

## **The Church in Wales remains fully committed to new school in Bala**

The Church in Wales has today (25 January) reaffirmed its full commitment to the new 3-19 Learning Campus in Bala.

In a statement issued by the Diocese of St Asaph, the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Rosalind Williams said: “We were invited by Cyngor Gwynedd to be partners in this project and remain fully committed to providing the best educational opportunities for the children and young people of Bala, Penllyn and surrounding areas.

“We acted in good faith in responding to the request of Cyngor Gwynedd to be partners in their school reorganisation plans, which include the closure of three Church in Wales primary schools, offering a widely-valued education to 279 pupils.

“As part of the original process, Cyngor Gwynedd carried out a statutory consultation and all matters were considered and responded to, during the consultation. Cyngor Gwynedd's officers recommended this Church School option and cabinet members voted for this arrangement for schooling in Bala and Dolgellau at their meeting in September 2015.

“We stand by the detailed work carried out by officers from Cyngor Gwynedd in response to all the objections in September 2015. Although this matter was discussed again by its Cabinet in December 2016, nothing has changed. The implementation of the proposals as required by the School Standards and Organisation Wales Act 2013 would not be unreasonably difficult, and circumstances have not altered since the proposals were approved.

“As part of the plan approved by Cyngor Gwynedd only two out of the 17 places on the shadow Governing Body would be for Foundation Governors from the Church in Wales (one for the Diocese of St Asaph and one for the Diocese of Bangor). Two places would be reserved for Foundation Governors representing other Christian traditions in Bala. The remaining 13 places – the majority – would be non-denominational/non-religious.

“Since Cyngor Gwynedd’s cabinet voted to move forward with these plans in September 2015, the Church in Wales has worked hard to support the positive relationships being developed in the community.

“We remain committed to this project and reaffirm our pledge to work with and respect all ecumenical, non-denominational and non-faith members of the community.

“Furthermore, we urge all those involved at this important stage to ensure the educational interests of the children and young people of Bala are our priority and that we move forward to that end with transparency and respect.”

**ENDS**

### **Note to editors:**

You can see the report presented to Cyngor Gwynedd’s cabinet in September 2015 at:

<https://democracy.cyngor.gwynedd.gov.uk/documents/s1739/Item%206%20-%20Report%20->

%20The%20Future%20of%20Education%20Provision%20in%20Ysgol%20y%20Berwyn%20Ca  
tchment%20Area.pdf

You can see the objections sent to Cyngor Gwynedd as part of the consultation before  
September 2015 at:

[https://democracy.cyngor.gwynedd.gov.uk/documents/s1740/Item%206%20-  
%20Appendix%201%20-Analysis%20of%20Objections.pdf](https://democracy.cyngor.gwynedd.gov.uk/documents/s1740/Item%206%20-%20Appendix%201%20-Analysis%20of%20Objections.pdf)