



COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

PART A. INTRODUCTION

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.

This document supplements the Statutory Consultation document which consultees should consider to fully participate in the consultation process.

<https://flintshire.gov.uk/CatholicEducationConsultation>

The consultation period will open on **Tuesday 16 June 2026** and close at 11.59pm on **Wednesday 29 July 2026**.

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

Impact Assessments are working documents which will be updated following information and feedback from the consultation process.

PART B. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) aims to identify how implementation of the proposal may affect the school community and the local area.

The assessment identifies the current transport arrangements for pupils attending schools that are subject to a school organisation change proposal along with existing financial burden to the Council and how implementation of the proposal may impact overall transportation costs.

Also included is how the potential change may impact walking distances and journey times of current pupils.

In addition, the CIA identifies connections local groups have to schools that are subject to a school organisation change proposal and evaluates potential impacts on the local communities involved.

Areas of assessment include health and wellbeing, safe walking routes, local population trends, the wider economy and access to wraparound and childcare provision.

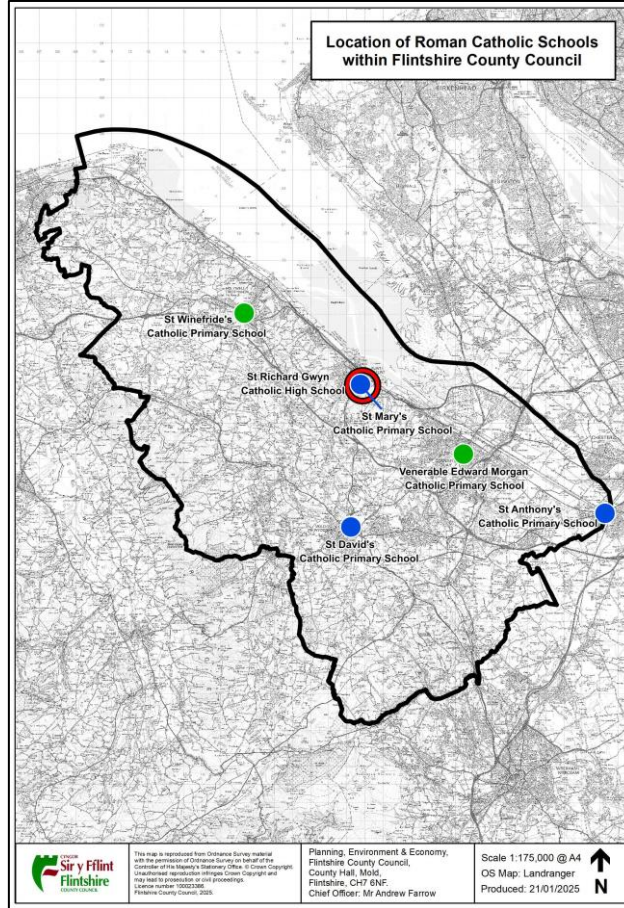
Information has been gathered from school leaders regarding the current use of school facilities, links with community organisations, and the role each school plays within its local area.

PART C. SCHOOL 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	

PART D. ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

D.1. Transport Provision

D.1.i. Existing Transport Profile

St Anthony's has capacity to accommodate 152 full-time pupils. with an admission number of 21 full-time pupil places.

In March 2026 there were 43 full-time pupils on roll and 109 surplus places, which equates to 71.71% of the full-time pupil capacity.

Of the 43 full-time pupils registered at St Anthony's in March 2026, 41 (95.35%) were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school (4.65% were not).

The average walking distance for those 41 pupils was 0.61 miles.

Of the 43 full-time pupils, 39 live within 2 miles of the school.

Distance	Number of Pupils	Percentage of Pupils
Within 2 miles	39	90.70%
Over 2 miles	4	9.30%
Total	43	100.00%

The average journey time for full-time pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St Anthony's is 15 minutes.

Based on the full-time pupils registered in March 2026, the annual cost to the Council was £0.

D.1.ii. Potential Transport Profile

It is proposed that pupils at St Anthony's would transfer to Venerable Edward Morgan (walking distance approximately 6.11 miles) following closure of the school. These distances exceed what the authority considers a reasonable walking distance for primary-aged learners.

The estimated time¹ between the current school site and the proposed alternative school is:

- Walking 2 hours 15 minutes
- Cycling 32 minutes
- Public Transport 37 minutes
- Private Car 21 minutes

Of the 43 full-time pupils registered at St Anthony's in March 2026, all 43 would transfer to their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school if they transferred to Venerable Edward Morgan.

The average walking distance for those 43 pupils would be 5.95 miles.

Of the 43 full-time pupils, up to 41 would be eligible to apply for free transport (pending proof of faith) to attend Venerable Edward Morgan.

¹ Walking times have been estimated using standard digital mapping tools and reflect typical adult walking speeds. These are provided for indicative purposes only

The average journey time for those eligible would be no greater than 45 minutes².

The total annual cost to the Council of transporting all eligible full-time pupils registered at St Anthony's in March 2026, to Venerable Edward Morgan could be approximately £60,000 (pending proof of faith).

D.2. Existing Facilities

D.2.i. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

- Breakfast Club

D.2.ii. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

- None

D.2.iii. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

- Church

D.2.iv. Facilities Available Near the School

Other community facilities that are available and located near to the school include:

- Public House x2
- Café

D.2.v. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

- Breakfast Club (school hall)
- Childminders x3 (home based)

D.3. Alternative School Facilities

It is proposed that pupils at St Anthony's would transfer to Venerable Edward Morgan, which has the following existing facilities at the school or nearby:

D.3.i. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

- Breakfast Club
- Wraparound Provision
- Dodgeball
- Gardening Club

² Accurate journey times for each pupil and establishing an average requires analysis of key variable data (such as addresses, number of pupils in an area, size of transport for those pupils etc). This would be undertaken should the proposal be approved.

- Minecraft Club

D.3.ii. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

- None

D.3.iii. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

- Church
- Connah's Quay Swimming Pool

D.3.iv. Facilities Available Near the School

Other community facilities that are available and located near to the school include:

- Football field
- Wepre park

D.3.v. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

- Childminders x2 (home based)
- Nursery x 2

PART E. ST DAVID'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

E.1. Transport Provision

E.1.i. Existing Transport Profile

St David's has capacity to accommodate 144 full-time pupils. with an admission number of 21 full-time pupil places.

In March 2026 there were 55 full-time pupils on roll and 89 surplus places, which equates to 61.81% of the full-time pupil capacity.

Of the 55 full-time pupils registered at St David's in March 2026, 44 (80.00%) were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school (20.00% were not).

The average walking distance for those 44 pupils was 2.06 miles.

Of the 55 full-time pupils, 28 live within 2 miles of the school.

Distance	Number of Pupils	Percentage of Pupils
Within 2 miles	28	50.91%
Over 2 miles	27	49.09%
Total	55	100.00%

The average journey time for full-time pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St David's is 27 minutes.

Based on the full-time pupils registered in March 2026, the annual cost to the Council was approximately £74,000.

E.1.ii. Potential Transport Profile

It is proposed that pupils at St David's would remain at the St David's site but as part of the new school.

Once the new school building is available in Flint, it is anticipated that pupils at the new school but educated at the (then) former St David's site would transfer to the new school site in Flint (walking distance approximately 5.64 miles). These distances exceed what the authority considers a reasonable walking distance for primary-aged learners.

The estimated time³ between the current school site and the proposed alternative school is:

- Walking 2 hours 2 minutes
- Cycling 30 minutes
- Public Transport 26 minutes
- Private Car 16 minutes

Of the 55 full-time pupils registered at St David's in March 2026, 9 would transfer to their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school if they remained in the new school by transferring to the site in Flint.

³ Walking times have been estimated using standard digital mapping tools and reflect typical adult walking speeds. These are provided for indicative purposes only

The average walking distance for those 9 pupils would be 4.08 miles.

Of the 9 full-time pupils, up to 7 would be eligible to apply for free transport (pending proof of faith) to attend the new school in Flint.

The average journey time for those eligible would be 30 minutes.

The total annual cost to the Council of transporting all eligible full-time pupils registered at St David's in March 2026, to the new school site in Flint could be approximately £30,000 (pending proof of faith).

E.2. Existing Facilities

E.2.i. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- Flying Start
- Early Entitlement
- Nursery Plus
- Holiday Club
- Mini Vinnies
- First Holy Communion Preparation
- Science Club
- Music Lessons (guitar & drum)
- Flintshire Music service music lessons

E.2.ii. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

- St David's Playgroup (Step by Step)
- St David's After School Club (Step by Step)
- Flying Start (Step by Step)
- Early Entitlement (Step by Step)
- Holiday Club (Step by Step)

E.2.iii. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

- Library
- Visit to Baily Hill
- Mold town council activities e.g. pancake races, Christmas lights switch on, youth town council meetings, etc.
- Church Hall
- Food bank

- St David's Catholic Church
- Local Supermarkets

E.2.iv. Facilities Available Near the School

Other community facilities that are available and located near to the school include:

- None

E.2.v. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

- St David's Breakfast Club (School Hall)
- St David's After School Club (School Hall / Nursery Building) (Step by Step)
- St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus (School Hall / Nursery Building) (Step by Step)
- St David's Holiday Club (Nursery Building) (Step by Step)
- St David's Flying Start (Nursery Building) (Step by Step)
- St David's Early Entitlement (Nursery Building) (Step by Step)

E.3. Alternative School Facilities

It is proposed that pupils at St David's would remain at the St David's site but as part of the new school.

Once the new school building is available in Flint, it is anticipated that pupils at the new school but educated at the (then) former St David's site would transfer to the new school site in Flint (walking distance approximately 5.64 miles).

As a result of this, the existing facilities available for St Mary's pupils (detailed below) are likely to remain. Additionally, there is an opportunity to provide additional facilities that may offer more opportunities for the community to use the existing facilities.

Details of the potential accommodation and facilities that may be provided is contained in the Statutory Consultation Document.

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.

PART F. ST MARY'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

F.1. Transport Provision

F.1.i. Existing Transport Profile

St Mary's has capacity to accommodate 317 full-time pupils. with an admission number of 45 full-time pupil places.

In March 2026 there were 243 full-time pupils on roll and 74 surplus places, which equates to 23.34% of the full-time pupil capacity.

Of the 243 full-time pupils registered at St Mary's in March 2026, 229 (94.24%) were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school (5.76% were not).

The average walking distance for those 229 pupils was 0.75 miles.

Of the 243 full-time pupils, 217 live within 2 miles of the school.

Distance	Number of Pupils	Percentage of Pupils
Within 2 miles	217	89.30%
Over 2 miles	26	10.70%
Total	243	100.00%

The average journey time for full-time pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St Mary's is 20 minutes.

Based on the full-time pupils registered in March 2026, the annual cost to the Council was approximately £71,000.

F.1.ii. Potential Transport Profile

It is proposed that pupils at St Mary's would remain at the St Mary's site in their current building but as part of the new school.

Once the new school building is available, pupils will transfer to it but remain on the same site.

The number of pupils registered at St Mary's in March 2026, who were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided primary school would remain as 229.

The average walking distance for those 229 pupils would stay as 0.75 miles.

The average journey time for full-time pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St Mary's would be unchanged from 20 minutes.

The annual transport cost to the Council would continue to be approximately £71,000.

F.2. Existing Facilities

F.2.i. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

- Breakfast Club
- After School Club

- Football Club
- Netball Club
- Multi-sports Club
- Expressive Arts Club
- Games Club
- Gardening Club

F.2.ii. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

- Nev Powell Soccer School

F.2.iii. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

- Immaculate Conception Church
- Jade Jones Pavilion
- Flint Library
- Coleshill Bowls Club

F.2.iv. Facilities Available Near the School

Other community facilities that are available and located near to the school include:

- Albert Park
- The Pandy Fishponds
- Cae y Castell Football Stadium (Essity Stadium)
- The Mill Tavern pub
- The Welsh Harp pub

F.2.v. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

- Ysgol Gwynedd After School Club (Local Area)
- Ysgol Cornist Park After School Club (Local Area)
- Ysgol Croes Atti After School Club (Local Area)
- Clwb Hwyl @ St Mary's After School Club (School)
- Teddy Bear Towers Nursery (Local Area)
- The Oaks Day Nursery (Local Area)

F.3. Alternative School Facilities

It is proposed that pupils at St Mary's would remain at the St Mary's site in their current building but as part of the new school. Once the new school building is available, pupils will transfer to it but remain on the same site.

As a result of this, the existing facilities detailed above are likely to remain. Additionally, there is an opportunity to provide additional facilities that may offer more opportunities for the community to use the existing facilities.

Details of the potential accommodation and facilities that may be provided is contained in the Statutory Consultation Document.

PART G. ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC VA HIGH SCHOOL

G.1. Transport Provision

G.1.i. Existing Transport Profile

St Richard Gwyn has capacity to accommodate 969 pupils. with an admission number of 166 pupil places.

In March 2026 there were 726 pupils on roll and 243 surplus places, which equates to 25.08% of the capacity.

All 726 pupils registered at St Richard Gwyn in March 2026 were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided secondary school.

At time of publication, verification of 12 addresses was being undertaken. Of the remaining 714 pupils, the average walking distance to the school was 3.63 miles.

Of the 714 full-time pupils, 280 live within 3 miles of the school.

Distance	Number of Pupils	Percentage of Pupils
Within 2 miles	280	39.22%
Over 2 miles	434	60.78%
Total	714	100.00%

The average journey time for full-time pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St Richard Gwyn does not exceed 45 minutes.

Based on the full-time pupils registered in March 2026, the annual cost to the Council was approximately £346,000.

G.1.ii. Potential Transport Profile

It is proposed that pupils at St Richard Gwyn would remain at the St Richard Gwyn site in their current building but as part of the new school.

Once the new school building is available, pupils will transfer to it but remain on the same site.

The number of pupils registered at St Richard Gwyn in March 2026, who were attending their nearest Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided secondary school would remain as 726.

At time of publication, verification of 12 addresses was being undertaken. Of the remaining 714 pupils, the average walking distance to the school would stay as 3.63 miles.

The average journey time for pupils who meet the criteria for free transport to attend St Richard Gwyn would be unchanged and not exceed 45 minutes.

The annual transport cost to the Council would continue to be approximately £346,000.

G.2. Existing Facilities

G.2.i. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

- Music and drama

- Sports clubs
- Revision classes

G.2.ii. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

- None

G.2.iii. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

- Jade Jones Pavilion
- Flint Castle
- St Mary's Church

G.2.iv. Facilities Available Near the School

Other community facilities that are available and located near to the school include:

- The Harp Public House
- Various cafes and shops on the High Street and retail park
- Church of the Immaculate Conception, Flint/St Mary's Church, Flint

G.2.v. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

- Teddy Bear Towers
- Treehouse Play Nursery

G.3. Alternative School Facilities

It is proposed that pupils at St Richard Gwyn would remain at the St Richard Gwyn site in their current building but as part of the new school. Once the new school building is available, pupils will transfer to it but remain on the same site.

As a result of this, the existing facilities detailed above are likely to remain. Additionally, there is an opportunity to provide additional facilities that may offer more opportunities for the community to use the existing facilities.

Details of the potential accommodation and facilities that may be provided is contained in the Statutory Consultation Document.

PART H. TRANSPORT SUMMARY

It has been assumed that parents have selected a particular school for their child to attend based on a school's category.

Each school involved in the proposal is an English-medium voluntary aided school which deliver a Catholic faith-based education.

On this basis, it has been assumed that all affected pupils will either remain at (if possible) or transfer to (where closure is proposed) their identified Flintshire English-medium Catholic voluntary aided school.

Should the proposal be implemented, the potential impacts have been assessed on walking distances, journey times and transportation costs.

H.1.i. Walking Distances

School	Average Walking Distance (miles) to current site (March 2026)	Average Walking Distance (miles) to proposed new site	Change (miles)	Anticipated Impact
St Anthony's	0.61	5.95	+ 5.34	Negative
St David's	2.06	4.08	+ 2.02	Negative
St Mary's	0.75	0.75	0	Neutral
St Richard Gwyn	3.63	3.63	0	Neutral

H.1.ii. Journey Times

School	Average Journey Time (minutes) to current site (March 2026)	Average Journey Time (minutes) to proposed new site	Change (minutes)	Anticipated Impact
St Anthony's	15	<45	+ 30	Negative
St David's	27	30	+ 3	Negative
St Mary's	20	20	0	Neutral
St Richard Gwyn	45	45	0	Neutral

H.1.iii. Transportation Costs

School	Transportation Costs (£) to current site (March 2026)	Potential Transportation Costs (£) to proposed new site	Change (£)	Anticipated Impact
St Anthony's	£0.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	Negative
St David's	£74,000.00	£30,000.00	-£44,000.00	Positive
St Mary's	£71,000.00	£71,000.00	£0.00	Neutral
St Richard Gwyn	£346,000.00	£346,000.00	£0.00	Neutral
Total	£491,000.00	£507,000.00	£16,000.00	Negative

PART I. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

I.1. Public Transport

Potential Impact: Neutral

The proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on wider public transport provision within the area, as existing services operate independently of school-specific demand.

Potential Mitigation: None

I.2. Health and Wellbeing

Potential Impact: Positive, Neutral and Negative

A detailed assessment of potential impacts on health and wellbeing is included in the Integrated Impact Assessment. The factors considered include lifestyles, mental wellbeing, safeguarding and fuel poverty.

For those pupils that will have to transfer to alternative school it may be challenging and create short term concerns of moving. Also, children attending a school that is not in their immediate community may find it more difficult to engage with school activities outside of the school day, and be less likely to be able to walk or cycle to school.

Potential Mitigation: Transition Support

All pupils will be offered transition and pastoral support in order to minimise any concerns of transferring to a new school.

The Council has extensive experience supporting ALN pupils through school reorganisations. In previous projects, personalised transition planning has enabled vulnerable learners to adjust safely and confidently. Should this proposal proceed, pupils with ALN would receive:

- Personalised transition plans based on individual needs
 - Enhanced familiarisation visits during transition
 - Visual supports, social stories and pupil-friendly explanations
 - Opportunities for pupils to meet new staff in advance
 - Phased transitions, gradually increasing time on site where required
 - Close liaison between ALNCo, class teachers, families and external agencies
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I.3. Community Safety

Potential Impact: Neutral

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 complete assessment is included in Appendix K.1.

Safe Routes Assessments have not been conducted in any of the other areas as pupils from those areas will be eligible to claim free transport (pending proof of faith) to their identified alternative school due to distance.

Potential Mitigation: Enhance safety provision in the Flint area

Whilst no significant safety issues have been identified in Flint, there may be opportunities to further enhance walking routes where appropriate

I.4. Alternative Local Facilities

Potential Impact: Negative

In Saltney and Mold there appear to be limited suitable alternative facilities within the immediate local area that could be used to provide current school-based activities. Also, it is recognised that trying to replicate these activities at an alternative venue may not be viable without the presence of the school.

Potential Mitigation: Consult parents/guardians and explore alternative options

Whilst information has been provided on facilities local to each of the schools, there may be suitable alternative premises available but in the wider local area. Discussions with parents/guardians would determine whether there is an appetite to relocate school-based activities to the wider local area or whether they would look for the same activities at their preferred alternative school.

I.5. School-Based Local Services

Potential Impact: Neutral and Negative

There are no significant school-led community services at St Anthony's that would be directly lost. However, parents in Mold may lose access to services currently delivered from the school site, such as Flying Start provision, early years childcare and a holiday club, unless these can be relocated.

Potential Mitigation: Explore alternative options

There may be scope to relocate services to other schools in the wider area, albeit without a Catholic faith designation. Engagement with parents and stakeholders to identify alternative venues may be undertaken and consideration of accessing similar activities through alternative schools if available.

I.6. Local Population

Potential Impact: Positive and Negative

Flint already has well established schools, infrastructure and community facilities that make it an attractive place to live. The construction of a new school would enhance the current education offering and may attract families to the area, but this is likely to be a minor positive impact.

Similarly to Flint, both Saltney and Mold have a number of alternative schools (non-Catholic), have good transport links and a range of community facilities available. Although removal of the Catholic primary schools in these areas may result in people either relocating or not moving to these places, any negative impact is likely to be minor.

Overall, the impact on local population patterns is expected to be minimal.

Potential Mitigation: Monitoring of pupil trends

Ensuring that the right types of schools are provided in the right areas for the right number of pupils.

I.7. Wider Economy

Potential Impact: Neutral and Negative

A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as the number of people accessing the proposed school would remain similar to current levels.

A negative impact is anticipated in both the Saltney and Mold areas respectively due to the closure of St Anthony's and St David's (site). The closure of a school will reduce the number of people coming into that particular area.

Potential Mitigation: None

I.8. Engagement with Alternative Schools

Potential Impact: Positive

The proposal will bring together pupils into a single school with access to a broader range of facilities, extracurricular activities, and enrichment opportunities. This has the potential to increase overall participation in activities beyond the classroom.

However, it is recognised that some learners and families may face barriers to engagement, particularly during the transition period or where increased travel distances, cost, or familiarity with the new setting may impact participation.

Potential Mitigation:

- Development of a transition plan to support pupils and families in becoming familiar with the new school environment and its offer.
- Continued provision of wraparound childcare and extracurricular activities to support working families
- Ensuring equitable access to after-school activities, including consideration of cost and availability of places
- Monitoring participation levels, with particular focus on disadvantaged learners, to ensure no groups are disproportionately impacted
- Providing clear communication to parents/carers on available opportunities and how to access them

I.9. Access to Catholic Education

Potential Impact: Neutral and Negative

A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as Catholic faith based education will remain in the area.

A negative impact is anticipated in both the Saltney and Mold areas respectively due to the closure of St Anthony's and St David's (site).

Potential Mitigation: Free transport for pupils (subject to criteria requirements)

Faith based education is not available in every town and village in Flintshire. However, 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.

I.10. Access to Same Language Medium Education

Potential Impact: Neutral

A neutral impact is anticipated as education is delivered through the medium of English at all Catholic schools in Flintshire. This would not change following implementation and parents / guardians wanting a Catholic based education for their child would continue to have this delivered in English.

Potential Mitigation: None

I.11. Walking Distances and Journey Times

Potential Impact: Neutral and Negative

The proposal would not change the walking distances, nor the journey times for pupils at St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn respectively.

However, it is recognised that average walking distances for current St Anthony's pupils to their proposed alternative school would increase significantly. This also means that these pupils would encounter significantly increased journey times as well.

With regards to current St David's pupils, they too would have increased average walking distances to their proposed alternative school and increased average journey times.

Potential Mitigation: None

By removing St Anthony's and St David's from the Catholic school network it means that pupils from these schools will have to transfer to alternative schools. Any increased walking distance or journey time cannot be mitigated.

However, there will be access to free home-to-school transport (subject to eligibility) and consideration of transitional arrangements where appropriate.

I.12. Nearby Schools

Potential Impact: Neutral and Positive

A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as pupil numbers are anticipated to only slightly increase.

A neutral impact is also anticipated in the Saltney and Mold as it is assumed pupils are attending St Anthony's and St David's because of the Catholic education provided. The extension of this assumption is that pupils will transfer to their next nearest available Flintshire Catholic schools which are outside of the Saltney and Mold areas.

A positive impact is anticipated in Shotton as the nearest Catholic primary school for the majority of current pupils attending St Anthony's is Venerable Edward Morgan. Pupils transferring to Venerable Edward Morgan would help to reduce its current surplus places.

Potential Mitigation: None

I.13. Wraparound and Childcare Provision

Potential Impact: Positive and Negative

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.

Potential Mitigation: Exploration of Alternative Childcare

There is the potential to include a standalone childcare facility on the new school campus which would encourage early engagement with the Catholic faith and may help sustain demand for the new school.

It should be noted no decision has been taken to include a standalone childcare facility, but it will be considered and evaluated should the proposal proceed to implementation.

Engagement with existing providers to support continuity where possible

PART J. CONCLUSION

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

With specific regards to transport, 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.

Whilst increased distances and journey times cannot be fully mitigated, support measures such as free transport (where eligible) and transitional arrangements may reduce the impact on affected families

PART K. APPENDICES

K.1. Learner Travel Assessment of Walking Routes – Flint

Learner Travel Route Assessment Report

Proposed Area: Flint – Walking Routes to Local Schools

Assessment in accordance with the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance

1. Introduction

This report provides an assessment of the walking routes within the Flint area. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Welsh Government's Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance, which sets out the criteria for determining whether a walking route is considered available for learners travelling to and from school.

The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether the identified routes should be classified as hazardous.

2. Assessment Criteria

In line with the statutory guidance, a route is considered available and non-hazardous if it:

- Provides a continuous and adequate footway
- Includes safe crossing points where required
- Is appropriate for the age and ability of learners
- Allows learners to walk in reasonable safety when accompanied, where applicable
- Shows no collision patterns indicating elevated pedestrian risk

3. Route Description

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.

4. Infrastructure and Safety Measures

4.1 Footways

Footways are continuous and adequate throughout the area, allowing pedestrians to travel safely without entering the carriageway.

4.2 Crossing Facilities

Where crossings of busier roads are required, formal pedestrian crossing facilities are present, providing safe and controlled crossing opportunities in accordance with statutory guidance.

4.3 Traffic Conditions

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.

4.4 Collision Data

A review of available collision data shows no recurring pedestrian-related collision patterns that would indicate an elevated risk to learners.

5. Compliance with Guidance

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.

6. Conclusion

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.

7. Further Information and Recommendation

A detailed plan illustrating the assessed routes and extents will be provided separately to support this report.

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.

