



STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Proposal to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

- The closure of Saltney Ferry Community Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2027.
- The establishment of a new amalgamated community primary school, initially operating across the existing two school sites, from 1 September 2027.
- The development, subject to planning approval and funding confirmation, of a new purpose-built 315-place English-medium community primary school (including 30 full-time equivalent nursery places) on the current Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School site, with an anticipated opening date of 1 September 2030.

June 2026

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.

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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 provides information about a proposal being considered by Flintshire County Council (“the Council”) to reorganise primary school provision in the Saltney area. It is intended to enable stakeholders and other interested parties to understand the proposal and to give their views before any decision is taken.

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

The proposal under consideration would involve the closure of Saltney Ferry Community Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Community Primary School and the establishment of a new community primary school. Subject to the outcome of this consultation and subsequent statutory processes, the new school would initially operate across the existing two sites while proposals for a new school building are progressed.

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

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

A2. Overview of the Proposal

The Council is consulting on a proposal to reorganise primary school provision in Saltney in order to address issues relating to surplus places, building suitability, long-term sustainability and the efficient use of public resources.

If approved following consultation and the completion of statutory processes, the proposal would be delivered by:

- The closure of Saltney Ferry Community Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Community Primary School with effect from 31 August 2027.
- The establishment of a new amalgamated community primary school, initially operating across the existing two school sites, from 1 September 2027.
- The development, subject to planning approval and funding confirmation, of a new purpose-built 315-place English-medium community primary school (including 30 full-time equivalent nursery places) on the current Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School site, with an anticipated opening date of 1 September 2030.

The proposal would be supported by a capital investment of approximately £12.5 million, subject to Welsh Government approval through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

This consultation is taking place alongside a separate consultation relating to the potential closure of Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Saltney. Each proposal will be considered on its own merits.

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 2026 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 2026 (*"the Code"*).

The formal consultation process will operate for 42 days, with at least 20 of these being school days.

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

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

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

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

A4. Who will be consulted?

This consultation will take place between **Tuesday June 16th 2026** and ends at 11.59pm on **Wednesday July 29th 2026**. 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:

Consultees	Distributed to / via
parents (and where possible prospective parents), carers and guardians of learners currently attending schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Via schools: Saltney Ferry C.P Saltney Wood Memorial C.P
in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents, carers and guardians of learners attending primary schools from which learners normally transfer to that secondary school;	
staff members of schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Via schools: Saltney Ferry C.P Saltney Wood Memorial C.P
the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for schools which are the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals (including relevant transport and highways teams);	Flintshire County Council
any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals, including in the case of dedicated ALP any authority placing or likely to place learners with ALN in the school which is subject to the proposals;	Cheshire West and Chester Council Wrexham County Borough Council Denbighshire County Council Conwy County Borough Council
the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other schools the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals are located;	Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph Catholic Diocese of Wrexham
any other appropriate religious body for any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	N/A
the governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and any other school the proposer considers is likely to be affected by the proposals;	Governing Body: Saltney Ferry C.P Saltney Wood Memorial C.P Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School Broughton C.P Lache County Primary School
the Welsh Ministers;	
Members of the Senedd (MS) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Members of the Senedd (MS) Cristiana Emsley; Carrie Harper; Marc Jones; Sam Rowlands; Ken Skates; Nigel Williams; Louise Emery; Llyr Gruffydd; Becca Martin; Adrian Mason; Darren Millar; Tom Montgomery

	Members of Parliament (MPs) Sir Mark Tami; Becky Gittins; Aphra Brandreth
Estyn;	His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Representatives of NASUWT; NEU; UCAC; ASCL; UNISON
the relevant school improvement services;	
the Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Police Commissioner for North Wales
any community or town council for the area served by or intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Saltney Town Council
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;	
the local authority Family Information Service, any independent or voluntary providers who are likely to be affected and the national umbrella organisations supporting them, Mudiad Meithrin, NDNA Cymru, Clybiau Plant Cymru, Early Years Wales, PACEY Cymru and Play Wales;	Clwb Hampus Saltney Methodist Church Woody Wraparound Saltney Small Steps
in the case of proposals affecting Additional Learning Provision (ALP), any relevant health or third sector bodies that the proposer considers have an interest;	SNAP Cymru Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
in the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school which is the subject of the proposals;	Coleg Cambria
in the case or proposals affecting school sixth forms, Medr; and	Medr: Commission for Tertiary Education and Research
in the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner and Mentrau Iaith.	
Other	All Flintshire Council Councillors

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

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/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 committed to ensuring that this consultation process is fair, open and inclusive. All responses received within the consultation period will be given equal consideration and will be analysed objectively. The views expressed during the consultation will inform a Consultation Report that will be presented to the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision-making process.

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

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

Statutory Consultation Period Commences	Statutory Consultation Period Ends	Period Of Consultation
Tuesday 16 June 2026	Wednesday 29 July 2026	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.

There is a separate easy read version of this consultation document available to support stakeholders with understanding the key facts associated with the proposal.

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

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

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

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 be available at the reception areas of Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School for the submission of consultation responses. These will be available until the final day of the school term.

Following this date, a post-box will be located at the reception area of Ty Dewi Sant, where paper responses can continue to be submitted until the consultation period closes.

A7. What will happen next?

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a Consultation Report will be prepared summarising the responses received and the Council's consideration of the issues raised. The report will not make assumptions about the outcome of the consultation.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report and will determine whether it wishes to proceed to the next statutory stage. Responses submitted during the consultation period do not constitute formal objections under the School Organisation Code.

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 2026
Council publish statutory notice and enter into an objection period (subject to Cabinet approval)	October 2026
Cabinet consider the objection report and determine whether or not to implement the proposals	January 2027
Decision notification letter is issued with outcome from Cabinet determination	January 2027

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

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

B1. Reasons for Change

The Council has a responsibility to review and modernise school provision to ensure that all learners are provided with the best possible opportunities to achieve their full potential. This includes ensuring that there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.

Through ongoing review of primary education provision in Saltney, it has been identified that there is a need to ensure long-term sustainability and improved outcomes for learners.

To achieve this, the Council considers that there is a need to:

- Reduce the number of surplus places
- Improve the quality of the learning environment
- Ensure strong and sustainable leadership arrangements
- Provide high-quality education for children aged 3–11 through well-resourced and effective school provision
- Further support the development of Welsh language and bilingual opportunities

B2. Background to the Proposal

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

In the Saltney area, this review has identified a combination of significant surplus places, ageing school buildings, and limitations in the suitability of existing accommodation, alongside the absence of identified local housing development. These factors have led the Council to consider whether changes to the current arrangements may be necessary.

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

The Council proposes that this reorganisation would be delivered by:

- Closing Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School.
- Establishing a single amalgamated primary school, which would initially operate across the two existing school sites while the proposed new building is approved and constructed.
- Opening a new 315-place English-medium community primary school on land currently occupied by Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School. The school would operate with a Published Admission Number of 45 pupils per year group and would include provision for 30 full-time equivalent nursery places.

B3. How did we get here?

Flintshire County Council undertook an informal consultation in June-July 2023 on seven options for the reorganisation of education provision in the Saltney area. The outcome of this consultation indicated that the majority of respondents supported maintaining the existing schools, with individual investment to refurbish and modernise the buildings.

Following consideration of the responses to the informal consultation, and having regard to pupil number projections, funding constraints, and the requirements of the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, the Council concluded that refurbishment of the existing schools would not, on balance, address the identified issues of surplus capacity, long-term financial sustainability, and the delivery of modern learning environments.

Alternative options were therefore explored, including the potential establishment of a single new community primary school. These options are summarised later in this document and form part of the basis for this consultation.

In order to access Welsh Government funding, reduce surplus places, and ensure efficient use of Council resources, an alternative proposal was therefore required. The Council developed a proposal to establish a new 315-place English-medium community primary school on the current site of Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. This site represents the only available Council-owned land within the area that is considered capable of accommodating a school of this size in a deliverable and affordable way. A full options appraisal, including consideration of alternative approaches, is included later in this document.

The Council undertook a statutory consultation on the proposed reorganisation of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. in June–July 2025 and published a statutory notice in November 2025. The decision-making process was subsequently ceased following a late legal challenge relating to a separate school organisation proposal considered concurrently.

The Council sought legal advice on the issues raised. As the matters identified had potential relevance to both proposals, it was considered appropriate to cease decision-making on both schemes. The time required to consider this advice meant that the statutory timescales set out in the School Organisation Code (2018) could no longer be met. A new statutory consultation is therefore required under the new School Organisation Code (2026)

B4. 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		116	16
September 2025			
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2024	116	18
	September 2023	117	19
	September 2022	117	19
	September 2021	118	10
Capacity		236	33
Surplus Places		-120	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	116	16
	September 2027	114	16
	September 2028	112	16
	September 2029	116	16
	September 2030	112	16
Building Condition Category	Condition Grade C – Poor Exhibiting major defects or not operating as intended.		
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	£353,479.55		
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget allocation 26/27= £715,571 • Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £566,181 • School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £5,771 • Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360 		

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 2024-25 the school consumed 33,303 kWh of electricity and 124,570 kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 35,580.5kgCO₂e. 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		147	16
		September 2025	
Number of pupils on the school register	September 2024	152	19
	September 2023	142	15
	September 2022	150	18
	September 2021	147	18
Capacity		216	30
Surplus Places		-69	
Pupil Projections	September 2026	149	21
	September 2027	145	21
	September 2028	146	20
	September 2029	146	21
	September 2030	146	21
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	£139,977.23		
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation 26/27= £843,087 Staffing budget (Teaching, Classroom Support, Admin and ALN) – £683,430 School budget cost per pupil 26/27= £5,439 Average budget share per pupil in Flintshire (26/27) is £5,360 		

Carbon Impact

Wood Memorial Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of E. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2024-25 the school consumed 42,396kWh of electricity and 70,652kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 25,556.7kgCO₂e. 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.

Condition Issues

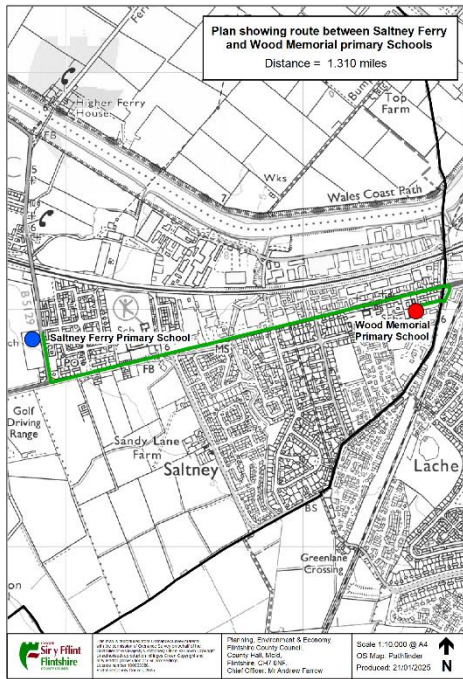
The costs associated with addressing condition-related issues at both Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School are set out in the tables above. These figures reflect only the cost of undertaking urgent repairs and essential maintenance and do not include the cost of a full refurbishment required to improve the suitability of the accommodation and meet the needs of learners.

A summary of these costs is provided below to support comparison between the two schools.

School	Condition Cost (£)	Suitability Rating
Saltney Ferry C.P.	£353,479.55	Grade B
Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.	£139,977.23	Grade C
Total	£493,456.78	

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

B5. Location Map of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P



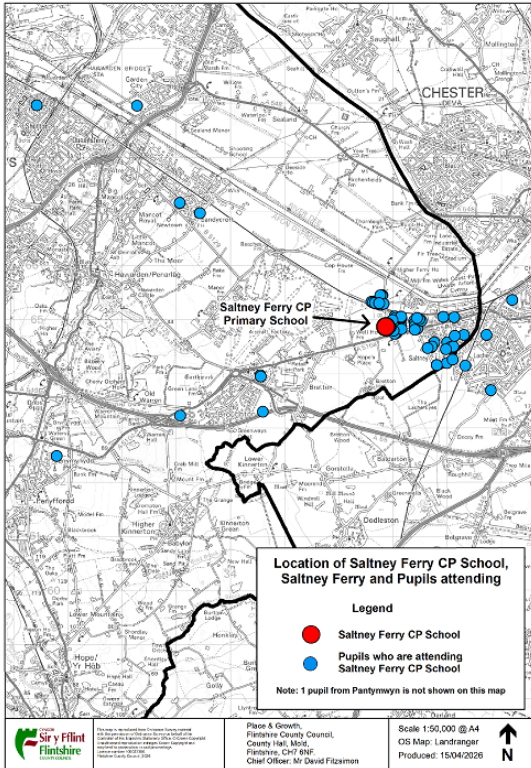
Saltney is a town and electoral ward in Flintshire, located to the east of Broughton and on the Welsh-English border with the City of Chester. The resident population of Saltney, as recorded in the 2021 Census, was 5,140. The area is currently served by a number of schools, including Saltney Ferry C.P. School, Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, and St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, which is currently subject to a separate review of its future provision.

B6. Demographical Information

Saltney Ferry C.P

Demographically analysis (as at September 2025) has shown that Saltney Ferry C.P school is broadly serving the Saltney area, approximately 64.17% of pupils attending the school are selecting their nearest local community school.

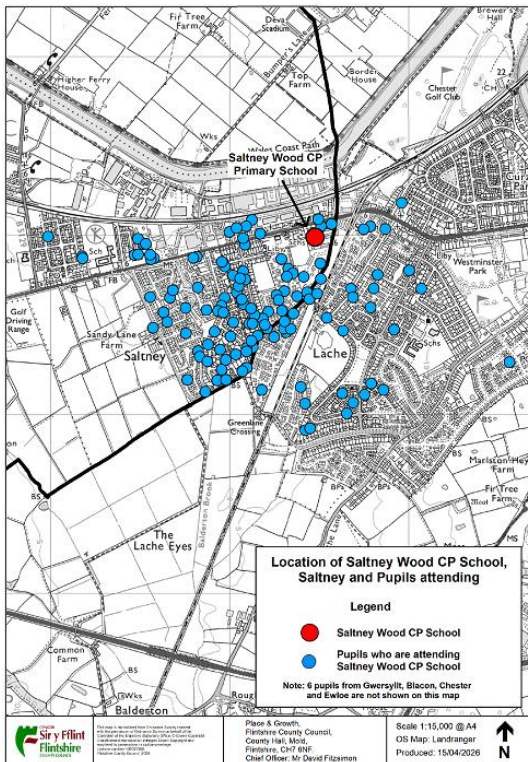
Map of Locations of Pupils Attending Saltney Ferry C.P



Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Demographically analysis (as at September 2025) has shown that Saltney Wood Memorial C.P school is mostly serving the Saltney area, approximately 78.81% 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)

Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. are the two community schools directly serving the Saltney area.

There are no development sites identified within the Saltney area in the current Local Development Plan (LDP). In the absence of significant population growth or additional housing development, the high levels of surplus places at Saltney Ferry C.P. (120 places / 50.85%) and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. (69 places / 31.94%) indicate that there is insufficient demand to sustain two separate primary schools.

The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure the appropriate provision of school places in suitable locations, while also seeking to reduce surplus capacity, manage resources effectively, and ensure the long-term sustainability of education provision.

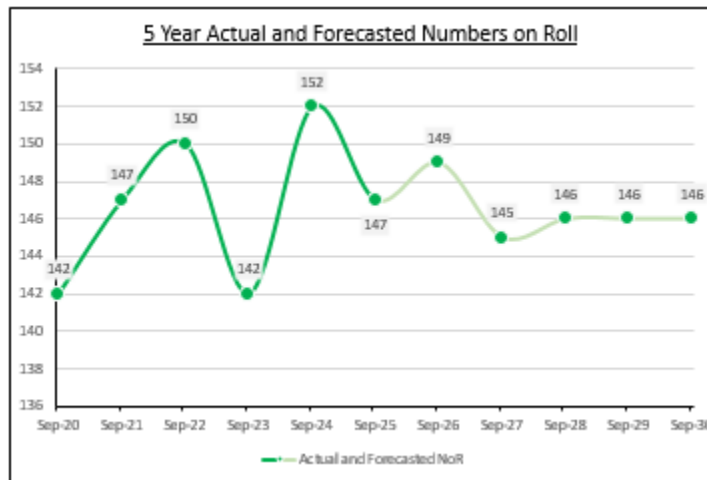
The level of surplus places at both schools suggests that current provision exceeds local demand. Establishing a new amalgamated community primary school in Saltney would significantly reduce surplus capacity, while also providing opportunities to deliver a more efficient use of resources and an improved learning environment for pupils.

Current and projected pupil numbers for both schools are set out in the table below.

B7. Pupil Projections

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend	
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30		
Nursery	14	18	18	15	19	16	21	21	20	21	21	5	
Reception	23	26	22	22	24	25	16	21	21	20	21	-4	
Year 1	14	25	26	22	21	22	25	16	21	21	20	-2	
Year 2	21	15	25	24	21	21	22	25	16	21	21	0	
Year 3	20	21	16	25	23	20	21	22	25	16	21	1	
Year 4	26	15	23	14	26	20	20	21	22	25	16	-4	
Year 5	20	25	14	22	14	25	20	20	21	22	25	0	
Year 6	18	20	24	13	23	14	25	20	20	21	22	8	
Total	142	147	150	142	152	147	149	145	146	146	146	-1	
Capacity	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	0	
Surplus Places	74	69	66	74	64	69	67	71	70	70	70	1	
Surplus Places	34.26%	31.94%	30.56%	34.26%	29.63%	31.94%	31.02%	32.87%	32.41%	32.41%	32.41%	0.46%	
Admission	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



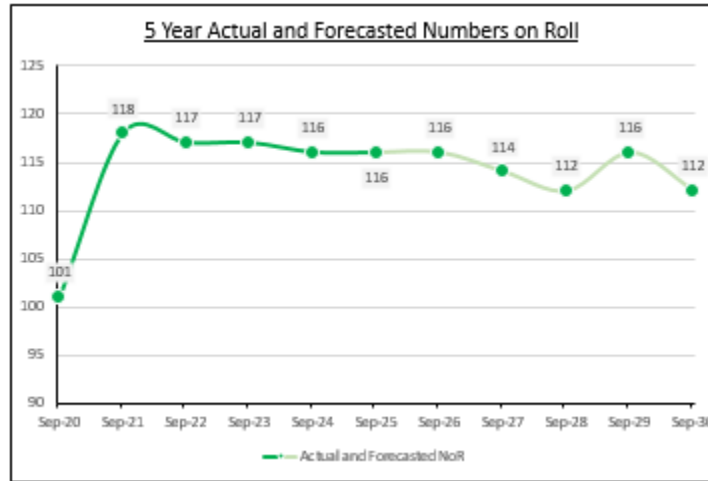
September 2026

Flintshire County Council’s School Admissions team has confirmed that, as at the date of publication, 22 places have been offered for September 2026 at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, exceeding the anticipated figure of 16. In contrast, 10 nursery places have been allocated, below the projected figure of 21.

Taken together, these figures indicate some variation from projections, but overall capacity remains available at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School.

Saltney Ferry C.P

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend	
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30		
Nursery	26	10	19	19	18	16	16	16	16	16	16	0	
Reception	14	25	12	12	19	15	16	16	16	16	16	1	
Year 1	14	16	23	23	19	17	15	16	16	16	16	-1	
Year 2	16	14	18	18	10	20	17	15	16	16	16	-4	
Year 3	17	16	14	14	19	12	20	17	15	16	16	4	
Year 4	19	15	16	16	20	18	12	20	17	15	16	-2	
Year 5	11	20	15	15	15	18	18	12	20	17	15	-3	
Year 6	10	12	19	19	14	16	18	18	12	20	17	1	
Total	101	118	117	117	116	116	116	114	112	116	112	-4	
Capacity	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	236	0	
Surplus Places	135	118	119	119	120	120	120	122	124	120	124	4	
Surplus Places	57.20%	50.00%	50.42%	50.42%	50.85%	50.85%	50.85%	51.69%	52.54%	50.85%	52.54%	1.69%	
Admission	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 2026

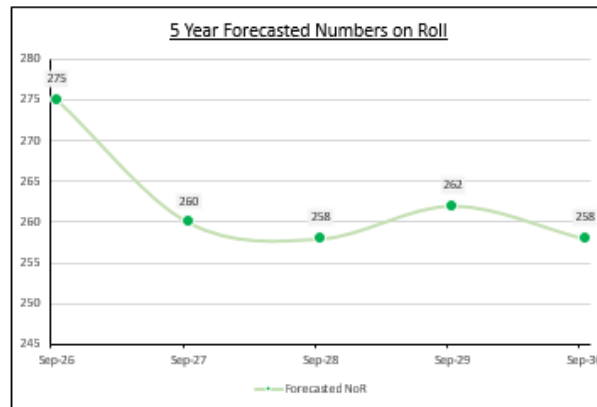
Flintshire County Council's School Admissions team has confirmed that, as at the date of publication, 11 places have been offered for September 2026 at Saltney Ferry C.P. School, below the anticipated figure of 16. In contrast, 20 nursery places have been allocated, exceeding the projected figure of 16.

Taken together, these figures indicate variation from projections, although there continues to be capacity available at Saltney Ferry C.P. School.

New Saltney School

Based on current pupil numbers on roll and five-year forecasts for Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, the anticipated position for a combined new school would be as follows:

Year Group	ACTUAL					LATEST DATA	FORECAST					5 Year Trend	
	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24		Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29		Sep-30
Nursery	40	28	37	34	37	32	37	37	36	37	37	5	
Reception	37	51	34	34	43	40	32	37	37	36	37	-3	
Year 1	28	41	49	45	40	39	40	32	37	37	36	-3	
Year 2	37	29	43	42	31	41	39	40	32	37	37	-4	
Year 3	37	37	30	39	42	42	41	40	40	32	37	-5	
Year 4	45	30	39	30	46	38	42	41	39	40	32	-6	
Year 5	31	45	29	37	29	43	38	32	41	39	40	-3	
Year 6	28	32	43	32	37	30	43	38	32	41	39	9	
Total	243	265	267	259	268	273	275	260	258	262	258	-15	
Capacity	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	0	
Surplus Places	72	50	48	56	47	42	40	55	57	53	57	15	
Surplus Places	22.86%	15.87%	15.24%	17.78%	14.92%	13.33%	12.70%	17.46%	18.10%	16.83%	18.10%	4.76%	
Admission	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	0	
	Reception transfers in to the school from a nearby school forecasted to exceed their admission number												0
	Reception transfers out of the school to a nearby school as admission number forecasted to be exceeded												0



Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

All schools are required to adhere to the statutory duties placed on them by ALNET so children and young people identified as having ALN would be protected in line with the legislation. Current figures from the PLASC 2025 census show the following number of IDPs:

School	IDP Type	No.	No. on roll	% with IDPs
Saltney Ferry C.P.	LA	3		
	School	29		
	Total	32	132	24.24%
Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.	LA	2		
	School	19		
	Total	21	163	12.88%

There are currently no Council specialist resource bases located at either school. The Council has experience of supporting learners with ALN through periods of transition, including as part of previous school reorganisation programmes, and would work collaboratively with schools, families and relevant professionals to understand and support the individual needs of learners affected by this proposal.

The detailed implications of the proposal for learners with ALN have been assessed through a separate ALN Impact Statement, which accompanies this consultation and should be read alongside this document.

B8. 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 and is responsible for inspecting the quality and standards of education and training providers across Wales.

Information from the most recent published Estyn inspection reports for the schools likely to be affected by this proposal has been considered as part of the review process. Both Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School and Saltney Ferry C.P. School are currently recognised by Estyn as good schools, providing a strong foundation in teaching, learning and pupil support. The proposals aim to build on these strengths, address areas for improvement identified in recent inspections, and provide a more consistent, well-resourced learning environment for all pupils.

Recommendations from the most recent core Estyn inspections include:

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School – March 2020

- Raise standards in Welsh across the school
- Increase opportunities for pupils to apply numeracy and extended writing skills across the curriculum

Saltney Ferry C.P. School – September 2022

- Improve pupils' reading and writing skills
- Improve pupils' Welsh language and digital skills
- Ensure that teachers maintain high expectations and challenge all pupils consistently
- Implement robust procedures for self-evaluation and improvement
- Ensure learning experiences build systematically on pupils' prior knowledge, skills and understanding

The current Estyn Inspection Framework evaluates school performance across three inspection areas:

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

While structured in this way, these areas collectively reflect the factors contributing to educational standards, learner progress and outcomes, as required by the School Organisation Code for Wales. Standards are reflected through teaching quality, assessment and tracking, and the effectiveness of wellbeing, support and leadership arrangements.

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

Teaching and Learning

The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on teaching and learning by addressing key areas for development identified across the existing schools. It is expected to support improvements in educational standards, while at least maintaining current levels, through the establishment of a more coherent and consistent whole-school approach to curriculum design, teaching and assessment.

The proposed arrangements would enable delivery of a broad, balanced and progressive curriculum that supports pupils to develop and apply literacy, numeracy, Welsh language and digital skills increasingly effectively. Curriculum planning would be strengthened to ensure clear progression, coherence and purposeful cross-curricular learning opportunities.

Greater consistency in teaching practice and expectations would be achieved through enhanced staff collaboration, shared pedagogical approaches and aligned differentiation strategies. Professional learning would support the sharing of expertise and the maintenance of high-quality teaching across the school.

Improved tracking and monitoring systems would enable earlier identification of underachievement, provide a stronger evidence base for intervention and ensure appropriate challenge for more able and talented pupils.

Impact on Learner Groups, Including Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The proposal is expected to support a more coordinated and consistent approach to provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), while maintaining existing levels of support. Improved identification and tracking would support timely, targeted intervention to help remove barriers to learning.

The proposed new school building would provide purpose-designed accommodation to better meet a range of additional learning needs. This would include appropriately designed spaces to support small group work, targeted interventions and pastoral support, as well as improved accessibility throughout the building. Enhanced learning environments would support a range of teaching approaches and enable more flexible and inclusive provision for pupils with differing needs.

Arrangements would continue to be delivered in line with statutory duties under the ALN Code for Wales, ensuring continuity of support and the maintenance of Individual Development Plans throughout any transition.

Provision for pupils eligible for free school meals would be expected to be maintained and, where possible, strengthened through consistent teaching, targeted intervention and pastoral support. Improved facilities and opportunities for small-group provision would support more personalised learning and help to improve engagement.

Wellbeing, Care, Support and Guidance

The proposal is expected to strengthen wellbeing, care, support and guidance, including personal development and safeguarding. Improved tracking of wellbeing, engagement and attendance would enable earlier identification of pupils requiring support.

More coordinated learning support arrangements, including targeted ALN interventions, would strengthen consistency of provision. Pastoral systems would promote emotional wellbeing, resilience and positive relationships, supporting engagement, attendance and behaviour.

Leading and Improving

The proposal is expected to strengthen leadership, management and governance, increasing capacity for sustained improvement, while maintaining current strengths. Clearer strategic direction, robust self-evaluation and improvement planning would support a continued focus on raising standards and improving teaching quality.

The Council recognises that there are currently different leadership arrangements across the two schools, including interim leadership at Saltney Ferry C.P. School. The establishment of a single governing body and the appointment of a substantive headteacher for the amalgamated school would provide greater stability and continuity of leadership, supporting a more consistent approach across the school.

Targeted professional learning would support staff development, while the strategic deployment of resources would help to maximise impact on teaching, learning and wellbeing. Governance arrangements are expected to strengthen scrutiny and accountability.

Leadership of ALN provision would be enhanced, supporting a more coordinated approach, alongside the effective use of grants, including the Pupil Development Grant, to promote equity, engagement and improved outcomes.

Curriculum Delivery

The proposals are expected to enhance the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the Foundation Phase and all stages. Consolidation of resources, expertise and facilities would strengthen curriculum planning and progression.

Specialist teaching spaces, improved learning environments and increased collaboration would support varied teaching approaches, targeted learning and sustained pupil progress. Overall, the proposals are expected to strengthen educational standards and provide a consistent, high-quality learning experience for all pupils.

PART C – THE PROPOSAL

C1: What is being proposed?

The Council proposes to construct a new English-medium community primary school in Saltney. The project would be delivered through the Council's Capital Development Programme and supported by Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning funding, providing a single primary school with a capacity of 315 statutory school places, together with 30 full-time equivalent nursery places.

The proposed school would operate with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 pupils per year group, accommodating provision across seven statutory year groups, which supports the overall capacity of 315 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.

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

The new school is expected to include a range of general teaching classrooms designed to support flexible and collaborative learning, alongside dedicated provision for nursery-aged children and Foundation Phase learners, including access to appropriate outdoor learning areas. Consideration will also be given to the inclusion of pre-school provision to support early years development and continuity of learning within the local area. A range of specialist and support spaces would also be incorporated to enable the effective delivery of the curriculum and to support a variety of teaching approaches.

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

The proposed accommodation is expected to include a hall suitable for assemblies, physical education and wider school activities, together with dining and kitchen facilities. Outdoor areas would be designed to provide appropriate play and recreational space for pupils of different ages, supporting both formal and informal learning.

In developing the proposal, the Council has had regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including Building Regulations, Welsh Government spatial standards, and requirements relating to school capacity and playing field provision. The design would be progressed to ensure that all applicable standards are fully met, including appropriate hard and soft play areas and external sports provision.

In addition, the design will include a dedicated community space to support wider use of the school by local residents and groups, helping to strengthen links between the school and the community it serves. This would be subject to further design development and assessment of local need.

Staff accommodation would include suitable workspace, meeting rooms and facilities to support teaching, planning and professional collaboration. The overall design of the site would prioritise safety, accessibility and safeguarding, including appropriate arrangements for drop-off and pick-up.

The design of the new school would be developed further through the detailed design and planning process and would be subject to planning approval and funding confirmation. The building would be designed to meet Net Zero Carbon in Operation standards, supporting the Council's wider sustainability and decarbonisation objectives.

C3: When will the proposal be Effective?

Subject to consultation outcomes and statutory approval, Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School would close on 31 August 2027. A new amalgamated community primary school would open on 1 September 2027 under a single leadership and governance structure.

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

Construction of the proposed new school building would commence subject to the necessary approvals, with an anticipated opening date of 1 September 2030.

C4: Cost of the Proposal

The proposal would require a capital investment of approximately £12.5 million to support the reorganisation and delivery of a new primary school serving the Saltney area.

It is anticipated that the scheme would be funded through a combination of Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding and Flintshire County Council capital funding, supported by prudential borrowing. Based on current estimates, Welsh Government funding is expected to contribute approximately £8.125 million (65%), with the remaining £4.375 million (35%) funded by the Council. Final funding arrangements would be confirmed through the Welsh Government approval process and the Council's capital governance procedures.

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

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

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

The revenue costs associated with borrowing for the scheme, including interest and minimum revenue provision, have been modelled over a 50-year period and are incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), based on interest rate forecasts used when the Capital Programme was set in December 2025.

Indicative estimates show that:

- the annual borrowing cost in Year 1 would be approximately £0.292 million;
- the annual cost in Year 50 would be approximately £0.377 million; and
- the average annual cost over the 50-year period would be approximately £0.328 million.

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

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

Current funding allocation based on September 2025 pupil numbers and the funding levels applicable at that time:

School Name	Revenue Allocation 2026/2027	Staffing Budget 2026/2027	School Budget Cost Per Pupil 26/27	Average School Budget Cost Per Pupil 26/27
Saltney Ferry CP	£715,571	£566,181	£5,771	£5,360
Saltney Wood Memorial	£843,087	£683,430	£5,439	£5,360

Operating two separate schools with relatively low pupil numbers results in higher per-pupil costs and does not make the most efficient use of available resources.

Indicative revenue modelling has been undertaken based on the 2026/27 School Funding Formula to understand the potential financial implications of a single new school. This modelling is provided for consultation purposes only and is based on a number of assumptions, including that no savings released through reorganisation would be removed from the schools budget, but would instead be reinvested across the remaining schools.

Based on the combined existing pupil numbers from Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School:

- the proposed new school would have approximately 279 full-time equivalent pupils;
- the indicative total budget allocation would be around £1.42 million; and
- the indicative per-pupil funding level would be approximately £5,101, compared to an average comparator of £5,360

At full capacity:

- the new school is assumed to operate with approximately 330 full-time equivalent pupils;
- the indicative total budget allocation would be approximately £1.60 million; and
- the indicative per-pupil funding level would be approximately £4,853, compared to an average comparator of £5,360

The reduction in per-pupil funding reflects the increased efficiency associated with operating a single, larger school and the application of the standard funding formula, rather than funding two separate establishments.

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

The proposal is expected to deliver improved value for money through the more efficient use of public resources and the rationalisation of provision across the Saltney area and the wider Flintshire school network. Operating two separate schools with relatively low pupil numbers results in higher per-pupil costs and does not make best use of staffing, accommodation or revenue funding. Bringing provision together within a single school would reduce inefficiencies associated with surplus capacity and enable resources to be deployed in a more sustainable and equitable way.

The development of a single, modern school building would also reduce ongoing maintenance and operating costs compared with maintaining multiple older sites, while improved energy performance and design standards would help limit future cost pressures. Staffing and support services would be planned to reflect pupil numbers and need, allowing the school to operate in line with the Council's standard funding arrangements and supporting long-term financial sustainability within the primary sector.

As with other schemes delivered through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, additional grant funding opportunities may be explored as the project develops, where appropriate. Any such funding would be used to support the delivery of the scheme and to further enhance value for money, for example through the provision of enhanced community facilities where this is identified as a priority.

C5: Options Considered

The options set out below have been assessed having regard to educational standards, financial sustainability, building condition and suitability, long-term viability, and the ability to meet the Council's statutory duties. While each option presents potential benefits, the Council has considered the extent to which they address the identified issues in a sustainable and deliverable way.

While the Council has identified a preferred option at this stage, this does not pre-empt the outcome of the consultation or subsequent statutory decision-making. Alternative options remain capable of consideration in light of the feedback received.

Option	Description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Conclusion
Option 1	<p>Status Quo - This option would maintain the schools' existing structure and format.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This option would maintain the current arrangements at both schools, with governance and organisational structures remaining unchanged. - There would be no additional financial cost to the local authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High levels of surplus places would continue at both schools. - The ongoing costs associated with operating two separate community schools would remain financially unsustainable. - Existing limitations relating to the school sites and learning environments would remain unaddressed. - Opportunities to meet carbon reduction targets would not be realised under this option. 	<p>Maintaining the current status quo would fail to address the issues of significant surplus capacity and the resulting unsustainable operational costs. In addition, this option would not adequately resolve the concerns that have been identified regarding the suitability of both school sites and their learning environments.</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"> - This option would require a lower level of capital investment. - Identified building condition and suitability issues would be addressed. - Both schools would remain on their existing sites and continue to operate under current staffing arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High levels of surplus places would continue at both schools. - The proposed works would be limited to addressing essential repairs and maintenance and would not fully resolve wider issues relating to modern learning environments. - The ongoing costs of operating two separate community schools would remain financially unsustainable. 	<p>This option would address the identified urgent repairs and maintenance issues at each school, while enabling both schools to retain their distinct identities. However, it would not address the significant surplus capacity or the ongoing unsustainable financial costs associated with maintaining two separate community schools. In addition, this option would not deliver modern learning environments to fully support high-quality teaching and learning.</p>

			- This option would not support the achievement of carbon reduction targets.	
Option 3	Amalgamation of the Two Schools Across Their Existing Sites with Investment in Current Facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified building condition and suitability issues would be addressed. - Potential savings could be achieved through reductions in duplicated staffing roles and the sharing of resources. - Professional expertise could be shared across the amalgamated school. - The school would continue to operate across the existing sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High levels of surplus places would continue across both school sites. - Welsh Government funding rules would limit investment to addressing essential repairs and maintenance only, rather than wider improvements to learning environments. - The ongoing costs associated with operating across two sites would remain financially unsustainable. - This option would not support the achievement of carbon reduction targets. 	This option would address the identified issues relating to building condition and suitability, while also enabling some cost savings through the sharing of resources and professional expertise. However, it would not address the high level of surplus school places or the ongoing unsustainable costs associated with operating across two sites. In addition, this option would not result in the delivery of improved learning environments to fully support teaching and learning.
Option 4	The proposal is to close the two existing schools and amalgamate them into a single school, which would then be relocated to a new purpose-built facility on the current Wood Memorial site. The proposed school would have a total capacity of 315	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This option would provide sufficient school places to meet the current and projected needs of the local area. - Running costs would be significantly reduced by operating a single school rather than two separate schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The closure of both existing schools in their current form, including the loss of Saltney Ferry C.P. as a separate school. - The potential for staffing redundancies arising from the transition from two schools to a single 	This option is identified as the preferred option as it would reduce the significant surplus capacity in the primary sector within the area, achieve efficiencies through reduced running costs, and provide a new, modern learning environment that is fit for purpose and better able to support and enhance learning opportunities for all learners.

	<p>places, including 30 full-time equivalent (FTE) nursery places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new, modern school would be established, offering enhanced facilities and resources to support improved learning opportunities. - The amalgamation would enable both school communities to come together as one, drawing on shared experience and best practice to support improved outcomes for learners. 	<p>amalgamated school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The potential impact on travel distances for learners currently attending Saltney Ferry C.P., who would be required to attend the new school located on the existing Wood Memorial site. - Increased costs in terms of capital and ongoing debt maintenance. 	
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What will the preferred proposal achieve?

If implemented, the proposal is expected to reduce the significant number of surplus primary school places in the area, achieve efficiencies through reduced running costs, and deliver a new, modern learning environment that is fit for purpose and designed to enhance educational opportunities for children. In doing so, it would support the Council in fulfilling its statutory duties to secure the provision of efficient education and to ensure that suitable school places are available in the right locations.

PART D – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

D1: Impact on the Local Environment

There are currently no major housing developments identified within the adopted Local Development Plan that would significantly increase pupil demand within the Saltney area. As a result, no significant increase in pupil numbers, or associated environmental or transport pressures arising from residential growth, is anticipated over the Plan period. While the Council recognises that some cross-border movement of pupils may occur given the proximity to Chester, this is not expected to materially affect overall pupil demand within the area.

Initial consideration has been given to the potential environmental and transport impacts of the proposed development to inform this consultation. It is recognised that the proposal may give rise to localised impacts typical of a new school facility, including changes to traffic movements at peak times and temporary impacts during the construction phase. Detailed assessment of these matters, alongside the identification and securing of appropriate mitigation measures, would be undertaken as part of the statutory planning application process. This would include consideration of traffic generation, highway safety, construction management, and the impact of both construction and the ongoing operation of the school on the local environment and residential amenity.

Flintshire County Council's Streetscene Road Safety team has undertaken an initial assessment of walking routes to the proposed school site in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the Welsh Government's Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance (June 2014). The purpose of this assessment was to determine whether the identified routes should be classified as hazardous for learners travelling to and from school.

The assessment concluded that the identified walking routes are not classified as hazardous. The routes benefit from continuous and adequate footways, enabling pedestrians to travel without the need to enter the carriageway. Where crossings of main carriageways are required, appropriate controlled pedestrian crossing facilities are in place. In addition, the assessed routes fall within areas subject to a 20mph speed limit, which contributes positively to pedestrian safety. Taken together, these factors ensure that learners are able to walk in reasonable safety when accompanied, in line with statutory guidance.

The identified routes primarily connect residential areas within Saltney directly to the proposed school site via established pedestrian networks. Given the compact nature of the community, it is anticipated that walking will remain the predominant mode of travel for the majority of learners.

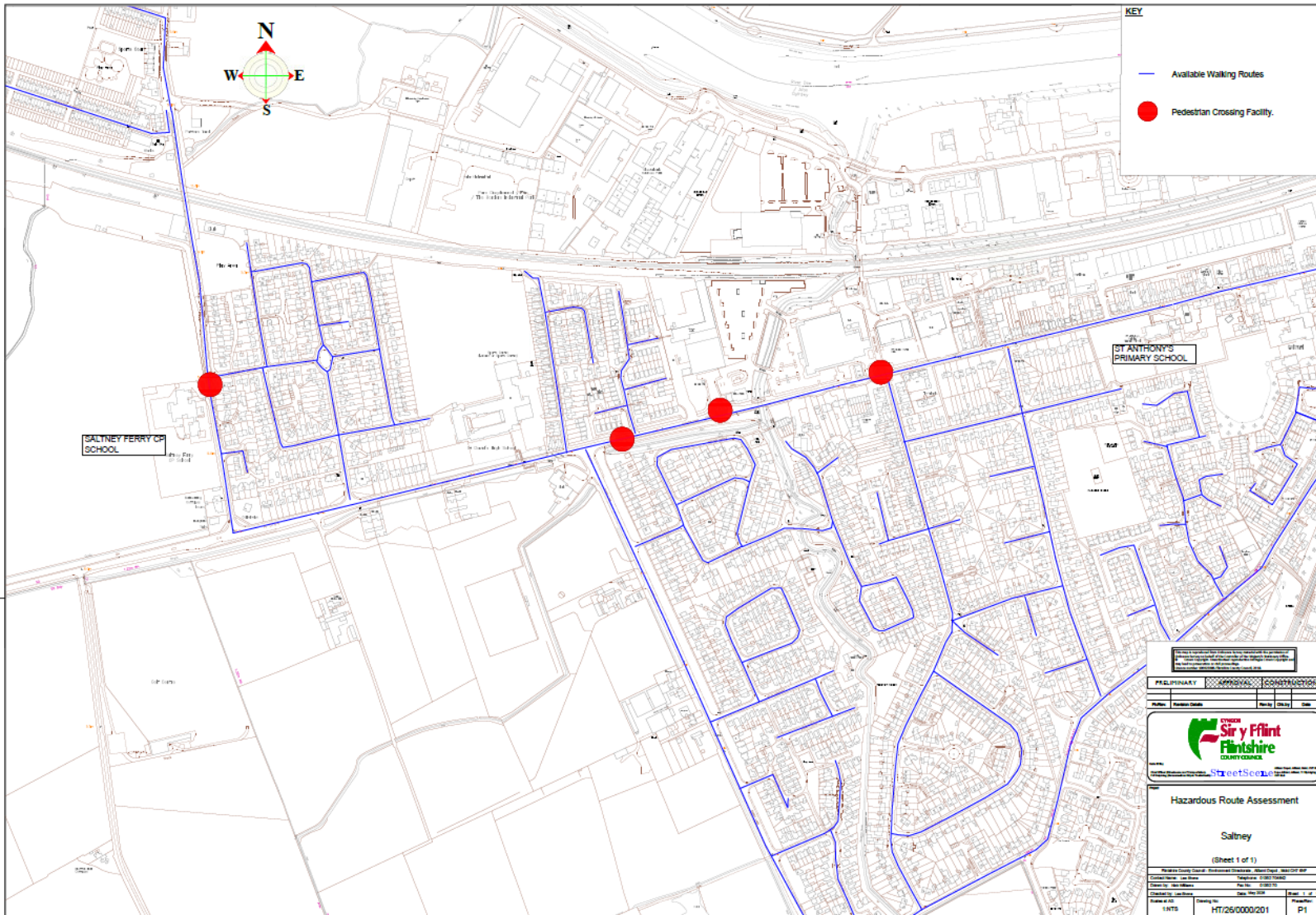
There is an existing safe walking route surrounding Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School and connecting Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School. As part of the proposed scheme, opportunities to enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity would be considered, subject to feasibility and the outcomes of the planning process, and in line with active travel principles.

The Streetscene assessment also recognises that localised traffic and parking pressures could arise in streets adjacent to the site, particularly in relation to access arrangements. The potential need for measures such as parking management or restrictions has been identified, and these matters would be explored further through the detailed planning and highways process, working alongside local residents and relevant teams.

Local bus services operate within the Saltney area and provide connections across the local and wider area. While the majority of learners are expected to travel on foot, these services provide an alternative sustainable option for staff, visitors, and, where necessary, learners.

Safe routes to school and active travel arrangements would be developed in partnership with Flintshire County Council’s Planning and Streetscene teams. A coherent travel strategy and an updated school travel plan would be implemented to promote sustainable and environmentally responsible travel choices, including walking, cycling, and the use of public transport where appropriate. Overall, the proposal is expected to support sustainable travel behaviour and is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on learner accessibility or attendance.

Hazardous route assessment map for routes between Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P



The Council recognises the importance of supporting learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Where a learner is identified as requiring additional support with travel, their individual needs would be assessed by the Council’s ALN team. Where appropriate, and subject to panel consideration, suitable and proportionate travel arrangements would be provided in line with the Council’s statutory responsibilities, for example through the provision of specialist transport such as taxis or transport assistants where required.

The proposed new school would be designed to meet Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standards. This would reduce operational carbon emissions through improved building fabric efficiency, the incorporation of renewable energy technologies, and the use of natural ventilation and shading. The proposal would therefore contribute to a reduction in the Council's overall carbon footprint and support its wider decarbonisation and sustainability objectives, while aligning with national policy and the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

D2: Impact on Pupils from Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds

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

Both Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School serve communities which include areas of relative socio-economic disadvantage. The Council recognises that learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds can be more sensitive to changes in their educational environment and may require additional support during periods of transition.

The proposal has the potential to provide a number of longer-term benefits for these learners. The establishment of a larger, amalgamated school would enable a more efficient use of resources and strengthen the school's capacity to provide targeted support, including the use of the Pupil Development Grant. Access to improved learning environments, a broader range of facilities, and more consistent pastoral and wellbeing support arrangements is expected to support engagement and attainment.

The Council also recognises that there may be short-term challenges associated with the proposal. These may include disruption arising from transition to a new school, changes to established relationships with staff and peers, and, for some learners currently attending Saltney Ferry C.P. School, an increase in travel distance. These factors have the potential to impact more significantly on learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds if not carefully managed.

To address this, appropriate support arrangements would be put in place to minimise disruption and support continuity of learning and wellbeing. This would include a structured transition programme, targeted pastoral support for vulnerable learners, continued access to free school meals and associated support, and close monitoring of attendance, engagement and attainment. The school would also make effective use of available funding streams to provide targeted interventions and reduce barriers to learning, alongside ongoing engagement with parents and carers.

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

D3: Impact on Admissions

Flintshire County Council is the admissions authority for both Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, and admissions are currently administered in accordance with the Council's School Admissions Policy.

Should the proposal proceed, Flintshire County Council would also be the admissions authority for the new amalgamated school, and admissions would continue to be determined in line with the Council's published admissions arrangements and the School Admissions Code.

There would be sufficient places available within the proposed capacity of the new school to accommodate all pupils currently on roll at Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School who wish to transfer. No application would be required for those existing pupils as a result of the amalgamation.

In accordance with Flintshire County Council's admissions policy, parents and carers of children not yet on roll may express a preference for a school. However, the allocation of places is not guaranteed and remains subject to availability and the application of the Council's oversubscription criteria where a school is oversubscribed.

The proposed school would operate as a 1.5 form entry primary school, with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 pupils per year group. This model reflects current and projected pupil numbers within the area and is intended to support the efficient and sustainable delivery of education, including maintaining viable class sizes and enabling effective use of staffing and resources. Class organisation would be structured to comply with statutory class size regulations, including a maximum of 30 pupils per class in the Foundation Phase and, in Key Stage 2, classes of 30 pupils or fewer.

In developing the proposal, consideration has also been given to whether a similar model of provision could be delivered whilst retaining the two existing schools. However, this approach would be less effective in addressing the key issues identified, including surplus places, the need for improved facilities, and the importance of securing sustainable leadership and cohesive provision across the area.

This proposal would not alter Flintshire County Council's School Admissions Policy. Admissions to the new school would continue to be made in accordance with parental preference, subject to the availability of places and the application of the Council's oversubscription criteria where necessary.

Further information on the Council's School Admissions Policy and the admissions process is available on the Council's website:

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

D4: Impact on Home to School Transport

Under Flintshire County Council's Home to School Transport Policy, free transport is provided for primary-aged learners who live two miles or more from their nearest suitable school, or alternatively the nearest available school, as determined in accordance with the Council's policy and the Welsh Government's Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance.

This proposal would not change the Council's existing Home to School Transport Policy. Transport eligibility would continue to be assessed in exactly the same way as at present, based on distance, journey time, route safety and individual learner circumstances, and in line with statutory guidance.

To inform this consultation, an analysis has been undertaken by the Council's Transport team using pupil roll data from March 2026. This analysis provides an evidence-based understanding of current travel patterns and the potential transport implications arising from the proposal. The analysis confirms that walking is currently the predominant mode of travel for learners attending both schools and is expected to remain so under the proposed arrangements.

The Council has also considered the likely journey between the existing school sites. The distance between Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School is approximately 1.3 miles. This equates to an estimated walking time of around 25 to 30 minutes for a primary-aged child, when accompanied, which is considered to be within a reasonable distance in line with Welsh Government guidance.

Current transport position

At Saltney Ferry Community Primary School, the majority of pupils live within reasonable walking distance of the school. Based on March 2026 data, 96.3% of pupils for whom Saltney Ferry is one of their nearest community primary schools live within two miles of the site, with an average walking distance of 0.41 miles for those attending their nearest suitable school. No pupils currently meet the distance-based criteria for free home to school transport, and there is no current cost to the Council for transporting pupils to Saltney Ferry.

At Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, a similar pattern is evident. Based on March 2026 data, 98.6% of pupils for whom the school is one of their nearest community primary schools live within two miles of the site, with an average walking distance of 0.63 miles for those attending their nearest suitable school. No pupils currently meet the distance-based eligibility criteria for free home to school transport, and there is no associated transport cost to the Council.

Potential transport implications of the proposal

It is proposed that pupils currently attending Saltney Ferry C.P. School would transfer to a new school on the site of Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School following closure. The average walking distance for those pupils would be approximately 1.27 miles, which is within the statutory walking distance for primary-aged learners.

Based on current pupil distribution, walking distances, journey times, and route safety assessments undertaken in line with Welsh Government guidance, it is anticipated that no pupils transferring from Saltney Ferry to Saltney Wood Memorial would meet the standard distance-based eligibility criteria for free home to school transport. As a result, no additional home to school transport costs are anticipated for the Council as a consequence of the proposal, based on current data.

For pupils currently attending Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, the proposal would not result in any change to walking distances, journey times, or transport eligibility. The current transport position and associated costs would therefore remain unchanged.

Given that the majority of learners will continue to live within reasonable walking distance of the proposed school, and that safe and accessible routes have been identified, it is not anticipated that the proposal will have a negative impact on learner attendance or engagement.

Additional Learning Needs and exceptional circumstances

The Council recognises that distance-based eligibility criteria do not capture all individual circumstances. Where a learner has Additional Learning Needs or other factors that affect their ability to travel to school independently, transport eligibility would continue to be considered on an individual, case-by-case basis. Such cases would be assessed by the Council in line with its statutory duties, established panel arrangements, and relevant professional advice.

Overall, the proposal maintains existing sustainable travel patterns, with walking remaining the primary mode of access, and does not give rise to additional transport demand or cost.

D5: Impact on Transfer to Secondary Schools

Most pupils currently transfer to St David's High School, Saltney. There will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of secondary education.

D6: Impact on Additional Learning Needs Pupils

The potential impact of this proposal on pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) has been carefully considered. The proposal is not intended to reduce or remove existing ALN provision currently available at Saltney Ferry C.P. School or Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School.

Any arrangements for pupils with ALN would continue to be informed by individual needs, with support planned and delivered in line with statutory requirements and existing Individual Development Plans (IDPs). Continuity of support during the transition period would be a key consideration.

Over time, the new school building is expected to provide improved accommodation and facilities that have the potential to better support a wide range of learning and additional needs. However, it is recognised that the impact on individual pupils will vary and will require careful planning and oversight.

The detailed implications of the proposal for learners with ALN have been assessed through a separate ALN Impact Statement, which accompanies this consultation and should be read alongside this document.

D7: Impact on Governance Arrangements

Following the proposed closure and amalgamation of Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School, a temporary governing body would be established in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code for Wales, and the New Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005' (The Regulations). These set out the regulations for the government of new maintained schools in Wales and prescribe the timescale for the establishment of a temporary, governing body, the number and types of governors, the type of new school, and how they are to be nominated.

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

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

There follows a process whereby the Authority constitutes a permanent governing body as reasonably practicable after the school opening date but in any event no later than the last day of the term from the date of establishment of the school.

D8: Impact on Staffing

The proposed amalgamation is expected to have a limited initial impact on staffing arrangements, while maintaining existing levels of provision. During the initial phase, the two schools would continue to operate from their existing sites, with the principal staffing change being the appointment of a single headteacher to provide leadership across both schools.

The Council recognises that there are currently different leadership arrangements in place across the two schools, including interim leadership at Saltney Ferry C.P. School and a substantive headteacher at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School. The establishment of a single governing body and the appointment of a permanent headteacher for the amalgamated school would provide greater stability and consistency of leadership across both sites.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code for Wales 2026, the temporary governing body, supported by Flintshire County Council and its Human Resources service, would undertake a fair and transparent process to appoint a headteacher to lead the amalgamated school.

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

The Council recognises that organisational change can create uncertainty for staff and is committed to supporting staff throughout the process. Appropriate support would be provided through established Human Resources arrangements, including clear communication, engagement with recognised trade unions, and access to employee wellbeing support services, such as Vivup.

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

Over time, the amalgamation would enable staff from both schools to work more closely together, supporting the sharing of expertise and best practice. As a larger school, there may also be enhanced opportunities for professional development and career progression, including opportunities for leadership and management roles.

D9: Impact on Other schools

The proposed new school has been designed with sufficient capacity to accommodate both the current pupil numbers and projected future enrolment arising from Saltney Ferry C.P. School and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School.

The Council recognises that, as with any school organisation proposal, some parents may express a preference for other nearby schools. This may include Broughton C.P. School within Flintshire, as well as Lache C.P. School, which is located in England and is geographically accessible to some families. No additional schools are formally proposed to receive pupils as part of this proposal.

The Council does not consider that these schools are likely to be significantly affected by the proposal in terms of pupil numbers, as it does not direct learners to alternative schools and is not expected to result in substantial changes to established patterns of provision. Nevertheless, the Council has considered potential impacts on a proportionate basis. The Council is also committed to supporting learners to remain within the Welsh education system where possible and to promoting the use and development of the Welsh language in line with its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The Council has considered the potential impact of the proposal on surrounding schools, including Broughton C.P. School. Based on current pupil data, capacity information and local patterns of parental preference within Flintshire, the Council is satisfied that there is sufficient capacity within the local area to accommodate any limited variation in demand and that no significant adverse impact on Broughton C.P. School is anticipated. In relation to Lache C.P. School, the Council recognises that it is an academy within the Concordia Multi Academy Trust and therefore operates under its own admissions arrangements. While admissions are coordinated by Cheshire West and Chester Council as part of the English admissions system, the Council does not hold detailed information regarding capacity, admissions or projected pupil numbers for the school.

Although publicly available information and local knowledge have been taken into account, it has not been possible to obtain the full range of comparable data that would ordinarily be available for schools within Flintshire, despite reasonable efforts to do so. The relevant authority has been included as a statutory consultee as part of this process.

Taking account of the proximity of schools, existing patterns of cross-border parental preference, and the capacity provided within the proposed new school, the Council considers that any potential impact on Lache C.P. School is likely to be limited. It is acknowledged that there is a degree of uncertainty associated with cross-border arrangements due to differences in governance and admissions systems.

The Council has considered capacity across the wider local primary school network and is satisfied that there is sufficient flexibility to respond to normal variations in parental preference. Admissions to schools within Flintshire, including Broughton C.P. School, will continue to be managed in accordance with the Council's published admissions arrangements. Admissions to academies in England, including Lache C.P. School, are determined by the relevant academy trust and coordinated through the English local authority admissions process, and this proposal does not alter existing cross-border arrangements.

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

It is recognised that, should the proposal relating to Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School proceed, some learners may seek to transfer to the proposed new school, particularly where parents and carers are not seeking a faith-based education. The proposed capacity of the new school has been designed to provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate such potential demand within the local area.

D10: Project Risks

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

Project Risks	
Risks	Mitigation
There is a risk that available funding may be insufficient to deliver the project as proposed, which could impact on the scope, timescales, or overall viability of the scheme.	The Council will continue to develop detailed cost estimates as the design progresses and will review the project against available capital funding streams. The scheme will be designed to ensure value for money, and opportunities to refine elements of the design will be considered where necessary to align the project with available resources. The Council will also continue to explore and secure appropriate external funding opportunities in line with relevant Welsh Government capital programmes.
There is a risk that demand for pupil places within the local area could increase beyond current projections, potentially placing pressure on the capacity of the proposed new school.	Pupil number projections have been used to inform the proposed capacity of the new school, taking account of current enrolment data, demographic trends, and anticipated future demand. Pupil numbers will continue to be monitored closely throughout the development of the project, including up to the point at which the building brief and design are finalised, to ensure that the proposed provision remains appropriate.

	<p>The proposed capacity will provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate reasonable variation in pupil numbers, and the design process will seek to ensure that the building is capable of future adaptation or expansion, where feasible, should longer-term demand exceed current forecasts.</p> <p>The Council will continue to monitor pupil numbers through its ongoing school place planning processes and will keep local school capacity under review to ensure the sufficiency of provision across the area.</p>
<p>There is a risk that the proposed closure of Saint Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School may either proceed or not proceed as anticipated, which could impact future demand for pupil places and influence capacity requirements for the proposed new amalgamated primary school.</p>	<p>A proposal to close Saint Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School is currently being progressed separately, with an implementation date proposed for September 2027. As a result, the outcome of that proposal will be known and can be fully taken into account during the design development of the new amalgamated primary school.</p> <p>Pupil numbers and potential patterns of parental learner preference will continue to be monitored throughout the design process for the new school. This will ensure that the proposed capacity and layout remain appropriate to meet demand under both potential scenarios. The design of the new school will seek to provide a degree of flexibility to respond to changes in demand, where feasible, and will be informed by updated data available prior to finalising the building brief.</p>
<p>There is a risk that the proposal may not be supported or approved by Flintshire County Council's Cabinet, which could prevent the project from progressing as proposed.</p>	<p>The proposal has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code for Wales 2026 and is informed by pupil projections, financial considerations, and assessments of educational and environmental impact. A comprehensive statutory consultation is being undertaken to ensure that the views of stakeholders are considered and reflected where appropriate.</p> <p>Feedback received through the consultation process will be carefully analysed and reported to Cabinet alongside a full assessment of the proposal, the identified risks, and the proposed mitigation measures. This will support informed decision-making and ensure that Cabinet members are able to consider all relevant evidence before reaching a decision.</p>
<p>There is a risk that the proposal may not be supported by all stakeholders, which could result in objections, challenge, or delays to the decision-making process.</p>	<p>A comprehensive statutory consultation is being undertaken in accordance with the School Organisation Code for Wales to ensure stakeholders have the opportunity to understand the proposal and express their views. All responses will be carefully analysed and reported transparently, with appropriate amendments considered where feasible to address concerns raised.</p>
<p>There is a risk that the process of amalgamation and transition could result in disruption to learners'</p>	<p>Transitional arrangements would be carefully planned and implemented to ensure continuity of learning and pastoral support. Leadership, staffing, and governance arrangements would focus on</p>

experience if not carefully managed.	minimising disruption and supporting learners' wellbeing throughout the transition period and relocation to the new school.
There is a risk that uncertainty associated with the amalgamation process could impact staff morale or retention.	Clear communication, engagement, and consultation with staff and recognised trade unions will be maintained throughout the process. Support will be provided through established HR arrangements to ensure staff are informed, supported, and involved as proposals progress.
There is a risk that delays in the construction programme could impact the planned opening of the new school.	The project programme will be regularly reviewed and managed through established capital project governance arrangements, with contingency planning in place to respond to emerging risks and dependencies.
There is a risk that the proposal could be subject to legal challenge, including Judicial Review, if it is considered that the Council has not complied with statutory requirements or has not properly taken account of relevant considerations.	The proposal has been developed in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (2026). A full and transparent statutory consultation process is being undertaken, ensuring that stakeholders have the opportunity to engage and respond. All consultation responses will be carefully considered and reported, and decisions will be taken in line with statutory requirements and based on a full assessment of the educational, financial and community impacts. Legal advice will continue to be sought throughout the process to ensure compliance and reduce the risk of challenge.
There is a risk that the needs of learners with protected characteristics or Additional Learning Needs may not be fully identified or addressed at an early stage.	Equality and ALN considerations will continue to inform planning and implementation, with individual needs assessed in line with statutory duties. Any identified issues will be addressed through appropriate support arrangements and reasonable adjustments.
There is a risk that planning permission may not be granted, or may be delayed, which could impact on the proposed timescales and delivery of the project.	The Council will engage with relevant planning, highways, and environmental services at an early stage to inform the development of the proposed scheme and address potential issues. The statutory planning application process will include detailed assessments of traffic, access, environmental impact, and site suitability. Where necessary, the scheme will be refined to respond to planning requirements and stakeholder feedback to maximise the likelihood of approval.

D11: Integrated Impact Assessments

An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been undertaken alongside the development of this proposal. The assessment considers the potential impacts of the proposal across a range of statutory and policy areas and is available as a separate document.

D12: Impact on Welsh language provision

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

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

While this proposal does not directly increase Welsh-medium education provision, it is not considered that it would have a significant adverse impact on the use or promotion of the Welsh language within the school or the local community. Welsh language skills will continue to be developed and promoted through the Curriculum for Wales and the wider life of the school.

It is recognised that there is a potential risk that, if a number of pupils were to attend schools across the border in England, this could have an impact on the proportion of learners within the Welsh education system. However, based on current patterns of parental preference and the availability of local provision, this is not expected to be significant or to materially affect Welsh language provision locally. The Council remains committed to supporting learners to remain within the Welsh education system and to promoting the use and development of the Welsh language in line with its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Since 2020, the Council has made significant investment in Welsh-medium education, with over £20 million invested in the delivery of a new Welsh-medium primary school, extensions to existing Welsh-medium provision, and refurbishment works. In addition, funding has supported the development of Welsh-medium childcare settings, helping to increase access to the Welsh language from an early age and supporting progression into Welsh-medium education.

While the Council remains committed to the strategic objectives of its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and to increasing the number of Welsh speakers, it also has a responsibility to ensure that high-quality educational provision is available to all learners, including those who are educated through the medium of English. The detailed implications of the proposal for the Welsh language, including any potential cross-border considerations, have been assessed through a separate Welsh Language Impact Assessment, which accompanies this consultation and should be read alongside this document.

D13: Building Impacts

Should the proposals outlined in this document be implemented, the existing Saltney Ferry C.P. School site would become surplus to educational requirements. As this document forms part of an initial consultation process, no decisions have been made regarding the future use or disposal of the site or buildings.

Any future consideration of the Saltney Ferry C.P. School site would be managed separately and in accordance with the Council's adopted Policy on Surplus Land and Buildings, including any required assessments, approvals, and consultation processes.

D14: Interim Arrangements

Transitional arrangements would be carefully planned to ensure continuity of learning, wellbeing and pastoral support for all pupils. While the amalgamated school would initially operate across two sites, it would function as a single school community with shared leadership, policies and ethos.

The Council does not anticipate that interim arrangements would have a detrimental impact on educational standards. Ongoing monitoring would be undertaken to ensure that any emerging issues are identified and addressed promptly.