



DRAFT

Consultation Document

relating to the proposed re-designation of
Ysgol Esgob Morgan Community School
as a Voluntary Controlled Faith School

[Month] 2014

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Introduction – Explanation of the Consultation Exercise

1. What is being proposed?

- 1.1. The governing body of Ysgol Esgob Morgan Community School and education officers from the Anglican Diocese of St Asaph (referred to in this document as the **Diocese**) have been in discussions since 2011 to strengthen the existing relationship between the school and the Anglican Church. One way to do this would be to change Ysgol Esgob Morgan from a community school to a voluntary controlled church school having a religious character (referred to in this document as a **VC School**).
- 1.2. It is not possible simply to change the category of Ysgol Esgob Morgan from a community school to a VC School¹; this is because one of the characteristics of a community school is that it is not influenced by religious groups². In order to achieve the change, Ysgol Esgob Morgan would have to be closed and a new VC School opened.
- 1.3. This option has been discussed between the Governing Body of Ysgol Esgob Morgan and the Diocese and Denbighshire County Council (referred to in this document as **DCC**). The Diocese and DCC are each considering whether to make a proposal (two proposals in total³). However, it is important to note that no decision has yet been made. The decision as to whether to proceed with the proposals will be made by DCC's Cabinet of Elected Members (referred to in this document as DCC's Cabinet) and the St Asaph Diocesan Board of Statutory Education (referred to in this document as the **Diocesan Board**). The ultimate decision whether or not to implement the proposals will be for DCC to make⁴. However, no decision will be made without a formal consultation process⁵ first being carried out.

¹ Please see section 2.1 of the School Organisation Code.

² Department of Education Website <https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school>.

³ Please see section 2 below.

⁴ Please see section 4.9 below.

⁵ Please see section 3 below for details of the consultation process.

2. The Proposals

The Proposals being considered are:

Proposal One: Denbighshire County Council will close Ysgol Esgob Morgan *31 August 2015*; and

Proposal Two: The Anglican Diocese of St Asaph will open a new Anglican Faith Voluntary Controlled school to be known as Ysgol Esgob Morgan Voluntary Controlled School to serve the communities of St Asaph and the surrounding areas on *1 September 2015* on the existing site of Ysgol Esgob Morgan.

3. Consultation

3.1. DCC and the Diocese wish to seek the views of all those who are likely to have an interest in any change to Ysgol Esgob Morgan. This consultation will allow those views to be taken into account before a decision is made.

3.2. As part of the consultation, DCC and the Diocese have produced this consultation document containing certain information set out in the Welsh Government Guidance⁶. The consultation document follows that guidance and sets out the information people will need to participate fully in the consultation process.

3.3. This consultation document has been sent to a wide range of people, including:

- a. Parents, teachers and support staff of Ysgol Esgob Morgan;
- b. Governors and the School Council of the following schools;
 - i Ysgol Esgob Morgan;
 - ii Ysgol Y Faenol;
 - iii Ysgol Y Castell;
 - iv Ysgol Trefnant;
 - v Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog; and

⁶ School Organisation Code pages 26 – 30.

- vi St Asaph VP Infants.
 - c. The Diocese;
 - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools in Denbighshire;
 - e. Denbighshire Children and Young People’s Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
 - f. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - g. Local and regional Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the Proposals;
 - h. St Asaph City Council;
 - i. The Welsh Ministers;
 - j. Estyn;
 - k. Relevant teaching and support staff Trade Unions;
 - l. Taith;
 - m. North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service; and
 - n. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.4. This document has also been published on the DCC website and can be found by following this link [*INSERT LINK*].

4. The Procedure and Likely Timetable

- 4.1. The first step in the process was for DCC to hold a consultation with the Diocese in respect of the Proposals. This had to be carried out before the consultation document was published⁷. It allowed the Diocese the opportunity to reflect on the Proposals and to consider whether it wished to proceed with the full consultation. This pre-consultation began on 13 June 2014 and ended on 11 July 2014 after which the Diocese confirmed it was happy for the full consultation in respect of the Proposals to be carried out.

⁷ This requirement is contained in section 3.4 of the Schools Organisation Code.

4.2. Commencement of the full consultation was approved by DCC’s Cabinet on 29 July 2014. At that meeting, it was decided that the consultation should begin on 8 September 2014 and end on 21 October 2014. The statutory requirement for this period is that it should not be less than 42 days (of which at least 20 of those must be school days i.e. not during school holidays)⁸. The consultation period approved by DCC’s Cabinet allows 43 days; all of which fall during school term time. This process has been agreed with the Diocese.

4.3. During the consultation period, officers from the Diocese and DCC will meet with the Governing Body, teachers, support staff, parents of children and the School Council of Ysgol Esgob Morgan. The provisional dates and times of those meetings are set out below.

Group	Date and time	Location
Governing Body	[] of [September] at [5:30] pm	Ysgol Esgob Morgan
Teachers and support staff	[] of [September] at [4:00] pm	Ysgol Esgob Morgan
Parents	[] of [September/October] at [6:00] pm	Ysgol Esgob Morgan
School Council	[] of [September/October] at [10:30] pm	Ysgol Esgob Morgan

4.4. During each of the meetings, officers from the Diocese and DCC will explain the Proposals and give people attending the opportunity to ask questions, put across their views and, should they wish, suggest alternatives to the Proposals.

4.5. All of the comments made⁹ during the consultation period will be collated, analysed, considered and summarised into a consultation report. This report will be published on the websites of DCC and the Diocese after the consultation period has ended. DCC and the Diocese hope to present the Consultation Report to DCC’s Cabinet and the Diocesan Board during November or December 2014.

⁸ Please see Annex A of the School Organisation Code for confirmation of the timing requirements

⁹ For details of how to respond, please see section 5 below

- 4.6. The consultation report will be carefully and conscientiously considered by DCC's Cabinet and the Diocesan Board; both of whom will receive a copy and be given time fully to consider the views expressed.
- 4.7. If, following receipt and consideration of the consultation report, DCC's Cabinet and the Diocesan Board approve the Proposals a statutory notice¹⁰ will be published in January or February 2015.
- 4.8. Following publication of the statutory notice, there will be a 28 day period in which people may object to the Proposals being implemented. If there are objections an objection report will be compiled and presented to DCC's Cabinet during March or April 2015.
- 4.9. If any objections are received and an objection report produced, DCC's Cabinet will then carefully and conscientiously consider the objection report and decide whether or not to proceed with the Proposals. The objection report will be published at the same time as DCC issues its decision in respect of the Proposals¹¹.
- 4.10. After the above procedure has been followed, and provided that DCC and the Diocese wish to proceed with the Proposals, the new VC School would open in September 2015.

5. How to Make Your Views Known

- 5.1. DCC and the Diocese welcome responses to the consultation regarding the Proposals. Responses can be submitted in the following ways:
- Completing the response form online by pressing [here](#) (on the electronic version of this document) or following¹² this link [*insert survey monkey link*]; or
 - Completing the response form as above, scan it and email a copy to [Diocese email address/modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk];

¹⁰ For an explanation of the statutory notice, please see section 19 below.

¹¹ Sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the School Organisation Code provide that where a local authority may determine a proposal such as Proposal One and must determine a proposal such as Proposal Two.

¹² You can follow the link by typing it into the address bar of your internet browser.

- By completing and returning the attached response form¹³ and returning it by post to [Rosalind Williams Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Diocesan Office, High Street, St Asaph LL17 ORD/Jackie Walley Customers and Education Support, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN]; or
- All other submissions can either be sent to the above postal or email address.

5.2. All responses must be submitted by 21 October 2014 as any late submissions may not be taken into account.

6. Arrangements for Children

6.1. A children's version of this consultation document has been produced and will be made available at Ysgol Esgob Morgan and certain other schools. It is also available on DCC's website and can be accessed from the electronic version of this document by pressing here or alternatively by following¹⁴ this link *[insert link]*.

6.2. The children's version of the consultation document has been written in a way which is appropriate to the age of the readers and will help them to understand the issues; and to participate in the consultation process.

6.3. DCC is holding a consultation meeting with the School Council of Esgob Morgan¹⁵. This will be led by an officer from DCC who has regular contact with primary school children as part of their role. It will be carried out in accordance with the principles and guidance contained within the guidance on consultation with children and young people provided by the Welsh Government¹⁶.

7. Asking Further Questions

7.1. If you would like to ask further questions about the Proposals you can do so by email or letter¹⁷. The contact details are:

Letter: [Rosalind Williams Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Diocesan Office, High Street, St Asaph LL17 ORD/Jackie Walley Customers and

¹³ Please see page 32 below.

¹⁴ You can follow the link by typing it into the address bar of your internet browser.

¹⁵ Please see section 4.3 above for details.

¹⁶ Please see the table in section 22 below.

¹⁷ Please use the contact details set out in section 5.1 above.

Education Support, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN]; and

Email: [Diocese email address/modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk].

- 7.2. DCC and the Diocese will attempt to answer your questions during the consultation period.

8. Status of Responses to the Consultation

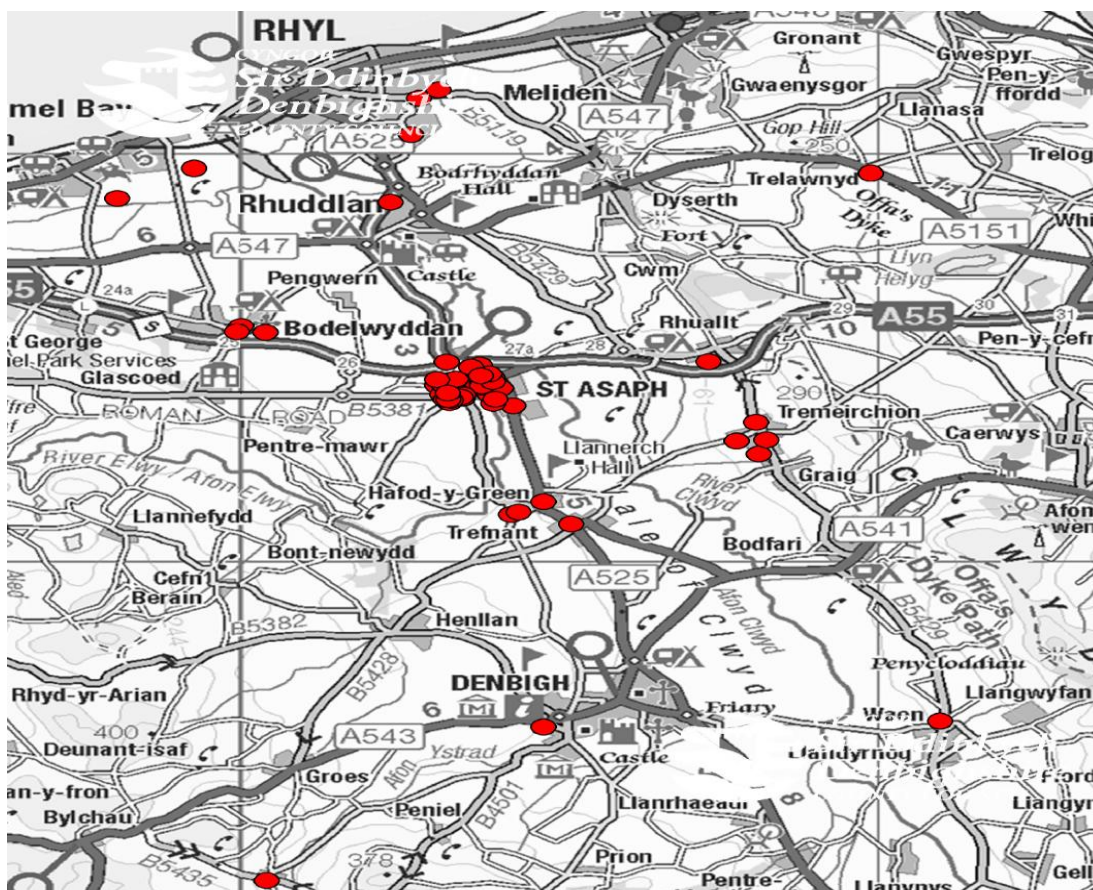
Any responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the Proposals. Objections can only be registered following publication of the statutory notice¹⁸.

Background to the Proposals

9. Current provision at Ysgol Esgob Morgan

- 9.1. Ysgol Esgob Morgan is a Community School serving St Asaph and the surrounding areas; its pupils are aged between 7 and 11 years old.
- 9.2. The school attracts children largely from the St Asaph area; as shown in the map below (based on the January 2014 Pupil Level Annual School Census (**PLASC**) figures).

¹⁸ Please see section 19 below for an explanation of the statutory notice.



9.3. The January 2014 PLASC showed that Ysgol Esgob Morgan had 108 full-time pupils. The table below shows the full time pupil numbers at the school for each of the past 5 years.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend 2010-2013
111	103	96	99	108	-3

9.4. Ysgol Esgob Morgan has the capacity¹⁹ for 108 full-time pupils and at present has 108 full-time pupils. This means that the school is fully subscribed; having neither a surplus nor deficit of places.

9.5. DCC's pupil number forecast suggests that there will be an increase in numbers at Ysgol Esgob Morgan: this is demonstrated in the table below²⁰. DCC and the Diocese do not believe that the Proposals will have an impact on pupil numbers;

¹⁹ This is assessed in accordance with the Welsh Government Circular: Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales.

accordingly, no projections have been prepared to demonstrate the position should the Proposals be implemented.

Actual 2014	Projected 2015	Projected 2016	Projected 2017	Projected 2018	Projected 2019	Projected Trend 13-18
108	107	110	112	111	116	+8

9.6. When condition surveys are carried out on schools, they are given a condition category rating. The meaning of the category rating is explained in the table below.

Condition Category Rating	Meaning
A (Good)	No deterioration since the last survey
B (Satisfactory)	Minor deterioration since the last inspection
C (Poor)	Major deterioration since the last inspection
D (Bad)	Life expired

9.7. The condition of the school building was rated as category C (Poor) in a condition survey carried out in December 2009. This survey was carried out to provide data for Welsh Government for the purposes of 21st Century Schools. However, a survey was also carried out by DCC in June 2014, the details of which will be reported to Welsh Government. In this most recent survey the condition was rated as category B (Satisfactory).

9.8. The school facilities are set out in the table below.

Class-rooms	Mobiles	Small Group Areas	Hall	Library	ICT area	Outdoor hard play area	Playing Field
5	1*	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*This mobile is no longer used as teaching or resource space

9.9. Ysgol Esgob Morgan is an English medium²¹ school.

²¹ Referred to as a Category 5 school in the Welsh Government Guidance relating to Welsh Medium Provision

10. Details of Other Schools Likely to be Affected

10.1. The statutory guidance²² requires details of schools which are likely to be affected by the Proposals to be included in the consultation document. As Proposal One concerns the closure of an English medium school with an age range of 7 – 11, it is reasonable to assume that should any pupils wish to transfer to other schools, they would look to transfer to English medium Primary schools which are reasonably close to Ysgol Esgob Morgan. Accordingly, this section considers such schools within a 4 mile radius. It is also reasonable to assume that pupils at St Asaph VP Infants School are likely to be affected as it is the principal ‘feeder’²³ school to Ysgol Esgob Morgan.

10.2. The schools which, for the purposes of the statutory guidance, are likely to be affected by the Proposals are:

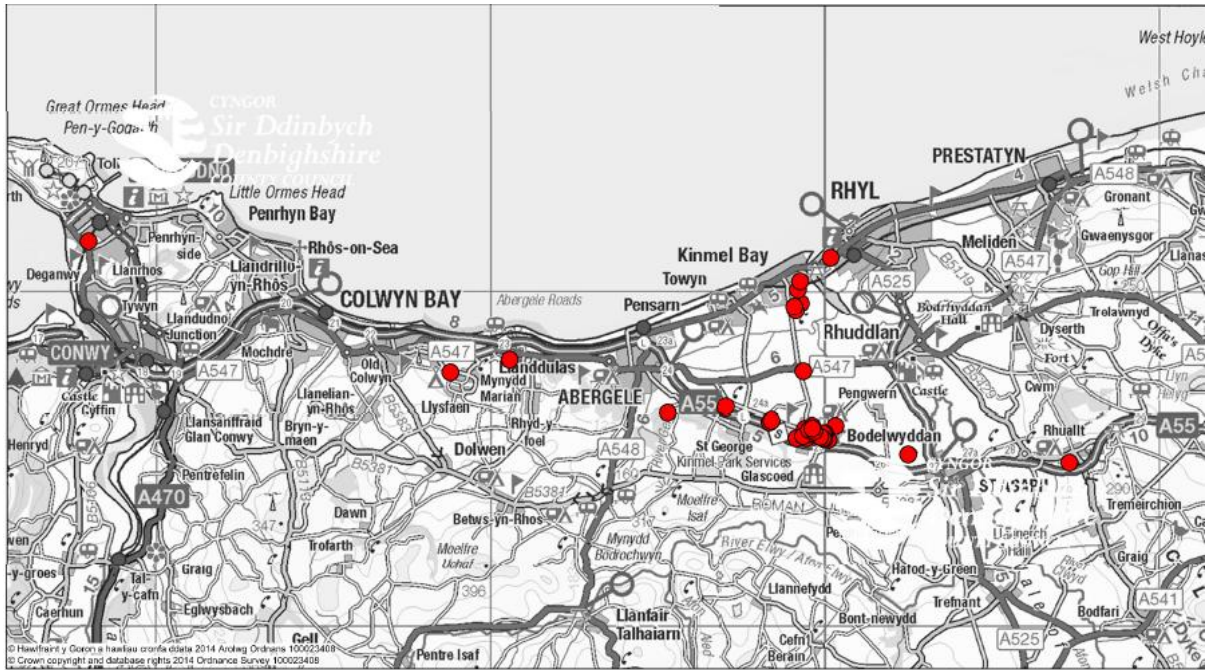
- a. Ysgol Y Faenol: a Community Primary School in Bodelwyddan: 3.3 miles away;
- b. Ysgol Y Castell: a Community Primary School in Rhuddlan: 3.3 miles away;
- c. Ysgol Trefnant: a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School in Trefnant: 3.3 miles away;
- d. Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog: a Community Primary School in Marli, Cefn Meiriadog: 2.6 miles away; and
- e. St Asaph VP Infants: a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Infants School in St Asaph: the infants school from which many pupils transfer to Ysgol Esgob Morgan.

(Referred to in this document as the **Schools Likely to be Affected**).

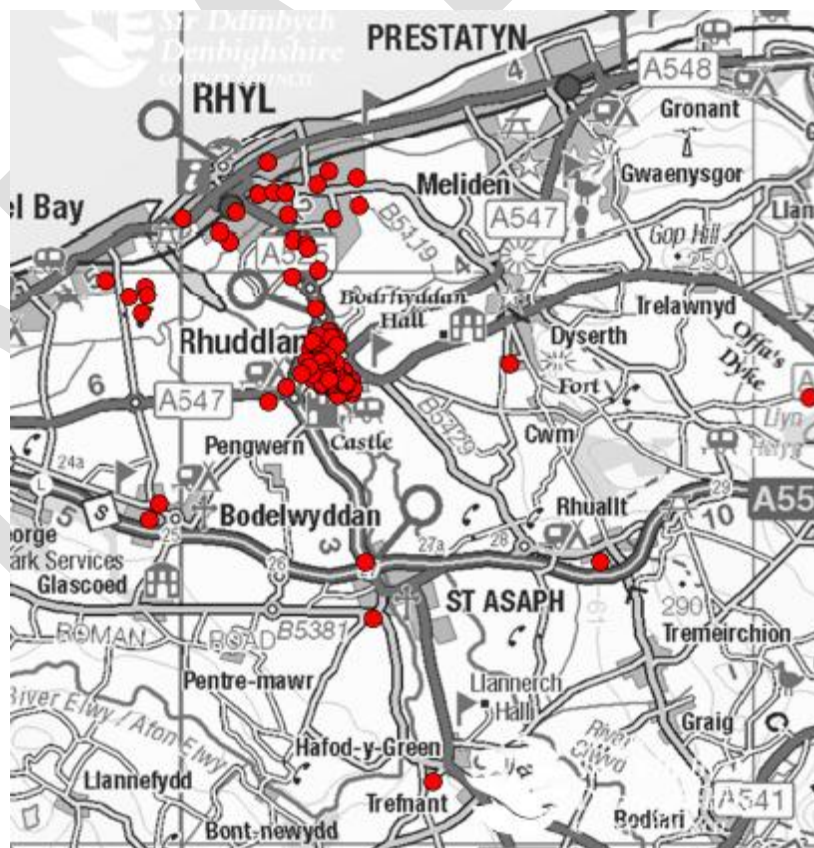
10.3. Each of the Schools Likely to be Affected, attracts children largely from the immediate surrounding areas; as shown in the maps below (based on the January 2014 PLASC figures).

²² School Organisation Code, page 26

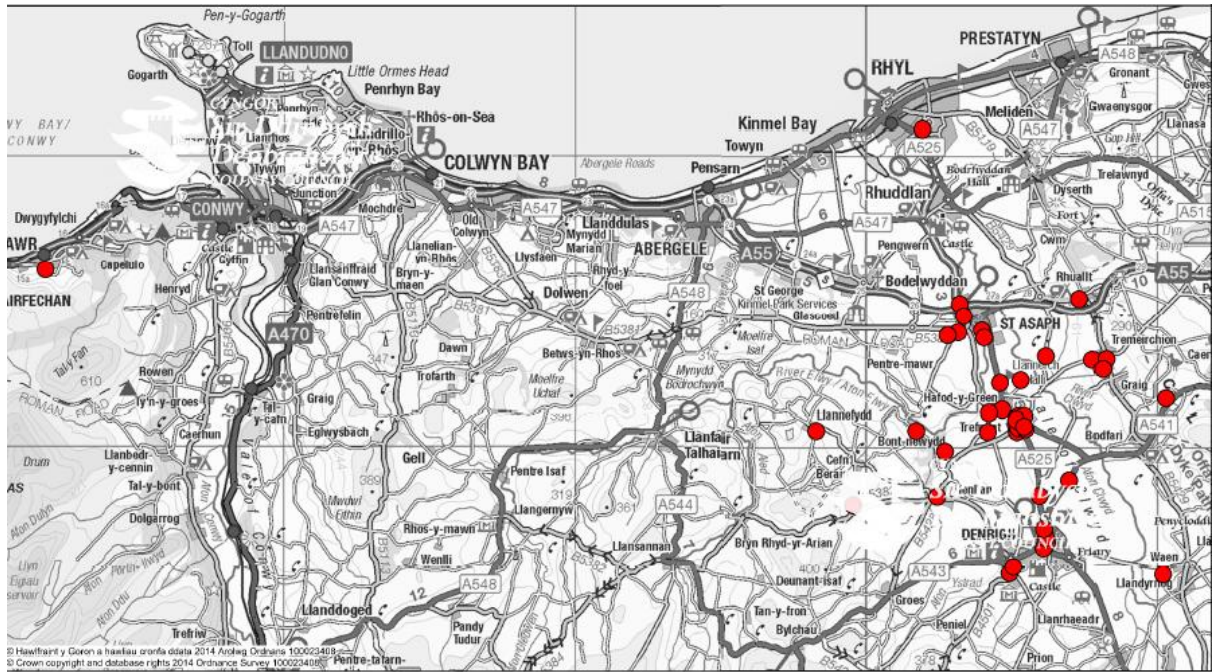
²³ Please see sections 13.6 and 13.7 below for evidence of the relationship between the two schools.



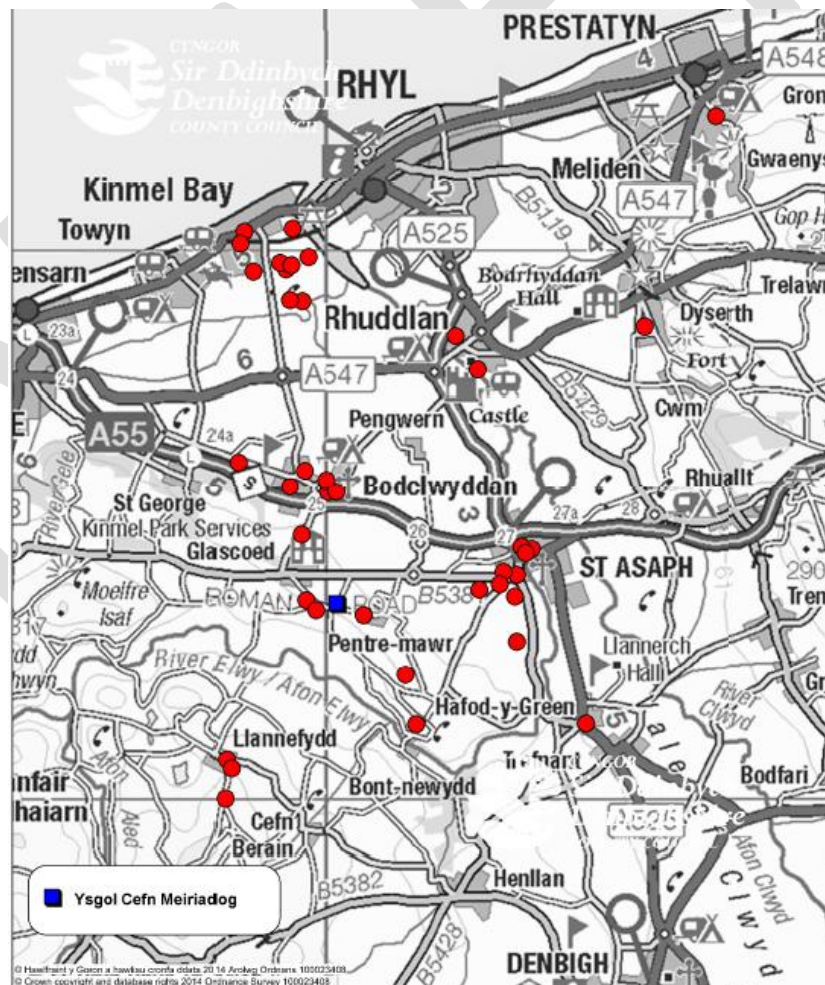
Ysgol Y Faenol



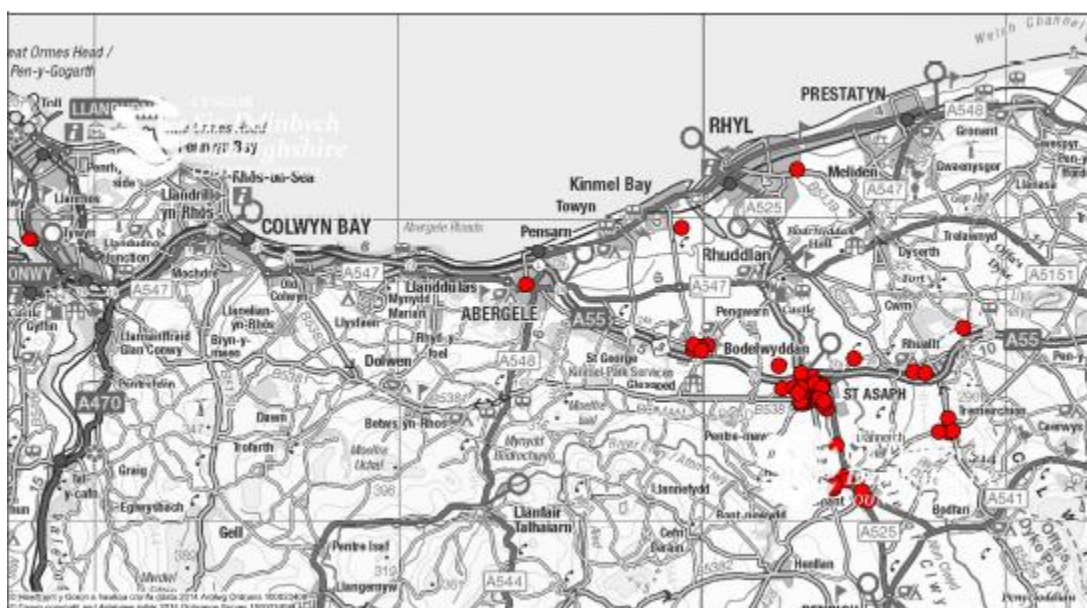
Ysgol Y Castell



Ysgol Trefnant



Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog



St Asaph VP Infants School

10.4. The table below shows the full time pupil²⁴ numbers at each of the Schools Likely to be Affected, for each of the past 5 years.

School	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend 2010-2014
Y Faenol	105	109	105	115	113	-2
Y Castell	176	188	180	178	189	+13
Trefnant	63	62	64	56	66	+3
Cefn Meiriadog	77	68	64	61	62	-15
St. Asaph	82	85	85	86	83	+1

10.5. The nursery figures for the Schools Likely to be Affected, for each of the past 5 years are set out in the table below.

School	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend 2010-2014
Y Faenol	13	20	15	15	17	+4
Y Castell	29	21	27	30	22	-7

²⁴ These figures are for the full-time pupils from Reception to Year 6 but do not include the part-time nursery pupils

Trefnant	12	11	8	12	13	+1
Cefn Meiriadog	8	9	6	16	8	0
St. Asaph	34	29	26	30	28	-6

- 10.6. The table below shows the capacity of each of the Schools Likely to be Affected and whether and to what extent they have a surplus or deficit of places.

School	Capacity (Full-time pupils)	Number on roll	Surplus Places (Actual)	Deficit Places (Actual)	Surplus Places (%)	Deficit Places (%)
Y Faenol	109	113	-	4	-	3.7
Y Castell	178	189	-	11	-	6.2
Trefnant	59	66	-	7	-	11.9
Cefn Meiriadog	67	62	5	-	7.5	-
St. Asaph	83	83	0	-	0	-

- 10.7. DCC's pupil projection forecast for the numbers of full-time pupils at each of the Schools Likely to be Affected, is set out in the table below.

School	Actual 2014	Projected 2015	Projected 2016	Projected 2017	Projected 2018	Projected 2019	Projected Trend 13-18
Y Castell	189	188	189	186	182	186	-3
Y Faenol	113	115	120	119	114	115	+2
Trefnant	66	71	79	83	80	81	+15
Cefn Meiriadog	62	64	60	61	62	63	+1
St. Asaph	83	87	88	86	87	87	+4

10.8. The table below shows the condition of the buildings of each of the Schools Likely to be Affected, as stated in the condition surveys carried out in December 2009 and June 2014.

School	2009		2014	
	Date	Category	Date	Category
Ysgol y Faenol	November 2009	B (Satisfactory) ²⁵	June 2014	A (Good)
Ysgol Y Castell	November 2009	B (Satisfactory)	June 2014	A (Good)
Ysgol Trefnant	March 2010	B (Satisfactory)	June 2014	B (Satisfactory)
Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog	November 2009	B (Satisfactory)	June 2014	B (Satisfactory)
St. Asaph Infants	December 2009	B (Satisfactory)	June 2014	B (Satisfactory)

10.9. The facilities at the Schools Likely to be Affected are as follows.

School	Class-rooms	Mobiles	Small Group Areas	Hall	Library	ICT area	Outdoor hard play area	Playing Field
Y Faenol	6	x	2	✓	✓`	✓	✓	✓
Y Castell	8	x	2	✓	2	✓	✓	✓
Trefnant	4	x	3	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Cefn Meiriadog	4	x	1	x	✓ *	x	✓	✓
St Asaph	4	x	6	✓	1	x	✓	✓

` Small library within ICT Suite

*Library within classroom

10.10. Each of the Schools Likely to be Affected is an English medium²⁶ school.

²⁵ Please see the table in section 9.6 above for an explanation of the condition category rating.

11. Likely Impact on Standards in Education: Ysgol Esgob Morgan

11.1. Ysgol Esgob Morgan was last inspected in April 2013. Estyn's key questions and the school's performance as evidenced in the Inspection Report are set out in the table below.

Key Question	School's performance
How good are outcomes? - Standards - Wellbeing	Good - Good - Good
How good is provision? - Learning experiences - Teaching - Care, support & guidance - Learning Environment	Good - Good - Adequate - Good - Good
How good are leadership & management? - Leadership - Improving quality - Partnership working - Resource management	Good - Good - Adequate - Good - Good

11.2. The performance ratings are explained in the table below.

Judgment	Meaning
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no improvement areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

11.3. DCC and the Diocese of St Asaph believe that Ysgol Esgob Morgan is a learning community. Each member of this community is respected and encouraged in all they do, and each contribution is valued. In seeking partnership with the church,

²⁶ Referred to as a Category 5 school in the Welsh Government Guidance Document relating to Welsh Medium Provision.

Ysgol Esgob Morgan would continue to ensure that pupils are prepared to become citizens of the future, respecting the rich diversity of the communities in which they live and have an understanding of Christian values. This partnership will help Ysgol Esgob Morgan to develop its already strong loving, caring atmosphere where clear Christian values are at the heart of all that is done.

- 11.4. As a church school, Ysgol Esgob Morgan would undergo an inspection by the Diocese in the same academic year as its Estyn Inspection²⁷. This inspection looks at the Christian ethos of the school and how it helps its learners' progress and provides guidance and support in conjunction with the Diocese in order to secure improvement.
- 11.5. If it joined the family of Church schools, Ysgol Esgob Morgan would have access to the services of the Diocesan Education team, who can provide advice and support on curriculum and ethos matters, and who provide regular training for staff. They will have a named 'Bishop's Visitor', who will support and challenge the school; embodying the pastoral concern that the Bishop of St Asaph has for the schools in his diocese.
- 11.6. [Specific comments on the likely impact on the key questions to follow]
- 11.7. A copy of the Estyn Inspection Report relating to the inspection in April 2013 can be found at www.estyn.gov.uk.

12. Likely Impact on Standards in Education: Other schools likely to be affected

- 12.1. Details of the most recent Estyn inspections of the Schools Likely to be Affected are set out in the tables below.

Inspections carried out under the current regime			
Criteria	Y Faenol	Trefnant	Cefn Meiriadog
Date of inspection	May 2012	October 2013	October 2013
Outcomes?	Good	Good	Good

²⁷ This inspection would take place by virtue of section 50 of the Education Act 2005.

Standards	Good	Good	Good
Wellbeing	Good	Good	Good
Provision?	Good	Good	Good
Learning experiences	Good	Good	Adequate
Teaching	Good	Good	Good
Care, support & guidance	Good	Good	Good
Learning environment	Good	Good	Good
Leadership & Management?	Good	Good	Adequate
Leadership	Good	Good	Adequate
Improving quality	Good	Good	Good
Partnership working	Good	Good	Good
Resource management	Good	Good	Adequate

Inspections carried out under the previous regime		
Criteria	Y Castell	St Asaph
Date of inspection	April 2008	January 2009
How well do learners achieve?	Grade 3	Grade 2
How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 3	Grade 2
How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 2	Grade 2
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2	Grade 2
How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 3	Grade 2
How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 3	Grade 2
How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 3	Grade 2

12.2. The performance ratings in the *second* table in section 12.1 above are set out in the table below.

Grade	Meaning
1	Good with outstanding features

2	Good features and no important shortcomings
3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
5	Many important shortcomings

12.3. DCC and the Diocese do not believe that the Proposals are likely to have an impact on the ability of the Schools Likely to be Affected to perform against any of the above quality criteria.

12.4. Copies of the most recent Estyn Inspection reports for the Schools Likely to be Affected can be found on www.estyn.gov.uk.

The Proposals – Description and rationale

13. Why the Proposals are Being Made

13.1. DCC and the Diocese believe there is much to be gained by strengthening the existing relationship between Ysgol Esgob Morgan and the Anglican Church. It is believed that the advantages of making the proposed changes outweigh the advantages of keeping things as they are.

13.2. The Church in Wales is the second largest provider of schools in Wales, after the local authorities themselves: 15% of the all schools in Wales are Church schools. In the Diocese of St Asaph there are 49 Church schools, providing just over 6450 primary places in the Diocese²⁸. These schools were founded to provide the best possible education for all children within their local communities, and Ysgol Esgob Morgan as a new Church school would maintain that tradition and provide excellent education within a distinctively Christian context. Ysgol Esgob Morgan already has a strong ethos and links with the local church and the Proposals would enhance and strengthen those elements.

13.3. Church in Wales' schools seek to provide the highest possible standard of education within a distinctively Christian context. They are not seeking to convert,

²⁸ These figures were accurate at June 2014.

but to serve, and evidence shows that a strong Christian ethos and educational vision help to raise standards and achievement and enable every child to fulfil their potential. This is articulated in both the Church in Wales Education Review²⁹ and the Church School of the Future Review³⁰, produced by the National Society, and GWELLA³¹ and SIAMS³² inspection reporting.

- 13.4. As a member of the family of church schools in the Diocese, Ysgol Esgob Morgan will receive support from the Diocesan Education Department in addition to DCC. Ysgol Esgob Morgan will have access to a network of advisers and consultants commissioned by the Diocese, and will also have access to training, resources and activities.
- 13.5. Many pupils at Ysgol Esgob Morgan have attended St Asaph VP Infants which is a Voluntary Controlled school. The Proposals would ensure that pupils received continuity in their learning journey.
- 13.6. The table below shows that over the past three years a consistently high percentage (an average of 88%) of year 2 pupils from St Asaph VP Infants (a voluntary controlled, Church in Wales school) transited to year 3 at Ysgol Esgob Morgan.

	13/14	12/13	11/12
YEM (Yr 3 pupils on roll)	29 (Jan 14)	31 (Jan 13)	19 (Jan 12)
Number of Yr 2 pupils who transited	26 (90%)	24 (92%)	15 (83%)
SAVP (Yr 2 pupils on roll)	29 (Jan 13)	26 (Jan 12)	23 (Jan 11)

²⁹ Church In Wales Review July 2012

³⁰ The Church school of the Future Review March 2012

³¹ Section 50 of the Education Act 2005 refers to the inspection of faith schools in Wales. The inspection reports are available on the following website www.churchschoolscymru.org

³² Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 refers to the inspection of faith schools in England. The inspection reports are available on the following website www.churchofengland.org

- 13.7. 78.6% of all of the children (years 3 to 6) who currently attend Ysgol Esgob Morgan came up from St Asaph VP Infants. Implementation of the Proposals would be a clear benefit to children making that transition in future.
- 13.8. If the Proposals are not approved, Ysgol Esgob Morgan would, nonetheless, carry on the learning journey as currently prescribed. However, many of the pupils who make the transition from St Asaph VP Infants, with its Christian ethos, would not be able to continue their learning journey within the same distinctiveness and ethos. Also, should the Proposals progress, foundation governors will be appointed to the Board of Governors. The foundation governors will be representatives of the Church in Wales whose appointment will help Ysgol Esgob Morgan live out its mission as a Church school, where Christian values are embedded into school life.
- 13.9. It is possible that parents, who intend to send their children to Ysgol Esgob Morgan and who do not want their children to have a faith education, may seek an alternative non faith-based school. However, any parent who chooses to send their child to the new VC school will have the right to opt out of collective worship and religious education.
- 13.10. DCC and the Diocese have discussed and considered the Proposals against the only alternative, which is to keep things as they are. There are no other options which would achieve the aim of building on the existing relationship between Ysgol Esgob Morgan and the Diocese. The options which have been considered are set out in the table below.

Option	Description
Option 1	Maintain the status quo
Option 2	Close Ysgol Esgob Morgan and open the Proposed New VC School

13.11. The advantages and disadvantages of the options considered are set out in the table below.

Option 1: Status quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current provision will continue. • The current relationship with the Diocese would continue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing relationship with the Diocese will not be enhanced and strengthened. • The faith option for pupils from St Asaph VP Infants school will be disrupted.
Option 2: Open new VC school	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and strengthen the existing relationship with the church. • Pupils transitioning from St Asaph VP Infants will be able to attend a junior school with the same ethos as the infants' school they attended. • Adds a layer of accountability via the section 50³³ inspection regime. • The revised structure of the Board of Governors will further support the headteacher. • The parental right of withdrawal of their children from collective worship and religious education remains unchanged. • Forges an explicit link between the school and the Church. • Provides the school with access to the support and resources offered by the Diocese. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds a faith element to the school with which some parents may not feel comfortable. • Parents who do not want their child to receive a faith based education may wish to choose an alternative, non-faith based school.

13.12. The preferred option is Option 2 because it offers pupils the continuation of their faith based Early Years Foundation Stage learning. It provides a more cohesive and joined-up means of primary education in St Asaph. However, the Proposals are at an early stage and the consultation allows people the chance to consider the Proposals and suggest any alternatives which DCC and the Diocese should consider.

³³ Section 50 of the Education Act 2005.

DCC's Cabinet and the Diocesan Board will consider all options before making a decision.

14. Finance

14.1. Ysgol Esgob Morgan's delegated annual budget for 2014/15 is £385,000. This equates to a budget per pupil of £3,531³⁴ compared to the Denbighshire primary school average per pupil of £3,931.

14.2. If implemented, the Proposals would have no financial impact on Ysgol Esgob Morgan. Whether a school is a Community School or a VC School has no bearing on its delegated budget. Accordingly, should the Proposals be implemented, the new VC School would inherit precisely the financial position of Ysgol Esgob Morgan.

15. Ownership of Ysgol Esgob Morgan's Land and Buildings

15.1. The land and buildings from which Ysgol Esgob Morgan operates are owned by DCC.

15.2. The law relating to school reorganisation³⁵ provides that when a community school becomes a voluntary controlled school, any land (other than playing fields) held by a local authority must be transferred to the relevant diocesan body; in this case, the Diocese. If the Proposals are progressed, it will be recommended that the land and buildings of Ysgol Esgob Morgan are transferred to the Diocese on the condition that they will be transferred back to DCC if at any time they stop being used as a faith school.

16. Details of the Proposed New VC School

16.1. Should the decision to implement the Proposals be made, the proposed new VC School would be very much like the existing Ysgol Esgob Morgan. Details of the proposed new VC school are set out in the table below.

Feature	Description
Admission number (for school year	30

³⁴ This is based on there being 109 pupils registered at the school when the statement of planned expenditure was prepared by DCC in respect of the school in compliance with section 52 of the 1998 Act.

³⁵ Part 3 of Schedule 4 of the 2013 Act.

2015/16)	
Age range	7 – 11
Pupil places capacity	108
Location	Ffordd Siarl, Ashly Court, St Asaph LL17 OPT
Category	Voluntary Controlled
Language Category	English Medium ³⁶
Proposed accommodation	As at present ³⁷
SEN provision	26% of the current pupils on roll are on the SEN register.
Home to school transport arrangements	As per DCC's Transport Policy ³⁸ – pupils who live 2 or more miles away from their nearest suitable school are entitled to free home to school transport.

17. Impact of closing Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Alternatives considered

- 17.1. The closure of Ysgol Esgob Morgan is being proposed to enable the school to operate as a Voluntary Controlled church school. The daily life of the school community will be enriched by a closer relationship with the Anglican Church. However, very little else will change. Accordingly, the only other option to the Proposals which has been considered by DCC and the Diocese is to do nothing.
- 17.2. The benefits of a closer relationship with the Anglican Church far outweigh any disadvantages and will certainly amount to an improvement for the school. Accordingly the option of doing nothing has been rejected³⁹.

³⁶ This is Category 5 within the Welsh Government Guidance relating to Welsh Medium Provision.

³⁷ Please see section 9.8 above.

³⁸ Information on DCC's Transport Policy can be found in the DCC Schools Booklet – please see section 22 below.

³⁹ For a fuller consideration of the options, please see section 13 above.

Impact on the local community

- 17.3. The impact on the local community will be limited to the effect of the closer relationship with the Anglican Church.
- 17.4. Ysgol Esgob Morgan already enjoys close links with the local church, attending services regularly and enjoying visits from the Reverend Val Rowlands for acts of collective worship. The Proposals will enhance and strengthen these links allowing closer co-operation and strengthening the ethos and values of the whole school community. Ysgol Esgob Morgan would also benefit from the support of the Diocese.
- 17.5. The Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment for the Proposals is available on DCC's website by navigating to the Education section and then to the Current Consultations section where you will find the Ysgol Esgob Morgan section and the document. If you are accessing this consultation document electronically, you can view the document by clicking [here](#) ***[insert link]***.
- 17.6. The findings of the Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment are as follows:
- a. [To follow];
 - b. [To follow].

Likely impact on staff

- 17.7. The changes contemplated by the Proposals relate to the relationship between Ysgol Esgob Morgan and the Diocese. Although the school will close and a new one re-open, the staffing requirements will be the same. If the Proposals are accepted, all employees will receive letters to confirm their employment has transferred from the community school to the new VC school. There will be no break in continuity of employment; the Proposals, if implemented, will not impact on the length of service of staff at the school.

- 17.8. The temporary Governing Body (see below) of Ysgol Esgob Morgan VC may decide to appoint the current headteacher of the community school to become the headteacher of the new VC school. It may, instead, decide to advertise the post externally. This, though, is a decision for the Governing Body.

Governing Body

- 17.9. Should the Proposals be implemented, the current Ysgol Esgob Morgan would close and the current Governing Body would cease to exist. DCC, in consultation with the Diocese, would appoint the initial members of a temporary Governing Body before the new VC school opened. Those initial members would then appoint the rest of the temporary Governing Body.
- 17.10. The temporary Governing Body would be responsible for preparing for the opening of the new VC school and would carry out tasks including:
- a. Appointing a head teacher and deputy head teacher;
 - b. Creating the school identity: name, uniform and ethos; and
 - c. Devising the staffing structure.
- 17.11. A permanent Governing Body would be put in place by no later than the end of the first term of the new VC school. Some of the members of the permanent Governing Body would be appointed by DCC and the Diocese and others appointed following an election.

Admissions

- 17.12. The admissions arrangements for Ysgol Esgob Morgan are currently administered by DCC's Admissions Team. This would continue to be the case if the Proposals are implemented.
- 17.13. Details of the admissions arrangements for Ysgol Esgob Morgan are set out in the DCC Schools Booklet.

Required building works

- 17.14. DCC and the Diocese do not believe that the Proposals will cause parents to want to transfer their children from Ysgol Esgob Morgan. Accordingly, there will be no need for building works to any of the Schools Likely to Be Affected to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers.

Home to school travel

- 17.15. Although little will change from a practical point of view, the change in status from a community school to a church school could have an impact on home to school travel entitlement.
- 17.16. As at June 2014 DCC pays the cost of transporting 4 pupils. One pupil travels with a pupil from another school at a daily cost of £62.00. The remaining 3 pupils travel together at a daily cost of £22.50. DCC is currently reviewing its policy with regards to the provision of free home to school travel for faith schools. It is impossible to predict the outcome of this review but it is likely that any such transport costs will be paid for new pupils who request a faith school, for whom Ysgol Esgob Morgan is the nearest faith primary school and who live 2 or more miles away. It is unlikely that pupils attending Ysgol Esgob Morgan at the time of the change for who the school becomes the nearest faith school would receive free home to school transport.

Impact on parents

- 17.17. Some parents may choose to send their children to a non-faith school for their Key Stage 2 education. However, there are two key factors which suggest this is unlikely:
- a. A high percentage of children each year make the transition from St Asaph VP Infants (a Church in Wales church school). Those parents chose a church school for their children's foundation phase education; it is unlikely that their choice will change for Key Stage 2; and

- b. Any parent who would have chosen Ysgol Esgob Morgan but does not want a faith education for their child may opt out of shared worship and religious education.

Impact on pupils

17.18. Pupils will benefit from the strong Christian ethos and educational vision of the new VC school. This can help to raise standards and achievement and allow them to fulfil their potential.

17.19. [Awaiting input from DCC Primary schools effectiveness performance officer].

18. Alternative Provision

18.1. DCC and the Diocese hope that the existing pupils of Ysgol Esgob Morgan will attend the proposed new VC School. However, it is possible that some parents may choose to send their children elsewhere.

18.2. The table below sets out details of alternative schools offering 7 – 11 provision and to which parents could send their children should they wish.

Name	Location	Distance (miles) from Esgob Morgan	Category	Current Capacity	Surplus Places (Actual)	Deficit Places (Actual)
Y Faenol	Bodelwyddan	3.3	English medium/Community Primary	109	-	4
Y Castell	Rhuddlan	3.3	English medium/Community Primary	178	-	11
Trefnant	Trefnant	3.3	English medium/faith voluntary aided	59	-	7
Cefn Meiriadog	Cefn Meiriadog	2.6	English medium/Community Primary	67	5	-

- 18.3. The table below sets out a comparison of the standards of education provided at Ysgol Esgob Morgan and the 5 potential alternative schools.

Achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2					
School Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Esgob Morgan	79.3%	88.9%	80.8%	88.9%	90.5%
Y Faenol	70.6%	75.0%	77.3%	80.0%	70.6%
Y Castell	83.3%	73.9%	78.3%	81.5%	95.7%
Trefnant	88.9%	80.0%	77.8%	100.0%	88.9%
Cefn Meiriadog	76.9%	85.7%	90.0%	83.3%	85.7%

- 18.4. Details of the admission arrangements of each of the 4 potential alternative schools can be found on DCC's website www.denbighshire.gov.uk by navigating to the Education section and then to the Admissions section where you will find the Denbighshire Schools Booklet. Alternatively you can contact the School Admissions Team at DCC⁴⁰ to request a copy of the information contained in the Denbighshire Schools Booklet.
- 18.5. Details of the quality of the accommodation at the potential alternative schools are set out in sections 10.8 and 10.9 above.

Statutory Process

19. Statutory Notice

- 19.1. Once the consultation period⁴¹ has come to an end, DCC's Cabinet and the Diocesan Board will decide whether or not to proceed with the Proposals. If they decide to proceed, the Proposals must be published by way of a statutory notice⁴².

⁴⁰ Please see section 5.1 above for the contact details.

⁴¹ For confirmation of the consultation period, please see section 4.2 above

⁴² The 2013 Act section 48

- 19.2. If the statutory notice is published it must contain details such as the planned implementation date for the Proposals, how to object to the Proposals and how to obtain a copy of the objection report⁴³.
- 19.3. If the decision is taken to proceed with the Proposals, the statutory notice will be published in the following ways:
- a. Publication on the websites of DCC and the Diocese;
 - b. Displayed near or on the main entrance of Ysgol Esgob Morgan; and
 - c. By providing Ysgol Esgob Morgan with copies to distribute to pupils, parents carers and guardians, and staff members (Ysgol Esgob Morgan may distribute the notice by email).

20. Objections

- 20.1. Once the statutory notice has been published, anyone wishing to register an objection has 28 days to do so. Objections must be made in writing and sent to DCC either by email or letter⁴⁴.
- 20.2. Any objections registered within the 28 day period will be collated, analysed, considered and summarised into an objection report⁴⁵ containing a summary of any objections together with responses from DCC and the Diocese. The report will be published by being placed on the websites of DCC and the Diocese; a hard copy will be available on request to DCC's Modernising Education Team.

21. Determining the Proposals

- 21.1. DCC⁴⁶ has 16 weeks from the end of the objection period to decide whether or not to implement the Proposals: this is known as 'determining the Proposals'.
- 21.2. DCC will make and issue its decision in relation to the Proposals in writing; setting out the reasons for the decision. The decision will be published on the websites of DCC and the Diocese. As DCC will determine the Proposals, the objection report

⁴³ The full requirements for the contents of the statutory notice are set out in section 4 of the School Organisation Code

⁴⁴ Please refer to section 5.1 above for contact details.

⁴⁵ The 2013 Act section 49.

⁴⁶ Sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the School Organisation Code provide that where a local authority may determine a proposal such as Proposal One and must determine a proposal such as Proposal Two.

must be published at the same time as the decision to determine the Proposals is issued.

22. References

Throughout this document there is reference to Welsh Government legislation, guidance and other documents. The full references are set out in the table below.

Document Reference	Full Reference
DCC Schools Booklet.	Denbighshire Schools Information for parents, guardians & carers School year 2013 – 2014. (Available on DCC's website by pressing here or by visiting the School Admissions section of the Education page, or on request from DCC's Admissions Team).
School Organisation Code.	School Organisation Code: Statutory Code document no: 006/2013 Date of issue: July 2013.
The 1998 Act.	The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
The 2013 Act.	School Standards and Organisation Act 2013.
Welsh Government Circular: Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales.	Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales. Welsh Government Circular No: 021/2011. Date of Issue: October 2011.
Welsh Government Guidance relating to consultation with children and young people.	School organisation: consultation with children and young people. Guidance document no: 119/2013. Date of issue: November 2013.
Welsh Government Guidance relating to Welsh Medium Provision.	Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision. Information document No: 023/2007. Date of issue: October 2007.

Please click [here](#) if you are viewing this document electronically and would like to see any of the above documents.

Appendix

Consultation Response Form

Denbighshire County Council and the Anglican Diocese of St Asaph wish to consult on a proposal to close Ysgol Esgob Morgan on 31 August 2015 and to open Ysgol Esgob Morgan VC (a voluntary controlled school with a religious character) on 1 September 2015.

We would like to hear your views regarding the proposals. You can let us have your views in the following ways:

- If you are accessing this form online then please click **here [insert hyperlink]** to complete the online survey;
- If you have a hard copy of the response form please complete and return it to **Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN;**
- Visit our website at www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation and follow the survey link via the current consultations link;
- Alternatively you can complete this form, scan and email it to us at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk; or
- If you do not have access to a scanner, simply send an email to the address provided above with your responses, using the same numbering as set out below.

Please let us have your responses by **no later than 21 October 2014**. If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response please provide your email address in the box for question 9 below.

1. Are you in favour of the Proposals?

(Please tick one box)

Yes	
No	

2. Please tell us whether you are responding as a:

Pupil of Ysgol Esgob Morgan	Parent of pupil of Ysgol Esgob Morgan	Staff Member of Ysgol Esgob Morgan	Community Member	Other

If other, please describe below.

Other:

3. With which school are you most closely associated?

Ysgol Esgob Morgan	
Other	

If other, please say which one below.

Other:

4. Please tell us if any of the following have had an influence on your view of the Proposals

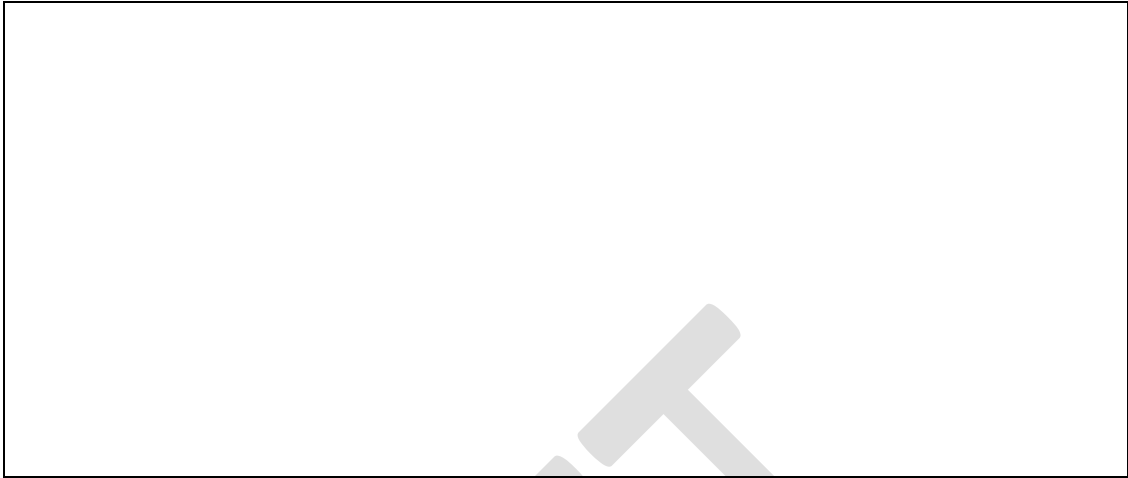
Change from Community School to a Faith School	
Impact on Education	
Other	

If other, please say what below. Also, if you would like to explain your response, please use the box below.

Other:

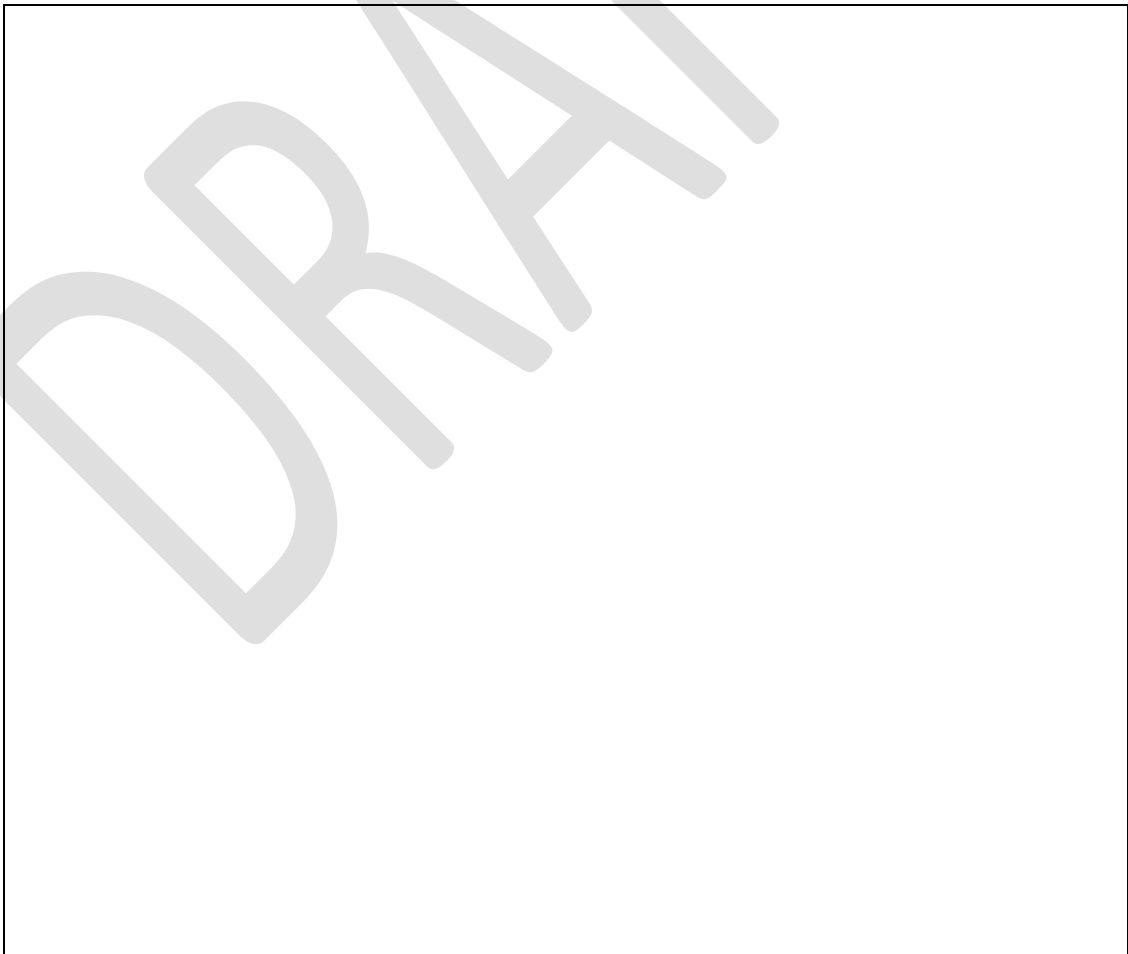
(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

5. Please let us have any comments, positive or negative, that you would like to make about the Proposals.



(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

6. If the Proposals are implemented would you send your child/children to Ysgol Esgob Morgan Junior School (Voluntary Controlled School having a religious character) or would you choose another school? If you would choose another school, which one and why?



(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

7. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following:

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) is seeking your views to help inform the decision on the current proposal. The information you have provided will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge receipt of your response personally.

With your permission, responses will be reproduced- containing no personal data such as names and addresses- in reports within DCC and the Diocese and on DCC's and the Diocese' website

[Denbighshire County Council/The Anglican Diocese of St. Asaph] is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal information will be processed in accordance with that Act and is being collected for the purposes stated above only, and will not be shared with any other party. Should you have any queries regarding this, please contact [*name of person responsible for collating data*].

Do you consent to your response being used in the manner set out above?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Would you like us to acknowledge receipt of your response?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Would you like to receive an email link to the consultation report when it is published on DCC's website?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. If you have answered yes to either or both of the previous two questions, please provide your email address, or if you don't have access to email, your postal address below.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

DRAFT