



Area Schools Review

St David's High School, Saltney & Saltney Ferry Community Primary School

May 2014 • Formal consultation document



What are we trying to achieve?

The Welsh Government's strategy for educational transformation aims to modernise education provision and secure improved outcomes for learners. We are committed to developing and implementing an education system that offers a wide range of quality learning opportunities; is responsive to all learners, and employers; ensures effective use of resources for the benefit of learners; 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 of all ages.

We are aiming to achieve education provision that meets the needs of learners and employers and meets the requirements of Welsh Government as set out in the Learning and Skills Measure. We are trying to develop a provision that secures a wide range of high quality options for all learners and is sustainable and efficient in its operation. We are also aiming to secure high quality pastoral arrangements for all. This requires good planning, co-ordination and support for those transferring to further education, higher education and the world of work.

An example of this is the investment in a new Sixth Form Hub for Deeside and North Flintshire which will be located in Connaught Quay. This was announced in December 2012 with funding from the Welsh Government, Flintshire County Council and Coleg Cambria.

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 and by the Welsh Government.

The organisation of education services to children and young people must ensure a high quality provision, which is efficient and effective.

Where more efficient ways of delivery are possible, these must be explored, and when it is identified that more effective arrangements can be put in place, these must also be examined to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people.

The present arrangements

St. David's High School is an 11-18 age-range school, and meets the Learning and Skills Measure (a minimum number of post-16 courses offered) by participation in the Post-16 consortium with other local schools. In this arrangement, pupils travel to different providers to access the chosen curriculum. This arrangement will come to an end in July 2016 when other schools currently in the consortium become 11-16 schools, as the School Modernisation Strategy consolidates post-16 provision at the new Centre in Connah's Quay, which will make the whole curriculum available on site, and will enable an improvement in academic outcomes for young people. The travel between schools for young people will also be eliminated.

Saltney Ferry Primary School is a 3-11 age-range school, with close links with St. David's High School. Nearly all pupils leaving at age 11 continue studies at St. David's High School.

What is proposed?

The consortium arrangements for St. David's High School, which were put in place to make it possible for small sixth forms to offer the required number of post-16 subjects, will come to an end in July 2016. Because of this, it is proposed to reduce the upper age-range of the school from the present 18 to 16 years of age.

This is similar to the arrangements proposed for High Schools at Holywell, Connah's Quay and Queensferry from September 2016 and for Buckley Elfed High School from September 2014.

Courses for students wishing to access post-16 provision will be available at a brand new, state of the art Sixth Form Hub at Connah's Quay from September 2016.

Free transport from the Saltney area will be available under the Flintshire post-16 student transport policy for students wishing to attend the new post-16 facility at Connah's Quay.

The transformation of post-16 provision is to increase resilience in terms of student numbers, funding, and the number of courses available to learners. To be viable in terms of funding and the number of courses offered, the Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy states that there should be at least 120 students in the sixth form. St. David's High School currently has 92 and projections indicate a reducing number in future years.

An option to include Saltney Ferry Primary School

Increasing numbers of schools are becoming 3-16 age-range schools. This option eliminates the need for pupils to transfer from one school community to another, providing greater opportunities for continuity and support for young people in both their academic development and their well-being.

The establishment of one school with one budget, one Headteacher and one Governing Body means that the school has a single ethos and one set of policies. The combination provides a bigger school where resources can be deployed more efficiently and effectively. The two schools already work well together and there are enormous benefits to be gained by using the combined strengths of both schools to further develop a strong, high performing primary phase which then provides a seamless transition into a successful secondary phase, which St. David's is already acknowledged to provide.



School Populations

School	Capacity	Condition Grade	Student Numbers										
			Previous 4 Years				Current	Forecast					
(Both English medium)				09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
St David's High School	687	B	TOTAL	635	620	585	563	514	484	486	474	487	514
			6th Form	70	75	81	97	92	80	72	60	63	62
Saltney Ferry C.P. School	252	C	TOTAL (nursery)	129 (15)	122 (17)	132 (15)	117 (14)	126 (13)	124	124	124	125	125

Based on September 2013 intake of pupils

Building Condition Grades:

- A Good
- B Satisfactory
- C Poor
- D Bad

Current outcomes & possible benefits of proposed changes

In the most recent Estyn Inspection of St. David's High School (April 2011) the school is described as 'good' for its performance, and having excellent prospects for improvement. St. David's High School is a good school because it has been successful in raising the standards of pupils' and students' achievement and wellbeing. The major factors which have contributed to this are the quality of leadership and management, an improvement in the quality of teaching, the use of data to set and monitor targets and the support and guidance offered to learners. The school has excellent prospects for improvement because of the 'outstanding strategic leadership of the Headteacher, the highly effective leadership and support provided by senior and middle management and the culture of high expectations and also the significant improvements in learners' levels of attainment'.

The most recent Estyn inspection for Saltney Ferry Primary School (January 2014) has resulted in the school being placed in a category which requires special measures to address the issues identified in the report.

However, the Estyn report states that most pupils enjoy learning, that they feel safe and happy and most are punctual and attend school regularly and have a positive attitude to keeping healthy. The school shows good care, support and guidance for pupils with additional learning needs.

The interim Headteacher, Governors and staff at Saltney Ferry Primary School are working closely with the Local Authority to draw-up action plans for improvement.

The successful outcome of the Action Plan is also of importance to St. David's High School, since nearly all pupils transfer for their secondary education.

The option to link the primary and secondary phases of education provides an exciting opportunity to develop a strong and resilient school which will be of benefit to learners from the age of three right the way through to sixteen.

The advantage of having a single school ethos, and the sharing of staff expertise and information relating to pupil progress leads to better outcomes for learners. This option reflects the development in Queensferry to establish a 3-16 age-range school, and follows an increasing pattern across the country for establishing these schools.

The proposal to amalgamate the two schools will provide a larger critical mass of pupils, which again will make provision stronger and more resilient for the future.

Any future capital investment in the buildings will be dependant on a number of factors such as the reduction of surplus places and the commitment to provide education in a way that is more efficient and effective for learners. This option would form a basis for a bid to Welsh Government for substantial grant funding to provide a single building to accommodate the new school.

An enlarged school of this type could have a much greater role in providing closer links with the community, such as the further development of the playgroup in order to increase pupil numbers for the future.

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with one of these options, a statutory notice will be published when any person can lodge an objection during a period of a month following publication.

All objections at this stage are submitted with the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for their determination.

Financial Issues

By bringing the schools together, there will be some savings relating to the single senior management and leadership. It is not envisaged that substantial savings will be made until such time as a single building, which can accommodate the primary and secondary phases of education is established. Funding from Welsh Government for this is not expected to be available until 2017 or later and will also depend on the ability of the Council to fund its share of the cost (currently 50%). Any disposal of land as a result of the proposed amalgamation may be justified to offset some of the costs. Until new accommodation is funded, the two schools would operate in the same way on separate sites, but under a single Governing Body, Headteacher, and Senior Management Team. The Primary and Secondary provision would be led by appropriately qualified staff, reporting to the Headteacher of the new 3-16 school.

The running costs of each of the buildings would therefore not change as a result of the initial amalgamation proposed from September 2015.

How long will this process take?



Consultation

It is important that you should be able to contribute to ensuring that education in your area secures the best possible opportunities and outcomes for learners.

Responses to the consultations can be made until the 4th July 2014. These responses will be reported to members of the Council's Cabinet for their consideration prior to any decision on school organisation being made.

The Consultation Options – St. David's High School and Saltney Ferry Primary School

1. To change the age-range of St. David's High School from 11-18 to 11-16 from September 2016.
2. To amalgamate the Primary provision at Saltney Ferry Primary School with the secondary provision at St. David's High School from September 2015 and to change the age-range of the High School to 3-16 from September 2016.

Consultation (continued...)

In option 1, the existing 16-19 provision would be phased out and closed to new students for September 2016.

Arrangements would be made to provide continuity of teaching to those who had already embarked on a post-16 course at the school.

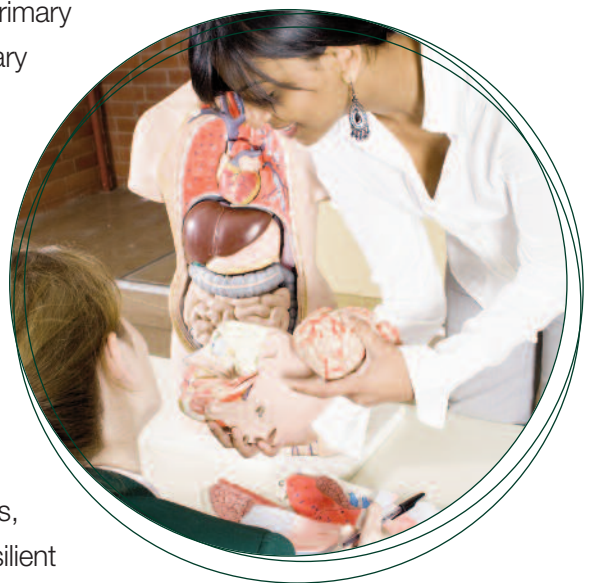
Transport to the designated post-16 provision would be in accordance with the Flintshire Post-16 Transport policy, which is free for students living more than 3 miles away from the provision.

The new Sixth Form Centre based in Connah's Quay is part of the 21st Century Schools Programme. This is a £14.5m centre which is being built in collaboration with Coleg Cambria. The Centre will be purpose built for post-16 provision and will have state of the art resources and the best available learning environment. Flintshire County Council will contribute £3.6m to the project, the remainder being funded by Coleg Cambria and Welsh Government in terms of its 21st Century Schools Programme to bring small sixth forms together in modern, sustainable and high quality centres.

In Option 2, it is proposed to establish a 3-16 age-range school, initially using the existing buildings, under the leadership and management of one Headteacher and governing body. This would provide the strong leadership and management necessary to secure Primary provision currently provided by Saltney Ferry Primary School and to increase the resilience of the Secondary provision as provided by St. David's High School. This option will ensure that both Primary and Secondary education in Saltney provides the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

The arrangements for the sixth-form would be the same as for Option 1.

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.



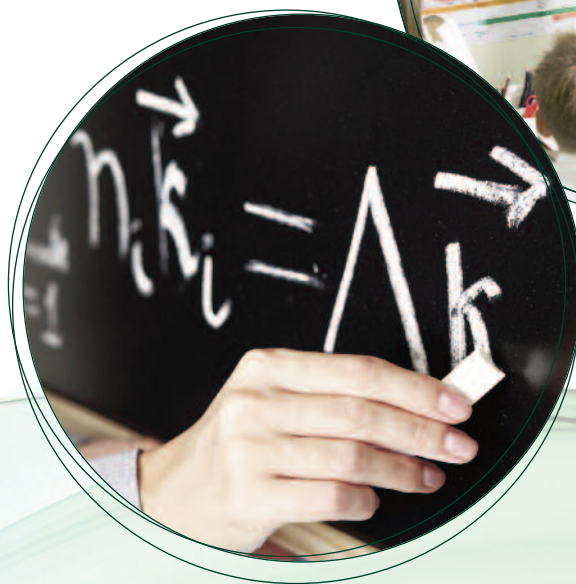
How to respond

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
- complete a questionnaire and return it to the School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND; or
- alternatively put your responses/questions in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND

The consultation will close on 4th July 2014.

Please note that responses to consultation at this stage are not counted as objections. These can only be lodged following the next stage, which is the publication of a statutory notice, which sets out the final option that councillors have decided on. This will appear at the school and on the Council website. The school will be told when this is due, and if you would like a notification, please provide your details on the attached form.



Consultation Meetings

Venue	Invitees	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
St David's High School	Teachers, staff and governors of St. David's High School	Monday 19 May 2014	4.00 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers
St David's High School	Parents and Carers of St. David's High School	Monday 19 May 2014	6.00 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers
Saltney Ferry Primary School	Teachers, staff and governors of Saltney Ferry Primary School	Thursday 22 May 2014	4.00 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers
Saltney Ferry Primary School	Parents and Carers of Saltney Ferry Primary School	Thursday 22 May 2014	6.00 pm	Presentation followed by questions and answers

Consultation Response Form

(please note that a consultation response will not be counted as a formal objection)

Area Schools Review

May 2014

Before you begin – if you would like to fill this form in on-line please go to 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 David's High School?

- Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 2 for St David's High School?

- Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

Please tell us why you feel this way. Please give a description of any alternative option you wish to put forward.

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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: Email:

Are you:

- Parent/Carer Teacher Support Staff
 Governor Other

Name of school:

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I would like to be informed of any future statutory notice relating to this consultation if so, please supply email address

