

Area Schools Review

Queensferry Primary School

Consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Queensferry Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2014, to enable the incorporation of nursery provision.

This is a written consultation, and there is guidance in the booklet on how to respond to the consultation

What are we trying to achieve?

At the present time, neither Queensferry Primary School, nor St. Ethelwold's Voluntary Aided (VA) Church in Wales Primary School have nursery provision.

The nursery provision for the community is currently provided by the Croft Nursery School, which is the only stand alone nursery in Flintshire. This arrangement provides the nursery facility that is normally integrated into a Primary school setting. Although the provision is of high quality, and parents are supportive of the Croft nursery, the introduction of the foundation phase of education has led to the need to provide a more integrated approach for the education of young children.

In 2012, a number of consultation events were held in the John Summers High School, Connah's Quay High School and Deeside Leisure Centre. The purpose of those consultations was to put forward the proposal to establish a new 3-16 age-range school on the present John Summers site, and to incorporate nursery provision into the existing Queensferry Primary School, and St. Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary School.

As the foundation phase has now been established in place of Key Stage one, the provision for children at a through Primary school would make for better transition from one stage to another by eliminating the change from one type of school to another. It is known that children do benefit educationally from the elimination of stages of transfer.

We are therefore seeking to establish the same opportunities for progression in the Queensferry Primary and St. Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary Schools as is available to other children throughout the County.

A number of consultations have been held in the community to allow people to consider a series of options designed to reduce the number of surplus places in John Summers High School, improve the viability of sixth form provision, and to establish nursery provision in the two primary schools in the area. Following these consultations a proposal was published to close the Croft Nursery School and to reorganise the provision so as to provide a new 3-16 school in place of Queensferry Primary School and John Summers High School. Both these proposals have been referred to the Welsh Ministers for determination.

A proposal has already been published to change the age range of St Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary School and this awaits determination by the Welsh Minister. To date no proposal has been published to change the age range of Queensferry Primary School.



What are we consulting with you about?

‘To change the age range of Queensferry Primary School from the present 4-11 to 3-11 from September 2014’.

This does not affect the proposal to close Queensferry Primary School and John Summers High school from September 2016. It means that from September 2014 until such time as Queensferry is incorporated into a 3-16 school on the John Summers site, it will be able to provide places for nursery pupils who would otherwise attend Croft Nursery School.

3 – 16 Provision at John Summers’ site – A single ‘new’ school for students aged 3 to 16. Following a pattern already successfully established in England and now being developed in Wales, this would provide seamless progression from nursery, through into primary and from primary through into secondary education. Although separate applications must be made for reception places at a primary school, experience shows that most pupils can progress from nursery provision at a school to the reception class in the same school.

At present, both Queensferry primary school and St. Ethelwold’s are uncertain of the numbers that will transfer into the reception classes. With the nursery based at the school, there is more certainty for the school on the numbers that will be expected to start in reception, therefore making for better preparation for the new intake.

Alternative proposals were put forward in the initial consultations which took place in 2012. These included the amalgamation of the High Schools at Connah’s Quay with the John Summers’ High School or the federation of the schools. These were discounted as not being feasible either in operational terms or in being cost effective, and also received a negative response from most consultees.

Nursery Provision – the impact of the proposed change:

Queensferry and St. Ethelwold’s Primary Schools do not currently have integrated nurseries. Nursery education for this area is currently provided at the Croft Nursery.

Changing nursery education by integrating it into the primary school will allow young children in the area to smoothly progress from nursery into foundation phase education, in the same way as all other primary schools in Flintshire. This will increase the capacity for nursery provision and accommodate an expansion of Families First and Flying Start initiatives in the existing Croft nursery accommodation

Queensferry Primary School, which is located on the same campus as John Summers High School, would be developed to take nursery age children within its existing building until such time as it is incorporated into the 3-16 school, scheduled for September 2016.

St Ethelwold's Primary School would also be developed to take nursery age children within its existing building from September 2014.

The work needed to adapt Queensferry Primary School consists of rearranging the interior class bases, and the provision of outdoor play equipment. The funding for this has been identified from the Council capital resources.

The proposal already under consideration by Welsh ministers would involve the closure of the Croft Nursery School as of September 2014, and nursery pupils would be accommodated at either Queensferry Primary School or St Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary School, according to parental preference. The Families First Initiative, which supports young families in the area would be expanded into the existing Croft Nursery accommodation. Other foundation phase provision within the area would be unchanged.

It is intended that Queensferry Primary School and John Summers High School would amalgamate in September 2016 to create one 'new' school catering for students from aged 3 up to 16. There would be one headteacher and one governing body. This proposal is awaiting determination by Welsh Ministers.

Risks that are attached to this proposal include a ministerial decision against the proposed 3-16 school, a delay in the adaptations brought about either by a delay in decisions or inability of the contractor to complete the works in time for the opening.

In order to respond to these risks, the Council is progressing the decision making process relating to the proposal as quickly as possible, and in relation to the completion risks, applying those penalty clauses to a contractor who fails to complete the agreed works on time.

Names, locations and categories of existing schools likely to be affected by the proposed change in age-range of Queensferry Primary School to accommodate a nursery from September 2014.

Queensferry Community Primary School,
Queensferry Campus
Chester Road West,
Queensferry, Deeside,
Flintshire CH1 1SE

The Croft Nursery School,
Larch Avenue,
Aston,
Deeside,
Flintshire CH5 1NF

St. Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary School,
Melrose Avenue,
Shotton,
Deeside,
Flintshire CH5 1NG

Shotton Infants School,*
Plymouth Street,
Shotton,
Deeside,
Flintshire CH5 1JD

All schools are English medium

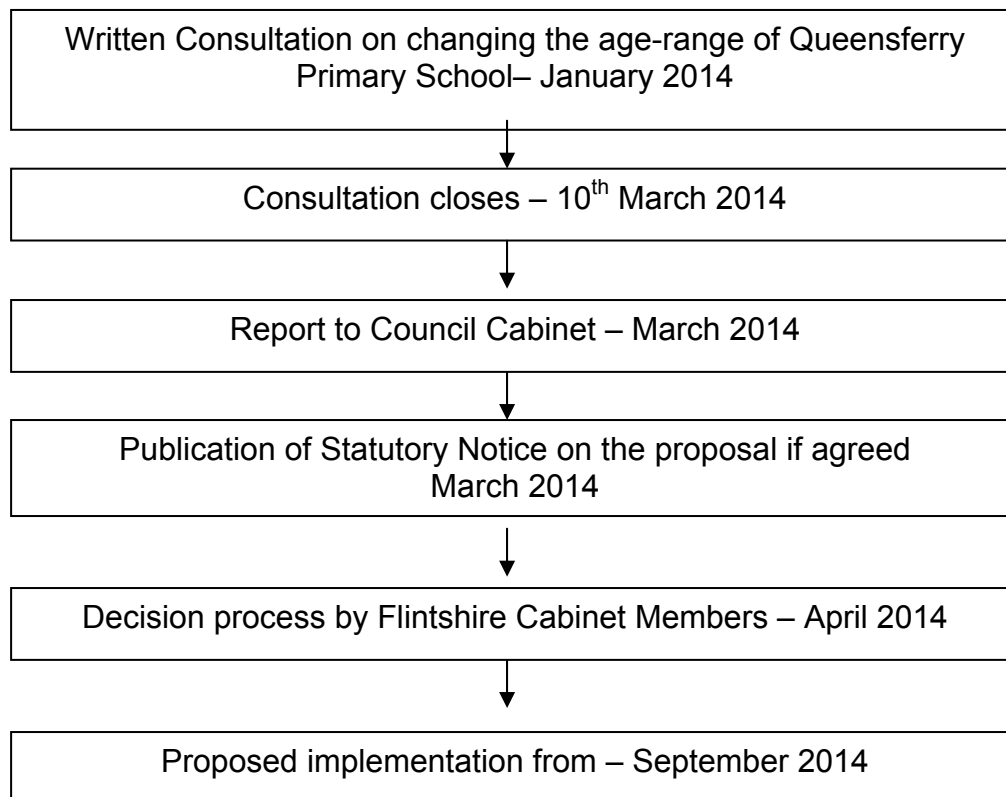
* this school will amalgamate with the existing Taliesin Juniors to form a new Primary school from September 2014



	Numbers on roll									
School	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Queensferry Primary	136	119	123	143	160	156	158	156	162	164
Croft Nursery	38	38	33	40	43	39	36	36	36	36
St Ethelwold's	76	67	80	83	91	101	101	103	111	108
Shotton Infants	125	126	128	147	163	178	168	163	155	152

School	Number on Roll (Sept. 2013)	Capacity	Number of Nursery Places	Condition	Language Medium
Queensferry Primary	160	180	0	A	English Medium
Croft Nursery	43	65	43	B	English Medium
St. Ethelwold's	91	107	0	C	English Medium
Shotton Infants	163	163	23	B	English Medium

What are the stages in consultation, and how long will it take?



Quality and Standards of education

Estyn inspections

The most recent Estyn inspections for Queensferry Primary School (QPS), Croft Nursery School (Croft) and Shotton Infant School (SIS) predate the latest framework for inspection findings, and judgments are made on the 7 Key Questions.

The five-point scale used to represent all inspection judgements in these report is as follows:

Grade 1 good with outstanding features

Grade 2 good features and no important shortcomings

Grade 3 good features outweigh shortcomings

Grade 4 some good features, but shortcomings in important areas

Grade 5 many important shortcomings

Key Question	Q P S	Croft	S I S
1 How well do learners achieve?	2	2	3
2 How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2	2	3
3 How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	2	3	2
4 How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1	2	2
5 How effective are leadership and strategic management?	2	3	2
6 How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2	3	3
7 How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	2	2	3

QPS – Queensferry Primary School
inspected in January 2009

Croft – Nursery School
inspected in November 2009

SIS – Shotton Infant School
inspected in June 2009

The findings from the most recent inspection of St. Ethelwold's VA Church in Wales Primary School are expressed according to the most recent framework of three Key Questions:

Estyn Inspection February 2012

Judgments in the three Key Questions:

1. Outcomes (standards and wellbeing) – adequate
2. Provision (learning experience, teaching, care and support, guidance and learning experience) – adequate
3. Leadership and management, (improvement in quality, partnership working and resource management) – adequate

The likely impact of the proposal to integrate a nursery in Queensferry Primary School on the quality of the Estyn Key Question relating to outcomes would be to improve the learning experience and to provide a more coherent foundation phase for the young learners. This would be by the elimination of a stage of transition between nursery and reception, and the continuity of staffing and data transfer for individual pupils especially in the teaching, care and support for pupils moving through the school.

This integrated approach would not only assist in the provision of the Foundation Phase, but also provide continuity in the single leadership of the school for children aged 3-11 years, and provide the learning opportunities in a single through primary school that are available in all other Flintshire primary schools. Continuity of care and guidance would also be ensured. These factors would have a positive effect on the learning experience for the children.

An integrated provision would also have a positive impact on the overall leadership and management of the provision – one Head, one ethos and an integration of skills from across a wide range of staff.



Finance

The investment required to upgrade the facilities in Queensferry Primary School to accommodate a nursery is £98,000, which has been identified from the Council's Capital budget for schools. The necessary work is scheduled to be carried out over the summer holiday break ready for the opening of the new term in September 2014.

Any savings from the closure of the Croft Nursery School will be recirculated into the Schools budget. If the Welsh Government decision is to close the Croft Nursery School, it is planned for an extended Flying Start provision to move into the vacated building. This will remove the cost of repairs and maintenance from the education budget. There will therefore be no sale of buildings or land as a result of this proposed change in age – range. It is also expected that the larger units will be most effective in the use of financial resources.

Cost per pupil per annum (from section 52 of the Council budget 2012/13)

School	Cost per pupil
Shotton infant school	£4,631
St. Ethelwold's	£4,028
Queensferry Primary	£3,692
The Croft Nursery	£5,800
Flintshire average	£3,567

There are a number of ways you can let us know what you think. You can:

- Please complete a questionnaire on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview
- complete a questionnaire and return it to the School Modernisation Team at the address below
- e-mail any questions that you may have to the school modernisation team at 21CenturySchools@flintshire.gov.uk
- alternatively put your responses in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DN

The consultation will close on Monday 10th March 2014.

Please note that responses to this consultation will not be counted as formal objections to the proposal to lower the age range of Queensferry Primary school. An opportunity for this will be given if and when a statutory notice is published,



List of consultees:

Coleg Cambria
Catrin Jones, Welsh Government
Carl Sargeant AM
David Hanson MP
Chief Inspector, ESTYN
NASUWT, NUT, ATL, GMB, UNITE, UNISON, NAHT, FTJNC, UCAC,
ASCL
Police & Crime Commissioner
Queensferry Community Council
Chief Executive, Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council
Neal Cockerton, Transport, Flintshire County Council
Huw Foster-Evans, Chief Officer, GwE
Rural North Flintshire Communities First
Director of Education, Denbighshire County Borough Council
Director of Education, Wrexham County Council
Rosalind Williams, Schools Officer, Diocesan Office, St Asaph
Rita Price, Diocesan Director of Education, Wrexham
Governing Body at: -
Queensferry Primary School,
St Ethelwold's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, Shotton
Shotton Infant School
John Summers High School, Queensferry Campus, Deeside, Flintshire
Children & Young People's Partnership Network in Cymru

Consultation Response Form Area Schools Review

Before you begin – if you would like to fill this form in on-line please go to:

www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview

**Otherwise the form can be returned to The School Modernisation Team,
Flintshire County Council,**

Based on the information you have been given in this booklet; please tell us your views on the Council's proposal. If you have an alternative to the lowering of the age-group of Queensferry Primary School please include this below.

How strongly do you agree with the consultation proposal to lower the age range of Queensferry Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 to allow the integration of a nursery?

- Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why you feel this way/and or any alternative you may have to the proposal for consideration

About you:

To help us understand what different groups of people think, please tell us a little about yourself: Please provide your contact details below (*unfortunately we are unable to consider responses unless contact details, including full postcode are provided*)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Are you:

- Parent/Carer Teacher Support Staff
 Governor Other

Name of School you are associated with

If you would like to be informed of the report following the consultation please tick the box