Appendix 2 - Draft Consultation Report

# Consultation Report

**Relating to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.**

May 2015

Draft 2.1
07.05.2015

**Contents**



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**Foreword- Reviewing Our Schools**

**Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to periodically review our schools to make sure that we are providing the best education for our pupils, so that they can achieve their full potential. We need to review our school provision to ensure;**

- ***Make sure our education provision is of high quality, and is sustainable in the long term;***
- ***Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities;***
- ***Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.***

**In Denbighshire we are carrying out a series of areas reviews. This means we are looking at groups of schools in areas of the County to see if we can improve the delivery of education in each area. This could include closing or merging schools, or opening new schools. We review schools on an area by area basis to make sure that when we make changes to school organisation, we take into account any potential impact on other schools nearby.**

**The Ruthin area review of primary educational provision began in 2013. The Ruthin area included 11 schools, challenges facing primary educational provision in the Ruthin area include;**

- ***Surplus places;***
- ***Condition and suitability of school sites and facilities;***
- ***Provision of mobile classrooms;***
- ***School estate efficiency and sustainability.***

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires us to publish a consultation report. In this document we have to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by people we speak to and who write to us;
- Show our response to those issues; and
- Set out Estyn's view of the overall merits of what we are considering.

1.2. This report should be considered by decision makers prior to determining any proposal.

## 2. The Proposal and Consultation

2.1. The draft consultation document was presented to a meeting of DCC's Cabinet of Elected Members on 13 January. At that meeting DCC's Cabinet said that a public consultation (the **Consultation**) could be carried out on the proposal:

*"To close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new schools buildings"*

2.2. The Consultation took place from 10 February to 23 March 2015.

2.3. We began the Consultation by sending the final Consultation Document to 607 stakeholders. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix A**.

2.4. We published the Consultation Document on DCC's website on the 10th of February 2015. We wrote a special version of the Consultation Document, aimed at primary school children, and published it on our website. You can see both versions of the Consultation Document in the Closed Consultation section of the DCC website; just click on the Ysgol Rhewl proposal area.

2.5. Hardcopies of the consultation document were sent to the parents of pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School. Hardcopies were delivered to the 3 schools for members of staff (teaching, ancillary and any associated wrap-around-care/playgroup staff) and the Governing Body.

2.6. To help and encourage people to give us their views, we produced a response document (**Standard Response Form**). This formed part of the Consultation Document and, so, was also published on our websites. The children's version of the Consultation Document contained a more straightforward response form. The Standard Response Form was converted into an online survey; links to the survey was also published on our websites.

2.7. All other consultees received an email with the link directing them to the formal consultation document and supplementary documents on the first day of the consultation.

2.8. We published the above documents in Welsh and English.

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## 3. Meetings

3.1. We held consultation meetings with the governors, teachers & support staff, parents and the School Council of Ysgol Rhewl.

**Governors and teachers & support staff**

3.2. Officers from DCC's Modernising Education and School Effectiveness Teams attended these meetings. Our team informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the Proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.

3.3. You can read a summary of the points raised at these meetings and the responses given at the time in **Appendix B**.

**Parents**

3.4. The parents' meetings took place in Ysgol Rhewl. Each parent received a letter containing the date, time, location and format of the meeting.

3.5. The parent's consultation meeting was held in the 'parents evening' format, parents were able to reserve a 15 minute appointment with representatives from both the Modernising Education Team and the School Improvement Team. The reason for holding the sessions in this format was to allow for parents to meet with representatives on an individual basis to raise issues pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.

During the informal consultation process parents meetings were in the 'traditional' format of a public meeting, however many individuals approached representatives regarding views and concerns they felt they could not address in a public meeting.

3.6. The stakeholders asked questions and made comments on the Proposal. You can read a summary of the points raised at this meeting, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B**.

**School Council**

3.7. Consultation events were also arranged with the school pupils of both Ysgol Rhewl and Rhos Street School. The events were facilitated by the 14-19 Network Development Officer whose role included engaging and consulting with Denbighshire's school pupils across both sectors. A member of the Modernising Education Team was also present at the School Council meetings.

3.8. Prior to the School Council events the Governing Body of Ysgol Pen Barras contacted the authority stating that it had refused permission for their pupils to take part in a consultation event.

3.9. The findings of the School Council meeting are set out in **Appendix C**.

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## 4. Consultation Response

4.1. In total 112 written responses were received during the consultation stage which included a response from Estyn. The majority (76%) of people responding were more closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl than with any other school. Details of respondent types are in Appendix F.

4.2. The table below shows the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

| Method of contact | Number of contacts received |
|---|---|
| Standard Response Forms | 93 |
| Children & Young Person's Response Forms | 0 |
| Letters and Emails | 19 |
| Total number of contacts | 112 |

4.3. The breakdown of the response types is set out below:

| No | Response Type | Ysgol Rhewl (actual / %) | | Other (actual / %) | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Letters and Emails | 18 | 95% | 1 | 5% | 19 |
| 2. | Response Form | 67 | 74% | 26 | 26% | 93 |
| Totals | | 85 | 76% | 27 | 24% | 112 |

4.4. An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

| Rank | Issue | Description | Frequency of issue raised |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Glasdir Development | Concerns raised about Air Pollution, Capacity, Access, Timescale, Feasibility, Flooding, Planning Permission, Negative effect of moving Rhos Street School, Safe route to school, Traffic Congestion, Walking to school, Encouraging car use. | 74 out of 112 |
| **2.** | Language | Important to retain parental choice, Ysgol Rhewl is a bilingual school not dual stream, No alternative bilingual provision, Negative effect on Welsh language, Effects on progression to secondary education, Unable to choose either Welsh medium or English medium education. Ysgol Rhewl offers dual stream provision. | 61 out of 112 |
| **3.** | Strengths of Ysgol Rhewl | Good facilities at Ysgol Rhewl, School has access to a playing field, Strong additional learning needs support, Ethos, High Education Standards, Staff | 60 out of 112 |
| **4.** | Community | School is part of the community; Small school creates a sense of belonging in a community. Parents choose a small rural school because of its | 37 out of 112 |

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| | | benefit to their children. The village of Rhewl needs a school; Closing school will lower house prices and land values. | |
| **5.** | Consultation Process | Have correct procedures been followed? Consultation period is not long enough; Dissatisfied with consultation meetings; | 21 out of 112 |
| **6.** | Housing Development | Available building plots in Rhewl, Local Development Plan, Grwp Cynefin have purchased land for development in the village. | 20 out of 112 |
| **7** | Classroom structure | Pupil teacher ratios are better in Ysgol Rhewl. Mixed age classes offer many advantages. Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum. Proposal would at least maintain educational standards. | 14 out of 112 |
| **8.** | Comments agreeing with the proposal | Supportive; Proposer has provided a clear rationale, shown how surplus places will be affected, provided clear evidence | 13 out of 112 |
| **9.** | Consultation Document | There are inaccuracies in the consultation document. We dispute your pupil number predictions. Children's consultation document is misleading. We don't agree with the proposal. | 11 out of 112 |
| **10.** | Condition of the Building | The figure to maintain the building is debatable. Costs demonstrate poor spending priorities. | 11 out of 112 |
| **11.** | Effect on pupils | Such a big reorganisation is damaging for pupils. The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised. Children's education will suffer by moving to a larger school. | 9 out of 112 |
| **12.** | Alternative Proposal | Other schools should be considered. New school / refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl is a better option. Have you considered alternative use of surplus space. | 9 out of 112 |
| **13.** | Childcare | Ysgol Rhewl offers excellent wrap around care, it has an extensive breakfast club and various after school activities. | 5 out of 112 |

4.5. The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in Appendix E.

## 5. Response forms and correspondence

5.1. The Standard Response Form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the Proposal;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to the school;
- what influenced their views on the Proposal and any negative or positive comments they had;
- whether or not they would send their child(ren) to the proposed alternative schools if the proposal was implemented; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2. A summary of the responses to the Standard Response Form is set out in **Appendix D**.

5.3. On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were linked most closely with Ysgol Rhewl or another school. We also received letters and email from people telling us their view; some of those people indicated whether or not they were linked with Rhewl. Details of the respondent are set out in **Appendix F**.

5.4. Examples of the types of points raised by all respondents to the Consultation, together with the Promoters' response are set out in **Appendix E**.

## 6. Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the Proposals and the Promoters' response to them are set out below. The full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G.**

| Estyn Comment | Promoters' Response |
|---|---|
| The proposal would at least maintain educational Standards | Agreed |
| The proposer has provided a clear rationale. | Agreed |
| The proposer has provided clear evidence to show it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reason for their preferred option. | Agreed |
| The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified | Agreed |

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| alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places. | |
| The proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl. | Agreed |
| Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections. It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. This assertion is reasonable. | Agreed |
| Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option foroption for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl). | Agreed |
| Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group. | Agreed |
| Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the | Agreed |

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| recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. | |
| No equality impact assessment has been provided. | The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was sent to the Cabinet of elected members in January 2015. Cabinet considered the EIA when making the decision to consult on the Proposals. The EIA has been updated following the consultation and a revised version will be sent to the Cabinet together with this Consultation Report.<br><br>The EIA is published on DCC's website as part of the committee papers for Cabinet. |
| The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised. | If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for some pupils. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption between the date of the decision to close and the actual closure date which may be 18 months apart. During this time the Council will work with the school to ensure stability and at the appropriate time plan transition arrangements. The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change. |

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# APPENDIX A

## Consultation Document Recipient List

| No | Stakeholder | Number of recipients |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Parents of pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School | **337** |
| 2. | Teachers at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School | **21** |
| 3. | Support staff at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School | **39** |
| 4. | Governors and the School Council of the following schools:<br>i Ysgol Rhewl<br>ii Ysgol Pen Barras<br>iii Rhos Street School<br>iv Ysgol Borthyn<br>v Ysgol Carreg Emlyn<br>vi Ysgol Gellifor<br>vii Ysgol Llanbedr<br>viii Ysgol Llanfair DC<br>viiii Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch | **18** |
| 5. | The Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph | **1** |
| 6. | Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham | **1** |
| 7. | Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools in Denbighshire (A separate email was sent to Heads of the 9 above schools asking them to circulate children's' version to the school council) | **112** |
| 8. | Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships | **2** |
| 9. | All Denbighshire County Councillors* | **47** |
| 10. | Local and regional Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the Proposal | **8** |
| 11. | Llanynys Community Council<br>Ruthin Town Council | **2** |
| 12. | The Welsh Ministers | **2** |
| 13. | Estyn | **1** |

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| 14. | Relevant teaching and support staff Trade Unions | **8** |
| 15. | Taith | **3** |
| 16. | North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service – Consortium GWE | **1** |
| 17. | North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner | **1** |
| 18. | Flintshire County Council / Conwy County Council | **3** |
| 19. | Ysgol Brynhyfryd | **2** |
| 20. | Childcare Providers / Day Nursery | **3** |
| | Total | **612** |

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# APPENDIX B

## Summary of issues raised in meetings

**Teachers' and support staff meeting**

| No | Issue Raised | Response |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | How would pupils of Ysgol Rhewl travel to the new schools? | Transport would be given in line with DCC's transport policy which provides free home to school transport for primary pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest appropriate school or live on a hazardous route. |
| 2. | How much information from the school will be included within the formal consultation report? | All Cabinet members receive hardcopies of every submitted response. The responses are collated and analysed within the formal consultation report alongside clarification or a response from the LA. Cabinet members have sight of all the responses not just the summarised report. |
| 3. | Numbers (of pupils) have been growing at the school but now projected to go down- why is this? There are houses being built in the village as part of the LDP- these are family houses so it is likely they will have children that would come to the school. | It is important you include this type of information within your formal consultation response- it is also important that it is evidence based. We have included the LDP within the consultation document and the projected numbers of pupils the homes are likely to generate- this is not an exact science but is a tried and tested method. There is also parental preference for language and faith. |
| 4. | The data used within the consultation document is not necessarily representative as we have small cohorts and one pupil can impact significantly on the outcomes. School values not just the data. | This has been acknowledged and has been clear within the document that in instances were schools have small cohorts comparisons should be treated with caution. |
| 5. | With the pupil projections how are these worked out? | We use historical data, the current numbers of pupils within the system, live birth rates and the local development plan. |
| 6. | Your saying that the new schools on Glasdir would impact on the sustainability of our school (Ysgol Rhewl) and that is a reason why this is being proposed but Ysgol Borthyn is even closer so won't it impact on them? Has this been looked at? | Yes we have worked with Ysgol Borthyn. Cabinet have decided to retain Ysgol Borthyn so that English medium faith based primary provision is retained within the town. Ysgol Borthyn has strong numbers. We would not build in more capacity than what is needed at the new |

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| | | site to the detriment of another school. |
| 7. | Will the new school even be ready for September 2017? What happens if the school is not ready or delayed? | This is the planned programme. The proposal is being brought forward now so that these types of issues can be addressed. If the school is not ready we will not transfer pupils to the existing Rhos Street / Pen Barras shared site. |
| 8. | Concerns raised by staff on the whole regarding the Welsh Government requirement to consult with the pupils regarding the school closure. | Explained it was part of the School Organisation Code. |

**Governors' meeting**

| No | Issue Raised | Response |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | How are feasibility costs calculated? | The costs are of an estimate of work required to bring the school to a modern fit for purpose standard. We will send a breakdown of the detail to the Chair of Governors. |
| 2. | Why haven't we had an opportunity to engage earlier than now? There are other alternatives | The consultation is the opportunity for you to engage and discuss alternatives. |
| 3. | This proposal represents closing a rural school and moving pupils in to a town. Village of Rhewl is growing with new family homes being built and more children. | Members support sustaining a mix of town and rural schools. We need to ensure our schools are of the right size and in the right place. We have to consider where parents live when formulating proposals. We will build the capacity required in the replacement schools on Glasdir. |
| 4. | Effect on Ysgol Borthyn due to close proximity. | There is an impact on the area of Ruthin from changes. That is why we are undertaking an area review. |
| 5. | Bilingual Education is an important factor for parents – They want to retain their current curriculum offer. | Noted. |
| 6. | Parents may not be able to travel to an alternative school. Who pays for this? How will they get there? | Transport is provided in line with DCC policy. |
| 7. | How are pupil forecasts calculated? | Projections are evidence based and include LDP data. |
| 8. | If Glasdir doesn't go ahead would Ysgol Rhewl still close? | The proposal would not be brought forward. |
| 9. | Have you obtained land valuations? | Yes |

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**Parents' meeting**

| No | Issue Raised | Response |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | I am concerned about the bi-lingual issue. There will be an English/Welsh divide in the new schools on the Glasdir site. | We will look at the outcomes at Ysgol Rhewl and other schools to see what we expect of Category 1 and Category 2 schools – our focus will be on the outcomes rather than the category. Please put your concerns in your consultation response if you've not already – you can always submit another one saying it's further to the previous one. |
| 2. | Is this the end of small village schools? I'm not sure that that's the way forward. | Members are saying there should be a mixture of schools. We can't, though, sustain all small schools. |
| 3. | Have you decided the building is not fit for purpose? | It's not fit for purpose. It would need investment. We want our school buildings to be fit for purpose and capable of delivering the curriculum. |
| 4. | If elected members decide to close the school, will it be left empty? | First we see whether DCC have a use for the building, if not then look into whether the community have a viable use for it and if not it would be sold off and the proceeds used to fund DCC's priorities. It's about making the best use of our resources. |
| 5. | Will children who are at Ysgol Rhewl be given places at other schools? | We will discuss admission arrangements with parents at the appropriate time. |
| 6. | Will transport be provided? | Only if it's the nearest appropriate school. If you by-pass the nearest appropriate school, then no. Transport would be in line with the DCC transport policy. |
| 7. | You are reviewing all of Denbighshire? | We've reviewed Prestatyn, Edeyrnion, Llangollen and Ruthin. We will do Denbigh, Rhyl, north of A55 and south of A55.<br>We are looking to build capacity to where the demand is. This is county and Wales wide. |
| 8. | The new school does not have bi-lingual provision. | Rhos Street will be Category 5 English / Pen Barras will be Category 1 Welsh |
| 9. | The Glasdir site is on the flood plain. Denbighshire haven't done a good job with the flood defences. More houses are being built: more houses means more water | If it goes ahead we will consult with the Natural Resources Wales, we'll have to go through planning. |
| 10. | Why do you have to reduce surplus places? | We have more places that we have children. The Minister has directed us to reduce surplus places. We have to close some schools to do |

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| | | this. |
| 11. | How can you have too many places and not enough children? | We have more schools than we need.<br>We need to move the provision to where the demand is located.<br>The proposal is to close Ysgol Rhewl. The Officers make the proposal but it is the elected members who make the decision. |
| 12. | I feel that if it went ahead the new school would be too big. I looked at Rhos street for my child but it was too big. Ysgol Rhewl suits him. | Put this in your consultation response. The elected members will look at this. |
| 13. | I couldn't imagine my young child at a school with 400 children. How big would the new school be? | On current numbers it would be 200 if everyone went to it. We do have bigger schools. |
| 14. | Where have the renovations figures come from? The costs for Ysgol Rhewl are wrong- we want an independent valuation of the costs and a breakdown of how they were reached. | Every school has a condition survey carried out by an independent surveyor. The lower figure is the general maintenance figure and the higher one required to bring the school building up to 21st Century standards; This would result in a major refurbishment. |
| 15. | We've already seen what's happened at Llanbedr and it's very upsetting. You were told not to close it and a week later you are doing it again. | You should read the letter from the Welsh Minister because that sets out why Ysgol Llanbedr should be closed – we fell down on a technicality. We got the consultation document wrong. |
| 16. | Where can we find the letter? | It's on the Welsh Government website. |
| 17. | The predicted pupil figures are wrong. The number of children in nursery is wrong. | Those figures are taken form the PLASC information – provided by the school and checked by the governing body. We'll check and if they are wrong, we'll tell cabinet the right information. We'll ask the governing body to update the PLASC details.<br>Let your governing body know your views. |
| 18. | What about the impact on the village – house prices? | We carry out a community and language impact assessment. |
| 19. | Ysgol Rhewl is a bilingual school- the document terminology says 'dual stream' we have objected to the use of the terminology. | We will note this. There is a national categorisation system for schools in Wales which provides criteria based on the use of the Welsh language as a medium of teaching- Ysgol Rhewl is a Category 2 school which described as 'dual-stream'. |
| 20. | Ysgol Rhewl was given an amber classification- this is unfair and will be challenged. There is 4 years of data missing from that. | We will be meeting with the Chair of Governors regarding the issue. |
| 21. | The document says 61% of pupils travel to Ysgol Rhewl - people travel because it is a | Noted. |

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| | good school and it is bilingual. | |
| 22. | There are new houses being built in the village - family houses with children to come to this school. | Noted. |
| 23. | There is no one size fits all education we are strongly opposed to this proposal. | Noted. |
| 24. | If the new schools are not built by 2017 what happens if the school closes? Where do the pupils go? | We would not close the school and send current pupils to the existing Rhos street / Pen Barras site. |
| 25. | Rhewl provides excellent facilities and support for pupils with SEN - no other school in the area could provide this type of provision. Moving children to other schools is disruptive especially for pupils with SEN. The school offers a bilingual education - the proposal does not offer a middle ground just English or Welsh. | Issues like these need to be included within your consultation response.<br>If the proposal went ahead the right support would be given to SEN pupils to help them. |
| 26. | The school has been invited to Downing St last week as the best performing school in Denbighshire. | We are not saying standards are a problem - we have to at least maintain the level of education. Standards and outcomes are good across the Ruthin area. |
| 27. | Can we put forward other suggestions instead of the closure? Things we feel have not been considered? | Absolutely - it will all be fed back to the elected members and they will look at the information received. |
| 28. | What happens with staff? Move to the new school? | We have met with staff and HR support has been made available to them. If the proposal was implemented we would speak to each member of staff individually. |
| 29. | I would like it noted that another factor is that wrap-around-care is available which helps working parents. | We will note that. |
| 30. | I know some parents have not attended tonight because of the format of the meeting (1-2-1). Parents would have felt better if it was a public meeting to get their points across. | We will note this feedback. |
| 31. | Talking about sustainability - saying it is not sustainable but yet you have looked at expansion for Ysgol Rhewl and costed it then saying not sustainable and numbers are dropping. | We must assess every option. |
| 32. | We currently walk to school so that would be an added cost for parents. | Noted. |
| 33. | They have built super schools in Wrexham - they are in special measures now. Not best for all pupils. | We are not proposing a super school; it is a replacement of school buildings. A good standard of education is provided in the area - we must maintain it. |

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| 34. | Environmental concerns in the area: There is a wood plant nearby which deposits 'white dust' on cars. Concerns of locating a school near industrial zone. | Noted. |
| 35. | Environment of Ysgol Rhewl does not compare to larger schools. It is familiar, warm and nurturing. You only get that with these character buildings and mixed age classes. | Noted. |
| 36. | Justification for the move based wholly on the premise that the education services will provide an on time and on budget new school - No track record of ever doing so. | The Council has delivered a number of projects in recent years on time and within the agreed budget. |

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# APPENDIX C

## School Council Findings

**Ysgol Rhewl consultation – School Council Meeting 11 March 2015.**

**Attendees**

6 School Council Representatives (Ysgol Rhewl), Learning Support Assistant (Ysgol Rhewl), Education Officer (DCC), Learner Voice Champion (DCC).

**Purpose**

The purpose of this consultation was for the Learner Voice Champion (LVC) to speak with the children in Ysgol Rhewl with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like DCC to hear.

**Looking through the consultation document**

The LVC went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the decision.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the LVC went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.


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**Hopes and Fears**

This exercise was carried out to help the LVC receive any comments which the children may not want to say in front of their peers, teachers and official members of the LA. It had been explained that this helps them to be anonymous and they will not be shown to anyone except for the LVC when the report is typed up.

| Hopes | Fears |
|---|---|
| I don't want the school to close down as we have 60 something children and if we had 20 something then yes you could shut us down but you can't when we have 63 children or more. | Don't close our school. Nobody agrees with this. |
| I want this school to stay open so DON'T CLOSE OUR SCHOOL! | I will be heartbroken if you close our schools because all of my friends in younger years will have to move schools. |
| I love Ysgol Rhewl | I won't be able to see my mates anymore because I won't know anybody there. |
| I hope if we have to move even though I don't want to there will be help for my brother. | I would not want this school to close down because we have the little ones that have just got to know the teachers and pupils and it would be a shame to see them have to get used to a different school. |
| I hope that we can stay open because it would not be the same without the teachers and my friends if I go to another school I know that there will be nice teachers in the new school. | I fear that I won't know all the teachers and I'll be a bit scared. Really don't want to move to another school. |
| I hope we don't have to move school. | There won't be any special help for reading so we won't be able to read or write. |
| I hope that the school stays open because if we had a new school we would have to choose English or Welsh and I don't want to choose. | I am scared and I might cry because this school is original and we have improved over the course of 10 years we have had over 10 new pupils over the last year so please don't close our school. |
| I love how it is a small school because that way I know everyone and to get to see my friends every day. I just would be heartbroken if the school closed. | I would be a bit worried because it would be different for the school. New teachers, New School and either Welsh or English and I don't want to choose. I don't want any changes because I love the school the way it is. I also don't want it to be a big school because I like how Ysgol Rhewl is a bit small because I get to always see everyone and play with my friends every day. I Love Ysgol Rhewl. |
| | I wouldn't like it because I or my family wouldn't know the teachers so they probably move me to a different school, not the big one. |
| | There will not be space for all children in the new school. |

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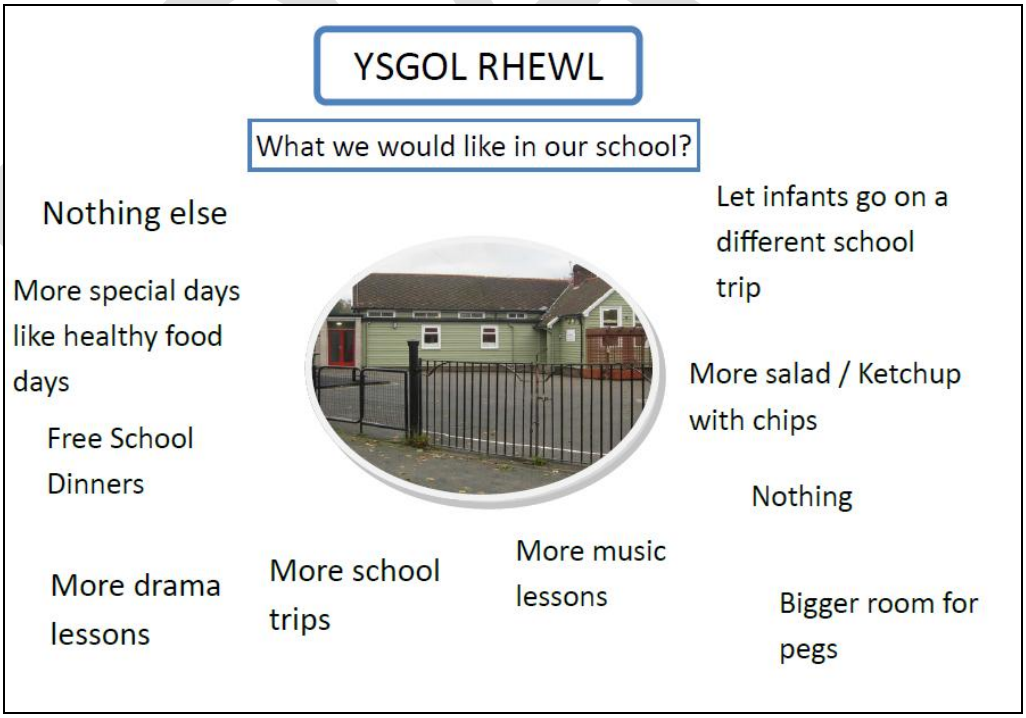
**What we like about our school / what we would like in our school?**

This exercise was carried out to help the pupils explain what they liked about their school and what they would like in their school. The LVC explained that they could write what they feel.

**Rhos Street School – School Council Meeting 20 March 2015.**

**Attendees**

School Council Representatives (Rhos Street School), Teacher (Rhos Street School), Education Officer (DCC), Learner Voice Champion (DCC).

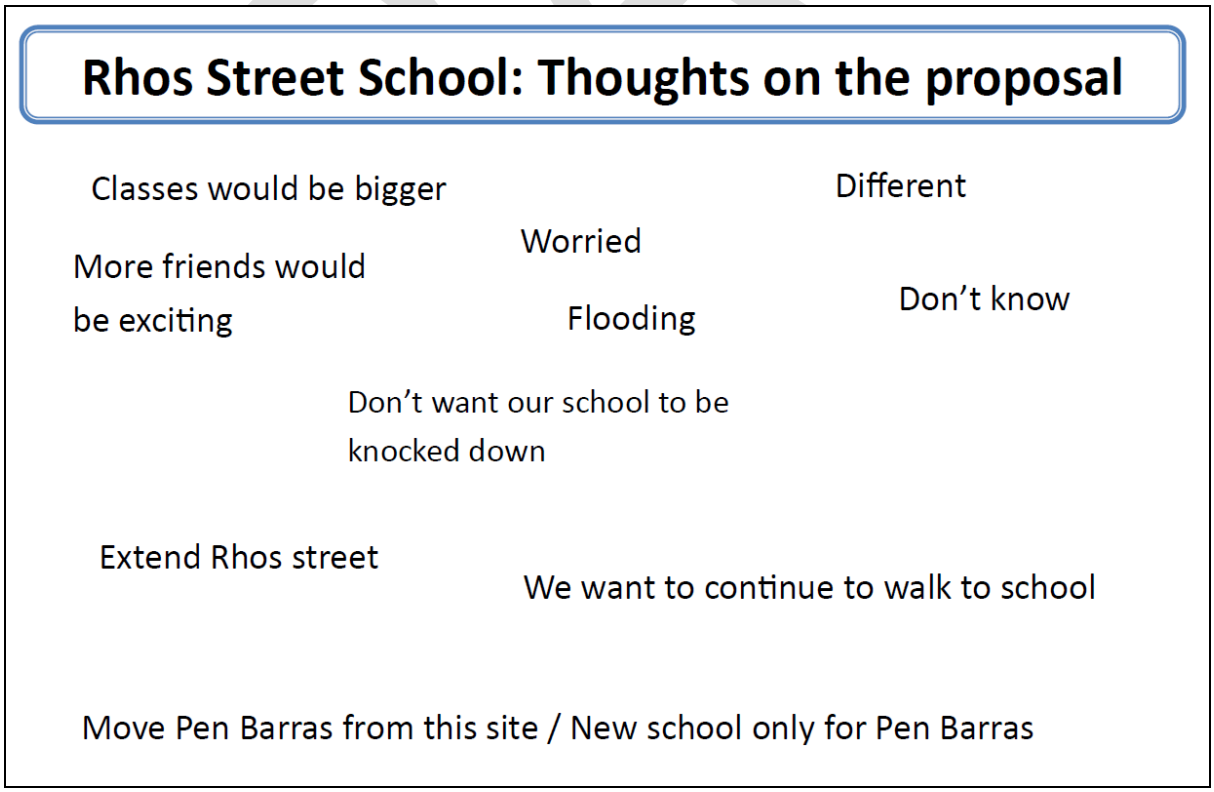
**Purpose**

The purpose of this consultation meeting was for the Learner Voice Champion (LVC) to speak with the children in Rhos Street School with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like DCC to hear.

**Looking through the consultation document**

The LVC went through the document with the school council representatives and explained that were meeting with Rhos Street School pupils as their school was named in the document as an alternative school for pupils in Ysgol Rhewl.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the LVC went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

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**What we like about our school / what we would like in our school?**

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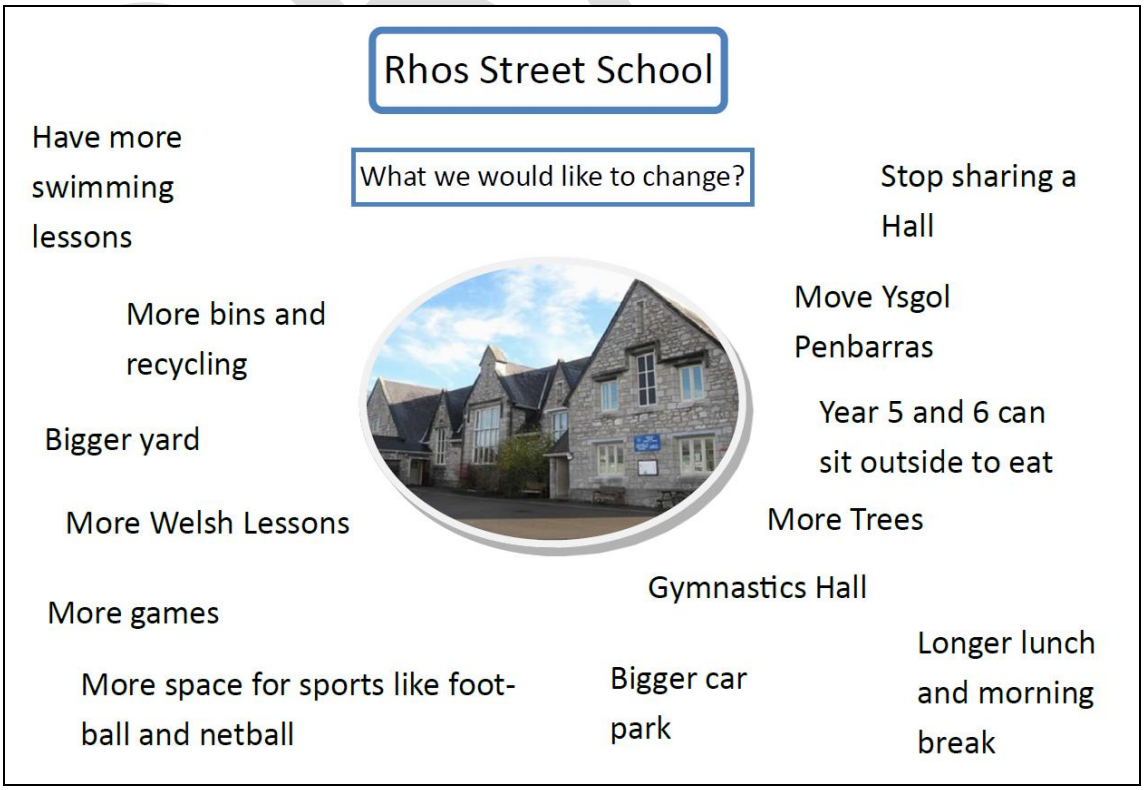

## APPENDIX D
## Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

**Question 1** Are you in favour of the Proposals?

| | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Yes** | 15 | 16% |
| **No** | 78 | 84% |
| | **93** | |

**Question 2:** Please tell us whether you are responding as a:

| Type | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Pupil** | 2 | 2% |
| **Parent of a pupil** | 40 | 41% |
| **Staff Member** | 2 | 2% |
| **Community Member** | 7 | 7% |
| **Governor** | 32 | 33% |
| **Skipped Question** | 15 | 15% |
| | **98*** | |

***** Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

**Comment:** The majority of respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils) were against the proposal.

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**Question 3:** With which school are you most closely associated?

| Type | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Ysgol Rhewl** | 67 | 72% |
| **Rhos Street School** | 8 | 9% |
| **Ysgol Pen Barras** | 16 | 17% |
| **None/skipped question** | 2 | 2% |
| | **93** | |

**Comment:** Of the 67 respondents who identified themselves as being "most closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl", 35 were directly associated (e.g. teacher, governor, parent, pupil) with Ysgol Rhewl and of those 35, all were against the proposals.

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

| Type | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **The impact on educational provision** | 54 | 53% |
| **Impact on the community** | 34 | 33% |
| **Other** | 14 | 14% |
| | **102*** | |
| **Issues raised under "Other" heading (respondents could detail more than one "other")** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| **Other: Impact on choice of bilingual education.** | 6 | 38% |
| **Other: Impact on children** | 1 | 6% |
| **Other: Impact on both educational provision and community** | 4 | 25% |
| **Other: Rhewl needs a school** | 1 | 6% |
| **Other: Difficult to commute to Ruthin** | 2 | 13% |
| **Other: Don't know enough about the Glasdir development to make an informed decision.** | 1 | 6% |
| **Other: There is no space to expand in Ruthin to accommodate pupils from Rhewl.** | 1 | 6% |
| | **16*** | |

***** Respondents were able to state more than one reason. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

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Comment: The majority of people who responded said that the impact on educational provision was the main issue which affected their view on the Proposal.

**Question 5: If the current proposal was implemented would you send your child/children to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, or would you choose an alternative provision?**?

| Type | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Rhos Street School** | 9 | 11.5% |
| **Ysgol Pen Barras** | 13 | 16.7% |
| **Alternative provision** | 48 | 61.5% |
| **Skipped question, N/A or unsure** | 8 | 10.3% |
| | 78 | |

**Comment:** Of the 48 respondents who indicated they would choose another school, 22 were a parent of a pupil at Ysgol Rhewl and all but one were most closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl.

**Question 6:** Please let us have any comments, positive or negative, that you would like to make about the Proposals:

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in Appendix E.

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# APPENDIX E

## Summary of Issues and Responses

**Community**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Closing the school would be a loss to the Community. Closing the school will damage the community lowering house prices and land value within Rhewl. | Concerns noted and the Council work with the schools and the community to mitigate this where possible. |
| We chose to send our children to a small village school where we live. It's important to us to attend a small village school where they could feel they belong in a small community. Being a pupil in a small school is good for children's health and wellbeing. | Elected members support retaining a mix of rural and town schools in the Ruthin area, but we cannot retain every school. |

**Strengths of Ysgol Rhewl**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Good facilities in the school including kitchen, new toilets, 3 yards including provision for vulnerable children, laptops, interactive whiteboards and a school garden. Curriculum can be taught.<br>Parking is available for the school to use nearby. Ysgol Rhewl also currently provides 'break out' areas to allow for smaller groups of pupils who require extra support and for more able and talented.<br>Little needs to be done to the school buildings. | The current gross area of the building meets the current standards required in Building Bulletin 99 for a school of its size (82 FT capacity). The existing facilities at Ysgol Rhewl allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement. PE provision on site is limited with some use of the dining area and no level access or access to a disabled WC. There is no on site car parking and no footway leading to the school.<br>The current maintenance backlog is £129,182 and refurbishment work to bring the school site up to a 21st century schools standard has been estimated at £541,696.<br>The existing site would not allow for future expansion as it does not meet the required Building Bulletin 99 size recommendation. Any extension of the existing building would impact on the available outdoor space. |
| There is a good sized playing field used regularly by the pupils a few 100m from the school site. | Noted. |
| **ALN** - Parents have chosen to travel from further afield to come to Ysgol Rhewl because of the ALN support. The school has experience and expertise working with pupils with Additional Learning Needs. | If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for pupils with special educational needs. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.<br>The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change. |
| **Education Provision and Ethos -** Ysgol Rhewl provides a safe, happy, caring, | Noted. Both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras also have good standards. |

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| family, atmosphere / environment. They nurture our children to progress. Our children have had an excellent education. Best school in the area. Excellent school. Excellent Estyn reports. | |
| **Staff** - The head teacher has the vision to take Rhewl forward. Staff are trained to a high level. | Noted. |
| **Education Standards** - We challenge the Amber classification. The standards in Ysgol Rhewl are very high. Good inspection report. There are no significant shortcomings in Ysgol Rhewl, although implicitly this is implied wrongly throughout the consultation document. Proposal does not provide a strong enough educational argument to propose closure. | The Amber classification included in the document is consistent with the classification published on the Welsh Government website – my local school.<br><br>Denbighshire County Council is aware that the Governors do not agree with the classification. |

**Language**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Welsh language Impact assessment -** Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl). | Noted. |
| **Parental Choice / Difficult to choose a language provision / No alternative** –<br><br>• Impossible to choose between the two schools on offer. Ysgol Pen Barras is insular in its development of the Welsh language and is not a bilingual approach therefore parents who wish their children to be taught in both Welsh and English will lose access to their desired educational provision.<br><br>• Given that the school is formally classified as bilingual, and also that the parents and pupils have clearly stated that this is the level and type of | Ysgol Rhewl is currently classified as a dual stream primary school. The language categories are set by Welsh Government and there is not a primary age bilingual language category. Therefore Ysgol Rhewl is not formally classified as bilingual.<br><br>In a dual stream school the expected outcomes for pupils in the Welsh stream, are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, outcomes are as for Category 5. Ysgol Pen Barras is a Category 1 school; Rhos Street school is a Category 5 school. Should the proposal be implemented, parents can express a preference for their children to attend alternative provision in the Ruthin area. Details have been included in the formal consultation document.<br><br>Denbighshire County Council has committed to retain a mix of rural and town schools in Ruthin area to retain choice for |

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| educational provision that they require, it is essential that proposals for any form of change ensure that the alternatives are at least at the same level as is currently available.<br>• We have a choice of where to send our children. We have not been given a fair choice for our children. | parents. |
| **Bilingualism**<br>• We chose to send our children to bilingual school where we believe our children are getting a very good standard of Welsh.<br>• A bilingual education in Ysgol Rhewl provides our children with the opportunity to learn curriculum content in and through two languages (Welsh and English) in a balanced way. Proposal hasn't considered bilingual offer.<br>• There is an extensive use of Welsh at Ysgol Rhewl.<br>• We offer dual stream provision.<br>• How does proposing to close Ysgol Rhewl, a bilingual school, adhere to these strategic aims? How does the proposal safeguard bilingual provision?<br>• The figures for pupils entering a bilingual stream of education which is significant are not identified. We anticipate that in the near future more pupils will enter the Welsh medium classes in Ysgol Brynhyfryd. | In Denbighshire's schools all children have the opportunity to learn through the medium of Welsh or English. Bilingualism is introduced as early as possible. Welsh is part of the National Curriculum, and is taught both as a first and second language, depending on the school.<br>Ysgol Rhewl is currently identified as Category 2 (Dual Stream School). The normal expected outcomes for pupils in the Welsh stream are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for Category 5.<br>Most pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl are taught Welsh as a 2nd language (Normal expectation for a category 4 or 5 School). No pupils have been assessed as Welsh 1st language at the end of key stage 2 for the period 2010 -2014. The school has responded that it is anticipated that in 2015 two pupils will be assessed Welsh 1st Language.<br>Over the past three years, 13 pupils have transferred from Ysgol Rhewl to secondary provision at Ysgol Brynhyfryd. 12 pupils have transferred to the English medium stream, and one child to the 'N' Stream. This stream is considered to be suitable for pupils who have learnt Welsh as a second language and who, by the end of key stage 2, have a good understanding of the language. These are usually pupils transferring from category 2 and category 3 primary schools.<br>Pupils' competency and confidence in the Welsh language is assessed at the end of key stage 2 and advice provided on the most appropriate provision in terms of ensuring linguistic progression. The 'N' stream is for Welsh learners; it is not bilingual provision.<br>From September 2015, the N Stream is stopping in its present form. Pupils already in the 'N' stream will receive additional support so that they can successfully enter the Welsh 1st Language stream and will be assessed as 1st Language at the end of key stage 3 and at GCSE. There may be a few pupils who do not make the expected progress or because of parental preference will transfer to the English stream.<br>A report was presented to scrutiny in March 2015 which reported on the language categorisation of schools. Ysgol Rhewl was identified as one of four anomalies. Denbighshire County Council is of the opinion that Ysgol Rhewl's current provision is the equivalent of Category 4 – English Medium with significant use of Welsh. |
| **Negative Effect on Welsh Language** - Closing Ysgol Rhewl a bilingual school in | Objective 1.1 of Denbighshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is to increase the number of seven- |

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| Ruthin would damage the provision of education specifically regarding the standards in Welsh. The statistics shown do not account for a high level of ability in speaking Welsh as a second language. A Welsh government language policy states that the use of incidental Welsh is also very important in securing the future of the Welsh language not just educational outcomes. The removal of these places together with the removal of Welsh medium places from Ysgol Pentecelyn will actually hinder the delivery of these outcomes, and the indication is that the Council is not adhering to its own policy relating to the promotion of the Welsh language. | year-old children taught through the medium of Welsh to 29% by 2017. It is the opinion of the Council that implementing this proposal will not have a negative effect on the objective due to the close proximity of alternative provision.<br><br>The Council Welsh language scheme states that we provide all our services in Welsh and English. This proposal does not diminish the Councils adherence to this policy. |

**Effect on pupils**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Effect on pupils** - Such a big reorganisation is damaging for pupils. The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised. I feel the children's education will suffer by moving to a larger school | If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for some pupils. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.<br><br>The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change. |

**Condition of Building**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Condition** / **Cost of maintaining** – The figure to maintain the building is debatable and challenge the figures. We dispute costs. An independent surveyor should come and give a realistic figure. Sum seems awfully inflated for the B (Satisfactory) grade. Demonstrates very very poor spending priorities. Who are you getting your costings from? | Every school has a condition survey carried out by an independent surveyor. The general maintenance figure and the higher one required bringing the school building up to 21st Century standards; major refurbishment costs are based on standard industry estimates. |

**Housing Development**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Housing Developments** - There are currently two building plots available in Rhewl with planning permission to build 30 family homes. There are also 15 new homes being built in Llanrhaedr which is about 2 miles of Rhewl. Grwp Cynefin has bought the land where the old church stood for developing affordable homes. | The likely increase in housing was considered when the proposal was drafted. 30 dwellings have been allocated within Rhewl as part of the Local Development Plan, and an additional 4 dwellings have also been allocated for the wider Llanynys area. Based on the formula used to estimate the number of primary pupils generated by housing developments (0.24 x No. of dwellings) it would be expected that the 34 houses would generate an additional 8 pupils. Based on the current trend of |

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| | pupils within the area it would be reasonable to assume not all pupils would attend Ysgol Rhewl due to parental preference for differing provisions. |

**Classroom Structure**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Class Sizes / Pupil teacher ratio** - Small class sizes in Ysgol Rhewl is a positive factor for us. Large classes do not suit every child. Our pupil teacher ratios are low. Pupil teacher ratios for Ysgol Rhewl are better than the proposed alternative provision. | Class sizes at both alternative schools are significantly below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Class sizes will vary according to pupil numbers. The majority of funding for schools is derived according to pupil numbers. Should pupil numbers increase the pupil teacher ratio will increase up to a point when additional teaching staff can be funded. It is acknowledged in the consultation document that the current pupil teacher ratio for Ysgol Rhewl is marginally less than the proposed alternatives. |
| **Mix age group / Single age classes** - Working in a mixed age group and dealing with a broad range of abilities and interests is an effective way of developing these softer skills that cannot be as easily achieved in age appropriate class. Single age classes do not provide any advantages compared to mixed age classes. Mixed age classes offer many advantages compared to single age classes. The consultation document implicitly implies pupils at Ysgol Rhewl are taught in inappropriate mixed class structures. | The consultation document appropriately sets out the difference for pupils of Ysgol Rhewl if the proposal is implemented and they transfer to the proposed alternatives in Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School:<br><br>'Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. Should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras they would be taught in age appropriate class structures.<br><br>Mixed age grouping is most commonly found in 'small' primary schools because there are insufficient teachers to organise the range of year groups into single-year classes. This form of classroom organisation also occurs in larger primary schools when there is fluctuating or uneven enrolment. Schools of half form entry or one and half form entry inevitably have to form mixed age classes.<br><br>Mixed age classrooms offer opportunities but also challenges. Nationally the most common reason cited by Head teachers for not organising pupils into mixed age classes is that the school did not need to do so. |
| **Potential effect on class sizes** - Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and | Noted. |

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| Key Stage 2. | |

### Alternative Proposal

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **New Building / Refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl** One option should be to build a brand new school on the playingfield in Rhewl or refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl. £150k is a relatively small price to pay to keep open a high performing, bilingual school. Are you not proposing to build a new 91 pupil capacity school elsewhere? Surely this does not meet the required BB99 size recommendations for a standard 105 school. A different report states Ysgol Rhewl has adequate space to provide for extension or improvements. | • The option to build a new school has been considered and an appraisal is included in the formal consultation document.<br>• The new 91 pupil capacity school proposed would meet BB99 size recommendations and will designed to be able to expand to 105 capacity school if required in the future. The current site of Ysgol Rhewl cannot be expanded to accommodate a standard 105 capacity school.<br>• A feasibility study identified that the existing school could accommodate a small extension but it was noted that this would reduce space on the schools hard standing playground. |
| **Other Schools should be considered** - Borthyn school (which will be 500 meters from new schools) is unaffected. Surely logic would dictate that in order to serve the local community and reduce environmental impact, Rhos street should stay on present site and Borthyn school be moved the short distance to the new site. | On the 29th of July 2014 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet resolved to continue to maintain provision at Ysgol Borthyn so that English medium faith based primary provision is retained within the town. It is the Council's view that Ysgol Borthyn should remain on its current site. |
| **Alternative use of surplus space** - In one cabinet meeting councillors agreed to meet with schools to discuss alternative use of space to reduce surplus numbers. Has this been done for Ysgol Rhewl? | Alternative use of surplus space in schools is considered for all schools. The surplus space in Ysgol Rhewl cannot be freed for alternative use. |

### Childcare

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Ysgol Rhewl offers excellent wrap around care (Pili Pala), it has an extensive breakfast club and various after school activities. | Noted. Both Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street school have breakfast and after school clubs. |

### Consultation Process

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Have the correct procedures been followed to close a school? Is seems to be very rushed with the local Government wanting the school closed by July 2017. There are flaws in the document. The document implies information. The document doesn't provide a true understanding to a reasonable person. I do not think parents or the local | The consultation follows the process set out in the School Organisation Code 2013. The School Organisation Code is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The code provides guidance on the contents of the formal consultation document, the length of the consultation period (42 days) and the recipients of the document. |

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| community have been consulted regarding the closure of Ysgol Rhewl. Is it ok to close a school without listening to the views of parents and community members? Sending a hard copy to every parent is inefficient. | |
| **EQIA -** No equality impact assessment has been provided. | The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was sent to the Cabinet of elected members in January 2015. Cabinet considered the EIA when making the decision to consult on the Proposals. The EIA has been updated following the consultation and a revised version will be sent to the Cabinet together with this Consultation Report.<br><br>The EIA is published on DCC's website as part of the committee papers for Cabinet. |
| **Consultation with Parents** - Dissatisfaction with consultation with parents - Mass meeting would be better. Didn't have full 15mins. They weren't listening. Didn't get a straight answer. Farce. | The parent's consultation meeting was held in the 'parents evening' format. The reason for holding the sessions in this format was to allow for parents to meet with representatives on an individual basis to raise issues pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.<br><br>During the informal consultation process parents meetings were in the 'traditional' format of a public meeting, however many individuals approached representatives regarding views and concerns they felt they could not address in a public meeting. |
| **Length of consultation period** - 41 days is not a sufficient time to formally respond to the consultation document. | The consultation period started on the 10th of February and came to an end on the 23rd of March. The consultation period is inclusive of these dates and was 42 days. The formal consultation period is in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013. |

### Consultation Document

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Don't agree with the rationale of the proposal. | Noted. |
| **Projections** - Your report predict that the numbers of children attending Ysgol Rhewl will fall over the next few years. We have healthy numbers in Pili Pala. There is more likelihood that numbers will go up. We dispute your predictions. | The standard projections used by Denbighshire County Council are based upon historical data from the annual pupil census – PLASC, birth rate data and the local development plan. It also takes into account the number of pupils admitted to the school.<br><br>Pre-school children living within the community are unknown to the authority until an application for school place is made. No assumption can be made about future parental preference due to parents opting for different language and faith preferences. |
| **Children's consultation document** - Wording of the document is not appropriate and could be distressing and also create confusion. Document designed to manipulate, attract and persuade pupils through use of appealing language and imagery. Use of suggestive, leading words. | The Children's consultation document is written in a different format to that of the main formal consultation document to make it easier for children to read. |

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| **Consultation with staff** - Consultation meeting was too close to the issue of the consultation document and did not allow staff to arrange a meeting with their unions beforehand. | The consultation document was sent to staff and trade unions. A meeting with staff is arranged early in the consultation period as the proposal effects their employment. It is made clear in consultation meetings that staff can arrange further meetings with officers. |
| **Headteacher teaching commitment** - The Headteacher does not teach this point is incorrect. | Noted. |
| **Higher Budget share** - Relates to staff members employed as 1:1 support. | Section 3.2 of the School Organisation Code requires the budget share per pupil to be published in the consultation document. An increase in pupils receiving 1:1 support will draw down additional funding for a school which will increase the budget share per pupil. Over the last 5 years the budget share per pupil of Ysgol Rhewl has fluctuated from a low of £4,574 in 2010-11 to a high of £5,977 in 2014-15. |

**Positive Comments**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| **Rationale** - The proposer has provided a clear rationale. | Agreed. |
| **Reasons** - The proposer has provided clear evidence to show it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reason for their preferred option. | Agreed. |
| **Surplus places** - The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places. | Agreed. |
| **Maintaining Education Standards** - Proposal would at least maintain educational Standards | Agreed. |
| **Analysis of alternative provision -** The proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl. | Agreed. |

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| **Leadership and Management -** Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections. It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. It would likely be a positive impact for pupils to have access to a broader compliment of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of different curriculum areas. This assertion is reasonable.<br>The consultation appropriately raises the challenges facing small primary schools in being able to implement leadership structures effectively and quotes the Estyn thematic report 'School Size and Effectiveness' December 2013 | Agreed. |
| **Good Idea -** I am very supportive, It is clear the buildings in Rhewl are unsuitable. | Noted. |

**Glasdir Development**

| Consultee Comment | Local Authority Response |
|---|---|
| Would not send children to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street school. | Noted. |
| **Glasdir Development**<br><br>**Air Pollution** - Is Glasdir appropriate even if traffic issues are addressed. Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee in December 2014 calls for a ban on building schools etc. near air pollution black spots. Public buildings should not be built within 150m of major roads.<br><br>**Capacity / Size of the new site** - Will the site be big enough to accommodate a super school with over 400 pupils. Will it have sufficient capacity for all pupils? Will it be able to accommodate the Cylch Meithrin?<br><br>**Access** - Access into the school could be an issue with Highways department. Will it have a safe crossing point?<br><br>**Timescale** - Will the new school be built by July 2017?<br><br>I believe there is so much money in the | • The proposed Glasdir Development is subject to the same planning process as all other planning applications.<br><br>• The Council will respond to all legislative requirements prior to constructing the new Glasdir development.<br><br>• If the proposal is implemented the two new schools would be designed to accommodate displaced pupils from Ysgol Rhewl.<br><br>• The highways department will be involved from the outset in developing the new schools in Glasdir. They are also statutory consultees for planning applications. Access points to the site will be developed during the design phase.<br><br>• It is planned that the new school will be built by July 2017.<br><br>• The Glasdir development is funded by Denbighshire County Council and is part of the capital plan.<br><br>• There are schools sharing sites already within Denbighshire, such as Ysgol Twm o'r Nant and Ysgol Frongoch in Denbigh and Ysgol Gwernant and Ysgol |

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|---|---|
| pot and it has to be spent by a certain time or the money will be lost. Where will the funding come from?<br><br>Will it work? It is an experiment. Two schools on the same site that are segregated at all times sits uncomfortably with us.<br><br>**Flooding on the new site** - The risk of flooding on the site. Building on a flood plain.<br><br>**Planning Permission** - No planning permission has been secured for a new school development in Glasdir<br><br>**Negative effect of moving Rhos Street** - The removal of Rhos Street School from its present site would leave no "local" school for the residents of the most densely populated part of town, with distance from areas like St Meugans and Wrexham Road, even greater than that from Rhewl to Glasdir.<br><br>**Safe route to school** - The A525 between Rhewl and Ruthin is not a safe route. The close proximity of the cars and lorries is unpleasant. We would have to walk across entrances to an industrial park, precast concrete company and cross a busy link road. On 12.3.15 there was a very serious road accident along the route from Rhewl to Ruthin.<br><br>**Traffic congestion** -The site of the new school would attract a large amount of traffic to an already busy link road at peak times daily, including teaching staff. I am sure that 300 plus vehicles would be travelling to the same place at the same time. This volume of traffic would cause congestion, pollution and cause a serious hazard.<br><br>**Walking to school** - For generations children have walked to their local primary school - this will not be possible, considerably affecting their health and fitness.<br><br>Proposal is encouraging car use which is not sensible planning policy. Will the Council consider new walking routes to new school sites? | Bryn Collen in Llangollen. Throughout the UK there are many schools operating on shared sites.<br><br>• As part of the Planning application a Flood Consequence Assessment must be completed.<br><br>• A planning application will be submitted when the outcome of the consultation is known.<br><br>• Analysis has demonstrated that the catchment of Rhos Street School is not limited to one specific geographic area. The majority of pupils do not live in the area surrounding the current school site.<br><br>• Pupils travelling along routes to schools that are deemed hazardous are provided with free home to school transport.<br><br>• As part of the design process a transport management plan will be developed which will include input from Highway officers. Onsite parking provision will be included in the design of the new schools.<br><br>• The change in location of both schools will mean that some parents will choose to change their method of taking children to school. It is anticipated that some parents will stop walking to school whilst others living closer to the new site will start to walk to school.<br><br>• It is acknowledged that the proposed Glasdir site is closer to the village of Rhewl than parts of Wrexham road and St Meugans. |

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## APPENDIX F

## Respondent Types

| Type | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Linked most closely with Ysgol Rhewl** | 85 | 76% |
| **Linked most closely with Rhos Street School** | 8 | 7% |
| **Linked most closely with Ysgol Pen Barras** | 16 | 14% |
| **Neither school / did not say** | 3 | 3% |
| | 112 | |

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## APPENDIX G

## Estyn's response to the Formal Consultation Document

Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.

This report has been prepared by Her 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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Denbighshire County Council.

It is being proposed that Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings. The new school buildings will be located on the Glasdir site to the North of Ruthin.

**Summary/Conclusion**

The proposer clearly states that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because of the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales. This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in the Ruthin area.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

**Description and benefits**

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. It states that the proposal has been developed in line with the council's commitment to modernising education and the school effectiveness framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential. It further asserts reasonably that there are a number of issues facing Ysgol Rhewl that could impact on the ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future. These include surplus places and the condition and suitability of the school site.

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The proposer clearly outlines the potential benefits of the proposal. These include reducing surplus places and pupils having access to 21st century school buildings and facilities. The proposer also notes the disadvantages and risks of the proposal well. These include the cessation of primary educational provision in the village of Rhewl. However, the proposer does point out that the new facilities on Glasdir would become a closer option for some of the existing pupils currently attending Ysgol Rhewl. The proposer further assures that all risks associated with the proposal will be monitored within the overall programme risk register and within any individual project register.
The proposer has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered transport implications including an analysis of costs and concluded that the proposal will have a neutral impact on current transport costs. Transport to either Rhos Street school or Ysgol Pen Barras would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire county council's transport policy. It has also considered a safe walking route from the village to the Glasdir site.
The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places.

The proposer has suitably undertaken a Welsh language impact assessment and presented a summary of this assessment. It summarises that overall, the proposal will be neutral in terms of its impact on the Welsh language. Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option foroption for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl).

**Educational aspects of the proposal**
The proposer has considered well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management, in all three of the schools. It has additionally provided school performance data of the schools that may be impacted should the proposal progress. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports of all schools affected and has provided the support categories and bands of Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. These inspection reports show that all three schools were judged to be good in all key questions and for their overall current performance. Ysgol Rhewl and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged to have good and Rhos street school excellent prospects for improvement. The

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proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl.

The proposer's summary of outcomes at all three schools is concise and clear. For Ysgol Rhewl, it has usefully provided a comparison of performance outcomes with local and national averages as well as with a family of schools who have similar levels of free school meal entitlement. The commentary rightly points out that the numbers of pupils assessed in each cohort has been relatively low; therefore a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not always possible. However, this same level of detail is not provided for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. In the proposal document, the educational outcomes for these two schools are included without sufficient analysis or commentary.

Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections.
The consultation appropriately raises the challenges facing small primary schools in being able to implement leadership structures effectively and quotes the Estyn thematic report 'School Size and Effectiveness' December 2013 which states;
*'Leadership and processes to improve quality are usually better developed in large primary schools. In small primary schools, many headteachers have a significant teaching responsibility that limits the time they can devote to leading and managing and they have fewer opportunities to evaluate standards and to drive improvement'.*

It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. It would likely be a positive impact for pupils to have access to a broader compliment of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of different curriculum areas. This assertion is reasonable.

The local authority reasonably states that any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending Ysgol Rhewl will continue to receive the same educational support that is required. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as dedicated 1-2-1 support, will be replicated in their new learning environment. No equality impact assessment has been provided.
The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised.

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