



STATUTORY CONSULTATION

CATHOLIC EDUCATION PROPOSAL

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2027.
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint.
- Amalgamation would see:
 - the individual schools close by 31 August 2027,
 - a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, open 01 September 2027,
 - the new school operating over the three current sites until such time a new school building is constructed (anticipated 01 September 2030).

Spring-Summer 2026

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PART A. OVERVIEW

A.1. Introduction

This consultation document provides information about a proposal being considered by Flintshire County Council (*“the Council”*) to reorganise Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire. It is intended to enable stakeholders and other interested parties to understand the proposal and to give their views before any decision is taken.

The Council has statutory responsibilities under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (*“the Act”*) to consider proposals for school reorganisation where this is necessary to ensure the efficient and effective provision of education. In accordance with the requirements of the third edition of the School Organisation Code 2026 (*“the Code”*), the Council is undertaking this statutory consultation before determining whether to proceed.

The proposal under consideration would involve the closure of St Anthony’s Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate. In addition, St David’s Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary’s Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint, will be amalgamated to establish a new English-medium 3-18 Catholic VA school in Flint. Subject to the outcome of this consultation and subsequent statutory processes, the new school would initially operate across the existing three sites while proposals for a new school building are progressed.

No decision has been taken at this stage. The Council has not predetermined the outcome of this process, and all views expressed during the consultation will be carefully considered before any decision is made.

This document sets out the background to the proposal, the options considered, and the potential impacts on learners, staff and the wider community to support informed participation in the consultation process.

Any figures, statistics and material referenced in this document are the most accurate available at the time of preparation and publication.

A.2. Overview of the Proposal

The Council is consulting on a proposal to reorganise Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire.

This proposal forms part of a strategic approach for Catholic education in Flintshire initiated by the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham (*“the Diocese”*). Lead by the Diocese in partnership with the Council, it responds to a range of significant challenges currently affecting the Catholic sector locally.

The aim of the strategy is to provide clear, long-term direction and to secure a sustainable, robust and high-quality Catholic education offer for children and families in Flintshire, both now and in the future. This proposal is focused on:

- Reducing the number of surplus places which diverts resources away from frontline delivery to pupils.
- Improving the learning environment of some schools.
- Strengthening school leadership arrangements so every pupil benefits from a high-quality education offer.
- Providing a full curriculum offer for children from age 3 -18.
- Further developing Welsh education within a Catholic context.

- Maximising the financial investment available from Welsh Government through its Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme

The proposal developed by the Diocese provided the Council with an opportunity to review the Catholic education provision in Flintshire. The Diocese presented its proposal to the Council and requested support to administer the consultation process.

The Council proposes to:

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2027.
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint.
- Amalgamation would see:
 - the individual schools close by 31 August 2027
 - a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, open 01 September 2027
 - the new school operating over the three current sites until such time a new school building is constructed (anticipated 01 September 2030).

Should the proposal be approved, significant capital investment will be necessary. The initial feasibility study undertaken in 2024 estimated the cost of constructing a new 3–18 all-through school at approximately £55 million. It should be noted that this cost is a guide and subject to change during the design stage. Since the feasibility work was completed, construction sector inflation has continued to rise which was anticipated, and updated cost modelling will be required to reflect current market conditions.

This consultation is taking place alongside a separate consultation relating to the potential closure of Saltney Ferry Community Primary School and Wood Memorial Community Primary School, in Saltney, and the establishment of a new community primary school in Saltney. Each proposal will be considered on its own merits.

A.3. Consultation Requirements

The Council has a responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to consult with appropriate stakeholders when giving consideration to any significant school reorganisation proposals.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2026 describe a number of regulated alterations to maintained schools and voluntary aided, which must not be carried out unless the relevant local authority and/or governing body have complied with the requirements imposed by the Code.

Statutory procedures are usually necessary to make significant changes to schools. The procedures are designed to enable changes to be made where they are considered necessary, but in a way which protects the interests of learners and allows interested parties the opportunity to have their say.

The formal consultation process will operate for at least 42 days, with at least 20 of these being school days. There will be opportunities to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council determines whether or not the proposal is to be implemented.

In line with the National Participation Standards for Children and Young People in Wales and Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Council recognises that children and young people have the right to be informed, to express their views on matters that affect them, and for those views to be given due consideration.

To support meaningful participation, the Council will engage directly with pupils from the schools during the consultation period. This engagement will be age-appropriate and inclusive, taking account of pupils' differing communication needs and levels of understanding. Activities will include facilitated discussions, and structured feedback exercises supported by school and council staff.

A pupil-friendly version of this consultation document has been produced to explain the proposal in accessible language and to help pupils form an informed view. Opportunities will also be provided for pupils to express their views through written comments, or facilitated discussion, as appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The views expressed by children and young people will be recorded and summarised within the Consultation Report presented to Cabinet. While pupils will not be asked to make decisions, their views will be given due weight alongside other consultation responses when the Council considers whether to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process.

This document will be published on the Council's website and in hard copy. A hard copy of the document and any supplementary documents are available upon request via the contact details below.

A.4. Who will be consulted?

This consultation is required to take place for at least 42 days with at least 20 of these being school days.

The consultation period will open on **Tuesday 16 June 2026** and close at 11.59pm on **Wednesday 29 July 2026**. This allows at least 42 days for responses to be received, at least 20 of which are school days.

This consultation document has been sent to a wide range of consultees including:

Consultees	Distributed to / via
parents (and where possible prospective parents), carers and guardians of learners currently attending schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Via schools: St Anthony's; St David's; St Mary's; St Richard Gwyn. St Winefride's; Venerable Edward Morgan.
in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents, carers and guardians of learners attending primary schools from which learners normally transfer to that secondary school;	Via schools: St Anthony's; St David's; St Mary's; St Richard Gwyn. St Winefride's; Venerable Edward Morgan.
staff members of schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Via schools: St Anthony's; St David's; St Mary's; St Richard Gwyn. St Winefride's; Venerable Edward Morgan.
the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by	Flintshire County Council

Consultees	Distributed to / via
the proposals (including relevant transport and highways teams);	
any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals, including in the case of dedicated ALP any authority placing or likely to place learners with ALN in the school which is subject to the proposals;	Cheshire West and Chester Council Wrexham County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Conwy County Borough Council
the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other schools the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals are located;	Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph Catholic Diocese of Wrexham
any other appropriate religious body for any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	N/A
the governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Governing Body St Anthony's; St David's; St Mary's; St Richard Gwyn. St Winefride's; Venerable Edward Morgan, St Clare's, The Catholic High School Chester
the Welsh Ministers;	
Members of the Senedd (MS) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	<u>Members of the Senedd (MS)</u> Cristiana Emsley; Carrie Harper; Marc Jones; Sam Rowlands; Ken Skates; Nigel Williams; Louise Emery; Llyr Gruffydd; Becca Martin; Adrian Mason; Darren Millar; Tom Montgomery <u>Members of Parliament (MPs)</u> Sir Mark Tami; Becky Gittins; Aphra Brandreth
Estyn;	His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Representatives of NASUWT; NEU; UCAC; ASCL; UNISON
the relevant school improvement services;	WLGA

Consultees	Distributed to / via
the Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Police Commissioner for North Wales
any community or town council for the area served by or intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Saltney Town Council Mold Town Council Flint Town Council
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;	Busy Bees Playgroup; Cornist Park Primary School; Halcyon Meadow Nursery; Little Rascals; Sara's Little Explorers; Shelly Lacurti; The Oaks Day Nursery; Bryn Coch Club; Bryn Gwalia Fun Club; Buckley Girls Gymnastics Club; Buttercups Day Nursery; Cheeky Rascalz; Cilcain Toddler and Parent Group; Elizabeth's Family Childminding; Halkyn Mountain Kid's Club; Little Angels; Little Scholars Nursery; Rise and Shine Day Nursery; St David's Playgroup; Sunbeams Play Group; Sunray Day Care; The Play Corner; Playhouse Childminding; Ysgol Y Foel Club; Clwb Hapus; Saltney Methodist Church; Woody Wrap Around
the local authority Family Information Service, any independent or voluntary providers who are likely to be affected and the national umbrella organisations supporting them, Mudiad Meithrin, NDNA Cymru, Clybiau Plant Cymru, Early Years Wales, PACEY Cymru and Play Wales;	Flintshire County Council; Mudiad Meithrin; Early Years Wales; National Day Nursery Association Cymru; PACEY Wales; Menter Iaith
in the case of proposals affecting Additional Learning Provision (ALP), any relevant health or third sector bodies that the proposer considers have an interest;	SNAP Cymru Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school which is the subject of the proposals;	Coleg Cambria
in the case or proposals affecting school sixth forms, Medr; and	Medr: Commission for Tertiary Education and Research
in the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner and Mentrau Iaith.	Welsh Language Commissioner Mentrau Iaith Cymru
Other	All Flintshire Council Councillors

This document has been published on the Flintshire County Council website and can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Catholic-Education-Proposal.aspx>

A.5. How to respond to the consultation

Your views on the proposals to reorganise Catholic Education Provision are important to us. The Council wants you to engage in this consultation and tell us what you think of the proposal, particularly if it may affect you or your children.

The Council is committed to ensuring that this consultation process is fair, open and inclusive. All responses received within the consultation period will be given equal consideration and will be analysed objectively. The views expressed during the consultation will inform a Consultation Report that will be presented to the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision-making process.

The Council is now engaging in statutory consultation processes with all interested parties to ensure that any decision taken by the Council is one that is informed.

The timescales for the formal consultation aspects of these statutory proposals are:

Statutory Consultation Period Commences	Statutory Consultation Period Ends	Period Of Consultation
Tuesday 16 June 2026	11.59pm on Wednesday 29 July 2026	At least 42 days (at least 20 of which are school days)

During the consultation period people may make a comment, ask a question or suggest an alternative to the proposal by using the contact details below. All correspondence must be received before the end of the consultation period.

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on the Council's website or by following this link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Catholic-Education-Proposal.aspx>



A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document. Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

Large print, Braille, and alternative language versions of this document will also be made available upon request via the contact details below. We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and you will receive a response in the same language. Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

To allow children and young people to participate in this consultation, a version of this document has been created that is relevant to their age and their level of likely understanding. This presents the information in a friendly way and allows children and young people to reach an informed decision.

All responses must be received by 11.59pm on Wednesday 29 July 2026.

The Council is not proposing any public drop-in events during this consultation. Instead, questions can be submitted by e-mail (see Contact Details below). Council Officers will aim to provide a response within 7 working days if these are regarding the process.

Staff and Governor events have been coordinated with the individual schools.

A.6. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

School Modernisation Team, Flintshire County Council, Ty Dewi Sant, St David's Park, Ewloe CH5 3XT

E-mail: catholiceducationconsultation@flintshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01352 704014 or 01352 704018

A post-box will also be available in the reception areas of all six Flintshire Catholic schools to allow hard copy responses to be submitted. The post-boxes will remain until the last day of term.

A.7. What will happen next?

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a Consultation Report will be prepared summarising the responses received, and the Council's consideration of the issues raised. The report will not make assumptions about the outcome of the consultation. Consultees may register their wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report, either via the response form or by writing to the Council via the contact details provided

The Council's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report and will determine whether it wishes to proceed to the next statutory stage. Responses submitted during the consultation period do not constitute formal objections under the Code. Objections can only be registered following the publication of the statutory notice.

If the first part of the process is approved to proceed by the Council's Cabinet, a Statutory Notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days for you to submit formal objections in writing. To be considered as Statutory objections, the objections must be made in writing or by email at the addresses above within the 28-day timescale.

Following the Statutory Notice period the Council's Cabinet would then need to consider another report, summarising any objections and issues raised and the Council's response to them, called the Objection Report. This will determine whether or not to proceed to implementation. This report will also be available for all persons to view on the Council's website or by request for a hard copy.

The Council's Cabinet will determine whether or not to approve the proposal after consideration of the Objection Report.

Once a decision has been made an electronic copy will be sent out to all stakeholders identified on the correspondence list called a Decision Notification within 7 days of the decision.

The proposed timetable for decision making following the formal consultation process is:

Stage of Process	Key Dates
Cabinet consider the results of the consultation and determines whether to proceed with proposals	September / October 2026
Council publish statutory notice and enter into an objection period	October / November 2026
Cabinet consider the objection report and determine whether or not to implement the proposals	January / February 2027
Decision notification letter is issued with outcome from Cabinet determination	February / March 2027

The remainder of the consultation document sets out the rationale for the proposed changes to reorganise Catholic Education in Flintshire. We would like you to consider the information contained within this document and to hear your views as to whether or not you support the proposals.

PART B. THE CASE FOR CHANGE

The information provided in this section is intended to explain the context in which the proposal has been developed. It does not represent a final determination and is provided to support informed engagement with the consultation process.

B.1. Reasons for Change

The Council has a responsibility to review and modernise all school provision, to make sure that we are providing the best possible opportunities for learners, so that they can achieve their full potential. There is a need to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations

The good relationship between the Council and Diocese has allowed for open and honest discussions to take place, with a view to securing the Catholic education provision in Flintshire.

To achieve long-term sustainability, it is agreed that there is a need to:

- Reduce the number of surplus places.
- Improve the learning environment of some schools.
- Ensure there is excellent leadership across the sector.
- Provide an all through curriculum for children from age 3 -18
- Further develop Welsh education

B.2. Background to the Proposal

The Council keeps its school provision under regular review to ensure that it meets its statutory duties to learners, delivers value for money, and remains sustainable over the longer term. This review process considers educational standards, the condition and suitability of school buildings, levels of surplus capacity, demographic trends, and opportunities to access external investment.

In the Catholic provision, this review has identified a combination of significant surplus places, ageing school buildings, and limitations in the suitability of existing accommodation. These factors have prompted the Council to consider whether changes to current arrangements may be necessary.

The proposal described in this document represents one of the options identified through the review process. The Council is seeking views on whether this option represents the most appropriate way forward in addressing the issues identified.

To deliver this reorganisation the Council proposes to:

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2027.
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint.
- Amalgamation would see:
 - the individual schools close by 31 August 2027
 - a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, open 01 September 2027
 - the new school operating over the three current sites until such time a new school building is constructed (anticipated 01 September 2030).

B.3. How did we get here?

With pupil numbers in decline and aging school buildings requiring significant investment, the Diocese decided to review its schools in Flintshire with the aim of making the overall Catholic provision more robust and sustainable.

During November 2023, the Diocese began discussions with the headteachers and the chair of governors from each of the six Catholic schools in Flintshire. Due to the sensitive nature of the discussions and to ensure all schools remain stable, meetings were conducted in the strictest of confidence until a potential way forward had been agreed.

There were many meetings over many months where all options were considered. The advantages and disadvantages of each option were identified to determine how the future of Catholic education in Flintshire could look. When an option was identified as the best way forward, the Diocese sought help from the Council to deliver the statutory process.

In June 2025 a consultation was launched to obtain the views of stakeholders on the proposal. Many people and various organisations engaged with the process and provided feedback on several areas detailed in the consultation document.

Following the consultation, the Council's Cabinet decided to continue the process and a Statutory Notice was issued in November 2025, this was followed by a 28-day objection period.

However, prior to the final determination the first statutory process was paused due to a late legal challenge. Exercising due diligence, the Council sought legal advice and it was necessary to take sufficient time to consider the advice received. The Council sought legal advice in response, and the time required to properly consider that advice meant that the statutory timescales set out in the second edition of the Code could no longer be met. As the Code requires strict adherence to these timescales, this resulted in the original proposal 'lapsing' and being undetermined.

Following evaluation, the Council remains of the view that the original proposals should be brought forward for determination by Cabinet. Completing the statutory process will provide clarity for the future of the Catholic education provision in Flintshire.

Since the original process was paused, a third edition of the Code been published. This consultation will be completed in accordance with the new, third edition of the Code and provides stakeholders have an up-to-date and fair opportunity to comment.

Those who responded to the original consultation will have to respond again as this is a new statutory consultation under a new iteration of the Code.

It should be noted that although the proposal is being consulted on for a second time, the outcome is not pre-determined. Each stage of the statutory process must be formally considered and decided by the Council's Cabinet. At every stage, Cabinet will receive the relevant information, including the feedback and evidence gathered during that part of the process.

Because consultation responses and objections cannot be predicted in advance, Cabinet is only able to make decisions once all information from each stage is available. This ensures that decisions are based on the full evidence, in line with the requirements of the new Code, and that the process remains fair, transparent and not pre-determined.

B.4. Consultation with Trustees

As part of this process, which involves land and/or buildings held on trust or which have a designated religious character, the Code requires trustees and/or the appropriate religious body to be consulted before the consultation document is published.

As detailed above, Trustees and the Diocese have been involved throughout the development of the proposal and the first statutory process. Prior to the publication of this consultation document, trustees and the Diocese were once again formally consulted on the proposal. This consultation gave the Diocese participants' at least 28 days to consider the original proposal, the outcomes of the first statutory consultation and an opportunity to support or reject the proposal, or to propose an alternative.

During the course of the consultation with Trustees and the Diocese, no new options emerged, and the proposal retains their full support.

PART C. EXISTING PROVISION

C.1. Overview

Within Flintshire there are six schools that are categorised as English-medium Catholic faith voluntary aided schools:

- St Anthony's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Saltney.
- St David's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Mold.
- St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Flint.
- St Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Holywell.
- Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Shotton.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School, Flint.

For the purposes of this document, the schools will be referred to by their shortened unique name. For example, St Anthony's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Saltney, will be referred to as St Anthony's.

The schools of St Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn are subjects of the proposal and would be directly affected should it be implemented.

The Code also states that impacts on schools likely to be affected by a proposal should also be considered. However, there is no criteria set out in the Code to determine a school that will "*likely be affected*" by a proposal.

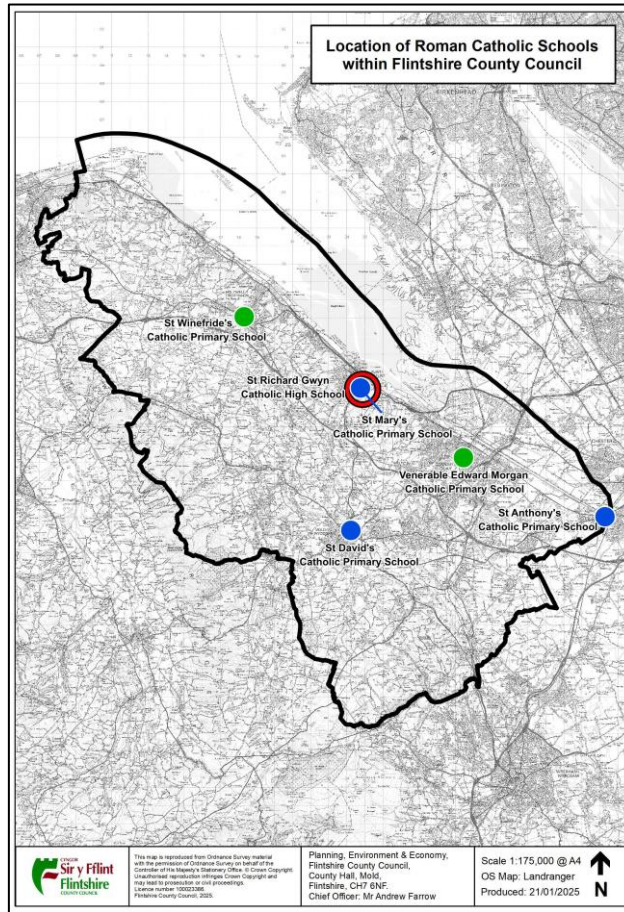
Although not a subject of the proposal, Venerable Edward Morgan is likely to receive pupils from schools involved. St Winefride's is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposal. Similarly, St Clare's Catholic Primary School in Lache, Chester (CH4 8HX) and The Catholic High School, Handbridge (CH4 7HS) are also unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposal.

C.2. Locations

Saltney is a town and part of the Saltney Ferry electoral ward of Flintshire, situated to the east of the village of Broughton and on the Wales-England border with the City of Chester. The resident population of the Saltney Ferry ward was estimated as 5,199 in 2024.

Mold is a town consisting of four electoral wards of Flintshire, situated centrally within the county. The resident population of the four Mold wards was estimated as 10,280 in 2024.

Flint is a coastal town consisting of three electoral wards of Flintshire, situated in the north of the county. The resident population of the three Flint wards was estimated as 14,110 in 2024.



The walking distances between the six Catholic schools in Flintshire are shown below.

	St. Anth.'s	St. David's	St. Mary's	St.R.Gwyn	St. Win.'s	V.E.M
St.Anth.'s		9.42	10.36	10.32	15.30	6.11
St. David's	9.42		5.64	5.90	9.02	5.56
St. Mary's	10.36	5.64		0.15	5.48	4.94
St.R.Gwyn	10.32	5.90	0.15		5.60	4.91
St.Win.'s	15.30	9.02	5.48	5.60		9.88
V.E.M	6.11	5.56	4.94	4.91	9.88	

C.3. St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School, Saltney

Location of the School		High Street, Saltney (CH4 8SG)	
Age Range		3-11	
Language Medium Category		English Medium	
School Category		Voluntary Aided	
Faith		Catholic	
		Reception–Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	47	4
	September 2024	68	6
	September 2023	69	4
	September 2022	77	2
	September 2021	76	5
	September 2020	99	8
Capacity		152	19
Surplus Places		105	
Admission Number		21	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	44	5
	September 2027	43	5
	September 2028	38	5
	September 2029	34	5
	September 2030	35	5
	Building Condition Category	Survey Dated September 2023 Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration	
Building Suitability	Survey Dated November 2016 Suitability Grade C - Poor Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation		
Backlog Maintenance	£20,830.58 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)		
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £375,865 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £293,868 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £7,671 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360		
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating E (10 year review imminent) Electricity Consumption 25,413 kWh Gas Consumption 72,073 kWh Total Energy Consumption 97,486 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 22,252.8 kgCO ₂ e		
Baptism Numbers	13 of 65 pupils (20%), recorded as Baptised Catholic		

C.4. St David's Catholic VA Primary School, Mold

Location of the School		St David's Lane, Mold (CH7 1LH)	
Age Range		3-11	
Language Medium Category		English Medium	
School Category		Voluntary Aided	
Faith		Catholic	
		Reception–Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	60	4
	September 2024	71	8
	September 2023	68	7
	September 2022	77	5
	September 2021	74	10
	September 2020	80	11
Capacity		144	14
Surplus Places		84	
Admission Number		20	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	51	7
	September 2027	48	6
	September 2028	43	6
	September 2029	42	7
	September 2030	45	7
	Building Condition Category	Survey Dated July 2024 Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration	
Building Suitability	Survey Dated November 2016 Suitability Grade C - Poor Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation		
Backlog Maintenance	£178,507.05 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)		
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £448,408 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £356,006 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £7,232 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360		
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating C Electricity Consumption 26,979 kWh Gas Consumption 108,646 kWh Total Energy Consumption 135,625 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 30,471.7 kgCO ₂ e		
Baptism Numbers	36 of 70 pupils (51.4%), recorded as Baptised Catholic		

C.5. St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School, Flint

Location of the School		Ffordd Llewelyn, Flint (CH6 5JZ)	
Age Range		3-11	
Language Medium Category		English Medium	
School Category		Voluntary Aided	
Faith		Catholic	
		Reception–Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	251	30
	September 2024	232	29
	September 2023	224	28
	September 2022	218	25
	September 2021	208	26
	September 2020	211	27
Capacity		317	29
Surplus Places		66	
Admission Number		45	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	248	32
	September 2027	239	31
	September 2028	226	31
	September 2029	224	32
	September 2030	221	32
	Building Condition Category	Survey Dated April 2024 Condition Grade C – Poor Exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended	
Building Suitability	Survey Dated January 2017 Suitability Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but does not support the Curriculum in some areas		
Backlog Maintenance	£401,701.91 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)		
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £1,291,515 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £1,092,907 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £4,855 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360		
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating D Electricity Consumption 55,345 kWh Gas Consumption 226,854 kWh Total Energy Consumption 199,458 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 63,299.6 kgCO ₂ e		
Baptism Numbers	133 of 225 pupils (59.1%), recorded as Baptised Catholic		

C.6. St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School, Flint

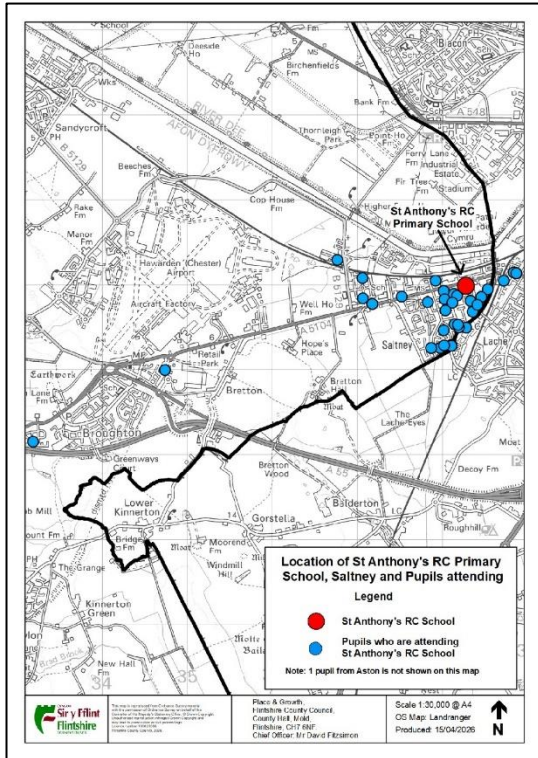
Location of the School		Albert Ave, Flint (CH6 5JZ)
Age Range		11-18
Language Medium Category		English Medium
School Category		Voluntary Aided
Faith		Catholic
		Year 7-Year 13
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	739
	September 2024	794
	September 2023	772
	September 2022	805
	September 2021	808
	September 2020	784
Capacity		969
Surplus Places		230
Admission Number		166
Pupil Projections	September 2026	683
	September 2027	666
	September 2028	614
	September 2029	562
	September 2030	544
	Sixth Form Arrangements	In 2013 St Richard Gwyn and Flint High School amalgamated their sixth form provision to maintain its viability
Building Condition Category	Survey Dated November 2024 Condition Grade C – Poor Exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended	
Building Suitability	Suitability Grade C - Poor Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation	
Backlog Maintenance	£853,422.08 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)	
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £4,518,309 incl. Post-16 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £3,883,643 incl. all Post-16 funding School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £6,114 incl. Post-16 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £6,241 incl. Post-16	
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating C Electricity Consumption 243,507 kWh Gas Consumption 626,000 kWh Total Energy Consumption 199,458 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 315,482.30 kgCO ₂ e	
Baptism Numbers	370 of 772 pupils (47.9%), recorded as Baptised Catholic	

C.7. Demographical Information

C.7.i. St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School, Saltney

Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that St Anthony's school is broadly serving the Saltney area, approximately 95.35% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided primary school.

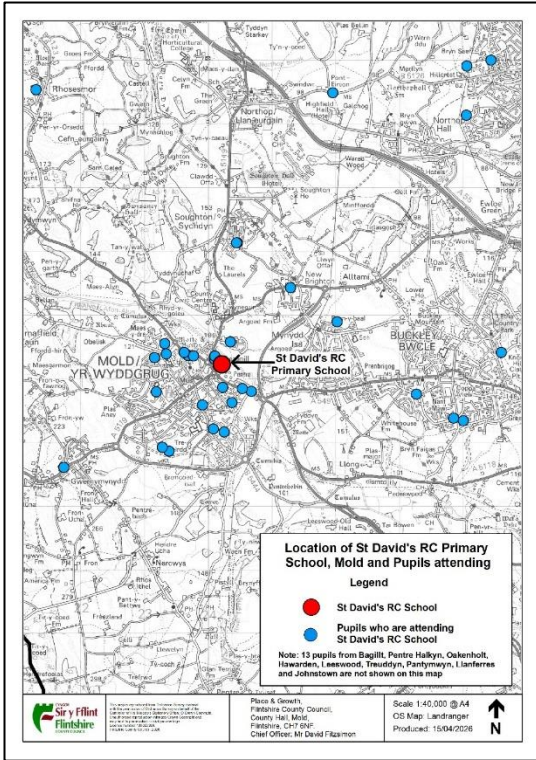
Map of Locations of Pupils Attending St Anthony's:



C.7.ii. St David's Catholic VA Primary School, Mold

Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that St David's school is broadly serving the Mold area, approximately 80.00% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided primary school.

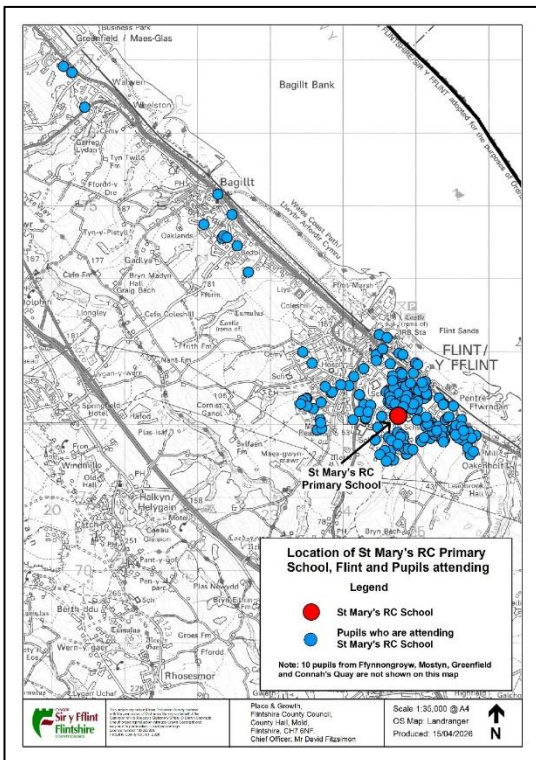
Map of Locations of Pupils Attending St David's:



C.7.iii. St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School, Flint

Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that St Mary's school is broadly serving the Flint area, approximately 94.24% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided primary school.

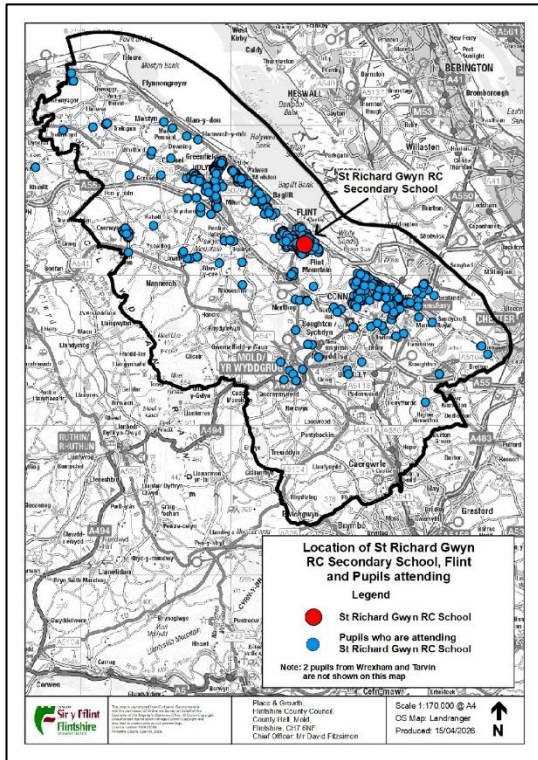
Map of Locations of Pupils Attending St Mary's:



C.7.iv. St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School, Flint

Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that St Richard Gwyn school attracts pupils from across the county. Although all pupils attending the school are attending their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided high school, this will always be the case with the school being the only school of this type in Flintshire.

Map of Locations of Pupils Attending St Richard Gwyn:



C.7.v. Area Evaluations

The Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council in 2023 and covers the period 2015 to 2030. The plan sets out how towns and villages in Flintshire will grow and change, including where development should and shouldn't happen.

The LDP may impact pupil numbers and could influence Council's duty to provide the appropriate number of school places in the right locations, whilst reducing running costs and ensuring sustainability.

In the Saltney Ferry ward, there are four schools:

- Saltney Ferry Community Primary School.
- Wood Memorial Community Primary School.
- St Anthony's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.
- St David's High School.

The nearest Catholic primary and secondary schools to St Anthony's, by walking distance, are:

- Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Shotton (6.11 miles).
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School, Flint (10.32 miles).

This makes St Anthony's the only Catholic primary school directly serving the Saltney Ferry ward.

There are no sites for development in the Saltney area identified in the current LDP. Without additional pupils moving to the area, the high number of surplus places at St Anthony's indicate insufficient demand for the school. Therefore, closing St Anthony's would remove the surplus places in the area.

In the Mold East ward, there are two schools:

- St David's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.
- Ysgol Bryn Coch.

Within the other three Mold ward there are four schools:

- Ysgol Bryn Gwalia.
- Ysgol Glanrafon.
- Alun High School.
- Ysgol Maes Garmon.

The nearest Catholic primary and secondary schools to St David's, by walking distance, are:

- Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Shotton (5.56 miles).
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School, Flint (5.90 miles).

This makes St David's the only Catholic primary school directly serving the Mold East ward and the wider Mold area.

There are sites in the Mold area that were allocated for development in the LDP but have yet to be completed. These sites could attract more pupils to the area when completed, however given the number of schools in the area, and the application of parental preference for school admissions, it cannot be determined where any additional pupils would attend school.

Without any or very low additional pupils attending the school, the high number of surplus places at St David's indicate insufficient demand for the school. Therefore, closing St David's would remove the surplus places in the area.

In the Flint Coleshill and Trelawny ward, there are five schools:

- Cornist Park Community Primary School.
- St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.
- Ysgol Gwynedd.
- Flint High School.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School.

Within the other two Flint wards there is one school:

- Ysgol Gymraeg Croes Atti.

The nearest Catholic primary and secondary schools to St Mary's, by walking distance, are:

- Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Shotton (4.94 miles).
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School, Flint (0.15 miles).

This makes St Mary's the only Catholic primary school directly serving the Flint Coleshill and Trelawny ward and the wider Flint area.

St Richard Gwyn is the only Catholic high school in Flintshire and therefore serves the whole county.

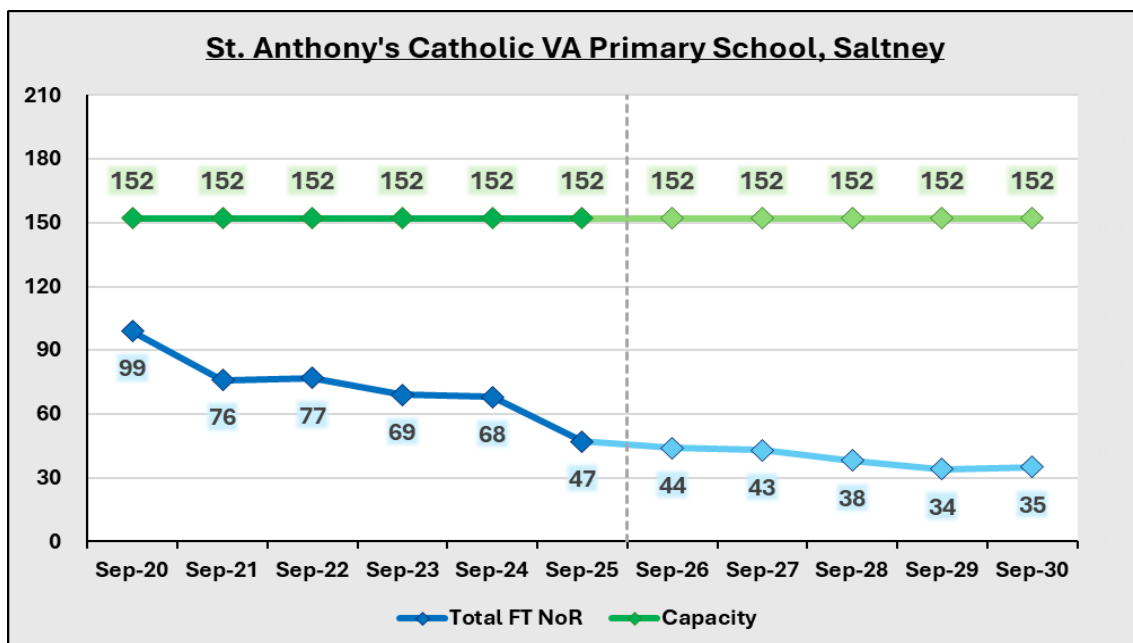
There are sites in the Flint area that were allocated for development in the LDP but have yet to be completed. These sites could attract more pupils to the area when completed, however given the number of schools in the area, and the application of parental preference for school admissions, it cannot be determined where any additional pupils would attend school.

Without any or very low additional pupils attending the school from housing developments, the number of surplus places at St Mary's will still be high but significantly lower when compared to St Anthony's and St David's respectfully.

C.8. Pupil Forecasts

C.8.i. St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School, Saltney

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30	
Nursery	8	5	2	4	6	4	5	5	5	5	5	1
Reception	12	9	6	4	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	0
Year 1	15	10	10	7	6	6	5	4	5	5	5	-1
Year 2	17	9	9	9	10	4	6	5	4	5	5	1
Year 3	12	15	11	9	12	9	4	6	5	4	5	-4
Year 4	16	11	14	13	9	10	9	4	6	5	4	-6
Year 5	12	14	11	14	10	6	10	9	4	6	5	-1
Year 6	15	8	16	13	15	7	6	10	9	4	6	-1
Total	99	76	77	69	68	47	44	43	38	34	35	-12
Capacity	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	0
Surplus Places	53	76	75	83	84	105	108	109	114	118	117	12
Surplus Places %	34.87%	50.00%	49.34%	54.61%	55.26%	69.08%	71.05%	71.71%	75.00%	77.63%	76.97%	7.89%
Admission Number	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	0
Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number							0	0	0	0	0	
Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded							0	0	0	0	0	



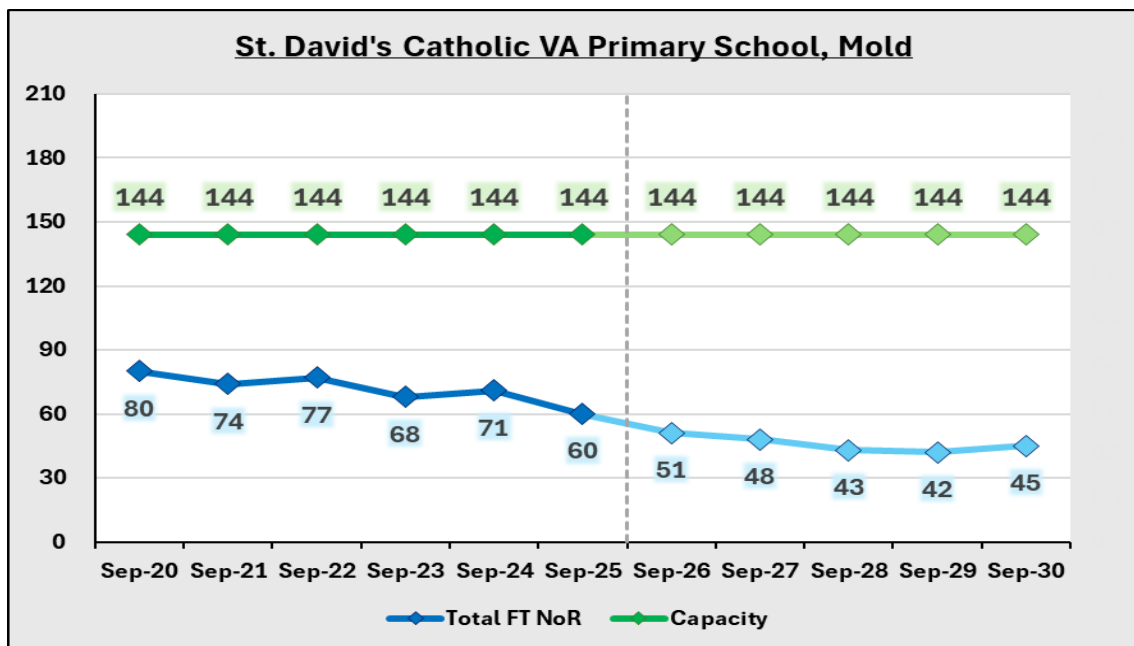
The Council's Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a reception place at St Anthony's was 2. This is below the forecasted number of 4.

In terms of nursery places, 3 have been allocated which is also below the forecasted number (5).

These figures indicate a low demand for places at the school.

C.8.ii. St David's Catholic VA Primary School, Mold

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend	
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30		
Nursery	11	10	5	7	8	4	7	6	6	7	7	3	
Reception	12	11	11	4	8	7	4	7	6	6	7	0	
Year 1	7	11	12	10	4	8	7	4	7	6	6	-2	
Year 2	12	7	12	13	11	4	8	7	4	7	6	2	
Year 3	8	13	10	13	13	7	4	8	7	4	7	0	
Year 4	13	7	12	10	12	11	7	4	8	7	4	-7	
Year 5	14	11	9	10	12	10	11	7	4	8	7	-3	
Year 6	14	14	11	8	11	13	10	11	7	4	8	-5	
Total	80	74	77	68	71	60	51	48	43	42	45	-15	
Capacity	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	0	
Surplus Places	64	70	67	76	73	84	93	96	101	102	99	15	
Surplus Places %	44.44%	48.61%	46.53%	52.78%	50.69%	58.33%	64.58%	66.67%	70.14%	70.83%	68.75%	10.42%	
Admission Number	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	0	
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number						0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded						0	0	0	0	0	0	

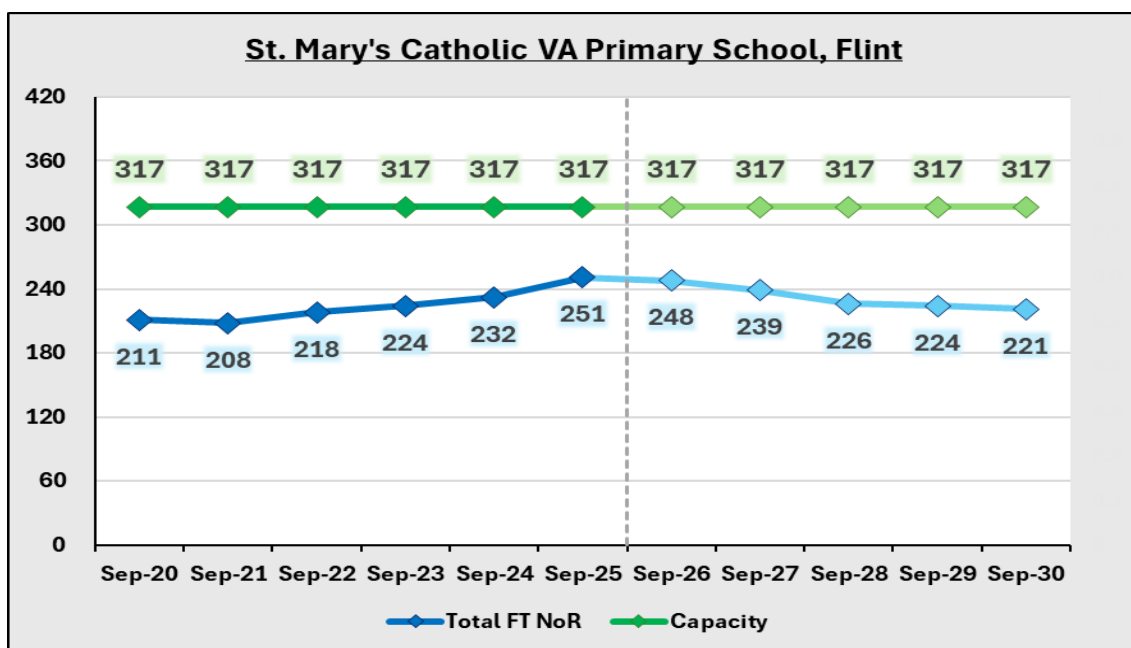


The Council's Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a reception place at St David's was 4. This is the same as what was forecasted.

In terms of nursery places, 4 have been allocated which is below the forecasted number (7). These figures indicate a low demand for places at the school.

C.8.iii. St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School, Flint

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24		Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	
Nursery	27	26	25	28	29	30	32	31	31	32	32	2
Reception	23	29	29	28	33	30	30	32	31	31	32	2
Year 1	19	26	36	30	33	35	30	30	32	31	31	-4
Year 2	28	23	29	40	31	35	35	30	30	32	31	-4
Year 3	30	28	27	32	41	33	35	35	30	30	32	-1
Year 4	30	32	26	30	33	44	33	35	35	30	30	-14
Year 5	35	33	36	28	32	41	44	33	35	35	30	-11
Year 6	46	37	35	36	29	33	41	44	33	35	35	2
Total	211	208	218	224	232	251	248	239	226	224	221	-30
Capacity	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	0
Surplus Places	106	109	99	93	85	66	69	78	91	93	96	30
Surplus Places %	33.44%	34.38%	31.23%	29.34%	26.81%	20.82%	21.77%	24.61%	28.71%	29.34%	30.28%	9.46%
Admission Number	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	0
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number						0	0	0	0	0	0
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded						0	0	0	0	0	0



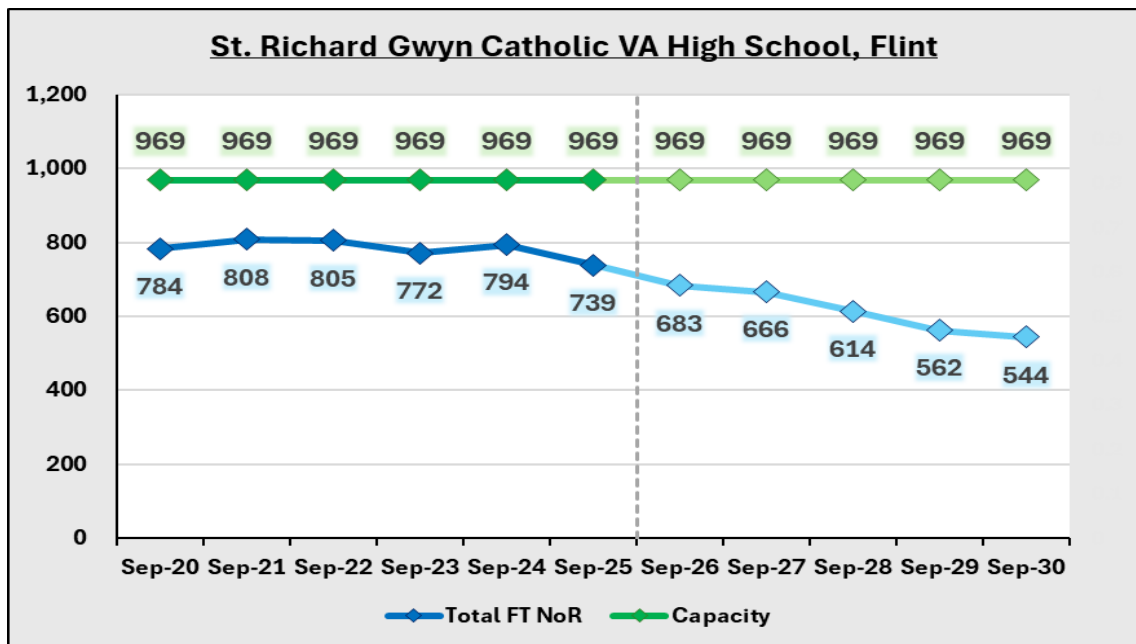
The Council's Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a reception place at St Mary's was 35. This is above the forecasted number of 30.

In terms of nursery places, 20 have been allocated which is also below the forecasted number (32).

These figures indicate a stable demand for places at the school.

C.8.iv. St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School, Flint

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30	
Year 7	121	151	123	129	136	108	108	118	84	82	97	-11
Year 8	167	124	149	128	134	135	108	108	118	84	82	-53
Year 9	149	167	131	155	127	132	135	108	108	118	84	-48
Year 10	106	149	160	136	165	130	132	135	108	108	118	-12
Year 11	143	102	152	161	137	159	130	132	135	108	108	-51
Year 12	51	70	31	40	59	40	46	38	39	39	32	-8
Year 13	47	45	59	23	36	35	24	28	23	23	23	-12
Total	784	808	805	772	794	739	683	666	614	562	544	-195
Capacity	969	969	969	969	969	969	969	969	969	969	969	0
Surplus Places	185	161	164	197	175	230	286	303	355	407	425	195
Surplus Places %	19.09%	16.62%	16.92%	20.33%	18.06%	23.74%	29.50%	31.22%	36.63%	41.97%	43.87%	20.13%
Admission Number	166	166	166	166	166	166	166	166	166	166	166	0
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number						0	0	0	0	0	
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded						0	0	0	0	0	



The Council's Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a Year 7 place at St Richard Gwyn was 135. This is above the forecasted number of 108.

These figures indicate a stable demand for places at the school.

C.9. Quality of Education Provision

The proposal will at least maintain the current quality and standards in education across the Catholic provision.

Quality and standards in schools in Flintshire are monitored by Estyn and the Council. Estyn is the Office of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the Senedd but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects the quality and standards of education and training providers in Wales.

Information from the most recent published Estyn inspection reports for the schools likely to be affected by this proposal has been considered as part of the review process. St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St David's Catholic Primary School and St Mary's Catholic Primary School are all currently recognised by Estyn as good schools, reflecting the commitment of staff and leadership to providing effective teaching, learning and pupil support. It is recognised, however, that the most recent Estyn inspections for St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and St David's Catholic Primary School took place in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School was most recently visited by Estyn in 2024 and was placed in an improvement category at that time. Following a subsequent monitoring visit in 2026, Estyn judged that the school had made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations identified in 2024.

The proposal outlined in this document does not arise from concerns about the quality of education currently being delivered within individual schools. Rather, it forms part of a wider strategic review of Catholic education provision, informed by inspection evidence over time, demographic trends, sustainability considerations, leadership capacity and the need to ensure consistently high standards and equitable access to resources and support across all schools.

The Council will continue to work closely with school leaders, governing bodies, diocesan partners and Estyn to support ongoing improvement and to ensure that educational standards are maintained and strengthened as part of any future arrangements.

C.9.i. St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School, Saltney

St Anthony's was last inspected by Estyn in January 2019, and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Inspection%20report%20St%20Anthony%27s%20R.C.%20Primary%20School%202019.pdf>

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1. Improve standards in Welsh as a second language across the school
- R2. Improve attendance overall
- R3. Provide more opportunities for pupils in key stage 2 to take responsibility for their own learning in order to develop as independent learners
- R4. Provide more opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) skills across different areas of learning

C.9.ii. St David’s Catholic VA Primary School, Mold

St David’s was last inspected by Estyn in March 2020, and can be accessed via the link below:

https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-01/St%20David%20s%20Catholic%20Primary%20School_1.pdf

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1. Challenge all pupils in key stage 2 to improve and to guide their own learning in order to achieve to the best of their ability
- R2. Sharpen monitoring procedures so that they focus more clearly on pupil outcomes
- R3. Ensure that all processes relating to the provision for pupils with special educational needs are robust and give a clear overview of pupils’ progress
- R4. Improve the quality of pupils’ extended writing in key stage 2

C.9.iii. St Mary’s Catholic VA Primary School, Flint

St Mary’s was last inspected by Estyn in November 2025, and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2026/01/Inspection-report-St-Marys-R.C.-Primary-School-2026-2.pdf>

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1. Increase the opportunities for older pupils to make choices about how to present their learning
- R2. Improve opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum
- R3. Improve rates of persistent absence

C.9.iv. St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School, Flint

St Richard Gwyn was last inspected by Estyn in April 2024, and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2024/07/Inspection-report-St-Richard-Gwyn-Roman-Catholic-High-School-2024-1.pdf>

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1 Improve the quality of teaching to improve engagement and pupils’ progress in learning to address the shortcomings identified in the report
- R2 Ensure that self-evaluation and improvement processes focus more precisely on improving teaching and its impact on pupils’ progress
- R3 Develop a strategic approach to planning, evaluating and improving the progressive development of pupils’ skills for all pupils
- R4 Ensure that all pupils have full access to provision to develop their Welsh language skills

In addition to the recommendations the report stated that “In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school’s progress about 12 months after the publication of this report.”.

Estyn returned for a follow-up inspection in February 2026 and the school was “judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection.

As a result, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the school from the list of schools requiring significant improvement.”

The follow-up report can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2026/03/Monitoring-report-St-Richard-Gwyn-Roman-Catholic-High-School-2026.pdf>

C.9.v. Inspection Framework

The current Estyn Inspection Framework evaluates school performance and progress across the following three inspection areas:

- IA1 – Teaching and Learning
- IA2 – Wellbeing, Care, Support and Guidance
- IA3 – Leading and Improving

While the inspection framework is structured around these three areas, they collectively encompass the range of factors that contribute to educational standards, learner progress and outcomes, as required by the School Organisation Code for Wales. In particular, standards are reflected through the quality of teaching and learning, the impact of assessment and tracking on pupil progress, and the extent to which wellbeing, care and leadership arrangements support learners to achieve positively.

The following section therefore considers the likely impact of the proposals on educational standards, with reference to the relevant Estyn inspection areas where appropriate.

C.9.vi. Teaching and Learning

The proposals would support improvement in teaching and learning through the development of a broad, balanced and progressive curriculum, ensuring continuity in learning and clear progression pathways. Increased collaboration between staff would support improved curriculum planning and delivery, including greater opportunities for pupils to apply key skills such as reading, extended writing, numeracy, Welsh and digital competence across a wide range of learning contexts.

Greater consistency in teaching approaches and expectations would be achieved through increased professional collaboration and shared planning. Improved systems for tracking pupil progress would enable earlier identification of underachievement and more timely intervention, supporting improving outcomes for learners. The proposals would also strengthen transition arrangements between phases, reducing disruption to learning and supporting continuity for pupils as they progress through their education.

C.9.vii. Impact on Learner Groups, Including Pupils with Additional Learning Needs

The proposals would support a more coordinated and consistent approach to provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), ensuring continuity of support as learners move between phases. Improved tracking and monitoring arrangements would support earlier identification of need and enable targeted intervention where appropriate. Any arrangements for pupils with ALN would continue to be guided by statutory duties under the ALN Code for Wales, with existing Individual Development Plans maintained through periods of transition.

Equitable, high-quality provision would be supported for pupils eligible for free school meals, with targeted use of interventions to address underachievement and support engagement and attendance. The proposals would also support increased challenge and progression

opportunities for more able pupils, alongside consistent approaches to differentiation and support. By promoting more relevant and appropriately challenging learning experiences, the proposals aim to increase pupil engagement and remove barriers to learning, enabling all pupils to develop independence and apply skills effectively.

C.9.viii. Wellbeing, Care, Support and Guidance

The proposals are expected to strengthen wellbeing, care, support and guidance through improved tracking, monitoring and pastoral arrangements. Enhanced systems would support early identification of pupils requiring additional support, including those with ALN, and ensure that interventions are coordinated and effective.

Stronger and more consistent pastoral systems would support pupils' wellbeing, engagement and attendance. A shared approach to safeguarding, behaviour and personal development would be rooted in common values and expectations, supporting positive relationships and a safe and inclusive learning environment.

For pupils with ALN and other identified groups, the proposals would improve the quality, consistency and continuity of support. Targeted interventions would support attendance, wellbeing and engagement, while opportunities to develop personal, social and emotional skills would be strengthened within a supportive and inclusive setting.

C.9.ix. Leadership and School Improvement

The proposals are expected to strengthen leadership and the capacity for continuous improvement. A more cohesive leadership structure would support effective strategic planning focused on improving teaching, learning and wellbeing.

Robust and consistently applied processes for self-evaluation and improvement planning would support a clear focus on raising standards. Shared professional learning would contribute to the development of a highly skilled workforce, while effective deployment of resources - including staff expertise and specialist facilities - would support improved outcomes for learners.

Governance arrangements would support effective scrutiny and accountability, ensuring that improvement priorities are identified, monitored and addressed. Leadership of ALN provision would be strengthened through a more coordinated approach, alongside improved staff expertise in meeting a diverse range of learning needs. The strategic use and evaluation of grants, including the Pupil Development Grant, would support targeted interventions and challenge for identified learner groups.

C.9.x. Delivery of the Curriculum

The proposals are expected to improve the ability of the schools involved to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and across all phases of education. By bringing together resources, staff expertise and facilities, the proposals would support improved curriculum delivery and progression.

The new school would provide access to specialist teaching facilities, particularly for older pupils, and enhanced opportunities for targeted and small-group learning, including for pupils with ALN. Greater collaboration between staff across phases would support consistent planning and progression, while improved access to outdoor learning would further support pupils' independence and development from an early age.

PART D. THE PROPOSAL

D.1. Status Quo

The information presented above regarding the current position and the individual schools provides a comprehensive description of the status quo. Maintaining the status does and allowing the schools to continue without intervention does have its benefits.

Firstly, and most importantly, there would be no disruption to the pupils at the four schools. Children would not have to move to a different site, would not have to undertake potentially longer journeys to get to/from school, would not have to worry about making new friends and would not leave their comfortable surroundings.

Furthermore, retaining all schools in their respective communities would ensure that the local area has facilities it can use for various activities including adult learning classes, sports and amateur dramatics for example. The schools will remain places where people from the same area will meet and discuss local issues which aids social cohesion.

Maintaining the status quo requires no financial investment from the Council. This in turn also means that the Council would not have to borrow 15% of the project costs and not incur interest on any repayments that would have been amassed over a 50-year period.

However, there are drawbacks to not intervening as proposed. Whilst current learning environments may be adequate, they will only continue to deteriorate over time, and at an ever-increasing rate. Estyn have noted that the quality of buildings can have a profound effect on both pupils and staff alike. As buildings decline this may negatively affect general performance and morale of all.

Doing nothing would also mean that four energy inefficient buildings are retained in the school network. This would not contribute to the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy, would not reduce dependency on traditional energy sources and would not reduce energy bills.

High surplus places in schools and across the school estate result in an inefficient use of resources. Schools with low pupil numbers have a more than average costs per pupil than schools with a healthy level of surplus places. Not taking this opportunity to reduce surplus places will not allow the Council to redistribute its education budget more efficiently across schools.

Another negative consequence of allowing the schools to continue as they are would be the loss of the financial investment. The primary funding source of the proposal is for transformative, ambitious projects and cannot be used for addressing maintenance issues. If the proposal is not implemented, these schools would not benefit from enhanced facilities and would be competing with every other school to have their backlog maintenance issues addressed when budgets are getting smaller and tighter.

D.2. What is being proposed?

It is proposed to:

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2027.
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint.
- Amalgamation would see:
 - the individual schools close by 31 August 2027,

- a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, open 01 September 2027,
- the new school operating over the three current sites until such time a new school building is constructed (anticipated 01 September 2030).

D.3. What will the proposal provide?

The proposal will be facilitated by a capital build project, which will be delivered through the Council's Capital Development Programme. This project will construct a new English-medium 3-18 Catholic voluntary aided school.

The new school will be located on the current site shared by St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn, off Albert Ave, Flint CH6 5JZ, with an overall capacity 1185 full-time pupils.

Capacity will be divided between 315 full-time primary pupil places, 870 secondary pupil places. In addition, there will be nursery accommodation for 45 part-time pupils.

For the purposes of school admissions, there will be a published admission number of 45 for entry of full-time pupils into the reception year group, as well as an admission number of 150 for entry of full-time pupils into Year 7.

The governing body will be responsible for determining and administrating the policy relating to admission of pupils to the school.

Accommodation will be constructed in-line with the applicable Area Guidance / Building Bulletins requirements and will comply with the Education (school Premises) Regulations 1999.

The proposed new school would provide modern, purpose-built facilities designed to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales and to meet the needs of all learners.

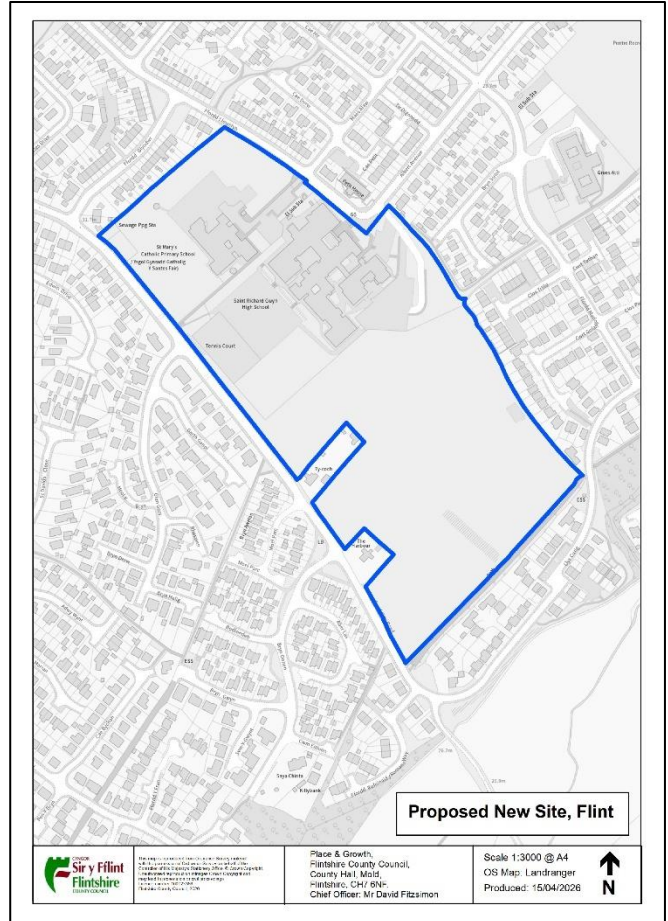
The primary element of the news school will have general teaching classrooms that will provide pupils and staff with a safe and comfortable space within which to learn and grow. In addition, there may be dedicated areas for food, science and information technology, as well as larger spaces such as halls and studios.

Provision would be made for learners with Additional Learning Needs through appropriately designed spaces to support small group work, targeted intervention and pastoral support. The building would also include areas to support pupil wellbeing, ensuring that appropriate facilities are available to meet a range of social, emotional and learning needs.

Outdoor spaces will have a combination of dedicated hard and soft play areas, along with habitat places and provision for sports and other specific activities.

Just like the primary element, secondary provision will have general classrooms but may also have dedicated classrooms for design and technology, art, music, drama, science and information technology.

External areas will include sports pitches, games courts and social spaces.



Both elements will have their own staff and administration accommodation that have workspaces and meeting rooms to support teaching, planning and professional collaboration.

In addition, there will be kitchen facilities to cater for pupils, storage areas, appropriate welfare facilities and adequate space for vehicles to enable ‘drop-off’ and ‘pick-up’ of pupils.

There may be scope to include standalone and/or integrated facilities for early years’ childcare and for community use.

The final design will have many of the components and will be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders to deliver buildings meeting net zero carbon in operation standards, a safe and accessible site, and a learning environment that promotes well-being for all.

D.4. When will the proposal be effective?

Subject to consultation outcomes and statutory approval, by 31 August 2027 all four schools directly affected by the proposal would close at the end of the 2026/27 academic year. St Anthony’s would cease to operate, whereas St David’s, St Mary’s and St Richard Gwyn would amalgamate and form the new 3-18 school from 01 September 2027. The new school would open under a single leadership and governance structure.

During the interim period, the amalgamated school would operate across the existing three sites. Detailed operational arrangements, including the allocation of year groups to sites, staffing deployment and day-to-day organisation, would be developed by the temporary governing body and headteacher. These arrangements would be designed to minimise disruption and to avoid splitting siblings across sites wherever practicable.

Construction of the proposed new school building would commence subject to the necessary approvals, with an anticipated opening in summer/autumn 2030.

The anticipated timeline for implementation of the proposal, should it be approved, is as follows:

Date	Milestone
31 August 2027	St Anthony’s closes
31 August 2027	St David’s, St Mary’s and St Richard Gwyn close
01 September 2027	St David’s, St Mary’s and St Richard Gwyn amalgamated to establish a new English-medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school
To be determined (anticipated September 2030)	New 3-18 Catholic VA School building opens and all pupils transferred to the Flint site.

D.5. Cost of the Proposal

Should the proposal be approved, significant capital investment will be necessary. The initial feasibility study undertaken in 2024 estimated the cost of constructing a new 3–18 all-through school at approximately £55 million. It should be noted that this cost is a guide and subject to change during the design stage. Since the feasibility work was completed, construction sector inflation has continued to rise which was anticipated, and updated cost modelling will be required to reflect current market conditions. It is anticipated that the scheme would be funded through a combination of Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding and Flintshire County Council capital funding, supported by Prudential Borrowing. Based on current estimates, Welsh Government funding is expected to contribute approximately £46,750,000 (85% - which is the most-favourable intervention rate available),

with the remaining £8,250,000 (15%) funded by the Council. Final funding arrangements would be confirmed through the Welsh Government approval process and the Council’s capital governance procedures.

The estimated capital cost is based on current feasibility information available at this stage of the project and will be refined as the scheme progresses through detailed design development. Appropriate allowance will be made for inflationary pressures and market conditions in line with the Council’s capital planning and procurement processes.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme supports projects that improve the quality and condition of school buildings, address surplus capacity, ensure sufficient places to meet demand, promote sustainability, and deliver long-term value for money.

The funding cycle requires the submission of several business cases which aim to ensure the project remains viable as it progresses. A final business case, which includes definitive costs, will be submitted to both Welsh Government and the Council’s Cabinet for consideration. Approval from both bodies will be required to move to the construction phase.

As with previous Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme schemes, as the project develops, other grant funding opportunities may present themselves to support with the cost of the scheme.

The Council’s capital contribution to the scheme would be funded through Prudential Borrowing, in accordance with the Council’s statutory powers and the CIPFA Prudential Code.

The estimated revenue borrowing costs associated with the scheme, over a 50-year period (interest and minimum revenue provision) are as follows and are built into the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (based on interest rate forecasts when setting the Capital Programme in December 2025):

Project	Year 1 (£M)	Year 50 (£M)	Average over 50 years (£M)
Catholic Education Proposal	0.572	0.732	0.639

These costs have been assessed alongside the Council’s wider capital commitments and are considered affordable within the existing MTFS framework.

D.5.i. Any Potential Savings?

One of the drivers for the proposal is equality of funding for pupils and through the closing of four schools and opening of a new 3-18 school the cost per pupil for the Catholic education provision will be rationalised.

School revenue funding is allocated through the Council’s local school funding formula, which is largely driven by pupil numbers alongside a range of recognised operational and non-teaching costs. Individual school budgets therefore vary depending on roll size and school characteristics.

Based on September 2025 numbers on roll and the funding levels applicable at that time:

School	Full-Time Equivalent Pupils	Total Budget Allocation (£, approximately)	Per-Pupil Funding (£, approximately)
St Anthony's	49	£375,865	£7,671
St David's	62	£448,408	£7,232
St Mary's	266	£1,291,515	£4,855
St Richard Gwyn*	739	£4,518,309	£6,114

*All numbers include post-16

Operating four separate schools, two of which have significantly high surplus places, results in higher per-pupil costs and does not make the most efficient use of available resources.

Indicative revenue modelling has been undertaken based on the 2026/27 School Funding Formula to understand the potential financial implications of a single new school. This modelling is provided for consultation purposes only and is based on a number of assumptions, including that no savings released through reorganisation would be removed from the Council's overall school's budget, allowing fairer distribution across the whole school network.

Revenue costs have been calculated for the proposed new school based on the 2026/27 School Funding Formula.

- The calculations for the Catholic reorganisation proposals are based on the existing school funding formulae for both Primary and Secondary sectors. If approved a new "3-18 funding formula" would need to be established. Approval for the revised formula would be required via the relevant Forums and Democratic Committees
- Catholic proposals assume all St Anthony's pupils move to Venerable Edward Morgan; all St David's and St Mary's pupils move to the new school
- No changes assumed for St Richard Gwyn

Based on existing pupil numbers

Estimated Primary Numbers on Roll	328 (FTE)
Estimated Primary Budget Allocation	£1,610,295
Estimated Allocation per Primary Pupil	£4,909
Estimated Secondary Numbers on Roll	739 FTE incl. Post 16
Estimated Secondary Budget Allocation	£4,518,309 incl. Post-16
Estimated Allocation per Secondary Pupil	£6,114 incl. Post 16

Based on Proposed Capacity of New School

Estimated Primary Numbers on Roll	337.5 (FTE)
Estimated Primary Budget Allocation	£1,645,095
Estimated Allocation per Primary Pupil	£4,874
Estimated Secondary Numbers on Roll	870
Estimated Secondary Budget Allocation	£5,125,389 incl. Post-16
Estimated Allocation per Secondary Pupil	£5,891 incl. Post-16

The reduction in per-pupil funding reflects the increased efficiency associated with operating a single, larger school and the application of the standard funding formula, rather than funding four separate establishments. This is a fairer distribution of funding across the Catholic state and the wider school network.

Actual future budgets would be determined annually through the Council's budget-setting process and would depend on pupil numbers, the approved funding formula for the relevant year, and wider demographic trends.

In terms of staffing costs, based on existing schools (September 25 Numbers on Roll):

School	Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN)
St Anthony's	£293,868
St David's	£356,006
St Mary's	£1,092,907
St Richard Gwyn	£3,883,643 incl. all Post-16 funding
St Winefride's	£668,758
Venerable Edward Morgan	£702,441

Based on existing pupils in St David's and St Mary's move to new school and St Anthony's pupils move to Venerable Edward Morgan

School	Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN)
New 3-18 School	£1,330,441
St Winefride's	£671,759
Venerable Edward Morgan	£902,260

Based on new school at capacity and St Anthonys pupils move to Venerable Edward Morgan

School	Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN)
New 3-18 School	£1,363,109
St Winefride's	£671,317
Venerable Edward Morgan	£901,646

Therefore, there could be a potential saving of approximately £209,000 on staffing costs (based on existing pupil numbers). Bringing provision together within a single school would reduce inefficiencies associated with surplus capacity and enable resources to be deployed in a more sustainable and equitable way.

D.5.ii. What happens to Capital Receipts and any Recurrent Costs Savings?

The Council's policy is to use capital receipts to fund capital expenditure rather than voluntarily set aside to repay debt. The Council sets a Minimum Revenue Provision policy each year which sets out our prudent methods for repayment of debt.

The Council has a policy of pooling all capital receipts to allocate to capital schemes in accordance with the Council's strategic aims and priorities.

Capital receipts will not be 'ring-fenced' to fund schemes in the same service or geographical areas (with the exception of the HRA). Capital receipts represent a finite funding source based on a planned approach to asset disposals in support of the Council's priorities. They will be used to fund new capital investment schemes.

Generation of capital receipts depends on our ability to identify assets that are surplus to requirements, and to sell them at an appropriate time which will be subject to local economic factors.

Our assets are also supporting the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) in innovative ways. We have identified surplus Council owned sites which will be used to develop new housing. This input will need to continue throughout the life of the programme. The impact of this on the generation of capital receipts will need to be carefully mapped and reflected within the wider Capital Programme.

D.6. Options Considered

In total, 6 options were considered by the Diocese before they identified their preferred option. However, this does not pre-empt the outcome of the consultation or subsequent statutory decision-making. Alternative options remain capable of consideration in light of any feedback received.



The advantages and disadvantages of each option formed the basis of each outcome and the eventual identification of the preferred option.

Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo	
Allow all Catholic schools to continue without any intervention.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires no investment All schools retained in their respective communities No disruption to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address maintenance issues Does not address high numbers of surplus places Does not provide a sustainable long-term solution No appetite to do nothing
Option Discounted	
Doing nothing will not address the significant surplus places in Flintshire's Catholic schools, will not address maintenance issues at the schools and will not provide a long-term sustainable solution for the Catholic schools.	

Option 2 – Do Minimum

Address all backlog maintenance issues at all schools.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires relatively minor investment • Backlog maintenance issues addressed • All schools retained in their respective communities • No disruption to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not address high numbers of surplus places • Does not provide a sustainable long-term solution

Option Discounted

Whilst this option will address backlog maintenance issues it delays addressing the issue on a more permanent basis. As with Option 1, doing the minimum also will not address the significant surplus places in Flintshire’s Catholic schools will not provide a long-term sustainable solution for the Catholic schools.

Option 3 - New 3-18 Catholic School in Flint (2 schools)

Amalgamate St Mary’s and St Richard Gwyn

Inject significant investment into the Flint site (either a completely new build or extensive remodelling/ refurbishment)

Retain St Anthony’s, St David’s, St Winefride’s and Venerable Edward Morgan

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through school experience for Flint pupils, easing transition • Shared leadership and governance • Through school development and curriculum with shared expertise • Four primary schools retained in their respective communities • Minimal disruption to pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable financial investment required • Does not address maintenance issues at four other primary schools • Does not significantly address high numbers of surplus places • Does not provide a sustainable long-term solution

Option Discounted

Option 3 will provide a state-of-the-art facility for Flint but will not address the issues in the other Catholic schools. The considerable financial investment will not address surplus places at the other four Catholic primary schools and will still leave them with backlog maintenance issues with ageing buildings that will continue to decay.

Option 4 - New 3-18 Catholic School in Flint (4 schools)

Close St Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn
 Construction of a purpose built new 3-18 school in Flint
 Retain St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan

Advantages

- New, modern facilities designed for a contemporary curriculum
- Net zero carbon building(s)
- Significantly reduces maintenance issues and cost across the Catholic sector
- Through school experience for Flint pupils, easing transition
- Through school development and curriculum with shared expertise
- Shared leadership and governance
- Potential for greater staff development opportunities
- Significant reduction in surplus places
- Sustainable long-term solution
- Two primary schools retained in their respective communities

Disadvantages

- Considerable financial investment required
- Does not address maintenance issues at two other primary schools
- Removes two schools from their local communities
- Increased journey times for pupils at, and those who would have attended, St Anthony's and St David's to their next nearest Catholic primary school
- Potential loss of pupils who are currently attending, or would potentially attend, St Anthony's and St David's to non-Catholic alternatives
- Potential loss of employment opportunities in Saltney and Mold areas
- Loss of historical school settings

Option Preferred

This has been identified as the preferred option, and the basis for the proposal, as the significant investment will provide the extensive benefits. It is recognised that the communities of Saltney and Mold will lose their schools but the alternative schools identified for those pupils will at least provide them with the same standard of education they currently receive.

Option 5 - New 3-18 Catholic School in Flint (6 schools)

Close St Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's, St Winefride's, Venerable Edward Morgan and St Richard Gwyn

Construction of a purpose built new 3-18 school in Flint

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, modern facilities designed for a contemporary curriculum • Net zero carbon building(s) • One centralised Catholic provision • Removes maintenance issues and cost across the Catholic sector • Through school experience for Flint pupils, easing transition • Through school development and curriculum with shared expertise • Shared leadership and governance • Potential for greater staff development opportunities • Significant reduction in surplus places • Sustainable long-term solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable financial investment required • Removes four schools from their local communities • Increased journey times for pupils at, and those who would have attended, St Anthony's, St David's, St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan to their next nearest Catholic primary school • Potential loss of pupils who are currently attending, or would potentially attend, St Anthony's, St David's, St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan to non-Catholic alternatives • Potential loss of employment opportunities in Saltney, Mold, Holywell and Shotton areas • Loss of historical school settings

Option Discounted

Whilst Option 5 has many of the benefits associated with the preferred option (Option 4), the prospect of locating all Catholic provision in one location goes beyond what is considered reasonable. This would remove choice from parents who do not wish their child to attend an all-through school.

Option 6 - New 3-18 Catholic School in Flint (4 schools) and Federation (2 schools)

Close St Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn

Construction of a purpose built new 3-18 school in Flint

Federate St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan

Advantages

- New, modern facilities designed for a contemporary curriculum
- Net zero carbon building(s)
- Significantly reduces maintenance issues and cost across the Catholic sector
- Through school experience for Flint pupils, easing transition
- Through school development and curriculum with shared expertise
- Shared leadership and governance
- Potential for greater staff development opportunities
- Significant reduction in surplus places
- Sustainable long-term solution
- Two primary schools retained in their respective communities
- Two primary schools retain their individual identities
- Federation provides shared vision, resources, policies, governance across two schools

Disadvantages

- Considerable financial investment required
- Does not address maintenance issues at two other primary schools
- Removes two schools from their local communities
- Increased journey times for pupils at, and those who would have attended, St Anthony's and St David's to their next nearest Catholic primary school
- Potential loss of pupils who are currently attending, or would potentially attend, St Anthony's and St David's to non-Catholic alternatives
- Potential loss of employment opportunities in Saltney and Mold areas
- Approximately 10 miles between federated sites which may reduce any potential positive impacts
- Loss of historical school settings

Option Discounted

This is Option 4 but with the federation of St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan. Although federation does have advantages, it is reasonable to focus efforts on ensuring the success of the proposal, without also delivering an alternative model between these two schools.

D.7. What will the preferred proposal achieve?

If implemented, the proposal would reduce the significant number of surplus places across the Catholic network, achieve efficiencies through reduced running costs, and deliver a new, modern learning environment that is fit for purpose and designed to enhance learning opportunities for children.

As outlined above, there are both benefits and disadvantages anticipated with implementation of the proposal (Option 4).

Initially, pupils at the amalgamated school will remain at their current site and will only encounter relatively minor changes such as a new school name and a new uniform. This means that there will be little disruption to pupils' education whilst construction of the new building is ongoing.

What early amalgamation does do is bring together the cohorts of St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn and provide both pupils and staff with a sense of belonging to the new school before the move to one site.

The new school will establish a shared leadership and governance structure across the three sites that will help to ease transition onto one site and when pupils move from primary to secondary education.

In addition to transition benefits for pupils, staff too will be supported as they will be brought together as one group which can develop culture, lesson plans and ideas that will be implemented across the whole school.

The new staffing structure will also allow for greater development opportunities and learning from shared experiences with coworkers.

As previously mentioned, the quality of buildings can have a profound effect on both pupils and staff alike. When the new build is ready, it will provide an outstanding modern learning environment that will benefit everyone. The safe, nurturing surroundings will be the basis for pupils and staff to flourish.

With the new buildings constructed to net zero carbon in operation standards, a significantly less proportion of the school's budget will be spent on energy bills and recurring maintenance issues, instead being used for curriculum delivery for the benefit of the pupils.

Furthermore, the net zero carbon aspect also reduces the Council's carbon footprint, will make the building more resilient to climate change and is a long-term sustainable approach to rejuvenating the school estate.

By removing the ageing buildings, it reduces the backlog maintenance liabilities of the Council and the Diocese, allowing maintenance funding to be diverted to other schools and enhance the learning environments elsewhere in the county.

The proposal will also result in the reduction of surplus places across the Catholic estate. Removing surplus places means that all resources are used more efficiently and effectively and pupils benefit from more targeted supported (as opposed to resources being used elsewhere).

Not including St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan ensures that those communities retain Catholic schools and gives parts across Flintshire a choice of alternative Catholic schools, should they not want their child to attend the new school in Flint.

Finally, the land vacated in Saltney and Mold respectively could be used for alternative purpose by the Council and/or Diocese that could enhance those communities.

Pupils at both St Anthony's and St David's will become part of larger class sizes when their respective sites are closed. Mixing with more peers of the same age allows children to develop wider friendship groups and engage in group activities.

It is also recognised that the proposal will have disadvantages should it be implemented.

When St Anthony’s is closed, pupils would have to transfer to an alternative school. The anticipated alternative school would be that pupils transfer to their nearest Flintshire Catholic primary school, which would be Venerable Edward Morgan in Shotton.

As Venerable Edward Morgan is over 6 miles away from St Anthony’s, pupils would have increased journey times to get to school (although school transport may be available for qualifying pupils). The impact of this is that pupils would have less time to socialise before and after school and may have reduced access to coordinated activities outside of school.

A potential different option could be that pupils wanting to retain a Catholic based education, but in a location closer to Saltney, may decide to apply to St Clare’s in Lache. This means that there is a risk that pupils will leave the Welsh education system.

A third option is that pupils may choose to abandon a Catholic education in preference to remain in the local area and apply to a community school (such as Wood Memorial or Saltney Ferry).

A similar situation may arise when the amalgamated new school comes together on one site in Flint. Pupils at the St David’s site could transfer to Flint (over 5 miles away) or may decide to apply for a place at a school without a Catholic designation in the Mold area.

With pupils needing to travel increased distances to attend school, it has been calculated that there would also be an increase in the transportation costs burden to the Council.

Another drawback of the proposal would be the removal of schools in Saltney and Mold. The implications of this would be the loss facilities that could be used by the community and the loss of employment opportunities in those areas.

The financial outlay required to deliver the proposal is also a disadvantage. The substantial investment required will have implications for other projects, restricting invest elsewhere in Flintshire.

D.8. Associated Risks

The following key risks connected to implementing the proposal have been recognised and potential mitigation identified to reduce their impact:

RISK	POTENTIAL MITIGATION
The consultation may uncover an alternative approach which could offer a long-term solution to safeguard the Catholic education sector in Flintshire	Any alternative approach will be assessed to determine its viability. Once established a decision will be taken to either continue with this proposal or pursue the alternative.
Overall affordability of the project	The affordability of the project is under constant review. The Council constantly monitors costs of project to ensure they remain within budget. Any significant increases in costs will result in a pause of the project in order to review causes and identify potential solutions.
85% of funding is to be obtained from Welsh Government but there is no guarantee that any funding application will be successful	Without this funding the proposal cannot be implemented.
The remaining 15% funding requirement is to be provided by the Council which has significant	The proposed scope of the project and outline design has been commercially assessed and is considered

RISK	POTENTIAL MITIGATION
financial pressures, as do all local authorities	affordable within the Flintshire County Council capital programme envelope.
Increased pupil transport costs for the Council	Possible revision of school transport policy may be required.
The estimated completion date may not be met	The anticipated timeline is a guide and is subject to various stages that mean the proposal may take longer to deliver. However, with extensive previous experience delivering similar projects the timeline is viewed as realistic.
Loss of pupils to non-Catholic provision due to uncertainty of the future offering	The proposed Catholic provision will have sufficient space to accommodate all current pupil numbers on roll.
Possible resistance to or disengagement with the change process amongst stakeholders	Presentation of clear information and data to allow stakeholders to fully participate in the consultation process.

PART E. LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

The following information identifies areas that are likely to be affected by the proposal, and where necessary, provides information provided to enhance or reduce the impact.

E.1. Impact Assessments

Some areas have been evaluated using specific impact assessments to provide more detail. Below is a list of the assessments that supplement this document and a summary of their findings. The full assessments are available via the Council's website.

E.1.i. Additional Learning Needs Impact Assessment (ALNIA)

In line with the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET), the Council supports the underlying principles of the additional learning needs (ALN) system in Wales, which are outlined in the ALN Code for Wales.

The Council has experience of supporting transition for children and young people with ALN as part of school reorganisation programmes and would work collaboratively to understand and support the needs and requirements of learners impacted by this proposal.

If a child has ALN then they have a right to a statutory plan called an individual development plan (IDP). Young people up to the age of 25 with ALN are entitled to an IDP if they stay in education. No pupil with ALN would be transferred without appropriate planning, and existing IDPs would remain in place throughout any transition.

The purpose of the IDP moving with the pupil is to ensure they continue to receive the necessary Additional Learning Provision (ALP) to be successful at their new school and minimise where possible disruption to their learning.

Following implementation of the proposal, pupils at St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn would continue with their current ALN provision whilst they remain on their current sites. Pupils at St Anthony's would transfer to an alternative school but retain their IDPs to aid that transition.

Similarly, when the amalgamated school is brought on to one site, pupils from the Mold site would retain their IDPs to help put in place necessary requirements to help make their transition as easy as possible.

Beyond transition, the new school will offer a step-change in the mainstream provision for children with ALN. Purpose-built ALN facilities would include:

- Small-group teaching and intervention rooms
- Calm rooms designed for emotional regulation
- Sensory regulation and low-stimulation spaces
- Specialist hygiene and accessibility facilities
- Wider corridors, improved acoustics, and thoughtfully designed layouts
- Outdoor sensory and wellbeing spaces
- Breakout zones that support de-escalation and inclusion
- Improved acoustic design of classrooms

These facilities directly respond to the needs raised by families and cannot be achieved within the constraints of the current buildings, which do not have these facilities. The aim is not only to protect existing support but to strengthen and modernise it.

It is believed that implementation of the proposal will significantly enhance the resources available at the Flint site to meet the needs of pupils with ALN.

The nature of any significant school reorganisation proposal is that every child will experience change. The Council will endeavour to prepare the child and the adults working with the child in the best possible way to minimise impact of the change. Needs will be reviewed in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities and tailored towards individual learners.

With a number of specialist interrelated services, the Council's Inclusion & Progression Service ensures its duty under The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021 is delivered.

Services include:

- Education Psychology Service;
- Young Persons Counselling Service;
- Sensory Service;
- English as an Additional Language / Gypsy Traveller Service;
- Children looked after Service;
- Additional Learning Needs Service;
- Speech, Language & Communication Service;
- Autistic Spectrum Condition Service; and
- Engagement Services.

For further information on our policy for children with ALN please refer to

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/Children--Young-People-with-ALN/FCC-Policy-Framework-for-Children-with-ALN.pdf>

E.1.ii. Community Impact Assessment (CIA)

School organisation change proposals will have positive, neutral and negative impacts on the communities they involve.

In terms of the overall effect implementation may have, this differs significantly depending on which local community is being considered. It is accepted that most positive impacts relate to Flint and that the majority of negative impacts relate to Saltney and Mold respectively.

For Flint, the local community will benefit from modern, net zero carbon facilities that could potentially be used for community events, activities and initiatives.

However, the communities of Saltney and Mold would lose schools, and this may reduce local access to community-linked services, affect informal social networks and weaken neighbourhood identity.

School based community facilities, such as breakfast clubs and wraparound care, could be made available at the proposed alternative schools. Other groups using school facilities, such as Flying Start and holiday clubs, could be relocated to alternative schools in the area or other community buildings. This may be explored with individual groups to determine the best solution available

Where possible, mitigation has been provided to reduce or remove negative impacts but some effects cannot be addressed.

E.1.iii. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

The positive impacts of the proposal on pupils, staff and the local community are a compelling endorsement of why the Council view the proposal as a viable project. Replacing existing ageing school buildings with modern, net zero carbon buildings will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase the Council's resilience to an ever-changing climate.

The proposal continues the investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme to improve the condition of school buildings and learning environments for children and young people.

Not all impacts are positive, and it is recognised that there are negative impacts to the proposal too, most notably the removal of two schools within two communities, the impact on pupils with ALN and the transport issues associated with losing local schools. However, the Council will endeavour to mitigate, reduce, or remove their affects through implementation of robust policies, procedures, and systems that are in place.

Where the implementation of the proposal results in negative impacts that have not been previously identified, the Council will make all practicable steps to provide the appropriate support to affected individuals and/or groups.

E.1.iv. Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) (included in CIA)

Analysis of pupil data from March 2026 identified that:

- 90.70% of pupils attending St Anthony's lived with 2 miles (walking distance) of the school.
- 50.91% of pupils attending St David's lived with 2 miles (walking distance) of the school.
- 89.30% of pupils attending St Mary's lived with 2 miles (walking distance) of the school.
- 39.22% of pupils attending St Richard Gwyn lived with 3 miles (walking distance) of the school.

The distances are relevant when assessing eligibility under the Council's Transport Policy for free Home to School Transport (see below).

As expected, the TIA showed that for pupils currently attending St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn, the proposal would have no significant impact in terms of walking distances or journey times. The transportation costs associated with facilitating attendance for pupils at either of these schools would also remain unchanged.

However, pupils at St Anthony's and St David's would be impacted from a transport perspective by implementation of the proposal.

For St Anthony's pupils, the average walking distance to their nearest Catholic primary school would increase from 0.61 miles to 5.95 miles, which would result in potential increased average school transport journey times from 15 minutes to a maximum of 45 minutes. The ramifications of this would be a potential increase of approximately £60,000 per annum to the Council's Home to School Transport costs.

For St David's pupils, the comparison is more complicated. The current average walking distance to the school for those attending their nearest Catholic primary school is 2.06 miles, with average journey times estimated at 27 minutes.

Once the school is amalgamated with St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn, it is assumed that all pupils from the St David's site would transfer to the new school in Flint once it is ready. This means, however, that significantly fewer pupils would then be attending their nearest Catholic primary school.

As average walking distances and journey times are calculated on pupils attending their nearest school (of same category, type etc), most pupils are excluded from the new calculation. For those pupils where the new school site in Flint would be their nearest Catholic primary school, average walking distances increase to 4.08 miles and average school transport journey times estimated to be 30 minutes.

The impact on transportations costs would be a saving of approximately £44,000, down to an estimated £30,000.

Although there is a potential saving, the Council recognises that removal of free home to school transport will make transition to the new site difficult for St David's pupils. As a result, the Council would work with impacted families to establish suitable arrangements to help facilitate attending the new school site.

E.1.v. Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

The Council is continually working to address its WESP objectives and takes them into consideration when developing proposals in both our Welsh and English Medium schools, to mitigate any potentially negative actions on the Welsh Language; and continue to promote and raise the profile of Welsh medium education for all our learners.

As this proposal relates to the re-organisation of English medium faith based education in the county we recognise there will be smaller contributions to Council targets. However, with any new school there is opportunity to grow Welsh language skills in the learning environment and the wider community, through dedicated Community space and renewed promotion of Welsh language initiatives in partnership with the Catholic Diocese.

E.2. Interim Arrangements

Following amalgamation, the new 3-18 school would operate across the existing three sites until such time as the new school building has been completed in Flint. Although operating on split sites to begin with, the new school would function as a single school community with shared leadership, policies and ethos.

Transitional arrangements would be carefully planned to ensure continuity of learning, wellbeing and pastoral support for all pupils. The Council does not anticipate that interim arrangements would have a detrimental impact on educational standards. Ongoing monitoring would be undertaken to ensure that any emerging issues are identified

E.3. Admissions

Admission arrangements for the new school will be determined and administered by the new governing body. This approach is used by the governing bodies of the four current schools and will not change following implementation.

There will be sufficient spaces available for pupils on roll at St Anthony's and St David's to transfer to an alternative Catholic school, irrespective of their residence.

E.4. Governance

Following determination to implement the proposal, a temporary governing body would be established in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code for Wales, and the New Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 (The Regulations). These set out the regulations for the government of new maintained schools in Wales and prescribe the timescale for the establishment of a temporary governing body, the number, and types of governors and how they are to be nominated.

The temporary governing body would be responsible for overseeing the governance of the new amalgamated school leading to its establishment date (September 2027) and be in existence no later than one term after the establishment date.

The temporary governing body would work with the local authority and the Diocese to ensure appropriate leadership, staffing, policies, and operational arrangements are put in place, to support the transition from the three existing schools into a single school operating initially across the existing sites.

There follows a process whereby the Authority constitutes a permanent governing body as reasonably practicable after the school opening date (September 2027) but in any event no later than the last day of the term from the date of establishment of the school. The permanent governing body will then support the transition from operating on the three existing school sites to operating on one single site in Flint. In addition, during design development the governing body and the headteacher will contribute to the accommodation and facilities that will be constructed.

E.5. Staffing

Staffing requirements at a school are derived from the number of pupils at a school. Therefore, if all the pupils are retained within Flintshire's Catholic education provision, overall staffing numbers may not change that much.

During the initial phase, the amalgamated school would continue to operate from the existing three sites, with the principal staffing change being the appointment of a single headteacher to provide leadership across both schools.

In accordance with the Code, a temporary governing body would be established which would be supported by the Council and its Human Resources service. This governing body would undertake a fair and transparent process to appoint a headteacher to lead the amalgamated school.

Following the appointment of the headteacher, the temporary governing body, working with the headteacher, the Council and the Diocese, would determine an appropriate staffing structure to support the operation of the amalgamated school. Recruitment to any new or revised posts would be undertaken where required. Initially it is anticipated that any structural changes would be minimal, reflecting the school's continued operation across the existing three sites.

Any future changes to staffing arrangements, including those associated with relocation to the proposed new facility, would be managed in line with statutory and contractual requirements, including engagement with staff and recognised trade unions.

What the proposal will impact is the location where jobs are available. Opportunities to work in Saltney would be removed when implementation occurs (August/September 2027) and opportunities in Mold would be retained only on a temporary basis whilst the new school is being constructed. However, there could be additional opportunities created in Flint, Shotton and Holywell, depending upon where pupils migrate to.

The proposal may also present more and higher quality professional development opportunities for staff where more senior leadership posts may be available to facilitate career progression.

Throughout the process, staff impacted by any changes will be supported by the Council's Employment Services teams.

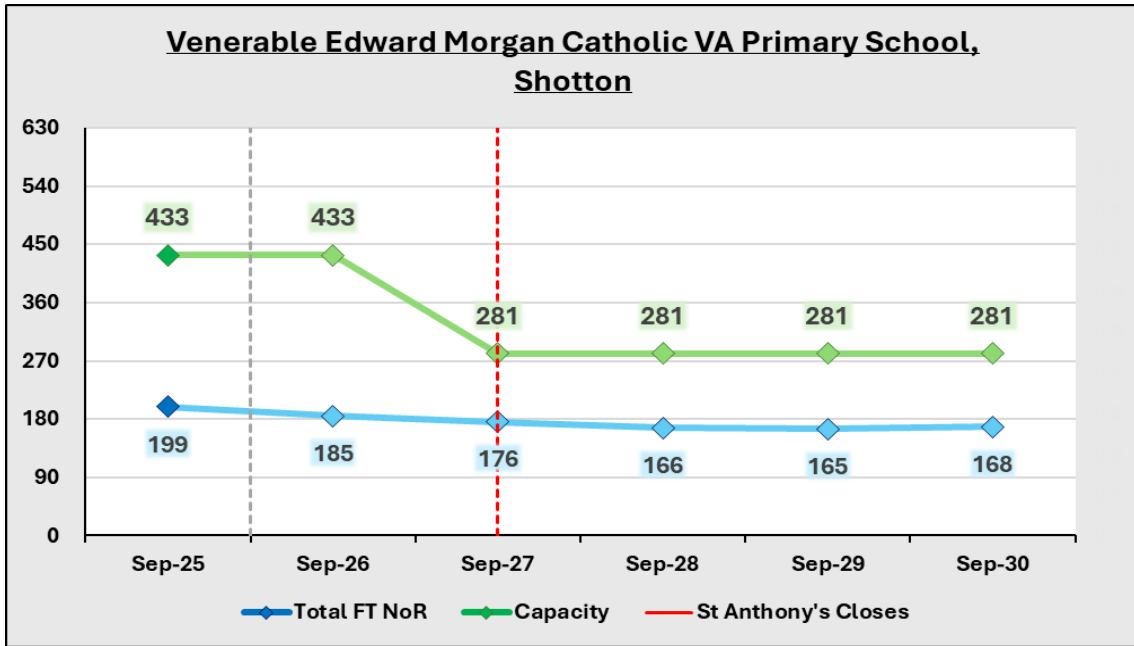
E.6. Forecasts

In September 2025 the total full-time number on roll shows the combined figure for pupils at St Anthony's and Venerable Edward Morgan, respectively (as does the capacity). These figures are split between the two sites.

The figures for September 2026 are the combined forecasted numbers for both schools, also split between the two sites.

From September 2027 onwards, the capacity shows the removal of St Anthony's and only that of the current Venerable Edward Morgan site.

The full-time numbers on roll from September 2027 onwards show the combined figures from both schools (as it is assumed once St Anthony's closes, pupils will transfer to Venerable Edward Morgan).

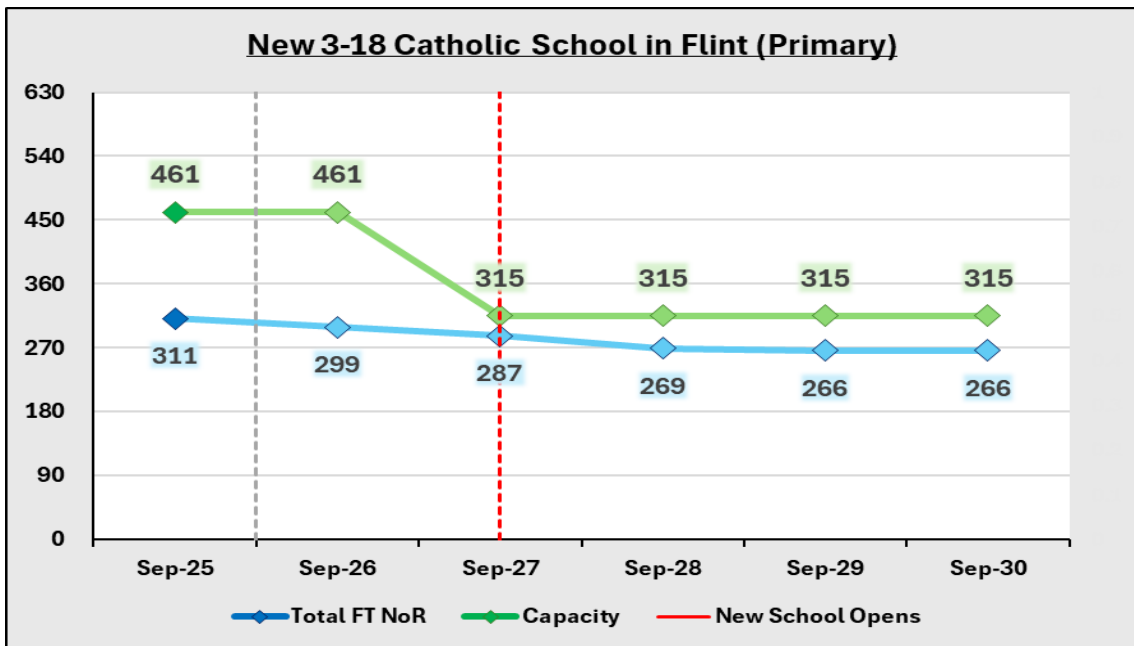


In September 2025 the total full-time number on roll shows the combined figure for pupils at St David's and St Mary's, respectively (as does the capacity). These figures are split between the two sites.

The figures for September 2026 are the combined forecasted numbers for both schools, also split between the two sites.

From September 2027 onwards, the capacity shows the proposed number of full-time places for the primary element at the new 3-18 school in Flint. However, it should be noted that this capacity is split between the current St David's and St Mary's sites respectively.

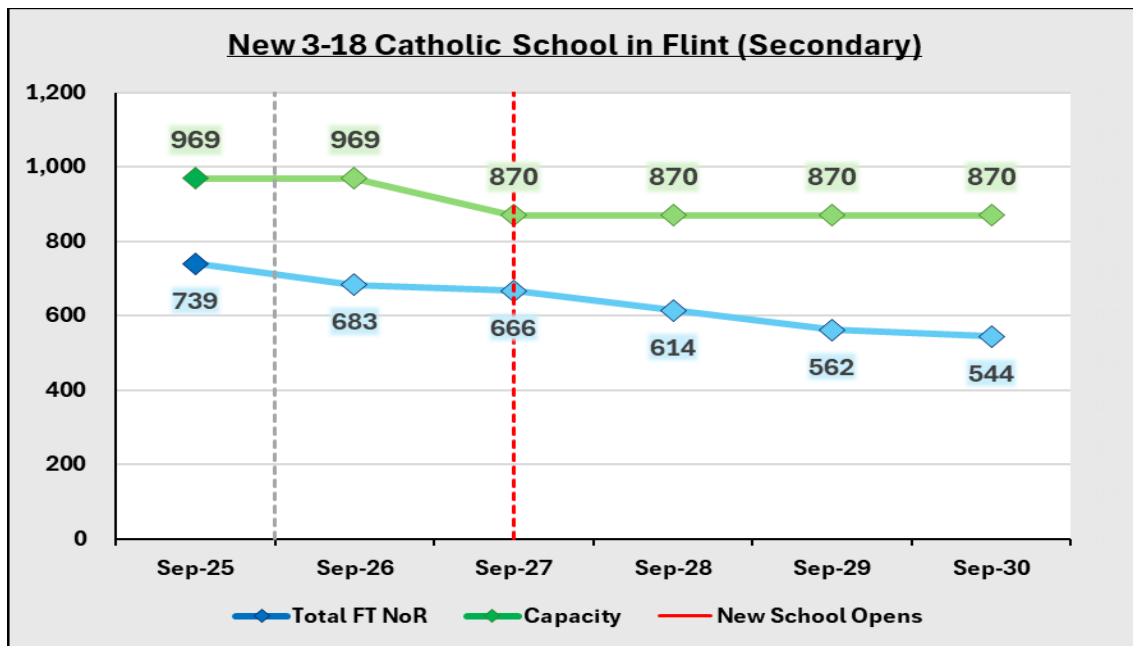
The full-time numbers on roll from September 2027 onwards show the combined figures from both schools operating over the two sites.



In September 2025 the total number on roll and capacity is that of St Richard Gwyn.

The figures for September 2026 are the forecasted numbers and capacity for St Richard Gwyn.

From September 2027 onwards, the capacity shows the proposed number of places for the secondary element at the new 3-18 school in Flint.



With adequate places available at the anticipated alternative schools, the proposal is not expected to have any significant impact on St Winefrides, St Clare’s (Lache) or The Catholic High School (Handbridge).

E.7. Pupils from Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds

The Council has considered the potential impact of this proposal on learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, including those eligible for free school meals, in accordance with the School Organisation Code.

St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School all serve communities which include areas of relative socio-economic disadvantage. The Council recognises that learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds may be more sensitive to changes in their educational environment and may require additional support during periods of transition, particularly where proposals involve school closure and relocation.

The proposal to establish a new all-through 3–18 Catholic school on the site of St Richard Gwyn has the potential to deliver a range of longer-term benefits for these learners. A single, purpose-built school would enable more efficient use of resources and strengthen the school’s capacity to provide targeted support, including through effective use of the Pupil Development Grant across all phases of education. Continuity of provision from early years through to post-16, improved learning environments, and access to a broader range of facilities and specialist teaching are expected to support engagement, progression, and attainment. In addition, a consistent pastoral and wellbeing framework across all age groups may be particularly beneficial for vulnerable learners.

The Council also acknowledges that there may be short-term challenges associated with the proposal. These may include disruption arising from the closure of existing schools and transition to a new setting, changes to established relationships with staff and peers, and, for some learners, increased travel distances to the new school site in Flint. Without appropriate mitigation, these factors have the potential to impact more significantly on learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

To address this, appropriate support arrangements would be implemented to minimise disruption and ensure continuity of learning and wellbeing. These would include a comprehensive and phased transition programme for pupils across all key stages, targeted pastoral support for vulnerable learners, continued access to free school meals and associated entitlements, and close monitoring of attendance, engagement and attainment during and after transition. The new school would also make effective use of available funding streams to provide targeted interventions, reduce barriers to learning, and maintain strong engagement with parents and carers across the wider catchment area.

Taking these factors into account, and with appropriate mitigation in place, the Council considers that the proposal has the potential to support improved educational outcomes for learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds over the longer term.

E.8. Transition Arrangements

For pupils currently attending St Anthony's, there will be no change to the current transition arrangements for pupils in respect of secondary education. When the school closes, the Year 6 cohort would engage with existing transition arrangements to St Richard Gwyn, or to the secondary school of their choice.

In the short term, transition arrangements will also remain the same for pupils currently attending St David's and St Mary's respectively. Although part of one amalgamated school, the pupils would still the established transition arrangements to transfer to the new secondary on the Flint site, just like they would if St Richard Gwyn remained.

However, following the transfer of pupils into the new building on one site, transition arrangements for those pupils will be enhanced as they would access secondary education on the same site that they attend primary school. The continuity will aid transition for pupils by developing stronger bonds with peers, familiarity with teaching methods and likely reduce anxiety that this change often brings.

E.9. Nursery Provision and Early Years'

Dedicated nursery provision will be provided as part of the new school. The area will include a classroom, teacher's office, toilets and stores. In addition, a small group room may be provided and a separate entrance may be used to facilitate pick-ups and drop-offs.

The nursery children will have access to outdoor spaces directly off the classroom. These areas will have hard and soft play zones as well as sheltered spaces, which will be suitably furnished to encourage learning and play

Although the proposal does reduce the number of nursery places that are available at the current Flint site, it will provide adequate capacity for the forecasted numbers and have sufficient space to accommodate up to 50% more than the projected demand if necessary.

In terms of early years' provision, the Council has built over a dozen standalone childcare facilities on existing school sites in recent years. It has also delivered a dedicated unit as part of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Flint.

This proposal represents an opportunity to co-locate early years' childcare on the site should sufficient demand be established. Any extra childcare capacity and services complement the Welsh Government's Childcare Offer, enabling working parents more opportunities to access the offer and to save money on childcare costs. This in turn will mean that there is more disposable income in the area which should boost economic activity.

The removal of St Anthony's and St David's would have a negative impact on wraparound provision in the Saltney and Mold areas. Both schools host breakfast clubs which would close should the proposal be implemented. This would also be the case for the after-school club at St David's.

In addition, third-party childcare providers may see demand decrease if pupils from these school's transfer to the proposed alternative schools.

Pupils at St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn would benefit from new facilities that would enhance their current wraparound activities and potentially provide access for new opportunities to be developed.

Childcare providers in the Flint area may see increased demand if pupils from other school's transfer to the new school.

E.10. Sixth-Form Provision

The proposal is not removing sixth-form provision altogether nor would it result in learners having to transfer to alternative schools/colleges.

The current sixth-form provision that is on offer at St Richard Gwyn will be similar to what will be provided as part of the new school, including retaining delivery in English. With the proposal reducing the overall capacity of Catholic secondary education, the number of sixth-form places has been marginally reduced as well.

As the sixth-form will be maintained within the current St Richard Gwyn building as part of the new school, there will be no impact on learners and staff in terms of the distances they need to travel nor on the duration of journey times they would encounter.

Once the new school building is complete, sixth-form provision will transfer to it along with the rest of the amalgamated school. Given the new building will be on the same site as St Richard Gwyn, there will be no impact on distances and journey times for learners and staff either.

Equally, as the proposed sixth-form provision is very similar to the current offering, the potential impact this will have on alternative institutions will be negligible, if anything at all. In addition, the proposal will not influence any discretionary transport policy provided to learners above compulsory school age, particularly as it will remain the same whether the proposal is implemented or not.

Information regarding walking routes to the site has been included above in the Learner Travel Assessment section. As stated, the walking routes within the Flint area are not classified as hazardous and generally favourable walking conditions ensure that learners are able to travel to school in reasonable safety.

The proposal will at least maintain the standards of sixth-form education currently offered by St Richard Gwyn. However, as acknowledged by Estyn, "*improvements in the quality of buildings have a very beneficial effect on the quality of teaching and morale of staff and this has a positive impact on standards and general performance*".

The new facilities would allow the delivery of a modern relevant curriculum which may increase participation in secondary (11-16) and further education in the Flint area. These facilities, coupled with the sixth-form partnership with Flint High School, will help to provide more courses and contribute to the 14-19 agenda.

E.11. Local Environment

The proposal would see four ageing buildings that are inefficient to run and have backlog maintenance issues, be replaced with one net zero carbon in operation building. Through a combination of clever design, renewable energy and materials used, net zero carbon principles provide highly efficient buildings that benefit the local environment.

Minimising energy needs and generating its own where possible, the school would significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the current Flint schools and substantially reduce funding needed to run the building. This in turn will reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and ease the burden on local energy infrastructure.

However, whereas the replacement of inefficient buildings will have a positive effect on the local environment, it is also recognised that transport may have a negative impact.

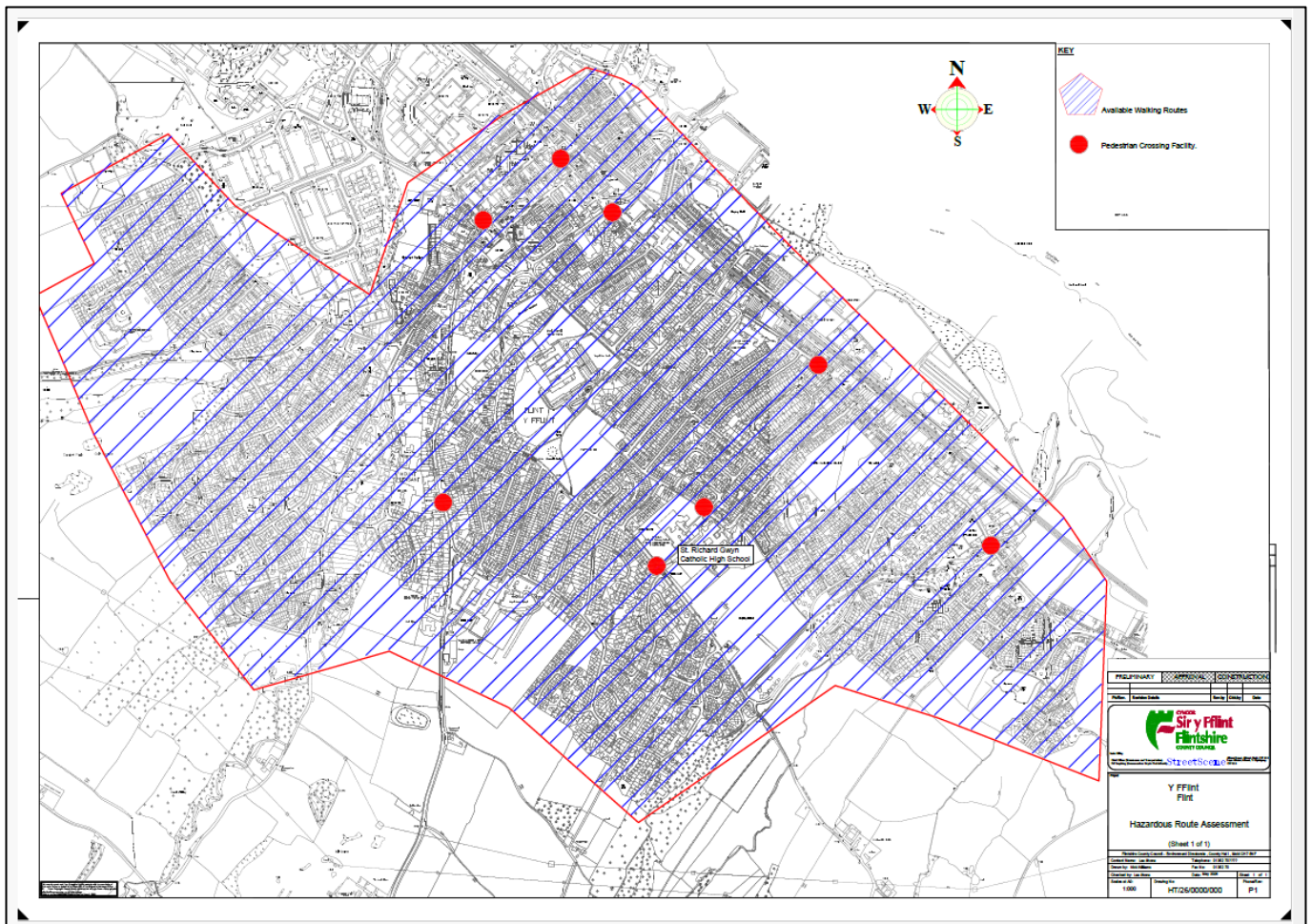
Pupils attending St Anthony’s and St David’s will relocate to alternative schools / sites as part of the proposal. Those at St Anthony’s are expected to transfer to Venerable Edward Morgan, over 6 miles away, whereas pupils at St David’s are expected to transfer to Flint (approximately 5.5 miles away) as part of the new school.

The distances involved mean that pupils are likely to access the Council’s Home to School transport provision to access the alternative schools. The result of this will be increased vehicles on the road and subsequent increased carbon emissions.

In the future, it may be possible to reduce the negative impact of transporting pupils by using electric vehicles but this is dependent upon third-party operators.

E.12. Learner Travel Assessment of Walking Routes – Flint

Following assessment against Welsh Government’s statutory guidance, the walking routes within the Flint area (as indicated on the supplementary plan) are not classified as hazardous. The combination of continuous pedestrian infrastructure, safe crossing facilities on higher traffic roads, and generally favourable walking conditions ensures that learners are able to travel to school in reasonable safety.



The assessed routes cover the walking network within the Flint area, connecting residential neighbourhoods to the local schools as shown on the accompanying plan.

Across the area, the pedestrian network consists of continuous footways along residential streets and distributor routes, with established pedestrian links between communities and school sites. Where learners encounter roads with higher traffic volume, formal pedestrian crossing facilities are available, providing safe and controlled opportunities to cross. Some local

footpaths may require routine vegetation management, but this does not prevent safe passage. Overall, the network provides clear, direct and walkable routes throughout the area.

Footways are continuous and adequate throughout the area, allowing pedestrians to travel safely without entering the carriageway. Where crossings of busier roads are required, formal pedestrian crossing facilities are present, providing safe and controlled crossing opportunities in accordance with statutory guidance.

Traffic conditions across the area reflect typical urban patterns. Where vehicle movements are higher, established pedestrian infrastructure and formal crossing points ensure that learners can move safely through the network. A review of available collision data shows no recurring pedestrian related collision patterns that would indicate an elevated risk to learners.

Based on the criteria set out in the statutory guidance:

- Continuous footways meet accessibility requirements
- Controlled crossings mitigate risks on higher flow roads
- Junction layouts do not present unacceptable hazards
- No collision patterns indicate heightened risk
- Routes are suitable for accompanied learners

Accordingly, the walking routes within the Flint area meet the requirements for being considered available.

To maintain route availability, the pedestrian network should be subject to ongoing inspection and maintenance, including vegetation clearance and routine checks of crossing points to ensure they remain fully accessible.

E.13. Home to School Transport

The Council is required to determine whether the provision of transport for pupils of statutory school age is necessary to facilitate the attendance at a designated school of the pupil concerned. If such transport is deemed necessary, then the transport must be provided free of charge.

The Council provides free transport for children of compulsory school age (i.e. 5-16yrs) as follows:

- where a child receiving primary education lives over two miles from the nearest appropriate school
- where a child receiving secondary education lives over three miles from the nearest appropriate school.

In addition to its statutory obligations, the Council also provides free transport for pupils of statutory age to the nearest voluntary aided school where the admission to the school is on denominational grounds, subject to the distance criteria.

Free transport will also be provided for post 16 students living in Flintshire attending a first course of full time study at a school, subject to meeting the 3 mile distance criteria and providing the student is attending the nearest educational establishment offering the courses they wish to study.

The full Transport Policy can be found via the following link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport-Application.aspx>

This proposal would not change the Council's existing Home to School Transport Policy. Transport eligibility would continue to be assessed in exactly the same way as at present, based

on distance, journey time, route safety and individual learner circumstances, and in line with statutory guidance.

E.14. Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The potential impact of this proposal on the Welsh language has been considered in accordance with the Code and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The proposal does not seek to change the language category any school involved. Welsh would continue to be promoted through teaching, learning, and the wider life of the school in line with the Curriculum for Wales and the school's existing language arrangements.

This proposal will not affect the Council's targets under its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The Council has made a significant investment in Welsh-medium education since 2020, with over £20m being used on a new primary school, extensions to another and refurbishment of another. In addition, funding has delivered a number of Welsh-medium childcare settings to provide access to the Welsh language at an early age.

It is anticipated that the proposal would not negatively impact the Welsh language provision within the County as the number of full-time Welsh-medium pupil places will be unaffected. Whilst the Council supports the drive to increase the number of Welsh speakers, it also has a responsibility to provide high quality opportunities for non-Welsh speaking pupils too.

It is recognised, however, that there may be a minor impact should a small number of pupils choose to attend schools across the border in England.

E.15. Land and Buildings

Voluntary aided school buildings are owned by the Diocese of the designated faith; however, the playing fields and external site areas are owned by the Council. The proposal involves four voluntary aided schools owned by the Catholic Diocese. Implementation of the proposal would see:

- The transfer of ownership of all buildings on the St Anthony's and St David's sites respectively to the Council.
- The current buildings at St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn would remain in ownership of the Diocese until construction of the new 3-18 school is completed.
- Upon completion, ownership of the new 3-18 school will be transferred to the Diocese.
- The ownership of the current buildings at St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn would be transferred to the Council to allow any demolition and external works to be undertaken.

There is the potential that the site at St Anthony's may be used as part of a separate school organisational proposal, one which looks to construct a new community primary school in the town. However, this is subject to its own consultation and approval, and any decision by the Diocese in relation to the land within their ownership.

Details of the Saltney Education Proposal can be found here:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Proposal-To-Reorganise-Saltney-Ferry-C.P-And-Saltney-Wood-Memorial-C.P.aspx>

The future use of the St David's site is yet to be determined, and any proposal would require consideration and approval by the Council's Cabinet.

Should one or both sites no longer be required for education purposes, the buildings and land would be declared surplus to requirements of the Education & Youth portfolio and control would be transferred to the Council's Capital Programme and Assets department.

E.16. Other Schools

It is recognised that, as with any school organisation proposal, some parents may express a preference for other nearby schools. As stated, the Code requires the consultation to identify any other schools that are considered likely to be affected by a proposal.

Venerable Edward Morgan is expected to receive pupils from St Anthony's and will therefore be affected by the proposal. However, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of pupils likely to transfer to the school and the building will not require any significant investment. In addition it is anticipated that the school will at least maintain the current quality and standards in education.

As previously stated, St Winefride's, St Clare's and The Catholic High School may potentially be affected but are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposal. The Council does not consider that these schools are likely to be significantly affected by the proposal in terms of pupil numbers, as the proposal does not direct learners to these schools and is not expected to result in substantial changes to established patterns of provision. However, the Council has nonetheless considered potential impacts on a proportionate basis.

In relation to St Clare's and The Catholic High School, the Council recognises that these schools are maintained by an English local authority and operates under a separate admissions framework. As a result, the Council does not hold detailed information regarding capacity, admissions or projected pupil numbers for this school. While publicly available information and local knowledge have been considered, it has not been possible to obtain the full range of comparable data that would ordinarily be available for schools within Flintshire, despite reasonable efforts to do so.

However, taking account of the proximity of schools, existing patterns of cross-border parental preference, and the capacity provided within the proposed new school, it is considered that any potential impact on these schools is likely to be very limited, if any. The Council acknowledges that there is a degree of uncertainty associated with cross-border arrangements and that admissions to St Clare's and The Catholic High School remain the responsibility of Cheshire West and Chester Council and/or the respective Catholic diocese.

The Council also notes that this proposal is being consulted upon alongside a separate proposal relating to Saltney Ferry Community Primary School and Wood Memorial Community Primary School in Saltney. Should that proposal be approved, it is possible that some parents and carers may seek places for their children at the proposed new Saltney primary school. Any such applications would be considered in accordance with Flintshire County Council's admissions policy, taking account of the school's capacity and published admission number.

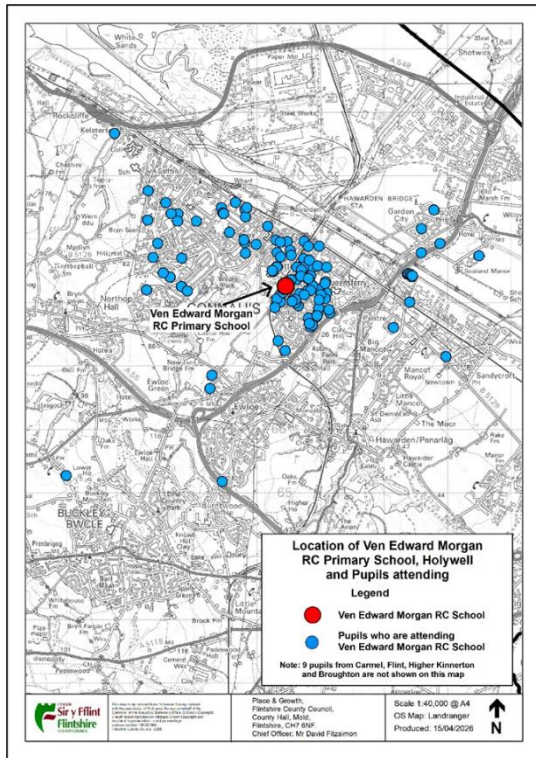
E.16.i. Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic VA Primary School, Shotton

Location of the School		Caernarfon Close, Shotton (CH5 1AR)	
Age Range		3-11	
Language Medium Category		English Medium	
School Category		Voluntary Aided	
Faith		Catholic	
		Reception–Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	152	15
	September 2024	167	19
	September 2023	165	23
	September 2022	184	17
	September 2021	196	12
	September 2020	201	18
Capacity		281	16
Surplus Places		129	
Admission Number		40	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	141	20
	September 2027	133	18
	September 2028	128	18
	September 2029	131	19
	September 2030	133	19
	Building Condition Category	Survey Dated February 2025 Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration	
Building Suitability	Survey Dated November 2016 Suitability Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but does not support the Curriculum in some areas		
Backlog Maintenance	£219,354.85 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)		
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £853,659 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £702,441 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £5,352 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360		
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating D Electricity Consumption 54,244 kWh Gas Consumption 224,726 kWh Total Energy Consumption 278,970 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 62,605.1 kgCO ₂ e		
Baptism Numbers	72 of 163 pupils (44.2%), recorded as Baptised Catholic		

E.16.i.a. Demographical Information

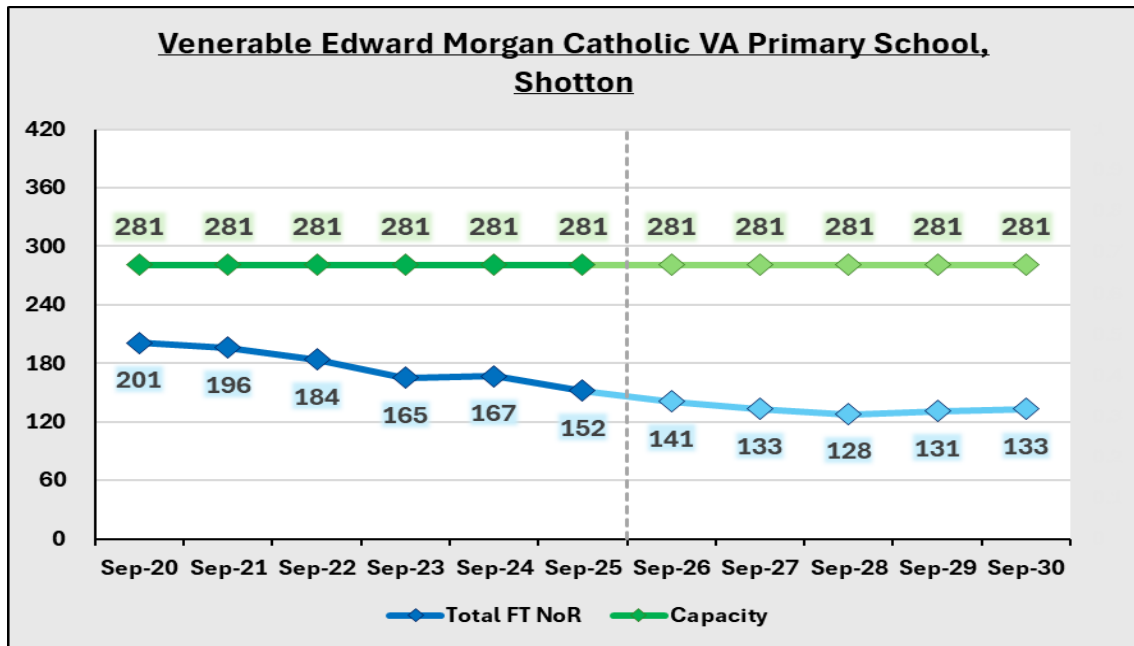
Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that Venerable Edward Morgan is broadly serving the Shotton area, approximately 92.96% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided primary school.

Map of Locations of Pupils Attending Venerable Edward Morgan:



E.16.i.b. Pupil Forecasts

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend	
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30		
Nursery	18	12	17	23	19	15	20	18	18	19	19	4	
Reception	22	25	15	15	26	19	15	20	18	18	19	0	
Year 1	24	22	24	14	18	24	19	15	20	18	18	-6	
Year 2	26	25	23	24	14	17	24	19	15	20	18	1	
Year 3	29	29	25	26	26	15	17	24	19	15	20	5	
Year 4	41	30	29	25	27	23	15	17	24	19	15	-8	
Year 5	24	37	30	30	27	28	23	15	17	24	19	-9	
Year 6	35	28	38	31	29	26	28	23	15	17	24	-2	
Total	201	196	184	165	167	152	141	133	128	131	133	-19	
Capacity	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	0	
Surplus Places	80	85	97	116	114	129	140	148	153	150	148	19	
Surplus Places %	28.47%	30.25%	34.52%	41.28%	40.57%	45.91%	49.82%	52.67%	54.45%	53.38%	52.67%	6.76%	
Admission Number	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	0	
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number						0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded						0	0	0	0	0	0	



The Council’s Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a reception place at Venerable Edward Morgan was 14. This is below the forecasted number of 15.

In terms of nursery places, 7 have been allocated which is also below the forecasted number (20).

These figures indicate a low demand for places at the school.

E.16.i.c. Quality of Education Provision

Venerable Edward Morgan was last inspected by Estyn in February 2025, and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2025/03/Inspection-report-Ven.-Edward-Morgan-R.C.-Primary-School-2025.pdf>

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1. Increase opportunities for older pupils to develop their independence skills
- R2. Continue to improve attendance and reduce levels of persistent absence

E.16.ii. St Winefride's Catholic VA Primary School, Holywell

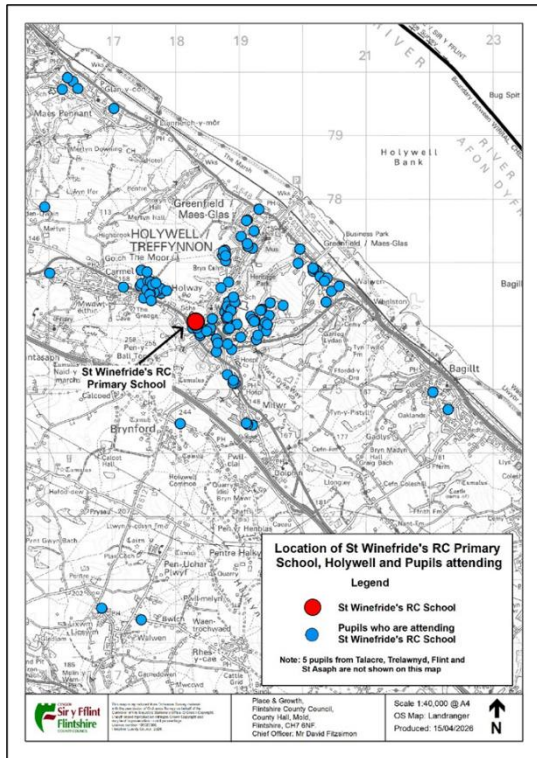
Although St Winefride's is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposal, information regarding the school has been included as it is the only other Catholic primary school in Flintshire.

Location of the School		Whitford Street, Holywell (CH8 7NJ)	
Age Range		3-11	
Language Medium Category		English Medium	
School Category		Voluntary Aided	
Faith		Catholic	
		Reception–Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2025	139	22
	September 2024	150	22
	September 2023	155	22
	September 2022	158	18
	September 2021	160	20
	September 2020	147	26
Capacity		187	19
Surplus Places		48	
Admission Number		26	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	139	20
	September 2027	140	20
	September 2028	134	21
	September 2029	139	21
	September 2030	142	21
Building Condition Category	Survey Dated November 2024 Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration		
Building Suitability	Survey Dated November 2016 Suitability Grade C - Poor Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation		
Backlog Maintenance	£108,715.13 (exclusive of any applicable fees, preliminaries, and VAT)		
Funding	Budget allocation 26/27= £822,636 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £668,758 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £5,484 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360		
Carbon Impact	Display Energy Certification Rating D Electricity Consumption 54,888 kWh Gas Consumption 123,400 kWh Total Energy Consumption 178,288 kWh Total Carbon Emissions 41,186.2 kgCO ₂ e		
Baptism Numbers	56 of 157 pupils (35.7%), recorded as Baptised Catholic		

E.16.ii.a. Demographical Information

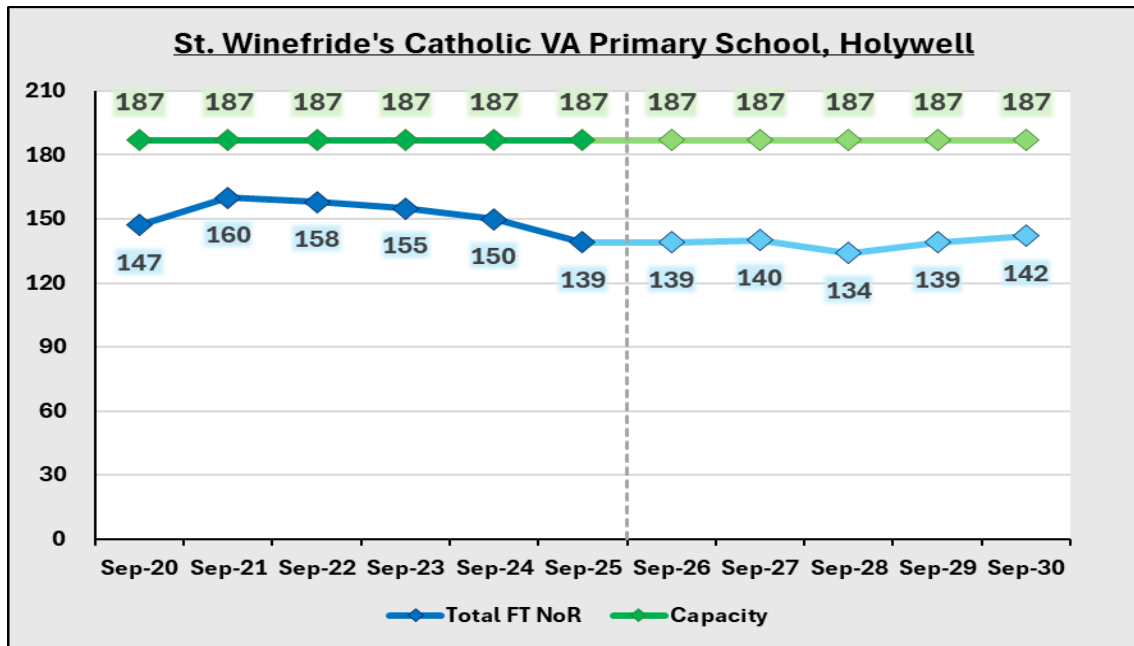
Demographical analysis (as at March 2026) has shown that St Winefride's school is broadly serving the Holywell area, approximately 99.25% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest Flintshire Catholic voluntary aided primary school.

Map of Locations of Pupils Attending St Winefride's:



E.16.ii.b. Pupil Forecasts

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24		Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	
Nursery	26	20	18	22	22	22	20	20	21	21	21	-1
Reception	24	27	18	19	20	18	22	20	20	21	21	3
Year 1	20	25	27	19	17	20	18	22	20	20	21	1
Year 2	18	21	23	27	20	18	20	18	22	20	20	2
Year 3	26	21	23	24	27	16	18	20	18	22	20	4
Year 4	23	27	20	23	22	26	16	18	20	18	22	-4
Year 5	18	21	25	18	25	19	26	16	18	20	18	-1
Year 6	18	18	22	25	19	22	19	26	16	18	20	-2
Total	147	160	158	155	150	139	139	140	134	139	142	3
Capacity	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	0
Surplus Places	40	27	29	32	37	48	48	47	53	48	45	-3
Surplus Places %	21.39%	14.44%	15.51%	17.11%	19.79%	25.67%	25.67%	25.13%	28.34%	25.67%	24.06%	-1.60%
Admission Number	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	0
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number						0	0	0	0	0	
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded						0	0	0	0	0	



The Council’s Admissions Team have confirmed that by May 2026, the number of pupils that had been offered a reception place at St Winefride’s was 19. This is below the forecasted number of 22.

In terms of nursery places, 24 have been allocated which above the forecasted number (20). These figures indicate a low but stable demand for places at the school.

E.16.ii.c. Quality of Education Provision

St Winefride’s was last inspected by Estyn in May 2024, and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2024-06/Inspection%20report%20St%20Winefride%27s%20R.C.%20School%202024.pdf>

The report made the following recommendations:

- R1. Ensure that pupils have regular opportunities to make decisions about and be creative in their learning

E.16.iii. St Clare's Catholic Primary School, Lache, Chester

St Clare’s Catholic Primary School in Lache (CH4 8HX) is located approximately 1.0 miles (walking distance) from St Anthony’s.

Some families in the Saltney area may view St Clare’s as a more suitable alternative than the suggested Venerable Edward Morgan, based on the distances involved.

Admissions to schools in England, including St Clare’s are the responsibility of the relevant English local authority and diocesan arrangements.

This proposal does not alter existing cross-border admissions or transport arrangements. Parental preference and admissions processes will continue to operate in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

E.16.iv. The Catholic High School, Chester

The Catholic High School in Handbridge (CH4 7HS) is located approximately 1.6 miles (walking distance) from St Anthony’s.

Although the proposal does not involve the removal of a Catholic high school in the Saltney area, closing St Anthony's may impact the Catholic High School.

Should any pupils from St Anthony's transfer to, or any future pupils enrol at, St Clare's then there is a greater probability that these pupils would transfer to The Catholic High School.

However, it should be noted that over the previous five years (2021-2025) the transfer rate of year 6 pupils at St Anthony's to Flintshire high schools was 18.56%.

The low transfer rate to Flintshire high schools indicates that, should the proposal be implemented and pupils choose St Clare's as an alternative, the overall impact on The Catholic High School may be minimal as it is likely they currently receive a high number of pupils from the Saltney area.

As with St Clare's, admissions for the Catholic High School responsibility of the relevant English local authority and diocesan arrangements.