



# Area Schools Review

**St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School**

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## Context

### **What is transformation?**

Welsh Government's strategy for educational transformation aims to modernise and streamline education. Through the Transformation Programme, the Welsh Government is committed to developing and implementing an education and training system that offers a wide range of quality learning opportunities; is responsive to all learners and employers; ensures effective use of resources for learner benefit and tackles disadvantage.

In tackling these issues we must be innovative in our response to changing local needs. This necessitates much closer links between the different branches of learning so the best resources available – teachers, buildings and equipment are accessible to all learners.

### **What are we trying to achieve?**

A post-16 education and training provision that meets the needs of learners and employers and meets the requirements of Welsh Government as articulated in the Learning and Skills Measure. The provision should be sustainable and efficient in its operation.

An example of this is the investment in a new Sixth Form Centre for Deeside and North Flintshire announced in December 2012.

All Flintshire Headteachers and college leaders contributed to the development of a Strategic Outline Case on the future organisation of education for 14 to 19 year olds in Flintshire. This strategy was subsequently supported by the County Council's Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive and by the Welsh Government. It is important, however, that you should be able to contribute to ensuring that education in your area secures the best possible opportunities and outcomes for learners.



## Background

A consultation process was commissioned by Councillors in the following areas: Holywell, Connah's Quay/Queensferry and Buckley, which included a change in age-range of the High Schools from 11-18 to 11-16.

The purpose of the events was to allow people to consider the options which included the changing of the age-range of the schools in those areas from 11-18 to become 11-16 age range schools.

Following the completion of consultations in other areas, Councillors committed to undertake further consultations with schools in Saltney and Flint.

The consultation includes arrangements for the involvement of Diocesan Authorities, Governors, Staff, Parents and Carers and Students.

Responses to the consultations can be made for a period up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. These responses will be reported to members of the Council's Cabinet for their consideration prior to any decision being made.

Details of the schools in the area: -

- Flint Community High School
- Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Specialist School Flint.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School Flint



Tables of school populations:-

<u>School</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Condition Grade</u>	<u>Student Numbers</u>										
			<b>Previous 4 years</b>				<b>Current</b>	<b>Forecast</b>					
			09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	
<b>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School</b>		A	TOTAL	939	939	950	946	944	929	931	940	946	981
			6 <sup>th</sup> Form	127	130	122	102	131	124	125	129	124	119
<b>Flint High School</b>		B	TOTAL	701	694	661	677	685	699	652	647	626	627
			6 <sup>th</sup> Form	79	89	78	70	68	75	79	74	82	79
			If transferred to Hub Total:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	573	544	548
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Specialist School</b>		A	Post-16*	41	41	44	44	53	-	-	-	-	-

\* Based on post-16 who have a Statement. Forecasts not carried out due to school population dependant on Statementing process.

## **Consultation**

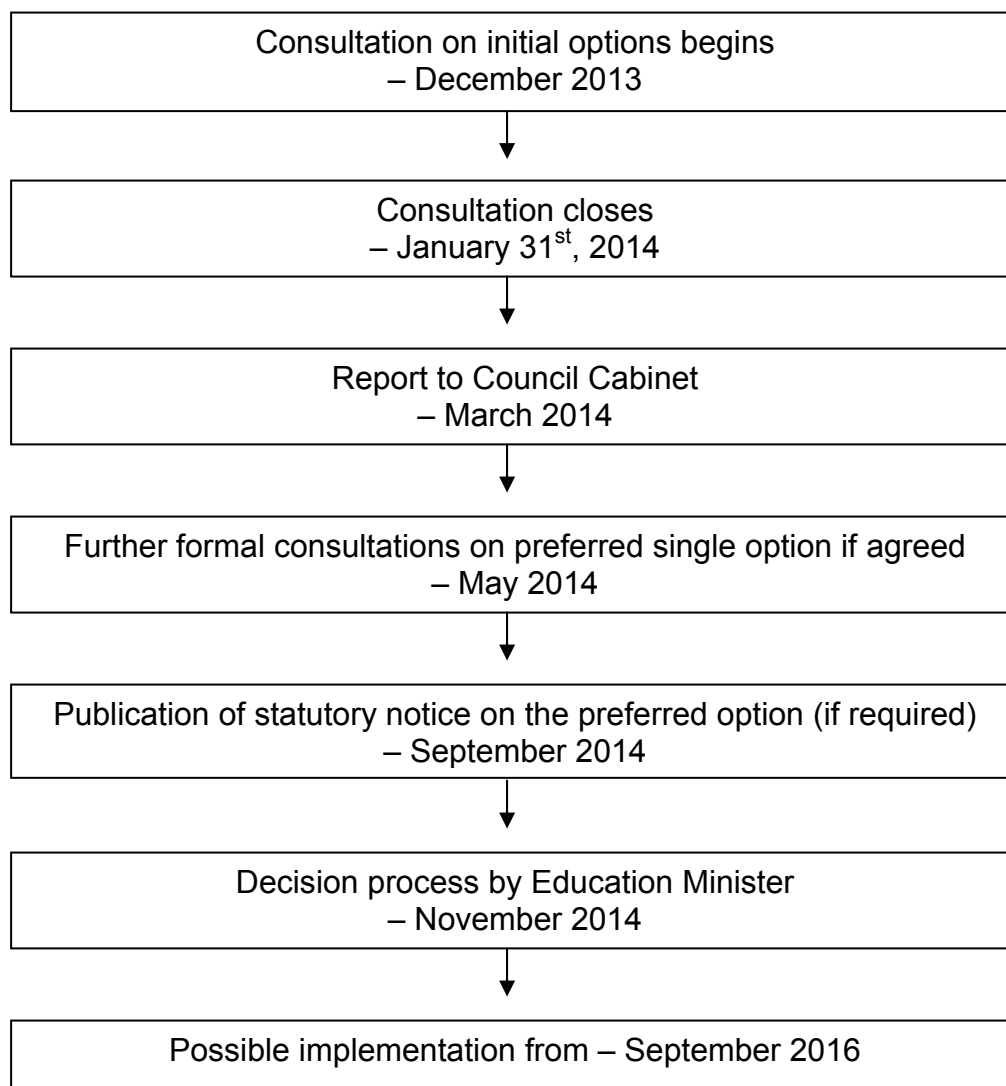
In this document you will find details of the consultation process.

If following this informal consultation stage, Councillors decide to continue with a single proposal, then we will enter the statutory stage. Formal consultations with the Catholic Diocesan Authority would also be undertaken at this stage.

St Richard Gwyn is an aided school, so any statutory notices (if required) would be proposed in line with the appropriate regulations. The Local Authority would seek the appropriate delegated authority from Welsh Ministers to publish a statutory notice.



## How long will this take?



## **The Consultation Options – St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School**

- 1. Retain 11-19 provision at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School .**
- 2. Retain 11-19 provision at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and develop links with Coleg Cambria (Deeside College) including vocational pathways in order to provide a comprehensive curriculum including the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measure for all learners. Strengthen the pastoral and chaplaincy provision for Catholic learners accessing vocational Education or Training.**
- 3. Retain 11-16 provision at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. Post-16 provision would be accessed at the new post-16 Hub from September 2016; with St Richard Gwyn as a founding partner involved in governance and operational delivery.**
- 4. Retain 11-19 provision at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and formalise collaboration with Flint High School in seeking to maintain the post-16 provision between the two schools.**

In each of the options, there will be no change in the current Additional Learning Needs provision.





## Rationale

As a Church School, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School offers its whole curriculum within a faith ethos and perspective. This offer is open to anyone who wishes to receive their education with this dimension; in reality a large number of students from other faith positions enjoy the inclusiveness of this approach. The distinctive quality of this religious foundation in North Wales at Sixth Form is a strong provision which offers choice and develops a mixed economy where there is true choice based on high standards.

Some learners from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School already access post-16 education in Mold Alun and Coleg Cambria Colleges at the Deeside and Wrexham sites. There is already a partnership approach between school and other providers to ensure that the minimum of 30 subjects can be offered to students in year 12 and 13. Coleg Cambria has prioritised development of partnership working with Faith based provision within North East Wales.

These options for consultation set out a range of ways in which provision can be made more sustainable for the future. This would enable a comprehensive offer to be made to learners, including the full range of academic and vocational subjects. In an environment of reducing numbers in the secondary sector for the foreseeable future, and changes in the way that post-16 courses are funded, schools will increasingly come under pressure to fund and staff their post-16 provision. The rationalisation of post-16 provision is in line with the agenda set by the Welsh Government for local authorities, to provide post-16 education in larger and more resilient settings.

If the option to provide post-16 education and training at the Connah's Quay Hub were adopted, (option 3) St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School would also be a full partner in the governance and organisation of post-16 education at the new facility.

Some other secondary schools have been consulted about establishing 11-16 provision, this being a pattern to ensure sustainable and comprehensive provision in post-16 centres. Ministerial decision is awaited regarding the proposed change in the age-range in Holywell High School, Connah's Quay High School, John Summers High School and Buckley Elfed High School





## **Why propose any change?**

Welsh Government says that sixth forms must provide at least 30 different subjects that students can choose to study. The Welsh Government provides funding for post-16 education in schools. The fewer the students who register, the less money the school receives. The Council's School Modernisation Strategy says that for a post-16 provision to be viable it should have at least 120 students although as national funding has subsequently reduced this figure is in need of review. Welsh Government guidance suggests that schools should have at least 150 students for a viable sixth form.

Currently, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has more students than Flintshire's policy statement on the minimum number of students to provide post-16 education on a sustainable basis. In the academic year 2014-15 the projected number will exceed the viability threshold of 150 students which is more commonly applied or considered by the Welsh Government. However, all providers face considerable challenge from reducing funding for post-16 education.

The options put forward for Consultation are intended to address the issues related to the sixth form resilience in the area.



## **Minimising the effects of any change**

If, after a formal consultation process, Councillors decide formally to put forward a preferred option as a single proposal for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, the Local Authority would need to obtain delegated authority from Welsh Ministers to publish the statutory notice, and to submit a proposal for Ministerial determination.

If the option to provide post-16 courses at the Connah's Quay Hub was put forward, arrangements would be made to provide continuity of teaching to those who had already embarked on a post-16 course at the school.

Transport to the designated post-16 provision would be in accordance with the Flintshire School Transport policy.



There are a number of ways you can let us know what you think. You can:

- ask questions and let us know your views at these meetings
- complete a questionnaire on-line at [www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview)
- complete a questionnaire and return it to the School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DN; or
- alternatively put your responses in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DN

**This informal consultation will close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.**



## Consultation Meetings

Venue	Invitees	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Teachers/staff and Governors of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2013	4.30 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Parents/carers of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2013	6.00 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers

## Consultation Response Form

### Area Schools Review

**Before you begin – if you would like to fill this form in on-line please go to:**  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview)

Based on the information you have been given in this booklet, at the consultation event and from other documents available on the Council's website, please tell us your views on the Council's preferred option in your area.

**How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 1 for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School?**

- Strongly Agree                       Tend to Agree                       Neither Agree or Disagree  
 Tend to Disagree                       Strongly Disagree

**How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 2 for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School?**

- Strongly Agree                       Tend to Agree                       Neither Agree or Disagree  
 Tend to Disagree                       Strongly Disagree

**How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 3 for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School?**

- Strongly Agree                       Tend to Agree                       Neither Agree or Disagree  
 Tend to Disagree                       Strongly Disagree

**How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 4 for St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School?**

- Strongly Agree                       Tend to Agree                       Neither Agree or Disagree  
 Tend to Disagree                       Strongly Disagree

**Please tell us why you feel this way**

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**About you:**

To help us understand what different groups of people think, please tell us a little about yourself:

Please provide your contact details below (*unfortunately we are unable to consider responses unless contact details, including full postcode are provided*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you:**

Parent/Carer

Teacher

Support Staff

Governor

Other

**Name of School:**

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