgol Abersoch will mean that all schools pupils in the three remaining schools will be educated in oversized mixed classes to their educational detriment and against Gwynedd Council's stated strategy of educational excellence in primary schools.
- In addition, the closure of Ysgol Abersoch will be to the detriment of the Abersoch community and the lack of capacity in the remaining schools will result in pupils not being able to choose their local school from an early primary age.

## Appendix A - Scenarios

1. High case of 25 pupils per year group per year/ 200 pupils in total in line with the average of recent years and the Auditor General estimate.

1a. Ysgol Abersoch stays open. Over 80% of the classes in the area are above 20 pupils per class. 82% of children are educated in oversized mixed classes. Even with Ysgol Abersoch remaining open, Gwynedd Council does not meet its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	20	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	20	1	20	20	20
Sam Bach	40	4	4	4	4	4	8	8	8	44	2	28	16	22
Llanbedrog	80	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	88	4	22	22	22
Foel Gron	40	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	48	2	24	24	24
	180	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	200				
										Average				25

Ysgol	Class Size					Class Size			
	Class1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	below 20	above 20	Average	
Abersoch	20				20	20	1	0	20
Sam Bach	16	28			44	44	1	0	22
Llanbedrog	22	22	22	22	88	88	0	4	22
Foel Gron	24	24			48	48	0	4	24
					200	200	2	9	
						18%	82%		

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
20	
16	28
	88
	48
36	164
18%	82%

1b. Ysgol Abersoch closes. All classes are significantly above the mixed class maximum of 20. 100% of children are educated in oversized mixed classes. The closure of Ysgol Abersoch results in Gwynedd Council not meeting its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sam Bach	40	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	48	2	24	24	24
Llanbedrog	80	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	104	4	26	26	26
Foel Gron	40	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	48	2	24	24	24
	160	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	200				
										Average				25

Ysgol	Class Size					Class Size		
	Class1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	below 20	above 20	Average
Abersoch	0				0	0	0	-
Sam Bach	24	24			48	48	0	24
Llanbedrog	26	26	26	26	104	104	0	26
Foel Gron	24	24			48	48	0	24
					200	0	8	
						0%	100%	

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
	48
	104
	48
	200
0%	100%

2. Mid case of 22 pupils per year group per year/ 176 pupils in total in line with the most frequent number of pupils in recent years.

2a. Ysgol Abersoch stays open. Llanbedrog is at full capacity and class 2 at Sarn Bach is over capacity at 28 pupils. 16% of children are educated in oversized mixed classes. Even with Ysgol Abersoch remaining open, Gwynedd Council does not meet its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	20	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	20	1	20	20	20
Sam Bach	40	4	4	4	4	4	8	8	8	44	2	28	16	22
Llanbedrog	80	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80	4	20	20	20
Foel Gron	40	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	32	2	16	16	16
	180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	176				
										Average	22			

Ysgol	Class Size				Total	Class Size		Average
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4		below 20	above 20	
Abersoch	20				20	20	1	0
Sam Bach	16	28			44	44	1	1
Llanbedrog	20	20	20	20	80	80	4	0
Foel Gron	16	16			32	32	2	0
					176	176	8	1
							89%	11%

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
20	
16	28
80	
32	
148	28
84%	16%

2b. Ysgol Abersoch closes. Llanbedrog is at full capacity and both classes at Sarn Bach are significantly over capacity. 36% of children are educated in oversized mixed classes. The closure of Ysgol Abersoch results in Gwynedd Council not meeting its objectives and compromises education provision to the pupils.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sam Bach	40	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	64	2	32	32	32
Llanbedrog	80	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80	4	20	20	20
Foel Gron	40	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	32	2	16	16	16
	160	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	176				
										Average	22			

Ysgol	Class Size				Total	Class Size		Average
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4		below 20	above 20	
Abersoch	0				0	0	0	-
Sam Bach	32	32			64	64	0	2
Llanbedrog	20	20	20	20	80	80	4	0
Foel Gron	16	16			32	32	2	0
					176	176	6	2
							75%	25%

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
	64
80	
32	
112	64
64%	36%

**3. Low case of 18 pupils per year group per year/ 144 pupils in total in line with Gwynedd Council Education Department forecast.**

**3a. Ysgol Abersoch stays open.** All classes are below 20, Llanbedrog is at full capacity and the other schools are under utilised. All children are educated in correctly sized mixed classes. Gwynedd Council meets its educational strategy objectives.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	20	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	10	1	10	10	10
Sarn Bach	40	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	30	2	18	12	15
Llanbedrog	80	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80	4	20	20	20
Foel Gron	40	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24	2	12	12	12
	<b>180</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>144</b>				
										<b>Average</b>				<b>18</b>

Ysgol	Class Size								
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	below 20	above 20	Average	
Abersoch	10				10	10	1	0	10
Sarn Bach	12	18			30	30	2	0	15
Llanbedrog	20	20	20	20	80	80	4	0	20
Foel Gron	12	12			24	24	2	0	12
					<b>144</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	
						<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>		

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
10	
30	
80	
24	
<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>

**3b. Ysgol Abersoch closes.** In this scenario, all classes are below 20. However, capacity is fully utilised at both Ysgol Sarn Bach and Ysgol Llanbedrog. Some spare capacity remains at Ysgol Foel Gron. All children are educated in correctly sized mixed classes. Gwynedd Council meets its educational strategy objectives.

Ysgol	Mixed Class Capacity	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	No. of classes	Largest class	Smallest Class	Average Class size
Abersoch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sarn Bach	40	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	40	2	20	20	20
Llanbedrog	80	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80	4	20	20	20
Foel Gron	40	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24	2	12	12	12
	<b>160</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>144</b>				
										<b>Average</b>				<b>18</b>

Ysgol	Class Size							
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	below 20	above 20	Average
Abersoch	0				0	0	0	-
Sarn Bach	20	20			40	40	2	20
Llanbedrog	20	20	20	20	80	80	4	20
Foel Gron	12	12			24	24	2	12
					<b>144</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
						<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	

Number of children in	
Correctly sized	Oversized
0	
40	
80	
24	
<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>



# YSGOL ABERSOCH

## HWYLIO I'R DYFODOL



## EIN HYSGOL NI

Rydym yn ysgol bentref unigryw, yn fach o ran maint, sy'n cynnig amgylchedd sy'n meithrin ac addysg awyr agored arloesol. Ein hethos yw datblygu unigolion hyderus, dwyieithog sy'n ymwybodol yn ddiwylliannol ac yn amgylcheddol

*"Ysgol yng nghanol y gymuned dathlu iaith a diwylliant Cymraeg"*

## EIN CYNNIG

- ✓ Addysg gyfannol i blant rhwng 3 ac 8 oed
- ✓ Dosbarthiadau bach lle clywir pob llais
- ✓ Cyfleusterau rhagorol a chyflwyniad arloesol o'r cwricwlwm
- ✓ Ymgysylltiad gweithredol â'n cymuned
- ✓ Clybiau ar ôl ysgol - Urdd, ioga, garddio, crefft



## CYLCH MEITHRIN & TI A FI

Dewch i ymuno â'n grŵp rhieni a phlant bach, Ti a Fi, cam naturiol i'n Cylch Meithrin ar gyfer plant rhwng 2 a 4 oed lle mae'ch plentyn yn dysgu trwy chwarae, gan ddefnyddio'r gorau o'n hamgylchedd awyr agored lleol. Wedi'i gofrestru gyda'r cynllun gofal plant am ddim 30 awr

## YSGOL TRAETH

Rhedeg ar y traeth, ysgrifennu yn y tywod gyda ffyn, gwyllo adar, dilyn olion traed anifeiliaid, neidio dros y tonnau, archwilio cynefinoedd crancod

- ✓ Rhan o barsel Ysgol Abersoch
- ✓ Dysgu yn yr amgylchedd naturiol - archwilio, creu, tanio chwilfrydedd
- ✓ Gwneud y gorau o'n hadnoddau naturiol - traethau, twyni tywod, harbwr ac afon

Cysylltwch â'r ffôn : 01758 712764

Prifathrawes: Mrs Linda Jones

Ysgol Abersoch, Lon Gwydryn, Abersoch, LL53 7EA



# YSGOL ABERSOCH

## SAILING INTO THE FUTURE



## CYLCH MEITHRIN & TI A FI

Come and join our parent and toddler group, Ti a Fi, a natural step to our pre-school for children aged 2 to 4 years where your child learns through play, using all the best of our local outdoor environment.

Registered with the 30 hour free childcare scheme

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

We are a unique village school, small in size offering a nurturing environment and innovative outdoor education.

Our ethos is to develop confident, bilingual individuals who are culturally and environmentally aware

*"A school in the heart of the community celebrating the Welsh language and culture"*

## WHAT WE OFFER

- ✓ Holistic schooling for children aged 3 to 8 years
- ✓ Small classes where every voice is heard
- ✓ Excellent facilities & innovative delivery of the curriculum
- ✓ Active engagement with our community
- ✓ After-school clubs – Urdd, yoga, gardening, craft
- ✓ Part and parcel of Ysgol Abersoch
- ✓ Learning in the natural environment - exploring, creating, sparking curiosity
- ✓ Making the most of our natural resources - beaches, sand dunes, harbour & river

## BEACH SCHOOL

Running free along the beach, writing in the sand with sticks, bird watching, tracking animal footprints, jumping over the waves, exploring crab habitats

Contact telephone: 01758 712764

Headteacher: Mrs Linda Jones  
Ysgol Abersoch, Lon Gwydryn, Abersoch, LL53 7EA

**94**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**94**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Yvonne Lloyd-Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 16:47  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Robert Williams  
**Pwnc:** UK Government: Arbedwch Ysgol Abersoch rhag cau!

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Bwyllgor,

Carwn fynegi barn y rhan helaeth i drigolion Abersoch o'n pryder mawr ar y sôn am feddwl cau ein hysgol fach werthfawr. Er lleied ei maint, mai'n rhoi addysg ac arweiniad o fywyd a diwylliant ein cenedl i blant bach cynradd ers canrif bellach. Mae Ysgol Abersoch yn adlewyrchu holl freintiau bywyd yma yn ardal hardd Abersoch, ni fedrwnch farnu oni bai eich bod wedi byw yma, neu a chysylltiad agos i'r plant sydd wedi'u hysbrydoli ac wedi profi'r balchder sydd yn perthyn i bob un sydd wedi mynd trwy'r drysau a'i gadael yn berson cryf ac annwyl gyda'n hatgofion amhrisiadwy o'u profiadau ynddi. Nid yn unig yr addysg sydd yn rhagorol ynddi ond hefyd yr ymdeimlad o fod yn rhan o gymuned sydd yma. Dyma ganolfan y pentre a'r plant yn adlewyrchu eu balchder o fod yn rhan o'r gymuned glos yma. Dyma'r hoelen olaf yng Nghymreictod Abersoch os byddwch yn cau Ysgol arbennig Abersoch. Bydd dim yn ei lle - dim ond ei hanes a'i hymdrech, a chywilydd. Arnoch chwi sydd yn gwneud y penderfyniad yma mae'r cyfrifoldeb.

Diolch am eich sylw.

Oddiwrth,  
Yvonne Lloyd-Jones  
Cyn Cyngorydd Plwyf Llanengan  
Cyn Llywydd Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Abersoch --Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd. This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council. <https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/D289B41ABB.A8DD7/learn-spam> <https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/D289B41ABB.A8DD7/blacklist>



**96**

**Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi**

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**96**

**The respondent does not want the  
response to be published**

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 16:59  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch Closure  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree to the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch.

My cousins attend the school, the village needs a school, it is important to the community and the welsh Language.

Kind regards

Sent from my iPhone

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/8829741AF4.A5F12/blacklist>

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** wendy ferguson <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 17:00  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

My husband and I have-and continue- to live in and around Abersoch for the last 25years. Our 3 daughters have all been lucky enough to attend Ysgol Abersoch.

The school is an integral part of the village as a whole. Fundraising for and by the school has always been hugely successful, as the community is so entwined with the school and its pupils success. Children progressing from Ysgol Abersoch onto Sarn Bach/ Llanbedrog are often above average in reading, writing and physical development skills due to the hard work of teachers, parents and pupils in this close knit environment. The children interact with village businesses and residents to make great use of the natural resources on their doorstep. I assure you many schools envy Ysgol Abersoch PE lessons on the beach!

All the Ysgol Abersoch pupils become deeply attached to the village in a way not often seen, many return regularly bringing family and friends. Many long to remain or return, but without further local residential development there simply are not enough homes in the village for young families to stay here and make use of this beautiful school. As a family, we urge a reevaluation of the scope the impact this closure could have on the entire community.

Yours faithfully  
Wendy Ferguson

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/D74B141AFD.A388E/blacklist>

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:**  
**Anfonwyd:**  
**At:**  
**Copi:**

[REDACTED] >  
Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 17:17  
Moderneiddio Addysg

**Fflag Atgoffa:**  
**Statws Fflag:**

Camau Pellach  
Wedi gorffen

Annwyl Syr, Madam.

Rydwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch fel hen ddisybl Ysgol Abersoch.

Dwin drist iawn o glwad fod yr ysgol ar fygwth cau unwaith eto, mae yr Ysgol yn feddwl gymaint ir bobl lleol enwedig teuluoedd ifanc sydd yn dibynu ar Ysgol sydd llawn creadigrwydd i ddefnyddio yr adnoddau lleol i ddysgu y plant, mae yr ardal yn lle anodd iawn i bobl ifanc fel mai hefo pris y tai yn dal i ddringo a mae y ffaith bod Ysgol llond caredigwydd a hapusrwydd ar fygwth cau yn drist ofnadwy.

Maen bwysg i gadw yr ysgol i gadw y gymuned lleol yn fyw ag i helpu cadw y iaith Gymraeg yn fyw mewn ardal sydd yn straffaglu cadw pobl lleol yn y pentref.

Roedd Ysgol Abersoch yn hanfodol yn fy mhlentyndod a dwi yn gobeithio geith o gario mlaen fod i blant am cenhedlaethau eto.

[REDACTED]

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council

[Marcio fel sbam / Mark it as spam](#)

[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

Re: Proposed Closure of Ysgol Abersoch

Dear Gwynedd Council

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you to express my objections and disappointment that you are considering the closure of Ysgol Abersoch. I am a past pupil and have two children, one who attended the school from 2015 to 2019 and the other who currently attends the school.

Ysgol Abersoch holds a special place in my heart and in my mind as it provided me with an excellent start to my educational career, and I don't think I have ever felt so comfortable and included in an educational facility since. The same can be said for my Children, they have both loved and relished their time at this school and it has enabled them to have, in my opinion, the best start to their education outside of private education.

Due to several factors I moved away from my home of Abersoch after university, however it was always my heart's desire to move back to Abersoch or the immediate area as soon as possible and this desire was accelerated when we had children. Both myself and my partner wanted our children to be educated in Wales to enable them to be bi-lingual but more importantly to be educated at Ysgol Abersoch. It was a difficult journey, and I will not enter in to it here, the difficulties for Local People to be able to purchase or build a property, as they are well publicised, especially in a tourist orientated village like Abersoch. In a nutshell it involved us living in a Caravan for almost three years on the Section 106 building plot we purchased and I worked away in England coming home at weekends for the same period of time. It was a massive sacrifice only seeing seeing my children on Weekends, especially during their formative years. However, it was a sacrifice we as parents deemed to be worthwhile so that our children could be educated in the Welsh Language in an idyllic location and at the inspirational and special Ysgol Abersoch.

I understand that a school should not be kept open due to sentimental reasons, or because I thought it was special place or because my children have attended this or because I am a past pupil. This is not about what has gone before, but rather what will happen in the future. I worry for the future of Abersoch and its local inhabitants, increasingly the village is becoming a place which is unfamiliar to me. We have seen token gesture attempts at affordable housing, some nearby being put on the market for upwards of £180,000, which is highly unaffordable for local people. We have seen a three-bedroom social house being let to a single person and not a family. We have seen nearby schools over-subscribed at the detriment of Ysgol Abersoch.

Ysgol Abersoch isn't just a school it is a bastion of the Welsh language located in the heart of Abersoch and provides local inhabitants and visitors alike that the Welsh language is alive and well. It is one of the only schools in the area which is located centrally and allows such easy interaction with the community, without the need for transport. In fact, the children and pupils have encouraged shops with a national presence such as White Stuff, Crew, Mountain Warehouse, Joules, to name but a few to increase their Welsh signage and advertising. The Welsh language is constantly being attacked by those who do not understand our culture, often citing what is the need for this archaic and unnecessary language expressing such ignorant opinions such as ' they can all speak English so what's the point. Recently high-profile public figures such as Max Hastings the writer and historian, mocked and criticised the Welsh language, the Director of Iceland Foods found it necessary to publicly deride and put down the Welsh. Therefore, more than ever we should be maintaining our Welsh presence not trying to close down a facility like Ysgol Abersoch who champions and readily advocates the Welsh language in a village which is close to losing its identity. If the school were to close then that identity would surely be lost and an educational facility par excellence would never be seen again.

It is readily known that since the pandemic people have been encouraged to work from home and with the onset of ever increasingly innovative IT solutions it is no longer necessary for people to be in the office 5 days a week. Nowhere more has this been realised than in rural communities such as ours. House sales have gone through the roof thus potentially bringing families and young couples in to the area. Where will their children be educated if Ysgol Abersoch should close – by your own evidence nearby schools are already over-subscribed and other schools could be oversubscribed if Ysgol Abersoch was to close. The problem can't be solved like it was in Criccieth where a new larger school was built. Families are scattered over larger geographical areas and therefore there would be transport issues especially for the younger children who cannot be taken to school unsupervised.

During one of the meetings held between Cyngor Gwynedd and Ysgol Abersoch Staff, Governors and Parents a question was asked 'what will happen when nearby schools become over-subscribed due to the closure of Ysgol Abersoch?' - a flippant comment was made by a member of Gwynedd Council; 'we'll just build an extension'. However, I question at what cost? In what location? At what timescales? Surely it is better to maintain a school that is already established and one who already provides excellent education. Whilst you discuss the possible location of this extension or new school, whilst you procure the land, whilst you employ the architects, whilst you develop the brief, whilst you seek planning permission, whilst you seek contractors, whilst the school or extension is being built, what happens to the education of the children? Whilst I am no expert (apart from being a Chartered Building Surveyor with several years' experience in planning and facilitating school refurbishments and extensions in Lancashire), but this process could take a in the region 18 months - 2 years if not longer should there be lack of suitable land, or planning issues for instance. What happens to our children whilst they sit in their over-subscribed schools during this period. They will not gain the benefit of this new extension or school, their time will have passed, their early education that will shape their future life affected for ever. In addition to this have you considered the environmental impact of building another school or extension not only due to increase road pollution, but also building materials and the additional infrastructure required?

It is with is this in mind that I implore Gwynedd Council to think outside of the box and rather than do the easy thing or the expected thing, do the harder thing. Work with the school and promote their Beach School proposal, try and find alternate ways to promote the school and its excellent teaching staff and educational environment. Help the school promote the Welsh language and show ignorant people that the Welsh Language is not just a language that is spoken so that we can talk about others without being understood. Be an example to other counties that there are alternatives to closure, that by exploring alternatives, which have been proposed by the excellent Governing Body and Teaching Staff such as the beach school and Nursery programme. They have done the hard work for you, you just need to show some support. Please don't be known as the Council and Political Party that closes schools because you did not explore any other alternative, use this opportunity to be innovative and support your communities not put another nail in their coffin. Work together with the Housing Department, and forge new policies that will assist the growth of rural or seasonal communities and the Welsh Language. I will close this letter by quoting John F Kennedy, during a speech given about reaching the moon:

"We choose to go to the Moon," Kennedy said. "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win"

Gwynedd Council has an opportunity here to show that they are a council who encourage diversity in education, and champion tailored learning based on the individual needs of a pupil and that closing a school is the last thing to do. Be a council that stands up to what is the expected outcome and help and assist Ysgol Abersoch with all the resources that are available to you to increase their pupil numbers and allow this school to continue its excellent education. Go on Gwynedd Council, do the 'Hard Thing'!!

Therefore, I do not agree to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch, and I look forward to your responses to the many questions I have raised in my letter.

Yours Faithfully

Dylan Evans

Ex-Pupil, Parent and Advocate of the most excellent Ysgol Abersoch

To The Gwynedd Education Department  
The proposed statutory consultation of Ysgol Abersoch

Anwyl Syr, Madam.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding this consultation, please note that I do not agree to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

I am writing as a parent and as someone who has a keen interest in Education, I am very disappointed that Gwynedd Council have allowed this consultation to go ahead regardless of the current Covid Pandemic, whereby we are all trying to minimise contact as much as possible.

I have several questions that I hope you can answer as I myself cannot find any of the answers to these questions even after reading your report.

Why has Gwynedd Council not seriously considered allowing Ysgol Abersoch to host a year 4, putting them in line with other schools?

My child is currently [REDACTED] at Ysgol Abersoch and she has asked several times why she cannot stay until year four? I cannot answer this question and I can see absolutely no reason why this cannot be set in place. We as parents and Governors have also put forward and asked you this question. Whenever this has been put to you, your responses are always 'it will be detrimental to Ysgol Sarn Bach,' however at Ysgol Sarn Bach the years 3&4 are already taught together. It seemed to me when my son started in year 4 in Sarn Bach that he was going over old work he had previously done in year three at Ysgol Abersoch. The very detailed pupil report set out by Head Teacher Mrs Linda Jones would confirm this. Therefore I feel that the children of Ysgol Abersoch would benefit more, by going to Sarn Bach in Year 4. I also feel the children of Sarn Bach would benefit from this as well to avoid the strain of larger class sizes and the upheaval caused by children joining their teaching part way through the syllabus.

Would it be possible for Gwynedd Council to provide a detailed analysis of costs that you have mentioned briefly in your report. Everything else seems to have more emphasis and detail than this matter, please can you elaborate as I feel that you need to be more transparent on areas such as:

- Transport
- Staffing
- Redundancies
- Costs for the process of the consultation to date;
- First class stamps x 2 to all pupils of Sarn Bach, then the delivery of letters from Sarn Bach to yourselves?
- Mr Arwel Jones- interviewer
- Counseling for the children should they need it.
- Public Meetings that Gwynedd Council hosted
- Petrol and mileage expenses



- Translator for meetings
- Will the children be given a uniform Grant? (if they change schools, the uniforms bought will be redundant).

At this stage I feel that you need to elaborate more on the transport issues, I mentioned this to Gwern at the Zoom meeting on the 3rd February. In your report you have included a sum of £14,000 next to transport, I asked Gwern if this figure was realistic, I also asked if Gwynedd council had compiled a survey asking all parents of Ysgol Sarn Bach if they would be taking Gwynedd Council up on their free transport? Gwern said 'the school would need to do this in September', Is September not too late to be asking this question? Consequently I have taken it upon myself to ask some parents who currently drive their children to school as they cannot afford to pay for the bus. Of the parents that I have asked so far all said Yes they would then send them on the bus. Pre covid the bus to Sarn Bach was a public service bus, however, I feel this to be inappropriate and have concerns with young children getting on to a bus with members of the public.

I think the cost of the transport needs to be looked into further as I think the figure of £14,000 is unrealistic and would welcome to see the evidence of how you have reached this sum. Also if the projection figures are inaccurate or perhaps pupil numbers fluctuate, or if the bus is full, or for instance two more children join Ysgol Sarn Bach, will you provide another bus? These situations need to be accounted for and the public have a right to know the costs involved.

I also feel that a more detailed report on your staffing levels would be very welcomed, I was disappointed not to see such details in your report. I think this needs to be more transparent and is relevant with the costs of a school. A table showing pupil numbers in each school with information such as contact teaching hours for:

- Teaching Assistants working alongside Teachers,
- Teaching assistants teaching alone
- Fully qualified Teachers working alone

It would be fair to show how many days children are taught by teaching assistants as opposed to fully qualified teachers, this may influence a parents choice when choosing a school, however many parents who I have spoken to are unaware that their children are not always taught by a Fully Qualified Teacher. Transparency about this allows parents to make an informed choice.

With regards to the questionnaire that you issued to the pupils I feel that I need to address some of your statements and issues that myself and other parents have raised.

My daughter read your pamphlet before reading the questionnaire and she at 8 years old said that it was misleading, 'pupils will have the option to move to Sarn Bach'. The definition of the word 'option' is thus; 'it is a thing that is or may be chosen' my daughter said therefore she does not choose to leave Ysgol Abersoch.

Another quote is that 'there will be More Teachers at .....'- please check if that is factual as currently my daughter is taught by Fully Qualified Teachers, I do not believe this to be the case at Ysgol Sarn Bach therefore I would be grateful if you could elaborate further.

'Better use of resources e.g. IT', - Please could you also check if that is factual, every learner at Ysgol Abersoch has excellent IT and I myself have found it difficult to operate more than one device at any one time, however, if more is needed The Parents association provides this for the children at no cost to the council.

'An Opportunity to meet and play with friends'- Are you suggesting the children of Ysgol Abersoch do not have friends already? My children have friends all over Gwynedd, however, we chose Ysgol Abersoch for its educational merits, are you suggesting that making friends is more important? The majority of my children's friends attend Ysgol Llanbedrog therefore if I wanted them to choose friends over education I would have moved them to Ysgol Llanbedrog.

Can you explain to me why the Council believes it will strengthen future education for the area? What evidence do you have that will support this claim? I am also interested in what the Teaching Unions think about such statements, are you therefore suggesting that my child will get a better education taught by a Teaching Assistant as opposed to a Fully Qualified Teacher? I have no doubts about the Merits of Teaching Assistants, however it seems that you are undermining the importance of someone with a level 8 as opposed to a level 4 certificate.

My Son received a questionnaire sent through the post on February the 8th requiring it to be posted back by February the 12th asking him the same questions that you asked the children of Ysgol Abersoch. I cannot see the relevance of this questionnaire, the questions were not very clear, on Q4, which school are you referring to? Was this a one size fits all questionnaire not really tailored towards the individuals? I also found it very strange that the questionnaires were sent back to Ysgol Sarn Bach and not directly to yourselves. My son said that he did not feel he could be open to expressing his thoughts and feelings in case his Head teacher recognised his handwriting, I also believe this to be the case of other children as well. Can you please tell me why the letters were not sent back directly to Gwynedd Council? Can you also tell me how many responses have you received from Ysgol Sarn Bach? The reason I ask this is because I know of some families who did not get a questionnaire, therefore was this a pointless exercise and not a true representation of figures?

With regards to Educational benefits, the children of Ysgol Abersoch won £1,000 in a competition hosted by Llaeth y Llan, only 8 children in Ysgol Abersoch put their creative minds together with their inspirational Teachers and they won. The teachers encourage learners to adapt using natural resources and encourage development through learning, encompassing all children reach their potential and all the differentiation and individual learning styles are met. The children were happy just to take part in this challenge however they worked collaboratively and won, thus reinforcing my opinion that a small school can provide excellent education and inspire confidence. The majority of the schools in Gwynedd took part in this competition, often whole schools entering, my son said at Ysgol Sarn Bach years 4,5,and 6 entered, however Ysgol Abersoch won. This school needs to be celebrated

and held up as a beacon of hope. The resilience of the staff and the children has been fantastic, even when faced with losing their beloved Head Teacher, the excellent teachers made it look effortless. Other schools under the threat of closure lost pupils at this stage, however despite this, Ysgol Abersoch gained 5 new children, as parents who viewed the school saw something different and an inspirational teaching environment.

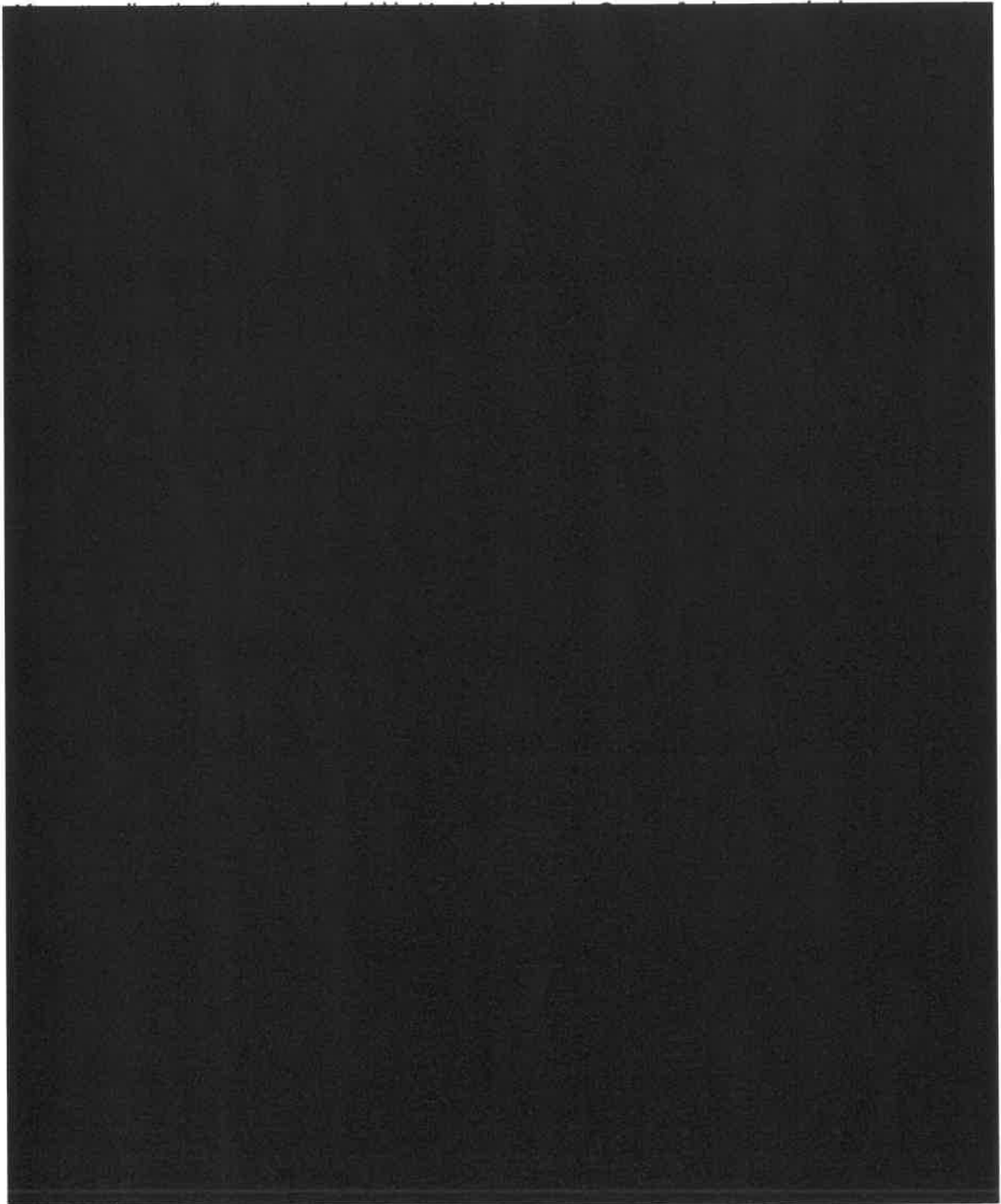
The innovative proposal of a Beach school should be championed by Gwynedd Council, especially in a time of uncertainty such as covid pandemics, parents will welcome the idea of outdoor teaching and learning. I have seen examples of this type of school all over the world and I was lucky enough to spend 8 years in the French Alps whereby I was able to watch a Forestry school flourish and go from strength to strength. By Ysgol Abersoch adapting to its surroundings this would surely qualify as a beacon of Educational Excellence, using this school as a pioneering model would surely set Gwynedd Council apart and help the Education department plough ahead into the future.

We as a family moved to Wales five years earlier than planned just to ensure that our children could attend Ysgol Abersoch, we lived in a static caravan whilst we built our home, and rented a house in Abersoch instead of remaining in our own Cottage in Lancashire. The sacrifices we made were worth it as the education my children received at Ysgol Abersoch was and still is excellent. I have a Teaching degree and it was important to me to get it right choosing the school that best fits my children's educational needs and one that offers a wide range of educational experiences. I particularly like the Montessori model developed by Italian Physician Maria Montessori 'emphasizing Independence' this is clear to see when the children take their weekly bus and travel to Swimming, they ask and pay the driver with their own money, every child can swim by the time they leave Ysgol Abersoch at 8 years old. The children independently telephone and order school meals, they also telephoned the R.S.P.C.A to report a hurt bird that was later caught and had to be put to sleep. The man was so impressed that these young children showed such maturity and compassion asking questions that showed intelligence and empathy. I feel that Gwynedd Council can boast hosting a school offering these exacting high standards.

We chose Ysgol Abersoch because we felt it had a familial feel it had a lovely sense of belonging. My children were very anxious leaving friends and family to relocate to Wales. We felt it was very important to get this right, my daughter had terrible issues with separation anxiety this was due to some health issues and she was under the hospital at the time of starting Ysgol Abersoch. The Teachers nurtured her and gave her the confidence to become an independent thinker and learner. Both my children did not speak Welsh when we moved to Wales and spoke in English with all of their friends from other schools. The children soon thrived and picked up the Welsh language and alongside their teachers they encouraged me to take up Welsh classes in the village Hall.

Another example of excellence from Head teacher Linda Jones and the merits of having a school whereby children are dropped off and picked up by parents, who are then able to have face to face conversations. Mrs Jones asked me one evening if she could have five minutes of my time, she then explained to me that [REDACTED] was struggling with his reading and this was impacting on his other work, myself, [REDACTED] and Mrs Jones worked together to improve this situation, it came to light that he needed to read with an overlay and this vastly improved his reading. [REDACTED] is awaiting as is my daughter to have an Irlen syndrome test to

help rule out the possibility that they may both have this. Since the five minute talk with Mrs Jones [redacted] work excelled and then he took his final tests he had exceeded all our expectations. This is more than any ordinary school. This is somewhere that parents and children are able to approach the teachers and the door is always open, I have not found this at any other school.



During that meeting I was also surprised as its main content appeared to be about Federalisation. One of the schools suggested by the Council to federalise with; could be

Ysgol Llanbedrog. I asked Garem Jackson at that meeting about the pupil numbers and the current capacity at Ysgol Llanbedrog, however, Mr Jackson stated that he did not have those numbers to hand. I suggest Mr Jackson that you do not come to a meeting that you were hosting to discuss Federalisation options and not have these important details and figures to hand; it gives the illusion of a smoke screen.

My daughter has asked why you have allowed 20% over capacity to attend a school only 2 miles away, allowing children from the village of Abersoch to move from their catchment area to attend a school that is already over capacity, whilst you knew Ysgol Abersoch had surplus spaces. This seems to contravene your own policies, so please can you answer my 8 year old child and explain how this has happened?

At that meeting you said that you would look into the capacity of Ysgol Llanbedrog, however since that meeting the numbers grew larger, allowing one school to flourish whilst allowing another to drown seems unethical and more to the point it should not come as a surprise to the Council, the council was aware of this ongoing situation as we brought it to your attention. We looked to you for guidance and help to create solutions not simply appear to opt to close the doors on the school. Whilst at this meeting we also posed the question 'are all the children who are under eight and live in Abersoch but attend Ysgol Sarn Bach paying for their bus pass?' You said that you would look into this and get back to us on this point. I am still unaware of the answer, therefore, as your tables throughout your consultation process revert back to 2017, please can you provide me with the following information:

If all bus passes from 2017 until the present day have been paid in full for each pupil under 8years old using the bus service?

We also highlighted that if this was indeed the case that some children might not have paid for bus passes that should have and therefore we needed to be made aware of this with immediate effect as this facilitates children to bypass the catchment area policy and go against your own policies.

I would also like to draw your attention to a comment with regards that the closure of Ysgol Abersoch would have no detrimental effect on the Welsh Language in the community as taken from Section 7.9 of the consultation document "It is concluded...that no negative impact on the Welsh Language is anticipated, should the proposal be realised." Therefore does this contradict and suggest that your 'Welsh Language Charter' has no impact in a community? I do hope you are not merely suggesting that this decision was made purely on a tick box exercise, please could you provide evidence to support your claims in more detail.

Whilst discussing the Community throughout your proposals you focused on highlighting positive attributes towards Ysgol Sarn Bach therefore I would like to have more of Ysgol Abersoch represented in these findings to ensure that no biased has been used, allowing the public to base their decisions on accuracy rather than misrepresentation. You may have observed that Ysgol Abersoch and Ysgol Foel Gron were representing the local area on the Pwllheli Rotary Christmas show, the absence of Ysgol Sarn Bach and Ysgol Llanbedrog further cemented Ysgol Abersoch's continued support within the community. Ysgol Abersoch also accompanied The Rotary's christmas float around the Village of Abersoch again with the noticeable absence of Ysgol Sarn Bach. These are the things that I do not see in your

evidence to support that the children of Ysgol Abersoch will have a more enriched Education in other schools. My Children were very proud when The Reverend Andrew Jones closed the Pwllheli Rotary show with his story mentioning that a pupil from Ysgol Abersoch had made him look at things in a different way, the child had questioned and made The Reverend see things from an alternative viewpoint, he only mentioned Ysgol Abersoch in his closing speech, no other school was mentioned, my little girl said 'we have really made a difference, someone as important as Reverend Andrew talking about my school'.

I would also like to highlight the after school activities that have taken place that you failed to mention in your detailed report:

- 6 week Hitt class and sports, paid for by the Parents Association
- 6 week Rugby class, paid for by the parents Association
- 6 week Parents and child yoga class, paid for by the Parents Association
- 6 week Gardening Club- Paid for by the Parents Association
- 6 week yoga course during school hours Paid for by the Parents Association
- Alongside the other after school activities that take place throughout the year, the Parents Association had made enquiries about a 6 week Life-Guarding course, however this has been put on hold due to the current Covid 19 pandemic.

I would like to urge you to reconsider your position on a proposed statutory closure and to take onboard, we as parents, teachers and Governors eagerly listened and made remedies and tried to improve the current situation of low pupil numbers through no fault of the school. Thus highlighting our plight when we discovered that some schools have been enabled to thrive contravening your own policies regarding schools at over capacity whilst spaces are available and at the detriment to another school. This is a slight nod to double standards as when we as Parents, Teachers, Pupils and Governors ask why we cannot continue with an added year Four, your reply is "it would be at the detriment of Ysgol Sarn Bach". Therefore I question where is the detriment to Ysgol Abersoch considered and included within your findings? I also want it to be noted that we have repeatedly asked you to consider a Year 4, in the time we have waited for you to give us a direct answer other children have moved out of year 3 to start in year 4 at Ysgol Sarn Bach. Had the two children been allowed to stay that would have taken our numbers up to 12 children this year, would this have not taken us out of the dangerous position we find ourselves in whereby we have 10 children?

The School has set up a Cylch Meithrin and this has proven to be very successful in a very short period and even though the school is under threat of closure. The Cylch Meithrin has also has the added benefit of acting as a feeder for attending Ysgol Abersoch from reception year onwards, just as this would also benefit Ysgol Sarn Bach as the children tend to move onto this school at the end of Year 3. In the village we have approximately 12 children all under three who would benefit from using the Cylch and eventually the school. It is within walking distance of the village and perfectly located and convenient for those who work in the village of Abersoch.

I found it alarming in my Zoom meeting when I asked what provisions you had put in place regarding children aged 3 to 5 who would attend school for two hours? These children learn vital skills and promote learning through play using the Medium of Welsh (which for some is the first time they have heard or used the language), to be able to get to school, if their

parents have no means of transport. Gwern said that it is not a statutory requirement, just because that is the case does not make it acceptable. I see no mention of this in your report and I feel this needs to be made transparent, some families may lose this lifeline and I feel it is more important during this time of uncertainty for children to go to school, this may have a very negative impact on the mental health of the parents and children. Has the Council looked into this matter and addressed parents whose children should require the two hours of school and explained the issues surrounding this? Please can you provide further information and advice as to how you will achieve this?

There is no mention in your report of the 150 jobs which will be provided when a hotel will be built and opened in Abersoch, thus encouraging local families to stay in the area and creating an opportunity for new families to come to the area. Penrhos has also been earmarked for development thus creating houses for families, where will these children go to school? It has also been mentioned that some families are opting to move to the Village on a permanent basis as they have realised during the Covid pandemic they can successfully work from home. We need amenities to remain in place to accommodate the needs of the community, as we see too often villages losing chapels, banks, doctors surgeries and other facilities that communities hold dear ensuring places thrive throughout the year not just as a Holiday destination.

I also could not find anything in the report regarding the current Covid Pandemic, looking at things such as; pupil attendance throughout this period. I know of several children from other schools in the area who did not attend school, because parents were concerned with larger class sizes. Ysgol Abersoch benefitted from smaller class sizes as parents felt confident to send them to school as the R rate would be significantly lower. Do you have figures of absenteeism during September to December 2020? I also noted that Ysgol Llanbedrog had to have two pick up times for children as the public footpath where parents wait to greet their children was too congested, this is not mentioned anywhere either. However the benefit of Ysgol Abersoch includes its location next to a large Car Park enabling parents to collect children in a safe manner and I feel that this should also be noted when drawing up your assessment.

A true testament to the school is that the 6 pupils who have moved up to Ysgol Sarn Bach in the last two years would give anything to be back in Ysgol Abersoch. They are not saying they do not like Ysgol Sarn Bach, but what they are really saying is Ysgol Abersoch is the best school in the world to them. How many other children can say that about a school and also love the education, the trips, the teachers, the building itself, the place it holds within the community, the experience of forging relationships with the older generation..... The list is endless and I have not got a negative word to say about this school and the education it has provided to my children and others.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the responses I have requested, please look at the positives for keeping this school open. I would hate to find ourselves in a similar situation to Tryweryn, whereby 40 years later an apology was issued. Let's continue working together providing and promoting Educational Excellence, whereby solutions are found to forge forward and form long lasting flexible relationships rather than detrimental irrevocable closures.

Gwynedd Council Please allow these little beach acorns to flourish, 'from little acorns mighty oak trees grow'

Louise Overfield



**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Linda Jones < [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 20:03  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ymgynghoriad Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

**Dyma sylwadau sydd o blaid cadw Ysgol Abersoch ar agor.**

Mae pentref Abersoch wedi colli llawer o bethau pwysig yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf fel Banc, meddygfa, Post. **Byddai cau'r ysgol yn hoelen ddiwethaf yn arch y Gymraeg yma.**

Canu Cymraeg a chwaraeon buarth yn cael ei glywed ar y buarth yn ddyddiol ac ymwelwyr yn stopio'n aml yn yr haf yn rhyfeddu at y disgyblion yn gwneud hyn.

Mae safon yr addysg yn dda iawn yma gan fod pob plentyn yn cael mwy o sylw na fuasent yn ei gael mewn ysgol fwy o ran niferoedd, a'r ysgol yn cynnig nawsgartrefol a theuluol iawn. Tim gwych o bobl yn cefnogi ei gilydd 100%. Mae pawb yn adnabod pawb yn dda ac yn adnabod cryfderau'r disgyblion a sut i'w hannog ymlaen i gyrraedd eu llawn botensial. ( Gwelir hyn yng nghanlyniadau'r profion a roddir ar ddiwedd pob blwyddyn addysgol).

Cynigir profiadau unigryw i'r disgyblion megis defnyddio'r bws cyhoeddus i fynd i nofio ( deall arian a thalu am eu ticedi), chwaraeon ar lan y mor gan gerdded yno ac oddi yno ( gan ddefnyddio Rheolau'r Groes Werdd), cael tripiâu i Ganolfan Addysg Awyr agored a chael gwneud pethau megis rhaffau uchel a lein- zip. ( profiadau unigryw i blant mor ifanc a hyn).

Adnoddau technoleg gwych. Plant yn cael chromebook / Ipad bob un lle ddim yn gorfod rhannu fel mewn ysgolion mwy o ran nifer, felly'n cael sylw 1-1 o ran sgiliau technolegol hefyd.

Mae lleoliad yr ysgol yng nghanol y pentref ac mae o fewn cyrraedd i lefydd ar droed. Gwneir llawer o waith gyda busnesau lleol drwy gydol y flwyddyn, ac mae'r busnesau yn dda iawn am gefnogi'r ysgol erioed. Mae un siop wedi newid arwydd eu siop i fod yn ddwy - ieithog yn sgil y plant yn ymweld a nhw ac rydym wedi cynnal cystadlaethau cymunedol megis cystadlaethau addurno ffenestri siopau (Nadolig a Gwyl Dewi). Mae ysbryd cymunedol cryf yma a rhwydweithiau cryf wedi eu gwreiddio ac mae hyn yn rhywbeth i ymfalchio'n arw ynddo.

Dyfodiad Cylch Meithrin a Ti a Fi wedi cryfhau'r berthynas gymunedol ac yn codi niferoedd ac enw da'r ysgol. Amser a thai fforddiadwy yn y pentref sydd eu hangen er mwyn gweld cynnydd yn niferoedd y plant a ddaw i Ysgol Abersoch.

Byddai'n braf cael Blwyddyn ychwanegol yn yr ysgol hon ( I fyny i Bl 4 yn lle 3) fel nad yw'r plant yn symud i fyny i ysgol newydd i ganol dosbarth dieithr megis ysgolion gyda Bl.3 a 4 yn un dosbarth. Deall fod 3, 4,5 a 6 gyda'u gilydd mewn rhai ysgolion- disgyblion ddim yn cael yr un sylw wedyn yn sicr.

**I grynhoi- yr ysgol yw'r unig ANGOR a'r ffordd ymlaen i'r IAITH GYMRAEG a'r GYMUNED.** Mae'n plant yn haeddu cael mynychu'r ysgol bach unigryw hon. Mae llawer o feddygon, cyfreithiwy, athrawon ( i enwi

ond ychydig) wedi cychwyn eu haddysg yn yr ysgol bach arbennig yma. Mynychais yr ysgol hon fy hun yn blentyn ac rwyf yn gwybod pa mor arbennig yw hi.

**Ni fydd Cymraeg yn Abersoch heb yr ysgol!**

**Diolch yn fawr**

**Linda Jones**

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd  
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**103**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**103**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

(ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Simon Leahy <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 21:13  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir / Madam,

I don't agree with the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch.  
My friends children attend the school, the education they receive is excellent.

I spent time in the village of Abersoch during the annual duck race competition  
My friends' children impressed me so much by speaking in Welsh on the beach selling tickets for the annual duck race competition, raising funds for Ysgol Abersoch.  
I helped some of the parents take part in the race and I loved the community feel. The whole village was a buzz with the excitement generated by the children who are ambassadors representing this unique school. It showed their commitment for the love of the school they attend.

I ask you to please consider these children and help them to create the beach school they deserve.

--  
Regards

Si Leahy

<https://uk.linkedin.com/pub/simon-leahy/28/6b8/182>

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

**Your Details:**

Date:

20/02/21

Name:

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

 Parent

 Staff

 Governor

 Pupil

 Other (please specify)

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

 Yes, I wish to be notified

 No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose **one** of the following answers

 I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

 I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

 No, the Council should not publish my response.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

**Please return your response to:**

Modernising Education Office,  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### Comments:

As a parent of an ex-pupil of Ysgol Abersoch who is now at Sarn Bach, I was disappointed to learn of the potential closure of the school. These are the key reasons why I think it should be kept open.

I believe the small class sizes are advantageous for the children because it enables the teachers to give more attention to each individual pupil and get to know and attend to their individual needs. The small amount of children also encouraged my daughter to become friends with pupils of all ages, which I consider a desirable social outcome.

The fact that the school is in the middle of the village makes it very easy to walk to and from school daily. This is enormously beneficial. It provides the regular opportunity for extra daily exercise, obviously vital for childrens' health. And it has clear environmental benefits as well.

**(ADDYSG)**

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**Oddi wrth:** Craig Forde <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 22:02  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch closure

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To who it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the potential closure of Ysgol Abersoch. Small schools such as this are a lifeline in small communities and the ability to teach children Welsh is imperative in Abersoch. This school allows young children to develop their Welsh language and many other important skills which will be beneficial to them in the future and also a real benefit to the Welsh community.

Regards

Craig Forde.

--

Craig Forde  
T: 01978 860471  
[Sasoutdoors.co.uk](http://Sasoutdoors.co.uk)

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 22:03  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

**Annwyl moderneiddio addysg**

Rwyf yn ysgrifennu i chi ynglyn a mater bod Ysgol Abersoch ar fin cael ei gau a faint yr ydwyf yn erbyn y symudiad hyn. Mae'r ysgol wedi bod yn galon ir pentref ers mor hir a rydwyf yn cofio, mi fuasai yn golled enfawr ir gymuned.

Tra rwyf yn deallt bod ffigyrau yn weddol isel yno ar hyn o bryd hoffwn bwydlesio na fel hyn mai wedi bod yn yr ysgol erioed, weithiau mae nhw i fyny a weithiau mae nhw i lawr, natur ydyw hyn mewn llawer i fyd. Rwyf yn gwybod fy hyn fod na sawl plentyn bach ifanc newydd yn dod i fyny at fod yn barod i ddechrau mynd ir ysgol, mae gennyf Fab fy hyn sy'n mynd i ddechrau yn Cylch Meithrin ar y 1af o Fawrth hefyd, a ni cheith dim gwell ddechrau iw flynyddoedd ysgol nac yma yn Abersoch yn lle ei fod yn gorfod mynd i rhywle arall a dosbarthiadau yn orlawn yno.

Fel y ddywedis gynnar i fyny daw y ffigyrau eto ac hefyd hoffwn ddweud yn bersonol rwyf yn meddwl y busai llawer gwell stad ar yr ysgol os fasa y rhieni ddim yn cael symud ei plant or ysgol mor hawdd a be mae nhw wedi bod yn wneud, os ydi un yn penderfynu mynd mae dau neu dri arall yn mynd yn un swydd ar ei holau nhw, fedraf l ddim meddwl am ddim un lle arall lle fasa hyn yn medru digwydd mor rhydd, os yr ydym am fynd ymlaen mae eisiau rhoid stop ar bethau fel hyn, os ydi plentyn yn perthyn i ardal Abersoch fano yw ei ysgol hefyd, pwynt arall da ydi cadw y plant yn yr ysgol am flwyddyn arall cyn ei symud i fyny i Sarn Bach i leihau y straen ar Sarn Bach hefyd.

Nid rwyf yn meddwl am fod ffigyrau yn isel yn yr ysgol ar "hyn o bryd" yn ddigon o esgis i gau yr ysgol, os yw hyn yn dod i lawr i fater o bres rwyf yn siwr fod yna ffordd ogwmpas hyn, un syniad oedd gen i ydi.... Faint o dai sydd na yn ardal abersoch ?, beth am rhoid codiad o £1 (er engraifft) ar dreth cyngor pob un ty yn ardal abersoch does fawr o neb yn mynd i golli £1 bob mis er mwyn cadw ein hysgol i fynd, neu mae son am ddwblu treth ar dai haf yn y cymuned, beth am rhoid dipyn or pres yna yn ol i mewn ir gymuned er mwyn yr ysgol.

Rwyf yn erfyn arno Chi i feddwl yn galed iawn am ddyfodol yr ysgol ac rwyf yn sicir fod na amseroedd gwell i ddod, dim ond ir ysgol ond ir gymuned hefyd.

Yn Gywir

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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## Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013



## Your Details:

Date: 18.02.2021

Name: KATHLEEN BUFTON

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

Parent

Staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please specify) RESIDE VILLAGE / PAST PARENT

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

Yes, I wish to be notified

No, I do not wish to be notified

In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:

\* Choose one of the following answers

I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

No, the Council should not publish my response.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

Please return your response to:

Modernising Education Office,  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

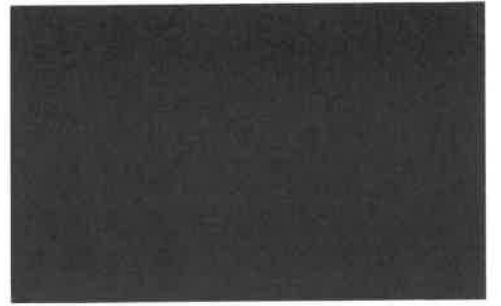
or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.

There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.

Closing Date: 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

1



15th FEBRUARY 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am both disappointed and angry that Gwynedd Council think that it is in order to have a consultation on such an important issue in the middle of a global pandemic, consequently denying the opportunity for the residents of Abesoch to be able to easily participate, due to the regulations in place.

I thought the council was supposed to support and work for and on behalf of the community it represents, if Ysgol Abesoch was to be closed, how would this benefit the people of the village, the Welsh language and the Welsh culture? The school has always been at the heart of the local community, interacting throughout the year, acknowledging and celebrating many different occasions with all the varying age groups, young and old alike. The fifty plus parade group particularly enjoy the engagements with the children. The Christmas concert in the village hall is always well attended with a reasonable percentage of the audience having no direct

relationship to the pupils and they are there to enjoy the performance.

To encourage young families to live in the village, the school is a vital facility and asset, not having one will erode the foundations for the future survival of a Welsh speaking community.

I would like to know if the council have considered the feelings, thoughts and opinions of the families who were responsible for providing the land and school for the children of Abersoch, have their descendants, still with connections in the village been told of the proposals? The history of how this school was established makes it even more deserved of an extra special effort in keeping it open for future generations to benefit from.

Ysgol Abersoch is in a centrally situated position which enables some of the pupils to have the independence of walking there, it also has the use of an excellent village hall and a very safe outdoor play area and easy access to the beach and countryside, with the opportunity to learn and experience the environment. I would argue that it has better facilities than the proposed Ysgol Sarn Bach. Perhaps more consideration should be given to which location would benefit both the pupils and the community. Abersoch needs a younger generation to live here, they are the future volunteer firemen, coastguard and lifeboat personnel etc. etc.

I think the Council are partly responsible for the reduced pupil numbers at the school, constantly threatening closure and actively not following a catchment area policy.

Please consider the damaging effect of this ~~proposal~~ proposal on the whole community.

Thank you for your attention

Mes Katie Bufton

**109**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**109**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 22:20  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir/Madam

I do not agree with the statutory proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch ,the school has major potential and is indispensable in the local community.

We Live in Llanbedrog and having had children who attended 'ti a fi" there know how much crucial babies and young child need the place of learning ,taking this away will have a huge negative impact not just in Abersoch but in neighbouring villages.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Annette Weston <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 22:48  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch school.  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I do not agree with the statutory closure of abersoch school. I feel that it would be a sad loss to the village and the pupils who attend.

My [REDACTED] attend and they enjoy the small classes, the one to one attention that the teachers give them. They are leading Welsh much quicker than my older children because they are in smaller classes.

One of the reason we chose the school was their ethos for being outside, for their application to become an each school.... for their forward thinking.

The school is like a family and the children have been made to feel part of the community and the teachers are wonderful!

Please don't take away the opportunity for more children to have this lovely school experience.

Yours sincerely  
Annette and Chris weston  
Parents of [REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

(ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Kevin Bell <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 22:52  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Hi

We are writing, as local residents who also work in the village, in support of the campaign to maintain Ysgol Abersoch for the benefit of Abersoch village and its immediate surroundings.

Abersoch is a unique village. It is immensely popular with visitors and tourists which, whilst bringing lots of benefits to the area, also brings unique pressures to the fabric of the village and the sustainability of the community.

With exceptionally high house prices and an almost entirely seasonal economy, that sustainability is exceedingly fragile. The village is in need of a Strategic Plan to secure its future but in the meantime it is vital that the school in the heart of the village is retained if the village is to retain its character as a true community with a village life that has a realistic future.

At present the school provides an opportunity for local families to see their children schooled in the village where they grew up, cementing local bonds with their class-mates and helping to define the future character of the village as a place where local families grow and develop, and have a chance to contribute to village life and the local community and economy, rather than simply a seasonal place with no roots and no sustainable fabric.

I know from my role as Executive Editor as Abersoch Life magazine just how important the school is to the future, as well as the history, of the village and the local community. It's also clear how the unique opportunities the location of the school present are able to further add to the sustainability of the village, as the pupils are able to immerse themselves in the environmental issues that affect the village as well as enjoy the unique outdoor learning opportunities the adjacent beach and harbour offer. It is also clear how very important the existence of the school is to the seasonal economy. I'm able to see from my role that, whilst tourists and visitors may not be here all year, they truly appreciate the community nature of Abersoch that contributes to its value as a destination. Despite the pressures on the village it is still a 'real' place, so just as the local community are passionate about the importance of it staying that way, visitors equally want to know that the place they love to visit has a future as a sustainable community, a true village with its fabric intact. The role of the school in that future and fabric cannot be over-stated.

Sally is a former Early Years teacher of over 40 years experience and equally from her perspective in many different schools and roles in many different locations, from urban to rural, understands just how crucial a role a local school plays in the life and sustainability of that community. Family members follow family members to the same school, generations follow generations. There is a timeless link created in that way which, once broken, can never be rebuilt.

It is for others to determine the precise future role of the school, but it is our belief that the village would be best served if the school functioned by strengthening its Nursery provision for all local families in order to secure a future flow of pupils into the Reception class and above, and retaining provision up to Year 3. This strengthened Nursery provision is crucial - it provides continuity of education for parents and children at



the most important early years of their school life. The added benefit of this is that by starting more local children in their local nursery, the school can help to secure its sustainable future and thus the sustainability of the village.

We would be very happy to amplify our thoughts, in writing or (should conditions permit) in person.

Kind regards

Kevin & Sally Bell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

tel [REDACTED]

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Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 23:05  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Moderneiddio Addysg

I am writing to you in response to the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch the heart of our community, with no school what do we have, I myself have a son who is ready to start attending at the beginning of March at the Cylch Meithrin, and as a mother to a young child I know that there are plenty of other children on the way through too, it's only a matter of time and the school's numbers will be back up again, what's the alternative, possibly overcrowding another school.

It would be a devastating blow to the community if we were to lose our school an early entry into education with unsurpassed Teacher/Pupil attention, which parent doesn't want the best for their child. I feel that there is a bright future ahead for the school with ongoing things like Ti a Fi and Cylch Meithrin things that should be nurtured not left to die, then on from there onto the proper start of school and how about keeping pupils there for an extra year to ease the would be strain on neighbouring schools, there are many options to explore and other avenues to consider if funding is an issue i.e a small increase on council tax in the Abersoch area or as Ive heard the proposed doubling of council tax on holiday homes in Abersoch community, then maybe a slice of that could come back to aid the school.

In my opinion closure is not an option, things will get better there I know they will, I know the children coming through, I urge you to think long and hard before you condemn our children the community and the school to an unthinkable fate, ITS WORTH KEEPING OPEN.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd  
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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Jane <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Llun, 22 Chwefror 2021 23:55  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg; [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

It is with great concern that we hear of the potential closure of this vital village facility. Education is the heart of a small community we strongly believe this consideration needs to be re-examined

Jane Williams  
Programme Action Convenor  
S I South Caernarvonshire

Sent from my iPhone

--

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/CAB8F41AF2.A735A/blacklist>

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** charlotte < [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 09:21  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Statutory Consultation on the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly oppose the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch from both a personal and professional point of view.

I attended Ysgol Abersoch over forty years ago and have nothing but fond memories of my time there. A school is the heart of a community and it saddens me how Gwynedd Council disregards the importance of community to the people who live there.

I own a vibrant coffee shop in Abersoch and over the years we have enjoyed many visits from the school children who enjoy actively participating in the local community, encouraging the use of the Welsh language. We look forward to entering into the schools best dressed window competition each year, and my customers delight in hearing the Children sing Christmas carols in the cafe.

There is currently an active Mother and toddler group of eight or more mothers who live in the village. The group regularly meet for a coffee and since they live in Abersoch I assume they will want to send their children to the village school. By moving forwards with the closure of Ysgol Abersoch I feel the council is further displaying its total disregard for what is left of the community in the village.

I do realise that the land on which the school sits is considered prime development land, so is much more valuable to the council as an asset to generate revenue. I think the general feeling in the village is Gwynedd Council don't care for the village or its residents and closure of the school will go to funding other areas of the county whilst Abersoch will not benefit in any way.

Regards,  
 Charlotte Kernain



.....  
**Charlotte Kernain**  
 Director



.....  
[kinandcocoafe.uk](http://kinandcocoafe.uk)  
 .....

--  
 Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]

**Anfonwyd:**

Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 09:53

**At:**

Moderneiddio Addysg

**Pwnc:**

Abersoch village school closure

**Fflag Atgoffa:**

Camau Pellach

**Statws Fflag:**

Wedi gorffen

I am writing to protest against the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch.

The school is an essential part of village life. It is a place where the local children learn to socialise and where they gain a sense of village community spirit and which is so essential in these rural areas. It also promotes the Welsh language and culture and provides an excellent grounding for children's educational development. Both my children went to Abersoch school and became fluent Welsh speakers and have gone on to become well grounded, successful adults with fond memories of ysgol Abersoch and all it had to offer. We no longer have a bank or doctors here and the school has become the hub of the village- the children give concerts at Xmas, visit the local Panad group and their visits are very much enjoyed by the local residents who attend. It is also now registered as a Beach School and has a dedicated room for Cylch Ti a Fi This school was donated to the village 97 years ago and it would be a major loss to our village and community if it had to close and I strongly oppose this [REDACTED] Sent from my iPad -- Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd. This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council. <https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/716CC41B19.AFC47/learn-spamhttps://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/716CC41B19.AFC47/blacklist>

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Tom Turtle <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 10:13  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Fel cyn-ddisgybl, dydw i ddim yn gwybod be sy'n mwy frawychus, y ffaith bod Ysgol Abersoch o dan fygythiad o gau - a'r hyn wedi'i seilio ar adroddiad hynod wallus a charmarweiniol - neu bod yr Ymgynghoriad Statudol yn cael ei gynnal o dan cyfyngiadau y pandemig, ac yn bellach tra bod y brifathrawes yn absennol oherwydd trasedi personol. Beth bynnag, rwy'n hynod o rhwystredig ynglun a honiadau y Cyngor am maint dosbarthiadau.

Ni allwn anghytuno mwy â'r awgrym bod dosbarthiadau llai yn niweidiol i addysg plentyn.

Credaf yn gryf pe pawn i heb derbyn yr addysgu pwrpasol ac empathig a roddir gan ddosbarthiadau llai Ysgol Abersoch, ni fyddai fy mhotensial academaidd wedi'i cydnabod neu ei feithrin.

Nid oes dim drwy gydol fy addysg yn gymharu a'r sylw a chefnogaeth personol cefais yn Ysgol Abersoch, tan yr ymgysylltiad un ar un rwy'n derbyn yn Mhrifysgol Caergrawnt,

Nid oes tystiolaeth bod yr opsiwn o Ffederaleiddio'r ysgol wedi gael ei archwilio yn ddigonol ac o ddiffi. Mae Ysgol Llanbedrog dros ei gapasiti, ond mae effaith ar yr ysgolion cyfagos wedi ddiystyru'n llwyr gan yr Adran Addysg.

Mae genyf bryderion dybryd am effaith cau Ysgol Abersoch ar y gymuned a chryfder, pellach *bodoliaeth*, yr iaith Gymraeg yn y pentref. Mae genedigaeth cyflym y Cylchoedd Meithrin a Ti a Fi yn cynrychioli ail wynt i'r ysgol, a sylfaen cadarn i ei ddatblygiad yn y dyfodol. Sut allwn cymryd o ddiffi adroddiad nid yw'n cydnabod ei effaith ar rhagolygon niferoedd yr ysgol?

Os yw "Moderneiddio Addysg" yn golygu chwyddo maint dosbarthiadau a cau ysgolion, rwy'n credu ddylai'r Cyngor ail gysidro eu amcanion yn sylfaenol, nid lleiaf yng ngoleuni Covid 19.

Tomos Turtle

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Jane Harvey <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 10:16  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** SAVE THE SCHOOL

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Do not let this fabulous little school be subject to closure  
2 of my nieces went through their primary years here, loved it  
It is crucial to the village and surrounding areas.....

Jane Harvey  
Pixel Inspiration  
Office Manager  
T: 0161 713 2333  
M: 07790 784 907  
E: jane@pixelinspiration.net  
Please note my current working hours are 0900-1100

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad:

Enw:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

Rhiant

Staff




Llywodraethwr

Disgybl

X Arall (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

**Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu**

Na, nid  wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol

**Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol**

Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn

Bach o'r 1 Medi 2021 yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safon a'r Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013.

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

### Anfonwch eich ymateb at:

Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon

LL55 1SH

neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Sylwadau:**  
Dyddiad i'w rhoi: 19:00 ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid  
gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd  
statudol yn caei ei gyhoeddi.**

# CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANENGAN

Clerc – [REDACTED] – Clerk

Ffôn: ([REDACTED])

E-bost: [clerc@cyngorcymunedllanengan.cymru](mailto:clerc@cyngorcymunedllanengan.cymru)

Gwefan: [www.cyngorcymunedllanengan.cymru](http://www.cyngorcymunedllanengan.cymru)

Chwefror 22ain, 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd,  
CAERNARFON,  
Gwynedd.  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Swyddogion,

## YMGYNGHORIAD STATUDOL CAU YSGOL ABER-SOCH

Ysgrifennaf ar ran Cyngor Cymuned Llanengan i gynnig sylwadau ar yr uchod.

Deil yr Aelodau at y ffaith nad yw'n gwneud synnwyr cynnal ymgynghoriad yng nghanol pandemig – a chyfnod clo caeth iawn – o ran tegwch i bob rhanddeiliad. Ni allai neb gyfarfod i drafod mater mor hanfodol bwysig o gadw ysgol sydd mor greiddiol i ddyfodol yr iaith a'r diwylliant Cymraeg mewn pentref a Seisnigeiddiodd cymaint dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

A phan dderbyniwyd y llythyr yn gwahodd rhanddeiliaid i'r sesiynau 'Galw Heibio Rhithwir', mynegwyd syndod ac anghrediniaeth o glywed mai 'uchafswm o dri' gai eu mynychu "er mwyn elwa ar drafodaeth gynhwysfawr a theg" o gofio y gall cynifer â chant (os nad mwy) fod yn rhan o gyfarfodydd Zoom neu Microsoft Teams. Yna, i goroni'r cwbl, gofynnwyd am "unrhyw gwestiynau perthnasol i'r ymgynghoriad" ymlaen llaw... ymddengys hyn yn annemocrataidd, annheg ac unochrog iawn!

Mae'r Aelodau'n unfrydol y dylid cadw'r ysgol ar agor er mwyn hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg ymhellach yn Aber-soch a buasai'n hwb at darged Llywodraeth Cymru o gael miliwn o bobl yn siarad yr iaith erbyn 2050. Mae trigolion a busnesau Aber-soch yn ymwybodol o fodolaeth y Gymraeg oherwydd yr holl waith a wna'r athrawon a'r disgyblion o'i hybu drwy ymweld â nhw'n rheolaidd – mae'n ysgol yng nghanol bwrlwm ei chymuned.

Lleihaodd niferoedd yr ysgol oherwydd diffyg tai fforddiadwy yn y pentref – ni all y rhai sy'n ennill cyflogau da megis penaethiaid ysgolion mawr a meddygon hyd yn oed fforddio prynu tŷ yn Aber-soch. Gobeithir y daw budd i'r gymuned o Gynllun Gweithredu Tai Cyngor Gwynedd drwy neilltuo tir neu brynu tai segur ar gyfer tai fforddiadwy sydd wirioneddol eu hangen i gadw hyfywedd economaidd y pentref a'r ysgol. O'i chau, gyrrir unrhyw deulu ifanc (sy'n siarad yr iaith) ac atalir unrhyw un arall (a chymryd y gallent ei fforddio) rhag symud yma.

Roedd gan y teuluoedd a roddodd y tir ac adeiladu'r ysgol (i hyrwyddo addysg yn y pentref) yn ôl yn y 1920'au weledigaeth ac roeddent yn fodlon buddsoddi yn y dyfodol. Mae Polisi Iaith Cyngor Gwynedd fod yn rymus a chadarn – ac yn yr achos yma yn Ysgol Aber-soch a'r gymuned ehangach – mae gwir angen ei ddefnyddio, gan mai iaith a diwylliant sy'n greiddiol i'w hachub.

Hyderir y gall Aelodau'r Cabinet gael yr un weledigaeth ac ailystyried eu penderfyniad o gau Ysgol Aber-soch.

Yn gywir,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Clerc

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 10:47  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support to keep Ysgol Abersoch open for the children of today and tomorrow. I strongly believe that the Board of Governors has addressed the sustainability of the school through the opening of the Cylch Meithrin nursery and parent and toddler Ti a Fi Group. Sadly, the current pandemic has not given the opportunity for this to be established and thrive. To me, this is an obvious way to attract children to the school in the first place and would provide a natural "feed" of pupils for the school.

A school is at the heart of any community and in a village where the Welsh language and culture is particularly threatened (due to the proportion of holiday homes and people settling in the area), it is vital that children, from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to learn, play and make friends together in their local community. Busing children out to local schools is not only bad for the environment, but doesn't foster a spirit of community within the local village.

Abersoch has much to offer, and a small school helps children to thrive in the natural environment around them.

My first language is English, but I learnt Welsh through going to a Welsh nursery school. Sadly, as I now live in England, my written Welsh isn't what it should be, but I value the fact that I still understand and speak the language. If I had gone to a nursery school which was predominantly English, then my friends would have been predominantly English and our chosen language would have been English.

I urge you to reconsider closing the school and give the Board of Governors the opportunity to prove that the school can be sustainable.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 10:53  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

As a former parent and Governor of the school

**No I do not agree to the statutory proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch.**

The school is at the heart of the community and generations who are educated there feel a sense of place and contribute to the whole village.

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 11:11  
**At:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch; Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Proposed Closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To All Concerned,

I hereby declare my utter disappointment at the decision to try and justify the closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

As a parent & local business owner, I have several concerns about both the impact the closure could have, as well as, the manner in which the consultation has been executed as if it's a foregone conclusion.

**My experience:**

I chose Ysgol Abersoch, bypassing other schools, for numerous reasons, including the outstanding teaching and unique learning approaches, small class numbers, the connections it has with local businesses, as well as the opportunities it provides for my English speaking child, to learn Welsh & integrate with the local community and pave his future here in the Pen Llyn.

I genuinely believe he would not have been fluent in Welsh by 5 years old, had he attended Lanbedrog or Cymerau, amongst other schools with high class numbers in the area.

**The Community:**

As a local business manager, I understand the fine balance of costs. However, I feel passionate about the importance of creating a Community that continues to sustain itself throughout the year, not just six weeks of summer.

Closing the school will discourage the growing number of local people who are either already present or choosing to return to Abersoch and the surrounding area in order to build businesses, careers & families in our successful Village.

I rely on employing local, Welsh speakers for staffing purposes as well relying on locals to support my businesses in Winter. Therefore, the closure of the school could impact on this & the ability to stay open throughout the year.

I believe there are schemes in place to create new local housing and feel it would be very short sighted to close the school now - especially following Covid.

**The Future:**

How refreshing it would be, for a council to think out of the box and see the potential this small school has for both the local and wider community in the years to come.

Having a school in the village not only entices families to buy into the area, especially following the Covid pandemic and the interest that has created in moving to areas such as Abersoch, but it could also pave the way for new innovative techniques of teaching - such as becoming a beach school - which other councils may wish to use as a template in the future.

I, myself have recently had a baby, and plan on her following in the footsteps of her brother & attending Ysgol Abersoch.

As we are in a new baby boom... how many other children may there be and as Llanbedrog is oversubscribed, where else would these future children go? Sarn Bach is not only out on a limb but not an automatic choice for many.

In summary, I feel it is short sighted to close such a prominent historical amenity within our small community and passionately stand against the closure.

Yours Sincerely



Parent/Business Owner

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 11:17  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Re: Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

On Tue, 23 Feb 2021 [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

We are against the closure of Ysgol Abersoch as we consider it not only to be a good school with excellent Welsh language teaching but it also:

1. Provides a focal point for the local community
2. Stops children from having to travel to schools outside the area. This has the benefits of both reducing the school day for the Children, but also reducing the carbon footprint caused by the additional car pollution
3. The children bring the community together through their activities.
4. There should be a cost/benefit analysis that takes in the whole of Abersoch's needs otherwise it will become a ghost town out of the tourist season. Gwynedd should be encouraging growth in the town by local people, by proving affordable homes that will have a long term benefit of hopefully increasing the numbers of pupils attending the school. Short term answers are not the solution to the emigration being experienced in North Wales and this closure is another example of the authorities washing their hands of an ongoing problem

Regards

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

**Oddi wrth:** Helen Haywood <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 11:22  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Proposal to close Abersoch School  
  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear sir/madam

I am emailing you with regard to the proposed closure of Abersoch school.

The school really is the heart of a community that is renewing as we see more families with young children wanting to live in the area and to get this special education from a team of committed teachers, parents and staff. The school is such an essential part of this village, and seeing the determination to continue to improve standards and really deliver excellent all round education to the children of the village makes me so proud. As a former teacher myself, I have never seen this kind of commitment to a school and community before and I believe it would be terrible to take this away.

Centralising education is not beneficial for many students and developing friendships in an environment such as this should be celebrated and aspired to.

Please support our community in keeping Abersoch school open and helping those committed staff to give our children the best start in life possible.

Kind regards

Helen Haywood

Sent from my iPhone

--

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 11:40  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I am emailing to object to the closure of this fabulous village school. I see the children around the village always looking so happy. The opportunity for the children from English speaking households is greatly aided by the pastoral care they receive at this village school. The fact that Gwynedd Council are constantly trying to bring in new ways to enable more local young families to buy property and live in the village and make the decision to close the village school makes absolutely zero sense, it goes completely against what Gwynedd Council promote they trying to do for the local community.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

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**126**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**126**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**127**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**127**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Caroline Walters <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:02  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Fwd: Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Caroline Walters <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 23 February 2021 at 11:57:21 GMT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ysgol Abersoch

Dear Sirs,

We are appalled that this amazing little school is facing closure. It is at the heart of our beautiful, vibrant village and also plays host to a brilliant pre school. If it is lost to future generations it would be a travesty for the village, future pupils and the Welsh language. Every village should have a local school to nurture future citizens.....

Save Ysgol Abersoch at all costs.

Yours faithfully

Caroline and John Walters

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

--  
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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]

**Anfonwyd:**

Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:14

**At:**

Moderneiddio Addysg

**Copi:** [REDACTED]

**Pwnc:**

Against school closure

**Fflag Atgoffa:**

Camau Pellach

**Statws Fflag:**

Wedi gorffen

Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not agree to the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch. My friends children attend the Welsh speaking school and they receive the best education.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Sophie Hayes <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:21  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sirs,  
My friend Louise has two lovely children who attend Ysgol Abersoch School and I am writing to beseech you not to close this wonderful school where these children receive an amazing education.  
Thank you  
Sophie Hayes

--  
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## Your Details:

Date:

23/02/2021

Name:

Dewi Roberts

E-mail Address:

I'm responding as: (Please tick the relevant response)

 Parent

 Staff

 Governor

 Pupil

 Other please specify) 

If you wish to be notified when the consultation report is published, please tick the appropriate box

 Yes, I wish to be notified

 No, I do not wish to be notified

**In accordance with data protection legislation requirements, we are required to inform you of the following:**

Gwynedd Council is seeking your views on this proposal as part of a statutory consultation process. The details you provide will be used for this purpose only. The information may be shared with agencies involved in the consultation (e.g. the Welsh Government) solely in order to respond to specific matters that you may have raised. We will continue to consider your comments, whichever option is chosen. Your personal details will be kept for 7 years.

With your permission, we may reproduce responses, in full or having taken out personal details such as names and addresses, in a report to the Cabinet on the statutory consultation.

**If you do not wish the Council to publish your response, please state below by pacing a ✓ in the relevant box, please:**

\* Choose **one** of the following answers

 I agree that the Council can publish my response in full including my personal information.

 I agree that the Council can publish my response, after removing my personal information.

 No, the Council should not publish my response.

For further information about your rights and the Council's Data Protection Officer visit the Privacy section on the Council website.

**Please return your response to:**

Modernising Education Office,  
Education Department, Gwynedd Council,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH  
or [ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Closing Date:** 13:00 on Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**Please note that these responses are comments and not objections to the proposal.**

**There will be an opportunity to object to the proposal should a statutory notice be published.**

### Response Form

Proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on the 31 August 2021, and offer pupils a place at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013

#### **Comments:**

**The loss of such an asset will be a huge blow for the village**

**The loss of an education unit which is within easy walking distance for children and parents**

**The quality of education has been identified as of a high / good level**

**The parents, Governors, and children all wish for the school to remain.**

**To close this school would be against the wish of the community**

**The school is a immense asset in relation to the Welsh Language and Culture of the Village**

**There will be a loss regarding the link between residents businesses and the new generation if lost.**

**The new generations will lose that relationship of belonging to their community**

**The school children are able to take advantage of the natural resources at hand and within easy reach Beach Dunes (wildlife Nature ) shops in the village Connection to other association as the over 50 club and those who utilise the Community Hall.**

**The risk to the Methrinfa and TI a fi.**

**Lack of time afforded to the above to establish and improve attendance pupil.**

**Consideration of the New Housing Development Plan ne homes in Abersoch**

**Consideration of all options not explored such as Federalisation.**

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:33  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch  
  
**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dwi yn erbyn cau ysgol Abersoch  
Toriad arall gan y cyngor sydd yn neud bywyd yn anoddach ir cymunad cymraeg .  
Dwi yn bwriadu gyrru y plant ir ysgol

[REDACTED] [oo Mail for iPhone](#)

--  
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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:44  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch primary school

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I'm writing to voice my concern about the future of Abersoch primary school, with Llanbedrog school already over subscribed, where are the future children of Abersoch going to have to travel to in order to obtain an education. Once this school closes it will not reopen and the local young families will find it difficult to live in this area with no school facility for their children.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

--

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**134**

Nid yw'r ymatebydd yn fodlon i'r  
ymateb gael ei gyhoeddi

—

**134**

The respondent does not want the  
response to be published

**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** julie marriott <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:54  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch School Closure submission

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I am writing to ask the Authority to reconsider the closure of the school in Abersoch, which is a vital hub for the Community and its children.

Having helped develop 'Forest schools' in Leicestershire and in partnership with the Scouts run a scouting group in a school for children with severe learning difficulties, I have seen the benefit first hand of outdoor schooling. I have wondered many times, since we moved to the LLyn, why there are no equivalent 'beach schools' to reflect the nature of the landscape in this County.

Children growing up in the area need to learn about their local nature and environment and hopefully go on to consider both working in the area, whether that be in tourism, or as part of local business's/conservation etc and. broad breath knowledge of all the things that make an area like Abersoch tick would be invaluable to that.

I do hope the Council can consider a proposal to breathe life into such a proposal for the future of the school and maybe for a change of empasis across more schools in future years.

**Julie Marriott**

**Call/Text/Whats App** [REDACTED]  
**CONNECT WITH ME** [REDACTED]  
**SHOP AVON at** [REDACTED]  
**JOIN AVON & Start your own business at**  
[www.joinupnow.info](http://www.joinupnow.info)

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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** Julie Ellam <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:56  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Concerned citizen - re closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To whom it may concern: I am concerned to discover there is to be an imminent closure of Ysgol Abersoch - a school at the heart of its community. Please reconsider as I know personally the value of a good education especially given the pandemic too, and the effects this would have had on mental health as well as education.

Yours sincerely  
Dr Julie Ellam

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**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** louiseoverfield <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** Cyfeillion Ysgol Abersoch Friends  
**Pwnc:** proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Dear Sirs Madam,

I am sending this email on behalf of Mrs Patricia Ann Overfield. Mrs overfield has no access to a computer and is currently isolating due to health conditions arising from the covid pandemic.

My mother has telephoned this morning to give me permission to note take her concerns regarding the proposed closure of ysgol Abersoch. Mrs Overfield is willing to sign to this.

My grandchildren and their father was and is educated at Ysgol Abersoch. My grandchildren love this school, their teachers and their integral role they play within the community. The council should be very proud to have such a school and one that wants to move forward into the future with a beach school. Please do not close this school, I imore you as an 82 year old lady that has seen so many things regrettably close and never to open again.

Yours P. A. OVERFIELD

Sent from my Galaxy

--  
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[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

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**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Cau Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

I'r sawl mae hyn yn berthnasol,

'Rwyf yn athrawes mewn ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng y Gymraeg ac mae gen i gysylltiadau teuluol agos iawn gyda Llanengan a'r Plwyf.

'Rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch i gyfleu fy holl gefnogaeth i gymuned Ysgol Abersoch yn eu cais yn erbyn cau'r ysgol.

Mae unrhyw golled o addysg cyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn cymuned fel hon yn gwbl annerbyniol. Amlygir hyn fwyfwy o ystyried dyhead uchelgeisiol Llywodraeth Cymru o hybu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a defnydd o'r Gymraeg yn y gweithle, er mwyn cyrraedd nod o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Dechrau'r daith yw hybu a chynorthwyo pob darpariaeth o addysg cyfrwng y Gymraeg, i gefnogi cymuned a chymdeithas gyda'r her yma.

Colled drychinebus fyddai cychwyn blwyddyn ysgol 2022, pan ddaw Cwricwlwm i Gymru yn weithredol, gydag un ysgol cyfrwng y Gymraeg yn llai.

Yn gywir iawn,

[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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**Oddi wrth:** Anne Dack [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 12:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** School Closure

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Hello,

I do not agree with the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch. It provides and excellent education and children will suffer without it. Please rethink this strategy.

Best wishes,  
Anne McHardy  
Sent from my iPhone

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd.

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<https://gwynedd02.esvacloud.com/action/73BA641AA6.A3C61/blacklist>

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 13:06  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** CLOSURE OF YSGOL ABERSOCH

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Good afternoon

This school must not be closed. I do not agree with the proposed closure.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad:

Enw:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

Rhiant

Staff





Llywodraethwr

Disgybl

Arall (nodwch)

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

**Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu**

Na, nid  wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol

**Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol**

Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn

Bach o 1 Medi 2021 yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2018

**Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran  
Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.**

### Anfonwch eich ymateb at:


Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
Caernarfon  
LL55 1SH

neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Sylwadau:**  
Dyddiad cau: 19:00 ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid  
gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd  
statudoi yn caei ei gyhoeddi.**



Chwefror 20fed, 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Adran Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd,  
CAERNARFON,  
Gwynedd.  
LL55 1SH

Annwyl Swyddogion,

### **Ymgynghoriad Statudol Cau Ysgol Aber-soch**

Ysgrifennaf atoch fel cyn-ddisgybl, cyn-glerc i'r Corff Llywodraethol ac aelod presennol o'r staff i gyflwyno fy sylwadau ar y cynnig o gau Ysgol Aber-soch. Ymatebaf i Adrannau'r ddogfen ymgynghori yn eu trefn, ynghyd â thynnu sylw at gamgymeriadau ffeithiol ac ychwanegu sylwadau.

#### **2. YR YMGYNGHORIAD**

- Mae posibilrwydd y gallai'r disgyblion drosglwyddo i ysgolion eraill yn hytrach nag Ysgol Sarn Bach, gan fod y dewis ar gael i rieni.

#### **3. GWYBODAETH GEFNDIROL**

Gwireddir Strategaeth Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau i Blant Gwynedd, sef:

*"Cynnig addysg o'r ansawdd uchaf posibl fydd yn rhoi'r profiadau, sgiliau a'r hyder i blant y Sir a'u galluogi i ddatblygu bod yn ddinasyddion dwyieithog, llwyddiannus a chyflawn."*

#### **4. TREFNIADAU PRESENNOL YN ARDAL ABER-SOCH**

- Ymatebodd cymuned/llywodraethwyr yr ysgol i'r niferoedd isel drwy sefydlu Ti a Fi a Chylch Meithrin yn yr ysgol, gan y profodd sefydlu rhai mewn pentrefi eraill lwyddiant trwy ddenu'n naturiol ddisgyblion newydd i'r ysgol leol.

- Mae cymharu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg (Cyfrifiad 2011) yn sicr o fod yn wahanol oherwydd prinder tai fforddiadwy i deuluoedd yn Aber-soch a daw mwyafrif plant Ysgol Sarn Bach o deuluoedd amaethyddol cynhenid.
- Pam na nodwyd canran siaradwyr Cymraeg Ysgol Aber-soch (PLASC 2020) fel tair ysgol arall y dalgylch?
- Ni leolir Ysgol Sarn Bach yng nghanol y pentref – mae ar ei gyrion.
- Nid oes yr un plentyn yn byw ym mhentref Sarn Bach ei hun. Mae nifer o ddisgyblion Ysgol Sarn Bach yn all-ddalgylch hefyd, heb gynnwys y rhai a drosglwyddodd yn wyth oed o Ysgol Aber-soch.
- Pam na soniwyd am nifer y plant all-ddalgylch sydd yn Ysgol Llanbedrog? Aiff nifer ohonynt yno o Aber-soch.
- Yn yr un modd, pam na nodwyd canrannau siaradwyr Cymraeg (Cyfrifiad 2011) Ysgolion Llanbedrog a Foel Gron?

## 5. ACHOS DROS NEWID

Wynebodd Ysgol Aber-soch heriau tu hwnt i'w rheolaeth yn ystod y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf, yn arbennig o golli disgyblion heb unrhyw fai arni hi ac, yn anffodus, brofedigaethau'r Pennaeth.

- Ysgol o fynd a dod erioed o ran niferoedd yw Ysgol Aber-soch, hyd yn oed pan fynychais i hi. Yn naturiol llai o deuluoedd rŵan oherwydd tai haf, diffyg tai fforddiadwy.
- A gyfrifwyd niferoedd mynychwyr Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin yn y rhagamcanion?
- Er yn cydnabod bod canran uchel o blant y pentref yn mynychu ysgolion all-ddalgylch, anghytunir â'r farn "*nad yw'r ddarpariaeth bresennol yn opsiwn hyfyw ar gyfer y dyfodol*" – pam na roddir cyfle i'r mentrau o sefydlu Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin gyfle i wreiddio a ffynnu? Hefyd, effeithiwyd ar hynny gan y pandemig.
- Anghytunir â'r sylw "*yr effeithia'r dosbarthiadau bychain iawn a niferoedd isel ar brofiadau'r plant o gymdeithasu a chydweithio'n ddyddiol â chyfoedion*" – maent yn aelodau o wahanol glybiau megis Clwb Syrffio Llŷn a phêl-droed/rygbi un ai yma yn Aber-soch neu ym Mhwllheli a chynhelir gwersi/gweithgareddau nofio/hwyllo ar ôl ysgol fel disgyblion ysgolion eraill.
- Nodir bod y rhagamcanion yn parhau'n isel dros y pum mlynedd nesaf. Dywed Noda Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol y dylid edrych 25 – 50 mlynedd i'r dyfodol ac, o astudio'r dangosyddion, dylai Aber-soch ffynnu yn ystod y cyfnod yma.

## 6. GWERTHUSO OPSIYNAU

- Teimlir nad ystyriwyd y rhain yn ddigon manwl, yn arbennig o ran y bygythiadau i'r gymuned a'r Gymraeg.
- Eto, ni chafodd lleoli Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin yn yr ysgol gyfle i wreiddio na ffynnu oherwydd sefyllfa'r pandemig yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf a dylai gael effaith gadarnhaol yn lleol. Er mai ond am gyfnod byr y bu ar agor oherwydd y cyfnod clo, enwebwyd y Cylch am Wobr Dewin a Doti yng Ngwobrau Blynyddol y Mudiad Meithrin a dyfarnwyd y drydedd wobr iddo.

- Ni fuasai'r tro cyntaf i blant Ysgol Aber-soch drosglwyddo i Sarn Bach yn naw oed wrth newid yr ystod oedran o 3 – 8 i 3 – 9 oed, gan y gwneid hynny hyd at ddechrau/canol y pumdegau. (Ar nodyn personol – deg oed oedd fy Nhad [94 oed] pan drosglwyddodd o i Ysgol Sarn Bach.) Ni fuasai'n amharu ar niferoedd Sarn Bach dim ond oedi'r trosglwyddo.
- **Pam cadw at y status quo?** Buasai'n gyfle i Gyngor Gwynedd allu bod yn wahanol ac arloesol wrth nodi, *“Ni fyddai'r ystod oed yn gyson â mwyafrif ysgolion cynradd y sir. Byddai'r opsiwn hefyd yn cysoni'r ystod oed â gweddill ysgolion cynradd y sir ac yn golygu bod yr ysgol yn cynnig darpariaeth CA2 cyflawn”*.
- Anghytunir â'r awgrym *“...y byddai unrhyw gynnydd yn y niferoedd yn Ysgol Aber-soch o ganlyniad i ymestyn yr ystod oed, yn arwain at leihad yn niferoedd Ysgol Sarn Bach ac, o bosib, yn yr ysgolion cyfagos”*; credir mai oedi'r trosglwyddiad a fyddai.
- Eto, anghytunir *“y buasai cau Ysgol Aber-soch ac addysgu'r disgyblion yn Sarn Bach yn gwella eu profiad addysgiadol a chymdeithasol”*. Mae dosbarthiadau bychain yn galluogi cyrhaeddiad uwch ac maent yn cyfarfod eu cyfoedion mewn clybiau eraill tu allan i oriau'r ysgol.
- Cerdded neu feicio i'r ysgol wna disgyblion Ysgol Aber-soch er lles eu hiechyd, rhyngweithiad cymdeithasol a'r amgylchedd. Ychwanega teithio i Sarn Bach at gynnydd mewn ôl-troed carbon wrth eu cludo ar fws/car – nid yw'n lles i'r amgylchedd, yn arbennig yn y dyddiau yma o newid hinsawdd sylweddol.

## 7. Y CYNNIG

O barhau â'r cynnig o gau'r ysgol, gobeithir:

- a) **Ileihau niferoedd llefydd gweigion o fewn yr ysgolion**  
ni amharodd llefydd gweigion ar addysg neb hyd yma. Teimlir y poenir mwy am y rheiny nag am y plant eu hunain. Gadawa pob plentyn Ysgol Aber-soch yn gwybod sut i ddarllen ac ysgrifennu, canu, cymdeithasu ac, yn sicr, siarad Cymraeg yn rhugl. Gellir dweud, hyd yn oed, y gadawant yr ysgol ag acen Pen Llŷn. Teimlir, hefyd, nad ystyri'r cyfraniad ysgol at iaith yr ardal wrth ystyried ei dyfodol. Mae ysgolion bychain yn fwy llwyddiannus o safbwynt y Gymraeg, gan y trochir y disgyblion ynddi'n ddyddiol.
- c) **addysgu'r plant mewn dosbarthiadau o faint mwy addas**  
nodir fod cyfartaledd maint dosbarthiadau Ysgol Sarn Bach ym mis Medi 2020 yn 24. Os felly, fe'u cynyddir â disgyblion Ysgol Aber-soch ac, o ganlyniad, buasai hyn yn groes i'r hyn a nodir ym mhwynt 4.1.3 Addysg Gynradd o'r Ansawdd Gorau i Blant Gwynedd pan nodir, *“Anelu at sicrhau nad oes gan unrhyw ddosbarth oed cymysg mwy nag 20 disgybl na llai na 12 disgybl”*.

Gall presenoldeb plant o wahanol oeddrannau yn yr un dosbarth fod yn adlewyrchiad cywirach o fywyd y gymdeithas a'r cartref na'r grwpiau mawr a geir mewn ysgolion mwy. Yn ogystal, gall fod o fantais addysgol iddynt gael eu haddysgu ochr yn ochr.



Mae ymdeimlad o deulu bach hapus yn Ysgol Aber-soch – ymdeimlad o gymuned deuluol sy'n rhoi seiliau cadarn i'r plant. Maent yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig at ddigwyddiadau a gweithgareddau diwylliannol yr ardal.

- e) (d i fod o ddefnyddio'r Wyddor Gymraeg)  
**Sicrhau bod plant yn trosglwyddo unwaith yn ystod eu haddysg gynradd ac uwchradd yn hytrach na dwywaith**  
bu trosglwyddo o Aber-soch i Sarn Bach o fantais i'r disgyblion ar hyd y blynyddoedd, gan ei fod yn eu paratoi at newid ysgol o'r cynradd i'r uwchradd.
- Teimlir y dirmygir yr addysg a geir yn Ysgol Aber-soch yn 'Llesiant ac Agweddau Dysgu' Tabl Pum Maes Arolygu Estyn wrth ddweud "*...deuir i'r casgliad y byddai addysgu'r plant yn YSB yn cael effaith positif*". Pwysleisir y gall plant Aber-soch "addysgu'n annibynnol" hefyd.
  - Nid oes sôn am Bennaeth na Llywodraethwyr Aber-soch dan Reolaeth ac Arweinyddiaeth; ac mae Pennaeth Mewn Gofal yn bresennol oherwydd sefyllfa anghyffredin oherwydd rhesymau trist.
  - Dim ond swm pitw iawn yw'r arbediad ariannol.
  - Syndod yw darllen y cwblhaodd y Cyngor asesiad o **effaith cymunedol** ar yr opsiynau – sut a holi pwy? Nodir o gau Ysgol Aber-soch y bydd rhai elfennau o ddigwyddiadau cymunedol yn cael eu heffeithio. Noda casgliad yr asesiad na ragwelir y byddai unrhyw un o'r opsiynau yn cael effaith **negyddol sylweddol** ar y gymuned.
  - Mae'r ysgol yn greiddiol i fywyd cymdeithasol Aber-soch a defnyddir y neuadd – a roddwyd at ddefnydd y pentrefwyr i gymdeithasu a chynnal gweithgareddau. Gwahoddir y disgyblion i ddiddanu gwahanol grwpiau'n rheolaidd – ni ellid gwneud hynny o Ysgol Sarn Bach oherwydd yr angen i gludo a chostau llogi bws. Erbyn hyn, mae'n rhaid i Ysgol Sarn Bach ddod i gynnal ei chyngherddau yn y neuadd hefyd oherwydd nad yw ei ystafell fwyta/neuadd yn ddigon mawr. O ganlyniad, buasai'r cynnydd o blant Ysgol Aber-soch yn ychwanegu at y diffyg lle.
  - Tablau'n anghywir o ran defnydd cymunedol.
  - Adrannau nid Aelwydydd yr Urdd. Nid oes Adran yn Ysgol Sarn Bach – hyfforddir y disgyblion ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod yno ond, yng Nghanolfan Gymdeithasol Llanengan gyda'r nos y cynhelir Adran yr Urdd Llanengan. Cynhelir Adran Tudwal yn syth ar ôl yr ysgol yn Aber-soch ac fe'i mynychir gan gyn-ddisgyblion yn ogystal. [Er gwybodaeth – ffurfiwyd Adran ac Aelwyd yr Urdd yn Abersoch yn wreiddiol yn y 1920'au, yn fuan ar ôl sefydlu'r Urdd ei hun yn 1922.]
  - **Gweithgareddau/Grwpiau** – anghywir o ran Ysgol Sarn Bach. Ni chynhaliwyd Cylch Meithrin yn yr ysgol – yng Nghanolfan Gymdeithasol Llanengan y gwnaed hynny a daeth i ben yn 2019 oherwydd na ellid ffurfio pwyllgor.
  - Anogir "*cydweithio cymunedol rhwng yr ysgol amgen a chymuned Abersoch lle bo'n briodol*". Sut? Nid oes dim yn gyffredin, dim cysylltiad yn sicr o ran yr ochr fusnesion. Byddai'r pentref yn colli'r gweithgareddau sydd yn gwneud cyfraniad mor sylweddol at gadw'r Gymraeg ym mhentref Aber-soch. O gau'r ysgol, dieithrir y plant o'u pentref, Seisnigir y gymuned a byddid yn gyfrifol am

atgyfnerthu'r darlun stereoteipio parhaus a wna ddrwg i'r pentref fel rifieria y di-gymraeg.

- Miliwn o Siaradwyr Cymraeg 2050 – buasai ei chadw ar agor yn hwb sylweddol at hynny trwy godi ymwybyddiaeth mewnfudwyr ac ymwelwyr o fodolaeth yr iaith.
- **Y gymuned sy'n colli allan** – *“Deuir i gasgliad yn yr asesiad hwn na ragwelir effaith negyddol ar yr iaith Gymraeg pe byddai'r cynnig yn cael ei weithredu”*.
- Pryder beth sydd am ddigwydd gan mai rhodd i'r gymuned oedd y tir a'r adeilad ac am y Cylch/Ti a Fi.
- Y Gymuned – colli presenoldeb ysgol ym mhentref Abersoch
- Ystyriaethau Eraill – buddiannau ac adnoddau'r ysgol. Cynnig profiadau i ddisgyblion gymdeithasu a chydweithio â chyfoedion; cael hynny rŵan trwy ac ar ôl yr ysgol pan ymgasglu'r plant a rhieni un ai yng nghae chwarae'r pentref neu ar y traeth, ynghyd â bod yn aelodau o glybiau eraill tu allan i'r ardal fel sawl disgybl ysgol arall ym Mhen Llŷn. Buasai cefnogi'r Ysgol Draeth yn fenter arloesol a fuasai'n dod â budd i'r holl ddalgylch ac ysgolion.

## PECYN CEFNDIROL

### 1. ADRODDIAD ASESIAD EFFAITH IEITHYDDOL

- Enillodd yr ysgol Wobr Aur Siarter Iaith y Cyngor yn haf 2019 ar ôl gweithio'n galed â'r disgyblion a gododd ymwybyddiaeth o'r iaith a thystiolaeth o'i defnydd â'r gymuned.
- **Gweithgareddau Cymunedol** - gwneir defnydd rheolaidd o'r Neuadd o ran ymarfer corff a chynnal cyngherddau a gwasanaethau yn y capeli ond, fe'i gwahoddir i fod yn rhan o weithgareddau cymdeithasau megis Clwb Paned 50+, Sefydliad y Merched. Ni ellid gwneud hyn yn Sarn Bach oherwydd gofynion trafndiaeth/costau llogi bws ac, o ganlyniad, collir y cysylltiad cymunedol. Ysgol yng nghanol cae yn y wlad ydyw hefyd a fuasai'n atal hyn oherwydd dibyniaeth ar drafndiaeth - haws uno â chlybiau mewn llefydd erial.
- Mae brawddeg olaf y Casgliad yn 'gwrthddweud' y tabl – pam gadael allan y frawddeg bwysicaf un, sef: ***“O ganlyniad, gallai cau Ysgol Abersoch GAEL EFFAITH NEGYDDOL ar y defnydd o'r Gymraeg o fewn y gymuned leol.”?***
- Ydi aelodau Plaid Cymru yn barod i droi cefn ar y gymuned hon – gwnaed o ran tai eisoes.

### 2. ADRODDIAD ASESIAD O'R EFFAITH DEBYGOL AR Y GYMUNED

- **Y Gymuned** – ni holwyd neb o'r trigolion lleol ar gyfer yr asesiad hwn na'r un o'r lleill.
- Nid oes na chapel nac eglwys yn Sarn Bach.
- Mae Swyddfa'r Post yn Abersoch.
- Nodwyd eisoes am y gweithgareddau a ddigwydd a'r effaith tebygol o gau'r ysgol ar y gymuned.

### 3. ADRODDIAD ASESIAD LLESIANT

Anghytunir â'r datganiad yr ystyriwyd saith nod y Ddeddf Llesiant – gan nad oes tai fforddiadwy i deuluoedd yn y pentref ac nad yw'n bosib cynnal gweithgarwch cymunedol oherwydd mae'r athrawon yn byw tu allan i'r gymuned (fel yn achos Ysgol Aber-soch) ac ni fu cysylltiad uniongyrchol rhyngddynt.

Mae'n dalcen caled o ran yr iaith oherwydd diffyg tai fforddiadwy – fi yw'r unig un o'm cyddisgyblion/cyfoedion sy'n byw yn y pentref – a diffyg cyflogaeth ar wahân i'r un dwristiaeth a thymhorol ydi hwnnw.

Addysg benigamp - nid arbed y geiniog yw popeth. Mae'n gyfle i Gyngor Gwynedd fynd tu hwnt i'r *status quo* a chefnogi syniad arloesol o Ysgol Draeth a rhoi cyfle i'r mentrau o westeio Ti a Fi a'r Cylch Meithrin gael eu gwireddu - anffodus o ran sefyllfa bersonol y Pennaeth a Chovid. Elwodd cenedlaethau o blant yr ysgol o droeon natur - gwylio a dysgu enwau adar megis glas y dorlan yn nythu ar lan yr afon; teithiau i'r traeth i gasglu cregyn.

#### Amrywiol Ddyfyniadau i Gefnogi PEIDIO Â CHAU YSGOL ABER-SOCH

- Mae ysgol yng nghanol pentref a'i chymuned o fudd i'r disgyblion, yn arbennig pan fo pwyslais yn y Cwricwlwm newydd o ddysgu am yr amgylchedd, awyr agored.
- Mae ysgol fach i gyd yn ymwneud â'r synnwyr o berthyn. Yn naturiol, mae unrhyw un yn costio mwy i'w chynnal ond, edrychwn ar hyn fel iawndal.
- Gall cau ysgol effeithio ar y gymuned – nid yn unig nad yw'r Gymraeg yn iaith y plant ar y stryd ond, nid oes plant ar y stryd.
- Rhinwedd arbennig ysgol yw'r ymdeimlad o gymuned deuluol sy'n rhoi seiliau cadarn i'r plant. Maent yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig i ddiwylliant yr ardal.
- Mae gwerth ysgol fach yn ddigamsyniol. Gall fod yr un mor effeithiol ag ysgol fwy – yn wir, mae tystiolaeth bendant ei bod yn fwy effeithiol yn amlach na dim. Mae pob ysgol fach yn ei chymuned ei hun yn endid unigryw – â'i gwerthoedd a'i dyheadau mae'n awyddus i'w gwarchod a'i datblygu i'r dyfodol.
- Ymysg y gwerthoedd yma mae'r rhai sy'n gysylltiedig â'r iaith Gymraeg a'i diwylliant – gwerthoedd sydd angen eu gwarchod yn ofalus.
- Ni all gwarchodaeth o'r fath ffynnu heb i'r ysgol leol fod yn siâp i'r cyfan.
- Os credwch mewn pentref fel uned bwysig, gwnewch bopeth i amddiffyn yr uned honno. Os caewch uned fel hon, rydach chi'n arbed arian, ydach, ond rydych chi'n colli deinameg y lle, colli'r bwrlwm, ymlyniad cryf sydd gan rieni at sefydliad. Collir un peth allweddol – cysylltiad â'r gymuned ac ymroddiad y gymuned honno i'r ysgol.
- Cymuned naturiol yn marw – colli etifeddiaeth a'r iaith a throi'r pentref yn ddim ond cyrchfan gwyliau'n llawn tai haf, dim teuluoedd.
- Ysgol brysur, hapus, llawn bywyd sy'n darparu dechrau ardderchog i fywyd ei disgyblion ac mae'n cael, a mwynhau, llwyr gefnogaeth cymuned y pentref.
- Mae'r ysgol yn greiddiol i fywyd cymdeithasol Abersoch.
- Mae yna le pendant i ofal y disgyblion hyn dros yr iau ac mewn sefyllfa fel Abersoch mae mwy o'r plant yn cael cyfle i fod yn 'arweinwyr' ac o'r herwydd yn aeddfedu'n gynt.

- Mae plant yn dysgu a gwerthfawrogi ysbryd cymunedol gwell mewn ysgol leol ac erys hyn â hwy weddill eu hoes.

Terfynaf wrth awgrymu, ar ôl misoedd o darfu a cholli addysg oherwydd y pandemig, mai'r peth diwethaf ar feddwl unrhyw un fuasai trafod cau ysgol. Gall ymyriad pellach o gau'r ysgol niweidio cenedlaeth o ran addysg ac iechyd meddwl am byth, gan mai yn Ysgol Abersoch y dysgodd y plant ddarllen ac ysgrifennu, gwerth cyfeillgarwch a gwaith tîm. Gall ysgol fach gael effaith positif ar y gymuned ehangach o'i chwmpas.

A oes synnwyr cyffredin o gau ysgol sydd â llefydd gweigion tra, ar yr un pryd, llenwi un arall ychydig dan filltir a hanner i ffwrdd tra gallai ymbellhau cymdeithasol fod yn rhan o'n bywydau am beth amser eto er gwaethaf llwyddiant y brechu?

Gobeithir y bydd Cyngor Gwynedd yn ailfeddwl ac ystyried ei benderfyniad eto ac nad yw barn y cyhoedd yn mynd i darfu ar hynny ac na fydd yn rhan o'r ystadegau am ymgynghoriadau cyhoeddus o faint ohonynt sy'n diweddu â buddugoliaeth i'r cyhoedd? Hyderir yr ailystyria Aelodau'r Cabinet y chwalfa a wnânt o'r gymuned fel y gall 'Ysgol Bach' ddathlu ei chanmlwyddiant ymhen tair blynedd yn 2024.

Dyfynnaf o gerdyn dymuno'n dda i Ysgol Abersoch ar ddathlu ei phen-blwydd yn 90 oed yn 1914 oddi wrth gyn-ddisgybl (diweddar erbyn hyn yn anffodus) na allai fod yn bresennol yn y dathliadau,

“Wrth feddwl am fy nghyfnod fel disgybl yn yr ysgol, mae gennyf lawer o atgofion: dathlu'r Nadolig, trip ysgol i fynwentydd Eifionydd!, Miss Thomas, y brifathrawes, **a'r ffaith mai ond y fi oedd o gartref Cymraeg ei iaith yn fy mlwyddyn i hyd yn oed yn y '50'au!**

Mi rôf **2024** yn fy nyddiadur a gobeithiaf y gallaf fod yn bresennol bryd hynny (i ddathlu canmlwyddiant yr ysgol).”

Yn gywir,



**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** Kate Ransom <[REDACTED]>  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 18:30  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Copi:** [REDACTED]  
**Pwnc:** Abersoch School.

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

My name is Kate Ransom, and I have holidayed in Abersoch for over 60 years. I consider Abersoch to be my homebase in an ever changing world.

Whilst (sadly) I don't live in the village, I appreciate the opportunity to add a few words to those of residents who are campaigning to keep the school open.

I have read with interest documentation on the proposed closure of the school in Abersoch.

My Maternal Grandfather, F C Minoprio, was one of the Liverpool businessmen who invested in Abersoch, and in this case the school, in its inception in its current building. I have been fortunate to be able to continue my connections with Abersoch being able to enjoy its magic, but with an understanding of the underlying complications associated with being an 'Holiday destination'.

My Paternal Grandfather, Sam Aston also maintained long term connections with Abersoch, eventually being able to spend his later years living there. Aged 70plus, he decided that to be better involved with life in Abersoch he would learn to speak Welsh, taking an 'O'Level' in the language.

Abersoch School offers so much to the local residents of Abersoch, with the educational needs of its young being wrapped up in village life, and the language centre being an established element of the Abersoch culture. Maintaining village life for locals who live in these challenging environments is a hard won balance, in this case made even more difficult this year by the closures and home schooling necessary as a result of the Covid Pandemic. Children have been so badly unsettled by the last months that anything we as adults can do to minimise further their disruption seems to me to be a giant win. Also, the possibilities for families to move out of towns to the villages, and still be able to work, with remote working being a positive in the pandemic, would appear to offer the potential of a further pool of prospective pupils to this highly successful village school.

I also live in a 'holiday hotspot', in the Cotswolds, and for us too the dynamics of rural life are on a knife edge, with second homes, holiday cottages, 'staff accommodation', etc undermining the fabric of village life.

Those of us who have experienced small community benefits have a duty to try to protect that for future generations.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to show my support.

--

Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council

[Marcio fel sbam / Mark it as spam](#)

[Gwahardd y anfonwr / Blacklist sender](#)

[REDACTED] (ADDYSG)

---

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED]  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021 19:58  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

Sent from

Whilst talking to my grandson recently, who is aged 9 and a very recent pupil of this school, having just moved up to Ysgol Sarn Bach last year, I was saddened when without any prompting he said

" I think it would be a real shame if the school closes, we had such a great time there, we did loads of really cool stuff around the village with the shopkeepers, playing rounders and football on the beach, I really hope it can be saved". Out of the mouth of babes, and from one who really relished in his time there.

Please think on, once it's gone, it's gone forever.

Thank you, Diolch  
[REDACTED]

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

This message has been checked by Libraesva ESG on behalf of Gwynedd Council  
[Marcio fel spam / Mark it as spam](#)  
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20/2/21.

Annwyl Moderneiddio Addysg,

Ysgrifennaf atoch yn erfyn  
arnoch i beidio a cau Ysgol Abersoch, dyrwdd  
cyfle i'r gymuned a'r Llywodraethwyr yr ysgol  
ddangos i chi fod yna ddyfodol i'r ysgol  
a plant y pentref. Yr wyf yn gwybod fod  
yna lond llaw yn barod i gychwyn yn  
2021/2022, fy ŵyr yn un, ac yn edrych ymlaen  
yn fawr iawn.

Y dechrau gorau i unrhyw blentyn.  
fuasai cael mynd i Ysgol Abersoch. Cefais  
y fraint i fynd iiddi fy hun, fy mhiant i a  
plant fy merch.

Os ag diffyg arian sydd tu ôl i  
eich rheswm i gau yr Ysgol, pam na wnewd  
chi ddefnyddio canran o'r codiad yr ydych  
yn bwnadu ei roi ar yr 'ail cartrefi' haf.  
Yma. Dwi'n siwr y buasai y perchenogion  
yn hapusach yn ei dalu yn gwybod eu  
bod yn helpu cadw'r ysgol yn agored.

Calon y pentref, Calon y Gymuned, Cadw'r iaith yn fy

Bechod Mawr fuasai cau yr ysgol, yr ydym yn barod wedi colli y Meddygfa a'r Banc yma, Ond Colled Enfawr fuasai colli ein Ysgol yma yn Abersoch.

Ar hwd y blynyddoedd mae ffigyrau yr ysgol i fynu ac i lawr, Ond codi y maent bob tro ac siwr o wneud y tro yma gyda'r Cylch Meithrin newydd llwyddiannus.

Fel rhiant buasai well gen i, i fy mhiant fod mewn dosbarth gyda llai o ddisgyblion, na yn llawn lle mae'n amhosib i'r athrawes rhoi ei 100%, sylw i'r disgyblion

Dyfodol plant y pentref a rhai cyfagos fydd yn dioddef, nid rhai chi!!

Gobeithio fod yr holl sylw mae'r Ysgol yn ei dderbyn a ffyddlondeb y cannoedd sydd wedi arwyddo y petisiwn a ysgrifennu /ebostio atoch yn dangos pa mor bwysig ydwr Ysgol Fach yma yn Abersoch i ni

Yr Eiddoch Yn gywir





19/2/2021

ANNWYL MODERNEIDDIO ADDYSG,

FEL PERCHENNOG BUSNAS  
YN ABERSOCH YR WYF WEDI CAEL FY SIOMI. I GLYWED  
EICH BOD YN MEDDWOL AM GAU YR YSGOL,

MAE WEDI BOD YN BLESER HELPUR YSGOL AR HYD  
Y BLYNYDDOEDD, WRTH WERTHU RAFFLES A CAEL.  
STONDIN BACH TU ALLAN YN GWERTH HWYAIN YN  
Y RAS BLYNYDDOL, MIS AWST.

MAER YSGOL YN GALON Y PENTREF, AC.  
MAE PAWB YN DOD AT EI GILYDD I DDANGOS I  
CHI PA MOR BWYSIG YW EI CHADW YN AGORED  
I BLANT Y DYFODOL.

BYDDAF WRTH FY MODD PAN MAEIR PLANT  
YN MYND O GWMPAS Y PENTREF YN SIARAD GYDAIR.  
SIOPWR AIR YMWELWR.

PAM YR YDYCH DAL I ADAEL YSGOL CYFAGOS  
FOD YN ORLAWN? PAM MAE HI RHU HAWDD I  
RIENI SYMUD O UN YSGOL I LLAIL, FATHA NEWID  
DILLAD!! MAE FAI MAWR AR SYSTEM Y CYNGOR.  
AM RHIFAU YR YSGOL YN DOD I LAWR!!!

MAE ANGEN RHOI CYFLA IR YSGOL ETO.  
AWAN, YN ENWEDIG EFO RHIFAU GENEDIGAETH.  
Y PENTREF YN DDIWEDDAR, JIM MEITHRIN YN  
LLANENGAN, AC UN NEWYDD ARBENNIG YMA

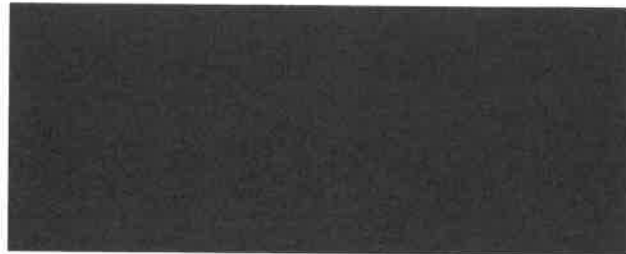
GANDDOM YN ABERSOCH, GYDA RHAI WEDI YMUNC  
YN BAROD A RHAI YN EDRYCH YMLAEN I FYND.  
LLE PERFFAITH IDDYNT DDECHRAU EU ADDYSG  
GYDA IARD A CHAE I DDYSGU Y TU ALLAN, AC  
HEFYD LAN-Y-MOR I GAEL CYFLE I FOD YN  
'YSGOL TRAETH'.

GWERSI NOFIO TRWIR FLWYDDYA  
SYDD DDIM I GAEL YM MHOB YSGOL A  
NEUADD Y PENTREF DRWS NESAF I  
FWYNHIAU CAEL GWELD Y PLANT YN CATNU  
ADRODD A ACTIO.

COLLED FAWR I ABERSOCH FUASAI  
CAU YR YSGOL.

MEDDYLIWCH O DDIFRI CALON AM  
BEIDIO, RHOI DIWADD AR DDYFODOL Y PLANT  
A ATHRAWON GWYCH YMA.

YR EIDDOCH YN GWIR



## Ffurflen Ymateb

Cynnig i gau Ysgol Abersoch ar y 31 Awst 2021, a chynnig lle i'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Sarn Bach o 1 Medi 2021, yn unol ag adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013



## Eich Manylion:

Dyddiad: **Chwefror 19, 2021**

Enw: **IOLA THOMAS**

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rwy'n ymateb fel: (ticiwch yr ymateb perthnasol)

- Rhiant  
 Staff  
 Llywodraethwr  
 Disgybl  
 Arall (nodwch)

**Yr lewysant a chwech o blant gafodd eu haddysgu ym Ysgol Abersoch.**

Os ydych yn dymuno derbyn hysbysiad pan gyhoeddir yr adroddiad ymgynghori, ticiwch y blwch priodol isod

- Hoffwn gael fy hysbysu  
 Na, nid wyf yn dymuno cael fy hysbysu

**Yn unol â gofynion deddfwriaeth diogelu data, mae'n ofynnol i ni eich hysbysu o'r canlynol:**

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn ceisio eich barn ar y cynnig hwn fel rhan o broses ymgynghori statudol. Defnyddir y manylion a ddarperir gennych i'r pwrpas hwn yn unig. Efallai y bydd y wybodaeth yn cael ei rannu gydag asiantaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ymgynghoriad (e.e. Llywodraeth Cymru) ond dim ond at ddiben ymateb i faterion penodol gall eich bod wedi eu nodi yn eich ymateb. Byddwn yn parhau i ystyried eich sylwadau pa bynnag opsiwn a ddewisir. Cedwir eich manylion personol am 7 mlynedd.

Gyda'ch caniatâd, mae'n bosib y bydd eich sylwadau yn cael eu rhyddhau, yn llawn neu heb gynnwys manylion personol fel enwau a chyfeiriadau, mewn adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar yr ymgynghoriad.

**Os nad ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi eich ymateb, nodwch isod trwy roi ✓ yn y blwch perthnasol os gwelwch yn dda:**

\* Dewiswch un o'r atebion canlynol

- Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb yn llawn, gan gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Cytunaf i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb, heb gynnwys fy ngwybodaeth bersonol  
 Nid wyf yn cytuno i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi fy ymateb

Am fwy o wybodaeth am eich hawliau a manylion Swyddog Diogelu Data'r Cyngor ewch i'r Adran Preifatrwydd ar wefan y Cyngor.

**Anfonwch eich ymateb at:**  
 Swyddfa Moderneiddio Addysg,  
 Adran Addysg, Cyngor Gwynedd,  
 Caernarfon  
 LL55 1SH  
 neu [ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

**Dyddiad cau:** 13:00 ar ddydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021

**Nodwch mai sylwadau yw'r ymatebion ac nid gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig.**

**Bydd cyfle i wrthwynebu'r cynnig os bydd rhybudd statudol yn cael ei gyhoeddi.**

CYNNIG I GAU YSGOL ABERSOCH  
ar 31 AWST 2021, A CHYNNIG LLE I'R  
DISGYBLION yn YSGOL SARN BACH  
o 1 MEDI 2021.

Ysgrifennaf i wrthwynebu'r cynnig uchod.

Dechreuodd fy ngyrfa yn Ysgol Abersoch pan oeddwn yn deirblwydd oed ac ymhen dwy flynedd roedd y wlad mewn argyfwng, gyda'r Ail Ryfel Bych. Gorchuddiwyd y ffenestri â rhwyd ludiog i atal y gwyrdr rhag chwachu mewn ffurycrad bom a chafodd bob un ohonon fwrwd rwy. Roedd yn gyfnod peryglus er nad oedd mor gaelhiwus â heddiw, yma, ~~o~~ roedd Abersoch rhwng dau faes-awyr. Yr athrawon ar y pryd oedd Miss Elisabeth Thomas, y Brifathrawes, a Miss Mary Griffith, y ddwy o Ddyffryn Nantlle. Ni chwrsom wrthyn gam ac âi'r gwersi ymlaen fel arfer, ond pan waeddai Miss Thomas, "Air Raid!" ac allan â ni ar rithr i'r Neuadd Bentref i swatio dan y burdd denw mawr yn y llyfrgell nes deuai'r "All Clear!" Yr ymarfer oedd hwn. Chwaraeai'r Neuadd ran bwysig yn mywyd yr ysgol.

Ar wahân i'r plant lleol, roedd yn yr ysgol ifaciwrs preifat, plant rhieni allai fforddio i rentu tai dros yr heidr. Pan ddaeth plant bach serpul, addysgwyd hwy yn y Neuadd am gyfnod.

Er mai Saesneg oedd prif gyfwrng addysg y dyddiau hynny, ni chafodd y Gymraeg ei hergeulusa. Roedd Miss Thomas yn un o aelodau cyntaf Plaid Cymru ac yn un oedd "o flaen ei hamser." Cawsom actio dramau bach yn y dosbarth a chynnal Cyngherdd Gymraeg am hanes Cymru, yn y Neuadd. Cofiaf hyd heddiw'r



caneuon Cymraeg syml a thlws a'r caneuon hylendid a rhifo o'r Saesneg a'r rhigymau a ddysgwyd i ni. Gwnaeth fy chwaer fap pin ac ioc o Gymru a roedd mor gywain fel bu ar y wal am flynyddoedd.

Roedd amser chwarae'n gallu bod yn hysp i gwau awerau yn y dosbarth a charlamu fel ceffylau gylch y bwarth; chwarae gemau rhigrom fel "Llymlog llwyd sy'n cysgu" a'r chwaraeon Saesneg ddysgodd yr ifanc i ni. Uchafbwynt yr haf oedd "Scramble". Safem i gyd a'n cefnau ar wal y cae, gwasgarai Miss Thomas lond buri o fferins ar y glaswellt ac ar y floedd, "Scramble" rhuthrai pawb am y cynkaf i'w casglu.

Roedd rhai o Saeson caredig y pentref byrd hynny a'r mamau, fel heddiw, yn rhoi help llaw i wrend gwisgoedd at y ddrama Nadolig. Caem brawn rhydd trefyd i gasglu blodau gwyltton a pherchen un o'r bythymod del, syml, byrd hynny, ar Ben Benar fyddai'n dyfarnu'r casgliad gorau.

Roedd Ysgol Abersoch yn ddelfryddol i blant bach, mae felly o hyd a bydded iddi fod felly eto. Peth arswydus i'r pyllau lleraf adawodd glydwch bol eu mam ond rhyw deirblwyddel ynghynt yw gorffod keithis i ysgol sy'n ymddangos mor fawr iddynt. Mae lleoliad hon mor hwylus, ac lain clwt ynghanol y pentref. Mae'n ddiogel gyda'r wal gerig o'i hamgylch ac mae bwarth a chae glas yn gaffaeliad mawr. Mae'n bleser mynd heibio iddi a gweld yr adeiladau bach lliwgar, sylwi ar y plant yn chwarae a hyfryd yw clywed eu mini ar ddydd o haf, hyd yn oed o lan bella'r afon. Calondid oedd gweld ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, y pryd - ddulliau a'r

diwrhebsion Cymraeg yn y ffenestri. Un o uchaf-  
bwyntiau'r Nadolig yn gwasanaeth a chyngeredd  
y plant yn y Neuadd yn Abersoch.

Heb yr ysgol bydd Abersoch yn fawr, diflas  
a di-fywyd, fel Hamelin pan dderwyd y plant  
bach i'r mynydd. Ni fydd y pentref a'i amgylch-  
oedd ond chwaraete i "bobl ddiwad," a'r brodorion  
a'r trigolion, fel brodorion America, mewn gwarchodfa  
yma ac acw.

Beth yw'r rheswm am hyn? Y peth doeth  
fuasai i blant gael eu harddysg yn eu dalgylch  
eu hurnain yn hytrach na theithio'n ddiangenrhaid i  
rhywle arall. Pam mae Cymry sffam yn cael y fath  
drafferth wrth wneud cais adeiladu tra bo dieithr-  
iaid yn cael chwahu ac ail-godi tai fel pe bai'n  
gystaddeuaeth am y mwyaf a'r crandiaf, ond yn  
difetha cymeriad pentref yn y penodran. Nid  
yw'r tai haf hyn yn ychwanegu dim at y rifer  
o blant yn yr ysgolion. Yn y cyswllt hwn, rhaid  
dwlech i'r llyr-gynghonydd R. Wyn Williams am  
ymladd i gael tai fforddiadwy ar lôn Garmon.  
Pam, o pam y gwrthodwyd cais gwraig o'r pentref,  
gyfranzodd gymaint at deliwylliant Abersoch  
(ac sy'n dal i wneud) i gael unr ffenestr ychwanegol  
yn ei thŷ. Mae anghyfiawnder mawr yn rhywle  
ac mae'n warthus.

Stoffenn wybod beth yw ystyr "moderneiddio"  
addysg. O wranda at y radio dof i'r casgliad  
mai cymryd rhai camau'n ôl sy'n angenrheidiol.  
Nid ar yr athrawon mae'r bai ac y mae Cymrag  
hyfyd i'w glywed gan rai. ~~cyffwrdd~~ Y tristwch  
yw ein bod wedi'n lloio'n llwyr gan un gair  
bach unsiill, dwy lythren o'r iaith Saesneg,

sef "so". Ni wyddom bellach beth yw'r gair Cymraeg  
am "really" a "fantastic", bod mwy nag un  
ffordd o ddweud "yes" yn y Gymraeg. Ceir drysoch  
rhwng ystyr "perchen" ac "eiddo", rhwng "methu"  
a "colli" ac ati. Gobeithio daw gramadeg syml  
yn ôl i'r gwersi. Os gwelwch yn dda, dowch  
â darllen ac ysgrifennu yn ôl, dysgu barddoniaeth  
i "greu melystes i'r glust ac o'r glust i'r  
galon", i gryfhau'r cof ac ehangu geirfa, rhag  
cael ein difetha'n llwyr gan ffonau a sgriniau.

Yn olaf hoffum longyfarch Ysgol Abersoch  
am ennyn diddordeb y plant yn rhyfeddodau'r  
cread, ar y traeth ac ar y tir. "Nid bywyd yw  
Biolog", meddai R. Williams Parry, "mi af yn ôl i'r  
wlad." Rwy'n kosturio wrth y bobl druan sy'n byw  
mewn fflatiau uchel neu strydoedd lle nad oes  
blewyn glas yn unman, ond er gamred y pla,  
agorwyd llygaid llawer y gwanwyn diwethaf i'r  
harddwch o'r eumpas. Roedd yn beth mor braf  
hefyd i weld un o'r bech gyn bach yn y rhes hon  
yn gorwedd ar do'r sied yn gwylio adar drwy'r  
sberoldrych. Cant eu magu i gymryd diddordeb.  
Dwblch i Ysgol Abersoch, er nad ydynt yn  
Gymay na Daeron o dras, mae'r ddau yn  
siarad Cymraeg da.

Mae cau Ysgol Abersoch, sydd ers blynyddoedd  
wedi bod yn faethle i genedlaethau o blant a  
wasanaethodd eu cymuned gartref ac ar led yn fater  
rhy bwysig i'w ystyried gan rifer fechan. Dylid  
cael cyfarfod cyhoeddus.

Yn gywir  
Iola Thomas

15 CHWYFODR

Fy enw fi yw RONNIE ANNEST a  
 rwyf i yn wyth Ffwyddyn oed wy  
 yn Ffwyddyn Cri yn Ysgol Abersoch.  
 Rwyf yn aros i ni os mae hi  
 yn bosip i aros yn ysgol Abersoch  
 am ffwyddyn ym ddiwrdd  
 ffwyddyn pedwar.  
 Dwi yn coru ysgol Abersoch yn  
 Llawn iawn ag mae hi yn  
 yn gwneud fi deimlon SAFR ag  
 yn hapus gan Ronnie.



Ref: Ysgol Abersoch.

148

18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Abersoch.

Firstly I would like to state that I do not agree with this proposal.

I have operated a B&B opposite the school for over 33 years. Throughout this time my guests always commented upon the unique school and the fact that the children were speaking in Welsh. It came as some surprise to many that the children are only taught in Welsh.

The loss of identity regarding the language would be irreplaceable without the school.

The children do so much good in the community holding concerts, coffee mornings, window

rowing competitions. They are the  
heart beat of our community. I gather that lots  
new babies have been born in the last 2 years,  
where will these children go to clych?  
where will these children go to school?

Why have you accepted over capacity at a nearby  
school (Hlanbedrog) knowing that a school had  
surplus places?

How will parents who cannot drive get their  
children to the clych? School? as some are under  
16 and do not qualify for the transport?

How much will this bus cost the council?

The school proposes to start a beach school,  
why have you not commended them for this  
innovative idea? I do not use the internet  
since this letter, however, your lack of  
empathy whilst this is a covid pandemic  
& allowing for public meetings etc.

How will be the council remembered for what  
you are trying to do, why not try and change  
the council supporting the school with its new  
project of our community

15-2-21

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to add my support to the vital campaign to keep Ysgol Abersock open. My brother & I were pupils there in the early 50's & benefitted greatly from our early education in a close-knit & nurturing environment, before moving on to the "big school" at Sarr Beck.

More than ever, in this changing world, it is important to preserve our communities. The village school teaches a sense of belonging, & an appreciation of our culture, as well as the basics of education, & social interaction, to an age-group of children who are at their most receptive, in a safe & secure domain.

It is both sad, & worrying to see how Abersock has changed over the years - becoming a migratory oasis of pleasure. If this little school - gifted to the village all these years ago, in recognition of the need of younger children to be educated at the heart of their community, is closed, it would be an irreplaceable loss.

Maybe, the provision of more affordable homes for young families is a solution to making Ysgol Abersock more viable once more ??.....

Yours sincerely  
Jane R. Hough.

(Mrs JANE R. HOUGH)



## ABERSOCH WI



16<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Moderneiddio Addysg,  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Dear Sirs

I have been asked to write to you, by some of our Members, to express our support against the closure of Abersoch School.

A Village school is one of the principal focal points for the community, it gives the children a chance to be part of the village life and join with other community-based activities such as Bore Panad and Christmas festivities.

It is important that small children do not have to travel long distances each day to attend school and be able to participate in other school-based events. Roads in the area, in the main, do not have footpaths making walking or cycling to a more distant school hazardous particularly from Easter to the Autumn break when there is the extra holiday traffic in the area.

Yours faithfully


Secretary  
On behalf of Abersoch W.I. Members

cc. 

M<sup>r</sup> Gares Jackson / Cyngor Gwynedd,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu o'toch mewn ymateb i'r newyddion i'r bwriad i gau Ysgol Abersoch. Mae hyn yn syniad anghywir yn fy marn i ar gymaint o lefelau ac yn torri fy nghalon i a llawer yn fy rheulu. Yr unig heswm a welaf i wneud hyn yw arian, ond ar ba gast yn y dyfodol fydd hyn?!

"Pwy ydwi?" Wel dwi yn llol ac yn Gymraes. Fy nhaid oedd un o'r disgyblion cyntaf yn yr ysgol ac mae pob Cenhedlaeth o fy rheulu wedi mynychu'r ysgol ers hynny - Roeddwn hefyd yn gobeithio y byddai fy wyrion yno hefyd! Nid atgofion sentimental yn unig yw fy hesymau dros withwynebu'r bwriad i gau, mae yna llawer.

"yn gyntaf fel mawr" — roedd yr ysgol hon yn anhygoel gyda fy mhiant i, dau fechgyn whanol iawn, un yn blentyn clyfar ac un yn dioddef pryder. Gyda diolch i ddealltwriaeth y staff codwyd y ddau briodded hyn a gwnaed popeth i'w maethu. Yn bersonol, wyf with fy modd â'r ffairth es bod wedi mynychu yma yn gyntaf ac yna symyd i Sarn Bach, maen hoi amser i'r plant law fod yn ifanc, heb y pwysau i dyfu i fyny yn rhy gyflym. Helpodd hyn yn enwedig ar mab â phryder i ymgartrefu mewn lle llai, ac yna symodi le mwy oedannus pan ddech yr amser.

"Yn ail yn aelod o'r gymuned leol" - er fy mod yn byw yn Motuneg mae fy nghalon yn Abersoch, ac yma y byswn yn byw os allwn ei afforddio. Yr ysgol yw calon y gymuned Gymraeg yn y pentref yma mewn gwirionedd! Cyngoroddau, rhas chwiciad, Caw i club henoed, Unaw traeth,



a llawer mwy o berth a gynhelir gan yr ysgol ar thieri i ddod ar pentref cyfan ynghyd â llawenydd. Mae'r plant i'w gweld yn aml o amgylch y pentref ac ar y traeth yn dysgu, sgwrsio a gwneud perthau da.

"Yn drydydd fel Cymro" - roedd fy mhiant yn siarad Saesneg adref gan fod fy ngŵr yn Saesneg, yn Ysgol Abersoch maent yn siarad Cymraeg yn gyflym mewn amgylchedd ysgafn a ffeind. Yn ffrwywr wrachard annog fy ngŵr i ddarllen storiâu gwely yn y Gymraeg! Mae rhan y disgyblion yn y pentref yn annog siaradur Saesneg i Siarad yn y Gymraeg gyda nhw. Heb yr ysgol, un o'r llefydd lleol Cymraeg (meddygon wedi Cau, banciau - wedi Cau, Swyddfa Post wedi Cau a) mae bywyd pentref lleol Cymru yn cael ei ddisodlo gan siopau mawr a cartrefi gwyliau! Helpwch i wrydroi'r duedd dfradwy hon nawr, trwy gadu'r un peth ddaif hwn yn fyw ac yn agored!! Mae anghen i ni fel Cymuned Cymraeg stopio a bwrw golwg ar hyn rydyn yn gwneud i'n perfformio Cymru fydd yn rhy hwyr! Ydyn, rydyn yn pentref twristaidd ond yn gyntaf pentref bach Cymraeg ac rydyn am aros felly.

Mae ansenod y bwrriad hwn i gau Ysgol Abersoch yn wasthus, yng nghanol pandemig! Ni allaf fynychu/trefnu trafodaethau cyhoeddus na chodi ymwybodaeth na protestio hyd yn oed! Nid yw hyn yn deg. Gwelodd yr ysgol bod rhai o'r plant lleol yn mynd i ysgolion cyffagos achos eu bod ganddynt ddarpariaeth meithrinfydd yn eu ysgolion. Bellach mae gan Ysgol Abersoch feithrinfa a club Ti a fi, yn annog cerbydlaeth newydd o ddisgyblion y dyfodol ac er hyn mae'r Cyngor yn bwrriadu Cau cyn i hyn gael ansod i ffynnu!! Mae 5 disgybl newydd ar offer mis Medi yn barod!! Os na rifer o blant yw rhwym i gau, rhondd ansodni gael afael er y mater!

Fel aelod Cymraeg lleol sydd â ffydd yn ei chynghor lleol di chyduladwy, rwy'n mawr o beithio yn byddwch yn gwneud fy mhleon, a mhleon canodd eraill a pheidiwch a cau yr ysgol hon a rhai Siawns i ffynnu ardal Cymraeg uwch eto.

Diolch am wraidd

Amenda Jones  
(ai holl deulu!)

EDUCATION PLANNING  
Caernarfon.

21st JANUARY 2021

Dear Sir

Re. ABERSOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Abersoch has always been my home. My  
Grandfather Dr J. Evans built this house &  
practised medicine here as did my uncle, another  
Dr Evans, & my father Dr Rowntree - I also  
practised medicine here for more than  
20 years & was involved with many young families.  
I was a pupil at Abersoch Primary  
School from ages 4-10 and they were very  
happy years with unforgettable teachers, Mrs THOMAS  
and Miss Pary. This school is most  
important for the welfare of the Abersoch  
community - now even more as Abersoch  
village expands. Young children need the  
benefit of this shared community background  
and to develop pride in their roots.

Please keep Abersoch primary school  
open. It would be a terrible loss if closed.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Meyrick

PATRICIA MEYRICK.

15:02 2021

CYMRU  
MERCHED

17 FEB 2021

ADDYSG

ASAIN

Annwyl Swyddogion,

'Rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch ar ran Merched y Wawr, Rhanbarth Dwyfor, parthed cau ysgolion gwledig. Fel y gwyddoch, mae Merched y Wawr yn fudiad grymus yng Nghymru, gyda deunaw cangen ac un Clwb Gwawr yn Nwyfor. Fe ddyfynnaf o amcanion y Mudiad:

"I hybu unrhyw achos er budd merched yng Nghymru, ac yn arbennig i rymuso addysg gyhoeddus ac i hyrwyddo diwylliant Cymreig, addysg a'r celfyddydau yng Nghymru trwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg".

Teimlwn felly na allwn anwybyddu'r pryder lleol sydd yn bod parthed cau ysgolion bach, a hynny gan fod trafodaethau am ddyfodol Ysgol Abersoch yn gyfredol, a bod Ysgol Llanaelhaearn eisoes wedi cau. Gofynnwn i chi ystyried yr egwyddorion uchod yn ofalus iawn wrth ystyried dyfodol unrhyw ysgol, gan eu bod yn rhai dilys i unrhyw drafodaeth parthed addysg ein plant.

Ystyriwch hefyd egwyddorion llesiant y dyfodol, - po fwyaf o ysgolion sydd yn cau, bydd lleihad a dirywiad yn ein cymunedau, gan adael gwacter o gymunedau ar lawr gwlad.

Gofynnwyd i'n aelodau am eu hymateb i'r pwnc o gau ysgolion. Dyma flas o'r ymatebion:

1. Mae'n bwysig cadw ysgol er mwyn y gymuned a chadw'r iaith yn fyw.
2. Abersoch/unrhyw bentref heb ysgol ddim yn denu Cymry ifanc yno i fyw, - a chaniatáu gallent fforddio tŷ yno, neu yn eu perswadio i symyd i ardal arall ble mae ysgol.
3. Mae pob ysgol yn mynd drwy lanw a thrai o ran niferoedd.
4. Beth fydd yn digwydd i'r adeilad pe bai ysgol Abersoch yn cau? A fyddai'r tir yn cael ei werthu er mwyn adeiladu tŷ/tai moethus, gan ddinistrio'r gymuned ymhellach?

Gofynnaf eto i chwi ystyried yr egwyddorion uchod, ac ystyried yn ddwys effaith cau unrhyw ysgol ar ddyfodol ein plant, ac ar ein cymunedau.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,



(Ysg Rhoubark)



**(ADDYSG)**

**Oddi wrth:** [REDACTED] >  
**Anfonwyd:** Dydd Mawrth, 2 Chwefror 2021 15:13  
**At:** Moderneiddio Addysg  
**Pwnc:** Ysgol Abersoch

**Fflag Atgoffa:** Camau Pellach  
**Statws Fflag:** Wedi gorffen

To Gwynedd Council.

I am writing to you as I was a pupil at Ysgol Abersoch and you have not asked us our thoughts about our school time, it was a very important time for me.

I loved my old school, I liked the teachers so much they were very helpful all the time, they helped me to improve my thinking skills and to use my imagination in a creative way.

We went swimming once a week and this was ace, i learned how to swim because of the school, we do not swim very much at Ysgol Sarn Bach. Ysgol Abersoch was asked to compete in a competition and normally you had to be older but the swimming teacher at the baths said we were good enough to enter. A kind lady called Melissa sponsored our school by buying us matching hooded jumpers with the school logo on it.

I loved singing for the older people in the village, we have lots of friends in Abersoch and I liked seeing them smile when we sang, I think it brought them joy, they used to join in with us. Afterwards we was allowed a biscuit and a drink as they had a panad to celebrate the singing. We talked to them and it was nice to help them with their Welsh and it was good for me to speak to some of the older Welsh people in 'chi' instead of 'Ti'.

At Ysgol Abersoch there was no bullying, we were all friends, me and my four friends from the school are still best friends now. I have lots of friends at different schools but I wanted to go to Ysgol Abersoch. When I went there I did not know anyone but after a few days I became friends with everyone. My friends are the kindest people we all stick up for each other, we are like more than best friends we are a family. We saw each others mums and dads everyday outside the school gate. We were able to go to each others houses for a play date, our mums and dads would arrange it there and then. We can't do that at Sarn Bach as we don't see any parents and we all go on different buses. It has to be arranged beforehand and it is not spontaneous.

At Abersoch most nights even in the winter we would all take a snack, picnic or bbq to the beach and the playing fields, it was great fun, we played and we swam and other children would come and play with us, we would share our food.

The school day in Abersoch was always exciting, we did lots of hands on experiments and we learned from our own mistakes, I like that kind of learning, we would walk to the harbour and we could do experiments like dropping eggs with parachutes that we had made to learn about gravity. Ysgol Abersoch won £1000 prize from Llaeth Y Llan for a competition, they was the only school in our area to win. this shows how good the teachers and the school is. I had left and there was only about 8 kids and they won, look at what they achieved.

I loved doing sports on the beach, this was my favourite thing to do, we often did class work on the beach it was the best. I liked walking round the village it used to make me giggle because people did not know we spoke Welsh and when we went inside the shops to speak, people used to stare at us and say how good we were.

Ysgol Abersoch gave me confidence and they taught me to ask questions and think for myself. I did not speak Welsh when I started and after a few weeks I was very good, I even helped my mum with her Welsh homework from her class.

We sang in Spa Abersoch and it was nice to see so many people come just to see us sing, I love that my mum was able to come to lots of our school events and performances, she works in Abersoch and was able to come to everything as it was only a minutes walk away.

If you asked me to stay at Abersoch until Botwnnog I would say yes, I would like to go back to the school, I am very sad that I have left the school. I don't like going to school on a bus, sometimes older kids are mean to the little ones and I feel sad about this, I tell the teachers and the bus driver. Once the driver had to stop the bus and wait for the kids to calm down as it was too dangerous for him to drive because of the distraction.

I have written to ask Kirsty Williams 'Why cant [redacted] stay at Ygol Abersoch until Year four she said " I don't know why yo [redacted] can't stay in the school until Year 4 but the local authority should be able to tell you" So I am asking you WHY CANT MY SISTER STAY AT THE SCHOOL FOR ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL YEAR 4?

You need to give this school a chance to succeed, all the good things the school does in the village, you can't give up on it.

*I want you to know how much me and my sister love Ysgol Abersoch, it is more than a school to us, it is like another home where we feel safe and happy. When I pass the school it makes me smile when I look at it. This Christmas it made everyone happy as its Christmas lights were so beautiful.*

*Ysgol Abersoch's teachers are like Roahl Dahl they put themselves into the mind of a child, if we had to dress up in fancy dress then so did they.*

*Even though I am just [redacted] years old, I think it is wrong to try to close a school during a Covid pandemic my sister feels anxious already, maybe you should think more like Roah Dahl and ask what is best for the kids?*

*Please answer my question and take my thoughts into account, from little acorns grow mighty oaks.*

--  
Gwiriwyd yr e-bost hwn gan Libraesva ESG ar rhan Cyngor Gwynedd

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