

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Proposal to Reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P
Closing Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and opening a new
maintained school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is
approved and constructed.



Consultation period:

Tuesday June 3rd to Friday July 18th 2025

Consultation to Reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

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This consultation document is published in hard copy, if you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format for example braille or large print, or help with interpretation in a different language, please contact the School Modernisation Team on 01352 704018/01352 704014, or e-mail saltneyconsultations@flintshire.gov.uk.

Consultation to Reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Closing Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and opening a new maintained school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.

A. OVERVIEW

A1. Introduction

This consultation document is an opportunity for stakeholders and other interested parties to learn about changes and give feedback on the proposal to reorganise the school provision at Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

This document represents Flintshire County Council's (the Council) responsibilities as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, to consult with appropriate stakeholders when giving consideration to any significant school reorganisation.

Following the regulatory guidance of the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council wish to consult interested stakeholders regarding reorganisation of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P which will involve the closure of both schools and the opening of a new amalgamated primary school initially on the current two sites whilst a new school is approved and constructed.

The consultation provides you with an opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and share your views on the proposals being put forward. Your input into this consultation will be reviewed carefully when the Council considers whether the proposal should be taken forward to implementation.

This document sets out information which consultees should consider to fully participate in the consultation process.

A2. Overview of the Proposal

The Council is seeking your views on a proposal to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

The council proposes to deliver this reorganisation by:

- Closing Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.
- Opening an amalgamated primary school initially on the current two sites, while a new building is approved and constructed.
- Opening a new 315 place Community English Medium Primary School on land currently occupied by Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

To achieve these changes, the Council, in partnership with Welsh Government, subject to the necessary approvals, is planning to invest £1 2.5 million in a new school.

Note to readers: this proposal is running concurrently with the proposal to close St Anthony's Catholic Primary School.

A3. 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 School Organisation Code 2018 describes a number of regulated alterations to maintained schools, 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 in the Welsh Government have published these procedures within the School Organisation Code 2018 (*the Code*).

The formal consultation process will operate for 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 agreed children and young people's participation standards for Wales, Article 12 of UNCRC established that "Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taking into account".

The views of children and young people are extremely important to the Council, therefore children and young people will be provided with opportunities to contribute to this consultation process. The Council has produced a summary version of this document which will be made accessible for all children and young people affected by this proposal.

A4. Who will be consulted?

This consultation will take place between **Tuesday June 3rd 2025** and ends on **midnight Friday July 18th 2025**. This consultation is required to take place for at least 42 days with at least 20 of these being school days.

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

Requirement under the Organisational Code 011/2018	It will be distributed to
School community	<p>The Headteacher, teachers, staff and the governing bodies of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.</p> <p>Pupils at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P</p> <p>Parents, carers and guardians (and where possible prospective parents, carers and guardians) of pupils attending Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P</p> <p>Governing Bodies of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P</p>

the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	Flintshire County Council is submitting the proposal
any other local authority likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated Special Education Need (SEN)/Additional Learning Need (ALN) provision any authority placing or likely to place statemented pupils in it;	Cheshire West and Chester County Council
the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;	Diocese of Wrexham Diocese of St Asaph
any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	
The governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and of other schools likely to be affected by the proposals, including those that might receive any displaced pupils.	Governing Body of Saint David's High, Saltney Governing Body of Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Saltney
The governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Governing Body of Broughton C.P Governing Body of Lache County Primary School.
The Welsh Ministers.	
Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Jack Sargeant MS Mark Tami MP
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 Regional Education Consortium.	
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/ intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals	Saltney Town Council
The local Communities First Partnership (in relevant areas).	
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent providers who may be affected;	Saltney Small Steps Woody Wrap Around Clwb Hapus
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.	Mudiad Meithrin Early Years Wales National Day Nursery Associate PACEY Menter Iaith
In the case of proposals affecting Additional Learning Need provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest.	SNAP Cymru

In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school.	N/A
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school.	
In the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.	
Other	All Flintshire Council Councillors The wider Saltney community

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/Proposal-To-Reorganise-Saltney-Ferry-C.P-And-Saltney-Wood-Memorial-C.P.aspx>

A5. How to respond to the consultation

Your views on the proposals to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P are important to us. The Council wants you to engage in this consultation and tell us what you think of the proposal, particularly if they may affect you or your children.

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 3 June 2025	Friday 18 July 2025	42 days (20 of which are school days)

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

[Follow this link](#)



Follow this QR Code

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 on the next page.

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 **midnight Friday July 18th**.

The Council is not proposing any public drop-in events during this consultation. Instead, questions can be submitted by e-mail to saltneyconsultations@flintshire.gov.uk, Council Officers will aim to provide a response within 7 working days if these are regarding the process.

Staff and Governor events have been co-ordinated with the individual schools.

A6. 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
Flintshire
CH5 3XT

E-mail: saltneyconsultations@flintshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01352 704018 or 01352 704014

A post-box will also be available at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P receptions to post responses.

A7. What will happen next?

Once the consultation period has ended, a **Consultation Report** will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will decide whether or not they wish to proceed with the preferred option outlined in the consultation document. ***It should be noted that responses received during the period will not be logged as objections to the proposal.***

If the first part of the process is approved to proceed by the Council's Cabinet, a **Statutory Notice** will be published, 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 to approve, or not, 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 2025
Council publish statutory notice and enter into an objection period	September/October 2025
Cabinet consider the objection report and determine whether or not to implement the proposals	January/February 2026
Decision notification letter is issued with outcome from Cabinet determination	January/February 2026

The remainder of the consultation document sets out the rationale for the proposed changes to reorganise Saltney Ferry CP and Saltney Wood Memorial CP. 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

B1. Background to the Proposal

This school modernisation proposal is necessary because the local authority must ensure the following:

- Provision of high-quality and sustainable education.
- Improvement of school buildings and facilities.
- Availability of the right number and type of school places in the right locations.
- Addressing unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure.
- Recognition that inaction will lead to higher pupil-teacher ratios as funding decreases.
- Maximisation of external funding through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

To enable this proposal to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P., the council seeks your views on the proposal.

The council proposes to deliver this reorganisation by:

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- Opening an amalgamated primary school initially on the current two sites, while a new building is approved and constructed.
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B2. Current Position

Saltney Ferry C.P

Location of the School		Saltney Ferry Road, Saltney Ferry, Chester, CH4 0BN	
Age Range		3-11	
School Category		Community school	
Language Medium Category		English medium	
		Reception – Year 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the school register September 2024		116	18
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2023	117	19
	September 2022	117	19
	September 2021	110	10
	September 2020	101	26
Capacity		236	33

Surplus Places		-120	
Pupil Projections	September 2025	120	19
	September 2026	124	19
	September 2027	123	19
	September 2028	123	19
	September 2029	132	19
Building Condition Category	Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.		
Building Suitability	Suitability Grade B - Satisfactory Performing as intended but does not support the Curriculum in some areas. The location of the school, in a residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers.		
Cost to Resolve Condition Issues	£227,498.07		
Funding	Revenue allocation 25/26 = £676,642 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 25/26 = £5,413 Average budget share per primary pupil in Flintshire (25/26) is £5,667		

Carbon Impact

Saltney Ferry Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of C. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 33,251kWh of electricity and 11,5920kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 34,396kgCO₂e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.

The impact on emissions from travel would be minimal due to the proximity of the schools.

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Location of the School	Boundary Lane, Saltney, CH4 8LN	
Age Range	3-11	
School Category	Community school	
Language Medium Category	English medium	
	Reception – Year 6	Nursery

Number of pupils on the school register		152	19
September 2024			
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2023	142	19
	September 2022	150	18
	September 2021	147	18
	September 2020	142	14
Capacity		216	30
Surplus Places		-64	
Pupil Projections	September 2025	148	22
	September 2026	156	22
	September 2027	152	21
	September 2028	150	22
	September 2029	151	22
Building Condition Category	Condition Grade B – Satisfactory Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.		
Building Suitability	Suitability Grade C - Poor Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation. The location of the school, in a built-up residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers.		
Cost to Resolve Condition Issues	£97,618		
Funding	Revenue allocation 25/26 = £844,147 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 25/26 = £5,227 Average budget share per primary pupil in Flintshire (25/26) is £5,667		

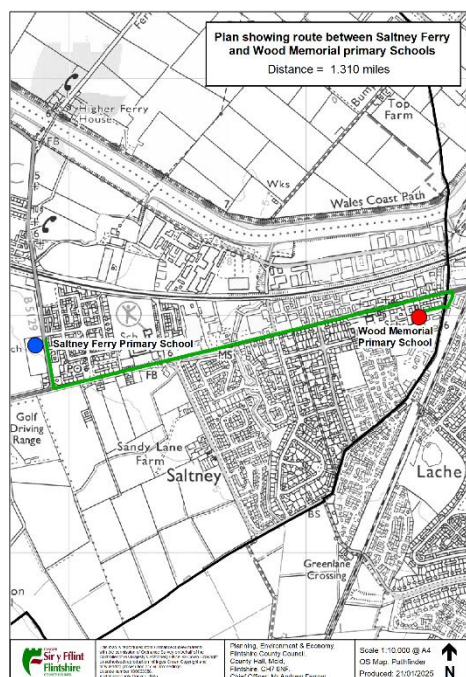
Carbon Impact

Wood Memorial Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 42,846kWh of electricity and 11,7424kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 36,804kgCO₂e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.

The impact on emissions from travel would be minimal due to the proximity of the schools.

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

B3. Location Map of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P



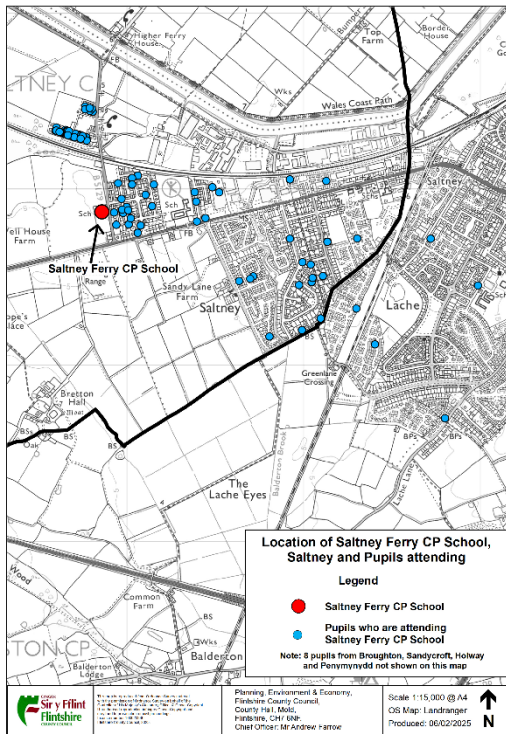
Saltney is a town and an electoral ward of Flintshire, situated to the east of the village of Broughton and on the Welsh-English border with the City of Chester. The resident population of Saltney, as measured in the 2021 census, was 5,140.

B4. Demographical Information

Saltney Ferry C.P

Demographically analysis (as at September 2024) has shown that Saltney Ferry C.P school is broadly serving the Saltney area, approximately 67.23% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest local community school.

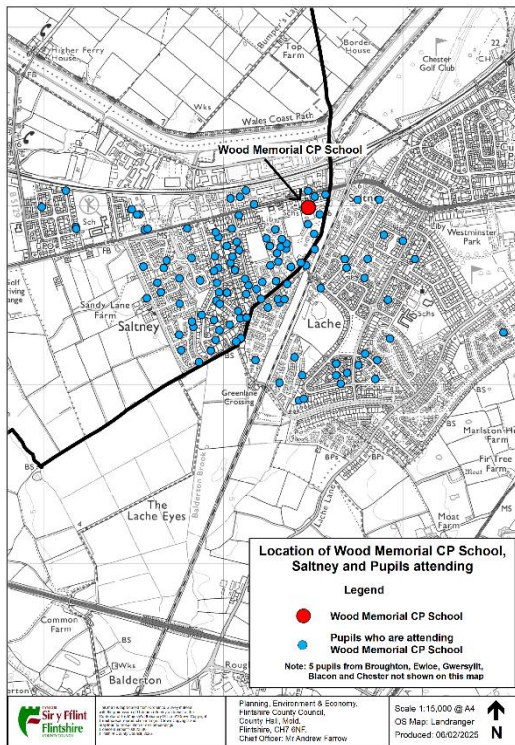
Map of Locations of Pupils Attending Saltney Ferry C.P



Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Demographically analysis (as at September 2024) has shown that Saltney Wood Memorial C.P school is mostly serving the Saltney area, approximately 80.67% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest local community school.

Map of Locations of Pupils Attending Saltney Wood Memorial C.P



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 primary schools outside of the direct Saltney area are: -

- Broughton C.P, Broughton (3.1 miles walking distance from Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, and 2.1 miles walking distance from Saltney Ferry C.P)
- Lache Community Primary School, Chester, England (0.9 miles walking distance from Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, and 2 miles walking distance from Saltney Ferry C.P)

This makes Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P each one of two Community schools directly serving the Saltney area.

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 Saltney Ferry (120/50.85%) indicate insufficient demand for the school.

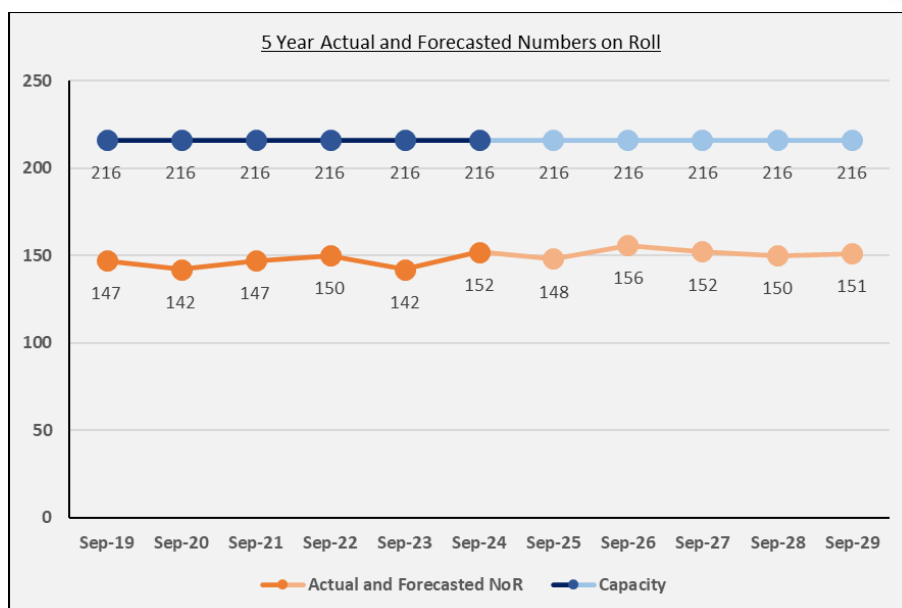
The high number of surplus places at Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. schools indicate insufficient demand for two community primary schools in the area. The local authority has a duty to provide the appropriate number of school places in the right locations, whilst reducing running costs and ensuring sustainability.

Establishing a new, amalgamated community primary school in Saltney would significantly reduce the surplus of primary school places in the area, while providing a more cost-effective and improved educational experience. The current and forecasted enrollment figures for both existing schools are illustrated below.

B5. Pupil Projections

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend
	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	
Nursery	17	14	18	18	15	19	22	22	21	22	22	3
Reception	18	23	26	22	22	24	19	22	22	21	22	-2
Year 1	21	14	25	26	22	21	24	19	22	22	21	0
Year 2	23	21	15	25	24	21	21	24	19	22	22	1
Year 3	28	20	21	16	25	23	21	21	24	19	22	-1
Year 4	21	26	15	23	14	26	23	21	21	24	19	-7
Year 5	18	20	25	14	22	14	26	23	21	21	24	10
Year 6	18	18	20	24	13	23	14	26	23	21	21	-2
Total	147	142	147	150	142	152	148	156	152	150	151	-1
Capacity	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	0
Surplus Places	69	74	69	66	74	64	68	60	64	66	65	1
Surplus Places %	31.94%	34.26%	31.94%	30.56%	34.26%	29.63%	31.48%	27.78%	29.63%	30.56%	30.09%	0.46%
Admission Number	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0
Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number												0
Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded												0



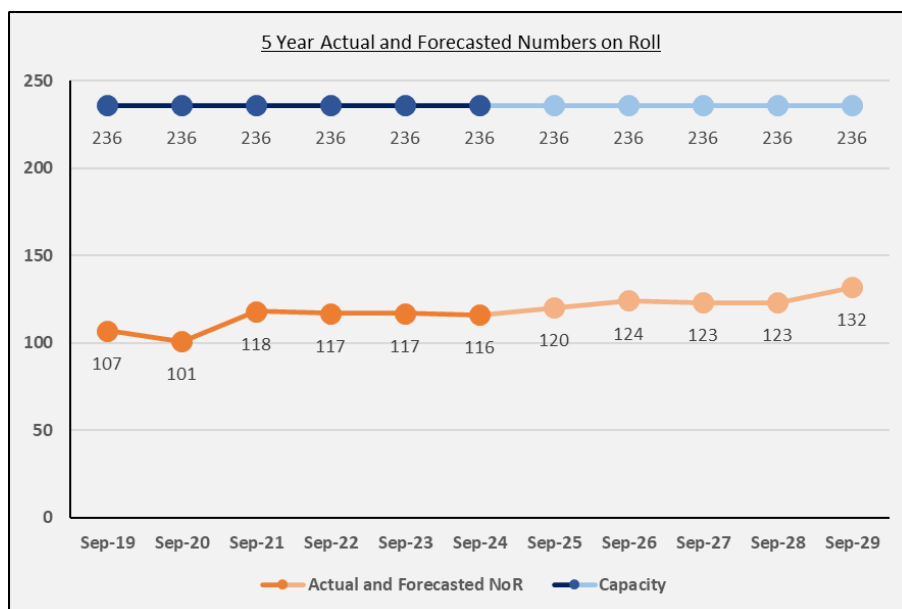
September 2025

Flintshire County Council School Admissions have stated that as of the current publication date, 34 applications have been received for reception class places, 28 of which are first choice for September 2025 at Saltney Wood Memorial CP, exceeding the anticipated figure of 19.

In contrast, 12 nursery places have been allocated, falling short of the projected 22. Collectively, these figures indicate a stable availability of places at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

Saltney Ferry C.P

	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					
Year Group	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	5 Year Trend
Nursery	18	26	10	19	19	18	19	19	19	19	19	1
Reception	15	14	25	12	12	19	18	19	19	19	19	0
Year 1	18	14	16	23	23	19	19	18	19	19	19	0
Year 2	20	16	14	18	18	10	19	19	18	19	19	9
Year 3	20	17	16	14	14	19	10	19	19	18	19	0
Year 4	12	19	15	16	16	20	19	10	19	19	18	-2
Year 5	11	11	20	15	15	15	20	19	10	19	19	4
Year 6	11	10	12	19	19	14	15	20	19	10	19	5
Total	107	101	118	117	117	116	120	124	123	123	132	16
Capacity	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	0
Surplus Places	129	135	118	119	119	120	116	112	113	113	104	-16
Surplus Places %	54.66%	57.20%	50.00%	50.42%	50.42%	50.85%	49.15%	47.46%	47.88%	47.88%	44.07%	-6.78%
Admission Number	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	0
Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number												0
Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded												0



September 2025

Flintshire County Council School Admissions has reported that, as of the current date, 14 reception class placements have been designated for September 2025 for Saltney Ferry CP, which is below the anticipated

total of 18. Similarly, 13 nursery placements have been assigned, falling short of the expected 19. Together, these statistics reflect a decrease in numbers at Saltney Ferry C.P.

B6. Quality of Education 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 quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

Curriculum

The Estyn inspection reports for both schools comments on the curriculum provision:

Saltney Ferry C.P "The school has developed a vision for its curriculum that involves all stakeholders. It has a focus on contributing to the local community and on developing characteristics in pupils, such as to be companionate and inclusive. The curriculum promotes equality and diversity well and challenges stereotypes while supporting pupils to develop healthy relationships. Staff collaborate to create a range of learning experiences that incorporate the areas of learning and experience of the Curriculum for Wales along with cross-cutting themes, such as careers and the world of work. As a result, the curriculum helps to raise pupils' aspiration and encourages them to consider the attributes they will need for the future."

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P "The school has comprehensive plans in place to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum and teachers are beginning to consider the new curriculum when planning learning activities. Staff plan good opportunities for pupils to develop their English and mathematics skills as they move through the school. Staff plan a wide and varied range of opportunities to enable pupils to make appropriate progress in the development of Welsh language skills. The school's provision for ICT is developing well."

Standards

Saltney Wood Memorial was last inspected in March 2020 and Estyn judged standards and teaching and learning experiences to be Good.

Saltney Ferry CP was last inspected in September 2022 and placed in the Estyn category of requiring Significant Improvement. In February 2024 the school was revisited by Estyn and found to have made sufficient progress against its recommendations and as a result, was removed from that category, requiring no further follow up.

As the staff transition into the new amalgamated school, it is expected that the focus on ensuring high quality teaching and learning will be maintained and further enhanced through the sharing of best practices.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

The construction of a state-of-the-art school facility will enhance the wellbeing of both staff and students by providing access to resources and amenities that will improve educational provision and foster more positive attitudes towards learning.

The new school's design will incorporate input from the school's stakeholders to ensure it aligns with the school's curriculum vision and overall ethos, thereby maximising its positive impact on student wellbeing and learning engagement.

Teaching and learning experiences

The new school will provide pupils and staff with enhanced access to resources and facilities, thereby improving the overall teaching and learning experience. Additionally, the school will offer greater opportunities for professional development and a broader range of curricular activities.

Care, support and guidance

The inclusive and nurturing learning environments of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial will be transitioned to the new school, accompanied by their respective teaching staff. The new school's enhanced facilities will provide greater resources and improved amenities to better support the learners..

Leadership & Management

The new school's leadership will be strengthened by the exchange of best practices between current school leaders and their accumulated experience. Furthermore, structures will be developed to offer a broader range of opportunities for both staff and students. As a result, students will benefit from enhanced learning opportunities and a wider scope of curricular activities.

Estyn Inspections

The links to the full report are included below, and the recommendations of the ESTYN inspection teams for the schools are as follows:

Saltney Ferry C.P – September 2022 – [Inspection report Saltney Ferry C.P 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

R1 Improve pupils' reading and writing skills

R2 Improve pupils' Welsh language and their digital skills

R3 Ensure that teachers maintain high expectations, and challenge all pupils to achieve consistently

R4 Implement effective procedures to evaluate the work of the school and address identified areas for improvement robustly

R5 Ensure that planned learning experiences build on pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding systematically

Saltney Ferry C.P received a monitoring visit in February 2024 where it was judged that the school had made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection in September 2022. The school is no longer on the list of schools requiring significant improvement.

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P – March 2020 – [Inspection report Saltney Wood Memorial C.P 2020 \(gov.wales\)](#)

R1 Raise standards in Welsh across the school

R2 Increase opportunities for pupils to apply numeracy and extended writing skills

across the curriculum

Following inspections, schools are required to draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. The proposed amalgamation of the two schools is expected to provide an opportunity for further improvement under one Governing Body with a single ethos and policies to address these recommendations.

PART C – THE PROPOSAL

C1: What is being proposed?

The Council proposes to construct a new English-medium community primary school in Saltney. This project, which will be delivered through the Council's Capital Development Programme, will build a single community primary school with 315 pupil places and an additional 30 full-time nursery places.

C2: 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 single community primary school in Saltney, with a capacity of 315 pupil places and an additional 30 full-time nursery places. The new school will be built on land currently attached to Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

C3: When will the proposal be Effective?

The Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P schools are proposed to close in September 2026, with both schools amalgamating into a single school under a single leadership and governance structure but on the two existing sites. Construction of the new primary school is then scheduled to begin in January 2027, with an anticipated opening in September 2028.

C4: Cost of the Proposal

The project will require a capital investment of approximately £12,500,000 this has been made possible, by Flintshire County Council capital borrowing and from Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

The Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning funding programme aims to:

- improve the quality of school buildings
- ensure places are available to serve local pupil demand
- reduce surplus capacity

- reduce running costs
- promote sustainability

Under Welsh Government Sustainable Community for Learning funding conditions, Welsh Government will contribute 65% of the total project costs, with the remaining 35% funded by Council capital borrowing.

Revenue Costs

The revenue allocation for Saltney Ferry C.P for 2025/26 is **£676,642** with a budget share per pupil figure of **£5,413**.

The revenue allocation for Saltney Wood Memorial C.P for 2025/26 is **£844,861** with a budget share per pupil figure of **£5,231**.

The average budget share per primary pupil in Flintshire is **£5,667**.

One of the drivers for amalgamation is equality of funding for pupils and through the amalgamation of both schools as the cost per pupil for the area will be rationalised. Saltney Ferry Primary School and Wood Memorial Primary School will be funded on the same formula as other schools if they are part of an amalgamation. As part of the Council's funding formula, schools are funded on the number of pupils and on other non-teaching costs. If the schools were to be merged to become a single school, the formula would calculate a single budget, which would be smaller than the budget of operating as two separate schools.

Revenue costs have been calculated for the proposed new school based on the 2025/26 School Funding Formula. These

Based on existing pupil numbers

Estimated Budget Allocation based on 2025/26 Funding Formula: **£1,403,9911**

Estimated Allocation per pupil based on 2025/26 Funding formula: **£4,900**

Based on proposed capacity of new school

Estimated numbers on roll: 315 plus 30 Nursery (330 total FTE)

Estimated Budget Allocation based on 2025/26 Funding Formula: **£1,554,417**

Estimated Allocation per pupil based on 2025/26 Funding formula: **£4,710**

C5: Options Considered

Option	Description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Conclusion
Option 1	Status Quo - This option would maintain the schools' existing structure and format.	- It would maintain the current status quo at both schools and structures would remain as they are.	- High numbers of surplus places would remain at both schools. - Costs of sustaining two	Maintaining the current 'status quo' fails to resolve the problems of excessive surplus capacity and the resulting unsustainable

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no additional cost to the local authority. 	<p>separate community schools would remain unsustainable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limitations with the current sites and learning environments would remain. - Reducing carbon targets will not be met. 	<p>operational costs. Similarly, this option does not adequately address the suitability concerns that have been identified at both school facilities.</p>
Option 2	<p>Do minimum – The schools would undergo refurbishment based on the actions recommended in the most recent condition and suitability assessments, while maintaining their current structural configuration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less capital investment required - Building condition and suitability issues addressed. - Schools remain on their current sites under current staffing arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High numbers of surplus places would remain at both schools. - Costs of sustaining two separate community schools would remain unsustainable. - Reducing carbon targets will not be met. 	<p>This option would resolve the current facilities and accommodation challenges at each school while enabling them to preserve their distinct identities. However, it would fail to address the substantial surplus capacity and the unsustainable financial costs of maintaining two separate community schools.</p>
Option 3	<p>Amalgamate the two schools on their current sites while investing in their existing facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less capital investment required. - Building condition and suitability issues addressed. - Some savings could be made on staffing and shared resources. - Expertise could be shared across both schools. - Schools would remain on current sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High numbers of surplus places would remain at both schools. - Costs of sustaining two separate community schools would remain unsustainable. - Reducing carbon targets will not be met. 	<p>This option would resolve the identified issues with the building's condition and suitability, while also generating some cost savings through the sharing of resources and expertise. However, it would fail to address the high number of surplus school places and the unsustainable costs of maintaining two separate community schools.</p>
Option 4	<p>The proposal is to close the two existing schools,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides sufficient places to meet the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closure of both schools in their current format and 	<p>This option is preferred as it will reduce the large number of surplus</p>

	<p>amalgamate them, and then relocate the combined school to a new facility situated at the current Wood Memorial site. The new school will have a total capacity of 315 places, including 30 full-time equivalent (FTE) nursery spaces.</p>	<p>needs of the local area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significantly reduces running costs as there will now be one school rather than two. - Establishes a new modern school with enhanced resources to provide better learning opportunities. - Allows opportunity for both schools to come together as one taking the experience and best practice from both to improve learning outcomes for children. 	<p>the loss of Saltney Ferry C.P.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential redundancies associated with the move from two schools to one. - Impact of travelling distance on those currently attending Saltney Ferry C.P who would now have to travel to a new school on the current Wood Memorial site. 	<p>primary school places in the area, reduce running costs whilst providing a new modern learning environment fit for purpose and to enhance learning opportunities for all children.</p>
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What will the preferred proposal achieve?

If implemented, the proposal will reduce the large number of surplus primary school places in the area, reduce running costs whilst providing a new modern learning environment fit for purpose and to enhance learning opportunities for children.

PART D – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

D1: Impact on the Local Environment

There are currently no major housing developments within the Local Development Plan for the Saltney area.

Traffic impacts for this capital project will be assessed during the planning application process.

There is currently a safe walking route around Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and between Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, and consideration will be given to improvements to this as part of the proposed scheme through the planning process.

Safe routes to school and active travel arrangements will be considered in partnership with colleagues in Planning and Streetscene Teams. A coherent travel strategy and school travel plan will be put in place to promote ecologically friendly travel choices.

A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.

D2: Impact on Admissions

Flintshire County Council is the admissions authority for Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and applications for admission will continue to be assessed in accordance with the Council's School Admissions Policy.

There will be sufficient spaces available for pupils on roll at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P to transfer to the new school.

In accordance with the Flintshire County Council admissions policy, parents of children not yet enrolled can express a preference for any school, though admission to their chosen school is not guaranteed. This proposal will establish a 1.5 form entry, with teaching groups limited to no more than 30 pupils in Foundation Stage classes and 30 or fewer in Key Stage 2 classes.

This proposal will not impact on the policy, and admission to the school will be made in accordance with parental preference, subject to availability. Where a school is oversubscribed, preference requests will still be considered, but the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority.

Further information on the School Admissions policy and process can be found on the Council website at <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admissions.aspx>

D3: Impact on Home to School Transport

Under the Council's policy, free home to school transport is provided to all primary school aged pupils who live two miles or more from their nearest school, or alternatively the nearest available school. This proposal will not impact on this arrangement and the availability of home to school walking routes will remain unchanged or have already been improved. Current analysis shows that **no** pupils currently attending either Saltney Ferry C.P or Saltney Wood Memorial C.P would be eligible for home to school transport in the event that this proposal was successfully implemented.

D4: Impact on Transfer to Secondary Schools

There will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of secondary education.

D5: Impact on Additional Learning Needs Pupils

There will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional learning needs at either Saltney Ferry C.P or Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. The provision for pupils will be enhanced by the new state-of-the-art facilities available in the new school.

D6: Impact on Governance Arrangements

Following the closure and amalgamation of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P., a new governing body will be established. This governing body will initially oversee the operations of the consolidated school at its current sites, before the school relocates to the proposed new site.

D7: Impact on Staffing

The proposed amalgamation will have limited initial impact on staffing arrangements, as the combined school will remain at its current sites before relocating to the new site. The new school's governing body, working with a representative from Flintshire County Council's Human Resources department, will appoint an Headteacher to lead the school during the initial phase at the current sites. Subsequently, the governing body, the Headteacher, and the HR representative will establish a staffing structure for the relocation to the new school facility. This proposal will provide greater opportunities for staff development through shared best practices and professional development initiatives whilst potentially offering more scope for career progression due to a larger school having more middle management and senior leadership positions.

D8: Impact on Other schools

The new school has been designed with sufficient capacity to accommodate both the current and projected enrolment at Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. However, it is recognised that there is a risk of some pupils transferring to other local schools, notably Broughton C.P. or Lache Primary School, which are the two nearest schools. Additionally, as this proposal runs concurrently with the proposal to close Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School, it is accepted that some children attending that school may choose to transfer to the new Saltney Primary School in the event the closure takes place.

D9: Project Risks

The risks associated with this proposal, and mitigating factors are listed below:

Project Risks	
Risks	Mitigation
Inability to secure planning permission may impact project delivery	Planning permission will need to be granted for the new school to be built. School will remain on current sites until this is secured.
Funding sufficiency to deliver the project	The proposed scope of the project and outline design has been commercially assessed and is considered affordable within the Flintshire County Council capital programme envelope. 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.
Demand for pupil places increases	Pupil forecasts indicate a potential for a stable demand in the Saltney area with no major housing developments identified. The new school will be future proofed for further development in the event of increased learner numbers in the area.
Closure or failed closure of Saint Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School, Saltney	Closure of Saint Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School is proposed to be implemented by September 2026 therefore the impact of this happening or not will be evident and fully considered during the design process of the new amalgamated primary school.
Proposal may not be supported and approved by Flintshire County Council Cabinet	Continue to keep Cabinet members updated on the progress of the Proposal and the Strategic Primary School Modernisation Programme through democratic processes

D10: Integrated Impact Assessments

An integrated impact assessment has been conducted for this proposal and is available on the Council website.

D11: Impact on Welsh language provision

This proposal will not support the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) objectives.

The Council has made a significant investment in Welsh-medium education since 2020, with over £20m being used on a 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.

Whilst the Council supports the drive to increase the number of Welsh speakers, it also has a responsibility provide high quality opportunities for non-Welsh speaking pupils too.

D12: Building Impacts

If the proposals outlined in this document are implemented, the existing Saltney Ferry C.P site will become redundant. As this is an initial consultation process, no decisions have yet been made in respect of the future of these sites and buildings. This issue will be managed in accordance with the agreed Council Policy on Surplus Land and Buildings.

D13: Interim Arrangements

The school will remain on current its current sites until such time as the new school is ready. An Headteacher and a new governing body will be appointed to oversee the leadership and management of the new school during the interim period. There will be no direct impact on teaching and learning during this period.