WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CATHOLIC EDUCATION PROPOSAL

- Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney, which will cease to operate by 31 August 2027.
- 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 2027;
  - a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, open 01 September 2027;
  - the new school operating over the three current sites until such time a new school building is constructed (anticipated 01 September 2030).

Post Consultation Update V2

Autumn 2026

PART A. INTRODUCTION

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

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 Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn are subjects of the proposal and would 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

The consultation period opened on **Tuesday 16 June 2026** and closed at 11.59pm on **Wednesday 29 July 2026**.

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 following information and feedback from the consultation process.

PART B. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

Under the Welsh Language standards policy consultation documents (standard numbers 88 – 92) must consider the impact of a policy decision on the Welsh Language and an assessment as to their effect on the Welsh Language, this duty is not limited to proposals in respect of Welsh Language schools, but all maintained schools, regardless of their language category. This is also now reflected in the new School Organisation Code 2026, and given the importance of the Education sector in creating new Welsh speakers, planning and development of *all* school organisation proposals should reflect the Cymraeg 2050 ambitions and support the targets within the local authority's WESP.

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (*WLIA*) includes the requirements of a Welsh Language impact assessment as defined in the School Organisation Code 2026.

PART C. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Under the NEW school Organisation Code 2026 paragraph. 1.10 states that "*The case prepared by those bringing forward proposals **must** show the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language. A Welsh Language impact assessment (WLIA) **must** be undertaken for all proposals."*

Our consultation document invites views on this proposal, as part of the consultation questions the Council is also seeking your views on how consultees feel the proposal may impact on the Welsh Language and any potential development in this area.

In the survey we would like to know your views on the effects that this proposal will have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- opportunities for people to use Welsh; and
- treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be ...?

1. Increasing the number of people speaking or learning Cymraeg.
2. Using Welsh services
3. Opportunities to use Welsh socially.
4. Welsh speaking communities.
5. Treating Welsh equal to English.
6. How could we increase positive effects, or reduce negative effects?

Impact assessments are working documents and may be updated throughout the statutory process. Feedback from consultees during the consultation period will be used to further inform the impact assessments.

The main aim of the policy making standards is to ensure that organisations give conscientious consideration to the Welsh language when they decide how they will carry out their public duties.

https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/support-resources/public-organisations/policy-decisions

All our documents in respect of this consultation are published in hard copy in Welsh and English, if you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format for example braille or large print, or help with interpretation in a different language, please contact the School Modernisation Team on **01352 704014, 01352 704018 or 01352 702129**, or e-mail **CatholicEducationConsultation@flintshire.gov.uk**.

PART D. THE CYMRAEG 2050 STRATEGY

This is the Welsh Government's national strategy for a million Welsh-speakers by 2050 and must be given due consideration in any school organisation proposals. A thriving Welsh language is also included in one of the 7 Well-being of Future generations (Wales) Act 2015.

'Cymraeg 2050' is based on three strategic themes:

- Increasing the number of Welsh Speakers
- Increasing the use of Welsh
- Creating favourable conditions, infrastructure and context

All these themes have the possibility of being relevant as the potential closure of 2 English Medium schools and the establishment of a large campus English medium school has the possibility of affecting the Welsh Medium schools within these areas, be it that all the schools in this proposal are of Catholic denomination.

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf

PART E. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-2032

Flintshire County Council believes that the Welsh Language belongs to everyone. The Welsh Education Strategic Plan in Flintshire is a long-term strategic tool for us to contribute to the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and increase the daily use of Welsh.

We are committed to increasing the number of fluent Welsh speakers within schools and extending those Welsh language skills into the wider community, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country. We aspire for people of all ages to improve their Welsh language skills and have the ability to use these confidently within their families and in their places of learning.

We are committed to supporting, expanding and promoting Welsh-medium education within the whole community, increasing the number and percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in compliance with the Welsh Government's 'Welsh-Medium Education Strategy' of developing learners who are fully bilingual (i.e. fluent in both English and Welsh).

The WESP is our ten year vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in our area.

The main Principles are:

- Pre-school and early years Welsh medium provision is easily accessible across the authority to support and encourage parents/carers to choose Welsh medium education for their children.
- Welsh medium education is available to all learners within a reasonable travelling distance of their home (in line with our duties set out under section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008).
- Learners in the Welsh medium sector are actively encouraged to transfer successfully at each point of transition e.g. family/toddler groups → playgroup →early education → part time nursery class → primary school → secondary school.
- First language Welsh learners in Welsh medium schools (primary and secondary) achieve the highest possible outcomes in Welsh.
- Second language Welsh learners from English medium primary schools are supported and encouraged to access a Welsh medium secondary education through a dedicated immersion programme.
- Second language Welsh learners in English medium schools (primary and secondary) achieve the highest possible outcomes in Welsh.
- Effective joint working exists with other partners, agencies and services to promote and increase bilingualism in educational and social contexts.
- Learners with additional learning needs receive equal linguistic opportunity.
- All learners become proficient in Welsh and English.
- Progress and commitment to developing the Welsh language across all aspects of the Council is celebrated.

The WESP 2022-2032 can be found here:

https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/Welsh-in-Education/Flintshire-WELSH-IN-EDUCATION-STRATEGIC-PLAN-2022-2032.pdf

PART F. THE LDP (TAN 20) AND AREAS OF LINGUISTIC SENSITIVITY

TAN 20 refers to the Welsh Government's planning guidance on planning and the Welsh Language. Flintshire County Council applies this guidance to ensure that new developments do not have an adverse impact on the Welsh Language within the Community. Part of the Council's Local Development Plan strategy recognises the need for a new development to support and sustain local linguistic and cultural identity.

As a local authority, we recognise that we have a responsibility and a duty as a community leader to promote, support and safeguard the Welsh language for the benefit of present and future generations.

https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Evidence-Base-Documents/Background-Papers/LDP-EBD-BP12-Welsh-Language.pdf

Please note the Local Development Plan is a finalised document based on data available at the time of publication and is referenced in line with the School Organisation Code requirements. More up to date data on Welsh Language is available in following sections.

Within the LDP at both the 'Key Messages' engagement stage, and formal consultation on the plan's Preferred Strategy there were no negative or dissenting comments in relation to the principle of protecting the Welsh language where appropriate, as well as the need to take a proportionate approach bearing in mind the low levels of Welsh speaking in Flintshire.

Table: Knowledge of Welsh (2021)

	Flintshire		Wales
	2021 Census		2021 Census
	No.	%	%
All aged 3+	155,000	-	-
No knowledge of Welsh	126,015	81.3%	74.8%
Understands spoken Welsh only	7,750	5%	5.2%
All Welsh Speakers	17,980	11.6%	17.8%
Speak, reads or writes Welsh	21,235	13.7%	20%

Source: Census 2021

According to the 2011 Census 14.4% of Flintshire population were Welsh speakers. The table above shows there has been a decline in the number of Welsh speakers over the 10 year period to the 2021 Census. However, the number of students attending Welsh medium education is increasing and that trend is forecasted to continue.

Linguistic sensitivity in Flintshire is defined by a complex, evolving relationship between the Welsh and English Languages, heavily influenced by it's geography as a border county. While

Flintshire has a lower percentage of Welsh speakers (11.6% in 2021) compared to the Wales average, there is a strong, proactive effort by the Council to promote the language and foster a welcoming bilingual environment.

There are areas in the County where a significant portion of the population speak Welsh and other areas where it is significantly low. The 2021 Census data shows that Welsh is a minority language in all communities but is most prevalent in the Mold area along with other smaller more rural communities, where in some cases the use of Welsh exceeds the national average. The lowest levels are seen in parts of Saltney on the border with England.

As outlined in the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2025 -2030 our target over the next five years is to increase the number of people who say they speak Welsh to 15%. The vision is to build a truly bilingual County and support the Welsh Government in reaching one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Welsh-Language/Five-Year-Welsh-Language-Promotion-Strategy-2025-2030.pdf

The Council recognises the important role that education plays in supporting this ambition. Delivery of this target is principally achieved through implementation of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, investment in Welsh-medium education, Welsh language promotion activities and wider community-based initiatives.

This proposal relates specifically to the organisation of denominational Catholic education within Flintshire. It does not remove any Welsh-medium provision, reduce access to Welsh-medium schools, prevent future Welsh-medium growth projects or restrict opportunities for learners to develop Welsh language skills.

The Council therefore considers that the proposal is not expected to adversely affect the authority's wider ambition to increase the number of Welsh speakers across Flintshire.

Welsh-medium education, whether in the form of full Welsh-medium provision via Welsh schools, or the teaching of Welsh as a second language in English-medium schools, directly supports this aim and intrinsically links this strategy with the WESP.

PART G. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION IN FLINTSHIRE

In Flintshire, there are five Welsh medium primary schools, along with one secondary school:

Primary

- Ysgol Gymraeg Glanrafon, Mold – includes a KS2 Generic Resource.
- Ysgol Gymraeg Terrig, Treuddyn.
- Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd, Holywell.
- Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.
- Ysgol Gymraeg Croes Atti, Flint and Shotton.

Secondary

- Ysgol Gymraeg Maes Garmon, Mold.

St Davids Catholic primary is in close proximity to the two Primary and Secondary Welsh schools in the Mold area, and St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn are located in the Flint area where Ysgol Croes Atti is located. The Welsh schools in the Mold and Flint areas have seen

significant investment. The nearest Welsh school to St Anthony's is the Croes Atti Satellite school in Shotton.

Updated Data from Jan PLASC 26 (verified data Jul 26)

No Y6 pupils from any of the Catholic primary schools had chosen a Welsh medium education at Secondary level for Sept 26. This is a historic pattern and we also identified in the data that no pupils from St David's, Mold opted to continue their Catholic education at a Catholic High school. The demand for Welsh medium Education in the Catholic network is currently very low.

PART H. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION INVESTMENT

Over recent years and in the future, the Council is striving to expand and invest in Welsh medium across the County in order to ensure that there are enough places for the pupils of Flintshire to access Welsh medium education should they so wish.

We have recently handed over the new Ysgol Croes Atti school in Flint. A Welsh Language School in the Flint area to replace the existing school Ysgol Croes Atti total investment was £13.5m. The school has a designated Community wing for Eary Years care and the TROCHI Immersion programme.

The Welsh Medium primary school in Mold, Ysgol Glanrafon received an investment of £4m investment to increase Welsh medium education in the area and provide childcare provision in the medium of Welsh for the community. The project included the construction of a six classroom extension, new main entrance, and the remodelling of the existing school. An additional purpose-built pre-school provision was also installed to provide Welsh medium childcare and early years education. The building was handed over in May 2022.

Flintshire has a generic resource for primary aged pupils with ALN based within Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold. This resource caters for pupils with a range of learning needs.

Investment in the Funding has also been delegated to the Welsh medium secondary school to provide additional resources for pupils within Key Stages 3/4/5. At Key Stage 3, there is a purpose-designed immersion programme for pupils from English medium schools who choose to transfer to our Welsh medium secondary school (Trochi), which we are building on as part of the WESP outcomes.

A further Welsh Capital Grant has been submitted for the secondary school to improve the TROCHI Immersion/ALN and Post 16 spaces.

As part of the Strategic Outline Programme for the next phase of strategic infrastructure funding from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme we have identified one project in the current forward work programme for Welsh Medium education.

Our Welsh medium growth plans in this programme are a start-up 'seedling' Welsh medium area school located in the Buckley/Mynydd Isa area. This project will create a new 150 full time pupil place Welsh-medium school, along with 30 nursery places to ensure childcare wraparound provision. The proposal plans to include the integration of Mudiad Meithrin onto the site and will have a Nursery and Reception start up provision.

As highlighted the Council has made a significant investment in Welsh-medium education since 2020, with over £20m being used on a primary school, extensions to another and refurbishment of another. In addition, funding has delivered a number of Welsh-medium childcare settings to provide access to the Welsh language at an early age. We are seeing growth in the number of

students attending Welsh medium education and this is forecasted to continue over the next 5 years.

Further opportunities to invest in Welsh medium education will be considered in-line with the Council's strategic objectives. This proposal will not affect any growth plans identified in our Strategic Plan and the future use of any site, will be considered separately in accordance with the Council's Asset management Plan.

PART I. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESP

As education at all of the Catholic schools subject to this proposal is delivered through the medium of English, there are a number of targets within our WESP to increase the attainment levels of Welsh Second Language pupils as part of Outcome 5….

Outcome 5*: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.*

To achieve this outcome:

To support school governing bodies to attract, retain and develop staff who are committed to learning or improving their Welsh language skills

- Continue to promote Siarter Iaith (Language Charter) to enhance and develop the use of Welsh outside formal learning, embedding it into today's young people so they sustain the use of the language in the future and choose Welsh medium education for their children when they become parents. Advisory teachers for Welsh and Siarter Iaith coordinator to collaborate with schools regarding the transition to the new national framework for developing the informal use of Welsh.
- To work collaboratively with Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers relating to the training of teachers with skills in the Welsh language based on Cymraeg 2050 local and national targets
- To work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities
- To work collaboratively with other authorities in Group 4 (in same Welsh Government target group to increase numbers of Welsh speakers); Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport

As well as providing opportunities clearly mapped for school age children to use their Welsh through working collaboratively with other agencies (LA Youth services, Urdd, Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam, and others e.g. Capel Bethesda).

Welsh Language Standards across the Catholic Schools in Flintshire

The schools of St Anthony's, St David's, St Mary's and St Richard Gwyn are subjects of the proposal and would be directly affected should it be implemented.

It is reasonable to identify St Winefride's and Venerable Edward Morgan as schools that are likely be affected by the proposal. Also, the proposal may result in pupils, particularly in the Saltney area, transferring to alternative schools over the Welsh-English border. This may impact St Clare's Catholic EM Primary School in Lache, Chester (CH4 8HX).

Information on Welsh Language standards across the Catholic network of schools is provided below, taken from the school's most recent Estyn inspections. All the Catholic schools are English medium with Welsh taught as a second language.

St Davids RC Mold – Estyn March 2020

In the foundation phase, most pupils make good progress in developing their spoken Welsh and they use Welsh confidently as part of class routines. They ask and respond to simple questions independently following basic patterns, for example to talk about themselves or to describe the weather. In key stage 2, many pupils respond well to familiar questions, for example when sharing personal information. By Year 6, many read short texts accurately and write well using familiar vocabulary and sentence patterns, for example when writing about the experience of being an evacuee. However, pupils in key stage 2 do not use their oral Welsh language skills confidently enough in other areas of the curriculum and around the school. This limits the progress they make.

St Anthonys Primary, Mold – Estyn January 2019

As pupils move through the school, many make slow progress in developing their Welsh oral skills. Most respond to instructions and display a reasonable understanding of Welsh used by teachers in Welsh lessons. However, most pupils do not make enough progress in using Welsh in their work in other subjects and in less formal situations at school. In the foundation phase and in key stage 2, a majority of pupils' reading and writing skills in Welsh are at an early stage of development.

St Mary's Primary, Flint – Estyn November 2025

Across the school, most staff model and deliver the Welsh language and promote Welsh culture effectively through stimulating activities. The youngest pupils respond well to basic instructions in Welsh. Teachers build on these early experiences appropriately and, by Year 6, many pupils have a good understanding of commands and vocabulary that link to class topics and are confident to use their incidental Welsh around the school during everyday activities or to greet visitors.

St Richard Gwyn, Flint – Estyn Follow up Monitoring Report February 2026

R4. Ensure that all pupils have full access to provision to develop their Welsh language skills

Since the core inspection, the school has strengthened its provision to develop pupils' Welsh language skills. The allocation of curriculum time for teaching Welsh is consistent across Years 7 to 11. In addition, most pupils in Years 10 and 11 are entered for a GCSE qualification in Welsh.

The Welsh department has been notably strengthened and staff have worked purposefully to increase opportunities for pupils to practise spoken Welsh in lessons. They have improved the learning environment to include engaging displays and purposeful learning walls, which support and encourage pupils to develop and improve their language skills.

In Welsh lessons, many pupils listen attentively, respond appropriately to basic questions and participate well in structured language activities. The majority pronounce words accurately and are beginning to extend their vocabulary and sustain short conversations in Welsh. However, particularly among older pupils, confidence in speaking is less well developed. They rely on vocabulary lists and sentence builders to support their responses.

The school has taken purposeful steps to strengthen the promotion of the Welsh language and culture. There are valuable cultural experiences for pupils through activities such as

the residential visit to Glan Llyn and the school eisteddfod. The pupil voice group 'Cyngor Cymraeg' plays an increasingly influential role in promoting the Welsh language across the school. They have produced a helpful booklet of Welsh terminology and everyday phrases to support staff and lead on initiatives such as 'Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae'.

St Winefride's RC Primary School – Estyn Inpsection May 2024

Across the school, pupils develop their Welsh language skills effectively. Many younger pupils respond enthusiastically to familiar questions, describe the weather and order their lunch in Welsh. In Year 2, pupils use Welsh to answer a range of questions, from the perspective of a member of the royal family, describing their preferences and giving reasons. Older pupils engage in simple conversations and respond confidently to a range of questions.

The school promotes and celebrates the Welsh language and culture appropriately. Opportunities for pupils to learn and use the Welsh language are developing suitably. Staff model the Welsh language well, frequently using simple greetings, phrases and daily instructions during the day.

The school's wide range of pupil leadership groups provides opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills. For example, the Criw Cymraeg take great pride in their role as Welsh language ambassadors, promoting the use of the Welsh language throughout the school.

Venerable Edward Morgan School, Shotton, - Estyn Inspection February 2025

The Welsh language and culture have a high profile in the school, and this has a positive effect on the pupils' love of the language. Most pupils enjoy learning Welsh and make good progress during their time in the school.

The school's passion for Welsh is strong and has a positive impact on the pupils' love of the language and culture. Nearly all pupils are proud to be in a school in Wales. Provision for the development of pupils' Welsh language skills is effective, and most pupils make good progress during their time in the school. Teachers ensure that there are frequent opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in class and during break-times.

Additional Activities/Community Facilities for Welsh learning

St Mary's, Flint don't currently offer any additional after-school Welsh clubs or opportunities for external members of our communities to learn Welsh or do activities through the medium of Welsh, They have been improving the opportunities for Welsh provision for staff and pupils within school hours.

Prior to last year, they had no staff who were fluent Welsh speakers which was identified as a problem. Their Welsh co-ordinator did a two-term Welsh sabbatical. They have returned to school and are having a very positive impact on provision. Two more teachers will be doing the two-term Welsh sabbatical from this September. There has also been funding for two of teachers to do the 100-hour Welsh online course and funding for 10 TAs to do the 10-hour Welsh online training in the last year.

The school regularly engage with training from the Welsh Advisory Team and all teachers have been on courses on the planning of Welsh within the progression steps over the last year. The

school received the Bronze Award for Cymraeg Campus last year and are now working towards the Silver Award.

St Richard Gwyn High School receives twice weekly visits from a Flintshire Youth Service Officer. One is a group session for Welsh working with students and the other is a drop in session for all students. Owen is now working with the Criw Cymraeg to promote student leadership opportunities and improving student use of Welsh.

Urdd after school club has run with students using Welsh in an informal setting, with Urdd staff and supervised by staff. They have had students compete in the Urdd Eisteddfod for the past 3 years with them winning top 3 places.

At Post 16 there is an offer of Welsh A level in both partnerships with Flint High School and St David's College (online).

This expertise will benefit the proposed Campus school and highlights the investment Catholic schools are making to increase Welsh Language skills. No schools are currently offering any community Welsh activities courses. Provision within the new build for a Community room could exploit opportunities to increase Welsh language skills for the community.

Flintshire Council employs a Community Welsh language Officer within its Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) to establish a strong and coherent approach in implementing, promoting and expanding the use of the Welsh Language amongst young people within their communities.

In our WESP outcomes for Welsh Learners the Welsh Language Officer for Integrated Youth Service will: -

- support the development of a bilingual Summer camp
- introduce a Welsh Language unit as part of the Young Leaders award
- support the summer Play schemes to introduce the Welsh language without affecting the child’s right to play
  - a Welsh Audit has been carried out Summer of 2021 and staff are actively keen to use the Welsh Language
- Support the setting up of a Welsh Youth Club in the Rural North area
- Create Welsh resources for all our youth clubs to use
- In consultation with the Integrated Youth Provision team, ensure that all paperwork used with young people is bilingual
- Build strong relationships with training bodies to discuss the importance of the Welsh Language within youth work here in Flintshire
- Ensure that all staff are confident in signposting young people to suitable Welsh recourses and support
- Support and re-establish Flintshire Youth Council with a fully bilingual ethos.
- Take a lead on the use of Welsh language on our social media platforms to ensure equal balance between both languages
- Develop and lead on a new Volunteering Programme that has the Welsh language and culture at the core. As part of the programme we will aim to recruit young people as Community Welsh Language Ambassadors in partnership with Community Councils and Youth Services

The Council is working with its partners such as Coleg Cambria, the Urdd and Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam to develop its WESP Objectives, these are valuable resources to encourage direct engagement into the Welsh language across the County. The new Welsh school in Flint which is close to where the new Catholic Campus school site, has a designated Community wing for Community and childcare use and Language immersion (TROCHI). The new Catholic provision which will potentially have its own Community area could link in with the school to make enhancements to their own curriculum and out of hours activities for Welsh language.

With the above aims of the WESP it will aid parents and learners in accessing language enhancements in their respective areas.

PART J. PROFILE OF WELSH SPEAKERS IN FLINTSHIRE

The map below shows the geographical distribution of the percentage of Flintshire's Welsh speakers taken from the 2011 Census data. A clear distinction can be seen between the electoral wards to the west of the county, that have a higher percentage of Welsh speakers, and those to the east, close to the English border. This is relevant to our considerations as St Anthony's is located in the Saltney area. Saltney straddles the England-Wales border, with the boundary running down the middle of Boundary Lane. A high proportion of residents identify as "English". Saltney has the lowest levels of Welsh speaking in the county.

Saltney Welsh Language skills profile, aged 3+ taken from ONS Census 2021

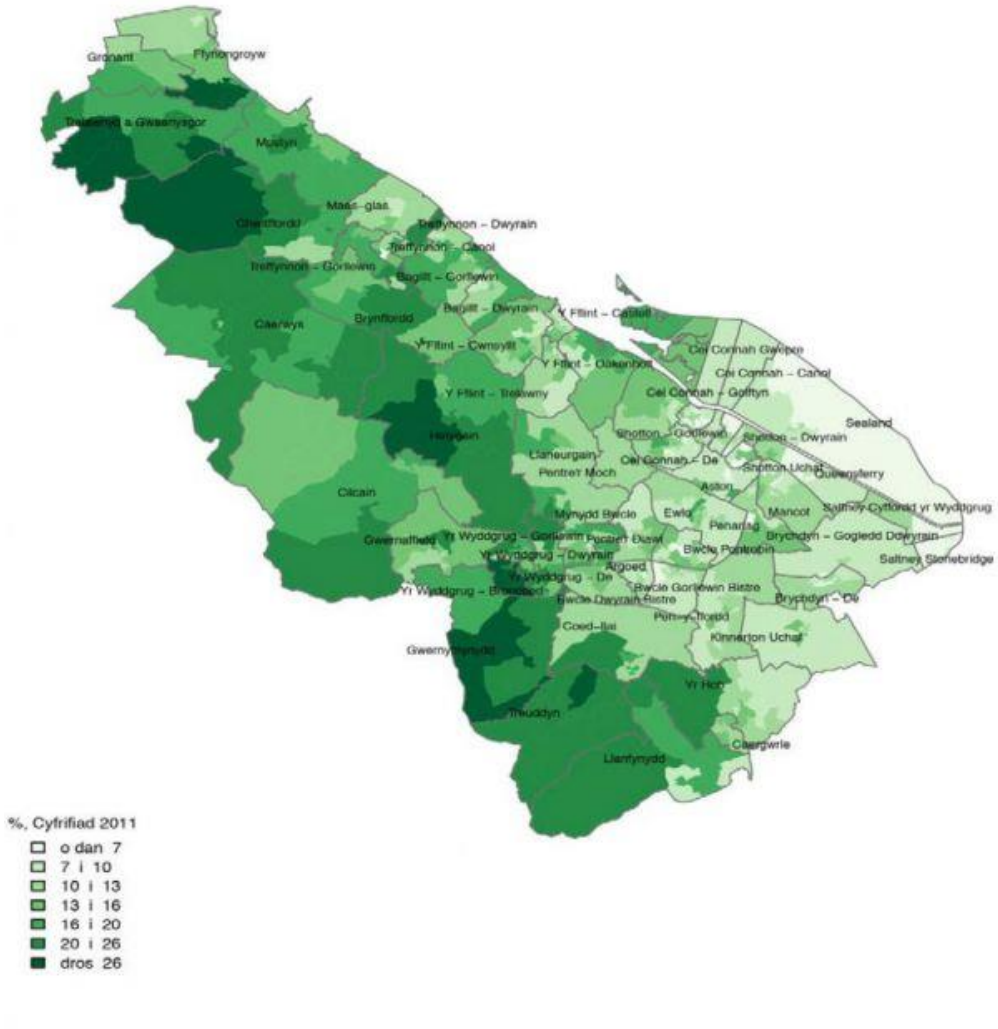
Can understand spoken Welsh only 2.1%

Can speak, read or write Welsh 6.8%

No skills in Welsh 91.1%

Councils have been grouped by Welsh Government into different categories reflecting the current similarities and differences between the 22 local authorities in Wales. The factors considered when grouping included the percentage of learners taught in Welsh in an area; the models of Welsh-medium education provision adopted and the linguistic nature of the area. For this purpose Flintshire has been placed in Group 4.

Group 4: 12 per cent or fewer of Year 1 children in these local authorities were being taught through the medium of Welsh in 2017/18. There is a choice between Welsh medium education and English-medium education in these local authorities.



Source: Comisiynydd y Gymraeg Office

PART K. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act supports the Welsh Government's broader efforts to protect the language and encourages proactive, long-term decision-making to ensure its survival for future generations. The Welsh language is intrinsically linked to each of the 7 goals and therefore all aspects of the Council's work. It is included in this assessment as guiding principles for decision making.



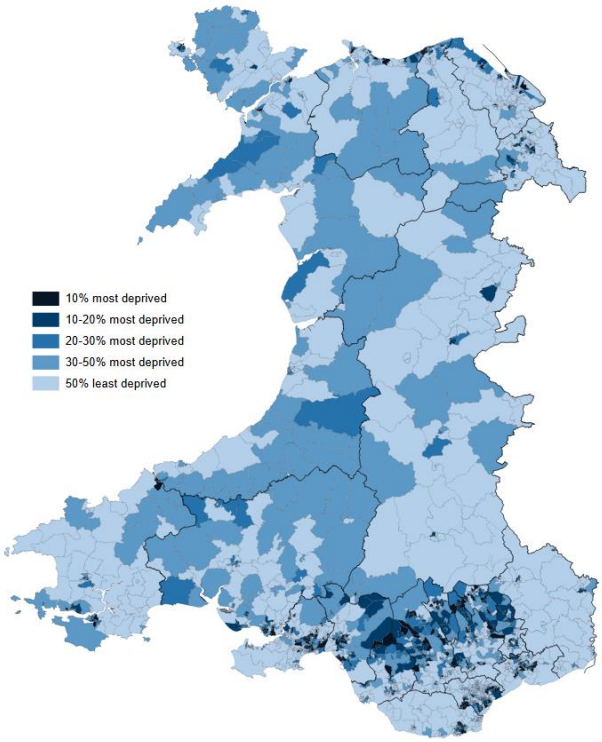
Further information about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 can be found via the link https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/

Further assessment of the goals are also included in our Integrated Impact Assessment – a supplementary document to the Statutory Consultation.

PART L. AREA (LSOA) DATA ON DEPRIVATION WITH THE DATA ON WELSH SPEAKERS

Flintshire has lower than average levels of deprivation compared to the rest of Wales, with the lowest concentration of areas in the most deprived half of Wales, at 29%.

Figure 1.1: map of LSOAs shaded by deprivation group, WIMD 2025



Source: https://www.gov.wales/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-wimd-2025-results-report-overall-index-html#189213

Concentrated pockets of inequality do exist, particularly in areas in the northern parts of the County including Flint North East. Comparison with the map of Welsh speakers at Section J shows that these more deprived areas of the County tend to be where there are some of the least Welsh speakers, for those in the Saltney area their

geographic location to the English border is also a factor for some of them.

The Council's School Transport Policy includes provision for pupils of compulsory school age to be provided with free transport to Welsh Medium schools in accordance with the distance criteria set out in the Learner Travel Measure, i.e. 2 miles for primary age children and 3 miles for secondary.

PART M. IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

Welsh language standards in policymaking require public organisations in Wales to consider the impact of their policy decisions on the Welsh language. This includes ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than English and promoting its use.

An assessment of the likely impacts on any other school or education institution likely to be affected by the proposals, irrespective of school category or medium of provision are identified below.

Criteria	**Potential Impact**
Impact on border schools and loss of pupils from the Welsh education system	**Negative**
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
There has always been a migration of some children from the Saltney area to Cheshire Catholic schools due to its close proximity to the border. It is an area of language sensitivity and measures to promote the language amongst the Community are ongoing. The closure of St Anthonys would potentially lose pupils from the Welsh curriculum, thus reducing their exposure to the Welsh language, be it as a second language, as there is a Catholic Primary closer than the nearest alternative in Flintshire. Parents choose Catholic schools more often than not due to the faith based element of the education. Large investment in the Catholic network could keep more children in the Flintshire network of these schools, and thus in the Welsh curriculum, in the future. 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. (Suitable evidence of adherence to the faith of the school such as a baptismal certificate or a letter from a priest may be requested). Parental choice remains unchanged for Welsh Medium Education, however it will impact on the choice of Welsh *Curriculum* Catholic Education in Saltney, as the nearest Catholic school will be Chester. The proposed new school and Diocese would be encouraged to work with local communities to promote the relevance and importance of remaining in schools in Wales, and the opportunities available in learning the Welsh Language.	

Criteria	Potential Impact
Impact on the Welsh Medium schools in the areas affected by the proposal & Parental Choice	**Neutral**

Explanation & Mitigating Actions

The Welsh school in the Flint area - Ysgol Croes Atti has recently had a £13.5m school build in a new large housing development in the Flint area. This project proposes a replacement school build on the existing site of Catholic provision in Flint. There has always been a choice of Catholic provision in this area alongside a Welsh medium school, and this will remain unchanged. There is opportunity for the two schools to work together on enhancing the Welsh Language in the Catholic school and provisions in both schools for Community engagement could be exploited.

The potential closure of St David's Catholic school in Mold will reduce the number of English medium surplus school places in the Mold area, which is a particularly strong area for the Welsh language with 20.9% fluency being well above the national average. A thriving Welsh Primary school with an ALN resource base, in the area has had major investment and has places to accommodate further pupils. There is also a Welsh language secondary school in the area and as many of the pupils at St Davids primary do not continue their education journey at the existing Catholic High school in Flint, second language Welsh learners from English medium primary schools could be supported and encouraged to access a Welsh medium secondary education through a dedicated immersion programme as part of the WESP aims.

Part of the rationale of the proposal is to reduce the number of surplus places within the Catholic network which is seeing a sustained decrease. Welsh medium education is available to all learners within a reasonable travelling distance of their home across Flintshire and investment in our network of Welsh medium provision is ongoing, as highlighted above.

Update

The proposal does not alter the availability of Welsh-medium education in Flintshire and does not result in the closure, reduction or reclassification of any Welsh-medium provision. Existing Welsh-medium primary and secondary education pathways will remain available to learners residing in the areas affected by this proposal.

The Council has considered whether the proposal could have an impact on demand for Welsh-medium education within the affected areas as highlighted at section…..

Welsh-medium schools will continue to be available and accessible to parents and carers within the Mold, Flint, Shotton and wider Flintshire areas. Existing Welsh-medium growth projects identified through the WESP remain unchanged and the proposal does not affect planned investment in Welsh-medium education.

At the time of preparing this assessment, and following the consultation no evidence has been identified to suggest that the proposed reorganisation of Catholic provision would result in a reduction in demand for Welsh-medium education or negatively affect the sustainability of existing Welsh-medium schools.

The Council will continue to monitor demand for both Welsh-medium and English-medium provision through established pupil planning and school place planning processes.

Parental Choice and Access to Welsh-Medium Education

The Council recognises the importance of parental choice when selecting a school for their child.

Implementation of this proposal would not remove the ability of parents and carers to choose Welsh-medium education. Welsh-medium primary and secondary education will remain available across Flintshire and transport assistance for eligible learners attending Welsh-medium schools will continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's School Transport Policy and relevant legislation.

The proposal concerns the future organisation of Catholic education provision and does not alter the range of Welsh-medium educational opportunities available to families in the affected communities.

The Council therefore considers that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on parental choice in relation to Welsh-medium education.

As the proposal itself does not determine the future use of any site and therefore no direct impact on Welsh-medium education has been identified through this aspect of the proposal either positive or negative. Nevertheless, the Council acknowledges that future opportunities for educational use, including Welsh language and Welsh-medium developments where appropriate and supported by evidence of need, would be considered through the relevant decision-making processes.

Criteria	**Potential Impact**
Impact on Welsh Language Standards in Catholic schools	**Positive**

Explanation & Mitigating Actions

As the proposed new Catholic school will cater for pupils aged between 3-18 there is more opportunity to grow the number of Welsh speaking staff to engage in activities that increase confidence in the Welsh Language and promote the Welsh culture in the school and the community. This is in line with WESP aims that Second language Welsh learners in English medium schools (primary and secondary) achieve the highest possible outcomes in Welsh.

There is generally a good standard of Welsh education across the Catholic school network, with strong promotion of the Welsh language and culture evidenced in their Estyn reports. Improvements could be made by establishing more joined up working between the network. The proposed new school could facilitate opportunities and events promoting the Welsh Language, and work could be undertaken with the Catholic Diocese to enhance Welsh medium education in our faith schools.

The proposed new school would be encouraged to work with Welsh Language partners, advisors and Medr as well as the nearby Welsh school to develop and promote Welsh learning opportunities. The new school will benefit from engagement with the Welsh Language Officer for out of hours activities and Youth engagement in the areas impacted by closures. The WESP aims to have all English medium schools increasing the amount of Welsh being taught will apply to any new school.

Criteria	**Potential Impact**
Impact on WESP Targets	**Neutral**

Explanation & Mitigating Actions

Updated:

The Council has considered the proposal against the objectives and outcomes contained within its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032, and the further comments

from consultees contained in the Consultation report.

The proposal is not expected to adversely affect the delivery of the Council's WESP objectives, including those relating to increasing participation in Welsh-medium education, supporting progression between educational phases, improving Welsh language attainment and increasing opportunities for learners to use Welsh in educational and social settings.

The proposed all-through Catholic school may provide opportunities to support relevant WESP outcomes through greater curriculum continuity, collaborative approaches to Welsh language development across age ranges, increased opportunities for staff training and professional learning, and continued engagement with Welsh language partners and initiatives operating across Flintshire.

Consequently, the Council considers the overall impact of this proposal on delivery of the WESP to be neutral, with some potential opportunities for positive enhancement through future development of Welsh language provision and activities.

PART N. CONCLUSION

The Council has considered the potential impact of the proposal on Welsh-medium education, parental choice, demand for Welsh-medium provision, delivery of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and the ambitions contained within Cymraeg 2050 and the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. Overall, having considered the available evidence, the Council has concluded that the proposal is not expected to adversely affect access to Welsh-medium education, impede planned Welsh-medium growth, or undermine delivery of its Welsh language objectives. Consideration to losing children over the border has been identified as a potential negative, but this is a pattern we already see, and the possibility of a new primary build and investment in the high school in Saltney could see this reversed.

The Council is continually working to address it’s WESP objectives and takes them into consideration when developing proposals in both our Welsh and English Medium schools, to mitigate any potentially negative actions on the Welsh Language; and continue to promote and raise the profile of Welsh medium education for all our learners.

As this proposal relates to the re-organisation of English medium faith based education in the county we recognise there will be smaller contributions to Council targets. However, with any new school there is opportunity to grow Welsh language skills in the learning environment and the wider community, through dedicated Community space and renewed promotion of Welsh language initiatives in partnership with the Catholic Diocese.