COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT









Proposal to Reorganise the Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire









- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2026
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA
 Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint
- Amalgamation would see the individual schools close by 31 August 2026 and a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, opened in September 2026, operating over the three current sites
- Move the new school to the new buildings from 01 September 2029







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



A. INTRODUCTION

Within Flintshire there are six schools that are categorised as English-medium voluntary aided Catholic schools:

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

Following the regulatory guidance of the School Organisation Code 2018 ("the Code"), the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham ("the Diocese") and Flintshire County Council ("the Council") wish to consult interested parties regarding a proposal to reorganise the Catholic education provision in Flintshire.

It is proposed to:

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2026
- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint
- Amalgamation would see the individual schools close by 31 August 2026 and a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, opened in September 2026, operating over the three current sites
- Move the new school to the new buildings from 01 September 2029

For the purposes of this document, the schools will be referred to by their shortened unique name. For example, St Anthony's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Saltney, will be referred to as St Anthony's.

The schools of St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan are outside the scope of the proposal and would not be directly affected should it be implemented.

This document supplements the Statutory Consultation document which consultees should consider to fully participate in the consultation process.

https://flintshire.gov.uk/CatholicEducationConsultation

This consultation commences 03 June 2025 and closes Midnight 18 July 2025.



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

Impact Assessments are working documents which will be updated in light of information and feedback from the consultation process.

B. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

A Community Impact Assessment (*CIA*) identifies connections local groups have to schools that are subject to a school organisation change proposal.

Each school has provided information about their role in the community and the links they have to community facilities and businesses.

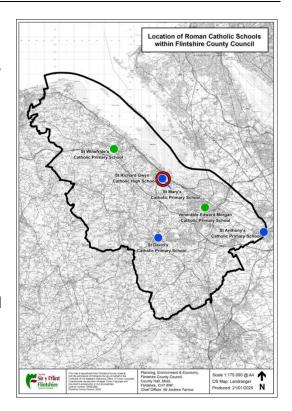
The CIA will consider both the negative and positive consequences of the proposal.

C. AREA PROFILES

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

Mold is a town consisting of four electoral wards of Flintshire, situated centrally within the county. The resident population of the four Mold wards, as measured in the 2021 census, was 10,148.

Flint is a coastal town consisting of three electoral wards of Flintshire, situated in the north of the county. The resident population of the three Flint wards, as measured in the 2021 census, was 13,736.









Below shows the walking distances (miles) between each of the six schools.

	St Anthony's	St David's	St Mary's	St Richard Gwyn	St Winefride's	Ven. Ed. Morgan
St Anthony's		9.42	10.36	10.32	15.30	6.11
St David's	9.42		5.64	5.90	9.02	5.56
St Mary's	10.36	5.64		0.15	5.48	4.94
St Richard Gwyn	10.32	5.90	0.15		5.60	4.91
St Winefride's	15.30	9.02	5.48	5.60		9.88
Ven. Edward Morgan	6.11	5.56	4.94	4.91	9.88	



D. ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, SALTNEY

D.1. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Breakfast Club	Term time only	5 days a week	15 years +	None – Run by school
After school club	Term time only	4 days a week	unknown	None – Run by school
Dance Class	Term time only	Ad-hoc	unknown	Verbal

D.2. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Church	Term time only	Ad-hoc when required. More than 6 times a year	Many years	Verbal



D.3. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

User Group	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
None				

D.4. Facilities Available Near the School

The following community facilities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Church	English	Unknown
Public House x2	English	Unknown
Cafe	Bilingual	Unknow

D.5. Activities in the Community

The following community activities are available and located near to the school:



Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Gym x 3	Bilingual	Unknown
Saltney Gymnastics	English	Many years – Olympic athletes attended
Studio 13 Dance	Bilingual	Roughly 10 years

D.6. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
Breakfast Club	Bilingual	School Hall	No	Term time	5 Days a week	15 years +
After school Club	Bilingual	School Grounds	No	Term time	4 days a week	Unknown
Childminders x3	Bilingual	Based at home	Yes	All year	All year 8am – 6pm	Unknown



E. ST DAVID'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOLD

E.1. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Breakfast Club	Term time only	5 sessions a week	30 years ago	Run by school
After School Club	Term time only	5 sessions a week	30 years ago	Run by School
Flying Start	Term time only	5 sessions a week	2021	St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus Continuous Hire Agreement
Early Entitlement	Term time only	5 sessions a week	In some form 30 years ago	St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus Continuous Hire Agreement
Nursery Plus	Term time only	5 sessions a week	30 years ago	St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus Continuous Hire Agreement
Holiday Club	Term Time, Easter & Summer Holidays	Up to 5 sessions a week	2021	St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus



Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
				Continuous Hire Agreement
Mini Vinnies	Term time only	1 session a week	Approx. 20 years ago	Run by SVP
First Holy Communion Preparation	Spring & Summer term time	1 session a week	always	Run by Parish
Science Club	Autumn term	1 session a week	2021	Mad Science
Music Lessons (guitar & drum)	Term time only	Friday afternoons Up to 10 sessions a week	Approx. 10 years ago	Mr Couch - Ad-hoc Hire Agreement
Flintshire Music service music lessons	Term time only	varies	unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable

E.2. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Library	Term time	Ad-hoc when required	Unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable







Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Visit to Baily Hill	Term time	Ad-hoc when required	Unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Mold town council activities e.g. pancake races, Christmas lights switch on etc.	Term time	Once a month	Unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Church Hall	Term time	4 sessions a year	50 years ago?	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Food bank	Term time		Unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
St David's Catholic Church The parish of St. David covers almost eighty square miles (200 sq. km). It extends from Northop south to Leeswood, and from Chambers Lane, Mynydd Isa west to Llanferres and Cilcain	Term time & Outside of term time	At least every month	Between 1862 and 1863 'a School Chapel, with a presbytery attached' was erected in Mold. This was the 'old' St David's, built by the forefathers of some of our present parishioners. The site is now beneath the trees to the left of today's church. The present St David's Church was constructed in 1966	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable



Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Local Supermarkets	Term time	Ad-hoc when required	Unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable

E.3. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

User Group	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
ACL (Afghan Ladies Group) – This partnership is being developed	Term Time	1 session per week	TBC	TBC
ACL (various groups & activities) – This partnership is being developed	Term Time	1 session per week	TBC	TBC
St David's Playgroup	Term Time	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Continuous Hire Agreement
St David's After School Club	Term Time	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Continuous Hire Agreement



User Group	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Flying Start	Term Time	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Continuous Hire Agreement
Early Entitlement	Term Time	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Continuous Hire Agreement
Holiday Club	Outside of term time	Easter & Summer Holidays	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Continuous Hire Agreement

E.4. Facilities Available Near the School

The following community facilities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
St David's Catholic Church	English	1960's
Church Hall	English	1960's
Food bank	English	unknown



E.5. Activities in the Community

The following community activities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
The Legion of Mary	English	Over 50 years ago
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	English	Over 50 years ago
Various activities taking place in the Church Hall	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
CAFOD	English	Over 30 years ago
St David's Catholic Church	English	150 years ago? Current building 1960's

E.6. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
St David's Breakfast Club	English	School Hall	No	Term time	Every morning	30 + years ago



Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
					7.30am – 8.50am	
St David's After School Club	English	School Hall / Nursery Building	No	Term time	Every afternoon 3.10pm – 5.45pm	30 + years ago
St David's Playgroup & Nursery Plus	English	School Hall / Nursery Building	Yes	Term time	Every day 9.00am – 3.00pm	30 + years ago
St David's Holiday Club	English	Nursery Building	Yes	Outside of Term Time	Easter & Summer Holidays 8.30am – 5.30pm (More provision during all school holidays being developed)	2021
St David's Flying Start	English	Nursery Building	Yes	Term time	Every Day 9.00am – 3.00pm	2021





Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
St David's Early Entitlement	English	Nursery Building	Yes	Term time	Every day 9.00am – 5.45pm	30 + years ago (in some form)

F. ST MARY'S CATHOLIC VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, FLINT

F.1. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Breakfast Club	Term time only	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None - run by school
After School Club	Term time only	5 sessions per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Lease
Football Club	Term time only	1 session per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school
Netball Club	Term time only	1 session per week for one term	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school





Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Multi-sports Club	Term time only	1 session per week for two terms	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school
Expressive Arts Club	Term time only	1 session per week	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school
Games Club	Term time only	1 session per week for 1 term	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school
Gardening Club	Term time only	1 session per week for 2 terms	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	None – run by school

F.2. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Immaculate Conception Church	Term time only	2 visits per year	1920s	Verbal
Jade Jones Pavilion	Term time only	1 session a week	Unknown	Swimming lessons run through Aura/Gwella



Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Flint Library	Term time only	6 sessions per year	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Visits with library staff
Coleshill Bowls Club	Term time only	2 sessions per year	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Visits with club members

F.3. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

User Group	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Nev Powell Soccer School	Outside of term time	5 days a week	2010	Verbal



F.4. Facilities Available Near to the School

The following community facilities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Immaculate Conception Church	English	1860s
Albert Park	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
The Pandy Fishponds	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Jade Jones Pavilion	English	Unknown
Cae y Castell Football Stadium (Essity Stadium)	English	Unknown
The Mill Tavern pub	English	Unknown
The Welsh Harp pub	English	Unknown
Flint Library	English	Unknown



F.5. Activities in the Community

The following community activities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Fitness classes, pilates, yoga, gym at Jade Jones Pavilion	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Choirs at the churches	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Pilates	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
Sports teams – football, rugby at Essity Stadium	English	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable

F.6. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
Ysgol Gwynedd After School Club	English	Local Area	Yes	Term Time	Unknown / Unavailable /	Unknown







Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
					Not Applicable	
Ysgol Cornist Park After School Club	English	Local Area	Yes	Term Time	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Unknown
Ysgol Croes Atti After School Club	Welsh	Local Area	Yes	Term Time	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Unknown
Clwb Hwyl @ St Mary's After School Club	English	School	Yes	Term time only	3pm – 6pm	2022
Teddy Bear Towers Nursery	English	Local Area	Yes	All Year	All year 8am – 6pm	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
The Oaks Day Nursery	English	Local Area	Yes	All Year	7.30am – 6pm all year	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable



G. ST RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC VA HIGH SCHOOL, FLINT

G.1. Services Provided by the School

In a typical year the school provides the following services for extracurricular activities for pupils:

Service	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Music and drama	Term time only	Weekly	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Run by school
Sports clubs	Term time only	3 sessions weekly	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Run by school
Revision classes	Revision classes Term time only		Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable	Run by school

G.2. Local Facilities Used by the School

In a typical year the school makes use of the following community facilities within the local area:

Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Jade Jones Pavilion	Term time	Ad hoc	unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable



Facility	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
Flint Castle	Term time	Ad hoc	unknown	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable
St Mary's church	Term time	Ad hoc	Sept 21	Unknown / Unavailable / Not Applicable

G.3. School Facilities Used by Local Groups

In a typical year school facilities are used by the following groups:

User Group	When the Activity Takes Place	Frequency	Date Established	Agreement
None				

Facilities are not fit for purpose and there are better facilities locally



G.4. Facilities Available Near to the School

The following community facilities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
The Harp Public House	English	Unknown
Various cafes and shops on the High Street and retail park	English	Unknown
Jade Jones Pavilion	English	Unknown
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Flint/St Mary's Church, Flint	English	Unknown

G.5. Activities in the Community

The following community activities are available and located near to the school:

Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Bowling and other activities- Jade Jones Pavilion	English	Approx 2015?



Facility / Business	Primary Language	Date Established
Choir (Men and Women)	English	unknown
Skatepark	English	unknown

G.6. Childcare Provision

The following childcare providers are available within, or located near to, the school:

Childcare Provider	Primary Language	Location	Independent of School	When Childcare is Available	Frequency	Date Established
Teddy Bear Towers	English	Flint	yes	All year	All year	unknown
Treehouse Play Nursery	English	Flint	yes	All year	All year	unknown



H. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The impact of the options has been considered on a number of factors, as shown in the table below. If the option is anticipated to be beneficial to a community or a group of stakeholders it has been identified as positive, whereas an option that could potentially be detrimental to an area or interested party has been identified as negative. Options that do not significantly impact a factor have been identified as neutral.

Also included in the table are measures to reduce any predicted negative impacts.

Factors Considered	Anticipated Impact of the Proposal	Comments and Potential Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
Access to provision of the same Faith designation	Neutral and Negative	A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as Catholic faith based education will remain in the area.
		A negative impact is anticipated in both the Saltney and Mold areas respectively due to the closure of St Anthony's and St David's (site).
		Faith based education is not available in every town and village in Flintshire. However, in addition to its statutory obligations, the Council also provides free transport for pupils of statutory age to the nearest voluntary aided school where the admission to the school is on denominational grounds, subject to the distance criteria.
Access to provision of the same Language Medium	Neutral	A neutral impact is anticipated as education is delivered through the medium of English at all Catholic schools in Flintshire. This would not change following implementation and parents / guardians wanting a Catholic based education for their child would continue to have this delivered in English.
Impact on the Community	Positive and Negative	A positive impact is anticipated in Flint as new modern school facilities will be available for community use.
		A negative impact is anticipated in both the Saltney and Mold areas respectively due to the closure of St Anthony's and St David's (site).







Factors Considered	Anticipated Impact of the Proposal	Comments and Potential Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
		In Saltney, the school hosts a breakfast club and an after school club that will no longer be available.
		In Mold, as in Saltney, the school hosts a breakfast club and an after school club that will no longer be available. In addition, the school also hosts holiday clubs and early entitlement provision. St David's pupils also interact with the local community via local council activities, visiting the library and local businesses.
		It is recognised that the negative impacts anticipated in Saltney and Mold are more significant than the positive impacts anticipated in Flint. However, the removal of school buildings that host activities does not mean these activities will not be available elsewhere.
		Wraparound provision such as breakfast clubs and after schools clubs are likely to be available at the alternative provision chosen by parents / guardians.
		No activities hosted by either school require specialist facilities and therefore they could be accommodated at other community buildings.
		What cannot be replaced is the pupils interacting with the local community outside of the school grounds.
Impact on Local Businesses	Neutral and Negative	A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as the number of people accessing the proposed school would remain similar to current levels.
		A negative impact is anticipated in both the Saltney and Mold areas respectively due to the closure of St Anthony's and St David's (site).
		The closure of a school will reduce the number of people coming into that particular area.
Impact on Nearby Schools	Neutral and Positive	A neutral impact is anticipated in the Flint area as pupil numbers are anticipated to only slightly increase.







Factors Considered	Anticipated Impact of the Proposal	Comments and Potential Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
		A neutral impact is also anticipated in the Saltney and Mold as it is assumed pupils are attending St Anthony's and St David's because of the Catholic education provided. The extension of this assumption is that pupils will transfer to their next nearest available Catholic schools which are outside of the Saltney and Mold areas.
		A positive impact is anticipated in Shotton as the nearest Catholic primary school for the majority of current pupils attending St Anthony's is Venerable Edward Morgan. Pupils transferring to Venerable Edward Morgan would help to reduce its current surplus places.
Impact on Pupils	Positive and Negative	A positive impact is anticipated for pupils who go on to attend the Flint school as they will benefit from new facilities and a modern learning environment.
		Both positive and negative impacts are anticipated for pupils who transfer from St Anthony's and St David's (site) to an alternative Catholic provision.
		Positive impacts for these pupils would be larger class sizes that allow more friendships to be formed and participation in group activities, both as part of the curriculum and those delivered as extra-curricular activities.
		Negative impacts for current pupils of St Anthony's and St David's would be having to transition to a new setting and increased journey times to their next nearest Catholic primary school.
		All pupils, will be offered transition and pastoral support if they are affected by the proposal.
		Increased journey times for are unavoidable as Catholic education provision is spread across the county.
Impact on Parents/Carers and Families	Neutral and Negative	A neutral impact is anticipated for parents / carers of pupils currently attending the Flint schools as similar provision will be established on the adjoining sites.



Factors Considered	Anticipated Impact of the Proposal	Comments and Potential Measures to Reduce Negative Impacts
		A negative impact is anticipated for parents / carers of pupils currently attending St Anthony's and St David's. The removal of a school from these communities would change the social environment and the way current friendship groups interact.
Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements	Neutral and Negative	Partly covered above when identifying the anticipated impact on pupils.
		A neutral impact is anticipated for pupils attending the current Flint schools as the distance they travel to school will remain the same when the new school opens.
		A negative impact is anticipated for pupils who transfer from St Anthony's and St David's (site) to an alternative Catholic provision. Increased journey times for are unavoidable as Catholic education provision is spread across the county.
		Children who transfer to their next nearest Catholic school may be entitled to support under the Council's Transport Policy https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport-Application.aspx
		A Transport Impact Assessment has been produced to determine the potential impact the implementation of the proposal would have on current transport arrangements.
Impact on Community Demographics	Neutral	Whilst the loss of a school could negatively impact people wishing to remain or relocate to an area, both Saltney and Mold are well established towns with many facilities, including schools, that would still attract people to the respective areas.



I. CONCLUSIONS

Positive, neutral and negative impacts are all anticipated with implementation of the proposal.

It is expected that all three communities will have some neutral impacts.

It is accepted that the majority of positive impacts relate to Flint.

New, net zero buildings will enhance the learning experience of those pupils who choose to attend the proposed 3-18 school.

It also acknowledged that the majority of negative impacts relate to Saltney and Mold respectively.

The closures of St Anthony's and St David's (site) would reduce the number of buildings the community has access to in their respective areas. However, it is anticipated that most activities if not all that currently use the schools could be relocated to alternative facilities in the communities.

Closure of any Catholic school will have an impact on pupils and staff who choose to relocate to the next nearest Catholic school. As faith based schools are scattered around the county, removal of a Catholic school results in further distances to travel and longer journey times for pupils who transfer to their next nearest Catholic school.