

STATUTORY CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Review of Catholic Schools in Flintshire

Consultation Period: Commences 03 June 2025 and
Closes Midnight 18 July 2025



INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Diocese of Wrexham (the Diocese) and Flintshire County Council (the Council) have a responsibility to make sure Catholic schools deliver the best education possible.

After reviewing the Catholic schools, the Diocese and the Council believe that changes are necessary to help the Catholic education provision flourish in the future.

This document is designed to give people an overview of the proposed changes. Full details of the proposal have been detailed in a Statutory Consultation Document that can be found here:

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



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Flintshire has six schools that teach a Catholic faith-based education.

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

Note: the school names will be shortened in the rest of this document



BACKGROUND

The overall number of pupils across all schools is going down, and this is also the case when looking at just the Catholic provision. Over the last 5 years, out of the 1081 places available at Catholic schools, pupil numbers have fallen from 780 to 688. This trend has been forecast to continue and lower pupil numbers means that school budgets are not being used as efficiently as possible for the benefit of learners.

The Diocese have recognised this decline and, after considering other factors such as the condition of school buildings and potential repair costs, decided to put forward a bold proposal that is believed will protect the long-term delivery of Catholic education in Flintshire.

The Council have agreed to work with the Diocese to gather your views and deliver the proposal should it be decided to implement it.



THE PROPOSAL

The Diocese and the Council have proposed to:

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2026.
- 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 2026 and a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, opened in September 2026, operating over the three current sites.
- Move the new school to the new buildings from 01 September 2029.



OTHER OPTIONS

The proposal was not the only option that has been looked at. Advantages and disadvantages were considered for:

- Doing nothing
- Just completing backlog maintenance works
- Merge the Flint schools and keep the schools as they are
- Merge all 6 schools on to the Flint site
- Merge the schools at Flint, Saltney and Mold, and also have the Shotton and Holywell schools work more closely together under one head teacher but separate governing bodies



ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL

- 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 OF THE PROPOSAL

- 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 alternative 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



TIMEFRAME

These are the stages involved and when they are likely to occur:

- **Consultation Period: 03 June 2025 to 18 July 2025**
- **Consideration of Consultation Results: September / October 2025**
- **Statutory Notice Published: October / November 2025**
- **Objection Period: October / November 2025**
- **Final Decision: January / February / March 2026**



YOUR VIEWS

It is very important that you have your say on the proposal. All views, whether they be positive, neutral or negative are welcomed.

Your views on the consultation will be given to the Council's Cabinet to help them decide whether to proceed to the next stage.

However, it should be noted that responses received during the consultation period will not be logged as objections to the proposal. Formal objections will be gathered later if the proposals progresses to that stage.

Remember: This document is just an overview of the proposal and the full Statutory Consultation Document that can be found here:

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



HOW TO RESPOND



Please complete the online survey to give your opinion on the proposal:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/catholiceducationconsultation/>

Alternatively, you can request a hard copy of the response form by contacting the Council via email at CatholicEducationConsultation@flintshire.gov.uk, by telephone on 01352 704014, 01352 704018 or 01352 702188 or by post to the following address:

Flintshire County Council
School Modernisation Team
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