WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

Post Consultation Update V2

Autumn 2026

A. INTRODUCTION

Across the school estate, pupil numbers are declining and ageing buildings require more investment to keep them in a good condition. This is the case with the community primary schools in the Saltney area and some of the reasons behind the proposal.

The council is seeking views on a proposal to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

The council proposes to deliver this reorganisation by:

- Closing Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.
- Opening an amalgamated primary school initially on the current two sites, while a new building is approved and constructed.
- Opening a new 315 place Community English Medium Primary School on land currently occupied by Saltney Wood Memorial C.P.

Further information on the proposal is contained within the Consultation document.

This document assesses the impact that the proposal may have on the Welsh Language as part of the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2026 and Welsh Language Standards.

An integrated Impact Assessment is also available for this proposal.

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

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

Impact Assessments are working documents which will be updated in light of information and feedback from the consultation process. This assessment pulls together a range of relevant data and statistical sources, information from Welsh Government and existing Council policies.

B. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

Under the Welsh Language standards policy consultation documents (standard numbers 88 – 92) must consider the impact of a policy decision on the Welsh Language and an assessment as to their effect on the Welsh Language, this duty is

not limited to proposals in respect of Welsh Language schools, but all maintained schools, regardless of their language category. This is also now reflected in the new School Organisation Code 2026, and given the importance of the Education sector in creating new Welsh speakers, planning and development of *all* school organisation proposals should reflect the Cymraeg 2050 ambitions and support the targets within the local authority's WESP.

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

C. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. THE CYMRAEG 2050 STRATEGY

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

'Cymraeg 2050' is based on three strategic themes:

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

All these themes have the possibility of being relevant as the potential closure of an English Medium school in the Saltney area could have an impact on the exposure to the Welsh language in an area of linguistic sensitivity. However the establishment of a brand new school will give opportunity to work with Welsh partners and advisors in increasing language exposure for pupils and the community.

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

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

Flintshire County Council believes that the Welsh Language belongs to everyone. The Welsh Education Strategic Plan in Flintshire is a long-term strategic tool for us to

contribute to the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and increase the daily use of Welsh.

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

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

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

The main Principles are:

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

- Progress and commitment to developing the Welsh language across all aspects of the Council is celebrated.

The WESP 2022-2032 can be found here:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table: Knowledge of Welsh (2021)

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

Source: Census 2021

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

Linguistic sensitivity in Flintshire is defined by a complex, evolving relationship between the Welsh and English Languages, heavily influenced by it's geography as a border county. While Flintshire has a lower percentage of Welsh speakers (11.6% in 2021) compared to the Wales average, there is a strong, proactive effort by the Council to promote the language and foster a welcoming bilingual environment.

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

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

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

The Council recognises the important role education plays in achieving this ambition. Delivery of these objectives is supported through implementation of the WESP, investment in Welsh-medium education, Welsh language immersion opportunities,

workforce development and the promotion of Welsh language opportunities within schools and communities.

This proposal relates to the reorganisation of existing English-medium provision within the Saltney area. The proposal does not remove Welsh-medium provision, reduce access to Welsh-medium education or affect planned Welsh-medium expansion initiatives elsewhere within Flintshire.

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

Having considered these factors, the Council has concluded that the proposal is not expected to adversely affect progress towards the objectives of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

G. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION IN FLINTSHIRE

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

Primary

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

Secondary

- Ysgol Gymraeg Maes Garmon, Mold.

The nearest Welsh school to the Saltney area is the Croes Atti Satellite school in Shotton.

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

No Y6 pupils from any of the Saltney primary schools had chosen a Welsh medium education at Secondary level for Sept 26. This is a historic pattern and the demand for Welsh medium Education in the Saltney area is currently very low.

H. WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION INVESTMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As highlighted the Council has made a significant investment in Welsh-medium education since 2020, with over £20m being used on a primary school, extensions to another and refurbishment of another. In addition, funding has delivered a number of Welsh-medium childcare settings to provide access to the Welsh language at an early age. We are seeing growth in the number of students attending Welsh medium education and this is forecasted to continue over the next 5 years.

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

I. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESP

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

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

To achieve this outcome:

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

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

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

Welsh Language Standards in the Saltney area

The schools of Saltney Wood Memorial and Saltney Ferry are the subjects of the proposal and would be directly affected should it be implemented.

The nearest primary schools outside of the direct Saltney area are: -

- Broughton C.P, Broughton (3.1 miles walking distance from Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, and 2.1 miles walking distance from Saltney Ferry C.P)
- Lache Community Primary School, Chester, England (0.9 miles walking distance from Saltney Wood Memorial C.P, and 2 miles walking distance from Saltney Ferry C.P)

Information on Welsh Language standards for the two directly affected schools is provided below, taken from the school's most recent Estyn inspections.

Saltney Wood Memorial – Estyn March 2020

R1 Raise standards in Welsh across the school

Many pupils have a positive attitude towards learning Welsh and a minority make suitable progress in developing their Welsh language skills. Pupils in the foundation phase respond well to familiar instructions and they ask and answer simple questions appropriately. As they progress through key stage two, most pupils write sentences with the support of a framework. For example, most Year 6 pupils express their likes and dislikes in simple sentences. However, across the school, the majority of pupils do not communicate confidently using a wide enough range of vocabulary and sentence patterns in Welsh.

Staff plan a wide and varied range of opportunities to enable pupils to make appropriate progress in the development of Welsh language skills.

Saltney Ferry – Estyn Monitoring Report February 2024

R2. Improve pupils' Welsh language and their digital skills

Throughout the school, teachers use Welsh with pupils regularly and purposefully. They ensure that pupils have beneficial opportunities to practise and develop their Welsh language skills in Welsh lessons and throughout the curriculum. The school has worked hard to ensure that pupils take pride in their Welsh heritage and language. As a result, many pupils' Welsh language skills are developing well. In nursery and reception, many pupils respond well to adults when they speak Welsh. For example, when staff ask them about the weather they respond confidently with

words, such as 'bwrw glaw' (raining). They greet others using 'bore da' confidently and understand and use simple words confidently throughout the day. By Year 2, many pupils have a good vocabulary, for instance when discussing with their friends how they are feeling. A majority are beginning to use Welsh in their everyday activities independently, for example when asking others if they can have a pencil or rubber in Welsh independently. In Year 5 and Year 6, most pupils share their likes and dislikes, and talk to others about what they want to do, accurately. Many are beginning to develop an understanding of how to use simple sentences in different tenses. For example, they ask others what the weather is like today, what the weather was like yesterday and what they think the weather will be like tomorrow.

Additional Activities/Community Facilities for Welsh learning

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

The two schools directly involved in the proposals have not highlighted any particular use of their facilities for learning Welsh or any associated activities with pupils through the language. However, the Community Welsh Language Officer is promoting and enhancing the Welsh Language in the Youth Provision in the area as a targeted response to the low number of speakers.

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

- support the development of a bilingual Summer camp
- introduce a Welsh Language unit as part of the Young Leaders award
- support the summer Play schemes to introduce the Welsh language without affecting the child's right to play
    - a Welsh Audit has been carried out Summer of 2021 and staff are actively keen to use the Welsh Language
- Support the setting up of a Welsh Youth Club in the Rural North area
- Create Welsh resources for all our youth clubs to use
- In consultation with the Integrated Youth Provision team, ensure that all paperwork used with young people is bilingual
- Build strong relationships with training bodies to discuss the importance of the Welsh Language within youth work here in Flintshire
- Ensure that all staff are confident in signposting young people to suitable Welsh recourses and support
- Support and re-establish Flintshire Youth Council with a fully bilingual ethos.

- Take a lead on the use of Welsh language on our social media platforms to ensure equal balance between both languages
- Develop and lead on a new Volunteering Programme that has the Welsh language and culture at the core. As part of the programme we will aim to recruit young people as Community Welsh Language Ambassadors in partnership with Community Councils and Youth Services

The Council is working with its partners such as Coleg Cambria, the Urdd and Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam to develop its WESP Objectives, these are valuable resources to encourage direct engagement into the Welsh language across the County.

The new Saltney school which will potentially have its own Community area could link in with initiatives in the area for out of hours activities for Welsh language for all the community.

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

J. PROFILE OF WELSH SPEAKERS IN FLINTSHIRE

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

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

Can understand spoken Welsh only 2.1%

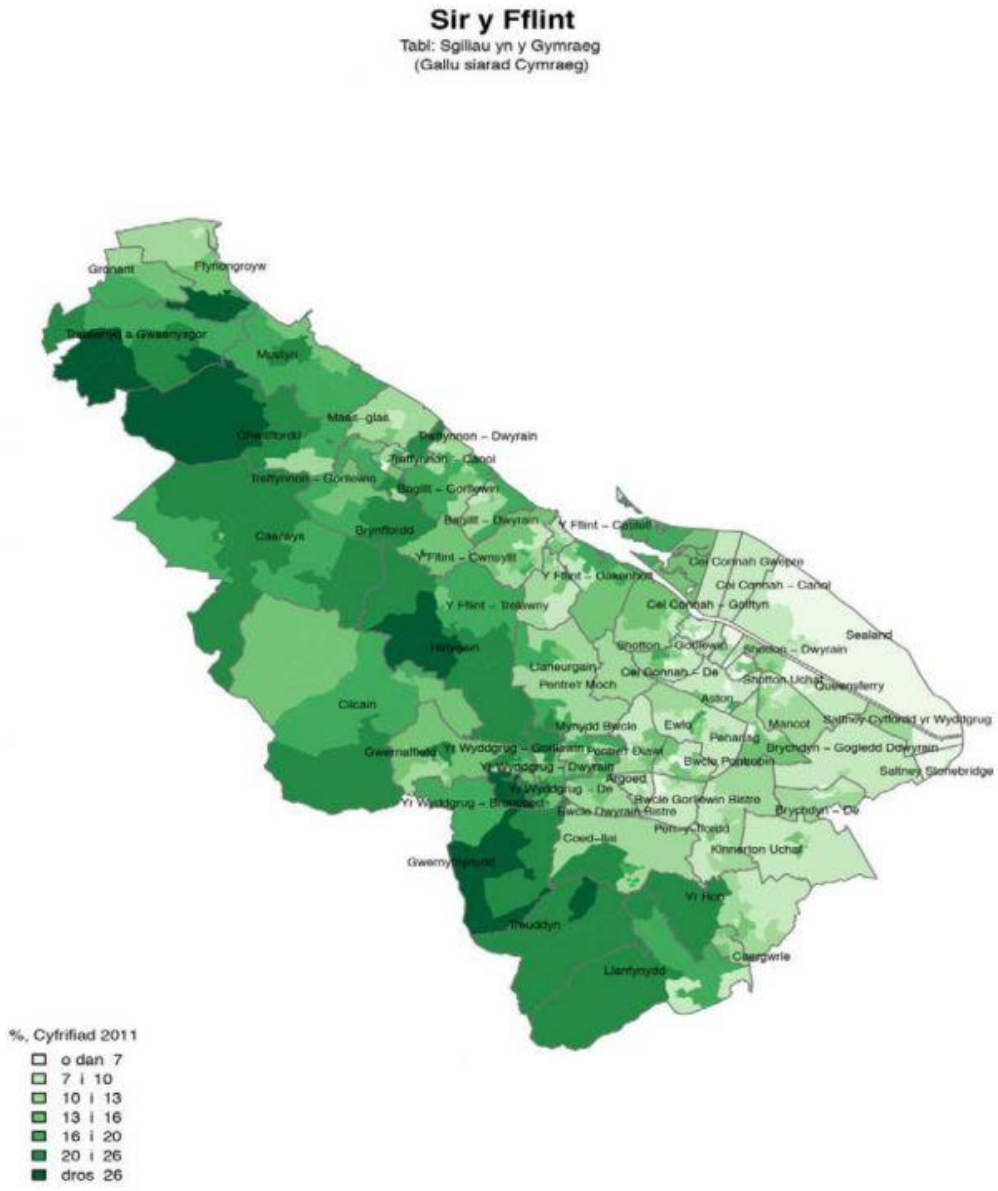
Can speak, read or write Welsh 6.8%

No skills in Welsh 91.1%

Councils have been grouped by Welsh Government into different categories reflecting the current similarities and differences between the 22 local authorities in Wales. The factors considered when grouping included the percentage of learners

taught in Welsh in an area; the models of Welsh-medium education provision adopted and the linguistic nature of the area. For this purpose Flintshire has been placed in Group 4.

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



Source: Comisiynydd y Gymraeg Office

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

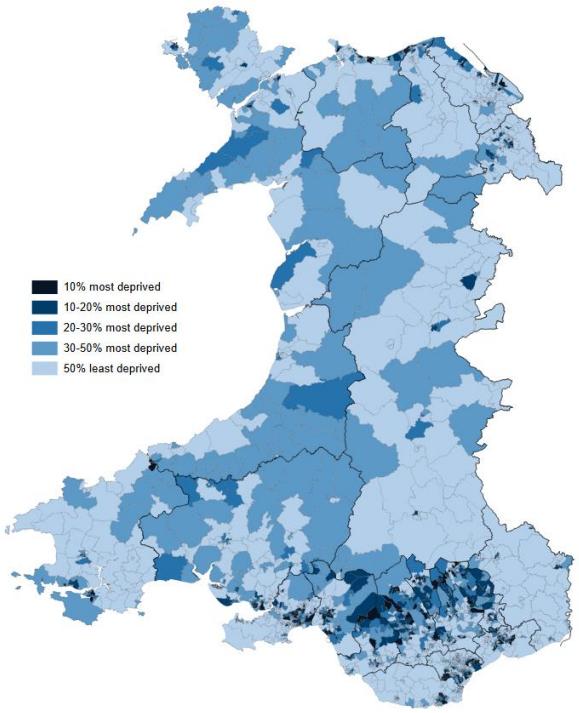


Figure 1.1: map of LSOAs shaded by deprivation group, WIMD 2025

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

Concentrated pockets of inequality do exist, particularly in areas in the northern parts of the County including Flint North East. Comparison with the map of Welsh speakers at Section J shows that these more deprived areas of the County tend to be where there are some of the least Welsh speakers, their geographic location to the English border is also a factor for some of them. Saltney falls within the mid range nationally for overall deprivation.

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

M. IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

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

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

Criteria	**Potential Impact**
Impact on border schools and loss of pupils from the Welsh education system	**Negative**
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
There has always been a migration of some children from the Saltney area to Cheshire schools due to its close proximity to the border. It is an area of language sensitivity and measures to promote the language amongst the Community are ongoing. The amalgamation could potentially lose pupils from the Welsh curriculum, thus reducing their exposure to the Welsh language, be it as a second language. However the potential of a new school building in the area and significant investment in the local high school may see a migration back towards Saltney. The Council recognises that Saltney has one of the lowest proportions of Welsh speakers within Flintshire and that its position as a border community presents particular challenges in relation to Welsh language promotion and development. The creation of a new school environment may provide opportunities to further strengthen the visibility and promotion of Welsh language and Welsh culture through the learning environment, engagement with Welsh language partners and participation in Welsh language initiatives available across Flintshire. The proposed new school leadership team would be encouraged to work with local communities to promote the relevance and importance of remaining in schools in Wales, and the opportunities available in learning the Welsh Language.	

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

Explanation & Mitigating Actions

This project proposes a replacement school build on the existing site of Wood Memorial, Saltney. Part of the rationale of the proposal is to reduce the number of surplus places within the English medium schools in Saltney which is seeing a sustained decrease.

Welsh medium education is available to all learners within a reasonable travelling distance of their home across Flintshire and investment in our network of Welsh medium provision is ongoing, as highlighted above. The nearest Welsh Language school to the Saltney area is in Shotton so pupils would be eligible for free transport, and this could be promoted as an alternative.

These characteristics have been taken into account as part of this assessment. The proposal does not reduce opportunities for learners attending the school to access Welsh language learning, nor does it reduce access to Welsh-medium education for families residing within the area.

Representations received during consultation highlighted the importance of considering whether the proposal could affect future demand for Welsh-medium education.

The Council has considered this matter and notes that the proposal does not alter the availability of Welsh-medium education within Flintshire and does not affect the operation, capacity or strategic development of existing Welsh-medium schools.

No evidence has been identified during the preparation of this assessment to indicate that the reorganisation of Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. would result in a reduction in demand for Welsh-medium education or adversely affect the sustainability of Welsh-medium provision elsewhere in the county.

The Council will continue to monitor demand for both English-medium and Welsh-medium education through established pupil place planning and strategic planning arrangements.

Criteria	Potential Impact
Impact on Welsh Language Standards in Saltney schools	**Positive**
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
With a new school build there is opportunity to improve Welsh language education and a new Community space at the school could provide Welsh education classes for the community and increase engagement in activities in the Welsh Language, promoting an appreciation of Welsh language and culture in an area where the spoken language is particularly low. This is in line with WESP aims that Second language Welsh learners in English medium schools (primary and secondary) achieve the highest possible outcomes in Welsh. The schools work hard to instil pride in their pupils for their Welsh language and heritage but confidence in speaking the language is low, which could be in part due to the lack of exposure to the language in the area. Improvements could be made by establishing more joined up working between the network of Welsh schools. The proposed new school could facilitate opportunities and events promoting the Welsh Language which currently are not being exploited. The proposed new school would be encouraged to work with Welsh Language partners and advisors to develop and promote learning opportunities as the WESP aims to have all English medium schools increasing the amount of Welsh being taught. The school will benefit from engagement with the Welsh Language Officer for out of hours activities and Youth engagement in the area.	
Criteria	**Potential Impact**
Impact on WESP Targets	**Neutral**
Explanation & Mitigating Actions	
Updated: The proposal does not alter the availability of Welsh-medium education within Flintshire, does not reduce Welsh-medium school capacity and does not affect existing Welsh-medium educational pathways. Learners residing in the Saltney	

area will continue to have access to Welsh-medium education in accordance with existing arrangements.

The proposal is not expected to adversely affect delivery of the Council's WESP outcomes. Planned Welsh-medium growth projects, Welsh language immersion provision, transition arrangements and Welsh-medium expansion activities identified within the WESP will continue unaffected by the proposal.

The proposed new school will continue to contribute towards WESP objectives through the delivery of Welsh language education, engagement with Welsh language initiatives and continued support for learners to develop Welsh language skills within an English-medium educational setting.

The Council recognises the importance of maximising opportunities to support Welsh language learning and use within all schools, irrespective of language category.

Should the proposal proceed, the new school will continue to have access to support available through the Council's Welsh Advisory Service, Welsh Language Officers, Welsh language initiatives and partnership activities delivered through the WESP and wider Welsh language promotion programmes.

Opportunities to enhance the visibility and use of Welsh within the school environment, support staff development and strengthen participation in Welsh language activities and events will continue to be encouraged through established school improvement processes.

The Council will continue to monitor Welsh language provision, participation and outcomes through its existing school improvement, curriculum and strategic planning arrangements.

The Council therefore concludes that the overall impact of the proposal on delivery of the WESP is neutral.

N. CONCLUSION

Following consideration of consultation responses, including representations relating to Welsh language matters, the Council remains satisfied that the proposal does not reduce access to Welsh-medium education, adversely affect existing Welsh-medium provision, impede delivery of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan or undermine the objectives contained within the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2025-2030.

Consideration to losing children over the border has been identified as a potential negative, but this is a pattern we already see, and the possibility of a new primary build and investment in the high school in Saltney could see this reversed.

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

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