



CONSULTATION REPORT

Proposal to Reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P
Closing Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and opening a new
maintained school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is
approved and constructed.

September 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 Following the end of a school organisational consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposer (the Council) to publish a consultation report. In this document the proposer is required to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees;
- responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons;
- setting out Estyn's response to the consultation in full; and
- responding to Estyn's response by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.

1.2 The results from the consultation process should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation to initiate the next stage and to issue a statutory notice to enter into a 28-day period for objections to the proposal.

2.0 The Proposal and Consultation

2.1 On Tuesday 18 February 2025, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for a proposal to close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maintained 3-11 school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.

2.2 The Council proposes to deliver this organisational change by:

- Closing Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.
- Opening an amalgamated 3 -11 primary school initially on the current two sites, while a new building is approved and constructed.
- Opening a new Community English Medium Primary School for pupils aged 3–11, with capacity for 315 full-time places, on the site currently occupied by Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. The school would have a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 45 per year group, making it a one-and-a-half form entry school.

2.3 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation period ran from, Tuesday 3 June 2025 and ended, Friday 18 July 2025.

2.4 In accordance with the code, the consultation documents were published on Flintshire County Council's website, Tuesday 3 June 2025, and a link to the consultation documents was provided to stakeholders. A complete list of recipients can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.5 Age-appropriate versions of the consultation document for children and young people were also made available on the Flintshire County Council website, along with a concise 'Easy Read' document summarising the key points from the main consultation document. All versions of the consultation documents can be found in the School

Modernisation section page on the Flintshire County Council website at the following link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Proposal-To-Reorganise-Saltney-Ferry-C.P-And-Saltney-Wood-Memorial-C.P.aspx>

- 2.6 Hard copies of the consultation documents were delivered to Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Hard copies were also available on request.
- 2.7 A post box was made available at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P for consultation responses to be posted.
- 2.8 The Council produced a response document (standard response form) to assist and encourage people to give their views. This formed part of the consultation document and was also published on the Council's website. The children and young people's version of the consultation document contained an adapted more, user-friendly response form. The consultation response form was converted into an online survey using the Smart Survey online tool. Links to the survey and a QR code were also published on the website during the consultation period.
- 2.9 All consultees listed in **Appendix A** received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document, supplementary documents, and also the link to the online survey on the first day of the consultation 3 June, 2025.
- 2.10 Documents were produced in both Welsh and English.

3.0 Consultation events/meetings

- 3.1 Consultation events for staff and governors were conducted online for each school on Monday, June 30, 2025. No public consultation events were held. Members of the community were invited to submit questions through the dedicated email address that was established and included in the documentation.

4.0 Consultation responses

- 4.1 The Council collected a total of 332 responses during the consultation period, with 326 submitted through both the online and standard consultation forms. Furthermore, three responses were received from Estyn, Saltney Town Council, and the NEU, in addition to two email complaints and one petition.
- 4.2 A signed petition entitled 'Please help save Saltney Ferry CP School!' was received prior to the consultation beginning on 3 April, 2025. This was signed by 597 people.
- 4.3 A school pupil consultation session was arranged at both Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. The findings of these are set out in **Appendix F**.
- 4.4 In addition, a formal response was submitted from Estyn, the full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G**.

- 4.4 Comments supplied by the NEU and the Saltney Town Council have been included within the analysis of overall consultation feedback themes. These are set out in **Appendix G** and **Appendix I**.
- 4.5 The table below show the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Standard Response Forms (online)	204
Consultation Standard Response Forms (paper)	122
Children & Young People's Response Forms (responses were gathered from both schools during their consultation events)	0
Letters and E-mails (complaints)	2
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	0
School Governors Responses (no formal response from Governing Bodies but some Governors filled in the online form counted above)	0
Union Response	1
Saltney Town Council Response	1
Estyn Response	1
Online Petitions	1
FOI's	0
AM and MP Response	0
Total number of contacts	332

5.0 School Pupil Response

- 5.1 Consultation sessions to capture pupil voice were conducted at each primary school. These sessions were facilitated by the Flintshire County Council School Modernisation Team. Each school hosted sessions with representatives from various year groups, assisted by a staff member. The children received a summary of the proposal and were then invited to share their positive and negative feedback, along with any alternative suggestions.
- 5.2 Furthermore, members of Young Flintshire, which includes members of Flintshire's Youth Council and Associate Pupil Governors from Flintshire Secondary Schools, were given the opportunity to provide feedback during a session conducted at Ty Dewi Sant on June 23rd, 2025. The outcomes are detailed in **Appendix F**.

6.0 Response from Estyn

- 6.1 The main points made by Estyn in response to the proposal and the Council's response to them are set out below. The full response received from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G**.

Estyn Comment	FCC Response
The authority describes a number of issues to outline why a new school building would be beneficial. It notes the current schools are exhibiting minor deterioration. In	Noted

addition, both of the current school buildings are presented in the proposal as having challenges in meeting the educational needs of pupils, for example to support the curriculum in some areas and for supporting effective teaching methods.	
The location of the schools, both in a residential area, makes dropping off and collecting pupils from school challenging with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents. The proposal also gives clear data showing that during the past 4 years, pupils numbers at both Saltney Ferry and Saltney Wood Memorial schools were well below capacity, with between 64 and 120 surplus places overall.	Noted
In the main, the proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected benefits of the proposed change including the amalgamation of the two schools in the short term and the building of the new school by September 2028. It states that the amalgamation and then the relocation of the school to a new facility situated on the current Wood Memorial site will provide sufficient places to meet the needs of the local area, will significantly reduce running costs as there will now be one rather than two schools. The authority affirms that the establishment of a new modern school with enhanced resources will provide better learning opportunities. The proposal stated that the new school facility allows opportunity for both schools to come together as one, taking the experience and best practice from both to improve learning outcomes for children. The proposal states that this option is preferred as it will reduce the large number of surplus primary school places in the area, reduce running costs whilst providing a new modern learning environment fit for purpose which will enhance the learning opportunities for all children.	Noted
The local authority has considered some of the potential disadvantages to the proposal including the closure of both schools in their current format and the loss of a school in the Saltney Ferry community area. There would	Noted

be an impact on travelling distances for those pupils currently attending Saltney Ferry community primary school who would have to travel to a new school on the current Wood Memorial site. There will also be potential staff redundancies associated with the reduction to one, rather than two schools.	
Another impact report associated with the proposal states that the impact on pupils with additional learning needs will be minimal and that there will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional learning needs at either Saltney Ferry community primary school or Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school. The provision for pupils will be enhanced by more modern facilities available at the new school. However, it does not take into consideration the potential strain for pupils with additional needs who now must travel further to their new school from September 2028.	We acknowledge Estyn's observation regarding the potential impact on pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) who may need to travel further to the new school from September 2028. While the original impact assessment indicated minimal disruption due to the continuity of ALN provision, we recognise that increased travel could pose challenges for some pupils. To mitigate this, we will work closely with families and relevant services to provide appropriate support. This will include tailored transition plans and staff training focused on helping ALN pupils manage change effectively. The Council has a strong track record of supporting learners through relocations to new sites, including successful transitions into new accommodation. This has involved enhanced support for schools and all learners, with specific measures such as quiet-time visits to help pupils with ALN to adjust to the changes smoothly.
The new school's design will incorporate input from the school's stakeholders to ensure it aligns with the school's vision for its curriculum and overall ethos, thereby potentially maximising its positive impact on student well-being and learning engagement. The proposal affirms that new school will provide pupils and staff with enhanced access to resources and facilities, linking this to improving the overall teaching and learning experience. Additionally, the proposer attests that the school will offer greater opportunities for professional development and a broader range of curricular activities.	Noted
With regards to staffing, the proposal states that the short-term amalgamation of both schools will have limited initial impact on	Noted

staffing arrangements, as the combined school will remain in their current sites before relocating to the new school site. The new school's governing body, working with the local authority's human resources department, will appoint a headteacher to lead the school during the initial phase at the current sites. Subsequently, the governing body, the headteacher, and the local authority's human resources support will establish a staffing structure for the relocation to the new school facility. This proposal asserts that it will provide greater opportunities for staff development through shared best practices and professional development initiatives whilst potentially offering more scope for career progression due to a larger school having more middle management and senior leadership positions.	
The proposal includes several impact reports, including one on home to school transport. This states that free home-to-school transport is provided to all primary school aged pupils who live two miles or more from their nearest school, or alternatively the nearest available school. This proposal will not impact this entitlement and the availability of home-to-school walking routes will remain unchanged or have already been improved. Current, analysis by the local authority shows that no pupils currently attending either Saltney Ferry community primary school or Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school would be eligible for home-to-school transport if this proposal was successfully implemented.	Noted

6.2 The response from Estyn sets out its view that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

7.0 Standard Response forms

7.1 The standard response form was designed to establish:

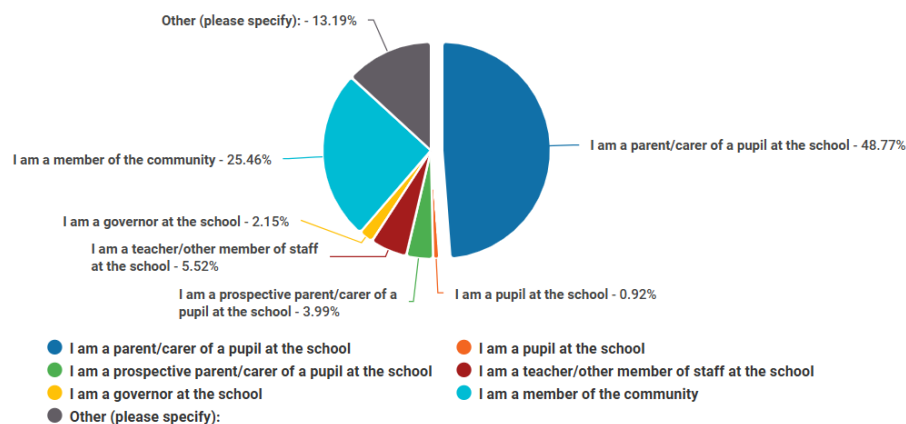
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not people were in favour of the proposal and any comments they wish to make;
- the impact on opportunities to use the Welsh Language;
- whether they wanted to be notified of publication of the consultation report;

- Equalities Information.

7.2 On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were responding as a pupil, parent, prospective parent, governor, teacher, support staff, member of the community or other. Further details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix C**.

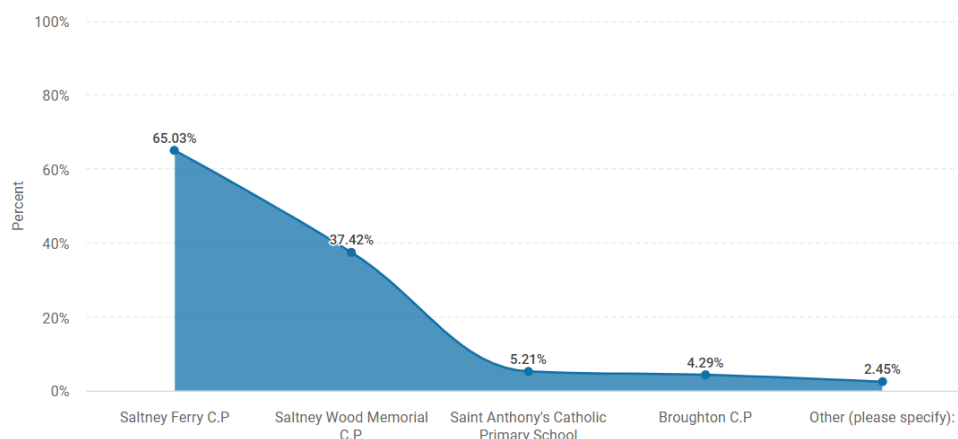
7.3 48.77% of overall responses were received from current parents/carers at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and Saltney Ferry C.P. 56% of these current parent/carer responses were received from Saltney Ferry C.P whilst 36% of current parent/carer responses were received from Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?



7.4 65.03% of total respondents associated themselves with Saltney Ferry C.P whilst 37.42% associated themselves with Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

Which school/s do you associate yourself with?



7.5 88.34% of respondents disagreed with the proposal. 95.8% of respondents associated with Saltney Ferry C.P disagreed with the proposal whilst 80.3% of respondents associated with Saltney Wood Memorial C.P disagreed with the proposal. Further details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix B**.

Do you support the proposal to: Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maintained school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.

Answer Choices	Responses		
Yes		11.66%	38
No		88.34%	288
Answered: 326 Skipped: 0			Response Total: 326

- 7.6 88.7% of current parents/carers at both Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and Saltney Ferry C.P disagreed with the proposal. 92.3% of prospective parents disagreed with the proposal as did 85.7% of governors. 50% of teachers/support staff agreed with the proposal whilst 50% disagreed. 58.3% of teachers/support staff agreeing with the proposal associated themselves with Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. 100% of teachers/support staff from Saltney Ferry C.P disagreed with the proposal. Further details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix D**.

	What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?								
Do you support the proposal to:Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maint...		I am a parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a pupil at the school	I am a prospective parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a teacher/other member of staff at the school	I am a governor at the school	I am a member of the community	Other (please specify):	Row Totals
	Yes	18 11.3%	0 0.0%	1 7.7%	9 50.0%	1 14.3%	6 7.2%	3 7.0%	38 11.7%
	No	141 88.7%	3 100.0%	12 92.3%	9 50.0%	6 85.7%	77 92.8%	40 93.0%	288 88.3%
	Column Total	159 48.8%	3 0.9%	13 4.0%	18 5.5%	7 2.1%	83 25.5%	43 13.2%	326 100%

- 7.7 Respondents were able to provide additional comments on whether they did or did not support the proposal. 261 individual comments were received. An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the comments section and those from Estyn, Saltney Town Council and the NEU is below. The responses have been grouped into the categories which should be taken into account by relevant bodies when exercising their functions of preparing and publishing school organisation proposals, or approving/determining them.

8.0 RESPONSE THEMES

Theme	FCC Response
1. Strong Opposition to School Closure (156 comments) - Overwhelming sentiment opposes the proposed closure and amalgamation. - Many respondents express that this proposal was not part of the original consultation, leading to feelings of mistrust and frustration.	The proposal to close and amalgamate the two Saltney schools has not been brought forward lightly. It is driven by several pressing factors. The original proposal was part of an informal engagement process. It was always intended to evolve based on feedback, which it has. Early feedback helped shape the formal consultation, ensuring community voices were heard from the outset. Many schools are experiencing significant drops in learner numbers, which affects funding, staffing,

<i>‘Please leave them alone. Parents and children want their schools being left alone!’</i> <i>‘Do not support closing the schools.’</i> <i>‘This is affecting our children... just leave these schools as they are to thrive.’</i>	and the ability to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Maintaining multiple underutilised buildings is increasingly difficult. Resources are stretched, and we must ensure that funding is used effectively to support high-quality teaching and learning. Amalgamation can help ensure that all pupils have access to the same opportunities, specialist staff, and facilities, something that smaller schools may struggle to provide consistently. We must plan for long-term sustainability. This includes adapting to demographic changes and ensuring that our school estate is fit for purpose in the years ahead. We know that change is difficult, especially when it affects children and families directly. That’s why we are carefully reviewing all feedback before any decisions are made. We remain committed to working with communities to find the best possible outcomes for learners.
2. Concerns About Distance and Travel Safety (119 comments) • A major concern relates to the increased distance children would need to travel, particularly from Saltney Ferry to Wood Memorial. • Walking distances of up to 1.7 miles each way are considered unreasonable, especially for younger children and those with additional needs. • Numerous mentions of dangerous walking routes, including busy roads and inadequate crossings. • Lack of public transport and no free home-to-school transport support intensifies concern for non-driving and low-income families. <i>‘Walking from Saltney Ferry to Saltney Wood Memorial is unsafe as the paths are narrow and it is along a busy main road.’</i> <i>‘It’s ridiculous how you expect these parents and little children to walk that far on such a busy road.’</i>	We fully acknowledge the concerns raised about increased travel distances and safety—particularly for children walking from Saltney Ferry to Saltney Wood Memorial. Families have clearly outlined the challenges this would pose for younger pupils, those with additional needs, and those without access to a car. Specific issues such as busy roads, limited pedestrian crossings, and a lack of public transport have been thoughtfully and consistently highlighted. These concerns are valid and deeply understood. However, it’s important to consider the wider context: across Flintshire and Wales, many primary children routinely walk up to two miles to reach their schools. This is not only common practice but also aligns with national expectations around sustainable travel and promoting healthy lifestyles. We are committed to ensuring that any changes are supported by appropriate safety measures and practical solutions. Our goal is to balance individual needs with broader educational and community benefits, ensuring that all children can access school safely and confidently. A comprehensive review of the current road infrastructure will be undertaken as part of a formal assessment of safe walking routes. This will include a detailed evaluation of road safety, pedestrian crossings, and the overall accessibility of the proposed new site. In addition, eligibility for

'Too far for children to walk to school, crossing many busy roads including the main road through Saltney town.'

home-to-school transport will be assessed in accordance with local policy to ensure fairness and consistency. To support this process, full transport surveys will be carried out to examine parking availability, site access, and travel routes. These assessments are essential to ensuring that, should the proposal move forward, appropriate and safe arrangements are in place for all pupils and families.



* Proposed walking and cycling route linking Saltney Ferry C.P. School to the identified construction site at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

An assessment was conducted regarding the existing walking distances from students' home addresses to the suggested new location at Saltney Wood Memorial, as detailed below. The findings indicate that 52.94% of the current students at Saltney Ferry C.P reside within 1.5 miles of the site, while 82.67% of the current students at Saltney Wood Memorial are located within a mile of the proposed site. 10% of the current students attending Saltney Ferry C.P live over 2 miles from the proposed location, whereas 4% of current students at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P reside this distance away. All learners attending Saltney Ferry CP and Saltney Wood Memorial CP who live more than two miles away are not attending their nearest school, but have chosen these schools under parental preference.

Based on current pupil data, no pupils attending Saltney Ferry County Primary are eligible for free home-to-school transport, as those residing more than two miles from the school have an alternative qualifying school located closer to their home address.

Saltney Ferry C.P pupils - Distance to proposed site at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P from home address

	<table><tr><th colspan="3">Distance (miles)</th><th>Total</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>-</td><td>0.5</td><td>1</td><td>0.84%</td></tr><tr><td>0.51</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>31</td><td>26.05%</td></tr><tr><td>1.001</td><td>-</td><td>1.5</td><td>31</td><td>26.05%</td></tr><tr><td>1.51</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>44</td><td>36.97%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>></td><td>2</td><td>12</td><td>10.08%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>119</td><td>100.00%</td></tr></table> <u>Saltney Wood Memorial pupils - Distance to proposed site at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P from home address</u> <table><tr><th colspan="3">Distance (miles)</th><th>Total</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>-</td><td>0.5</td><td>25</td><td>16.67%</td></tr><tr><td>0.50001</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>99</td><td>66.00%</td></tr><tr><td>1.001</td><td>-</td><td>1.5</td><td>20</td><td>13.33%</td></tr><tr><td>1.51</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>0.00%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>></td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>4.00%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>150</td><td>100.00%</td></tr></table> * Based on January 2025 PLASC data.	Distance (miles)			Total	%	0	-	0.5	1	0.84%	0.51	-	1	31	26.05%	1.001	-	1.5	31	26.05%	1.51	-	2	44	36.97%		>	2	12	10.08%				119	100.00%	Distance (miles)			Total	%	0	-	0.5	25	16.67%	0.50001	-	1	99	66.00%	1.001	-	1.5	20	13.33%	1.51	-	2	0	0.00%		>	2	6	4.00%				150	100.00%
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3. Impact on Children’s Wellbeing and Mental Health (82 comments) - Concerns raised about how the disruption and change in environment will impact children, especially those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). - Many fear that children who rely on routine and consistency will regress emotionally or behaviorally. - Comments highlight the stress, anxiety, and confusion already being experienced by children during the consultation period. <i>‘This is affecting their mental health with worry and anxiety... so many tears this past week.’</i> <i>‘My child... has Autism, it has taken him a long time to be comfortable going to school and feeling safe.’</i> <i>‘The walk... will have a huge impact on children and their mental health.’</i>	We acknowledge the concern expressed about the potential impact of this proposal on children’s wellbeing, particularly for those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) or who rely on routine and familiarity. We understand that for many families, the prospect of change brings genuine worry about increased anxiety, emotional distress, or behavioural regression. We are especially mindful of the reports that some children are already feeling unsettled during the consultation period. The Council has a strong track record of supporting learners during relocations to new sites, ensuring successful transitions into new accommodation. This support includes enhanced assistance for schools and all learners, with tailored measures such as quiet-time visits, virtual building walkthroughs, and controlled construction site visits—particularly designed to help learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) adjust smoothly.																																																																						
4. Loss of Small-School Ethos and Personalised Care (91 comments)	We recognise that the small-school ethos, with its close-knit community, small class sizes, and																																																																						

• The small size of current schools is seen as central to their success. • Respondents value small class sizes, strong relationships with staff, and individual attention for children. • Fears that larger class sizes in a new amalgamated school will diminish the quality of pastoral care and learning. <i>'I know my children would not cope in a big school.'</i> <i>'Keep them small so [children] learn better. Teachers are doing great this way.'</i> <i>'Smaller class sizes allow for more personalised learning and tailored support.'</i>	personalised care, is highly valued by families and staff alike. Many respondents have expressed concern that a larger amalgamated school might affect the strong relationships and individual attention that support children's learning and wellbeing. While we appreciate these concerns, it's important to recognise that many larger schools consistently cultivate nurturing, inclusive environments where strong relationships thrive and individual needs are effectively met. These qualities are not exclusive to small schools they are hallmarks of good practice, regardless of size of the school. The Council has a strong track record of supporting learners through relocations from smaller location to new larger sites. If changes are considered, we would explore ways with the school leadership to maintain this ethos of small learning communities within larger settings, such as: • Creating smaller pastoral groups or 'school families' within a larger school. • Ensuring staff continuity so children retain trusted relationships. • Designing spaces that feel welcoming and personal. • Keeping class sizes manageable to support individual learning needs.
5. Importance of Schools to the Local Community (74 comments) • Saltney Ferry CP is repeatedly described as a community hub and one of the last remaining public assets in the area. • Concerns that closure would erode community identity and social cohesion. • Multiple generations of families have attended the schools, enhancing a sense of legacy and belonging. <i>'Saltney Ferry school is the only community building left in Saltney Ferry.'</i> <i>'If that goes then we have nothing else... everything was really personal.'</i> <i>'This is more than just a school — this is our hub.'</i>	While the emotional and historical significance of both schools is acknowledged and respected, decisions about their future must be guided by long-term strategic priorities, sustainability, and the best possible educational outcomes for our learners. These considerations, though difficult, help ensure that we are making responsible choices that support the needs of our communities now and into the future. Although one of the schools is described as a "community hub," its primary function is to deliver high-quality education. If pupil numbers are declining, standards could be impacted, or the building becomes no longer fit for purpose, and its continued operation may not be in the best interests of learners. Community use, while valuable, cannot justify maintaining a school that is no longer educationally or financially viable. The claim that Saltney Ferry CP is the "only community building left" must be weighed against the availability of alternative venues in the wider Saltney area — including the church, community centre, and other schools with community access. Community identity is important, but it can be preserved and strengthened through collaborative

	use of shared spaces, not necessarily through maintaining underutilised infrastructure. Generational legacy holds deep significance and deserves respect. However, it's equally important to respond thoughtfully to evolving demographics, financial realities, and educational expectations. Flintshire's educational future will be shaped by strategic decisions that include consolidating resources, investing in modern learning environments, and promoting fair access for all learners. While tradition offers valuable perspective, sustainable planning must be guided by present needs and future aspirations. Maintaining small schools with significant surplus places can divert resources from other schools that serve larger populations or have greater needs. Closure decisions are often made to reallocate funding more equitably, improve staffing stability, and ensure that all pupils benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum. Emotional arguments must be balanced against the real costs and opportunity losses of keeping a school open that may no longer meet strategic criteria. While the volume of feedback is considerable and valued, consultation does not always lead to preservation. Its purpose is to ensure that all voices are acknowledged and considered. Ultimately, decisions must be made within the framework of the Council's responsibilities, statutory obligations, and long-term strategic planning which include ensuring enabling equitable access to quality education, managing resources effectively, and responding to demographic and policy changes. Decisions must also be made with the terms of the Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding. Both schools hold emotional and historical value, but the case for their retention must be critically assessed against educational standards, financial sustainability, and strategic priorities. The future of education in the area depends on making difficult decisions that serve the greater good, even when they challenge long-standing attachments.
6. Trust and Transparency Issues (55 comments) • Accusations that the proposal was changed without due consultation. • Belief that misinformation has been circulated (e.g. flooding risks, parking limitations).	Discussions on the model options for the Saltney area were part of an informal engagement process. It was always intended to evolve based on feedback, which it has. Early feedback helped shape the formal consultation, ensuring community voices were heard from the outset.

• Calls for the council to genuinely listen to children and parents. <i>'This was never on the original proposal.'</i> <i>'A load of lies also made up by FCC regarding floods and all sorts.'</i> <i>'False information has been going around our school.'</i>	All technical assessments, including flooding and parking, were conducted by independent external experts. There is no evidence of misinformation. The Council has actively engaged during the early engagement process with children and parents through surveys and school visits. Children and parents have played a key role in shaping the proposal. Their input has been valued and incorporated throughout the process. The Council is not aware of any false information that may have been shared around schools. We encourage everyone to refer to the official consultation documents.
7. Value of Unique School Features (43 comments) • The school farm at Saltney Ferry CP is frequently praised. • It is seen as a unique educational and wellbeing resource that contributes significantly to pupils' development. • Concerns that this will be lost in the proposed changes. <i>'The school has a farm... a huge asset to this school, it's all the children talk about.'</i> <i>'Saltney Ferry now has a school farm — this has massively improved outdoor learning.'</i> <i>'My son loves seeing the animals every day.'</i>	While the school farm at Saltney Ferry CP has received positive comments, its perceived value must be weighed against broader educational priorities and practical considerations. The farm has not received formal approval from the Council. This raises concerns about compliance with health, safety, and safeguarding standards. Without official endorsement, its long-term viability and integration into the curriculum are uncertain. Outdoor learning is valuable, but not exclusive to a farm setting. Other schools successfully use nature-based learning programs, partnerships with local farms or wildlife centres and school gardens and eco-projects. These alternatives can be more inclusive, scalable, and aligned with curriculum standards. The farm benefits only one school, creating inequity across the wider community. Strategic changes aim to ensure all pupils have access to high-quality learning experiences. Resources should be distributed fairly to support all learners, not concentrated in one location. Running a farm involves ongoing costs, staffing, and risk management. Without Council oversight, there may be gaps in accountability and sustainability. Comments such as "it's all the children talk about" reflect emotional attachment, not necessarily educational outcomes. While pupil enjoyment is important, decisions must be based on evidence, equity, and strategic goals. A new school building would provide modern, purpose-built facilities designed to enhance learning across all areas of the curriculum. This could include dedicated spaces for science,

	technology, and creative subjects, as well as flexible outdoor learning zones, sensory and nurture areas, and improved accessibility for all pupils. It could also include community-use spaces to support local engagement, an on-site pre-school to strengthen early years provision, and well-designed outdoor learning areas to promote environmental awareness and wellbeing. Such facilities would offer inclusive opportunities that reflect the needs of all learners and the wider community.
8. Concerns About Cost and Value for Money (38 comments) - Many argue the new build is unnecessarily expensive (£12 million) compared to upgrading the current schools (estimated at under £350k). - Several comments challenge the idea that new carbon targets can't be met with retrofitting. - There is a general perception that financial motivations are taking precedence over educational needs. <i>'For £12.5 million you could go a long way without the need to build a new school.'</i> <i>'Why spend millions on a new school when money could be put into both community schools to improve them at a much smaller cost.'</i> <i>'Spend the money improving the current schools.'</i>	We understand and appreciate the concerns raised regarding funding and investment in school facilities. It's important to clarify that any new school capital project would be primarily supported by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, which contributes 65% of the project's capital value. This funding is contingent upon a robust and approved business case. The remaining 35% is funded through the Council's own capital borrowing, representing a significant financial commitment and a multi-million-pound investment in the Saltney area. Upgrading existing schools to a suitable standard would not attract this funding and instead depends on the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Programme which is a more limited approach as funding is significantly less and is distributed across the school network based on condition priorities. Older buildings often demand frequent and costly fixes to plumbing, roofing, heating, and electrical systems, placing a growing strain on resources. In contrast, investing in modern, purpose-built schools offers long-term value. These buildings are designed for sustainability, featuring enhanced insulation, solar panels, smart energy systems, and most importantly net zero carbon in operation. Not only do they reduce utility costs, but they also create healthier, more efficient learning environments for future generations. In response to the NEU's query regarding revenue funding, the projected funding allocation for a new school would be based on pupil numbers at full capacity, in line with the Councils' school funding formula. As with all schools, if pupil numbers were to fall below capacity, the level of revenue funding would reduce proportionately, ensuring fairness and equity across the school system. The Council will continue to work closely with governors and staff to support financial planning and ensure resources are directed to sustaining high-quality provision for learners.

9. Disruption During Construction Phase (22 comments) - Concerns about noise, safety, and loss of outdoor space for current pupils during building work. - Questions raised about logistics, including the ability of one headteacher to oversee two sites. <i>'The disruption while the building is constructed will affect learning and outdoor space.'</i> <i>'Two years of disruption to the children's learning whilst building the new school.'</i> <i>'This will cause too much disruption to the children.'</i>	The Council has extensive and successful experience in supporting schools through capital development projects. Proven strategies are in place to minimise construction disruption, including: - Acoustic barriers and scheduling noisy work outside core learning hours. - Strict safety protocols, secure fencing, and separate access routes for construction vehicles. - Temporary reconfiguration of outdoor spaces or use of nearby community facilities to maintain play and physical activity. With careful planning and phased construction, learning continuity is prioritised. It is envisaged that the existing school buildings will remain in operation during construction to ensure pupils remain in a stable learning environment. The Council has previously delivered similar projects without significant impact on pupil outcomes, thanks to close collaboration with school leadership and contractors. Many schools operate successfully across multiple sites with one headteacher, supported by strong leadership teams, including deputy heads, site managers, and administrative staff. The Council provides guidance and operational support to ensure effective management structures are in place. This model can also create opportunities for leadership development within the school. While temporary disruption is a natural part of any construction project, the Council's proven track record in managing school developments ensures that risks are mitigated and pupil wellbeing is prioritised. The short-term inconvenience is outweighed by the long-term educational, environmental, and community benefits of the new school.
10. Future Planning and Demand (11 comments) - Comments reference recent housing developments and increasing demand for school places. - Concern that the new school may lack capacity to serve future generations, particularly with the potential closure of other local faith schools.	The Council is not aware of any 70-home property development in Saltney that is progressing through the Flintshire planning system. Any assumptions about increased demand based on such a development are therefore unsubstantiated at this time. While a new housing development in the area may increase demand, not all homes will immediately contribute to school numbers. Families move in gradually, and children enter school at different stages. The proposed new school has currently been scoped following comprehensive demographic

<i>‘There has been a 70 home property development... many have started families and will need school places.’</i> <i>‘The new school will not have enough spare places for new families moving to Saltney.’</i> <i>‘Concern the amalgamation would not hold any future children.’</i>	analysis, including housing trends and birth rates. Capacity has been planned to meet current and projected future needs, with flexibility to adapt if demand changes. The school’s design will be designed to allow for future expansion if necessary, including the potential for additional classrooms or facilities. This ensures that the school can respond to any unexpected increases in pupil numbers. Should any local faith schools close, the Council will manage pupil redistribution carefully to avoid overburdening any single school. The amalgamation of the faith education network is part of a strategic approach to maintain educational provision across the area for catholic provision and not linked to the Saltney proposal. School capacity is reviewed annually, allowing for responsive adjustments based on actual demand.
11. Equity and Fairness (15 comments) • Strong perceptions that Saltney Ferry is being unfairly targeted. • Repeated suggestions that residents feel forgotten or disadvantaged by council decisions. • Emphasis on the unequal burden placed on vulnerable families and non-drivers. <i>‘We have always been the forgotten area.’</i> <i>‘Saltney Ferry has no shop, no bus service, nothing — and now a proposal to close the school.’</i> <i>‘Travelling by car is expensive for those on benefits and low incomes.’</i>	While there are strong feelings that Saltney Ferry Primary School is being singled out, it’s important to clarify that the current proposal affects two schools — Saltney Ferry Primary School and also Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School. This indicates a broader strategic review rather than a targeted action against one community. Decisions like these are typically based on factors such as pupil numbers, building conditions, and long-term sustainability, not on geographic bias. The sentiment of being “forgotten” is recognised, but it’s not unique to Saltney Ferry Primary School. Many communities face similar challenges, and the Council continues to work on inclusive development plans. The inclusion of Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School in the proposal shows that the issue is part of a wider educational strategy, not a neglect of one specific area. Concerns about transport and affordability are valid, especially for non-drivers and low-income families. However, Councils conduct impact assessments and develop support plans to mitigate these effects. This can include transport assistance, transition support for eligible pupils, and engagement with families to ensure no one is left behind.
12. Positives Themes (8 comments) • Potential for modern improved facilities. • Opportunity for community investment and consolidation. • Environmental and efficiency benefits.	We acknowledge and welcome the view that a new, purpose-built school could provide modern and enhanced facilities for children and staff for the Saltney area. We also recognise the suggestion that consolidating provision on a single site could lead to more efficient use of resources and enable long-term investment in education within the

• A fresh start/sense of renewal. <i>‘Change is good — something new for the kids to be proud of and look after.’</i> <i>‘I feel an amalgamation would benefit the community by creating a new site and new resources.’</i> <i>‘Makes sense to combine both schools and give them one new building with lowering birth rates.’</i>	community. The importance of designing a sustainable, environmentally responsible building has also been noted and matches the requirement in Wales to target having Net Zero Carbon in operation buildings by 2050. We understand that for some, the idea of a fresh start offers the potential for renewed pride, identity and opportunity for the entire Saltney community.
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8.0 In the response forms, we requested individuals to provide their views on the possible effects of this proposal on the Welsh Language. Further details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix F**. Despite the fact that most respondents opposed the proposed plan, approximately two-thirds of those who responded to the Welsh language questions believed that, if enacted, the proposal would yield positive or neutral effects on the Welsh language. Only about 10% thought the proposal would adversely affect the identified areas. This is consistent with our WLIA, which also acknowledged that any new school presents an opportunity to enhance Welsh language skills both in the educational setting and the broader community.

8.1 51.40% of respondents believe this proposal will have a neutral impact on the number of people speaking or learning Cymraeg.

8.2 51.72% of respondents believe this proposal will have a neutral impact on the use of Welsh services.

8.3 50.00% of respondents believe this proposal will have a neutral impact on the use of Welsh language socially.

8.4 52.05% of respondents believe this proposal will have a neutral impact on Welsh speaking communities.

8.5 46.84% of respondents believe this proposal will have a neutral impact on treating Welsh equal to English.

8.6 Respondents were able to provide additional comments on how this proposal could increase positive effects, or reduce negative effects on the Welsh Language. 138 individual comments were received. An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the comments section is below.

WELSH LANGUAGE THEMES

Theme	FCC Response
1. Relevance of Welsh Language Question to the Consultation (47 comments) • Many respondents felt that questions about the Welsh language were irrelevant or inappropriate in the context of school closures or mergers.	We understand that some respondents felt questions about the Welsh language were not relevant to this particular consultation. However, as a Council in Wales, we have a statutory duty to consider the impact of any school reorganisation on Welsh language provision and to report on how proposals align with local and national Welsh language strategies. The Welsh Language standards also require public bodies in Wales to

<i>"This has nothing to do with closing schools."</i> <i>"Irrelevant question – stupid."</i> <i>"Why is this even relevant?"</i>	consider the impact of policies and consultations on the Welsh language, ensuring it's not treated less favorably than English and the effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language. Including these questions ensures we meet these responsibilities and consider all aspects of the Welsh language, in a consistent and transparent way. This also helps inform our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Further information on this is contained in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment for this consultation on our website.
2. Support for Welsh Language Promotion (in principle) (26 comments) Some support learning Welsh, especially for cultural reasons, but often with the caveat that it shouldn't come at the cost of school closures or replace other priorities. <i>"Learning Welsh is great, my child loves it."</i> <i>"It gives people opportunity to learn and speak another language."</i> <i>"Encourage use of both languages in all aspects."</i>	We welcome the positive comments recognising the cultural and educational value of learning Welsh. Promoting the Welsh language is a local and national priority, and it was pleasing that many families see its importance. We also understand that this support is often balanced with concerns about wider educational priorities, such as school provision and pupil wellbeing. We want to reassure families that as well as Welsh language education our focus also remains on delivering high-quality, inclusive education for all learners.
3. Concerns about Practicality of Welsh in a Border Town (39 comments) Many see Saltney as predominantly English-speaking, making significant Welsh language promotion feel impractical, tokenistic, or forced. <i>"Saltney is reported as the most English town in Wales."</i> <i>"Most people in Saltney are born in Chester and class themselves as English."</i> <i>"You can't force someone to speak Welsh."</i>	We appreciate the views shared about the unique cultural context of Saltney as a border community. We recognise that Welsh language promotion in predominantly English-speaking areas presents particular challenges, and that any efforts need to be balanced. Flintshire County Council believes that the Welsh Language belongs to everyone. Our approach aims to offer inclusive and engaging opportunities for Welsh language learning. We are committed to supporting, expanding and promoting Welsh-medium education, ensuring that all pupils and families have the opportunity to improve their Welsh language skills even in areas that it may not be widely spoken.
4. Impact of School Closure/Merger on Welsh Language Use (19 comments) Some believe closing Saltney Ferry would reduce comfort and confidence in speaking	We understand the concerns about how school changes might affect Welsh language use, especially the fear that closing Saltney Ferry CP could reduce opportunities for pupils to use and develop confidence in Welsh. At the same time, we recognise that some feel the impact may be minimal. Should the proposal proceed, we will work

Welsh, while others feel amalgamation wouldn't affect Welsh language use at all. <i>"Shutting Saltney Ferry CP would negatively affect Welsh use."</i> <i>"Having a new school will have zero impact on the Welsh language."</i> <i>"Moving closer to England will discourage Welsh."</i>	closely with the school community to ensure that Welsh language learning and use continue to be supported and encouraged in the new environment, helping all pupils to engage positively with Wales's bilingual heritage.
5. Welsh as a Valuable Skill vs. Educational Priority (22 comments) While some see Welsh as a useful or culturally important skill, others feel it shouldn't take precedence over core academic needs or modern global languages. <i>"It's good to learn Welsh – but other languages like Spanish are more useful."</i> <i>"Welsh teaching hours take away from core subjects."</i> <i>"Learning Welsh helps build confidence and independence."</i>	We recognise that Welsh is valued both as a cultural heritage and as a language skill that can build confidence and independence in learning other languages. At the same time, we appreciate that some families feel other academic priorities or global languages should not be overshadowed. Our aim is to provide a balanced curriculum that supports Welsh language learning alongside core subjects and other language opportunities, ensuring every child's education is well-rounded and prepares them to be citizens for the future.
6. Suggestions for Improvement (11 comments) Several responses included ideas like offering Welsh classes to parents, bilingual resources, better staff training, and community involvement. <i>"Offer starter Welsh classes to parents."</i> <i>"Train staff to use more Welsh day-to-day."</i> <i>"Let the community help promote Welsh."</i>	We appreciate the thoughtful suggestions offered to enhance Welsh language learning and engagement, including providing Welsh classes for parents, improving staff training, and involving the wider community. These ideas align well with our commitment of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country and will be carefully considered as part of ongoing efforts to promote Welsh in our schools and communities. The Council has a detailed Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) that can be viewed here https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Welsh-Education-Strategic-Plan.aspx

9.0 Next Steps

Members of the Flintshire County Council Cabinet will receive a copy of this report ahead of making a decision on whether to proceed with the proposal and publish a Statutory Notice. This process includes a formal 28-day Objection Period, during which any objections must be submitted in writing. Following this period, the Cabinet will

consider a further report summarising the objections received and decide whether to proceed with implementation.

Comments made against the proposal during the consultation period will not be considered as objections. If any consultees wish to formally object, this must be done in writing within the designated objection period. Details on how to submit an objection will be clearly outlined in the Statutory Notice if a decision to proceed is made.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation.

APPENDIX A

List of all stakeholders in receipt of the consultation documentation.

Requirement under the Organisational Code 011/2018	It will be distributed to
School community	The Headteacher, teachers, staff and the governing bodies of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. Pupils at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P Parents, carers and guardians (and where possible prospective parents, carers and guardians) of pupils attending Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P Governing Bodies of Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P
the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	Flintshire County Council is submitting the proposal
any other local authority likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated Special Education Need (SEN)/Additional Learning Need (ALN) provision any authority placing or likely to place statemented pupils in it;	Cheshire West and Chester County Council
the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;	Diocese of Wrexham Diocese of St Asaph
any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	
The governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and of other schools likely to be affected by the proposals, including those that might receive any displaced pupils.	Governing Body of Saint David's High, Saltney Governing Body of Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Saltney
The governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Governing Body of Broughton C.P Governing Body of Lache County Primary School.
The Welsh Ministers.	
Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Jack Sargeant MS Mark Tami MP
Estyn.	His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Representatives of NASUWT; NEU; UCAC; ASCL; UNISON
The relevant Regional Education Consortium.	
The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Police Commissioner for North Wales
Any community or town council for the area served by/ intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals	Saltney Town Council
The local Communities First Partnership (in relevant areas).	

In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent providers who may be affected;	Saltney Small Steps Woody Wrap Around Clwb Hapus
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present.	Mudiad Meithrin Early Years Wales National Day Nursery Associate PACEY Menter Iaith
In the case of proposals affecting Additional Learning Need provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest.	SNAP Cymru
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school.	N/A
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school.	
In the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.	
Other	All Flintshire Council Councillors The wider Saltney community

APPENDIX B

Indication of how respondents from different schools support the proposal.

	Which school/s do you associate yourself with?						
Do you support the proposal to: Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maint...		Saltney Ferry C.P	Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.	Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School	Broughton C.P	Other (please specify):	Row Totals
	Yes	9 4.2%	24 19.7%	3 17.6%	7 50.0%	5 62.5%	48 12.9%
	No	203 95.8%	98 80.3%	14 82.4%	7 50.0%	3 37.5%	325 87.1%
	Column Total	212 56.8%	122 32.7%	17 4.6%	14 3.8%	8 2.1%	373 100%

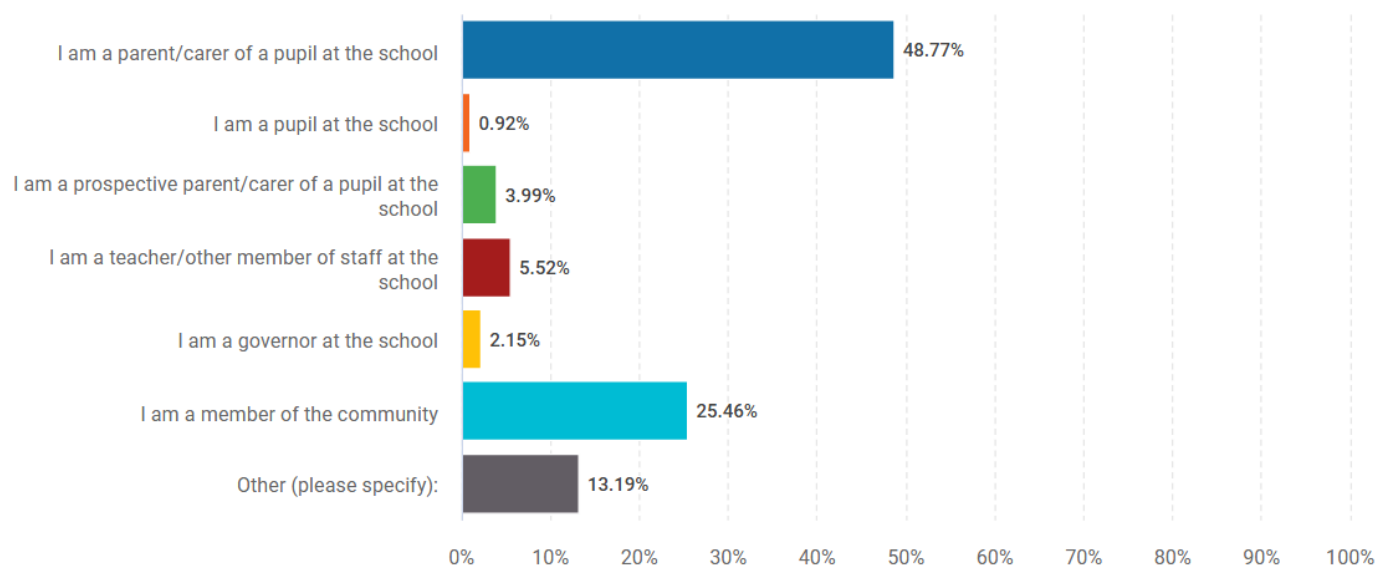
Comments

- The overwhelming majority of respondents from Saltney Ferry C.P, Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School disagree with the proposal.
- Respondents associating with Broughton C.P are split 50/50 on agreement with the proposal.
- The majority of respondents identifying as 'other' agree with the proposal. Respondents have not clearly identified themselves in this category.

APPENDIX C

Indication as to the interest/relationship respondents have with the school they identify with.

What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?



Comments

- The majority of respondents (48.77%) were parents/carers of a pupil at the school.
- A quarter (25.46%) of respondents identified as members of the community.
- Those identifying as 'other' were mainly grandparents and other family members.

APPENDIX D

An examination of the responses from various groups of respondents regarding the proposal.

	What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?								
Do you support the proposal to:Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maint...		I am a parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a pupil at the school	I am a prospective parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a teacher/other member of staff at the school	I am a governor at the school	I am a member of the community	Other (please specify):	Row Totals
	Yes	18 11.3%	0 0.0%	1 7.7%	9 50.0%	1 14.3%	6 7.2%	3 7.0%	38 11.7%
	No	141 88.7%	3 100.0%	12 92.3%	9 50.0%	6 85.7%	77 92.8%	40 93.0%	288 88.3%
	Column Total	159 48.8%	3 0.9%	13 4.0%	18 5.5%	7 2.1%	83 25.5%	43 13.2%	326 100%

Comments

- The vast majority (88.7%) of parents/carers do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (92.8%) of the community do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (93%) of the 'other' category do not agree with the proposal. These are mainly made up of grandparents and other associated family members.
- Staff respondents are split 50/50 on the agreement with the proposal.

Analysis of how those respondents groups associating **only** with Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.



	What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?								
Do you support the proposal to:Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maint...		I am a parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a pupil at the school	I am a prospective parent/carer of a pupil at the school	I am a teacher/other member of staff at the school	I am a governor at the school	I am a member of the community	Other (please specify):	Row Totals
	Yes	11 17.5%	0 0.0%	1 20.0%	7 58.3%	1 20.0%	2 8.0%	2 16.7%	24 19.7%
	No	52 82.5%	0 0.0%	4 80.0%	5 41.7%	4 80.0%	23 92.0%	10 83.3%	98 80.3%
	Column Total	63 51.6%	0 0.0%	5 4.1%	12 9.8%	5 4.1%	25 20.5%	12 9.8%	122 100%

Comments

- The vast majority (82.5%) of parents/carers do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (92%) of the community do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (83.3%) of the 'other' category do not agree with the proposal. These are mainly made up of grandparents and other associated family members.
- The majority (58.3%) of staff respondents agree with the proposal.

Analysis of how those respondents groups associating **only** with Saltney Ferry C.P.



	What is your interest/relationship with the school/s you identify with?								
Do you support the proposal to: Close Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and open a new maint...		I am a parent/carers of a pupil at the school	I am a pupil at the school	I am a prospective parent/carers of a pupil at the school	I am a teacher/other member of staff at the school	I am a governor at the school	I am a member of the community	Other (please specify):	Row Totals
Yes	6 6.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 1.6%	2 5.9%	9 4.2%
No	92 93.9%	3 100.0%	7 100.0%	4 100.0%	3 100.0%	62 98.4%	32 94.1%	203 95.8%	
Column Total	98 46.2%	3 1.4%	7 3.3%	4 1.9%	3 1.4%	63 29.7%	34 16.0%	212 100%	

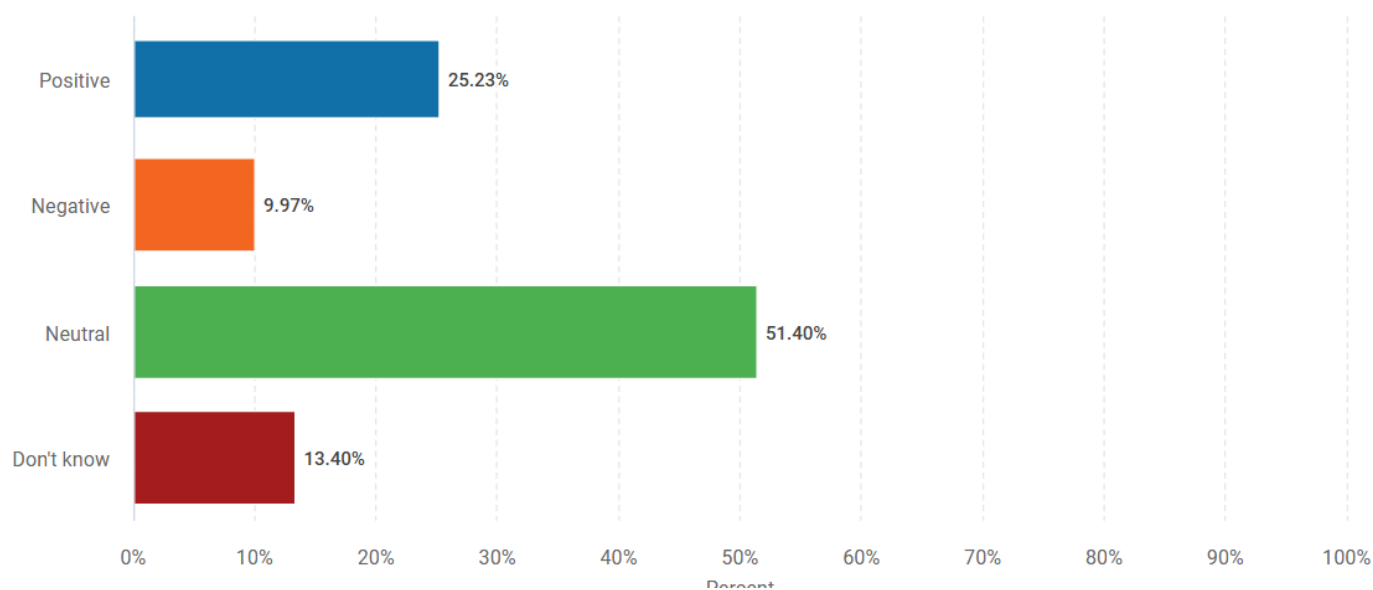
Comments

- The vast majority (93.9%) of parents/carers do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (98.4%) of the community do not agree with the proposal.
- The vast majority (94.1%) of the 'other' category do not agree with the proposal. These are mainly made up of grandparents and other associated family members.
- 100% of pupils, prospective parents, staff and governors disagree with the proposal.

APPENDIX E

Analysis of responses to Welsh Language Impact questions.

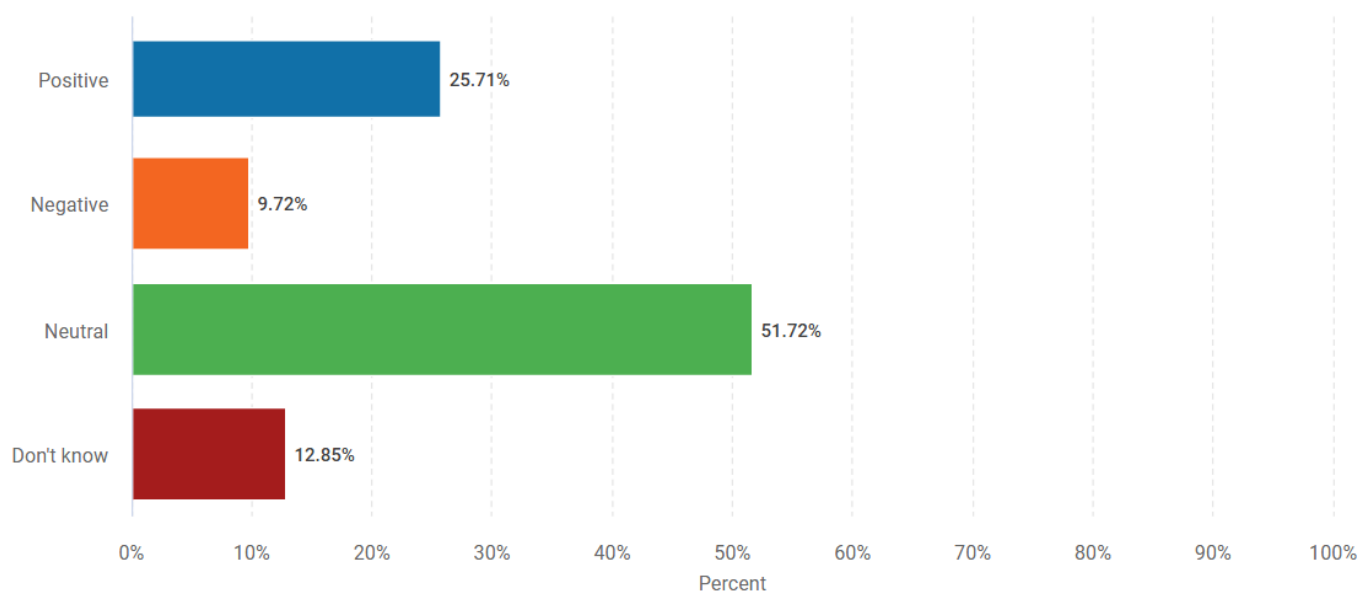
Increasing the number of people speaking or learning Cymraeg.



Comments

- 51.4% of respondents assessed there would be a neutral impact on increasing the number of people speaking or learning Cymraeg if the proposal was to proceed.

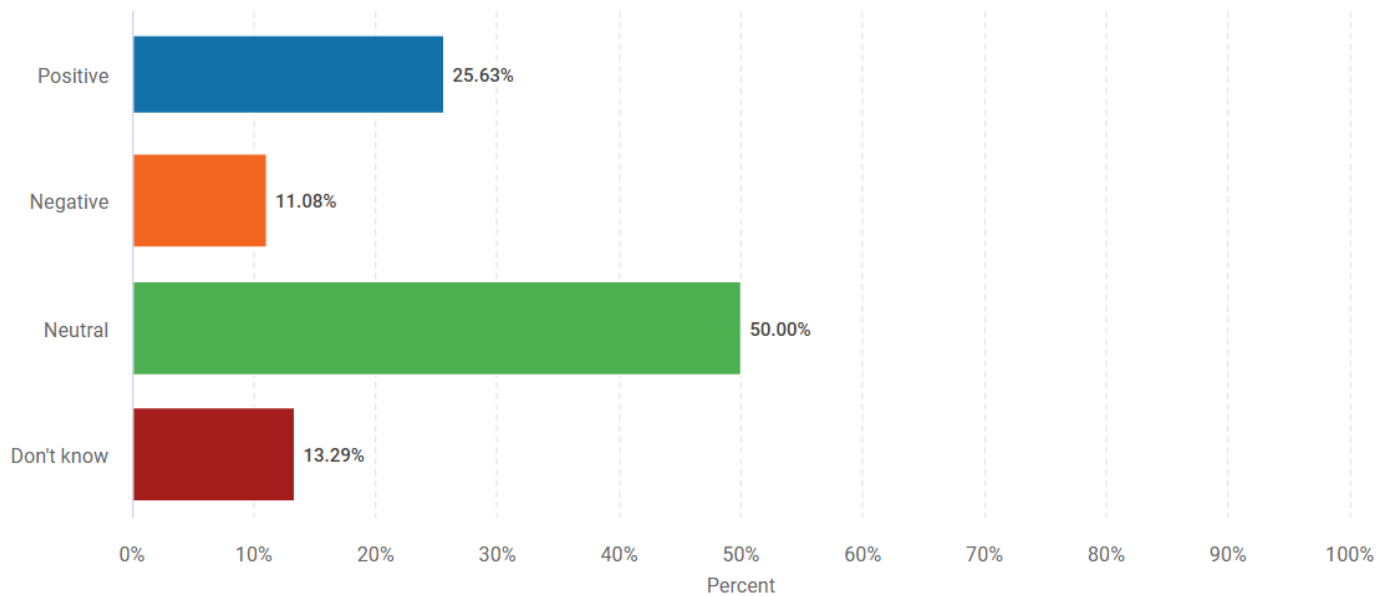
Using Welsh services.



Comments

- 51.72% of respondents assessed that there would be a neutral impact on the use of Welsh services if the proposal was to proceed.

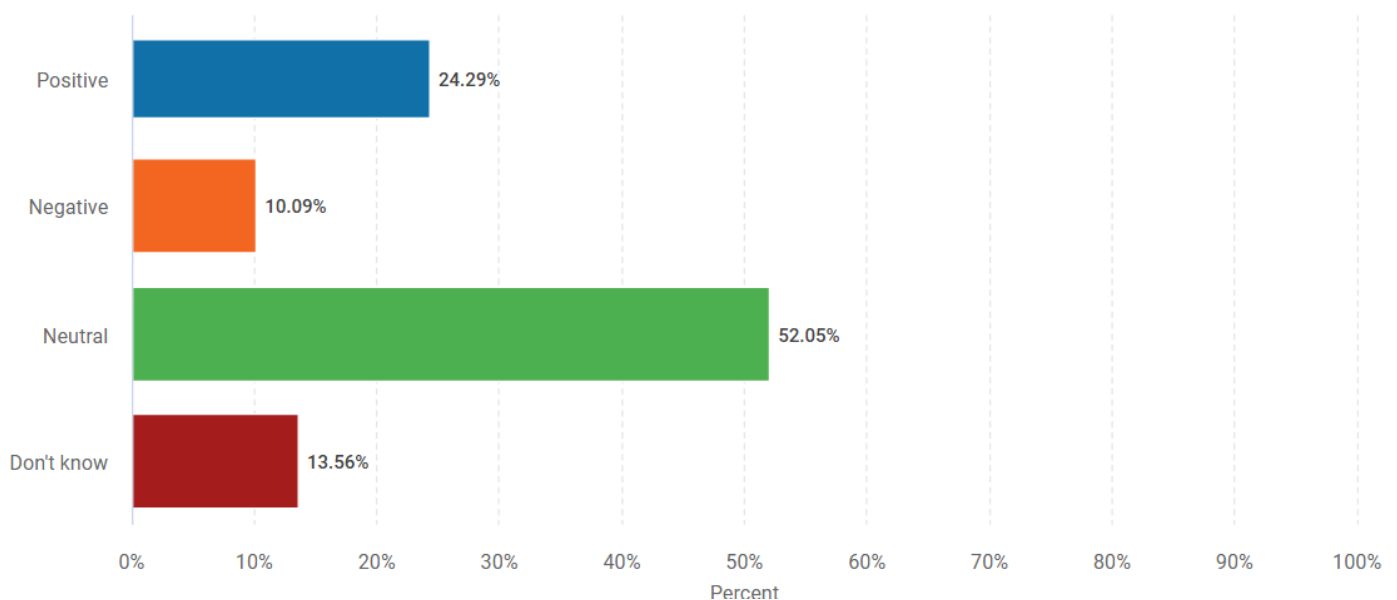
Opportunities to use Welsh socially.



Comments

- 50% of respondents assessed that there would be a neutral impact on the use of Welsh socially if the proposal was to proceed.
- 25.63% of respondents assessed that there would be a positive impact on the use of Welsh socially if the proposal was to proceed. However, this is caveated by the conclusion that some respondents assessing a positive impact of the proposal where not in favour of it overall.

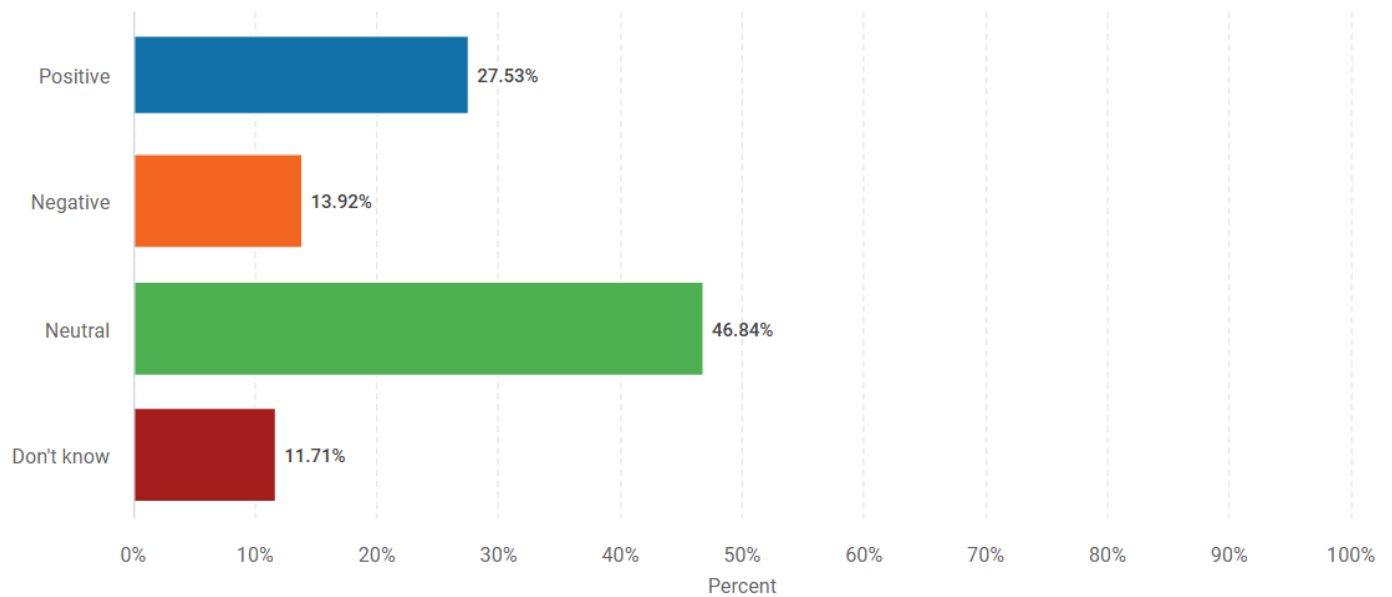
Welsh speaking communities.



Comments

- 52.05% of respondents assessed that there would be a neutral impact on Welsh speaking communities if the proposal was to proceed.

Treating Welsh equal to English.



Comments

- 46.84% of respondents assessed that there would be a neutral impact on treating Welsh equal to English if the proposal was to proceed.
- 27.54% of respondents assessed that there would be a positive impact on treating Welsh equal to English if the proposal was to proceed. However, this is caveated by the conclusion that some respondents assessing a positive impact of the proposal where not in favour of it overall.

APPENDIX F

An examination of the responses from the School Council Consultation events which took place at individually at Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

Saltney Ferry C.P School Council Consultation

Summary



1)

a) What do you like about your school?

Responses	Number of Comments
The farm	5
Teachers are very kind	1
Nice community	2
Close to our homes	1
It feels safe	1

b) What would you like to change about your school?

Responses	Number of Comments
More animals for our farm	1
To have a nice school meal/lunch	2
Better football pitch	1
Better toys	1

2) How would you feel if your school was to close?

Responses	Number of Comments
Sad	5
Annoyed	1
Angry	2
Shocked	2
Upset	1
Happy	1
Anxious	1

3)

a) What do you think the good things would be about getting a brand new school?

Responses	Number of Comments
Make new friends	5
Better playground	1
More equipment	1
Bigger football pitches	1
It will be bigger and better	2

b) What about the bad things?

Responses	Number of Comments
Greater distance to travel	3
More congestion	1
ALN children may struggle	2
Bad for the animals and their wellbeing	2
Bad for the children's wellbeing	1
Loss of memories	1
Too many children in a class	2
Teachers might lose their jobs	2

4) Is there anything you would like to see happen instead?

Responses	Number of Comments
Upgrade current school	1
Build a second floor	1
Don't knock the schools down	3
Close Wood Memorial and expand our school	2

Comments

- The majority of children described feelings of sadness if Saltney Ferry C.P was to close.
- 5 comments suggested that a positive of the proposal would be that children could make new friends.
- 3 comments indicated that a drawback of the proposal for children from Saltney Ferry C.P would be the distance they would need to travel to the new school. Additionally, feedback suggested that children were concerned about the potential for overcrowded classrooms, the possibility of teachers losing their jobs, the challenges that ALN children might face during the transition, and the negative impact on the animals on the farm and their welfare.
- 3 comments proposed that a more favourable approach would be to either refrain from demolishing the schools entirely or to close Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and instead expand Saltney Ferry C.P.

Saltney Wood Memorial C.P School Council Consultation



Summary

1)

a) What do you like about your school?

Responses	Number of Comments
We have a lot of fun things	1
Welcoming friends	1
Teachers are all kind	3
It's unique	1
Forest school and outside library	1
We like our uniform	2
Everyone is seen	2

b) What would you like to change about your school?

Responses	Number of Comments
We would like a bike rack	3

2) How would you feel if your school was to close?

Responses	Number of Comments
Sad	3
Wouldn't mind	1
Upset	3
Confused	1
Angry	4

3)

a) What do you think the good things would be about getting a brand new school?

Responses	Number of Comments
Make new friends	5
We kinda know Saltney Ferry kids	1
Building would be safer and more trustworthy	1

b) What about the bad things?

Responses	Number of Pupils
We might not see our favourite teachers	2
It would be different to what we are used to	1
We might lose our headteacher	2

It would cost more money to build a new school	2
We would be building it on nature	2
It would be a waste of money	1
We would fight and shout at each other	1

4) Is there anything you would like to see happen instead?

Responses	Number of Comments
Build an extension	3
Keep Woody	3
Saltney Ferry should go on our field but keep Woody	2
Advertise both schools	1
Knock down the Hwb and add it to the field. The older ones can stay in Woody and the younger ones in the Hwb	1
Repair the current building	1
Better technology	1
More staff	1
Extend both schools	1

Comments

- The majority of children described feelings of anger, sadness and upset if Saltney Wood Memorial C.P was to close.
- 5 comments suggested that a positive of the proposal would be that children could make new friends.
- Feedback indicated that potential drawbacks of the proposal for children from Saltney Wood C.P include the possibility of losing their headteacher and favourite teachers, concerns that the new school would be constructed in a natural area, and the belief that building a new school would be more expensive than renovating the existing one.
- 3 comments suggested that a better idea would be to build an extension at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and to keep Saltney Wood Memorial as it is.

Young Flintshire Forum 23 June 2025

Summary of feedback session

Young Flintshire Forum membership is formed from representatives across all Flintshire's Secondary schools.

A presentation on the Catholic School and Saltney Area school proposals was given and groups were asked to discuss and note the pros and cons of the proposals, and highlight anything they would like to see happen instead. They were also asked about what they felt about their schools in general, which is contained in section 2 of this Summary.

Section 1 – Pros and Cons of School Modernisation proposals

Pros	No	Cons	No
Financial benefits: • Cost less • More money efficient • Being pro-active • Merging schools would allow better use of resources & would be more efficient. If Bryn Coch can thrive with 1 Head and 800 kids does Saltney need 2 Heads for 200 kids? • Staffing • Possible higher budget for a start up school	6	Financial: • Demanding budget for new schools/lower budget for existing schools	1
Resources: • Merging schools would allow better use of resources & would be more efficient	2	Staffing: • Teachers lose jobs • Ratio of students to teachers • May seem hard to find a new job • Loss of jobs • New teachers that don't know you • Lots of pressure on Headteacher	6
Facilities: • Cleaner/new facilities	1	ALN: • Without facilities	1
Curriculum	1	Welfare of residents	1
Building: • Modern Structure/Eco-friendly • New buildings (modernised)	2	Wellbeing of students Seeing friends less	2
Wellbeing of Students:	4		

• They may be more engaged with the idea of a new school. • Encourages interaction/socialising • Chance to meet new people			
Community: • Bring Community together	1	Transport: • Funding • Distance/busy Roads • Need for more transportation • New site might be too far. Traffic releases more emissions	5
Staffing: • Teachers may move to schools that need them	2		

How would you feel if our School were to close?

Closing schools will always be difficult as it causes teachers to lose jobs.
If schools were to close, the number of students would increase meaning the productivity of lessons would decrease, if students were to move schools.
Joint site/Headteacher – Ysgol Maes Hyfryd already does this on a small scale with the sixth form hub in Shotton and main school in Flint (works well)
Upset because our school would close and we may get separated from our mates.

What would we like to see happen instead?

Responses	
Saltney: Merging 2 schools (1 Head & 1 GB) but keeping it twin site would save public money – no new school building. Reason is parents chose that school and it functions fine.	1

Comments

- The majority of students felt the merger of the two schools would be more financially efficient and would be a better use of resources.
- The majority of students recognised that some staff members may lose their jobs, that there would be greater pressure on one headteacher and the ratio of teacher to students would be higher.
- The majority of students recognised the negative impact on the distance some students would need to travel in order to attend the new school.
- 4 comments suggested that a new school would allow students to make new friends and may be more engaged with a new school.
- Students recognised the impact of closing schools and empathised with the difficulty of this.
- Students also recognised successful models elsewhere in Flintshire where one Headteacher oversees more than one site.

- 1 comment suggested that Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P should merge but remain on their current sites to save public money and maintain schools in those communities.

The response to the proposal prepared for and received from Estyn.

This report has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to reorganise Saltney Ferry community primary school and Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school by closing both schools and opening a new maintained school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.

Summary/ Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

This proposal is presented by Flintshire local authority. The local authority has set out a clear rationale for its proposal and states that this school modernisation proposal is necessary to ensure:

- provision of high-quality, sustainable education
- improvement of school buildings and facilities
- availability of the right number and type of school places in the right locations
- it address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure
- recognition that inaction will lead to higher pupil-teacher ratios as funding decreases.
- maximisation of external funding through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

The local authority has given a detailed description of the proposal. It proposes to close Saltney Ferry community primary school and Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school and open one amalgamated primary school, initially on the current two sites. This will be the arrangement while a new building is approved and constructed, eventually leading to the opening of a new 315 pupil community English-medium primary school on land currently occupied by the Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school. To achieve these changes, and in partnership with Welsh Government, the authority is planning to invest £12.5 million in a new school, subject to the necessary approvals.

The authority describes a number of issues to outline why a new school building would be beneficial. It notes the current schools are exhibiting minor deterioration. In addition, both of the current school buildings are presented in the proposal as having challenges in meeting the

educational needs of pupils, for example to support the curriculum in some areas and for supporting effective teaching methods.

The location of the schools, both in a residential area, makes dropping off and collecting pupils from school challenging with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents. The proposal also gives clear data showing that during the past 4 years, pupils numbers at both Saltney Ferry and Saltney Wood Memorial schools were well below capacity, with between 64 and 120 surplus places overall.

The authority proposes that both schools close in September 2026 and amalgamate into a single school under a single leadership and governance structure, whilst continuing to use the two existing sites for the time being. Construction of the new primary school is then scheduled to begin in January 2027, with an anticipated opening in September 2028.

The local authority provides a projected timetable for statutory procedures and for implementing the proposal. This includes conducting the consultation process to include a wide range of consultees, allowing parents and members of the community to respond through online surveys to express any concerns they have before the consultation period ends.

In the main, the proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected benefits of the proposed change including the amalgamation of the two schools in the short term and the building of the new school by September 2028. It states that the amalgamation and then the relocation of the school to a new facility situated on the current Wood Memorial site will provide sufficient places to meet the needs of the local area, will significantly reduce running costs as there will now be one rather than two schools. The authority affirms that the establishment of a new modern school with enhanced resources will provide better learning opportunities. The proposal stated that the new school facility allows opportunity for both schools to come together as one, taking the experience and best practice from both to improve learning outcomes for children. The proposal states that this option is preferred as it will reduce the large number of surplus primary school places in the area, reduce running costs whilst providing a new modern learning environment fit for purpose which will enhance the learning opportunities for all children.

The local authority has considered some of the potential disadvantages to the proposal including the closure of both schools in their current format and the loss of a school in the Saltney Ferry community area. There would be an impact on travelling distances for those pupils currently attending Saltney Ferry community primary school who would have to travel to a new school on the current Wood Memorial site. There will also be potential staff redundancies associated with the reduction to one, rather than two schools.

The proposal includes several impact reports, including one on home to school transport. This states that free home-to-school transport is provided to all primary school aged pupils who live two miles or more from their nearest school, or alternatively the nearest available school. This proposal will not impact this entitlement and the availability of home-to-school walking routes will remain unchanged or have already been improved. Current, analysis by the local authority shows that no pupils currently attending either Saltney Ferry community primary school or Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school would be eligible for home-to-school transport if this proposal was successfully implemented.

Another impact report associated with the proposal states that the impact on pupils with additional learning needs will be minimal and that there will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional learning needs at either Saltney Ferry community primary school or Saltney Wood Memorial community primary school. The provision for pupils will be enhanced by more modern facilities available at the new school. However, it does not take into consideration the

potential strain for pupils with additional needs who now must travel further to their new school from September 2028.

The proposal provides three alternative options to the favoured proposal, including keeping the status quo, doing the minimum refurbishments and changes to both schools and amalgamating both schools on their current sites while investing in their existing facilities. It gives detailed and valid reasons as to why these alternatives have been discounted.

The proposal gives a summary of the financial and resourcing implications for all four options moving forward. The proposal states that one of the drivers for amalgamation is equality of funding for pupils and that the amalgamation of both schools will rationalise the cost per pupil in the area. Saltney Ferry community primary school and Wood Memorial community primary school will be funded on the same school funding formula as other schools if they are part of an amalgamation. The new school, set to open in September 2028, will require a capital investment of approximately £12.5 million. This is provided through Flintshire County Council's capital borrowing and from Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

With regards to staffing, the proposal states that the short-term amalgamation of both schools will have limited initial impact on staffing arrangements, as the combined school will remain in their current sites before relocating to the new school site. The new school's governing body, working with the local authority's human resources department, will appoint a headteacher to lead the school during the initial phase at the current sites. Subsequently, the governing body, the headteacher, and the local authority's human resources support will establish a staffing structure for the relocation to the new school facility. This proposal asserts that it will provide greater opportunities for staff development through shared best practices and professional development initiatives whilst potentially offering more scope for career progression due to a larger school having more middle management and senior leadership positions.

The proposal takes account of the impact on Welsh medium provision. It states that this proposal will not support the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) objectives. Whilst the authority supports the drive to increase the number of Welsh speakers, the proposal argues it also has a responsibility to provide high quality opportunities for non-Welsh speaking pupils too.

The local authority has provided information within the proposal to the latest Estyn inspection reports for both schools.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has given a brief summary of the impact the change will have on the quality and standard of education. It states that under the short-term arrangements whereby the two current schools will amalgamate but stay on separate sites, there will be no change to the educational standards provided for pupils overall.

It briefly states that the construction of a new modern school facility will enhance the well-being of both staff and students by providing access to resources and amenities that will improve educational provision and foster more positive attitudes towards learning.

The new school's design will incorporate input from the school's stakeholders to ensure it aligns with the school's vision for its curriculum and overall ethos, thereby potentially maximising its positive impact on student well-being and learning engagement. The proposal affirms that new school will provide pupils and staff with enhanced access to resources and facilities, linking this to improving the overall teaching and learning experience. Additionally, the proposer attests that the

school will offer greater opportunities for professional development and a broader range of curricular activities.

APPENDIX H

The response to the proposal received from the NEU teaching union on behalf of staff members at Saltney Ferry C.P.



Flintshire NEU District

District & Branch Secretary: Cheryl Latham

Email: cheryl.latham@neu.org.uk

14.07.2025

The National Education Union (NEU) believes that every child deserves access to a high-quality, inclusive, and fully resourced education in their local community. Our vision for education is rooted in the principles of equity, opportunity, and wellbeing for all learners.

We are committed to:

- Protecting the right of every child to be educated in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment.
- Championing local schools as vital community assets that foster belonging, identity, and lifelong learning.
- Opposing educational inequality, especially where proposals disproportionately affect children from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with additional learning needs.
- Ensuring that decisions about school organisation are made transparently, democratically, and in the best interests of pupils, staff, and communities—not driven solely by financial or administrative convenience.

In responding to this consultation, we urge Flintshire County Council to uphold these values and to place the needs of children, families, and educators at the heart of its decision-making.

[Formal Consultation Response – Saltney School Reorganisation](#)

This document outlines a formal response to the proposed reorganisation of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. schools.

NEU Flintshire see no educational benefit to the proposals. The proposed changes, in our view, will only have a detrimental impact on the education and life changes of the pupils of the area.

The staff in Saltney Ferry have worked hard to improve attendance at the school. They know that many will not travel to the proposed new site in Saltney Wood Memorial. They will be lost to formal education.

The facilities available at Saltney Ferry, including the newly established farm, serve the pupils well. The size of the school also helps to cater to the needs of the pupils. Saltney Ferry has 44% of pupils on Free School Meals and 33% on Individual Development Plans.

Saltney Wood also has excellent facilities to serve the needs of its pupils. The school has 37% of pupils on Free School Meals and 24% on Individual Development Plans. The pupils get the support that they need. They will not get the same level of support and attention in a larger school.

The size of the school and the notion of surplus places (although a visit to the school suggests that they are perfect for the number of pupils on roll) is being portrayed as a weakness when it is a strength. We are not considering very small schools with barely double-digit pupil numbers. Saltney Ferry has 134 on roll, and Saltney Wood Memorial has 171.

The usual issue with smaller schools – from the point of view of local authorities - is that the funding per pupil is significantly higher than in larger schools. This is not the case in the Saltney schools as they both receive funding per pupil, which is lower than the average for Flintshire.

Also, the combined revenue funding for both schools is £1,521,503. The projected revenue funding for the new school would be £1,554,417. Therefore, there is no saving to be made in revenue spending.

The local authority should use capital spending to make improvements to the two sites. Which would be significantly less than the capital spending on a new build (regardless of any match funding from Welsh Government). This would cost less and build on the current strengths of the two schools without undermining the education of the pupils.

We are very concerned about the safety of travel routes. The proposal assumes safe walking routes exist but lacks detailed safety audits or traffic assessments. The proposed site for the new school would mean that children currently attending Saltney Ferry would have to walk (or cycle or scooter) along one of the main commuter roads linking Flintshire with Cheshire. NEU Officials have visited both schools, made the journey, and the potential hazards are significant.

NEU Comment	FCC Response
NEU Flintshire see no educational benefit to the proposals. The proposed changes, in our view, will only have a detrimental impact on the education and life changes of the pupils of the area.	The Council's view is that the proposals will strengthen education in the area by providing pupils with access to modern facilities, a broader and more flexible curriculum, and a richer range of learning and extra-curricular opportunities. They will also ensure more effective use of resources, supporting greater stability in staffing and improving long-term sustainability. Together, these changes are designed to raise standards and give pupils the best possible opportunities to thrive.
The staff in Saltney Ferry have worked hard to improve attendance at the school. They know that many will not travel to the proposed new site in Saltney Wood Memorial. They will be lost to formal education.	We recognise and value the work that staff at Saltney Ferry CP have undertaken to improve attendance and engagement. The proposals are designed to build on that commitment by providing pupils with modern, well-resourced facilities that support high-quality teaching and learning. We believe the new school environment, combined with wider curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities, will help to sustain and further improve attendance. The Council working with the schools will also work closely with families and the community to support transition and ensure that no pupil is lost to education as a result of these changes.
The facilities available at Saltney Ferry, including the newly established farm, serve the pupils well. The size of the school also helps to cater to the needs of the pupils. Saltney Ferry has 44% of pupils on Free School Meals and 33% on Individual Development Plans.	The farm has not received formal approval from the Council. This raises concerns about compliance with health, safety, and safeguarding standards. Without official endorsement, its long-term viability and integration into the curriculum are uncertain.

	The Council has a strong track record of supporting learners during relocations to new sites, ensuring successful transitions into new accommodation. This support includes enhanced assistance for schools and all learners, with tailored measures such as quiet-time visits, virtual building walkthroughs, and controlled construction site visits—particularly designed to help learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) adjust smoothly.
Saltney Wood also has excellent facilities to serve the needs of its pupils. The school has 37% of pupils on Free School Meals and 24% on Individual Development Plans. The pupils get the support that they need. They will not get the same level of support and attention in a larger school.	It's important to recognise that many larger schools consistently cultivate nurturing, inclusive environments where strong relationships thrive and individual needs are effectively met. These qualities are not exclusive to small schools they are hallmarks of good practice, regardless of size of the school. The Council has a strong track record of supporting learners through relocations from smaller location to new larger sites. If changes are considered, we would explore ways with the school leadership to maintain this ethos of small learning communities within larger settings.
The size of the school and the notion of surplus places (although a visit to the school suggests that they are perfect for the number of pupils on roll) is being portrayed as a weakness when it is a strength. We are not considering very small schools with barely double-digit pupil numbers. Saltney Ferry has 134 on roll, and Saltney Wood Memorial has 171.	We acknowledge the strengths of both Saltney Ferry CP and Saltney Wood Memorial CP and the dedication of their staff. However, pupil numbers across the area are projected to fall, creating increasing levels of surplus places over time. This presents challenges in maintaining sustainable budgets and securing the broadest possible curriculum offer. The proposals aim to bring pupils together in a modern, fit-for-purpose school that can provide high-quality facilities, a wide range of learning opportunities, and long-term stability. This will ensure that the current strengths are built upon and that pupils continue to benefit from the best possible educational environment.
The usual issue with smaller schools – from the point of view of local authorities - is that the funding per pupil is significantly higher than in larger schools. This is not the case in the Saltney schools as they both receive funding per pupil, which is lower than the average for Flintshire. Also, the combined revenue funding for both schools is £1,521,503. The projected revenue funding for the new school would be £1,554,417. Therefore, there is no saving to be made in revenue spending.	The projected funding allocation for a new school would be based on pupil numbers at full capacity, in line with the Councils' school funding formula. As with all schools, if pupil numbers were to fall below capacity, the level of revenue funding would reduce proportionately, ensuring fairness and equity across the school system. The Council will continue to work closely with governors and staff to support financial planning and ensure resources are directed to sustaining high-quality provision for learners.
The local authority should use capital spending to make improvements to the two sites. Which would be significantly less than the capital spending on a new build (regardless of any match funding from Welsh Government). This would cost less and build	Enhancing current schools to an appropriate standard would not secure funding from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. Instead, it would rely on the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Programme,

on the current strengths of the two schools without undermining the education of the pupils.	which is a more constrained strategy due to its significantly lower funding that is allocated across the school network according to condition priorities. Older buildings often demand frequent and costly fixes to plumbing, roofing, heating, and electrical systems, placing a growing strain on resources. In contrast, investing in modern, purpose-built schools offers long-term value. These buildings are designed for sustainability, featuring enhanced insulation, solar panels, smart energy systems, and most importantly net zero carbon in operation. Not only do they reduce utility costs, but they also create healthier, more efficient learning environments for future generations.
We are very concerned about the safety of travel routes. The proposal assumes safe walking routes exist but lacks detailed safety audits or traffic assessments. The proposed site for the new school would mean that children currently attending Saltney Ferry would have to walk (or cycle or scooter) along one of the main commuter roads linking Flintshire with Cheshire. NEU Officials have visited both schools, made the journey, and the potential hazards are significant.	A comprehensive review of the current road infrastructure will be undertaken as part of a formal assessment of safe walking routes. This will include a detailed evaluation of road safety, pedestrian crossings, and the overall accessibility of the proposed new site. These assessments are essential to ensuring that, should the proposal move forward, appropriate and safe arrangements are in place for all pupils and families.

APPENDIX I

The response to the proposal prepared for and received from Saltney Town Council.



17 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

SALTNEY TOWN COUNCILS RESPONSE TO THE REORGANISATION OF SALTNEY FERRY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WOOD MEMORIAL COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saltney Town Council at its meetings held on 11 June and 9 July 2025, considered the Consultation document for the proposal to Reorganise Saltney Ferry County Primary School and Wood Memorial County Primary School, with a view to opening a new maintained community school operating on the current two sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.

Saltney Town Council strongly objects to the above proposal on the following grounds:-

- There is no safe route to school included for the children from Saltney Ferry County Primary school travelling to the new proposed new site.
- Propose both schools remain and are individually modernised
- Funding issues – where will the funding go for each child (i.e. will it go with child or stay with the school)
- No account has been considered in the proposal to reorganise both schools the pupil numbers increase at both schools
- School Transport should be made available for those young pupils travelling from Saltney Ferry County Primary School to the new proposed new site.
- Request that a Senedd member visit both schools prior to the decision being made
- Plan/footprint be made available at the earliest convenience to the public

Therefore, Saltney Town Council **strongly objects** to the proposal to Reorganise Saltney Ferry County Primary School and Wood Memorial County Primary School for the reasons outlined above. We would recommend that going forward both schools remain and are individually modernised.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Ros Griffiths

Mayor Saltney Town Council
(on behalf of Town Council)

Tracey Brown, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Saltney Town Council,
Suite 15, Riverside House, River Lane, Saltney, Flintshire, CH4 8RQ.
Tel 01244 398829 or Email townclerk@saltneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Saltney Town Council Comment	FCC Response
There is no safe route to school included for the children from Saltney Ferry County Primary school travelling to the new proposed new site.	A comprehensive review of the current road infrastructure will be undertaken as part of a formal assessment of safe walking routes. This will include a detailed evaluation of road safety, pedestrian crossings, and the overall accessibility of the proposed new site. These assessments are essential to ensuring that, should the proposal move forward, appropriate and safe arrangements are in place for all pupils and families.
Propose both schools remain and are individually modernised.	Enhancing current schools to an appropriate standard would not secure funding from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. Instead, it would rely on the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Programme, which is a more constrained strategy due to its significantly lower funding that is allocated across the school network according to condition priorities. Older buildings often demand frequent and costly fixes to plumbing, roofing, heating, and electrical systems, placing a growing strain on resources. In contrast, investing in modern, purpose-built schools offers long-term value. These buildings are designed for sustainability, featuring enhanced insulation, solar panels, smart energy systems, and most importantly net zero carbon in operation. Not only do they reduce utility costs, but they also create healthier, more efficient learning environments for future generations.
Funding issues – where will the funding go for each child (i.e. will it go with child or stay with the school)	In Flintshire, school funding is largely determined through the pupil-led funding formula, which means that funding follows each child. When a pupil moves from one school to another, the resources associated with that pupil are allocated to the new school to support their education. The proposals ensure that all pupils continue to receive the funding and support they are entitled to, while also allowing the Local Authority to use resources more efficiently to maintain high-quality teaching and learning for all.
No account has been considered in the proposal to reorganise both schools the pupil numbers increase at both schools	The proposed new school has currently been scoped following comprehensive demographic analysis, including housing trends and birth rates. Capacity has been planned to meet current and projected future needs, with flexibility to adapt if demand changes. The school's design will be designed to allow for future expansion if necessary, including the potential for additional classrooms or facilities. This ensures that the school can respond to any unexpected increases in pupil numbers.
School Transport should be made available for those young pupils travelling from Saltney Ferry	The Local Authority recognises the importance of safe and reliable transport for pupils. Where pupils

County Primary School to the new proposed new site.	meet the eligibility criteria for school transport, arrangements will be made to support travel between Saltney Ferry CP School and the proposed new site. Based on current pupil data, no pupils attending Saltney Ferry County Primary are eligible for free home-to-school transport, as those residing more than two miles from the school have an alternative qualifying school located closer to their home address.
Request that a Senedd member visit both schools prior to the decision being made	We welcome the interest of local elected representatives in the consultation process. While formal visits by Members of the Senedd are not a statutory requirement, we are committed to ensuring that all stakeholders, including elected representatives, have the opportunity to view the schools and discuss the proposals with staff and the Local Authority.
Plan/footprint be made available at the earliest convenience to the public	We are committed to maintaining transparency during the consultation process. Plans and school footprints will be made accessible to the public once the proposals are finalised and a final decision has been made.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this process.